

The

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CISTERCIAN IRVING, TEXASONTINUUM

December 2001

Focus On

ADMISSIONS

Building a **CLASS**

**How Cistercian selects
the boys who will form
a well-rounded community**

**Director of Admissions
Bob Haaser**

Dear Cistercian Families, Friends, and Alumni,

Much, in some sense too much, has happened this fall. Alumni survived, miraculously, the terrorist bombings in New York. The School hosted a 12-member team of administrators and teachers for three days as they observed classes, talked with faculty and administrators, checked files, and reviewed our self-study — all part of the 10-year reaccreditation process. The Cistercian Alumni Association began operating under its new constitutions and Board. The School has hired a new Director of Development. And Fr. Abbot received an unexpected and unprecedented appointment to the Pontifical Biblical Commission. In the swirl of all this activity, a clear sense of mission has enabled Cistercian to remain a source of comfort, security, and purpose.



Photo by Jim Reisch

In this issue of *The Continuum* you will be introduced to our five wonderful, new faculty members, all of whom had a special calling to secondary education and Cistercian. The whole school can take pride that Cistercian attracts such qualified teachers. In our last edition of *The Continuum*, we reviewed the college application process. In this issue we take a look at the other end of the student lifecycle, the admissions process. As a “selective” school, we are by definition not the right place for all applicants. The story explains how Mr. Bob Haaser and the Admissions Committee assemble talented boys whose diverse interests help them grow as a community. Finally, we have a report on a number of alums who were there when terrorists attacked September 11. At the same time, we are introducing a column on prayer. In our initial effort, Fr. Roch tells of a Trappist Cistercian monk in Algiers whose powerful prayer for his persecutors gives us much to think about.

When the accreditation team members concluded their visit, one refrain echoed throughout their comments: Cistercian is a unique, wonderful school in which students, parents, faculty and monks all share a vocation to enkindle boys with a love of learning, of their neighbor, and of God. We hope that this issue of *The Continuum* brings you a sense of the successes, joys, and peace that so clearly mark Cistercian and that we celebrate in a special way this Christmas season.

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73
Headmaster

CISTERCIAN
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL



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*The Continuum is published by
Cistercian Preparatory School*

P.O. Box 140699
Irving, TX 75014-0699
972-273-2022

www.cistercian.org

F E A T U R E S

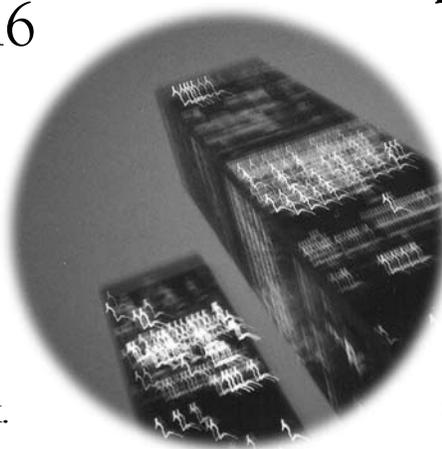


Focus on admissions: **7**
Building a class

The Admissions Committee brings 90 years of Cistercian experience to the task of selecting boys who create a form.

Being there **16**
Sept. 11

Cistercian alumni give us a peek into what it was like in New York City and Washington the day terrorists struck.



New faculty **12**
hear the calling

Five new faculty members bring a variety of distinguished teaching credentials. But they all share a sense that they are meant to be at Cistercian.

D E P A R T M E N T S

Letter from the Headmaster	2
School News	4
Sports News	19
Class Notes	21
On Prayer	23
Calendar	24
Alumni Notes	24

Cover photography by 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.



Photo by Peter Graham '02

BEACH BALL It may not be Malibu but Stephen Whittington '03 (left) and Mark Lau '02 enjoyed the volleyball action at the Meatball tournament held at the school October 20. Thirty teams participated in this year's event.

EXTRACURRICULAR

Volleyball event attracts teams and silly names

Hard to believe but the First Ever Cistercian Volleyball Tournament turned 10 years old in October.

The event has become one of the most anticipated private school volleyball tournaments in this part of Irving.

While the original name didn't stick for obvious reasons, the event has continued to grow and to entertain the participants, which include Cistercian Upper School students, faculty members, and co-eds from the hinterland.

This year's event, dubbed the "Meatball" by the junior

class, drew 30 teams of four players each. Both single sex and co-ed teams took part.

The event's proceeds were earmarked for the students' favorite charity, the Student Council.

The prize for the best uniform went to the team dressed as the Fantastic Four (this team included Fr. Paul and Mr. Doroga).

Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Pot Crew won the prize for the best name.

The sophomore class already is working on the name of next year's event. Past names like Survival of the Fittest, Wunderball, El Cinco de Volleyball, Thunderball, and Volleybrawl are off limits.

Faculty sponsor Peter Saliga predicted there are more silly names to come.

CLASS '02

Twenty receive National Merit recognition

Over half of the Class of '02 has qualified as either Semi-finalists or Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Twenty young men received recognition out of a class of 39.

According to the National Merit Scholarship Corpora-

tion, thirteen seniors qualified as Semi-finalists: **Josh Campbell '02, Giancarlo Colombo '02, James Connor '02, Thomas Heyne '02, Jamie Holland '02, Barry McCain '02, Taylor Poor '02, Adam Reeves '02, Kevin Resnick '02, Joel Schubert '02, Matthew Sepper '02, Cody Skinner '02,** and **Michael West '02,** .

"We are pleased to have so many students qualify as Semi-finalists this year," said Fr. Bernard.

Pope John Paul II appoints Fr. Abbot to the Pontifical Biblical Commission

He is the first Hungarian and first Cistercian to be named to this influential body

On September 20, 2001 Pope John Paul II appointed Fr. Abbot to the Pontifical Biblical Commission. He becomes one of only two Americans on the prestigious 20-member body that advises the Holy See on matters of Biblical teaching, exegesis and scholarship. The commission's members, who come from 16 different countries, are appointed for a period of five years.

Notice of the appointment was sent via fax on October 11 from the Abbot General of the Cistercian Order in Rome. The Abbot General forwarded to the Abbot two letters regarding the appointment (both in Latin), one from the Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Sodano, and another from Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The letters ordered the Abbot General to notify "Fr. Denis Farkasfalvy, O. Cist, at the University of Dallas, USA" that he had been appointed a member of the Biblical Commission.

"They didn't even ask if I would accept," joked Fr. Abbot. "They simply expect that I be in Rome two weeks after Easter for a plenary meeting of the commission."

The media in Hungary proudly pounced on the news. They proclaimed it an unprecedented honor for both the Cistercian Order and for Hungary since Fr. Abbot is the first member of the Order and the first Hungarian ever to be appointed to the Biblical Commission.

For that matter, only a handful of Americans have ever been honored by an appointment to the Commission, which was founded by Pope Leo XIII in 1902. The other American appointed this time around was Fr. Donald Senior, a Paulist priest from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Seven seniors qualified as Commended Students: Oliver Christensen '02, Vijay Gorrepati '02, Peter Graham '02, Abel Lopez '02, Anthony Ngo '02, Vijay Pattisapu '02, Jack Salmon '02, and Michael Seitz '02.

The NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) measures critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills. In February, finalists are entered in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards to be

offered in 2001. In March, the National Merit Scholarship Program will begin mailing college scholarship offers to winners.

"We are very proud of these young men," said Fr. Bernard, "and we wish them every success in college."

This year's results continue a decade-long trend. For the past ten years, each Cistercian senior class has had right at 50 percent of its members earn either semifinalist or commended status.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Fund renewed by Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation is renewing a \$5,000 scholarship fund for Cistercian for the 2001-2002 school year.

Edwin M. Schaffler, executive director of The Catholic Foundation, notified Fr. Peter of the news at the beginning of the summer.

Following the criteria set forth by the Foundation, school officials will use the grant to help fund a partial scholarship for a worthy Cistercian student whose family has demonstrated financial need. The recipient is an award-winning student.

"He is one of those boys whose smile makes others feel grateful," said Fr. Peter.

In his letter of thanks to Mr. Schaffler, Fr. Peter wrote, "Thank you again for finan-
Continued on page 6

The commission operates under the auspices of Cardinal Ratzinger's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is the most important "department" of the Holy See. (The Holy See guards and promotes the integrity and understanding of the Catholic Faith.)

"I was totally surprised," Fr. Abbot said, "I have not been close to any of these circles. It proves to me that you don't have to be around the fire."

"This side of Fr. Denis, the Biblical scholar, is hardly known by his students," said Fr. Roch. Most current and former students associate Fr. Abbot with algebra and sermons at solemn occasions like opening ceremonies.

"They had no idea," said Fr. Roch, "that in his free time the Abbot wrote 12 books, 10 in Hungarian, most of them related to the Bible. He published a widely acclaimed poetic and precise translation of the Psalms into Hungarian, a commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, and a three-volume commentary on the Gospel of John. All these works were written for the Hungarian church."

Fr. Abbot wrote his dissertation in French on the doctrine of inspiration in St. Bernard. His only English language book is on the formation of the canon of Scripture. He has written more than a hundred articles, a number of them on the interpretation of Scripture in the English edition of *Communio*.

Officials at the University of Dallas where Fr. Abbot has



Photo by Jim Ratsch

THE BIBLICAL SCHOLAR Fr. Abbot Denis holds the papal appointment from the Vatican that notified him to report to the next meeting of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

taught Biblical Theology for seven years were, predictably, very proud.

"This honor is extraordinary, putting Fr. Denis among the greatest American Catholic Biblical scholars," said Dr. John Norris, chairman of the theology department at the University of Dallas. "The Commission is the Vatican's highest group of scholars on the Bible."

"We will perhaps never find out for sure how Cardinal Ratzinger, the head of the Doctrinal Congregation, discovered and recommended Fr. Denis to the Pope," said Fr. Roch. "Perhaps the Abbot's articles in *Communio* caught his eye. The Cardinal may have realized that Fr. Denis is leading the way toward a renewal of Biblical interpretation that synthesizes the best of contemporary methods and patristic heritage."

Fr. Abbot's career has been marked by numerous other achievements.

He holds a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical University S. Anselmo in Rome (1962), a master's degree in mathematics from Texas Christian University (1965), and a licentiate from the Pontifical Biblical Institute (1985).

He was named Cistercian's second Headmaster in 1969 at age 33. His 12 years of leadership at the school helped establish Cistercian as one of the area's top private schools. He was elected abbot in 1988 at age 52. He served as Form Master for the Classes of 1974, 1981, 1982, and 1991.

DSG Fall Dance another big success

No matter with whom you speak, the 3rd Annual Down Syndrome Fall Dance was rated a huge success.

On October 27th, nearly 50 teens and young adults from the Down Syndrome Guild joined over 140 students from Cistercian, Hockaday, and Ursuline at the Cistercian cafeteria for a dance on the "Love Boat."

As the Guild members arrived in the Cistercian parking lot, they were greeted by their hosts and hostesses, draped with a necklace made especially for the dance, and individually escorted up the stairs into the Cistercian cafeteria.

There they were greeted by a huge lighted sun, palm trees, the Love Boat itself, and various beach toys hanging from the ceiling. And of course, and more importantly, they heard the familiar sounds and saw the familiar smile of Me Party DJ Ken Proctor who always works a special magic into his music.

"This dance is my favorite dance to do all year," Proctor remarked as he set up his equipment. "All the kids are so into it, and they respond with a tremendous enthusiasm. That makes it great for everyone."

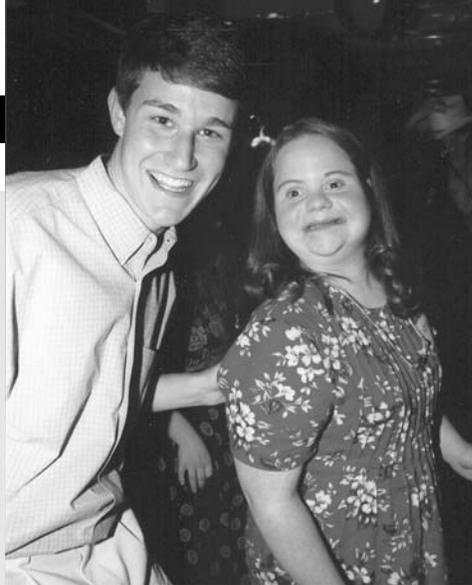


Photo by Robert Rumble '04

Graham Rumble '02 escorts a beaming Sabrina Williams into the Third Annual Down Syndrome Guild Fall Dance held at Cistercian October 27.

Dance of Delight

They came as honored guests, ascending the stairs escorted,
Arm-in-arm with gracious hosts, their rounded faces beaming,
Gleeful in rapt anticipation of an evening filled with fun.

Then came a moment of adjustment
As the sounds of many voices,
The throb of music, the flicker of lights-
Beyond the simple facts of comprehension-
Washed over them and summoned them to courage,
To plunge in and let the moment carry them.
Rhythm and melody soon soothed away
All barriers, all fear, in a language deeper than words.
They sang and shuffled, gestured and laughed
Until everyone moved and felt as one.

But they left as bountiful lords and ladies,
Bestowing on all more wealth than any expected:
The gems of the generous and open heart,
The silver of self-forgetting service, the gleaming gold
Of recognition that we are all the children of God,
Each bringing his precious, peculiar gifts,
And sharing in joyous surprise at the riches
We, delighted, have found in all around us,
Making all richer even than kings.

— Dr. Tom Pruit

"This dance has become maybe the best dance of the year for us," said several of the Cistercian seniors who have been regulars at the dance since its inception three years ago. "Maybe it's because none of us are focused on ourselves — on how we look or who we're impressing — but on helping everyone have a good time. That loosens us all up and makes it an awesome night. There is almost no other dance that can compare to this one."

One Hockaday mom was overwhelmed by her daughter's enthusiasm: "My daughter declared flatly that she had been to no other social event in high school which was more fun and more rewarding. Next year," the mom replied, "I'm going to have to go!"

Continued on page 5
cially assisting families seeking Catholic education. Your support benefits not only Cistercian but the whole local Catholic community."

RAISING BOYS

Author speaks on building character

Educational consultant James B. Stenson spoke to both Cistercian faculty and parents on October 16.

Stenson has made a study of what families can do to raise their boys into responsible adults. He stressed placing responsibility on young men to build their confidence, judgment, and self-esteem. Stenson is the founder of two private schools (one in Chicago and one in Washington, D.C.)

For information on his books, go to his Web site: www.parentleadership.com.

QUIZ BOWLERS

Victories over White, Jesuit start fall season

The Quiz Bowlers are off to a fast start against North Texas Area League schools.

In early matches against W.T. White and Jesuit, Cistercian came out victorious. In a five-state tournament in Fayetteville, AK, the team made it all the way to the Quarterfinals.

The varsity squad is comprised of **Jamie Holland '02**, **Mukund Ramkumar '03**, **John Davies '04**, and **Brian Holland '04**. The JV team includes **James Edwards '04**, **Matt Brnicky '05**, **Matt Hess '05**, and **Daniel Mitura '05**.



Photo by Jim Reisch

ALL SHAPES & SIZES
Each First Former brings something to his class that strengthens the whole.
(Bottom row) Alex Howells,
(middle row, l-r) Ramon Cordova, Scott Collins, Matthias Andrews,
(top row, l-r) Cole Blair, Max Tenney, Jeff Mitchell, and Addison White.

BUILDING A CLASS

Admissions Director Bob Haaser takes care to assemble a group of students whose diverse interests and backgrounds will contribute to a sense of community.

BY DAVID STEWART '74

JUANA GOMEZ SAW SOMETHING SPECIAL in the energetic kindergartner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School near Love Field in Dallas. Little Alejandro Torres clowned around a bit, but Mrs. Gomez could see he had a bright mind that needed to be challenged. So the teacher's aide offered him extra work; Alejandro consumed it as if his mind were starving. Mrs. Gomez made a note.

Four years later, Mrs. Gomez pulled Alejandro's mother aside.

"Why don't you test Alejandro for Cistercian?" Mrs. Gomez asked Angelica Torres. "It is a very good school and would offer great opportunities for Alejandro."

"I have never heard of Cistercian," Mrs. Torres replied.

"The priests and the faculty are just wonderful; they care so much for the boys," said Mrs. Gomez.

"Where is it?" asked Mrs. Torres.

Mrs. Gomez suggested they drive out to campus for the 1999-00 Book Fair. After a tour of the school, Mrs. Gomez intro-

duced the Torres family to Fr. Peter, the school's headmaster.

The Torres' are not the first family Mrs. Gomez has introduced to Cistercian, and they won't be the last. As the parent of two Cistercian graduates (**Angel '91** and **Carlos '99**), Mrs. Gomez knows firsthand the kind of opportunities Cistercian affords its students.

Angel Gomez, in his third year of residency at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona, is preparing to join a Phoenix practice specializing in family medicine. Carlos earned a scholarship to Regis College in Denver, Colorado, where he is in his junior year studying computer science and mathematics.

The Gomez family first heard about Cistercian from the Cruz family (**George '91**) who learned about Cistercian from the Barbero family (**Ignacio '88, Luis '91, and Gustavo '93**).

This year, Ignacio Barbero's wife, Pebble, is teaching Life Science to enthusiastic Second Formers (sixth graders), including one **Alejandro Torres '08**.

"Word-of-mouth is the primary way prospective families hear about Cistercian," said Bob Haaser, Cistercian's director of

admissions. "We do not advertise or promote heavily; it's not the way the Cistercian fathers do things." It also is unseemly, Mr. Haaser pointed out, to promote Cistercian at schools that run through eighth grade.

The word-of-mouth approach appears to be sufficient these days, especially when supplemented occasionally with that most powerful form of advertising: press coverage. In September 1999, *D Magazine* reviewed Dallas-area private schools.

"What sets Cistercian apart," the story stated, "are the extremely high — even by private school standards — academic programs. And the monks."

The magazine also made note of Cistercian's unique Form Master system and praised the faculty. "With 76 percent of teachers having earned a master's degree and the other 24 percent a doctorate, they are the most educated staff of any school interviewed." (www.dmagazine.com/september99/cover6.html)

The faculty also is more than likely the most committed. On average, teachers at Cistercian stay on board for 13 years. Even if you don't count the monks, the average tenure of a Cistercian teacher is 10 years. "Teaching at Cistercian becomes a vocation for most of us," said Mr. Haaser.

The school's growing reputation has swelled the number of applicants over the last decade. Since 1996, only 45-50 percent of the entry-level applicants have been offered places. The students come from a broad swath of geography including six counties (Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, and Tarrant) and 23 cities and towns.

THE FINAL SATURDAY OF JANUARY and the first Saturday of February bring prospective students to campus for admissions testing. While the boys submit themselves to nearly four hours of testing, the parents take tours led by Cistercian seniors and visit with Fr. Peter, who conducts a comprehensive discussion of the school's policies and goals.

For Bob Haaser, the testing days mark the beginning of the end of the admissions process, and more specifically, the seemingly endless string of tours. Between September and December, two to five families tour the campus each week. Mr. Haaser conducts each himself; it's "the personal way we do things around here."

In addition to the tours and his normal chores as a Form Master (Form IV) and an American History teacher, Mr. Haaser spends the fall answering questions at numerous "high school nights" at various private and parochial schools. Throughout the fall he also processes applications. (The order in which applications are received has absolutely no bearing on admissions.)

"My mom was afraid I wouldn't pass the test," remembered Alejandro Torres '08. "I was pretty nervous, too. I did all right, I guess."

"We know the kids are tense when they arrive for the test-

ing," said Mr. Haaser. "But we try to put them at ease."

The testing begins with an aptitude test and is followed by the IOWA achievement test.

Cistercian — which has used the same test since the school was founded in 1962 — is one of the few schools in the Metroplex to employ the IOWA test as an admissions tool. "By using the same tests for so long, the school has a means of comparing classes over the years," explained Mr. Haaser. "In addition to using it for admissions, we use the IOWA tests to measure the achievements of each grade through Middle School."

The Independent School Entrance Examination, which is used by many other schools, magnifies differences in achievement. It can differentiate between two students who, for example, may have identical national percentile scores on the IOWA test.

"The IOWA test serves our purposes well," said Mr. Haaser. "While it doesn't pinpoint the absolute smartest boys, it helps us determine if a student is capable of doing the work at Cistercian."

As long as a fourth-grade student tests at or above 80 percentile on the IOWA test, "we know he has solid skills that we can build on," said Mr. Haaser. "Older boys need increasingly higher skills to blend into their Form at Cistercian."

The final written part of the testing is a brief descriptive or narrative essay. The intent is to give the students a chance to provide a sample of their writing style, writing mechanics, and creativity. Fr. Peter, who has been a longtime member of the

Admissions Committee, recalled one essay in particular.

"It was a description of a boy's favorite place, a little hollow in a creek in his neighborhood," remembered Fr. Peter. "He described the creek, the crawdads, and the overhanging trees. His essay conveyed a sense of detail, an attentive eye, and a very peaceful spirit."

An informal interview and observation concludes the testing data. The applicants are normally broken

into groups of 15-20 students and are supervised by Cistercian faculty members. In addition to administering the tests, the teachers are asked to rate the boys on various traits and to note details of each boy's behavior, both during the testing and during the breaks. The teacher tries to communicate with each boy and observes their behavior with the other boys and with the Cistercian seniors who take the students on a walking tour of the campus.

THE BRAIN TRUST Selection decisions are made by (left to right) Fr. Bernard, Fr. Peter '73, and Bob Haaser. Together the Admission Committee brings together over 90 years of experience at Cistercian.

"I don't think there could be a more dedicated faculty than the one at Cistercian. When we chose Cistercian, it was not about the facilities, it was about who is going to teach the kids."

— Lori Haley,
Cistercian parent



Cameron '08.

Another parent, Carol Chapman, mother of Carson '09, spoke from personal experience. "When I was a high school student," she said, "I found it was a pleasure to spend time with Cistercian boys. Most were creative, witty, and very respectful of girls. They made you feel special when you were out with them. They treated me and my friends very well."

The character of Cistercian students starts at home with families who are committed to giving their son a strong foundation for adulthood and who are willing to sacrifice a little to do so.

Fr. Abbot Denis believes, "Cistercian is not very effective if the parents are farming out their children. But," he added, "if you want to participate in your son's formation and education, if you embrace the same values that we have, plus you would like to have our expertise in promoting those values, and providing a high level of academic challenge for your son, I would say, well, probably there is no other place."

"There are a number of well-known private schools in Dallas," said Lori Haley, mother of David '06 and Connor '09. "When we moved to Dallas from Fort Worth, those other schools seemed to be obvious choices. But after visiting Cistercian," she said, "I sensed that it had a spiritual side. It is so different than the school he attended in Fort Worth and the private schools near us."

"When you move from outside of Dallas, so many people are oriented towards the older institutions. Everyone kept saying, 'If you can get in, go there.' That made it a more difficult decision," Mrs. Haley admitted. "But looking back, I can't believe I hesitated; Cistercian is such a perfect fit for David."

"The parents at Cistercian are so involved with their kids," she added. "Almost everyone makes some kind of sacrifice to go to Cistercian. Despite the fact that it may be farther from their home, despite the fact that it may not have all the bells and whistles, these families choose Cistercian because they value excellent academics and a high moral base. Those shared values bring the parents at Cistercian together; it is a common thread."

"At football games," said Dr. Souryal, "the stands are full of families. There are volunteers, faculty, and alumni standing on the sidelines. It gives you a real warm feeling to see how the community interacts."

"I think a big part of the character of Cistercian boys is that they discuss ethics," said Christie Sparks. "Wheeler told me that they discuss fatherhood and manhood. They read the C.S. Lewis books and discuss important moral issues."

"Plus, the priests model that character, they help work out problems, and they pray for the boys," Mrs. Sparks continued. "It is one of the few schools in the Metroplex to offer a classic Christian education."

As director of admissions for The Lamplighter School in Dallas for nearly 30 years, Dolores Evans has observed how perceptions of Cistercian occasionally differ from the reality.

"Cistercian is a very warm place but it is not always perceived that way," she said. "Some perceive it as strict and harsh. What I see is that there is a real connection between the boys and the priests."

That connection between the boys and the faculty starts with the form master, a faculty member who serves as caretaker, taskmaster, and champion of a class from their first year at Cistercian until their last. Most form masters have led at least

The testing criteria appear to be working. Over the past 10 years, approximately 50 percent of Cistercian seniors have been named either National Merit Semi-Finalist or Commended Students. (Semi-finalists rank in the top half of one percent of test takers in Texas; Commended students rank in the top 5 percent of test takers in the state.)

"I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT," said Dr. Tarek Souryal, who three years ago became Cistercian's team physician. "From my perspective, having spent 15 years as a team physician at sporting events from high school to the pros, I can say that football is football ... until you get to Cistercian."

"There is not an unkind word on the sideline," Dr. Souryal said, "not a bad word. When an opposing player is knocked down on our sidelines, our guys help him up. I find it very refreshing. Coach Hillary set the tone; he knew how these young men should carry themselves. And that has carried on with Coach McCarthy."

"I knew when my son came of age, I wanted him to go to Cistercian. Even though we are Methodist, I knew this was the right kind of environment for my son."

The character of Cistercian students extends well beyond the playing field.

"I think it's given me a kind of spiritual identity," said Daniel McSwain '01. "I think now I can go off to college and not be afraid of getting lost in the crowd and or just going along with the herd. I believe I have morals and beliefs that I can stick to that I have grown with these eight years."

"I have heard the parents of several girls say that they don't worry when their daughters are out with Cistercian boys. They are confident they will treat their daughters with care and respect," said Christie Sparks, mother of Wheeler '02 and

one class through the eight-year cycle, so they bring experience and perspective to the job of developing boys. By Upper School, the form master's knowledge of and bond with the boys proves invaluable.

"I see the form master system as a real strength for Cistercian," said Mrs. Elena Hines, principal of St. Rita Catholic School. "They just know boys and they make themselves very available. It means a lot to have someone who really knows your boy's strengths and weaknesses. They build a real feeling of community."

"These people have devoted their lives to teaching boys," said Lori Haley. "I don't think there could be a more dedicated faculty than the one at Cistercian. When we chose Cistercian, it was not about the facilities, it was about who is going to teach my sons."

Hard work also builds character.

Mrs. Sparks remembered Coach Hillary taking her son Wheeler aside several years ago. "He said, 'If you need time off, let me know. Studies are more important than football.'"

Academics are clearly the top priority at Cistercian where virtually every Upper School course is an honors course. During their senior year, Cistercian students take college-level courses in calculus, history, English and science. Many place out of their freshman year, even at colleges like Stanford.

"Sometimes, my son will complain that he doesn't have a life, but the hard work becomes a way of life," Mrs. Sparks said. "He knows he will have several hours of work a night. He has learned how to juggle lots of activities. It forces the boys to manage their time and to find a balance between work, athletics, extracurricular activities, and a social life."

“W’RE LOOKING FOR INTERESTED and interesting boys,” said Mr. Haaser. “In addition to finding academically talented students I would very much like to build a class with diverse backgrounds, interests, and abilities.” As the number of applicants has grown, the Admissions Committee has had the luxury of selecting a diverse group of students.

It may seem strange that Catholic monks would dictate diversity, especially religious diversity. “We are a Catholic school, but we like to maintain the percentage of non-Catholics between 25 and 35 percent,” said Mr. Haaser.

The school welcomes all faiths, from Protestants and Hindus to Jews and Muslims.

“The non-Catholics challenge the Catholics to think about, understand, and practice their faith,” said Fr. Peter. “Catholics and non-Catholics alike learn to take their faith seriously, to build a community on the shared essentials.”

The Admissions Committee makes its decisions without regard to economic factors.

“Finances should not be the final determinant in the decision to attend Cistercian,” said Fr. Bernard. “If we accept a student and the family cannot afford to pay part or all of the tuition, we

“The folks at Cistercian will not take a boy if he’s not right; they are strong enough to say no. They are not going to bring in boys who cannot be successful.”

– Dolores Evans
Former Director of Admissions and Placement,
The Lamplighter School

attempt to help them.” Over the past five years, between 12.5 and 18 percent of the students have received financial aid.

“In times of an economic downturn, a family may need help for a year or two,” Mr. Haaser explained. “When parents feel they need help, they fill out forms for an independent analysis of economic need (Cistercian does not make initial judgments about

those cases). So, if a layoff occurs, we often are able to help out.”

“When a boy is accepted to Cistercian, it is our hope that we are going to play a major role in his development right up to graduation. If economic factors arise that might threaten that goal, then the school stands ready to help,” he added.

Since taking over as director of admissions from Fr. Peter in 1996, Mr. Haaser has seen it as his mission to bring in boys with a wide range of interests, to build a class of diversity.

“I make it a point to find academically talented boys who have strong interests outside of school, whether it is in music, art, athletics, chess, coin collecting, scouts, or reading,” Mr. Haaser said. “I want the boys to complement each other.”

Members of the Admissions Committee read every file independently and make personal notes about each candidate. In addition to the testing data, committee members review scores on other standardized tests to spot any inconsistencies. They review grades, teacher evaluations, and recommendations to flesh out the boy's character, how he functions in the classroom, how he relates to others, his attitude, motivations, and creativity.

More bang for the buck

The *Dallas Business Journal* listed the “Most Expensive Metroplex Private Schools.” in their September 14, 2001 edition. Cistercian ranked 21st out of the 25 schools listed by 2001-02 tuition. But Cistercian ranked number one based on average SAT scores.

Perhaps even more impressive than providing that kind of bang for the buck is that Cistercian's tuition is not artificially low. Unlike many of the schools higher on the list, Cistercian's tuition covers all expenses. Parents are not asked to pour in additional funds every year just so the school can cover costs.

This economic advantage is rooted in the Abbey, where the monks donate much of their teaching salaries back to the school. Conservative financial policies also keep the school on solid financial footing.

Buildings do not feature the names of large donors. And large donors know they cannot expect special treatment.

“I believe that the simplicity of Cistercian is an asset,” added Lori Haley, mother of two Cistercian students. “It is clear that the priests control the direction of the school, not economics.”



Photo by Jim Raich

ALEJANDRO & FRIENDS
Alejandro Torres '08 (second from left) clowns with classmates (from left) Ian McLaughlin, Daniel Box, and Richard Newcomb.

waiting for a decision especially difficult for alums.

"The hardest calls I have to make are those to alums whose sons were not a good match," said Mr. Haaser. "If we are not a good fit for these boys, we will not accept them."

The same "good news, bad news" holds true for families who already have a son at Cistercian, since siblings receive the second look in the process.

A veteran with 30 years of experience sending stu-

dents to Cistercian, Lamplighter's Dolores Evans noted, "The folks at Cistercian will not take a boy if he's not right; they are strong enough to say no. They are not going to bring in boys who cannot be successful. They are looking for the right things."

"Conversely," Mrs. Evans said, "when a boy is accepted to Cistercian, they are going to be successful most of the time. They are really good at that. They take on the boy and the family."

Dr. Angel Gomez '91 knows what Cistercian is going to mean to Alejandro Torres '08.

"Cistercian opened up a lot of doors for me," said Gomez, "and it will do the same for Alejandro. It is partly due to the reputation of Cistercian. Knowing it is a good school gave me a lot of confidence. I felt like I was getting a privileged education. And at Cistercian, the paths to colleges and a career will be mapped out very well."

"When you go to Cistercian," he emphasized, "you are expected to be successful."

A little more than a year after having heard that he had been accepted to Cistercian, Alejandro Torres found himself sitting among his classmates at his first Closing Ceremonies.

"The day before, my dad had asked me if I expected to win any awards," Alejandro said. "I told him I didn't."

After all the academic awards had been handed out, Alejandro looked around. He was guessing which of his classmates would receive the prestigious St. Bernard Award for Form I. (The St. Bernard Award is given to the student in each class who best exemplifies the values of the school. The entire faculty elects the winners.)

The name of "Alejandro Torres" came over the loud speaker. "I just sat there for a couple of seconds. I was dumfounded. My classmates looked at me and told me to go up to the front."

While his Form I classmates cheered and clapped, Angelica Torres cried.

"I was so proud of him. I was so happy," she said. "I say, 'Thank you, thank you,' to God all the time for putting Alejandro in such a wonderful school. I believe He wants Alejandro for something."

Back at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Juana Gomez was smiling.

"Finally, I look for talents and activities that the boy may have to better fit into an already existing Form or into the many opportunities offered at Cistercian," Mr. Haaser said.

"Our admissions committee is really first class," said Mr. Haaser. "Fr. Peter was director of admissions for five years before me and Fr. Bernard held that position for 12 years before him. Both have been headmaster. It gives me great confidence to share in their expertise and help when selecting the boys."

In all, the committee brings to the selection process a total of over 90 years of working with boys at the Prep School. Fr. Bernard has 34 years, Mr. Haaser has 32 years, and Fr. Peter has 24 years as priest and nine as a student (in those days, the school started in fourth grade or Pre-Form). "That's a lot of experience and accumulated wisdom," Mr. Haaser beamed.

"YOU MADE A MISTAKE," explained Fr. Abbot to cardiologist Dr. Steve Johnston '71, shaking his head gravely. The simple diagnosis was delivered to the good doctor in the Abbot's customarily blunt fashion. The doctor knew instantly the patient was correct.

Johnston had moved his family out to the country south of Dallas. They were enjoying the simple life, but something was missing. The antidote?

"You should send your son to Cistercian," Fr. Abbot said. He pulled an application from his pocket and handed it to Johnston.

"I went home that night and told my wife that it was time we apply to Cistercian," Johnston said. "I had been working with Fr. Abbot and the other Cistercian priests for 12 years. He knew how I felt. He knew that there was something missing in my life. He knew it was Cistercian."

There is good news for alumni whose sons apply to Cistercian. And there is bad news. The good news is that, as legacies, sons of alumni receive the first look in the admissions decision process. The bad news is that if the son of an alum is not a good fit at Cistercian, there will not be any hesitation in denying him admission. It makes those three weeks in February

The Calling

Each of the five new faculty members believes their job in secondary education, and specifically at Cistercian, is no accident.

Story by Tom Pruitt • Photos by Jim Reisch

ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF A school are witnesses on a regular basis to the close encounters of two opposing forces — the persistent intention to bring about change and the equally insistent desire to foster stability. Both are part of the rhythm of the institutional routines: the day begins and ends in an acknowledgement, in prayer and pledge, of powers and institutions greater and more permanent than oneself while in the hours in between the motivation is to change one's place, to move ever closer to mastery — and to graduation.

The year begins with an influx of new students who then start the slow, arduous process of acculturating themselves, of learning their place within the school's ethos; it ends with the graduation of those who have completed the process, who have acquired that identity they (or perhaps their parents) desired so enthusiastically years before.

Maintaining a healthy tension between the pull of tradition and the push of change ensures a balance in the perspective of all parts of the school's community. The student's very real concern with the grade on today's test or the outcome of this contest should be matched by his growing sense of belonging to a community which is shaping him into something he was not before. In addition, the teacher must balance his desire to get this particular lesson across or make this crucial point with his ever-broadening perspective of the lives of his students, of seeing more clearly how their particular gifts fit into the general fabric of the community he has had some part in forming. Finally, the administrator must balance the very real need to adhere to the "tried and true," to keep the school moored to the vision and principles which guided its founding, with the need to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances and conditions of the larger community from which the school draws its families.

Perhaps one of the most visible and significant signs of this intersection of change and permanence is in the life of a school's faculty, its ebb and flow from year to year. The

Cistercian faculty has, this year, an average tenure at the school of over 13 years. While almost a third of its 37 members have been teaching here over 20 years, another third would be considered "newcomers," having taught at the school for five years or less. This blend of those who are "tried-and-true" with those who bring a fresh, outside perspective gives Cistercian a balance which is a hallmark of the educational experience it offers. This year's new faculty prove once again that Cistercian continues to attract some of the most qualified and dedicated teachers in the area.

MRS. PEBBLE BARBERO teaches Life Science in Form II and Biology to Form V. She grew up in Dallas and graduated in 1988 from Bishop Lynch before going on to Southwestern University in Georgetown where she received a B.A. in Biology (with a minor in Chemistry). She returned to teach biology at Naaman Forest High School in Garland for three years before heading off to California State University-Long Beach where she earned an M.S. in Biology. She comes to Cistercian from Highland Park High School, where she had been teaching both biology and AP biology.

Though new to the faculty this year, Mrs. Barbero is no stranger to Cistercian. Her husband Ignacio '88 and brothers-in-law Luis '91 and Gustavo '93 have told her many a tale of life within these "hallowed halls." And she was still willing to submit an application to fill the position vacated by the inimitable Murry Gans, who had been around long enough to teach all three of the Barbero brothers! In addition, she and Ignacio were married by his Form Master Fr. Henry in the Cistercian chapel (a privilege allowed only to Cistercian graduates) and through various alumni events she had come to know Fr. Peter and many of the Cistercian fathers, so coming to work here seemed a natural step to take.

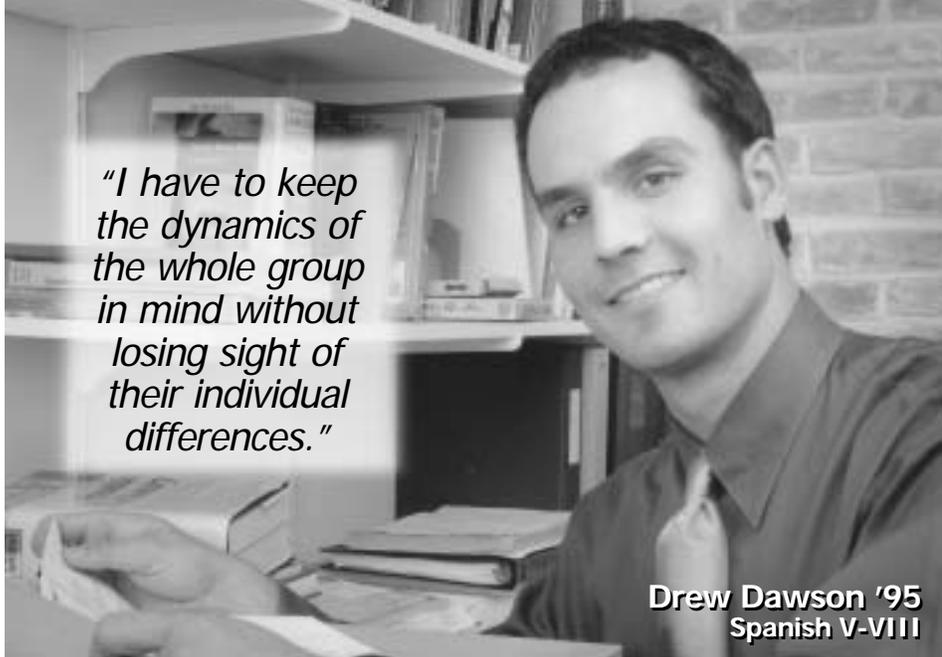
One of the chief factors which drew Mrs. Barbero into teach-

ing was the example of her parents, both of whom are educators. "My parents have always been strong role models for me because they both have had excellent relationships with their students. Developing a bond with those you teach is surely one of the greatest rewards of teaching." She finds that being a "facilitator of knowledge" is her most important role in the classroom, teaching students "how to become problem solvers and critical thinkers by instructing them not only in biology but in study and organizational skills."

Her greatest challenge, one that she finds faces all teachers, is "finding new ways to keep students interested in school. In an age where everything is made to appeal to their senses, the school routine of lectures and drill can appear boring. I try to combat this with lots of labs and other activities that allow them to manipulate things to learn a concept. This keeps them as active participants in the learning process — they're focused more on biology and less on when the bell is going to ring."

Finally, Mrs. Barbero returns to the old family recipe for success — if you want your students to be successful, you must model that success for them: "I can increase my students' interest in science by showing them my enthusiasm for science, by listening to them and being patient with them." And speaking of family matters, though the rest of the faculty have been most glad to welcome Mrs. Barbero aboard, they all now await an even greater event, the arrival of the first new Barbero in January!

MR. DREW DAWSON '95 teaches Spanish to Forms V-VIII and has assumed a variety of coaching duties (Upper School football, freshmen basketball, Upper School track). He is officially counted among this year's new teachers though last year he was on the coaching



"I have to keep the dynamics of the whole group in mind without losing sight of their individual differences."

Drew Dawson '95
Spanish V-VIII

staff and was frequently called upon for academic substitution.

After graduating valedictorian of the Class of 1995 as well as receiving both the Hawk Award and all-SPC honors in football and track both his junior and senior years, he went on to Williams College and received a B.A. in Spanish in 1999. After graduation he became a teaching assistant at Hampshire College in Hadley, Massachusetts for a one-month, intensive, Spanish immersion course for students ranging from beginners to advanced. "Teaching for that limited time and also having done some student teaching in Spanish under Dr. Arndt for my senior project at Cistercian showed me how rewarding and enjoyable teaching can be."

Dawson has always known he wanted to teach but had thought he might first like to live and work abroad, in either international business or political consulting, but by Homecoming last year he was already being drawn back into Cistercian's orbit. "I guess I realized in the part-time coaching and teaching I did last year that what I really enjoyed, more even than passing on the knowledge I had learned, was finding different ways to connect with the students — I was as close to their ages as a teacher could get here — and I enjoyed relating my experience, here and elsewhere, to theirs. And I felt, and still feel, especially lucky because I get to relate to these guys both in the classroom and on the athletic fields."

Mr. Dawson finds the teaching of a foreign language both fascinating and challenging: "I really enjoy the group interaction that can occur in the classroom. This is especially important when learning a foreign language since active participation is of the utmost importance. On the other hand, it can also prove extremely challenging since students learn languages in different ways — audibly, visually, orally — and as a teacher I have to keep the dynamics of the whole group in mind without losing sight of their individual differences."

In coming back to your old school, it can be rather difficult to shed your identity as "student" and establish yourself as "colleague," but for Dawson the transition has apparently been smooth: "Having graduated from Cistercian, I know the type of students that come through here, and I also know our faculty as a group of intelligent, dedicated individuals who played such a large role in my own development. Coming back to Cistercian has been a blessing, and I look forward to learning and growing once again in this environment that is at once so familiar to me and yet which I now see through a different perspective."



Pebble Barbero
Life Science II,
Biology V

"I combat [boredom] with lots of labs and other activities that allow the boys to manipulate things to learn a concept."



"We are truly educated only if we love God, have compassion for each other, and have an openness to the beauty and splendor of the world around us."

DR. CARLOS VIDELA, who teaches mathematics in both Form IV and Form VII, is a man of much experience and much travel. He was born in Bogotá, Colombia but got his schooling in three different countries: he attended elementary school in Chile, middle school in Colombia, and high school in Mexico. He then returned to Bogotá to attend college, receiving his B.S. in Mathematics from the Universidad de Los Andes in 1980. He then traveled to the US to do graduate work, receiving his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Rutgers University in 1986.

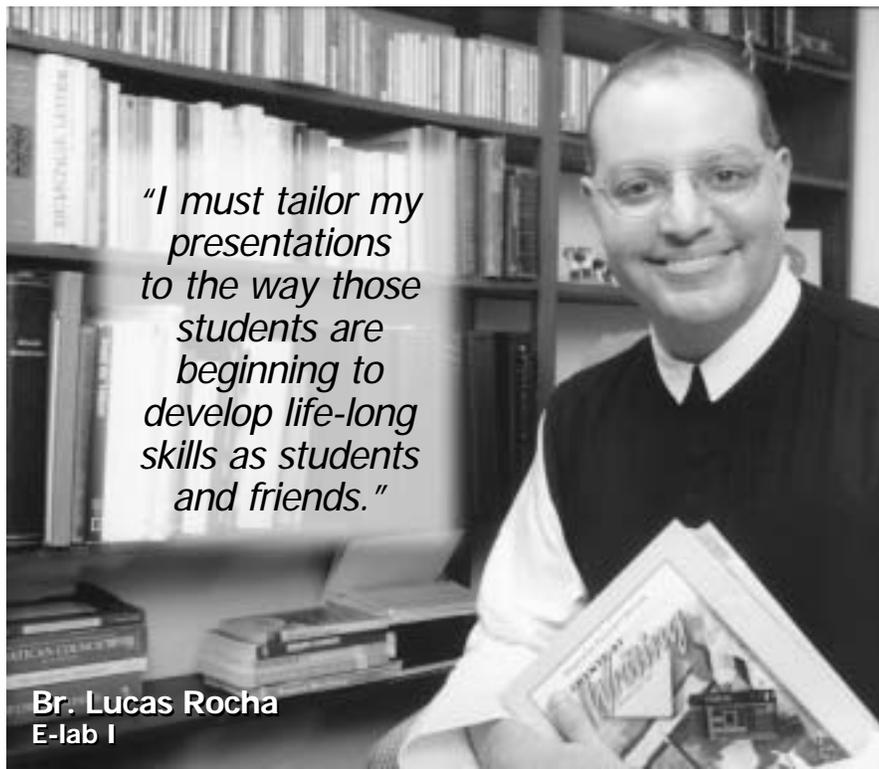
"My desire to stay close to mathematics and to young people drew me toward teaching as a possible career, and though I received my education, and have taught in various places, I am struck with how universal the problems of education are." Videla sees, first of all, the same questions: What knowledge is really important? What does an eighteen-year-old need to know in order to be prepared for adulthood? There is also a widening gap in all the cultures he has lived in, but especially in that of the United States, between our growing toleration of the irresponsible, excuse-driven behavior of those not yet eighteen and the ever more severe consequences for that same behavior after turning eighteen. "By pampering them, we are setting kids up to fail, and we turn adolescence into a dangerous liability, rather than teaching them gradually to be responsible so that when they turn

eighteen and get all the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, they will be ready to handle them as thoughtful adults."

While the children of Latin America have their own set of distractions, kids in the United States seem to be terribly distracted by the many temptations of their abundant technology; they find it very hard to concentrate on the hard work of studying. "It is like going through a huge buffet with a thousand different choices of food. You tend to just pile up your plate with a little of everything, then eat only a portion. This leaves a terrible waste. Either you need to find a smaller buffet with fewer choices or learn to discriminate more effectively about what to choose."

Dr. Videla is convinced that, regardless of what subject matter he happens to be teaching, his chief role both in and out of the classroom is "to help nurture in each student a sense of integrity of character and, ranked right behind cultivating a moral awareness, is to cultivate the habit of thinking before acting." Then comes his duty — which, if you attend any of his classes, you see he takes very seriously — to convey a specific body of knowledge, in his case mathematics. As a result of accomplishing these initial goals reasonably well, another develops almost as a by-product — the sense of pride in oneself and compassion for one's community. The result is, he says, "a humane feeling that is one of the hallmarks of becoming properly educated. What good is our education if after all our schooling, we are merely egotistical jerks who do not care for our planet or for each other but are only interested in exploiting others for our personal gain? Putting all our knowledge aside, we are truly educated only if we love God, have compassion for each other, and have an openness to the beauty and splendor of the world around us. That's what being educated means in any culture."

BROTHER LUCAS ROCHA grew up in South Texas, attended Pan American University for a while, then in the fall of 1987 entered Holy Trinity Seminary and began taking classes at the University of Dallas. He graduated from the University in 1991 with a degree in history, then began graduate work in theology as a lay student, but, as he remarked with that inscrutable grin, "After many twists and



"I must tailor my presentations to the way those students are beginning to develop life-long skills as students and friends."

Br. Lucas Rocha
E-lab I

turns, I found myself employed in the exciting world of advertising where I spent nearly a decade immersed in the fascinating work of copy writing, project management, and client services.”

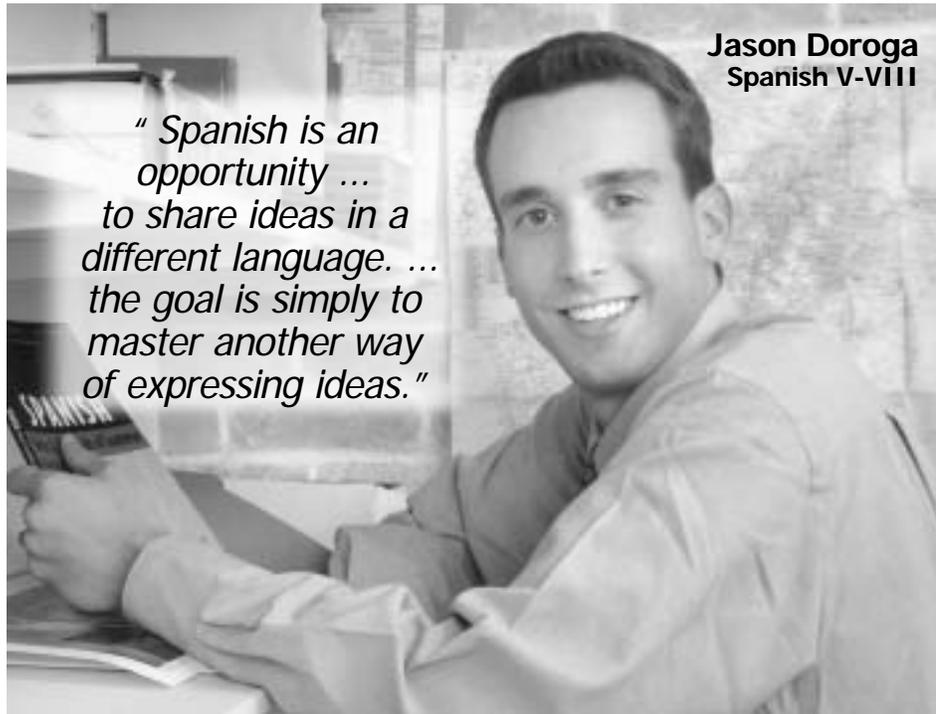
His call toward a religious vocation began while he was a student at Pan American University. A local parochial school in McAllen, Our Lady of Sorrows, needed a substitute music teacher, a “temporary” job which lasted three years and which eventually came to include the duties of being both a homeroom teacher and a religion teacher to seventh graders. “The desire to enter the seminary really began to burn in me at that time, especially after I had begun to teach religion.” But the pull toward the religious life took nearly ten years to ripen into a serious call. “My monastic vocation certainly did not emerge as the result of any sense of emptiness in the corporate world — I had a great career in the advertising and marketing field. But there is simply a deeper sense of fulfillment when I am in the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, praying with my fellow monks, and in the silence of my own heart here at the Cistercian Abbey.”

As a new teacher at Cistercian, Brother Lucas, who teaches English Lab to Form I students, sees his most important classroom role as facilitating “the process of discovery and investigation for those new, young students, who have just begun that quest in earnest. I cannot let myself become an obstacle to that process and must tailor my presentations to the way those students are beginning to develop life-long skills as students and friends.”

Brother Lucas remarked that his greatest reward as well as his greatest challenge thus far in his career at Cistercian “has been learning to balance prayer and work in the same place. But I know that for at least 1500 years, men and women have been doing this — and we are enjoying the fruits of their labor. Work and prayer is an ancient combination, but it is also a daily renewal. So, a Cistercian Abbey in the midst of Las Colinas is not such a stretch of the mind after all.”

MR. JASON DOROGA, who also teaches Spanish in Forms V-VIII, received his B.A. in Spanish from the University of Dallas in 2000 (with a double concentration in German and music). While at UD, he spent one summer studying at the University of Wittenberg, Germany. This last year he spent working in Guayaquil, Ecuador with the Rostro de Cristo program. Though he went to Ecuador as an “all-purpose volunteer” — working in a leprosy hospital, teaching music to Dominican nuns in a cloistered convent, and saving soccer fields from destruction during the rainy season — he soon found himself in the classroom. “A Catholic high school needed a 7th grade English teacher, and though I had never taught before — and had no curriculum, no textbook, and no mentor — I took the job and started the next day. Within a week I had added 9th grade English to my routine and by the end of the month I was teaching English to the 7th and 9-12th grades, which added up to 27 class hours per week!”

Teaching had unexpectedly become his chief focus, and although he had begun as a complete novice, he quickly grew comfortable with the work. His fascination was aided by the unique nature of the school where he taught, a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility which was paid for and used in the mornings



Jason Doroga
Spanish V-VIII

“ Spanish is an opportunity ... to share ideas in a different language. ... the goal is simply to master another way of expressing ideas.”

by the children of the wealthiest Ecuadorians. In the afternoons, however, children from the ever-growing poor suburbs living in cane shacks amidst mud and squalor are taught in those same facilities. Doroga taught in the afternoon. “The students’ energy, enthusiasm, and native abilities despite the overwhelming poverty in their lives motivated me in my teaching, and I quickly felt like a ‘veteran’ teacher. I had made huge strides and I realized in the process that teaching might be worth pursuing as a profession.”

His arrival at Cistercian was, he is convinced, something that was simply meant to be: “At the end of May, with one month left of my year of service in Ecuador, I e-mailed home and told friends that I wanted to look for a teaching job in Dallas. A couple of days later, out of the blue I received an e-mail from Fr. Peter asking if I would be interested in teaching high school Spanish at Cistercian. This is about as strong a sense of God’s plan — or fate — or whatever you want to call it, as you can experience. I immediately responded to Fr. Peter’s e-mail, flew home for an interview, and signed the contract.”

One of Mr. Doroga’s chief challenges has been a personal one — readjusting to the culture of an American high school and finding what works: “Some of my greatest lesson plans in Ecuador haven’t worked well here, and some of my best classes here at Cistercian would never have worked there.” Also, he finds it a constant challenge to replace the notion that a foreign language class is a laborious process just to be “gotten through” with the more useful notion that it is “an opportunity to communicate and to share ideas in a different language. That is, in fact, what is so wonderful about a foreign language class — the goal is simply to master another way of expressing ideas.”

Mr. Doroga’s variety of experience has already begun to give him a richer perspective: “When I reflect on what my role is here with Cistercian’s talented students, I can’t help thinking back to Ecuador and my students there, their enthusiasm despite such great poverty. My challenge is to lead my classes here to a greater sense of responsibility for the enormous-and rare-opportunities which they have.”

BEING THERE

Cistercian alumni in New York City and Washington, D.C., share their perspectives on the day that changed our lives.

By David Stewart '74

"MY PATH TRAIN FROM NEW JERSEY was scheduled to pull into the World Trade Center at 8:40 a.m.," recalled Mike Smith '77, who returned to work Sept. 11 after a one-week vacation. "As usual, it was a few minutes late." The acrid smell deep within the WTC basement caught his attention, but Smith shrugged it off as perhaps an electrical fire — just another everyday annoyance of working in New York City.

Caroline Risky's subway train pulled into the World Trade Center at just about the same time. She was running late and would not make it to her desk on the 99th floor of the South Tower at 8:30 like usual. She had left husband Keith Risky '93 a few stops north of the World Trade Center. Keith and Caroline were married at the Cistercian Chapel in April. As she stepped off the crowded train, a wave of people carried Caroline up and out on to the street.

Smith knew "something was not right" as he neared the end of the long escalator ride up from the basement. Reaching the Concourse just below street level, "Everyone was being instructed to exit the building immediately. As I walked quickly to my usual exit, World Trade Center police were assisting injured people. The Concourse was filling up with smoke."

As he hit the street, Smith encountered debris, primarily paper.

"People were pointing up," he said. "As I turned to look, I noticed the hole, the black smoke, and the fire billowing out. Although it was a frightening sight, from street level it didn't seem as if it were a large hole."

Bystanders guessed that a small propeller plane had hit the tower. The pilot probably had a heart attack in-flight. "This was a typical pre-September-11th reaction by New Yorkers," Smith reflected, "'don't be afraid; don't over-react — we've seen it all and it will be okay.'"

Resisting the urge to have a more thorough look at the scene, Smith walked east, crossing Broadway, past the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and into his 11th floor office at AIG Inc., about one block north of the New York Stock Exchange.

Stepping off his subway, Greg Nettune '96 ran "head-on into a group of a few hundred office workers fleeing." Nettune lives

in Brooklyn with a number of roommates, including Ramsey Al-Rikabi '96 and Zach Herigodt '96. Spilling out on to the street, Nettune was befuddled by the "paper debris raining down from the sky. My first confused thought was, 'A ticker tape parade in this part of downtown?' No one around me seemed to know what had happened. Rounding the corner from the subway exit, I saw the first tower burning. I walked one block closer, now standing amid the gathering crowd."

Keith Risky had just arrived at work at the Manhattan offices of Electronic Data Systems, about a half-mile north of the WTC. Everyone was buzzing with the news that a plane had

© Jim Reisch from "New York Story"



crashed into the North Tower of the WTC. He tried contacting his wife at her South Tower office at AON, an international risk management firm.

"Hi. It's Tuesday and I am in my office today," said her voice on the recorded message that she had updated the night before. "Please leave me a message and I'll get back to you."

It was now about 8:55. "Suddenly people began leaping from the top floors," Nettune said. "The sight of the jumpers transfixed me, although I still had a vague notion that I would make my way to work. I remember repeating, 'Oh my God,' like a

nervous mantra as the jumpers fell. People around me also were repeating broken exclamations, hugging coworkers, weeping, and praying loudly.”

“As the shock turned to nausea,” he said, “I made my way out of the crowd, heading away from the WTC. I couldn’t watch anymore. I turned the corner towards my office at Helen Keller Worldwide. Then I caught a glimpse of a huge plume of fire overhead and heard an explosion. The second tower had been hit.”

“Windows exploded around me. Police screamed to stand back away from the glass. I hid with a small group in a windowless garage entrance on the street adjacent to the WTC complex for a few moments.”

“For the first time that morning,” said Nettune, “I felt fear. I remember thinking that New York was under attack. From where I stood I could not see the towers but I could see the flames from the second explosion in the sky above the street. After what must have been only a few seconds, we decided to head for the Brooklyn Bridge.”

With his wife’s offices now under attack, Keith Risky became frantic. He caught a cab to his apartment. From there, he watched on television as fire consumed the two towers. No word from Caroline. Panic set in.

DR. KITTU PAREKH ’90 had watched the second plane strike the South Tower on TV from the apartment of a friend near 34th Street and Broadway. Parekh is a medical doctor with a degree in Public Health from Harvard University. He was visiting the City for just the second time. Almost immediately, Parekh rushed down to the street and flagged down a policeman.

“I am a resident from out of town, I am prepared to help out if needed,” he said. The policeman whisked Parekh to the NYU Medical Center at 34th and First Avenue.

At the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge, Nettune’s thoughts turned to Texas for a moment. He stopped at a pay phone and left a message at his father’s office. “I’m okay,” he said. Then he joined about 20,000 others on the Brooklyn Bridge, which had been closed to vehicular traffic soon after the second plane hit.

In Washington, D.C., Will Carty ’95 watched on television at work as the second plane struck in New York. At his desk in the Rayburn House Office Building adjacent to the Capitol, he began to hear reports of a small (perhaps unrelated) fire on the National Mall.

“Then somebody walked by my desk and told me that the Pentagon exploded. We were evacuated immediately.

“There was panic everywhere, and as we scrambled to leave the building we heard some secondary explosions from just across the river where the Pentagon was on fire. F-16’s tore through the air above the Capitol. We could see the smoke beginning to rise in thick plumes, and everyone just got as far away as they could as fast as they could.

“We heard that the Pentagon had been hit and that there were still planes unaccounted for,” Nettune remembered as he

“I caught a glimpse of a huge plume of fire overhead and heard an explosion. The second tower had been hit. Windows exploded around me.”

— Greg Nettune ’96

walked among the throng of refugees fleeing the flaming city. “We thought, ‘Here’s 20,000 people on New York’s most famous bridge. What an inviting target!’”

“I ran into my roommate Zach Herigodt who was crossing the Bridge going into Manhattan on his bicycle. I was relieved to see a friend and I told him what I had witnessed. He decided to ride closer to the scene. Just after parting I heard, felt, and saw the South Tower collapse.”

“People on the bridge began panicking,” Nettune said. “A woman passed out. People began walking out over the steel buttresses as if they were going to jump into the East River.”

Back at Keith Risky’s apartment, the door opened. Caroline appeared. Since having been swept out of the World Trade Center complex over an hour before, Caroline had witnessed the fire, the falling debris, and the terror. She had been making her way the 16 blocks back to their apartment ever since. The Riskeys could only fathom how lucky they were.

Mike Smith was in his 11th floor office just blocks from the WTC when the South Tower collapsed. Within minutes, smoke filled the floor and the building’s fire alarm sounded.

“I gathered my things to head down to the street and called my wife to tell her what was happening. I warned her that I would be out of communication for a while since cell phones were not working,” Smith said.

“When the elevator doors opened,” Smith said, “the lobby air was filled with dust. Peering out the windows, we noticed substantial debris on the street. What had been a clear blue day turned ash gray. We realized that one of the Towers had actually collapsed. With damp cloths pressed over our noses and mouths, we evaluated our options.”

Before they drew any conclusions, the second tower collapsed, making “the street outside completely black.” A new wave of debris swirled by the window.

After about four hours of treating patients with nicks, cuts, and smoke inhalation, Dr. Parekh was whisked down to a location at the Chelsea Pier, several blocks away from the site.

“The smell of burning plastic and the dust were terrible,” he said. “You couldn’t walk without coughing. There was a visceral feeling to the whole event. It was very strange, almost a surreal experience. I didn’t feel like it was happening when it happened. Everyone was in a state of shock.”

Parekh visited with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel. They decided to build a large triage center at the Chelsea Pier location to prevent the anticipated casualties from overwhelming local hospitals.

“It was decided to build a 150-bed hospital, half surgical and half medical,” said Parekh, “The thought was ambulances could pick up victims at the site, deliver them to the triage center, then dispatch them where they needed to go. Unfortunately, I was there through the first night and second day and I saw two people. We had 800 doctors just standing by.”

It was afternoon when the three members of the Class of ’96 were reunited at their Brooklyn apartment; each relieved to find

HELP US, SAVE US

You probably think this should be spoken, not written
 But I'll continue anyway because I need to understand:
 Why must we watch our towers burst aflame?
 Why must people leap into the abyss?
 Why must rescuers be rescued?
 How can we survive, yet not hate?
 Help us, Save us

Can't we worship in peace?
 We may never know who You are, or what You expect of us
 Can't we simply agree to disagree?
 Why must we even kill in Your name!
 Help us, Save us

Can't we love our differences?
 I was once in love with someone special
 Sadly, we couldn't agree how to worship You
 We quarreled, we kissed, we cried in despair
 Miraculously our love didn't die
 Rather, it returned to You

We live in a haze of our own making
 Who will extinguish our flames of ignorance?
 Do we pray to You in vain? Then show us a better way:
 How to listen, how to live, how to love
 You are, after all, our Maker
 Save us, Deliver us from our most implacable Foe — Ourselves

— Gautam Dutta '90, Washington, D.C.

the others safe. "I was in a state of awe and fear and nausea all day," Nettune said.

Smith spent the rest of the day moving from the lobby, to the cafeteria, and finally back to the 11th floor, as the air in the building improved.

"Most of the people in the building bailed out over the course of the day," Smith said. "Several colleagues stayed, one of whom had a car and volunteered to drop me off at the home of my sister-in-law on the Upper West Side on his way home. We waited until 3:30, when reports of gas leaks (and the related risk of fire and explosion) began to circulate. The elevators had been turned off, forcing us to walk down the 11 stories."

As they hurried out through the lobby on this extraordinary day, the ordinary grabbed Smith's attention. "There was a janitor going about his business, shining the floors, as if nothing had happened."

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I AM DEALING with it," Nettune said. "It still seems unreal. Everyone from my office got together one morning recently. Everyone told their stories. Some had been in the office building when the attack occurred. A Catholic priest and psychologist came in to counsel us on dealing with grief."

"It's been nice having close friends around like Zach, Ramsey, and our other roommates. Telling people your story has been cathartic. Right after it happened, it was hard to put into words. But there were so many people with worse stories. I guess it's the kind of thing that just takes time to deal with."

Andrew Robbins '88 was on vacation in Italy when the tragedy occurred. But the impact of September 11 strikes him regularly. "Every night when I leave work," Robbins said, "I look directly down West Broadway to see the lights from the relief effort reflected in a towering, rising haze of dust. There is also the disturbing omnipresent smell. People talk about the skyline, about how there is an obvious void, how downtown looks so ordinary. There is a general citywide sadness that something very special to NYC — one of its pride and joys — was viciously and violently taken away."

Kittu Parekh reflected from his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, "The experience taught me to appreciate a lot of everyday things. It highlighted the finality and the tenuousness of life. A cousin of mine from Pakistan had been working as a consultant for JP Morgan in the World Trade Center. He ate breakfast in Tower One everyday for months. By chance, his project was completed the Friday before September 11.

"It reminds us of the importance of random occurrences and chance meetings. It teaches us not to worry about little things. It really changes our perspective on life."

A Muslim whose parents are Pakistani, Parekh also felt the sting of reprisals aimed against those of Arabic descent. "It was difficult when Islam was brought in to it. But most media coverage has been very fair. The terrorists are a bastardization of the religion just like the KKK is a bastardization of Christianity."

From across the globe came a very different story of recovery. "The toughest thing about the attack for me has been the lack of an outlet for grief," said Todd Bryan '86, who is studying Chinese as he seeks employment in China. "Generally the attitude here is, 'You got what you deserved, too bad.' As I know very few Americans here, there has been very little opportunity to grieve and get this out of my system. I feel as if a family member has died, but I am not allowed to go to the funeral, and everyone around me is vaguely happy that the person died."

"I know many people will look back on this as one of the saddest times in their lives," Bryan said. "I will also unfortunately look back on it as one of the loneliest."

"I am proud of our country and I know we will not only rebound, but will react with a level of dignity and justice that other countries will find more surprising than any faults they find in our foreign policy. For this, I am extremely proud to be an American."

"On a personal level," said Arun Dhingra '86 who was preparing to take a flight from LaGuardia Airport to Boston when the attack occurred, "I suppose I feel the same feelings of shock, sadness, anger and fear as most Americans though my wife's and my sense of immediate fear might be slightly higher because we live in Manhattan.

"I pray for the victims and their families," Dhingra added, "and was touched by the calls of concern I received from my Cistercian classmates and Fr. Gregory. After all these years, our bonds remain as strong as ever.

"For me, recognizing the importance and longevity of these types of relationships is the one good thing that has resulted from all this."

Last-minute losses cost Hawks in tight conference race

An especially tight SPC Division II race — and the Hawks' reign of four consecutive Division II championships — came down to a last-minute field goal in the final game of the season against Trinity Valley.

Unfortunately for Cistercian, the kick sailed between the uprights, giving Trinity Valley a 17-14 victory. The field goal preserved an undefeated conference record for the Trojans and handed the Hawks their second conference loss of the season.

"It was a slugfest," said Coach Steve McCarthy. "Neither team could stop the other. The offenses were dominant, controlling the ball and committing no turnovers. It was really a good game. We just ran out of time."

The Hawks' only other Division II defeat came at the hands of All Saints, the result of an 84-yard run with less than two minutes left on the clock. Recovering from this tough defeat at home was difficult.

"We just had to learn from it," McCarthy insisted. "And we did. The very next week, we stole one from ESD."

With just 1:50 left in the game, ESD had gained possession of the ball around midfield, making their 15-14 lead look quite safe. But on a second-down play, an ESD running back fumbled and provided the Hawks a hope for redemption.

Photo by Peter Graham



Sparks runs his way into Hawk history

Wheeler Sparks' efforts this year nearly earned him a place in the Hawks' 1,000-yard rushing club. Here's how he stacks up with Cistercian's top rushers (by yards).

1992	Jeff Lockhart '93	1,433
1986	Alex Lopez '89	1,189
1993	Lowel Mason '94	1,170
1994	Bubba Futerfas '95	1,120
1983	Greg O'Hagen '84	1,077
1985	Alex Lopez '89	1,026
2001	Wheeler Sparks '02	922

JV defeats St. Mark's, FW Country Day

Against traditional rivals, the Hawks played like champions. "I was impressed with the kids," said Coach Mark Gray. "As usual, we were outsized and outmanned, but we found a way to get it done." The Hawks drummed both FWCD, 25-8 and St. Mark's, 21-7. Against Greenhill, the Hawks came back to have a chance at the end, 20-15.

Quarterback Ed Tarangioli '04 impressed the coaches with his arm while Hayden Godat '04 performed well at receiver and defensive back. The outstanding play of Matthew Lawson '04 at fullback and linebacker earned him a spot on the varsity at midseason.

On the very next play, Cistercian's Seth Henderson '03 hooked up on a flag route with Spencer Bethmann '03 down to the 10-yard line. Two runs by Wheeler Sparks '02 and the Hawks had pulled out an exciting 21-15 win.

"It was a great conference race," said McCarthy. "Trinity Valley ended up with no losses by beating All Saints by one and us by three. It doesn't get much closer than that."

With teams like St. Stephens and ESD gaining strength, it looks as if the Division II crown will be hotly contested for years.

Some individual performances during the 2001 campaign surprised Coach McCarthy.

"Brent O'Donnell '03 surprised us by

becoming one of our top linemen this year. Stephen Bailey '04, receiver/defensive back, and Jordan Campbell '04, safety, stepped in and started for us and we didn't expect that."

"We also were pleased with the progress of Parker Wolf '04," McCarthy said. As expected, Wheeler Sparks had a great year, rushing for 922 yards en route to All Conference honors (see box).

Injuries kept Josh Campbell '02 from having the kind of season he expected. But Seth Henderson threw for 1,200 yards, with eight touchdowns against six interceptions, earning Honorable Mention honors for himself and helping classmate Spencer Bethmann earn All-Conference at receiver and defensive back.

Trevor Turner '02 (offensive and defensive line) and Andrew Lawson '02 (offensive line) also earned All Conference honors.

In addition to Henderson, players earning Honorable Mention were James Connor '02 (linebacker), Brent O'Donnell '03 (offensive lineman), Joe Meier '03 (defensive lineman), and Bobby Andrews '03 (defensive lineman).

As is customary with Cistercian teams, sportsmanship typified the Hawks' play, both between and outside the lines.

"I think it all goes back to Coach Hillary," said Coach McCarthy. "One team we played early in the year was hit hard by injuries and it could have been pretty ugly. Instead, we had a good game but at the same time, we took care not to embarrass our opponents. We respect each team we play."

Coach Hillary would be proud of the coaches and players.

MS footballers sharpening their skills

Seventh Grade Running backs stood out for a super Seventh Grade team that lost just one game all year. Chase Campbell '07, the last in the line of the Campbell brothers, gave the offense the punch and Matthew Abola '07, with his sprinter's speed, gave it the zing.

"Our linemen really turned in a great year and we had the backs to take advantage of it," Coach Jim Taylor said. "Kerr Freidman '07 also did a fine job of running the option."

"For their first year, they did very well. We put a lot of fundamentals in place," he added.

Eighth Grade The Hawks ended the season in style by defeating a talented

Trinity Valley team, a team that had handled them 28-0 in seventh grade.

"We controlled the ball very effectively through a combination of short quick passes, and draw plays," said Coach Jim Taylor.

Quarterback Chris McGowan '06 connected with Sam Bowler '06 and Bobby Crews '06 for touchdowns while David Haley '06 turned in a standout performance at running back. The defense stifled the Trojans with a determined effort. Defensive end Alex Gavin '06 stepped in on the strong side and controlled the Trojans' outstanding tight end.

"Everyone got in there and contributed and we surprised them," Taylor said.

X-Country report

The 2001 Cistercian cross-country season saw a lot of new faces mixed with some veterans.

Led by senior captains Taylor Poor '02 and Dan Lines '02, the Hawks finished third at MISC. The Hawks' showing at SPC was disappointing but the future looks bright for the cross-country team with freshmen Michael Durham '05 and Peter Radu '05 joining returning runners Andrew Milner '03, Matt Bell '03, and Andrew Theilen '03 in 2002.

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Lee expects hoopsters to light it up

With a talented group of junior sharpshooters coming of age, Coach Danny Lee expects the Hawks to generate a lot of excitement this season.

Shooting guards Mike West '02, Matt Truit '03, and Seth Henderson '03 give the Hawks the firepower to light up the scoreboard quickly.

Case in point: the Hawks torched opponents with a 54 percent three-point shooting barrage on their way to capturing first place in the Cistercian Tip-Off Classic before Thanksgiving.

Spencer Bethmann '03 directs the attack from his point guard position. The rebounding muscle inside belongs to post-up players Peter McCormack '03, Joe Meier '03, Ed Tarangioli '04, and Cody Skinner '02.

"We will play to our strength," said Coach Danny Lee. "We will use three guards regularly and even go to four guards if we see the opportunity."

Lee saw the opportunity in the final of the Cistercian Tip-Off Classic against Denton Liberty.

Behind most of the game, Lee's troops staged a comeback in the third and fourth quarters. Bolstered by the speed and shooting of the short, four-guard lineup, the Hawks outscored Denton Liberty 15-7 in the fourth quarter to win going away, 60-48.

"I feel really good. We have so many players with varsity basketball experience under their belt that I believe we can compete with anybody. That showed in the tournament," Lee said.

Lee expects strong SPC competition from Oakridge, which will field three Division I recruits among its starting

eleven. Greenhill, Kincaid, and ESD also will field experienced and talented teams.

Soccer hopes hinge on midfield

Led by midfielder Ian Cary '03 and goaltender Alex Gette '03, the Hawks soccer team promises to compete strongly for a SPC Division I tournament spot.

"We are still young," said Coach Bob Kowalski. "We have only two seniors. But we have a core group of juniors who have played together with me since they were freshmen."

Last year, the Hawks didn't lose any games against conference opponents in regulation. Problem was, the penalty kicks didn't go the Hawks' way.

"If you don't win most of your games, it is going to come down to winning at the right time against the right team," Kowalski said.

The Hawks already have shown some spark in losing to a powerful Trinity Christian team, 2-1. The team's finisher and co-captain Chris Sakowski '03 came to life in the Oakridge tournament in a 3-0 victory over Oakridge and a 4-1 victory over Fort Worth Christian.

Cary, who also stars for the Solar Club's U-17 team, will be the key to the Hawks' efforts. Significant contributions are expected from co-captain Andrew Lawson '02, Jeff Judge '03, Will Harris '03, and Andrew Milner '03.

"I think our chances are very good with the experience we have," Kowalski said. "We know we have the ability. As long as we stay healthy, we can contend."

St. Stephen's is expected to be strong as always. Kincaid, ESD, Greenhill, and St. Mark's also should provide the Hawks with stiff competition.

CISTERCIAN CALENDAR

December

- 13 Forms I-II
Christmas Concert
- 20 Ring Ceremony
- 22 Alumni Basketball Game
Casino Night

January

- 25 Moroney Award Dinner
- 26 Admissions testing

February

- 2 Admissions testing
- 8 ArtsFeast
- 9 BookFair

March

- 3 Middle School concert
- 6 Middle School
Open House

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Alumni

Burns joins Cistercian as new director of development

Fr. Peter named Michael Burns '81 the school's director of development in October.

"It's a dream job for me, coming here and working to develop the resources to help Cistercian grow," Burns said. "I feel like I am back home."

Burns steps into the job vacated by Matt Walter '86, who left Cistercian in July to join his wife after she had accepted a job in Colorado Springs, CO. "I am proud to step into the office that Matt set up so capably with Sally Cook," he added.

"We are very happy that Michael has decided to join us," said Fr. Peter. "As a member of Class '81, he brings to the job a

strong relationship with Fr. Abbot, his form master. As an active volunteer at St. Monica's Parish and School, he brings experience in managing volunteers as well as working relationships with several members of the Board of the Cistercian Alumni Association."

"The School has retained a consultant to guide Michael as he learns the routines of a development director. I am excited that Michael will continue the excellent work of the Development Office at

Cistercian."

An A&M graduate with an MBA from the University of Dallas, Burns spent 13 years as an information technology manager and programmer for Haggard Women's Wear in Dallas and Dickie's Workwear in Fort Worth.

But two and a half years ago, Burns made the decision to "slow down our lives." With his wife working full-time and Burns commuting between Dallas and Fort Worth, "I became tired of trying to arrange for other people to pick up our kids."

"I took two weeks that turned into two years," he said. "Call it a sabbatical. I turned into Mr. Mom and loved it."

Spending lots of time with his two boys, Burns also became heavily involved in fund-raising efforts for his sons' school, St. Monica Catholic School. This fall, Burns began discussing career options with Mr. Bob Haaser who had been Burns' football coach. "Mr. Haaser told me what a joy it is being involved in education. He told me that it is a very rewarding way to spend your life."

Burns then called Fr. Peter to inquire about working at the school. "I had you on my list of people to call this week," Fr. Peter said. Visits with Fr. Abbot and Peter Smith '74 (the school's chief alumni fund-raiser) helped Burns decide that the job was a match.



**Director of Development
Michael Burns '81**