

The

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CNTINUM



March 2004

Brave heart

Tom Pruitt has
fashioned BraveArt
into an arts festival
unlike any other

Tom Pruitt amongst
the artwork displayed
at BraveArt 2004

Dear Cistercian Families, Friends, and Alumni,

One consistent theme running throughout this issue of *The Continuum* is growth. Though the School has no plans of increasing enrollment, in both Abbey and School we have seen many efforts come to fruition, and so, a form of growth. In the Abbey we are enjoying the physical growth, or rather renovation, of the buildings in which we live. After Christmas, eight members of our community moved into the newly renovated west wing of the monastery, freeing up the south wing. Soon afterwards, Andres Construction began work on the south wing. In addition to new bedrooms for the monks, the south wing will provide two overnight guestrooms and a new refectory, or dining room. Andres promises completion of this second phase before the end of May. The three novices — Br. Athanasius, Br. Abraham, and Br. Joseph — continue their studies in the monastery, and are slowly becoming active in the Prep School. They are assisting with retreats, helping out with Middle School track, and even teaching a few units in the theology classes.



Photo by Jim Reisch

In the Prep School, growth is just as evident. The lead feature of this issue traces the growth of BraveArt from its inception in 1996 to today. In another sense, the same article demonstrates the growth of one of Dr. Tom Pruitt's English students.

Jeremy Gregg '97 took several of Dr. Pruitt's creative writing classes, worked with Dr. Pruitt as the emcee for the first two BraveArt's, and now displays his skills as a writer for all of us to enjoy. In his story on the Hartnetts, **David Stewart '74** not only highlights this year's recipient of the Moroney Award, but also traces the growth of one young student into a highly respected professional who has adopted his father's commitment to giving back to Cistercian. **Juan Muldoon '05** won this year's Catholic Foundation Scholar's Award, but he has also grown over the last two years into a formidable leader, as his English teacher explains in her piece.

As you will read on page 4, Alumni giving grew significantly during this year's Phonathon, which raises money for scholarships. The Class of 1983, under the firm hand of class agent **Brent Bulger '83**, reached 100 percent participation (a first for any class in any Phonathon). This great effort led the way as total participation hit 37 percent, the highest in Phonathon history. Thanks to our alumni, more boys in financial need will be enkindled and enlightened at Cistercian.

The overall impression is clear: Cistercian has grown not just this year but over decades. Thanks are owed to countless Cistercian families, students, and monks who have worked so hard and offered up so many prayers. Let us continue to work for the growth of each boy at Cistercian.

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73
Headmaster

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PREPARATORY
SCHOOL



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A brave new art 6

Dr. Tom Pruitt's vision for a relaxed and inspiring coffee house has grown into a three-day arts extravaganza featuring museum visits, workshops, movies, student videos, art shows, and performances. All in the name of BraveArt.

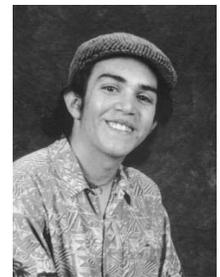


Cistercian's dream team

The Hartnett clan provides Cistercian with top-notch legal counsel. It's their way of thanking the priests for graduating five brothers between 1974 and 1987.

Prepared for the role of his life 13

Despite numerous medical hardships as a child, Juan Muldoon '05 has grasped every opportunity that has come his way and appears ready for center stage.



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Cover photography: Jim Reisch

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, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational practices, admissions, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

ALUMNI & BOOSTERS

Time to sign up for annual golf tournament

If you haven't already, it's time to sign up for the Fourth Annual Cistercian Hawks Booster Club and Alumni Association Golf Tournament.

Due to popular demand, the tournament is being held again at the posh Cowboys Golf Club in Grapevine and will take place on Monday April 12, the day after Easter.

"The folks at Cowboys really treated us well," said Bob Crews, tournament chairman. "Everyone enjoyed the great food for lunch and dinner in the clubhouse. And the course ranks among the most scenic in the Metroplex. Everyone has a great time."

The tournament is not meant just for the old boys' network and alumni either.

"Last year we had an all-mother's team, an all-student's team, and several father-son teams," said Crews. That makes it a lot of fun."

"We'd like to encourage more moms, more students and more father-son combinations to join us this year."

April 12, by the way, is a Cistercian holiday so students don't have any excuses.

Last year's event raised \$3,000 - \$4,000 for the Booster Club.

"It's really just a fun day for the Cistercian community to come together and enjoy each other's company," Crews said. "If everyone has a good time, then I consider it a success."

Sponsorship opportunities abound and include contest, beverage, coach, and hole sponsorships in addition to three major programs (Tournament, Hawk and Black & White).

Those interested in spon-

sorships should call Bob Crews at 214-816-2500.

ALUMNI GIVING

Phonathon sets records for gifts & participation

The 2003-2004 Alumni Phonathon set all kinds of records this year.

First, it raised \$102,144 in gifts and pledges. That's over \$10,000 more than the Phonathon's previous record.

Second, 37 percent of all Cistercian alumni participated. This compares with the previous high of 29 percent.

Approximately \$40,000 of the total will fund eight scholarships and the remaining \$62,000 will be applied to the Alumni Endowed Scholarship fund.

The interest from the Alumni Endowed Scholarship fund, valued at \$110,000

prior to this year's Phonathon, will provide one additional scholarship for a total of nine.

"With this year's contribution of almost \$62,000 to the endowed fund," said **Stephen Rasch '80**, president of the Alumni Association, "we expect that additional interest will be sufficient for two endowed scholarships next year."

Class agents played a key role. Take **Brent Bulger '83**, whose efforts spurred not only 100 percent participation from his class of 16, but also produced a total of \$10,925.

Rasch cited the efforts of the five-year captains, **Steve Johnston '71**, **Oscar Arras '78**, **Andrew Roberts '82**, **Mark Roppolo '88**, **Bill Churchill '91** and **Jeremy Gregg '97**.

"It is with the help of these volunteers that giving has jumped 70 percent in three short years," he said.

Humble Jim Hartnett accepts barbs along with Moroney Award

With lots of family on hand, **Jim Hartnett, Jr. '75** accepted the Jim and Lynn Moroney Award on Friday, January 30 at the Tower Club in downtown Dallas.

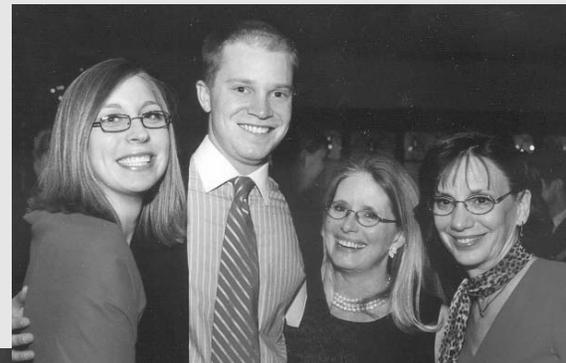
The Moroney Award is given annually to an alumnus "whose spiritual commitment to Cistercian is very much aflame and whose dedicated work on behalf of the Cistercian family enkindles our hope for the future."

The award was presented by Hartnett's classmate **Wade Andres '75**, who joked about Hartnett's courtroom antics, well-known confidence, and sometimes rocky journey through Cistercian.

In his remarks, Hartnett

emphasized the help he receives from his father and his three brothers at the Hartnett Law Firm.

FUN NIGHT (Top right, left to right) Jessica Lovett, Austin Nevitt '99, Kelly Bloodgood, and Jackie Greenfield. (Bottom right) Wade Andres '75; (Below) Emily and James Hartnett surround son and honoree Jim Hartnett Jr.



Photos by Jim Reisch





Photo by Jim Reisch

HIGH HOPES Debate Club founder Prasanth Pattisapu '05, shown here with teammate Robbie Earle '05, hopes to spur interest in the debate club in lower forms.

STUDENT INITIATIVE

Hawk debaters surprise rivals at tournament

Debate team? Yes, Cistercian is now fielding a

debate team. It all started when Prasanth Pattisapu '05 approached Peter Heyne '97 this fall about sponsoring a debate team.

"I have no experience with debate," explained Heyne. Pattisapu wasn't dissuaded so Heyne agreed to help despite the fact that he was teaching class during Activities Period when the nascent debate squad was scheduled to meet.

"These guys are very self-motivated," Heyne pointed out, referring to Pattisapu, Robbie Earle '05, and Grant Illes '06.

The three have competed at the novice level in several tournaments and are improving rapidly.

Most recently, the three students entered the UD/SMU "Symposium Classic" debate/speech tournament held January 23-24.

Earle narrowly missed winning first place in the novice-level Lincoln-Douglas debate — a terrific showing out of a field of 45 competitors. The competitors hail from 33

NOTEWORTHY

- **Al Hernandez '05** won the speech contest sponsored by the Park Cities Rotary Club. **Prasanth Pattisapu '05, Tony Listi '05, and Vincent Zimmern '06** also participated.
- **Connor Heard '08** prevailed in the Cistercian Spelling Bee. **Will Schleier '09** placed second.
- **Mathletes:** In the first ever St. Mark's High School Math Contest, Cistercian defeated teams from around the state to claim first prize in the Sweepstakes (Best School). See Dr. Newcomb's Web site for more details.
- **Quiz Bowl:** Cistercian won both first and second in the JV division of the Spartan Showdown tournament sponsored by St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin.
- **Jeffrey Tinker '97** was awarded the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Excellence in Teaching. Tinker teaches math in Forms II and III. The Edyth May Sliffe Awards for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching recognize the excellence of teachers responsible for the success of teams earning the highest scores on the AHSME (AMC 12) test.

schools such as Hockaday, Greenhill, Jesuit, and St. Mark's, as well as large public schools such as Plano West and Williams.

Pattisapu progressed to the

second round along with 15 other competitors and walked away with a Third Place Speaker Award. Illes also performed well.

Earle owed a piece of his second place trophy to Pattisapu, who wrote Earle's winning negative case.

After the final round, one of the judges told Earle, "Your negative case is one of the most powerful cases I have heard in either varsity or novice on this topic."

"For the rest of this year," Pattisapu emphasized, "we are going to work to generate interest in debate among the lower forms. We would like to see debate become like Math Counts."

"It doesn't make much difference if we win a few tournaments if the debate team doesn't survive after we graduate next year. So that has to be our main goal," he said.

Congratulations to Prasanth Pattisapu and his colleagues on their initiative, drive, and success. At Cistercian, one student's drive truly can make a difference.

Chris Bock's legacy of language

Chris Bock, a beloved former member of the Cistercian faculty, passed away in January after a battle with cancer. The former English teacher and advisor to Reflections was also a Cistercian parent (**Tim Bock '85** and **Tom Bock '87**). She and husband Wally left Texas for Tucson in the fall of 1996.

"Chris had an influence on each of our spirits," remembered Tom Pruitt, "spreading her ebullient good cheer everywhere she went, with that irrepressible smile and that signature burst of laughter that so defined this lovely, elegant lady."

"Language – not simply a tool, but an art – was her gift to her students," said Christine Medaille.

Her passion for grammatical precision and clarity led her to reorganize the middle school English Lab curriculum into a more logical and efficient sequence of lessons. She then proceeded to teach the new curriculum to the entire Middle School for several years. All at Cistercian who knew her wish her husband Wally, Tim, and Tom well as they suffer this great loss.

Jack Miller: a life of retailing and community service

Jack Miller (father of **Craig Miller '75** and **Bryan Miller '81**) passed away from complications of a stroke and cancer in Dallas on January 20, 2004. Mr. Miller was a revered retailing executive (serving as CEO of Sanger Harris and Lazarus Department Stores), a remarkable community leader, and a faithful supporter of Cistercian. Everyone at Cistercian who knows the Millers is praying for this wonderful family.



SHOWTIME Masters of Ceremonies John Davies '04 and Coleman Easley '04 start the show at Café BraveArt Saturday night.

brave new art

Dr. Tom Pruitt's vision for a relaxed and inspiring coffee house has grown into a three-day arts extravaganza featuring museum visits, workshops, movies, student videos, art shows, and performances. All in the name of BraveArt.

By Jeremy Gregg

Editor's note: Jeremy Gregg '97 helped organize the first BraveArt Coffee House in 1996 and served as emcee in 1996 and '97.

HE WAS DRIVEN BY A MADNESS, THEY SAY. Haunted by visions and dreams, cry others. "Ghosts led him on!" whisper the shadows. But truth, ever stranger than fiction, surpasses all these. "I really wanted the students to be in charge of as much as possible," said Dr. Tom Pruitt, lord and overseer of BraveArt, the Cistercian arts festival.

Leaning back in his chair in the teacher's lounge, Pruitt speaks about the first years of the event with the surety and pride of a man who has come through a great darkness and into the light. He admits, though, that the journey was not an easy one.

"That first year was an interesting experience," he confesses with a knowing smile.

In 1996, throwing caution to the wind, Pruitt empowered a handful of upperclassmen to plan the first-ever student arts festival. Together they puzzled over a name, finding none satisfactory until Jonathan Leach (then on the faculty) suggested BraveArt, extrapolated from the 1996 hit movie *BraveHeart*. Like William Wallace, the Scottish leader of the film's rebel forces, Pruitt prepared his group for a difficult campaign. (Fortunately Pruitt didn't have to wear a skirt to get their attention.)

"Dr. Pruitt was a great leader," said **Brent Hogan '00**, who attended the first event as a freshman and was one of the emcees by his senior year. "Every year, he made BraveArt run better than the previous year."

"A lot of people didn't like the tie-in to the movie, but it wasn't really about that," laughed Pruitt. It was more about taking up the challenge of getting this event off the ground, and turning it into something that students looked forward to all year. "It is a challenge," **Andrew Milner '03** states, "that Cistercian is meeting very well: BraveArt has the best [student talent show] of any small private school in the area."

That first year, Pruitt wanted to create a relaxed coffee house

atmosphere, with students reading and performing their own works as well as those of renowned authors. Whereas the annual Spring Recital had a very serious, dignified air about it, Pruitt's group wanted to create an edginess to the event that would inspire other students to participate.

"[Student leadership] is a standing principle at Cistercian, and always has been," said **Fr. Peter Verhalen '73**. "The challenge is putting on something as large as Homecoming with the students being in charge. For the faculty, it's a constant challenge to give students the opportunity to be in charge while guiding them and seeing that things are done on time.

Yet Pruitt has managed to do all of this while creating an event that provides both an outlet for artists as well as an educational experience for the audience.

"I think it meets several needs: it provides a break from the usual academic pressures of Cistercian, it provides an opportunity for the students to visit local museums and learn about art, and it connects current students with alumni who are working as artists," he said. And, perhaps most importantly, BraveArt "bears witness to the importance of art in a person's life."

From the very beginning, BraveArt was a blend of the visual and the performing arts. Led by Roberto Munguia, head of the art department, the event featured an art competition for student works. The competition, whose winners are chosen by outside judges, awards prizes of up to \$300 to students for their work.

"The cash prizes are always nice for the legitimacy that they lend to the competition," added Fr. Peter. In addition to the cash prizes, however, the ability to show their art to their peers, teachers and parents drives many of the student artists to focus their work towards this competition. This year-round focus helps students "get into art not just as a class period or an assignment that must be completed, but as a form of relaxation or expression," said **Kyle C. Resh '99**.

"The BraveArt exhibition and competition sprang from the need to reaffirm the students' positive attitude toward their artwork," said Munguia. "I could see their talent and would praise

their efforts to achieve greater skills and expressive content, but getting another professional from the vital Dallas arts community to come in and respond to their work really convinced them that they had attained a certain level of proficiency. It also stimulated a healthy spirit of competition, which served to encourage growth and progress.”

“And, of course, it’s always nice to read your name in the school paper,” admits Hogan, who won an award at the competition in 2000.

“This recognition is perhaps the most valuable part of winning the award,” said **Billy Hassell ’74**, one of Cistercian’s first graduates to build a career as a professional artist.

“I think that the money is great, but it’s more symbolic of the fact that what you’ve done is of value and merits the award itself. Personally, the awards that I have won were hugely encouraging to me. They really helped launch my career,” Hassell said. “At the high school level, when you get an award like that, it’s an immediate recognition, approval, and validation. It goes on your record, and those forms of recognition add up over time. Those little bits of encouragement keep you pushing, and let you believe in yourself and your art.”

Back in 1996, however, the main focus was on the Coffee House, which was to be held on the gym stage (the stage doors were closed, so the audience would share an intimate space with the acts). The line-up primarily included student authors, but also had musicians, actors, and some space for “impromptu readings.” This last element appeared only in the first Coffee House, and for good reason.

“I remember someone reading Poe’s *The Raven*, which seemed to go on forever,” laughed Fr. Peter.

Around 7 pm, the stage was finally set. Above the door were Tolkien’s words, “Speak, Friend, and Enter.” No need to gather a crowd; as soon as the doors opened, the space began to fill.

The First Coffee House

FROM NEAR AND FAR, THEY CAME. Poets and musicians, artists and actors, priests and teachers . . . dozens of people arrived early for the few available seats. Soon, the stage was full, but people kept coming. Seats were removed and it became standing room only.

By 7:30, the stage, if you could call it that, had dwindled to little more than the space necessary for a stool, a stand and a microphone. But by that point, it didn’t matter. Weeks of nervous anticipation coalesced into a sudden and furious need to shout the words of none other than the Bard himself:

“O, for a muse of fire!” I exclaimed to commence the proceedings. Over the next two hours, the girdle of those walls did not exactly hold the “vasty fields of France,” nor did we cram within that “wooden O the very casques that did affright the air at Agincourt” . . . yet somehow, despite the recklessness of our ways and the sudden efficiency of our

Somehow, despite the recklessness of our ways . . . we had launched a brave new tradition for Cistercian: an annual celebration of the timeless power of art.

quarters, we survived the night. Indeed, it felt as if we had triumphed over the evening, and launched a brave new tradition for Cistercian: an annual celebration of the timeless power of art, and a time to revel in the vast talent lying within the school’s heart.

“I distinctly remember the first Coffee House . . . and being in sheer awe of the talent,” said Dr. Pruit. With this last word, his fists clench and his eyes focus on something unseen in the air between us. I imagine his mind strolling

the small town of Emily Dickinson’s ruby-lit heaven, and can see how sincerely he hopes to lead his students there.

“Looking back, the gym stage may not have been the best place for that,” laughed Pruit. One of his favorite moments, he admits, was seeing **Robert Schoenvogel ’96** being crammed into a tiny space to play “It Had to Be You” on a miniscule, squeaky keyboard that had been found in the Science Building. Unfortunately, Robert – the starting tight end on the football team and the center on the basketball team – was no small fellow. Although a masterful pianist and performer, he couldn’t help but laugh after he got past the first verse. By the end, everyone was cheering for him as much as they were singing with him.

“I remember the keyboard didn’t sound right at all, and the whole thing coming off as a disaster,” admits Schoenvogel. “The comedy might have been unintentional, but the fact that Dr. Pruit got a kick out of it makes me a happy man.”

In many ways, Robert’s performance created a perfect metaphor for what had led up to the first BraveArt. At Cistercian, a huge amount of talent was being crammed into a tiny space in the school calendar. That talent burst forth at the Coffee House, and the following Monday, the students were already talking about what to do next year. Perhaps . . .

Braver-Art?

The academic load is so intense that we can’t push the arts too much,” explained Pruit. “But I truly believe that students really blossom when they are exposed to the arts in this way.”

By 1997, the event had already expanded significantly. BraveArt became, as it were, “braver about its art” (buh-doom, ching!). The Coffee House was moved to the theatre. The student workshops were expanded, became more involved, and were better attended. In fact, thanks to the involvement of Jim Reisch, photography teacher at Cistercian, a whole new art form was added.

With the advent of his very popular film elective — in which Reisch supervises the students as they write, shoot, and edit their own films — student videos have become a core part of Café BraveArt.

“One year, we let it rest,” Reisch said. “and we just exhibited photography. I will never forget the outcry. *The Informer* even had a headline, ‘What Happened to the Videos?’ We’ve had them in the Coffee House ever since.”

BraveArt also plays a key role for the film students.

“Feedback is such an important

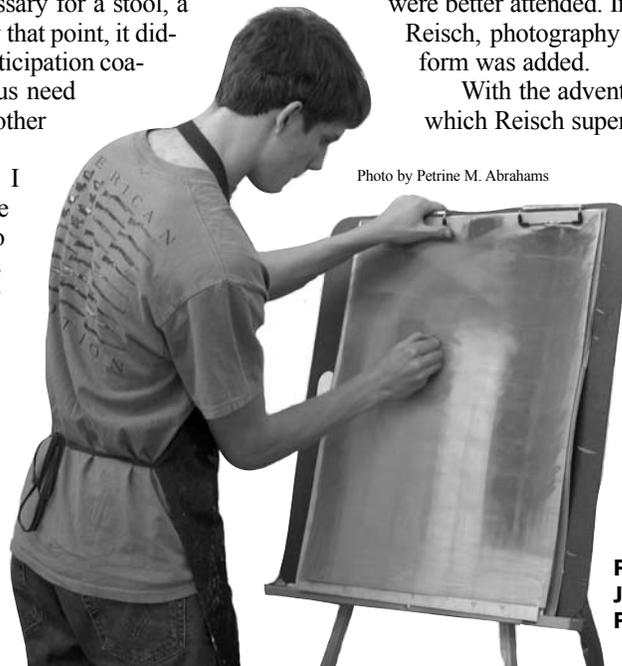


Photo by Petrine M. Abrahams

part of filmmaking,” Reisch explained. “BraveArt is like our Sundance Film Festival. It allows the boys to fine tune their work before taking it to a wider audience at ISAS (the art competition for the region’s top private schools).”

The introduction of film into BraveArt opened up a whole new world of possibility. Several graduates have gone on to pursue their interests in film, including **Jason Mitura '03** who is attending the very selective USC School of Cinema - Television.

The second year also included another significant addition to the Coffee House: faculty performers. Over the coming years, teachers would sing, dance (tap-dance, to be precise), and play every instrument from the harmonica to the violin to the human hand. Yes, that’s right; at BraveArt, even if you can do nothing more than snap, there’s a stage for you.

“The students benefit from seeing the faculty in a new light,” said Fr. Peter. “Dr. Arndt’s snapping song, Mr. Reidy’s blues harmonica, Fr. Julius’ poetry: Students and faculty overcome the barriers separating teacher and student, and together enjoy a performance.”

“It became a wonderful mixture,” said Pruitt. “The students have invited faculty every year since.”

“Pruitt, of course, is one of the students’ favorite performers,” said Jackie Greenfield, head of the English department. “Students are always happy to listen to him – the room is hushed as he moves toward the audience and, without any fanfare, draws them into the world of his musings. He doesn’t disappoint an audience when he finally makes public the rhythms of his dance with the poetic forms.”

The third year the event grew even more, and was eventually expanded into a three-day affair, with half-day workshop ses-

sions on the Thursday and Friday before the Coffee House. The mornings, at this point, were still reserved for academics, but the afternoons were all BraveArt.

“Fr. Peter has been very supportive the entire time,” said Pruitt. “The workshops provide a hands-on experience of art that reinforces what the students learn in the classroom.”

The workshops were so successful, in fact, that in only its fourth year the faculty decided to expand the festival even more. Now encompassing three full days, including a day of museum visits and another day for artistic workshops, the event truly has become a full festival for artistic appreciation and expression. Simply stated by **Josh Campbell '02**: “BraveArt is the most fun, creative event that Cistercian puts on. No other school has anything like it.”

Why BraveArt?

THE CREATIVE SPIRIT HAS ALWAYS BEEN a very strong part of Cistercian’s history. In fact, Cistercian’s first headmaster was also one of its greatest artists — Fr. Damian. “There was evidence of his creativity everywhere,” said Hassell.

Additionally, for the school’s first students, they were immersed in a living art project — “creating a school out of thin air,” said **Tim Sullivan '70**.

“The art training program during the first seven years of the school was extremely modest compared to what is currently in place,” Sullivan suggested. “But there was a ton of creative energy. And that is the heart of any artistic training.”

Many Cistercian students have gone on to become artists, including Hassell, **Geoff Marslett '92**, **Asher Wood '94**, and **Mike Miga '95**. For many, the lessons and the education that

the delights of BraveArt of 2004

Planning for this year’s event on February 19-21 began back in September when Dr. Tom Pruitt and Roberto Munguia first started coordinating BraveArt with parent volunteers Nancy Klinke and Patty Tomaso. The fun began Thursday morning and didn’t conclude until late Saturday night.

Thursday at the museums

Students visited the Nasher Sculpture Center, The Dallas Museum of Art and the Crow Collection. Previous museum visits have been to the Modern in Ft. Worth, the Kimball and the Meadows Museum at SMU.

“The museum visits provide concrete learning experiences that get everyone ‘all juiced up’ for the BraveArt weekend,” said **Chris Gruber '01**.

“It’s very important that they both see and participate in art,” said Pruitt. “The two reinforce each other and also support what the boys are learning in school.”

Thursday afternoon, the boys also heard a local performance poet, Will Richey. Described as a “fervent Christian” by Pruitt, Richey’s spoken

word simultaneously echoed the teachings of the school while supporting the mission of BraveArt “The kids really got a kick out of it,” said Pruitt.

Friday workshops and presentations

On Friday, the boys participated in morning and afternoon workshop sessions. “Our presenters are frequently in awe of how serious and dedicated the boys can be, and how much they can get done in one workshop,” said Pruitt.

“The workshops gave me the chance to learn about something that would never have come up on the usual academic track,” said **James Connor '02**. “And I think that’s what intellectual pursuit is about – investigating a subject out of interest in the subject itself, not for any external purposes.”

Provided by the school, Friday’s BBQ lunch included a jazz/blues performance by Dave Tanner (father of **Erik Tanner '07**). Offering a workshop in the morning session, Tanner performed songs that he created with the students that day (e.g., *The ‘I’ve Got a Zit and It’s Prom Night’ Blues*, etc.).

At 2:15 p.m., all of the students went to a presentation by “Featured Alumni.” This year, **Tim Sullivan '70** and **Grady McGahon '00** presented a video on Tim’s house, which is a work of art itself (see www.geocities.com/flyingconcrete), and discussed the process of sculpting with lightweight concrete. Previous presenters included: **Rob Greenfield '92**, who performed and lectured on the history of jazz in 1999; **David Patrick '86**, who performed a one-man play in 2000; **Mike Miga '95**, who gave a presentation on his paintings in 2001; **Geoff Marslett '92**, who showed some of his film work in 2002; and last year, architect **Gary Cunningham '72** gave the students a walking tour of the school and discussed the architecture that he helped to create.

Friday’s Movie Night

Even after a long day like this, one of the most popular parts of BraveArt brought many students back to school on Friday night for “Movie Night with Mr. Leach.”

“Jonathan Leach is just an amazing teacher,” said Pruitt. The former English

they received at Cistercian shaped them both as individuals and as artists. The school's solid academic and spiritual grounding was a firm launching pad for many of their careers.

"Once I got into college and around other artists, I realized that I didn't have a lot of formal training," said Hassell. "But I had a creative spirit and a strong educational background. These gave me a leg up when it came to the conceptual side of art."

"Cistercian's focus is always going to be on academics," said Pruit. "But when, in a program as rigorous as Cistercian's, you add exposure to the arts, something very dramatic and almost magical happens. All that discipline and focus is given a creative outlet which leads to some pretty astounding results."

"It was a need that was recognized by the students from the very beginning", Fr. Roch said. "The predecessor to BraveArt, a Spring Talent Show, was started by Fr. Peter's Class of '73, in particular by **Tom Lewis '73** and **Joe Martin '73**."

"We had very few traditions in Cistercian's early history, and there were many other schools that had talent shows," remembered Lewis, then the president of the Student Government. "We knew we had a lot of talent at Cistercian, so we decided to host one ourselves." It was this same spirit that also helped students of this era establish *The Informer*, which in turn spawned the school's first literary magazine.

"If there was something out there we wanted to do, Cistercian helped us do it," said Hassell, whose poetry and art contributed greatly to both the newspaper and literary magazine.

Sustaining the tradition of the talent shows proved difficult, however, with faculty involvement. It was not until the faculty became involved that the event was formalized and transformed into a Spring Recital for students who played classical instru-

ments, such as the piano and the violin.

"The Spring Recital gave us a great taste of what was out there," said Pruit. But that taste, he knew, did not quench the thirst of the student body. There needed to be more faculty-supported avenues of expression for the other students who were making art and writing their own music.

"The talent shows were great, too. They just needed more shape and stability," explained Pruit. "That led the faculty to create a great deal of the artistic electives, such as poetry writing, creative fiction and theatre." Starting in the early 1990s, these additional classes began to provide more students with the ability to develop and express their talents. Yet the need continued to grow.

As it was, students who were serious about their passion for art had to resort to the various summer programs, night classes and electives that the school provided. Pruit knew that these budding artists needed a focal point for their work. He also believed that the arts needed to be integrated more fully into the academic curriculum. But beyond this, Pruit had a far more important reason for wanting these programs: "We need the arts to help confront the profundities of life."

On its most basic level, art is an outward expression of our most innate abilities and personal experiences. A sculptor's hand, a painter's eye, and a singer's voice all are moved by the same feeling — the need to understand life, and the desire to express that understanding to others.

"The artist, the really good artist or poet or writer, communicates a message that cannot be conveyed by anything else, such as concepts or mathematical formulas," said Fr. Roch. "Good art mirrors God's creation, although vaguely and distantly. It

and Drama teacher returns to Cistercian each year at BraveArt to show and discuss films with the students, teachers, and alumni.

"The first year, we met on a sunny Sunday afternoon in a classroom at Northwest Bible Church," said Mr. Leach. "We watched the movie, talked a lot, and had a good time. Dr. Pruit liked

the popcorn. He said, 'Let's do this again!'" And so they did, continuing to meet every year to discuss such films as *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, *Chariots of Fire*, and *The Man Who Would Be King*.

This year's Movie Night included selections from the first two *Lord of the Rings* movies.

"Cistercian students appreciate complexity," said Mr. Leach. "I hope [Movie Night] teaches them that it's okay to actively 'engage with' a movie as a work of art."

Saturday's Coffee House

Saturday, of course, was the main feature of the festival, running from 7:30 until 11:30 pm, the Coffee House, dubbed Café BraveArt, was held in the school's cafeteria this year.

"It simply would have been too much effort to turn the gym into an intimate space,"

said Pruit. Returning to the gym stage was not an option either, especially since the organizers were expecting their largest crowd ever.

"Quite impressive," said **William Peirson '01**, "for a little school in the woods of Irving."

"More energy is put into BraveArt than I've seen put into entire theatrical productions here at my college, and that's really something to be proud about," Peirson said.

All in all, the whole production cost about \$6,000, the majority of which went to the presenters and to the students through awards.

"I want as much of it to go to the artists as possible," said Pruit.

Costs are kept low thanks to the many alumni, parents and teachers who volunteer their time to help with the event. Even teachers from unrelated fields volunteered. Dr. Cambria Reinsborough (science, Forms II and IV), for example, led a tie-dye workshop for the students.

"I can't think of a single faculty member, from the coaches to the math department to the abbey, that doesn't look forward to it," said Pruit.

Artistic explorations

Here's a sampling of the workshops offered as a part of this year's BraveArt.

- Printmaking
- dijeradu making
- Greek dance
- dramatic improv
- Argentinean tango
- culinary arts
- harps
- stained glass
- computer/digital arts
- ancient board games
- silversmithing



Photo by Petrine M. Abrahams

DIJERADU Hayden Godat '04 heats up his dijeradu under the guidance of Fr. Gregory.

March 2004

expresses spiritual content — and some of one’s own spirit — in material ways.”

“We are surrounded by art here,” said Dr. Pruitt while motioning to the walls of the room. The school’s architecture contains work of the great O’Neil Ford, Al Salem and Cistercian’s own **Gary Cunningham ’72**. Pointing a finger towards the Abbey, Pruitt continued, “And, of course, we have the amazing works of Fr. Damian all around us.”

Pruitt believes that seeing students’ art provides “an appreciation for the whole student. You might otherwise just know them as a 4.0 student, or as a quarterback, or whatever, but to see them as poets or artists really shows you who they are as people.”

“There’s usually a great respect for the performers onstage, whether they are embarrassing themselves or not,” said Milner.

“Not only does this change the way that the students relate to each other,” Pruitt claimed, “but it changes the faculty’s perception of the students.”

“Every year I ‘discover’ a new talent in a boy I had never suspected,” said Fr. Peter. “It’s joyful, exciting, like discovering a special gem in a favorite chest you thought you already knew.”

For many of the students, this creates an opportunity for a much more powerful relationship with their teachers. Although it can have an immediate effect on students, the true impact of this support may not be felt for many years . . . as is the case for **Chris Gruber ’01**, who will never forget an unexpected compliment.

“I was passing Coach Hillary in the hall, and he stopped me just to tell me how he had enjoyed my musical performance at BraveArt,” said Gruber. “I didn’t even know he had been there. And for him, Coach Hillary, to enjoy the music that we were playing was very touching.”

Building on a strong tradition of supporting individual artists, BraveArt expands the reach of Cistercian’s arts program to touch the life of every high school student. Having worked towards his dream for many years, Dr. Pruitt is finally able to look back with some relief at how far the school has come. Yet, when asked to describe BraveArt’s success, he smiles and dodges the opportunity to brag (a patently Pruitt maneuver). However, his former students are hardly as reserved when describing the event’s success. As Milner simply put it, “My senior year, there were more cars in the parking lot for BraveArt than for Homecoming.”

The Future of BraveArt

I LIKE THE SYSTEM that we have now, but it’s just a start,” said Pruitt. Never one to gloat, he took me off guard as he suddenly leaned back in a rare moment of pride and proudly asserted: “As we get closer to BraveArt, everyone begins to . . . relax. And that’s something that is desperately needed here.”

Pruitt considers his words carefully when asked about his goals for the event. It’s obvious that he’s given the subject a lot of thought,

“BraveArt is the most fun, creative event that Cistercian puts on. No other school has anything like it.”

— Josh Campbell ’02

and although he’s pleased with where the event has gone, he wants it to continue growing.

“We want to keep it fresh, to keep the variety. They can’t do the same things every year. But we have to keep the combination of seeing great art and dealing with it hands-on,” Pruitt said. “That’s what it’s all about.”

“The faculty have talked about having student performances during lunch, more spontaneous stuff; the kids currently have a (jam session) in the music room during the final Activities period on Friday, which is a great outlet.”

Pruitt also wants to continue seeing BraveArt’s influence on the classroom environment. The faculty does “more creative things in the classroom now; as long as it remains grounded in academic preparation, the students will blossom.”

Fr. Peter agrees. “We have changed the curriculum to incorporate history of art and history of music into the Form V and VI history curriculum.” Although this was partly a response to the national push to broaden high school curriculum, Fr. Peter admits that “BraveArt has enabled us to expose the boys to more art education without having to drop some class period or other. I think that several teachers — Mr. Saliga, Fr. Gregory, Mrs. Greenfield, Mrs. Medaille — are making real efforts to incorporate more ‘artistic’ elements into their classes.” These additional elements have included in-class performances, creative writing assignments, drawing, painting, and more.

“I’m excited about two things this year,” said Kelly Shea, music teacher for Forms I and II. “One, the formation of the Music Club, which meets during Activities Period. Musicians are welcome to come to the Music Room and practice by themselves or with their ensemble — or band! It’s been a wonderful opportunity for the many boys who live far away from each other to come together during the school day and work on their repertoire.”

“Secondly, we’re bringing back the more formal Spring Recital. Classical musicians in Forms III - VIII are invited to perform; this year it’ll be on April 4th.”

The revival of the Spring Recital is eagerly welcomed by Dr. Pruitt, as well. “To see all of the talent with guys that push themselves so hard in academics and athletics, and then to find out that they have all of this artistic talent, it amazes me.”

Onward and Upward

IN 1996, I OPENED the first-ever Coffee House with the prologue from Shakespeare’s *Henry V*. Over the years, it has been my great joy to see that monologue’s request fulfilled again and again: inspired by one of the great teachers of my life, BraveArt surely has “ascended the brightest heaven of Invention.”

Thank you, Cistercian, for all that you have given to me and to the many other students who have passed through your halls; may the fire of your Muse ever serve to enlighten and to enkindle us all!



Photo by Jim Reisch



The Hartnett clan provides Cistercian with top-notch legal counsel. It's their way of thanking the priests for graduating five brothers between 1974 and 1987 • By David Stewart '74

UPON TAKING HIS SEAT IN THE LOBBY of the law offices 49 floors above Pacific Avenue late one January evening, the courier expected a short, quiet wait. But soon he overheard an exchange of insults down the hallway, then another and another, each louder than its predecessor. After nearly 30 minutes of overhearing the intensifying verbal assaults, the courier wondered if the jousting might spill out into the lobby and endanger him.

By the time one of the lawyers poked his head into the lobby around 11 pm to say, "It shouldn't be much longer," the courier's eyes were wide with fear.

"What's going on back there," the courier asked. "Sounds like someone is going to get killed."

"Oh," the lawyer laughed, "No, there's not a problem. We're all brothers. It's like this sometimes when we're on a tight deadline."

The Hartnett Law Firm, a boutique practice that specializes in complex estate litigation, boasts seven lawyers, six Hartnetts, five Cistercian alumni, and four brothers who enjoy arguing. Led by the venerable James Hartnett Sr., the firm includes **Will Hartnett '74, Jim Hartnett Jr. '75, Jay Hartnett '83, Fred Hartnett '87,** and Melinda Hartnett (Hockaday '89). **Kevin Spencer '85** — whose mother, Donna Spencer, began working for Mr. Hartnett in 1966 — rounds out the team.

Only Ellen Hartnett Crim (Ursuline '77) rejected the tradition, choosing to become a CPA, then a stay-at-home mom.

The young Hartnetts were drawn to the

law and to the family firm by admiration for their dad.

"My dad is an amazing person," said Melinda Hartnett, the youngest and latest Hartnett to join the firm. "He always has loved his work. He works hard but he doesn't over do it. We all admired him for that. The boys especially wanted to follow in his footsteps."

Then there's the breakfast table where the boys, usually sparked by the incendiary Jim Jr., argued about anything and everything.

"All that talking and arguing paid off I suppose," reflected Emily Hartnett, matriarch of the clan who has graced many a Cistercian concert with her fine musicianship. "I *am* surprised that they can get along together."

Paid off indeed. The Hartnetts have established an impressive practice by helping some of the state's most prominent families settle their estates (and family disputes). The Hartnetts also represented one of the parties in the high profile Anna Nicole Smith case.

Part of the firm's secret lies in the showmanship of Jim Jr. (this year's recipient of the Jim and Lynn Moroney Award). He was selected by *Texas Lawyer* as the "Go-To" attorney for trust and estate matters.

"He's a fantastic trial lawyer," said Ray LaDriere, who recently tried a case against the Hartnetts. "Everyone talks about Jim's courtroom persona, but what's more important to me, is that he's a real ethical gentleman. He tries a case the way it should be tried."

"When Jim Hartnett cross-examines your witness," LaDriere insisted, "you know it and you feel it."

"I think he's the best courtroom lawyer in Texas," said brother Will. "I don't think that I'm biased on that either. Rusty Hardin, the famous prosecutor, is the only one who compares with him."

"Hartnett," complained attorney Lee Ware during one trial, "is prancing around and preening like the Queen of the May."

"Your honor," Hartnett objected, "I may prance but I never preen."

Jim's flamboyant courtroom behavior wouldn't surprise many who knew him at Cistercian.

Unlike his older brother Will, Jim was never one to waste much time studying. Jim was nevertheless immersed in a variety of affairs at Cistercian.

In Form III, Hartnett did a brisk business selling magazines, candy, and miniature radios until he was caught and punished by Fr. Denis. The young headmaster then called on Jim's dad who came out to school and personally demonstrated his displeasure as well.

"Everybody got a piece of me that day," Hartnett recalled recently.

Through most of Upper School, Jim continued to push "the edge of the envelope," remembered Fr. Melchior Chladek, his form master.

THE FIRM (standing from left) Jim Hartnett Jr. '75, Donna Spencer, Jay Hartnett '83, James Hartnett Sr., and Will Hartnett '74; (seated from left) Kevin Spencer '85, Melinda Hartnett, and Fred Hartnett '87.

"We had many talks," Fr. Melchior said, "and finally we came to a truce his senior year."

Jim agreed to tone down the trouble making, but he refused to alter his long-standing academic strategy.

"He knew what he was doing," Fr. Melchior remarked. "He was very confident that B's and C's were good enough until law school. Jim never made over a 2.65 in Upper School. Periodically, he would remind me of his plan, and he argued his case very well. He was clearly bright and he was determined to follow through on his plan."

FMILY HARTNETT AWOKE with a start. She and her husband James had retired that evening in the spring of 1965 convinced that the boys should remain at St. Bernard's rather than attend the three-year old Cistercian Prep School in Irving, which was located so far from their home in far East Dallas.

"And the tuition of \$75 a month was completely out of the question," Mrs. Hartnett remembered thinking. "We could do so much for our family with that money."

But now, startled by a vision in the middle of the night, Mrs. Hartnett had had a change of heart and woke her husband.

"Jim, I know what we're supposed to do," she explained. "If Cistercian will agree to take both Will and Jim Jr., then we should send our boys out there. We'll take part of our tithe to the church and use that to pay the tuition."

The next fall, Will entered Pre-Form. Right from the start, he left no doubt who would become the valedictorian of the Class of 1974.

"Will was meticulous in his scholarship," said Abbot Denis, who served as Will's form master during his nine years. "He scrupulously demanded top performances from himself."

"I was in a hurry to grow up," Will said recently, "and become part of the establishment."

In a class full of top students, Will was prepared to outwork them all to prove he belonged at the top.

Mistakes by Will were so unfathomable that when he answered a question incorrectly once, his classmates and teacher gasped. Class clown **Alan Thomasson '74** finally broke the silence with a reassuring explanation.

"Malfunction," Thomasson intoned in his best computer-sounding voice.

It was no surprise to anyone in his class when Will was accepted to Harvard,

joined the Young Republicans, graduated *summa cum laude*, and eventually took a seat in the state legislature.

While Will was establishing the Hartnett name at Cistercian, dad James Hartnett was excelling in probate law at Turner Hitchins where he became a partner.

"My uncle Tom used to say that dad could meet with a group of lawyers for two hours," said Fred Hartnett. "At the end, my dad would know where all the others stood on the issues and no one would know where he stood."

When Fr. Denis returned for his second tour as headmaster in the summer of 1975 (just after Jim Jr.'s graduation), he asked James Hartnett to join the school board as its legal counsel.

"He is a very wise person," Abbot Denis said. "He speaks little, but on the important issues he always makes a significant point."

"At first I got in touch with him strictly on legal matters," said Fr. Bernard Marton, headmaster from 1981-96. "But later, I began to trust Mr. Hartnett's judgment and before I made any decision I 'ran it by' him."

Mr. Hartnett "is always calm, always listening, always reassuring, always optimistic in the outlook, always ready with the answer," insisted Fr. Bernard. "And finally, when things look bleak, he says: 'And if they bring it to court, we will be there, too.'"

"My personal motto is, we owe Cistercian," said Mr. Hartnett, whose 30th year as the school's legal counsel is approaching. "What Cistercian gave to my boys helped us in so many ways. There will never be a time when I won't serve Cistercian."

BETWEEN THE PATHS OF WILL and Jim, the remaining three Hartnett brothers found much room to frolic at Cistercian. **Bobby Hartnett '79** (who passed away in 1991 while in law school), Jay, and Fred enjoyed Cistercian and performed well in sports.

"Bobby was a lot like me," remembered Jim Jr. "We may have been the most similar although he was a much better student than me. He was a good all-around athlete. He had an intensity about things."

Jay stood out as an explosive hitter from his strong safety position in football. "He was the only one of my sons who wanted to be the first one in on a tackle," Mrs. Hartnett recalled.

Fred had little trouble coming up with a cogent description of Jay. "A poor man's Fred Hartnett," he suggested definitively.

All agreed that Fred dated the prettiest girls, but the argument rages on over who can claim the title of best athlete.

Only two families can claim to have graduated five boys from Cistercian: the Hartnetts (1974-87) and the Smiths (1970-78). The Heynes and Campbells appear likely, however, to match the feat in the next few years.

"It's something I always have been proud of," admitted Fred Hartnett. "I was aware of our legacy even before I began attending school at Cistercian. I remember going to Bobby's sporting events and people would say, 'You must be another Hartnett.' I knew there was something a little different about our family."

All of the Hartnetts continue to support the school enthusiastically. But it is Jim Jr. who spends the most time on its affairs, outside of his dad.

When the school's eastern border appeared vulnerable to unwanted development, Hartnett served as Abbot Denis' bidder in negotiations with officials at the University of Dallas.

Hartnett also helped the school sell a piece of land in Coppell at the height of the market. At the Moroney Award dinner in January, **Wade Andres '75** suggested that the sale prompted "some of the priests to forgive Jim for some of his school antics."

He runs interference for the school when it comes to DART's plans for a rail line along state Highway 114. Hartnett also is watching out for Cistercian's interests as the highway department considers plans to expand 114 and to close the Cistercian Road exit.

But Jim Jr. doesn't see himself replacing his father's role at Cistercian.

"I can never replace him because of the manner in which he deals with the Cistercians' problems," Jim insisted, "He is unique in the way he listens. I am much more opinionated. I am more apt to push them the way I think it should be done rather than let them make the decision. My opinion doesn't seem to carry much weight, mind you."

With two boys now at Cistercian (**Jimmy '10** and **Mikey '11**), Hartnett may soon have to face what his mom and dad faced over 30 years ago.

So, Jim, what if one of the young men decides he really doesn't need to study. How will you react?

"My answer is, times have changed. All colleges are way more competitive than 25 years ago. You have to study."

"Fortunately," Hartnett suggested, "my kids are not nearly as stubborn as me."

Prepared for the role of his life

Despite numerous medical hardships as a child, Juan Muldoon has grasped every opportunity that's come his way and appears ready for center stage.

By Jackie Greenfield
English Department

ON FEBRUARY 4, 2004, AT THE WESTIN GALLERIA Hotel, over 700 people gathered for The Catholic Foundation Awards Dinner. They had assembled primarily to honor the Rose Mary and J.M. Haggar Sr. family, distinguished recipients of the McGill Award. That evening they would also honor the winner of the 2004 Catholic Foundation Scholar's Award, Cistercian student **Juan Muldoon '05**, recognized for his "outstanding scholarship and service to the Catholic community."

Despite feeling a bit under the weather on his big day, and despite the large and distinguished crowd at the black-tie affair, Juan was poised and smiling as he approached the podium to accept the award. He humbly pointed out that others should be standing there with him: "Fr. Roch, my theology teacher, once told our class that an individual award always reflects an achievement by the whole group. I'm not standing up here alone, and I'd like you to feel that as much as I do. Fr. Paul, I hope that when you look up here you can see the whole class because this award reflects the achievements of all the guys in the Form, achievements in which you take a great share."

Weeks before the dinner, Fr. Peter assembled the nomination packet for the Scholars Award. Included in the packet, along with a description of Juan's commitment to diverse service projects and his outstanding academic credentials, was Juan's essay on what his Catholic education has meant to him. In part, Juan wrote, "I have found in my books and in my community at Cistercian that the best definition of faith (imparted to me by one of the monks) is 'Fides Quaerens Intellectum' — 'Faith Seeking Understanding.' Until I understand that He asks me to serve and forgive, I cannot take up His cross and follow Him. Until my understanding has been perfected, I will continue to be irritated and challenged by long homework assignments, harried family

members, and my inability to pray. Fortunately, I attend Cistercian, where walls are not erected simply for the purpose of academic achievement. The monks' life of community is a living witness of the Catholic value of communal love—to do, as St. Bernard says, 'Tout pour Jesus' — 'All for Christ.'"

At the dinner, Juan told his many listeners, "Writing about what Cistercian has brought me is an honor. To be able to write about the people I love only adds to the honor I feel. My school is my second home, not because I spend most of my time in a classroom, but because I carry it and what it has taught me in my heart wherever I go. My teachers and friends have become my family because I am able to grow in wisdom and in maturity when I walk beside them. It's not a coincidence that Fr. Paul and Fr. Peter are sitting with my family at a table — they're part of us!

"No matter how much I love my school, however, I need to thank, first of all, my parents for bringing me here and for putting up with me. Thank you for all the doors you've opened for me on this journey. Thanks for letting me see and know God in all the loving things you do for all of us."

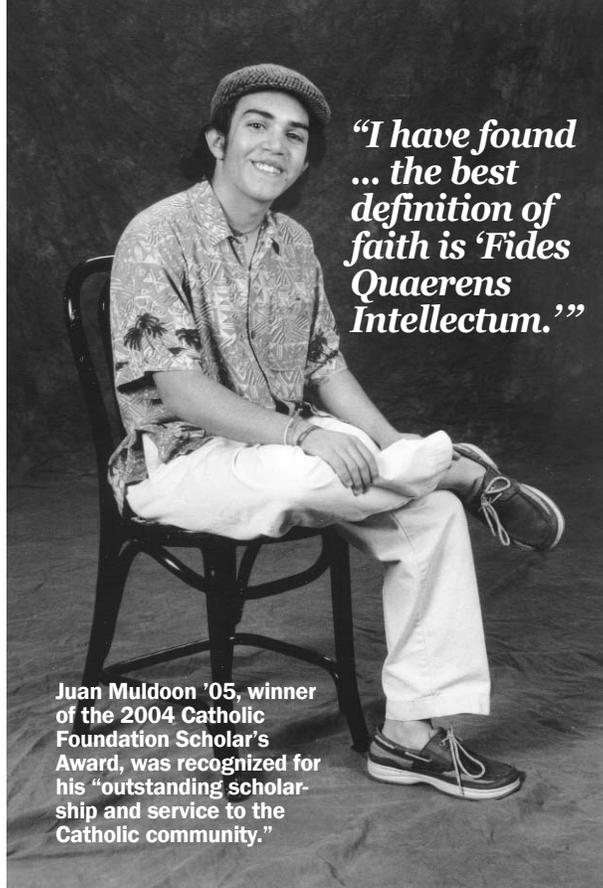
ONE OF THE "JOURNEYS" OF JUAN AND ELENA Muldoon and their children, Juan, Maria, and **Pablo '09**, was to criss-cross the continents from Mexico to Chile to Cistercian Road, USA. The circuitous journey was not without adversity for young Juan, who endured a number of childhood surgeries to correct his palate and lip. Elena Muldoon says her son, in spite of serious hardship, "always managed to keep an excellent spirit about life in general and about his prospects." This writer recalls how elated Juan's parents were minutes after the standing ovation he received for his first theatrical performance, the lead in the Cistercian production of *Mad Woman of Chailot*. The son,

who in his early years had faced potential lifelong limitations, spoke so clearly and with such strength and confidence that one never would have suspected his childhood battle. Perhaps classmate **Justin Ramirez '05** captures best what many of us felt that night: "Juan has the ability to command a scene on the stage with an unexpected power in his voice or simply by the way he moves and makes use of the space. Not only his voice but also his physically small stage presence resound powerfully beyond what anyone would expect."

Although Juan makes stage acting appear relatively easy, he has had to work hard to achieve his goals in math class. **Greg Novinski '82**, Juan's math teacher in Forms V and VII, recalls that when he entered Cistercian as a freshman, Juan wrestled a bit with the school's academic rigor, especially in geometry. Making uncharacteristic first-quarter grades of B and C, Juan struggled to improve "in a valiant way—asking questions and doing all his homework. By working steadily, he earned an A by the end of May. This year, in pre-calculus, with self-deprecating humor he speaks of gloom and doom about his prospects, yet he shows great heart and works through the difficulties."

Friends are very important to Juan and making time for them is such an important goal that **Andres Ruzo '05** claims the only way to describe it is "'Dog over a bowl of food.' Juan is unwilling to let anyone go, and he's always on the lookout to get more friends and keep them happy in 'his bowl.'" Juan's friends know him well. "Though many things come naturally to him, I know he has struggled and he works hard to achieve the goals he sets for himself," says Ramirez. Another classmate, **Al Hernandez '05**, says that "despite his successes, academically and otherwise, Juan never comes off as a person that knows too much to help others; on the other hand, he shares his struggles with us." Ramirez adds that Juan remains humble and is always willing to learn and listen whenever someone has an opinion. These traits also have been observed by this writer, his English teacher. Even though he feels keenly about issues with moral implications, with maturity and self-discipline he is able to catch himself before he interrupts someone. It's as if he knows that truth is so heavily weighted that he doesn't have to add the immediate weight of his own words lest the truth float away.

"JUAN'S JOYFUL HOPE CHALLENGES him and those around him, always to do more to perceive and serve the needs of others," says Fr. Paul. "It is common for Juan to approach me with concerns about particular classmates, to stand alone on cold, wet bleachers, cheering enthusiastically for his peers at a soccer game, and to round up and organize classmates to join him in so many meaningful community service activities. It remains for me a telling moment when one Christmas the Form brought gifts into the home of a poor family we had adopted. With



Juan Muldoon '05, winner of the 2004 Catholic Foundation Scholar's Award, was recognized for his "outstanding scholarship and service to the Catholic community."

"I have found ... the best definition of faith is 'Fides Quaerens Intellectum.'"

Photo by Jim Reisch

many of his peers feeling a bit shy and inhibited, Juan quickly sensed the unease, donned his elfin cap, and stepped confidently into the void, taking one of the small children into his arms and immediately melting the ice."

The "Adopt a Family" experience has been one of Juan's favorites. "The whole class goes," he says excitedly, "bringing gifts, bed sheets, clothes—bringing forty-two pairs of hands, bringing hugs, and a smile that says so much." His eyes sparkling as he describes the visit along with his forty-one classmates and the ever-involved form master, Juan convinces us that forty-two hearts knocked on the door that day.

Juan's heart goes out to another group of people—immigrants from his home country, Mexico. Fr. Paul relates that "this past summer, with many of his peers looking for jobs that either paid well or would look

good on a resume, Juan amazed me by expressing his curious intention to be a vendor at a hot dog stand. When asked why, he responded, 'I just want to know what it feels like doing that kind of job.'"

Juan simply says he had the desire to live the way so many of his countrymen live and do the same things they have to do every day. "I never knew it would be so hard! Under the sun and standing next to the grill, temperatures were horrible. Honestly, I never thought there would be so much manual labor involved in selling one hot dog! I've learned everything I've ever needed to know about eating on the street—and *not* eating on the street. I have a newfound appreciation for the man trying to sell a drink and chips to go with the cheap hot dog a customer orders, and with a new view of tips I never have change in my pocket anymore. I had my regulars who would come in and sit down with me and talk while they were having lunch. I met some really interesting people, and I can say that I learned many things in two weeks of hot dog vending that I couldn't have learned in two years of studying—even at Cistercian."

No doubt Juan, student of math and vendor of hot dogs, will persist in challenging himself to grow in knowledge and understanding. Wherever he is, we suspect he will not forsake the opportunities to "unclutter" the minds of harried friends, teachers, and family with his cheerful humming and singing, the pats on the back, and even his chicken impersonation. His rhythm and antics dispel the tension, yet his smile and attentiveness work even greater magic. As good friend Ramirez notes, "Juan as a person simply shines from the moment anyone starts talking to him."

On February 4, that shine added a little more light to the 2004 Catholic Foundation Awards Dinner, as Juan urged guests to imagine all of his classmates on the platform with him. And it was in a mother's tears that one could see the greatest effect of the shine as he leaned into the microphone to conclude with the words, "Happy birthday, Mom."

Snow ends Cistercian's chances for Division II crown

We'll never know what might have been. Having defeated St. Mary's 4-0 on Friday of the SPC Division II tournament at Greenhill, Cistercian's varsity soccer team was poised to make a run.

Then the snow came on Saturday, denying the Hawks a chance to face off with TMI. Had they scored a victory in that one, it would have been on to the championship game against either Casady or St. Mark's.

"We had just lost a tight game to Casady in Oklahoma and we would have liked another shot at them," Coach Rob Kowalski said.

The Hawks had already played St. Mark's twice, having come out with a 2-1 win and a tie.

Nevertheless, the Hawks had a "very positive, competitive" 7-9-1 season.

While the Hawks won a close one against St. Mark's, they eventually lost to FW Country Day on the eighth round of penalty kicks. Defender **Steve Kinard '04** scored off a corner and **Nick Queralt '04** scored in OT off a rebound from a **Jordan Campbell '04** shot.

After losing last year's talented group of seniors, the team relied on two of the remaining starters from that squad, **Frank Abene '04** and **Sam Bowler '06**.

Kowalski moved Abene from defender to center mid, pairing him with Bowler to create a strong nucleus.

"Frank and Sam served as our field generals," Kowalski said.

Other important contributions were made by **Matt Chee-Awai '05**, **Austin Nevitt '04** who stepped in at keeper, and newcomer **Matthew Abola '07**, who

brought his powerful leg and sprinter's speed to sweeper.

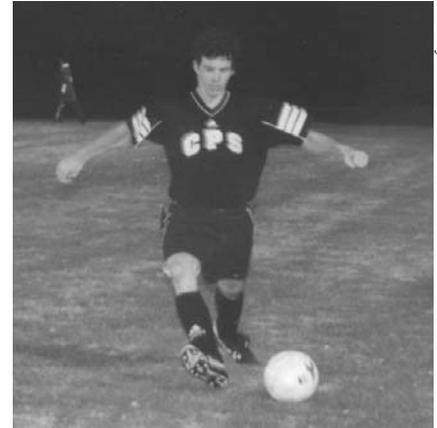


Photo by Juan Muldoon '05

SENDING IT Adrian Bower '04 prepares to knock the ball upfield.

Hawk b-ballers win 21, make SPC Division I tourney

"Team chemistry," said basketball Coach Dan Lee, "was the key to our success this year. All 12 players worked hard in practice every day and that helped us have the kind of season we did."

Jumping off to a 9-0 start — including a win over Liberty Christian in the

Cistercian Tip-Off Classic final — set the tone for the Hawks' best season in years (21 wins, 10 losses).

"That win against Liberty Christian definitely set us on our way," Lee said. "It helped the boys believe in themselves. From that point forward, we seemed to be in every game, even against the league's most talented teams. As a coach, you can't ask for anything more than that."

The depth of the 12-man squad gave Lee the ability to rotate nine players into most games and the flexibility to use a different nine depending on who was hot and the match-ups that were presented.

"The depth of our team was obvious in practices," Lee added. "The five guys off the bench would scrimmage the starters from the night before and outscore them. It was really a luxury to have so many talented players."

The team scored grudge match wins over Greenhill (with **Jack Dorn '05** hitting a three-pointer in the final minute in a three-point win) and FW Country Day.

Post **Eric Ojeda '05** led the way in the tough games, like the heartbreaking 65-63 overtime loss to Trinity Valley. The 6' 3" Ojeda shot an outstanding 62 percent from the field, earning All-SPC

Post Eric Ojeda '05 puts up a shot in the Hawks' heartbreaking overtime loss to Trinity Valley in January.

honors and a place in the Hall of Fame

"Eric takes high quality shots and is more than willing to pass the ball," Lee said. "He is good with both hands and has an array of inside moves. While he mostly shoots from inside the paint, he also made five of 10 three pointers."

Chandon Vangala '04 provided valuable senior leadership and athleticism from the shooting guard position and ably filled in at point guard when needed. Vangala won MVP honors during the Cistercian Tip-Off Classic.

Point guard **Bobby Crews '06** showed he was up to the challenge of running team, becoming one of only a handful of Cistercian sophomores ever to win post-season honors (All-SPC North Zone).

"Bobby kept getting better as the season went on," Lee said. "He cut down on turnovers and provided strong, consistent play from the point guard position."

In the Division I tournament, the Hawks squared off against an excellent Oakridge team. While the Hawks led at various points in the third quarter, they were unable to hang on, succumbing 50-43.

"It was one of the most successful seasons we've had," Lee commented. "And all 12 guys contributed. Without each one of them, we wouldn't have been able to meet our three team goals: win our own tournament, win 21 games, and qualify for the SPC Division I tournament."



Photo by Vincent Zimmerman '06

CISTERCIAN CALENDAR

March

- 7 Book Fair
- 15-19 Spring break

April

- 8-12 Easter break
- 28 Abbot's Circle dinner

May

- 15 Commencement
- 28 Closing ceremonies

June

- 4-6 Reunions Weekend
with Hawk's Hoops

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On Prayer

“Everything is possible to one who has faith” *Mk 9:23*

We are tempted to construe these words of Jesus to mean that if we have faith in him, we will be cured of all illness and avoid all misfortune. Consequently, I should believe that if I remain ill or bad luck keeps me down, it happens because I have no real faith. Yet, Jesus' own life and death give the lie to such an interpretation. Jesus fails to win over his people and does not avoid the torture of the crucifixion. The meaning must lie elsewhere.

We need to read the whole story of the epileptic boy's cure (9:14-29) in order to come closer to what Jesus really means. At the disciples' question, "Why could we not drive out [the unclean spirit]?" Jesus responds: "This kind can come out only through prayer." These words imply that Jesus prayed before the exorcism and he healed the boy in obedience to the Father's will. Jesus is constantly listening to the Father. He always depends on the Father and carries out the Father's will: "The Son cannot do anything on his own but only what he sees his Father doing" (Jn 5: 19; cf. 5: 30). Yet, even in his earthly life and in his human nature Jesus carries out these works of obedience with the almighty power of his Father. Nothing can stop him from fulfilling the Father's plan.

The believers share in the almighty power of the obedient Son. To the extent that they carry out God's plan in their lives, every-

thing becomes possible to them. There is no obstacle that could derail them, no barrier to hold them back. The fisherman from Galilee conquers the capital of the Roman Empire, a frail nun in Africa (a missionary of St. Mary of Namur from Fort Worth) single-handedly turns back an armed mob intent on destroying a rival village; a poor peasant boy from the Italian countryside (St. John Bosco) gathers together hundreds of thousands of abandoned children into loving Christian communities all over the world; and so we could continue the list indefinitely. Everything is possible to one who has faith because, in carrying out God's will, God himself will assist him with his own power. Like St. Paul, he will also boast of his weakness so that Christ's

power may dwell in him (2 Cor 12:9). He will share in the cross of his Lord (failures, rejections, anxieties, ailments and the like), but he will also share at the same time in the power of His resurrection.

This full obedience to God's will and the resulting experience of God's power in our weakness are not reserved only for great saints and extraordinary apostles. Every Christian man and woman who wants to live a Christian life in our society needs God's almighty power that comes through faith so that they may not be trapped by Satan's wiles but fulfill God's plan for themselves and for their families. Thus, if you pray for healing but are not healed, it does not necessarily mean that your faith was not strong enough. God's almighty power may triumph in you in a different way. By embracing the cross of Christ, your illness may turn into a blessing, a source of deeper and richer life for you and for many others.

— Fr. Roch Kereszty

IN MEMORIAM

Eddie Haller, M.D. '91 passed away on January 23 in El Dorado, Arkansas, after a brief illness. An Eagle Scout, scholar, and a volunteer in the Amigos de las Americas program in Ecuador, Haller played football and baseball at Cistercian and at Trinity University in San Antonio. He was named the line-backer of the '90's at Cistercian. He attended Trinity University as a President's Scholar, earning a B.A. in economics in June 1995. He received his M.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in June 2002. At the time of his death, he was a resident in Family Practice in the University of Arkansas program in El Dorado, AR. He is survived by his sister, Amy Haller; parents, Nina Haller and Ronald G. Haller.