

The

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

# CNTINUUM



Spring 2010

## *Hungry for the* **BIG TIME**

*Division-I signees Matt Roney and David Klaudt expect to succeed at college, and beyond*



Matt Roney '10 (left) will swim for SMU and David Klaudt '10 will play golf for Kansas State.



# Looking to the future



50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

CAMPAIN

The final phase

Contact Erin Hart 469-499-5406 or ehart@cistercian.org.



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*Assistant Headmaster*

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## None of us can do it alone

*Accomplishing great feats requires help and support*

Working together, caring for one another – this issue of *The Continuum* more than others highlights the way our successes are only possible with the help of others.



### Letter from the headmaster

*Fr. Peter Verhalen '73*

Dr. Pruitt shares with all of us a moving tribute to Mr. Walter in which he recognizes Rodney for having taught him how to navigate the busy streets of the Cistercian bus route and, infinitely more importantly, how to navigate the multiple vocations we all answer. In our first feature, we present the story of two athletes who toiled in relative obscurity at Cistercian before signing letters of intent to compete at Division-I colleges.

Both **Matt Roney '10** and **David Klaudt '10** emphasize the importance of hard work; but, they

also recognize the men and women who helped them to achieve their successes.

Behind each of these athletes' achievements, several important figures stood, sometimes anonymously, to provide essential support.

In our second feature, you will see the professional support Cistercian has received over the years from talented and committed alumni like architect **Gary Cunningham '72**, landscape architect **David Hocker '96**, and builder **Warren Andres '77**, who are helping Cistercian envision a proper entrance to the school and ways to maintain our contemplative character in the midst of all the development around us.

I hope you take away from the important stories in this issue of *The Continuum* two reasons for rejoicing: first, the admirable accomplishments of students and teachers and alumni; second, the often untold story of those without whose quiet work and care none of us could reach our goals and triumphs.

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With dramatic changes coming with the expansion of SH 114 and the introduction of DART, Cistercian seeks to protect its edge and polish its center.

*By David Stewart*

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Cover photography:  
Jim Reisch



## Big time 12

Seniors David Klaudt and Matt Roney are preparing for success in college, and beyond

*By David Stewart*

Cistercian Preparatory School was founded with the aim of preparing talented boys for the colleges of their choice by challenging their minds with excellent academic programs, molding their character through the values of Catholic education, and offering them guidance with both understanding and discipline. Cistercian Preparatory School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national, or ethnic origin in the administration of its admission and education policies, financial aid programs, athletic programs, and other activities.

**Math teacher Hahn wins award**

Fourth-year Cistercian math teacher Rebekah Hahn was selected as a 2009 winner of the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Junior High/Middle School Mathematics Teaching.

This year, 52 teachers received the award, which is administered by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

Hahn was selected based on the outstanding performance of the top three students from Cistercian in the American Mathematics Contest 8 over the past three years.

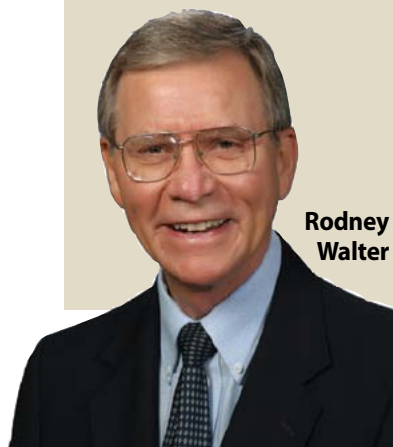
**End of an era**

In September 1964, **Rodney Walter** began teaching at the Cistercian Preparatory School located on Walnut Hill Lane.

Beloved for having taught every Cistercian Middle School student Texas History for 45 years, Walter stepped down February 4 due to health issues (see story on page 23).

So the teacher famous for always answering superior's queries with, "Yes, I can do that," said good-bye.

Those who would like to wish Rodney Walter well should write him at home: 13735 Rawhide, Dallas, 75234.



**Rodney Walter**

Sustentation and Phonathon successes

**Campaign sets goal of \$4 million to fund new entrance building**

As of February 24, the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign had raised \$10.8 million in cash and pledges, noted **Erin Hart**, director of development.

"We have the pledges and cash to pay for the land purchased to the east of the Abbey," she said.

"The goal of the third phase is to raise \$4 million for the new entrance building." The two-story structure will feature a welcoming reception area, a large commons, a comfortable place for the sick, and a chapel. It will complete a slow, methodical building campaign that began in 1976 to accommodate the growth of the student body from 140 students in the seventies to the current 350. (See page 11 for details.)

Select individuals, foundations, and corporations will be approached for large gifts. The Cistercian community at large also will be asked to support the project.

"I want to thank all of those families who have

helped us thus far," emphasized **Joel Fontenot**, a member of the campaign's steering committee.

"Going forward, participation will be crucial to demonstrate that the community stands behind this important project," Fontenot explained.

The community certainly stood behind this year's **Sustentation**. For the first time, 100 percent of Cistercian families participated. Alumni parents also were asked this year to support Sustentation and/or the Young Monks' Fund.

So far, \$530,000 in pledges or gifts have been received, with more than \$70,000 going to support the education of the young monks.

"The generosity has been overwhelming," said **Steve Rasch '80**, Sustentation chairman.

**Phonathon** experienced similar success, with alumni donating \$116,000, according to **Brendan Lowrey '93**, president of the alumni association.

Twenty-seven percent of alumni participated.

*Class of 2018*

**Applications rise despite economic woes**

The widespread economic woes in America are impacting every industry, including schools.

While some private schools may be experiencing a decline in applications, Cistercian's applications for the Class of 2018 (next year's Form I) are up over the past six or seven years.

"We were apprehensive about the number of applicants this year for Form I," said Bob Haaser, admissions director, "but we were pleasantly surprised by the slight increase."

Ninety-eight applicants were tested for Form I.

The number of applications to other forms remained very close to the normal range.

"I believe this speaks to the strength of our school, its history and its mission," Haaser smiled.

"Parents today are savvy," he said. "They have done their homework."

"It is satisfying that prospective parents appreciate the good work we're doing here."



Photo by Jim Reisch

**JIM & LYNN MORONEY AWARD**

**Matt "Hawk" Hawkins battered but still dapper after onslaught**

The entertainment value of each of the annual Jim and Lynn Moroney Award Dinner lies squarely in the hands of the alumnus chosen to introduce the award winner.

This year's Moroney Award recipient, **Matt Hawkins '88**, sacrificed his own well-being and broke 18 years of tradition (not to mention Fr. Peter's heart) and called on *two*, shall we say, "free-wheeling" classmates to handle the chores – **Tim Rogers '88**, editor of *D Magazine*, and **Joe Capasso '88**, longshoreman and dermatologist. What could go wrong?

Hawkins had that covered, too. He'd bring his eight-year-old daughter Kendrick. The show would have to be strictly G. Or would it?

Rogers and Capasso appeared at the podium after (get this) *a costume change*.

**RODEO CLOWNS ROAST HAWKINS**

**Matt Hawkins '88 (center) with eight-year-old Kendrick Hawkins and classmates Tim Rogers '88 (left) and Joe Capasso '88.**

**Alumni notes**

**Br. Philip Lastimoso '00** assisted Pope Benedict XVI at the New Year's Vespers service in Rome.

"I was amazed by all the cameras and cheering and how the pope would stop and shake people's hands



Photo by Kimmer Lastimoso '04



Photo by Jim Reisch

**RELIVING SOME HISTORY**

**Archivist Jacquelyn Dudasko, Fr. Matthew Kovacs, and Charlie Williams '70 review some old photos.**

files also will have to be devised. Dudasko hopes to begin a serious effort to collect Cistercian memorabilia, photos, and documents.

"It's a way to bring the early days of Cistercian back to life," she said. "And it is a great joy for those who lived through those days to share them."

Recently, the number of items being given or loaned to the archives has grown. **Charlie Williams '70, Mark Talkington '79, and Bob Haaser** recently gave or lent a number of items to the archives.

Those interested in supporting, volunteering, or donating items to the archives should contact Dudasko at [jdusasko@cistercian.org](mailto:jdusasko@cistercian.org).

Their stunningly crass pants and gauche bow ties couldn't help but offend their classmate's finely tuned sartorial sensibilities.

They proceeded to paint Hawkins as a whining prima donna whose fascination with fashion (particularly fancy pants) can be blamed for bringing uniforms back to the Upper School.

After many stories and toasts to monks living and dead, the pair presented the Moroney Award to Hawkins, in recognition of his "dedicated work on behalf of the Cistercian family."

In accepting the award, Hawkins recognized the important influence of his grandfather, philanthropist L. E. Guillot, whose example of "giving is something I have a difficult time trying to emulate as his example set the bar incredibly high."

A former alumni association president, phonathon class captain, and key member of the capital campaign's steering committee, Hawkins said he gives back so much to Cistercian because of men like Guillot, coach **Tom Hillary**, and his beloved form master, **Fr. Henry Marton**.

and bless babies," Br. Philip said. "After Vespers, I got to meet with the pope and talk to him for 15 seconds."



**Sean Phillips '91** (above) was named the new head soccer coach at the University of Illinois at Chicago in February. He becomes Cistercian's first Division-I college coach ... **Bob Haaser's** father passed away on January 31 ... Basketball Coach **Dan Lee's** mother passed away in mid February, calling him away from the SPC-II Championship Game ... **Ten years ago**, on Monday, April 10, 2000, Cistercian lost its legendary athletic director and coach **Tom Hillary**. The 58-year-old succumbed to adult acute myeloid leukemia.



Above: Rendering of a typical Tanger Outlet Mall. This firm has signed a letter of intent to purchase a site next to the University of Dallas DART station.



# Contemplating *the* commotion

*With dramatic changes swirling, Cistercian seeks to grow naturally, organically, and spiritually ~* By David E. Stewart



Middle left: A view of the University of Dallas DART station designed by Lyle Novinski. The station will be located below grade between the service road and the freeway. Pedestrians will access the station via ramps or an elevator. The station is located a half mile from the Cistercian campus.



Left: Road construction around the school has created difficulties. For much of the spring and summer, the service road between Loop 12 and Cistercian will be closed. Drivers from the east should exit Rochelle and approach the campus from the west.

Projected completions dates: DART in December 2011; SH 114 in December 2012

Tanger Outlet rendering courtesy of Tanger Outlet Malls. UD DART station rendering courtesy of Lyle Novinski. DART map courtesy of DART. Service road construction photo by Jim Reisch.

# A

ERIALS OF STATE HIGHWAY 114, DART maps, and renderings of future development concepts flashed across the screen in Cistercian's small lecture hall on a recent February day. The collection of 15 current parents and alumni parents studied them closely.

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73 had invited the group for lunch to share details of the extensive changes taking place around the school, and to generate reactions to a plan for protecting and polishing Cistercian.

SH 114's new configuration – with its four HOV lanes (two each direction), ten main lanes (five each direction), and five service lanes (three on one side and two on the other) plus three Loop 12 fly-over ramps – fascinated everyone. The state-of-the-art expressway will blur with activity 24 hours a day.

"Imagine being a trucker going cross country," said one parent, "and hitting a stretch with 22 or 24 lanes."

"It's going to be wild," concluded another parent.

For now, the construction phase (especially the closure of the westbound Cistercian Rd. exit) has made finding a route to Cistercian a challenge, even for those who know exactly where the school is located.

Beginning in the spring, complications will multiply when TxDOT closes the service road on the Cistercian side of SH 114 all the way from Loop 12 to the BNSF railroad. (It is suggested that drivers from Dallas continue beyond Cistercian, exit Rochelle, and approach campus by SH 114 from the west.)

"Our son who is in the Class of 2014 will be a new driver during the middle of all of

this,” Monique Losson commented. “I am concerned from a safety standpoint of just the nuts and bolts of getting to and from school.”

DART’s Orange Line also intrigued the parents, with its University of Dallas station at Tom Braniff and its many stops, from Las Colinas to North Lake College, and finally to DFW Airport.

On its way from the UD station to Las Colinas, the DART line will migrate from its below-grade location between the service road and expressway at Tom Braniff to an elevated line outside the service road at Cistercian Road.

For drivers leaving the campus, they will immediately pass below the elevated line before reaching the service road. Ahead of them, the SH 114 overpass – all 14 lanes of it – will loom.

A schematic was displayed of the below-grade-level UD station (designed by Lyle Novinski, professor emeritus of Art/Painting/ Art History at the university, and a parent of four Cistercian alumni).

“Do you think some students might use DART to get to school?” asked one parent.

“I think so,” said Fr. Peter. “It will be a half mile walk to the UD station.”

“It’ll be a benefit for the monks as well,” he added. “Getting to the airport and downtown will be relatively easy.”

“A school bus stop could be scheduled if enough students were riding,” suggested Gloria Tarpley.

“And DART may have an impact on kids,” she added, “who are interested in Cistercian but otherwise might have thought it too far or too complicated.”

The station also is attracting attention from retailers. Tanger Outlet Malls has signed a letter of intent to purchase the property adjacent to it.

As the economy improves and the enormous infrastructure projects are completed, large scale development on the properties belonging to the City of Irving (i.e., Texas Stadium site), the University of Dallas, and Central Freight becomes more likely than ever.

Between 2003 and 2005, concerns within the Cistercian Abbey were growing over the plans of TxDOT, DART, and neighboring land owners. Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy met frequently with close advisers like Fr. Peter, Jim Hartnett Jr. ’75, Jere Thompson ’74, and Peter Smith ’74 to discuss the impact of these impending developments.

“All of our efforts over the years,” said Jim Hartnett Jr. recently, “have been designed to protect this hidden enclave of ours.”

In 1995, 25 acres had been purchased when development threatened the campus.

Now, TxDOT and DART were combing the grounds for rights-of-way on which to build.

“The monks would like to keep it exactly the way it was in 1960 if they could,” quipped Hartnett, the abbot’s point man on the highway expansion, light-rail line, and real estate transactions.

“TxDOT wanted 800 sq. ft. at one point,” remembered Hartnett, “It was a very small piece. But the abbot wouldn’t budge. He didn’t want any encroachments.”

“There will be a little bend in the frontage road as result.”

“I always wondered,” Hartnett mused, “if the monks’ attitude had to do with the Communists stealing their freedom and their possessions when they were back in Hungary.”

“The Cistercians are not in it for the money,” Hartnett emphasized, “they’re in it for the long-term benefit of the institution.”

While TxDOT and DART were applying pressure on Cistercian’s property to the south, uncertainties mounted on the east. In 2003 and 2004, neighboring landowners were considering a variety of land uses, including some that threatened the safety and tranquility of the abbey and school.

Of particular concern was Cistercian’s immediate neighbor to the east, an oddly shaped 20-acre parcel. Originally purchased from the University of Dallas in the mid nineties as the possible site for a corporate campus, the new owner had found the office market was softening. Brokers began to shop the site to other types of users.

At about the same time, the University of Dallas was preparing a bid for the future George W. Bush Presidential Library. With lots of land to offer next to a major complex of freeways and a DART line to boot, the UD proposal was viewed as serious, if not a true contender.

In addition, the City of Irving was making plans for the day when the Dallas Cowboys would move out of Texas Stadium. Irving engaged a well-known national developer, Forest City, to help them develop a master plan for the stadium site. Quickly, other landowners in the area tentatively agreed to participate in the planning. Those landowners included UD and Central Freight.

By 2005, the abbot had concluded that the 20-acre property must be purchased for the long-term security of the institution. While some of his advisers lobbied for more time to negotiate the price down, the abbot stood firm.

“You may be worried about the price,” Jere Thompson remembered the abbot saying, “but I’m worried about our security many years from now, when no one will remember the price.”



The land purchases in 1995 encompassed 25 acres. The area in gold is the 20-acre parcel purchased in 2005. The dotted line indicates an entrance easement to Tom Braniff Rd.

*“All of our efforts over the years have been designed to protect this hidden enclave of ours.”*

— Jim Hartnett Jr. ’75



Top left: The space between the Upper and Middle Schools originally served only as a bridge for the second story and a covered patio (and soccer arena) beneath. Top right: Fr. Peter and Karen Brophy (mother of Br. Lawrence ’01) discuss the model of the planned two-story structure to replace the current one-story building (bottom left). The new building’s glass facade (bottom right) will clearly distinguish it as the school’s entry point.

“I need young people in the monastery,” thought Abbot Denis as he took stock of things shortly after his election in 1988. “I will need a church to attract those young people and then a complete remodeling of the monastery to house them.”

For the school, Abbot Denis hoped that it might be expanded. Lastly, he wished that the abbey and school might secure enough land to preserve the peacefulness of the campus well into the future.

By 2006, the institution was well on its way on all fronts. The final piece of the puzzle was how to modernize and enlarge the Middle and Upper School buildings as well as the space between them. These projects had been discussed for a number of years, but now a campaign combining the land purchase with the renovations appeared to be taking shape.

The abbot, Fr. Peter, Thompson, and Smith worked with Gary Cunningham ’72 on plans to improve the buildings in every way – from energy consumption to functionality – cost effectively.

Along the way, Cunningham incorporated a few “out-of-the-box” ideas suggested by the advisers.

Thompson came up with the “tree house” concept for the Upper School that provided a practical way to add two full-size classrooms so that the juniors could leave behind the make-shift, cramped classrooms on the first floor.

Offices for faculty members (most of whom teach the seniors

across the hall) and a seminar room were added in their place. The college counseling office downstairs was located to offer easy access to the senior classrooms.

For the Middle School, Fr. Peter came up with the idea to enlarge the upstairs lobby by enclosing the balcony facing the lower parking lot while pushing out the back doors toward the library.

Even as the renovations of the Middle School were beginning, plans for the final piece of the puzzle, the oddly shaped space between the Upper and Middle School buildings, remained in flux.

The brain trust had pored over the needs for the in-fill project numerous times.

The requirements included a vestibule entry to shield the receptionist and visitors from cruel temperatures, a welcoming reception area, proper admissions and development offices, up-to-date sick room facilities (including a separate bathroom), more faculty office space, a seminar room, and a commons area.

But the design appeared to be hung up on a very basic question – where would the school entrance be located in 25 or 50 years?

Engineers suggest that the lower parking lot will flood more frequently in the future as development southwest of the campus grows and causes additional run-off through Cistercian’s creek. Such conditions would force the school to reorient its entrance.

Others are concerned about the traffic patterns created by the new SH 114 and suggest that these factors will make an alternate

entrance or exit necessary in the future.

To resolve this issue, Cunningham pursued a “reversible” option for the space. In his design, the entrance can be located fronting either the lower parking lot or the science building.

The ingenious solution moved the project forward; but something was still missing.

Perhaps the committee had focused too closely on the project’s many details, or perhaps they had not had the chance to see the space in the context of the renovated, more efficient Middle and Upper School buildings.

But, at a meeting early in the summer, a breakthrough occurred.

“Someone, I don’t remember who, suggested a small chapel,” Cunningham said recently. “It was the ‘aha!’ moment. Finally, this tricky little project clicked.”

“The chapel made all the difference,” Fr. Peter suggested, “It helped us define what we were seeking to do.”

“The chapel is a gem in the new plan,” Yolanda Newcomb piped up first after Cunningham had concluded his presentation to the collection of parents of what he called the keystone building. “It is a great idea having a place for the boys that they can step in – even for a couple of minutes between classes – that is a great idea.”

“It is beautiful. It will center things and goes to the heart of what Cistercian is about,” added the mother of one alum and two current students (as well as the wife of Dr. Richard Newcomb, head of the math department). “I think it will be a great addition.”

“Will there be a tabernacle for the presence of the Holy Eucharist?” asked Sue Graham, the mother of three alumni.

“We are talking about a tabernacle or possibly a devotional statue,” Fr. Peter said. “We will make it a place to go for quiet reflection or devotion.”

“The rendering makes it look, frankly, claustrophobic,” George Tarpley suggested.

“It is 20 feet across,” Cunningham said. “It is nearly as wide as one of our standard classrooms.”

“But this is an open dialogue and the plan is sure to be tweaked by the abbot and Fr. Peter,” Cunningham laughed.

“Well, I hope they don’t change that,” said Molly Kahn.

“I have to agree,” said Gerry Jacob, an alumnus of the University of Dallas and the father of a current student.

“The other thing I like is that you’re pulling the landscape in through the large windows,” he emphasized. “And to me, the natural beauty is what makes this piece of land and this place so special. So it’s great that you’re pulling it into the building.”

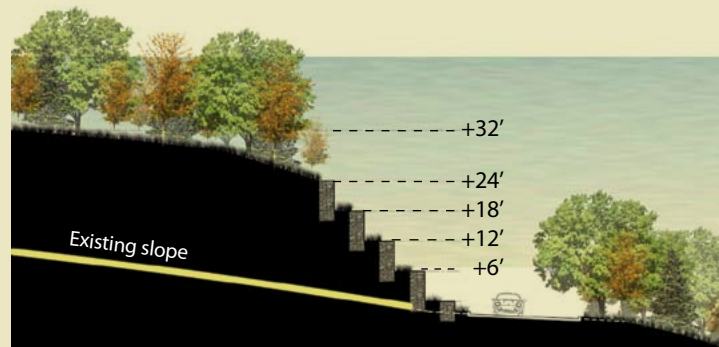
“The chapel could be a little bigger,” he added. “Maybe large enough for 15-20 students instead of just 10 to 15.”

“When you talk about the nature coming in,” Cunningham responded, “both ends of the upstairs open up to nature. It will be the most light-filled space we have on campus.”

“What I find most appealing about the plan,” said Mrs. Graham, “is that you’re taking the roots of the school and just enhancing them. It is still very much Cistercian.”

“It might be nice somewhere in the chapel to have the name of the monks who taught here,” suggested Gloria Tarpley.

“I think the feature that appeals to me the most is the natural stone,” said Martin Kahn. “It carries forward the architectural theme of the abbey church, and ties it to the church in a spiritual sense.”



A large berm will provide 20-30 ft. of sight and sound protection from SH 114. The view above shows a car on the service entrance to the right of the berm.



A small plaza designed by David Hocker '96 will serve to clarify and distinguish the school's entry.



Reception area

“I think the size is wonderful,” he added. “It’s kind of nurturing.” “The commons area looks like a place people will sit and talk to each other,” said George Tarpley, “especially if you have a lot of chairs and sofas. It would be a great gathering place for alumni.” “And guests,” added Monique Losson. “Yes, it would be a nice gathering space for alumni, for students,” agreed Yolanda Newcomb, “and a great place for Open House.” “The reception area gives you a welcoming center from which

## CAPPING OFF A 35-YEAR-OLD GROWTH PROGRAM

### Protecting the edge and polishing the center

The expansion of SH 114 and the arrival of a DART line will inevitably bring development that will change the character of Cistercian’s “neighborhood.”

To help protect Cistercian’s tranquility along its front edge, a large berm is planned that will rise to sound and visual barriers are planned at its front door (see visual top left).

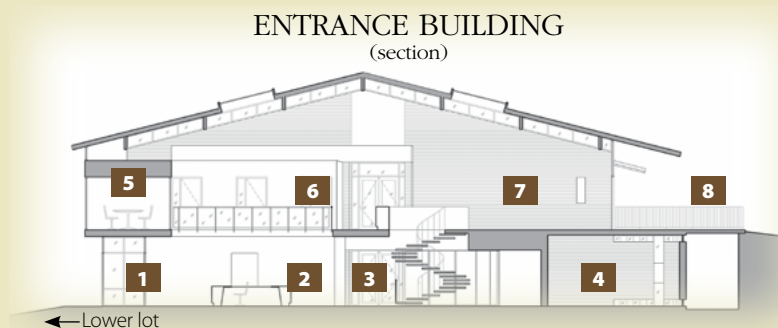
Since the seventies, Cistercian also has been growing; its student body (which jumped from 140 to 350 students) and its facilities have more than doubled in size.

The last remaining piece of that long-term growth plan sits between the Middle and Upper School buildings.

This space was initially an open area (see photo on page 9) until it was enclosed in 1976. This project helped create room for two new classrooms. It was Cistercian’s first step toward growth.

The plan for replacing this temporary space with a permanent, two-story building has been in the planning stages for over six years.

It features two entry options. As shown here, the entry will sit on the first floor, facing the lower parking lot (see landscape plan at left). If future needs dictate an upper entry, the reception area will become the upstairs space facing the science building (see 7 on the



ENTRANCE BUILDING (section)

entrance building section).

**First floor 1** The reception area can accommodate large number of parents, students, and visitors (see rendering bottom left). **2** Offices for admissions and development are located behind walls on either side of the reception area. **3** Sick room with two beds, separate bath, and ice-maker. **4** A small chapel (see rendering below) designed to provide small numbers of individuals a few minutes of quiet reflection. A light-well outside will bring natural light into the space.

A grand, circular staircase will connect the first floor with the second (the current elevator will continue to serve those who require it).

**Second floor 5** The seminar room will feature floor-to-ceiling windows to bring in nature and light. **6** Faculty offices. **7** The commons area will be the largest open interior gathering space in the school (see rendering below). Chairs and sofas will accommodate groups. The space is designed to showcase the school’s Hungarian and American roots as well as work of alumni and students. Floor-to-ceiling windows facing the science building will bring in light and the outdoors. **8** A small bridge will travel over the chapel’s light-well and open up to a newly landscaped area.



Small chapel

you can radiate to all the other parts of the school,” mentioned Monique Losson. “Right now there can be a lot of bottle-necking at the front door when Mrs. Nevitt is tending to students, the phone, and visitors.” “This design is clear and welcoming, but it is still simple, still Cistercian and not showy.” “I really like the resolution of the ambiguous entries,” added Sands Harris, a parent of three alumni. “Now someone coming for



Upstairs commons

the first time is just wandering around there totally lost.” “One of the great things is that this plan [landscaping and building] does more than just orient you on the outside. “It also knits together the student body and faculty and brings it back into the chapel, which is the ultimate resolution point of the whole thing.” “I applaud you for being able to cram so much into so little,” Harris emphasized. “And have it do so much.”



# Hungry for the **BIG TIME**

Seniors David Klaudt and Matt Roney are preparing for success in college, and beyond

*By David E. Stewart*

**B**lue and red icing spelled out S-M-U on some of the cupcakes. Others read “K-State” in purple and white. Seniors spilling out of the college counseling office in their polos, sweatshirts, and letter jackets savored the tasty morsels and sipped soft drinks.

They were taking time during this November morning’s ten-minute break to honor two classmates who were about to sign letters of intent to compete at Division-I universities.

The honorees, David Klaudt ’10 and Matt Roney ’10, sat behind a round table clad in dress shirts and ties.

“Matt and David have put in a lot of individual effort,” Dan Lee, athletic director, was saying, “countless hours working on their own to get the opportunity to compete at a higher level.”

Against the office’s brick wall leaned Mrs. Janet Bucher-Long (the college counselor), Fr. Mark Ripperger (form master), and Fr. Gregory Schweers (senior English teacher).

“The class was thrilled,” remembered

David Klaudt '10 (left) and Matt Roney '10

Photo by Jim Reisch

Bucher-Long. Then the bell rang. Back to reality.

For the casual observer of Cistercian sports over the last couple of years, the wealth of athletic talent in the Class of 2010 was unquestioned. It is doubtful, however, whether those same observers had ever heard of Klaudt and Roney.

Joe Graham '10 began kicking for the varsity football team as a freshman and grew into a star in football, soccer, and track. Aaron Olson '10 began to shine on the football field as a sophomore linebacker. As a junior, he had garnered enough respect to be elected a captain of the team (one of only a handful of juniors ever to do so).

Then there is David Newcomb '10, who excelled at track and basketball.

# The cream of Cistercian's crop

## Reflecting on the rewards of competing at the collegiate level

From the hallowed ground of Notre Dame Stadium to the sofa-strewn sidelines of Robert Moses Field at Southwestern University, Cistercian athletes have competed on stages large and small.

"Playing a varsity sport in college is tough," said Chris Carlson '85, who earned a starting spot as an outside linebacker for Navy in a game against Notre Dame his junior year. "But Cistercian prepared me for it."

Carlson's chance to move into the starting lineup came early in the fourth quarter of a game in which Navy trailed the Irish by a wide margin.

"Running on to the field was a bit of an out of body experience," he said. "I thought of all the games I had watched of Notre Dame on TV. It was pretty cool."

Carlson also went on to play against Syracuse and their fullback Daryl Johnston "who was a big challenge." He also played in two Army-Navy games.

Tom Lewis '73 played at a number of major-league venues in his days as a safety and special teams player for Rice.

"A fond memory was our play against Notre Dame in South Bend," he said. "While we lost by a touchdown, we were picked to lose by 50+ points."

As a punter his senior year, Lewis launched one 80 yards, a school record at the time.

In the mid seventies, brothers Buck Smith '71 and Jimmy Smith '72 swam for Ivy League rivals Yale and Harvard, respectively.

Both had been recruited by the likes of SMU, UT, and the Ivies.

Andy Burns '10, Jack Cox '10, Steven Imaizumi '10, Bobby Prengle '10, Ian White '10, and many more stood out in the popular team sports and were applauded for their athletic exploits.

"I remember," Roney said recently, "that *The Informer* published a story on the winter sports one year, and they left out swimming altogether."

"Swimming and golf are not mainstream sports," acknowledged Klaudt. "Most of our classmates just didn't know what was going on with us."

Roney began earning national recognition as a sophomore when he won his first All-American honors (he is Cistercian's first three-time All-American athlete).

At one meet, "the Harvard coach swam Jimmy against me in one of my specialty races," remembered Buck recently. "He put him in the lane next to me."

"Of course I kicked his butt," Buck laughed, "but he really messed with me. Before the race Jimmy was spitting water in my lane and splashing the water off the top of the starting blocks on me and into my lane. That sounds minor, but it can be very distracting."

Mark Talkington '79, a high school All-American soccer player (one of 33 nationally) his senior year, ranks as arguably the school's most highly recruited athlete ever.

"My parents separated my senior year and that created some financial issues," Talkington remembered. "Fr. Denis became my unofficial sports agent and negotiated full scholarships with two Ivy League schools that had accepted me, but offered me smaller financial packages than Stanford. That gave me freedom to choose a school without any financial worries."

At the beginning of Talkington's second year at Stanford, he recognized one of the freshmen, Todd Zaayer, who had moved to California after his freshman year at Cistercian. The two played at Stanford together for three years.

The pair helped Stanford slap Connecticut with a 3-0 loss. The Huskies would end up as national champions that year.

John Michael Stewart '89 represented Tom Hillary well at his alma mater. Stewart won Kodak All-American honors at SMU and attempted to play professionally.

As far as putting his high school and college experience directly to work, it's difficult to avoid the name of Sean Phillips '91.

One of the top two or three goalkeepers coming out of Texas in 91, Phillips attracted the attention of soccer powerhouse Indiana University, where soccer ranks next to basketball in importance.

"Playing under the most successful college soccer coach of all time (six national championships, 16 final fours) in Jerry Yeagley," acknowledged Phillips, "left an indelible mark on me professionally and personally."

In February 2010, Phillips was named head soccer coach at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

He is Cistercian's first Division-I college coach.

As a member of the Dallas Mustangs Swim Club, he competed against the best swimmers in the country. He proved at each step along the way that he was one of them.

As a sophomore at Cistercian, his performances led the swimming team to a best-ever, third-place finish at SPC 2008. Roney blew away the competition, winning the 200-yard freestyle by two seconds and the 100-yard butterfly by three seconds.

He completed his high school swimming career undefeated in individual events over three years. He holds the SPC records for both the 100-yard butterfly (51.91) and the 200-yard freestyle (1:41.60).

Meanwhile, Klaudt was competing on the prestigious Texas Jr. Golf Tour and in the American Jr. Golf Association tournaments.

Nathan Porter '95, an All-American in the 100 breast stroke senior year (i.e., a top-16 time nationally), was recruited by Texas A&M, the University of Minnesota, and others.

He chose Fordham, where he became Atlantic-10 champion in the 100-meter breaststroke and a part of the winning 200 and 400 medley relays. All three were Fordham records (since broken).

Porter continues to hold the Cistercian record for the 100-yard breaststroke. It is the only record Matt Roney has not eclipsed.

As a member of the 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Porter went on to serve two tours in Afghanistan and two in Iraq.

"There was a lot of pressure to perform and many sacrifices of personal time and pain related to my college football experience," admitted Tom Lewis. "But I would readily do it all again. It was a chance to chase a childhood dream and I feel very fortunate that I had the opportunity."

"You learn to be efficient with your time," Talkington insisted, "how to plan your study habits for upcoming tests and papers when you may have a big game the night before a test."

"I performed better academically during the soccer season, because I had to be efficient."

"College swimming taught me how to grind on a daily basis for months on end with no assurance of ultimate success," Buck Smith said.

"[Through] truly good coaches who were decent people, I eventually learned how to handle the pressure of frequent competition and to accept the occasional victory and the frequent defeat with an equal amount of grace and dignity."

### FROM THE PAST TO PRESENT

**Facing page:** Mark Talkington '79 holds his All-American trophy. **Top:** Yale's Buck Smith '71 (top) and Harvard's Jim Smith '72. **Middle:** Sean Phillips '91, head soccer coach at the University of Illinois at Chicago. **Bottom:** Fordham's Nathan Porter '95 accepting gold for the 100-meter breaststroke at the 1996 Atlantic 10 Conference Championship.

As a junior, he won the junior club championship at Brookhaven Golf Club. As a senior, he won the men's club championship.

"I need to transfer," Roney told Bucher-Long early at the end of his sophomore year. "Jesuit has a 5-A swimming team. That would make life a lot simpler."

"Matt was struggling with a tough decision," recalled Fr. Greg, the swim team's faculty sponsor.

"When he first came on my radar as a freshman," he said, "I quickly realized that my role was really one of supporting him in what he wanted to accomplish."

"Swimming is a very, very lonely sport," emphasized Fr. Greg,

## A select club

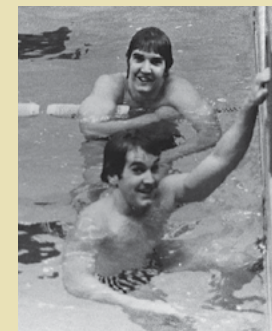
### Cistercian's D-I college athletes\*

Class	Alumnus	Year	Sport	College
	Kevin Coyle	1970	Basketball	Rice
	Buck Smith	1971	Swimming	Yale
	James Smith	1972	Swimming	Harvard
	Tom Lewis	1973	Football	Rice
	Joe Nicholson	1974	Track	Notre Dame
	Peter Smith	1974	Golf	Harvard
	Todd Moore	1978	Football	SMU
	Mark Talkington	1979	Soccer	Stanford
	Greg O'Hagan	1984	Football	Texas
	Chris Carlson	1985	Football	Navy
	Mike Stanzel	1986	Football	Navy
	Matt Walter	1986	Football	Princeton
	John Michael Stewart	1989	Soccer/Football	SMU
	Sean Phillips	1991	Soccer	Indiana
	James Sivco	1991	Track	Villanova
	Jeff Lockhart	1993	Track	Tulane
	Artie Starrs	1994	Golf	Princeton
	Bubba Futerfas	1995	Football	SMU
	Nathan Porter	1995	Swimming	Fordham
	Donovan Campbell	1997	Crew	Princeton
	Michael Aird	1997	Football	Northwestern
	Robert Patrizi	2000	Track	TCU
	Jonathan Purcell	2000	Crew	Texas
	Anthony Perone	2001	Baseball	Army
	Seth Henderson	2003	Football	Texas
	Michael Giordano	2003	Crew	Notre Dame
	Jason Mitura	2003	Rowing	USC
	Colin Leatherbury	2005	Track	Yale
	Trey Mohr	2005	Track	Notre Dame
	Will Beuttenmuller	2006	Tennis	Princeton
	Sam Bowler	2006	Track	Duke
	Matt Abola	2007	Football	Princeton
	Chase Campbell	2007	Football	Princeton

\* This list includes athletes who either played or were recruited to play Division-I college sports. Please accept our apologies for any errors. A similar list of Division-III athletes can be found at [www.cistercian.org](http://www.cistercian.org).



Photo by Jim Reisch





who swam in high school and college. “One spends three, four, even five hours a day staring at a wide black line on the bottom of a pool while your body gets ground down doing between 7,000 and 10,000 meters of practice twice a day.

“He needed someone who understood.”

“Much of his desire to transfer was driven by his swimming,” recalled Sandra Roney.

“He had switched to the Mustangs in his sophomore year, and the change in the practice schedule, transportation issues, and less time for schoolwork put a lot of stress on Matt and me.”

“He felt that Cistercian didn’t give him the time to fully develop his talent for swimming. It was a Catch-22 – neither his schoolwork nor his swimming were getting his best effort.”

Fr. Greg sent Roney and his mother to see Bucher-Long.

Sitting in the college counseling office, Roney knew immediately that he had found another compassionate supporter.

“I want you to stay at Cistercian,” she told him. “Fr. Peter wants you to stay.”

“This is going to be a partnership,” promised Bucher-Long. “Just earn a reputable record here. You don’t have to kill yourself.”

“Mrs. Bucher-Long, Fr. Mark, Fr. Peter, and I,” said Fr. Greg, “helped Matt recognize that there was going to be a ‘life after swimming.’”

“Academics were not going to be pushed to the back burner — he really would be a student-athlete, not just an athlete with a Division I scholarship.”

It had been in Roney’s freshman year that he made the decision to push himself in swimming.

Long a member of the Lewisville Aquatic Club (LAC) along with Lewisville neighbor Michael Lawson ‘09, Roney decided to join the Dallas Mustangs, one of the nation’s most prestigious swim clubs.

Roney was influenced strongly by Doug Moyses, Cistercian’s new swim coach, and a coach for the Dallas Mustangs.

“Doug let Matt know that there was another option out there,” said Rosemarie Lawson, mother of Michael. “LAC wasn’t quite challenging enough for Matt. Their program was not tailored for male swimmers. Matt was too hard a worker. He needed to go where the attitude was a little different.”

Under the tutelage of Mark “Mook” Rhodenbaugh, the Mustangs coach, Roney’s times quickly showed marked improvements.

“Coach told me I could accomplish whatever I wanted,” Roney said. “He has been an inspiration, he never told me I couldn’t do something.”

Within months, Roney dropped five seconds from his 200-meter freestyle time.

“Mook realized what I could do and helped me achieve it,” marveled Roney. “He made me faster. I thought I worked hard before, but he showed me what hard work really is.”

“He tells us that we should know when what we’re doing is not enough,” he said, “so everybody is pushing, faster and faster.”

At the Conoco-Phillips Jr. Nationals in early August 2009, Roney swam to a top-24 finish in the 200-meter freestyle. A swimming scholarship now appeared possible.

“A girl in Matt’s position would have little trouble obtaining a big scholarship,” said Rosemarie Lawson. “But Title IX works against the boys. Colleges have fewer dollars to offer them. Even with his talent and times, a big scholarship was not guaranteed.”

“If you’re not out there working,” David Klautd explained, “someone else is out there working to get better. So, I am almost always out there, practicing on the range or playing. When it rains, I drive to an indoor facility.”

So, if it isn’t Monday, you can bet Klautd is hitting a golf ball somewhere.

“He finds purpose in his pursuit of excellence,” said Cameron McCormick, his private golf instructor. “It drives him to spend hours at skill refinement, in any weather, at any time.”

“He does what many, in fact, most choose not to do... work hard.”

Klautd adheres to a workout program and nutrition program. He even works with a mental management coach.

“I create a mental program so that I can play consistently,” Klautd said. “When pressure is applied, I can go back to my program.”

“There are some nut cases out there who can’t get out of their own way,” he laughed. “Generally, ‘I am pretty cool under pressure,’” he added. “I can start off badly and turn it around into a great round.”

“David has a great group of buddies at Brookhaven [Golf Club] where he plays,” said Carole Klautd.

It all started with father Dave Klautd’s weekend jaunts to the course when David was a young boy.

“I made a rule that if my husband Dave was going to play golf,” said Mrs. Klautd, “he had to take David along.”

The father and son continue to play a round together each Sunday, where they can be found at the first tee at 7 am, the first group of the day.

Balancing his commitment to golf with his work at Cistercian hasn’t been easy, especially taking off days for tournaments and having to make up the work.

“My dad made me go to Cistercian,” Klautd said. “I questioned that for a while, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything now. The education is one of a kind. It gives me extra motivation that I have to deal with the academic and athletic pressures more so than other kids.”

When it came to college, Klautd knew he had positioned himself. After all, he had been preparing for this step for three years.

“Mrs. Bucher-Long thinks you’ll be able to write a really good college essay about your dedication to golf,” his mother told him last summer.

“If I have to rely on an essay to get into college,” he mused, “then I am not going to be very happy.”

Sure enough, the colleges lined up for a chance to lure a golfer, and student, like Klautd.

“One of the first things I look at is the high school transcript,” noted Tim Norris, head golf coach at Kansas State. “I don’t know that we’ve ever had a player come in with as many advanced credits as David.”

“But I was impressed that he was an Eagle Scout,” he added. “That shows a level of commitment to start a project and see it through to the end.”

“Golf at the college level requires missing a lot of class time in both semesters,” he said, “so you need a good academic background and a solid work ethic.”

Klautd received both an athletic and academic scholarship from Kansas State.

After Klautd committed, Bucher-Long double-checked with him to ensure he had completed his application.

“I didn’t think I had to go through the application process,” Klautd said.

“Yes, David,” Bucher-Long smiled, “even big-time recruits have to submit an application.”

She had him sit down right then and complete the application on-line at her desk. No essay was required.

“It was a poignant moment for me,” Fr. Greg recalled, “when Matt asked me to step down to Janet’s office. She and I were asked to ‘eavesdrop’ as Matt made the call to Coach Sinnott at SMU and verbally committed to their program and accepted their offer.”

Roney considered offers from around the country, from Cal-Berkeley and UT to Virginia Tech and Michigan. Bucher-Long even had him apply to William & Mary.

In the end, he chose SMU’s offer which included a set of academic scholarships on top of the athletic scholarship.

“Matt turned it around,” exulted Bucher-Long recently, who admitted she cried at the news. “He got his B’s.”

“Those academic scholarship offers confirm Matt’s decision to stay at Cistercian,” Fr. Greg noted. “It happily bore fruit.”

Swimming at SMU also comes with the added bonus of affording his mom and his grandparents an easy way to continue seeing him swim.

“My mom has done so much for me,” Roney reflected recently. “It hasn’t been easy on her, driving me to practice, sending me to Cistercian.”

“When we had one car, she’d find other ways to get to work,” he said. “Looking back on it now, she sacrificed a lot.”

Klautd has unapologetically set the goal for himself to play professionally.

“I like a player who likes to challenge himself,” said Norris of K-State. “It is a game for dreamers. It also tells me how he sees himself.”

“I’d like to go the NCAA’s,” said Roney, “and Olympic trials in two years.”

“They’re both realistic goals but I will have to work really hard to accomplish them.”

“Matt has so much talent,” said his Dallas Mustangs club coach, Mook Rodenbaugh, “I am just trying to stay out of his way.”

## So you want to be a big-time recruit?



Matt Roney

### The weekly grind

#### Dallas Mustangs Club Team

Twelve months a year

**M-F** 5 - 7:30 pm

**Sun** 10 - 12 am

The Dallas Mustangs swim rain or shine at Loos Field House, which is a DISD pool. If the school district is closed the pool is closed. Over Christmas break, they practiced in the outdoor pool at SMU even when the weather was freezing and snowy.

#### Cistercian Hawks High School Team

Three months a year (November to February)

**M-F** 6 - 7:15 am

### Battling the competition

May '06	Top 16 time nationally in the 100 free (individual)	
July '08	Top 16 400 freestyle relay & 800 freestyle relay	
August '08	Junior Nationals in Minneapolis	Reached finals in 2 relays
December '08	Nationals in Atlanta	Reached finals 3 relays
August '09	Top 16 800 freestyle relay time both LC and SC	
August '09	Junior Nationals in Seattle	Reached finals in 200 free, 1 relay
December '09	Nationals in Seattle	Reached finals in 1 relay

High School All-American 2008, 2009

Holds two SPC records.

Roney holds all Cistercian swim records except for the 100-yard breaststroke.



David Klautd

### The weekly grind

**Mon** 6-8 pm Mental mgt. gym workout

**Tu-Th** 3:45-5:30 Range, short game facility, putting

**Fri** 3:30 - dark Practice, play

Non-tournament weekend

**Sat** 10 am- 4:30 Practice, play 9-18

**Sun** 7 am-12:30 Play 18, practice

Tournament weekend

**Fri** Travel/practice round

**Sat** 18 or 36 Holes

**Sun** 18 or 36 Holes/travel

### Battling the competition

1st place	2009 Desert Junior Golf Tour Classic (Goodyear, Arizona)
	2009 Brookhaven Mens Club
Top 5	2008 Bass Pro Shops/ Payne Stewart Jr Championship (Springfield, MO)
	2009 Dallas Morning News
Top 10	2009 Mayakoba Junior Golf Classic (Mexico)
Top 15	2009 Valero Texas Open Junior Shootout (San Antonio)
Top 25	2009 HP Byron Nelson Junior Championship
1st place	2005 Dallas Morning News (13-14 age group)
	2002 Brookhaven Jr. Club Champion

David carries a +1 handicap

CROSS COUNTRY

**Running through life's major events**

With Coach Ryan Gorman's wife expecting for much of the season, it was only a matter of when.

The new Gorman, Finian, was born September 18 to a warm Cistercian welcome.

"The boys and all the parents were very supportive and helpful," Gorman reported.

"We really appreciate the whole Cistercian community helping out."

**Isaac Johnston '11** and **Ron Hammond '11** continue to pace the team as its top runners. Johnston earned All-SPC honors, placing 16th at SPC (17:36).

The team of nearly 30 runners produced some nice stories, including **Michael Roberto '11**, a newbie who worked his way into the team's top five runners by season's end.

**George Joseph '12** stepped up and showed very good improvement," Gorman said.

The Hawks will miss the seasoned leadership of captain **Joel Fontenot '10**; but Gorman is "expecting" a great season next fall.

**LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER Ron Hammond '10**



**STEAMROLLING** Steven Imaizumi '10 takes off on one of his 16 runs against Trinity Valley. He gained 96 yards on the night.

Photo by Lawrence Neuhoff

*Hawks rush to a 7-3 record*

In an era of spread offenses and flashy passing games, the Hawks continue to go "old school" on opponents, playing smash-mouth, up-the-gut football along with an aggressive defense.

At 7-3, Cistercian was just a play or two away from the title game. They led at half against the top two teams SPC-II.

Running a Wing-T, Cistercian's attack featured a scrappy offensive line that, despite nagging injuries, provided the holes for a running attack that averaged 261 yards per game. **Ian White '10**, **Tyler Freeman '10**, and **Clay Tillotson '11** were the stand-out performers up front.

Opponents knew the Hawks would run the ball, it was just a question of who.

At 6'2", 210 lbs., **Joe Graham '10** brought breakaway speed and break-your-face power to running the ball. For the season, he gained 881 yards on 141 carries for a 6.25-yard average.

**Steven Imaizumi '10** ran big with quickness and ferocity. He might appear to be stopped but Imaizumi would find a way to gain yards, 835 in all (on 128 carries for a 6.52-yard average).

For a little variety, **George Adesanya '11** added some flash, gaining 520 yards on 76 carries for a 6.84-yard average.

In a pivotal game against eventual SPC-II champ Trinity Valley, the Hawks slugged it out with the pass-happy Trojans. The 4-2-5 defense installed by Cistercian's fine new defensive coordinator Andre Bruce was bending, but not breaking.

Aggressive play by end **Andy Burns '10**, **Aaron Olson '10**, and **Preston Oliver '10** put on the pres-

sure, while Cistercian's secondary, led by **David Newcomb '10**, **Matthew Butler '10**, and **Patrick Ryan '11** refused to give up the big play.

The Trojans prevailed in the mud at Trinity Valley, 12-10.

The season concluded with two convincing wins over traditional rivals ESD and All-Saints, where the Hawks concluded their scoring with a field goal by Graham. It seems like yesterday that a 13-year-old freshman named Graham kicked the winning field goal on the same field.

All-SPC honors went to Graham, Imaizumi, Olson, and Butler.

Hoopsters shoot their way to 25 wins

For the second year in a row, the Hawks reached the SPC-II championship game. This year, the team fell short, losing to Trinity Valley, 51-41.

"Overall, it was a great weekend and a great year," Coach Dan Lee said. "We won our first-round game and then played one of our best games of the year to beat Casady."

Led by four seasoned seniors, the Hawks compiled a best-ever record of 25 wins and 11 losses.

**David Newcomb '10** played strong offensively (a team high 11.7 points per game) and defensively.

**Bobby Prengle '10**, who averaged 9.9 point per game, sunk two game-winning shots in wins over Trinity Valley and St. Mark's.

**Ian White '10** "played very consistently in the center for us," said Lee.

**Jack Cox '10** served as the team's "blue collar player" who performed ex-

ceptionally around the basket. Running the club from the point was **Liam Flanigan '10**, who dished out 4.6 assists per game.

Prengle and Newcomb earned All-SPC honors.



Photo by Lawrence Neuhoff

**STRONG TO THE HOOP** The Hawks' Jack Cox '10 jumps inside four Trojans for a bucket in the SPC-II Championship game.

*Up, down soccer season*

The 2010 season took one of Cistercian's most talented soccer teams in recent memory on a roller-coaster ride.

In mid January, the Hawks faced undefeated ESD (the eventual SPC-I champ).

The Hawks were prepared. **Andy Burns '10**, in particular. The fiery attacker scored within the first minute of the game.

"We came into the game extremely motivated and focused," said Coach J.P. Walsh.

**Patrick Cruz '11** drilled a 15-yard shot that caught the upper corner and put the Hawks up 2-0. ESD answered with a goal before **Michael Roberto '11** finished it off with a third goal and a great 3-1 victory.

A disappointing trip to Okla-

homa dropped the Hawks out of D-I contention.

Still going into SPC, the Hawks were a team opponents feared.

On defense, the Hawks featured athletic, aggressive marking backs in **Steven Imaizumi '10** and **Aaron Olson '10**.

The defense was led by stopper and leading scorer **Joe Graham '10**, while the midfield was commanded by **Pete Smith '11** and **Patrick Cruz '11**.

Burns led the team offensively, battling with Graham all year for the scoring crown.

The season ended at SPC without a championship but with a rollicking win.

Graham was awarded All-SPC honors.



**PREPARE TO BE BURNED** Cistercian attacker Andy Burns '10 at SPC.

Photo by Kiskeya Hille

AquaHawks take third place at SPC

For the second time in three years, Cistercian's swimmers and divers placed third at SPC (out of 13 teams).

Cistercian, led by Coach Doug Moyse, brought a team-record 21 swimmers and four divers to the event.

Captain **Matt Roney '10** concluded his undefeated high school career (in individual events) by winning the 100-yd. freestyle (47.41) and the 200-yard freestyle (1:41.60), an SPC record. **Jake Watters '13** placed fourth in the 500-yd. freestyle (5:08.51) and sixth in the 200-yd.

**RELAY TEAM PLACES SECOND BY .01 OF A SECOND** The 200-yard freestyle relay team of **Jake Watters '13**, **Matt Roney '10**, **Mary Gatens '11**, and **Aiden McLaughlin '12** with Fr. Gregory Schweers.

freestyle (1:54.69). **Aidan McLaughlin '12** swam an outstanding time of 22.24 seconds for the 50-yard freestyle, good enough for seventh place.

The Hawk diving team pulled off an impressive sweep. **Tyler Freeman '10** took second, **Dean Leonard '11** third, **Christian Potter '13** fourth, and **Andrew Skaras '11** fifth.

The Hawks nearly stole the 200-yard freestyle relay. McLaughlin, **Marty Gatens '11**, Watters, and Roney swam a 1:33.71, just 0.1 behind St. Mark's.

The same Cistercian swimmers placed third in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:29.36.

Coach Moyse expressed great satisfaction with all of the swimmers who participated – almost all of whom delivered "personal best" performances at SPC.



Photo by Donna Watters

**MARCH****15-19 Spring Break****APRIL****29 Abbot's Circle Dinner****MAY****15 Commencement****28 Closing Ceremonies****JUNE****4-6 Reunions Weekend**

## "I know him in whom I have believed and I am sure"

These words of St. Paul (2 Tim 1:12) resound through two millennia and evoke a variety of responses: from the enthusiastic "Amen" of a fellow believer to the skeptic's demeaning shrug: "How can you be sure? Did you throw aside common sense and rational inquiry?"

In the middle are those cautious people and perhaps the majority of Americans, who admit, "Yes, you need to believe in something because it increases happiness and good health, but to be sure? Sure of what? Faith is a matter of feelings and actions."

It might be helpful for us to find out what Jesus says about faith. Once he asked Peter: "Do you love me more than these?" But most of the time Jesus is asking for faith: "Do you believe I can do this for you?" "Let it be to you as you believed!" "Go, your faith has saved you."

**On Prayer***Fr. Roch Kereszty*

The faith Jesus is looking for is not faith "in anything you choose" nor a generic faith in the God of Israel, but faith in Jesus himself, faith that God's almighty love is present and at work in the person of Jesus.

Most intriguing is the way Jesus responds to the petitions of two Gentiles. He is deeply impressed by the faith of the pagan centurion: "Amen I say to you, I have not found such a great faith in Israel" (Mt 8:10). When a Canaanite woman is shouting after him, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon," Jesus does not, at first, dignify her with a response. At the prodding of the annoyed disciples he finally declares: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

As the woman continues her desperate pleading, he deliberately – it seems – offends her: "It is not right to take the food of children and throw it to the dogs." But she humbly accepts her unworthiness: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." At this point it becomes clear why Jesus humiliated her with such apparent cruelty; he did it on purpose so that he could admire and praise her faith: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish" (Mt 15:21-28).

Jesus explains that even a small faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains (Mt 17:20) His most frequent reproach to the disciples is not that they are lazy or proud or vain but that they are of little faith or of no faith: "How is it that you don't have faith?" (Mk 4:40).

"When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth?" (Lk 18:8).

Those who see faith in God as a blind emotional choice are convinced that it has little or no "truth value" and certainly less than empirically verifiable knowledge. They do not realize that by way of scientific knowledge we cannot even know the personal life of human beings, let alone God's. We may learn the verifiable data of people's history, we can get hold of their EKG's and other medical tests, but what their goals, values, thoughts and feelings are, only the persons themselves can choose to reveal to us.

When a young man believes in the girl to whom he proposes, he gives her the greatest gift he is capable of: he trusts that her word is true that she loves him and therefore he entrusts his whole future, his whole self to her. The truth value of his faith depends not only on him alone but also on the trustworthiness and goodness of his fiancée: he might build his life on solid rock or a mound of sand.

What Jesus expects from us is giving him the greatest gift we can, trust in him to the point of entrusting our lives, our entire selves to him. And it is not just an emotional choice; as before any good marriage you do inquire into whether or not your beloved is worth your trust, so it is with faith in Christ. Any rational inquiry, however yields only a limited certainty. Yet I realize on that basis that I would be a fool if I do not trust Him.

Actual trust in Christ requires a drastic new step which is like parachuting from an airplane. I can do it only if I rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit, who catches me in midair and makes my landing in the world of faith safe and smooth. It is a new world, a new creation, or rather a new light which illumines the true reality of the old world, hidden to the unbelieving eyes but revealing itself in the light of God's Word. I begin to see my fellow humans as God's children and my brothers and sisters. I discover the doves and cardinals in the courtyard as precious treasures the Father sends us for our delight and entertainment, the events of my daily life as arranged for my good with infinite tenderness and wisdom. I might even accept my death with Francis of Assisi as my tough-loving sister who leads me through a dark tunnel into the fullness of Truth and Love.

Each one of us is called to live "in this life as in the new creation" provided that we rely on the strength and solidity of the Word of Christ and accept the light which lights up our old world. Then we can say with confidence "I know in whom I have believed and I am sure."