

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

# CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL IRVING, TEXAS NTINUUM

Fall 2012

## INSIDE

The common touch and uncommon ideals of new headmaster Fr. Paul McCormick

## GIVING 'EM the BUSINESS

*Growing numbers of alumni are finding good reasons to work together*

Greg Novinski '82 (center) under the care of (l-r): John-Michael Stewart '89, Andrew Bode '97, and George Cruz '91.



## CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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*Assistant Headmaster  
Head of Upper School*

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Jim Taylor  
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- Rev. Julius Leloczky
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- Kent Clay
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- Kathleen A. Muldoon
- Stephen C. Rasch '80
- Peter P. Smith '74
- Jere W. Thompson, Jr. '74

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# Evidence of a "cloud of witnesses"

## Each of us has so many people to thank for our blessings

This issue of *Continuum* reminds me of the wonderful bible verse from the Letter to the Hebrews that describes how we are "Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses..." (12:1)



Letter from the headmaster  
*Fr. Paul McCormick*

Our first feature story captures the grace of those individuals who served as mentor to a certain young man from Beaumont. Those mentioned in the story (and many more) are individuals to whom I remain forever indebted.

Seeing myself through their eyes and their obvious love of me, I not only embraced a long simmering call to the priesthood, but also now provide that same support and encouragement for all the young people God brings into my path.

Our second feature captures how alumni are helping each other in fields across the spectrum. It

is encouraging to know that Cistercian graduates are welcomed by their brothers throughout the country, from the Class of 1970 to the present.

As headmaster, I will work closely with the alumni association to continue and further this responsibility our alumni share to lend a hand to one another.

Particularly impressive in this issue are the five pages of notes that agents for each class have submitted to inform the larger alumni community about recent events and milestones among their form mates.

You will enjoy **Smokey Briggs '84** as he shares a sobering moment when the expertise of a fellow alum helped spare his life. And please reflect on Fr. Roch's explanation of the essential role of the Holy Spirit in strengthening and consecrating the natural bonds of affection and shared heritage.

How can one come away from so many accounts without testifying that indeed, as scripture says, "We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses?"

Volume 39, number 2

*In this issue*



## Common touch, uncommon ideals 8

An abiding faith in God leads Fr. Paul McCormick as he brings singular talents and a fresh perspective to the job of headmaster.

*By David E. Stewart*

### Departments

- News & Notes .....4-7
- Sports .....20-21
- Class Notes .....22-26
- Afterthoughts by *Smokey Briggs*..... 27
- On Prayer by *Fr. Roch Kereszty*..... 28

*Cover photography by  
Jim Reisch*



## Giving 'em the business 14

Growing numbers of alumni are finding good reasons to work together.

*By David E. Stewart*

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



Students in Fr. Gregory's English elective working in the library classroom.

RENOVATED SPACE A HIT  
**Library classroom now a center for research-oriented projects, classes**

The library classroom has seen a surge in popularity from students and teachers alike since its renovation over the summer.

Now equipped with 24 computers plus the standard classroom audio/visual/technology cart, the library classroom is uniquely suited to research-oriented classes or projects (with its location just steps from the school library) as well as the language arts.

Janet Bucher-Long also has worked with seniors on their on-line college applications in the classroom. It open to students before 8:25 am and during activities periods.

The renovation of the space was made possible by a gift from a current grandparent.



The intersection at Cistercian Rd. now features DART trains and a traffic signal.

LITERARY MAGAZINE  
**Old news but good news, Reflections wins Gold Crown**

Last spring, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded *Reflections 2011* a Gold Crown, its highest honor.

Cistercian was one of only 13 high school magazines in the country to win the award. (Greenhill and Hockaday's literary magazines also won Gold Crowns.)

It is the first Gold Crown for *Reflections* since 2007.

**Zach Horton '11** and **Andrew Skaras '11** served as editors of the 2011 edition.



Zach Horton '11, co-editor of *Reflections 2011*, accepts the Gold Crown in NYC in March 2012.



Stephen Hoefler '13 with his medal.

**CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL AWARDED TO HOEFER '13**

On June 20, **Stephen Hoefler '13** received the United States Congressional Gold Award, which recognizes a young person's exceptional initiative, achievement, physical fitness, and community service.

Stephen qualified for this recognition in part by serving over 900 volunteer hours and helping to raise over \$80,000 for the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital.

STOPPING TRAFFIC  
**New signal at Cistercian Road a symbol of the new normal**

The many years of construction on the expanded SH 114 and DART's Orange Line should have prepared us for this. But it was still a shock.

As busses and carpools arrived for Opening Ceremonies, parents, students, and teachers were greeted by the new traffic signal at Cistercian Rd.

"One of our school board members worked closely with TXDOT to make it operational for the first day of school," said **Abbot Peter Verhalen '73**.

"The signal improves the safety of everyone at the intersection," he added, "and marks the entrance of what is, thankfully, still a very pastoral Cistercian campus."

**24** Number of computers added to the perimeter of the library classroom — one for every student in even the largest classes.

**4** Number of times that *Reflections* has won a Gold Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (2005, 2006, 2007, and 2011).

**MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS A BIG SUCCESS**

For the first time, Cistercian students joined the Dallas Diocese summer youth missionary trip to Honduras.

The students worked alongside residents to build walls, construct fences, clean church property, prepare for the installation of a septic tank, and place a new and much needed roof on a parish church.

**John Kane '14, Nick Porter '14, Jack Skaggs '14, Matt Steidle '14, Miko Tanco '14, Sam Tomaso '14, Nick Capasso '13, Brenden Glover '14, and Andrew Dudasko '13** were joined by teachers Greg Graham, Lisa Hernandez, Michael McGuire, and **Michael O'Brien '00**.

All were heartened by the prayer and fellowship they shared with the residents of these villages.



**Brenden Glover '14**



**NEW TEACHERS** (l-r) Tara Kennedy (Spanish), Fr. Philip Lastimosa '00 (form master Form I, Latin-Form I, Physics-Form VIII), Nick Merrick (Finance elective), Dylan Key (English elective, drama), Matthew Brnicky '05 (Physics, Form VII).

**CISTERCIAN'S NEW TEACHERS**

**An infusion of experience and enthusiasm**

This year's additions to the faculty bring a lot of experience in their field (or at Cistercian) to the school.

A study-abroad program to Segovia, Spain during college helps Tara Kennedy "continue aspiring to bring the Spanish language and culture to my students," she said.

Kennedy has taught high school Spanish for 17 years, 12 of them in the Dallas area.

"The Cistercian experience without girls has been a very different one!" she said.

Of the five new faculty members, two are alumni. Both are teaching physics.

**Fr. Philip Lastimosa '00**, who is also serving as form master of the Class of 2020, teaches Latin to his young group and physics to the seniors.

"My seniors give me tips on the most memorable and effective forms of punishment," Fr. Philip laughed.

Fr. Philip has a masters of arts in teaching (in science education)

from the UT Dallas in addition to his M.A. in Theology (UD), and his B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering (Lehigh University).

**Matthew Brnicky '05**, a physics and math major at Creighton, teaches physics to Form VII.

"Fr. Paul always said that I would come back to teach," said Brnicky, who is pursuing a Ph.D in statistics from UTA. "I didn't think it would be this soon."

Cistercian dad Nick Merrick (**Matthew '15**) is teaching a finance elective.

"Nine of my fourteen students are football players," said the Harvard MBA. "They posed for a picture with me. I felt very honored."

Dylan Key, a U.D. graduate with a double major in drama and English, teaches an English elective and coaches the MS Speech League. In the spring, he will direct the Upper School drama.

"When not teaching at Cistercian," said the Pennsylvania native, "I work as associate director of Undermain Theatre."

**QUIZ BOWL**

**While "A" team is away, "B" team shows it can play**

Fr. Gregory Schweers, faculty guru of all things Quiz Bowl, received a glimpse into the future at a tournament outside Oklahoma City. It made him smile.

With the "A" team already having qualified for the Nationals in May (and working on college apps), **Mitchell Sawtelle '14, Michael Uhrick '14, Shobit Srivastava '14, and Joshua Maymir '15** took second in the tournament.

More importantly, their finish qualified the young group for a slot in the Nationals.



Kathleen Muldoon and Kent Clay

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Clay and Muldoon fill legendary board seats**

With the retirement of three school board members — Abbot Emeritus Denis Farkasfalvy, Dr. Bob Henderson, and **Jim Moroney '74** — Abbot Peter appointed Fr. Julius Leloczky, Kathleen Muldoon, and Kent Clay to fill their seats.

Muldoon, mother of **Ryan '93**, is a certified financial planner and senior vice president of Carter Financial. She serves on the Bishop's Finance Council and the board of trustees of The Catholic Foundation.

Attorney Kent Clay, father of **Brennan '10, Jess '13, Jameson '16, and Sam '19**, is Form II Sustentation captain. "I am glad that a place like Cistercian still exists in the world and feel fortunate that my family has been exposed to all that it has to offer."

**13** Number of Cistercian students and faculty members who traveled to Honduras over the summer as part of the Diocese youth missionary trip.

**42** Number of years Abbot Emeritus Denis Farkasfalvy has sat on the Cistercian school board. He leaves the abbey and the school in very capable hands.

**ALUMNI AWARD TO GO TO ROPPOLO ON JANUARY 26**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 26 when **Mark Roppolo '88** will receive the coveted Jim & Lynn Moroney Award.



**Mark Roppolo '88**

The honor is bestowed on 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."

Look for the invitation in mid-January.



Tim Parker '90, director of facilities, with the Lindheimer Muhly grass.

**KEEPING COSTS DOWN Drought resistant grass grows up**

Since their installation in the summer of 2009, the look and feel of the drought-tolerant plants around the school have grown familiar.

Perhaps the most interesting selection by landscape architect **David Hocker '96** is the Lindheimer Muhly grass (named for botanists Lindeheimer and Muhlenberg) planted just outside the east gym.

The Hill Country native grass flourishes in this spot, reaching nearly six feet in height during the growing season.

"We will cut it back in January," said **Tim Parker '90**, director of facilities, "but by spring it will grow full again."

It's a beautiful way to save money on water and maintenance.

**PIONEERS REUNION, PART III 50th anniversary party celebrates Class of '72**

Due to popular demand, Cistercian's "old guys" reunion was held for the second time at the East Dallas compound of **Robert "Bobby" Bellamy '71**.

This year's event honored the 40th reunion of the Class of '72, Cistercian's second tiniest graduating class.

Once again, members from the Classes of '70 through '74 attended along with a host of faculty members.

Daniel Csanyi, form master for the Class of '71 (1962-65), made a splash. It was the former Cistercian's first visit back to Dallas since 1976.

Half of the Class of '72 attended, including **Peter Carapetyan '72**, **Dwight Slaton '72** (from Colorado), and **David Hines '72** (from Chicago).



(Left to right) Dr. David Hines '72, Dr. John Bush '70, Dwight Slaton '72, and girlfriend Sammi Mike.



(Left to right) Host Robert Bellamy '71, Paul DeCl-eva (71), Mike Haggerty '71, and Buck Smith '71.

**Tommy Heyne '02 wins highest award from UT Southwestern**

**Dr. Tommy Heyne '02** won the 2012 Southwestern Medical Foundation's Ho Din Award, the highest honor given to a graduating student of UT Southwestern Medical School.



Dr. Tommy Heyne '02 also has a masters in theological studies.

"His passions and goals are always centered on serving the poor and addressing health care disparities," said Dr. Angela Mihalic, associate dean for student affairs.

"I believe he will make all the difference to patients across the globe."

Heyne is now serving his residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital.

**Br. Michael Tinker '03 ordained to the diaconate in Loretto, PA**

**Br. Michael Tinker '03**, who took his solemn vows as a Franciscan TOR in July, was ordained to the diaconate on November 3.

"The TOR Franciscans focus on *metanoia*," Tinker explained, "which is Greek for conversion. We seek to daily take up our crosses and follow Jesus and help others do the same."

Tinker is completing his last year of study for an MDiv/STB degree at Catholic University in Washington, DC, while serving part-time in a parish.



Br. Michael Tinker '03 is scheduled to be ordained a priest on October 26, 2013.

**7** Number of Jim & Lynn Moroney Award winners from the decade of the eighties. The seventies boasts 12. Tim Parker '90 is the only alumnus of the nineties on the list.

**1** Class rank held by Tommy Heyne '02 at Cistercian, the University of Dallas, Oxford University (where he obtained a master's in theology), and UT Southwestern.

## ORDINATIONS 2012

### A second pair of Cistercian classmates join the priesthood

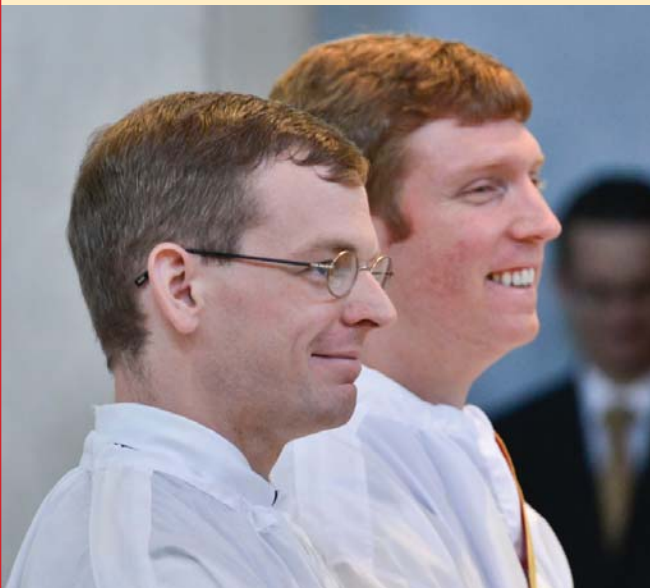
On Saturday, September 8, Cistercian classmates **Br. Stephen Gregg '01** and **Br. Lawrence Brophy '01** were ordained to the priesthood at the Abbey Church.

Bishop Kevin Farrell presided over the ceremony before a large crowd of family, friends, and classmates.

Upon being ordained, Abbot Peter Verhalen placed a blue-accented stole on the priests, in honor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“We give thanks for these young priests,” the bishop said before his final blessing, “and for the great gift God has given to us in this monastery.” He is, he added, grateful “to have the Cistercians at my back.”

(Top) Brs. Stephen and Lawrence lay prostrate during the ordination. (Far left) The two brothers ponder the bishop's remarks. (Left) Bishop Farrell lays his hands on Br. Lawrence. (Bottom left) The bishop congratulates the new priests, their families, and the community. (Below) The Class of 2001 behind Frs. (l-r) Lawrence, Roch, and Stephen.





Fr. Paul McCormick with  
the chalice willed to him  
by his mentor, Msgr.  
Henry A. Drouilhet  
of Beaumont.

CISTERCIAN'S NEW HEADMASTER

# common | uncommon TOUCH | IDEALS

An abiding faith in God leads Fr. Paul McCormick as he brings singular talents and a fresh perspective to the job of headmaster

BY DAVID EXALL STEWART

**B**RITT WESLEY MCCORMICK WAS ENJOYING the company Christmas party with his co-workers in 1991 when his boss, also the host of the party, strolled over.

"Britt," said Rob Rutherford, manager of community economic development for GTE Telephone Operations, "We need to talk." The pair broke from the crowd and moved toward a quiet corner.

McCormick had been working for GTE in Las Colinas for nine months while he completed graduate studies at night. Everyone in the office seemed to like McCormick. Rutherford also was well aware of his horsepower: 4.0 student of economics at the University of Dallas, excellent writing skills, and a soon-to-be MBA. He had been valedictorian of his high school class of 247, president of the student body, editor of the newspaper, and an Eagle Scout.

"I'd like to propose something to you, Britt."

"You know we think highly of you," he began. "We think you're management material. So, I'd like to give you a chance to go to GTE (now Verizon) headquarters in Stamford, CT, to enter the corporate management training program.

"Well, Britt, what do you think?"

Thoughts swirled around McCormick's head.

"I had been waiting for a sign from God that I was meant for the priesthood," recalled Fr. Paul McCormick at a September 2012 alumni gathering at The Old Monk. "But at that point, I knew if I took the management training position, I would never fulfill my

calling of becoming a priest."

The calling that he first sensed in fifth grade became full-blown by his senior year of high school with the support of his spiritual guide, Monsignor Henry A. Drouilhet. In college he majored in finance "to give me something to fall back on in case I changed my mind about becoming a priest."

The decision he had been postponing — one he'd pondered for so long — was bearing down on him. There was no longer much time for delay.

"Rob," McCormick said, "let me think about it over the weekend."

So that weekend in December 1991, McCormick prayed on the nature of God's call, consulted Dietrich Bonhoeffer's discourse on discipleship, and shared his thoughts with Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy.

Monday following the Christmas party, McCormick declined the offer and told Rutherford of his decision to join the monastery.

"You could have knocked me over with a feather," Rutherford remembered. It quickly became a joke around the GTE offices that working for Rutherford was a fast track to the monastery.

"The monastery is like a big family," he had told his mom, Rita McCormick, who hoped that a priestly vocation might bring her son back to Beaumont.

McCormick failed to mention, however, that his Cistercian family had some significant problems — divisions between factions and generations. And barely a trickle of new vocations to renew its ranks. The future of the abbey appeared far from certain.

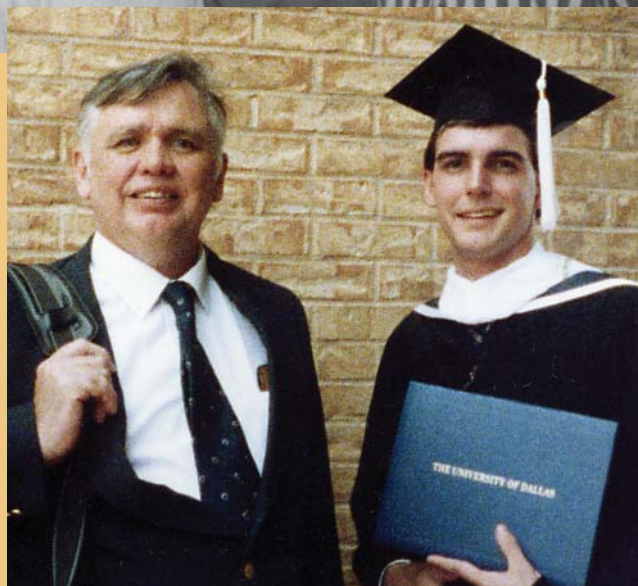


# FORMATIVE YEARS

Britt McCormick grew up in Beaumont, TX, the second of Rita and Floyd McCormick's three children.



Youngster and little leaguer (above). Eagle Scout in July 1985 (left) at the Philmont High Adventure Camp. Valedictorian, president of the student body, editor of the paper in 1986 at his 5A high school in Beaumont (below, pictured as vice president of his senior class with the president left, and treasurer, right). With his dad in 1990 (bottom), having just graduated from the University of Dallas with a 4.0 average (economics and finance major).



But Fr. Paul followed his heart, and his faith in God. “I was thoroughly convinced that since these men were indeed doing God’s work,” Fr. Paul emphasized, “then certainly, God would make sure that it continues to get done.”

“I’ve learned our job is not to worry too much about how God will move the mountain, but rather focus on doing the particular small tasks he asks of us each day. And trust in Him.”

**REMEMBER A FALL OUTING** at Lake Ray Roberts in the fall of 1999,” said Brenda Welch (mother of Eric Welch ’05, who had started Cistercian that fall). “The boys started playing roller hockey.”

“Fr. Paul jumped in and started playing goalie! I thought to myself, “This is going to be great.””

Volleyball, baseball, paintball, you name it, Fr. Paul was involved in the activities of both his forms (2005 and 2013, the current seniors).

Yet, outings were not only about sports, games, music, and conversation. Once the guys got into upper school, Fr. Paul wanted them to take responsibility for preparing and grilling their own meals.

And, he would be right there with them, cooking and serving homespun delicacies from fried turkey and smoked duck to boiled crabs and crawfish with his unmistakable Cajun flair (including lots of Tabasco). Vegetables were included for Hindu students Prasanth Pattisapu ’05 and Vimal Konduri ’13.

“It was fun,” Fr. Paul explained, “introducing them to dishes which for them were totally new, but that I had taken for granted growing up.”

But for Fr. Paul, the classroom, sports, and outings alone did not suffice. He introduced them to another kind of outing — one integral to his life, vocation, and mission.

At the beginning of Form I, Fr. Paul’s forms adopt a family in some far away place, where even the smallest donations make a big difference. During their weekly Mass, the boys pray for the family and pass around the gray adoption bag, contributing whatever they wished. (To date, the two forms have contributed around \$6,000.)

“Each year, we also adopt two families here in Dallas for Christmas,” smiled Karen Garnett, mother of Johnny Garnett ’13. “This is not just about collecting items. Fr. Paul schedules a time for everyone in the form (along with the parents to drive them) to deliver the presents to the families and spend some time with them.”

“Everyone can see how serving others just delights him,” she added. “He has a heart as big as Texas.” In between, there were class trips to nursing homes and to make sandwiches for the homeless.

“When we’d bring the gifts to families for Christmas,” emphasized Harris McGee (13), “Fr. Paul was always so friendly to them. Looking back, I can just see it made him happy to make people happy. He genuinely cares for people.”

He especially focused on his sons, the members of his forms.

“He seemed to have a baseline understanding that we were young and immature,” said Sam Maclin ’05. “We had so many conversations and interactions with him. He never judged us. So we never had that innate fear of him.”

“Fr. Paul is not afraid to love,” Andres Ruzo ’05 added.

“Fr. Paul definitely disciplined us out of love rather than anger or frustration,” said Weston McBride ’05.

“Everything was built on love,” he added, “even when he was

getting you to plant or move logs around as penance.”

“It seems like whoever was there,” remembered Scott Novak ’05, “whether it was in the classroom, hallway, sporting event, or religious occasion, Fr. Paul wanted to make sure we were comfortable, and we felt welcome.”

“He is always ready and willing to talk,” Novak added, “and listen. It is his way of staying in touch with people and what’s going on in their lives.”

Fr. Paul’s everyday activities — like his penchant for celebrating every student’s birthday — offered an example of love, service, commitment, and community.

“Once during a form master’s period,” Jess Clay ’13 noted during his Ring Ceremony remarks in December 2011, “he brought us a game at which various groups throw yarn at each other, in an effort to *tie* the form together.”

“Instead, some members of the form ended up tying themselves together so tightly that they nearly lost all circulation to their limbs.”

**“S**OMEONE ASKED ME,” exclaimed the 6’4”, 77-year-old Rev. Floyd McCormick in his sermon to the all-black congregation (save for Britt McCormick and his grandmother) at a Beaumont Baptist church in March, 1985, “does it bother you that your grandson is Catholic?,” I said ‘No (a multi-syllabic ‘no,’ rising in tone near midway through).’

“Only agreements we’ve ever had,” the preacher declared, “I told him, ‘Son, whatever you are or whatever I am, let’s stay in the right spirit with each other. Don’t matter what comes or goes. And he said, ‘Paw Paw, we’ll do it.’

“Well thank God he’s here today.” (Amen’s could be heard all around from the audience.)

Fr. Paul credits his paternal grandfather for “my initial love for the Bible, a pride in my family’s heritage, confidence in speaking (he made me preach my first homily in a small Pentecostal Church at the age of 16 and perhaps I have adopted his approach a bit), and an abiding respect of non-Catholic Christians.”

In fact, McCormick spent many summers throughout his youth working on an East Texas farm outside of Lufkin with the man he called “Paw Paw,” a self-employed plumber, Pentecostal preacher, and one-time candidate for public office.

“He helped teach me frugality, working outside with my hands, self-reliance (with God’s grace), the value of common sense, and an appreciation of common people,” Fr. Paul said.

They would spend a lot of their time going to church and engaged in biblical discussions. Preachers from churches nearby (and some from out of state) would drop by the house and enliven the discussions.

Back in Beaumont, McCormick’s early spiritual formation was stimulated by Monsignor Henry A. Drouilhet, already in his late seventies when they first met and an old-school, conservative Catholic prelate.

And, while McCormick’s paternal grandfather had limited formal education (fourth grade), Msgr. graduated from Rice Institute (before it became a university) and the Gregorian University in Rome (where Fr. Paul would one day follow in his footsteps).

“In contrast to my grandfather who was clearly a proud populist, Msgr. was quite aristocratic,” Fr. Paul recalled. “Beyond instilling a clearer understanding of Church history and how the bible

## LIFE AS BROTHER

Brothers in the nineties did not teach in the school, so Br. Paul spent many of his off-hours with the founders of the community.



Fr. Paul grew very close to the older Hungarian monks, including former headmasters Fr. Damian Szödényi (left) and Fr. Henry Marton (above).



Br. Paul visits Florence during his two-year stint in Rome.



The McCormick Family at Fr. Paul’s ordination in 1997: (l-r) sister Lisa Gail, dad Floyd, mom Rita, and brother Keith.

# FORM MASTER & MORE

Fr. Paul's joy in serving others has stood out in all his roles at the school, from form master and community service sponsor to student government sponsor and admissions director.



(Above) Fr. Paul with the Class of 2013 as First Formers with one of their adopted families at Christmas. (Left) Fishing, Fr. Paul's passion. (Below) With Andres Ruzo '05, left, and Chris Bloodgood '05), who left in the middle of his sophomore year. (Bottom) Fr. Paul carving pumpkins with First Formers Jess Clay '13, Jimmy Halepaska (13), and Matthew Imaizumi '13.



and Tradition hold together, Msgr. gave me an appreciation for developing one's intellectual life, getting good grades, and aspiring to attend college."

And, as a high school student at French High School in Beaumont, a large 5A public school which tied for the state championship in football his junior year, McCormick did just that.

**CAUCASIAN, EARNING A 4.0 GPA** (only 19 of his 247 classmates earned over a 3.5 GPA), and focused on his religious future, McCormick found himself in a racial, academic, and social minority.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity I had learning at a very early age that people are people regardless of skin color, ethnic background, intellectual ability, religious denomination, or athletic prowess," said Fr. Paul.

"It was not just that I learned how to respect those different than myself," he emphasized, "but I appreciated how much they came to respect me, though white, nerdy, shy, uncoordinated, and resistant to bad moral choices." (McCormick was voted president of the student body by a landslide.)

Britt Wesley McCormick grew up the second of Rita and Floyd Wesley McCormick's three children (Lisa Gail, Britt, and Keith). They lived in a humble Beaumont home. He would have been a success in his parents' eyes by graduating high school and working in the local oil refinery, like his father.

"While Dad always kind of let us do our own things," Fr. Paul recalled, "Mom was on the other extreme. She was PTA president and heavily involved in everything else that we were...from little league, swimming, scouting, bowling, you name it.

"And, as a stay-at-home mom, she also made it possible for all the neighborhood kids to gather together at our house. There was always something going on, a big yard, lots of pets, something good to eat, and of course, it was safe.

"Every nephew, every niece, every classmate, every friend, knew they were loved by mom as though they were each her own."

"Britt's mom played a big role in his scouting," recalled Glenn Cummings, who served as the scout master of Troop 65 in Beaumont. "She drove him around to a lot of our activities."

For eight years, Cummings was there as a trusted mentor and dedicated guide for McCormick at the weekly scout meetings and on the monthly campouts, including two trips to the Philmont High Adventure Scout Camp in New Mexico. McCormick earned his Eagle Award in the ninth grade. For his Eagle project, McCormick coordinated the painting of 2,000 linear feet of parking lot striping at his parish, Pope Pius X.

"In my 27 years as scout master, Britt was the most outstanding scout I ever had," Cummings insisted, "and there were some real good ones over the years."

**W**AS ONE OF THE KIDS WHO GOT IN trouble a lot," said Harris McGee, who left after Form III. "There were days I would question why I would want to stay at Cistercian. I would go to Fr. Paul, and he'd take time out of his day to do his best to give me the right advice."

"In Form III, they had two pages full of all the things I'd done," he remembered. "I was thinking I wasn't coming back. But Fr. Paul came up with a plan where I could if I worked over the summer." McGee decided to depart anyway.

McGee would be one of 13 original members of the Class of

2013 to leave Cistercian. A similar number (9) failed to graduate from the Class of 2005.

If not for Fr. Paul, the departures would have been even more numerous.

“Cistercian was very difficult for me,” Andres Ruzo '05 explained. “I was going to leave Cistercian every single year I was there. Fr. Paul single-handedly helped me to make it through each year and eventually to graduate.”

The 13 who departed from the Class of 2013 were replaced by 13. Freshman year alone, an historic eight students entered the Class of 2013. Fr. Paul naturally welcomed his new sons and the boys naturally followed his lead and welcomed their new brothers.

“My twins, Tyler '13 and Jacob '13, don't look alike,” said Karen Young of her sons' first months as members of the form. “Tyler will talk your ear off. Jacob is more introspective.”

“Within months,” Young said, “Fr. Paul very clearly understood the nuances of each of them. He is very astute when it comes to reading people.”

The class embraced their new brethren so quickly that at the end of sophomore year, one of them, Jacob Young, won the St. Bernard Award.

Beginning in 2004, other duties began to call. Fr. Peter appointed Fr. Paul community service sponsor, and his influence spread.

“I had never thought community service could be so enjoyable,” said Trevor Wylie '09, member of the community service council. “Fr. Paul also showed me how satisfying it can be. Helping other people is really helping yourself.”

“Fr. Paul and I fed off each other on projects like the Down Syndrome Guild Dance,” said Daniel Box '08, a recent graduate of U.D., and another member of the community service council. “We were both passionate about community service. He'd come with an idea, and I'd come up with a corresponding one.”

Thelma Box sent her son to Cistercian in 2000, just a year after the death of her husband, Daniel's dad. She hoped Cistercian and Boy Scouts would ensure strong male role models in her son's life.

“There's something about Fr. Paul,” Box insisted, “he knows how to foster a sense of family. I experienced that ability in him. Fr. Paul fulfilled that father role for me.”

“As an Eagle Scout himself, he was heavily involved in my Eagle project.” At his Eagle ceremony, Box presented his “dad's” pin to Father Paul McCormick, in place of his father.

**“THE OTHER DAY WAS MY BIRTHDAY,”** said Harris McGee, who left Cistercian and the Class of 2013 in 2008. “Anthony Micheli '13 called to tell me that Fr. Paul announced it in front of the class.

“That means a lot,” he said, and then paused. “Fr. Paul is like that with everyone.”

On a Saturday about a year ago, Fr. Paul drove over four hours

round trip to see McGee at the young man's request.

“He is just a caring person,” McGee said. “I talk to him as often as possible.”

“How many Eagle Scouts total?” said Fr. Paul at the senior's parent meeting in late October, repeating a question he'd been asked by a number of parents. “We should end up with exactly 13. Eighteen, if you count, Warren, Helms, Malloy, Hammond, and Solomon (students who no longer attend Cistercian).

“I do.”

Every Fr. Paul family knows the mantra: once a part of the form, always a part of the form.



Even with his additional duties as headmaster, Fr. Paul continues to stay very involved with the Class of 2013, a trademark characteristic of the “Ragin’ Cajun.” Building on Cistercian's sense of community appears certain to be among his chief objectives as headmaster.

The families of 2013 have seen their form master rise from community service sponsor, student council sponsor, and head of Middle School to director of admissions, assistant headmaster, and headmaster over the course of just eight years.

But they haven't seen a decline in the care and love he lavishes on their sons.

Like always, he's been there for them. There at tailgate parties before football games (and at hospitals when they were injured). Helping at the Homecoming Party. Appearing at the State Fair with extra tickets at lunch. Showing slides of their Middle School activities (to relieve their stress levels). Present. Caring. Consistently.

“Fr. Paul has made building a community a huge priority,” said Abbot Peter Verhalen '73. “It comes from his understanding of his role as a priest,” he said. “He's not a cheerleader, but a Boy Scout who builds a community out of service. He wants us all to be attached to each other.”

“Fr. Paul,” the abbot said, “has transformed what we have come to expect from a form master.”

Can he transform what we might expect from a headmaster?

There are many who believe he will.



The "Burger Boys" in their nationwide television commercial. From left: Clayton Long '00, Tom Campbell '00, Brian Madole '00, and John Erdman '00.

# GIVING the BUSIN

Growing numbers of good reasons to

BY DAVID EXALL

**A**LL OF A SUDDEN, there they were. Four Cistercian classmates on TV singing an ode to, um, hamburgers (really). It didn't make any sense, but it was funny. And it moved product. Cistercian quirkiness gone nationwide — for profit.

From the fourth quarter of 2009 through 2010, the "Burger Song" aired nationally on E!, The Food Network, AMC, NBC's "30 Rock," "Saturday Night Live," and Monday Night Football on ESPN. The 10-second "moment" — the most popular spot of Cisco's "Do You Flip?" campaign that introduced the Flip video camera — gave Cistercian collegiality rare visibility.

"The high school chums have been trying to drum up business as viral marketers," said a December 3, 2009 *New York Times* story, "who can create funny, low-cost videos for clients through their Web site, the Bajillionaires Club" ([www.BJCstudios.com](http://www.BJCstudios.com)).

Tom Campbell '00, John Erdman '00, Clayton Long '00, and Bryan Madole '00 don't always make this kind

of splash working together, but they almost always have this much fun.

"It all goes back to Dr. [Tom] Pruitt's class," said Madole. "He would ask for a 'creative response' to a book. Our responses often took the form of videos."

They recast *The Canterbury Tales* as a Western, portrayed Hamlet in a bowling alley (think "The Big Lebowski"), and reinterpreted *The Crucible* as a "rockumentary" for Jackie Greenfield's junior English class.

"I loved those guys," said Greenfield. "They had a good time, but they took their art seriously."

"Mr. [Roberto] Mungia helped us get our videos into ISAS," Madole added. "BraveArt was a great outlet. And Mr. [Jim] Reisch was instrumental by offering a video elective our senior year."

"It was great that we were able to explore this interest we had so early on," Long added, "and given complete control over making our own projects. It's not something a lot of freshmen have the opportunity to do."

After going their separate ways in college, they reunited

Commercial spot for Flip Camera in 2009 (l-r):  
Bryan Madole '00, and John Erdman '00

# ...G 'EM ...ESS

alumni are finding  
work together

STEWART



in Hollywood in 2007. Nowadays, the four spend most of their time working independently.

Erdman, a serious actor at Cistercian, works primarily in post-production.

Campbell, who cut his teeth on making music videos in Houston after school at UT, is currently serving as the second unit director for an upcoming feature film called "Little Boy."

Long does documentary work, editing, acting, and writing.

Madole is working on branded content for clients like Kia and Fox Digital, projects for which he often seeks the help of his Cistercian buddies

"We definitely have ambitions to make a feature (not a big budget production) together," said Long. "We've been talking about it forever. If we can find the time to come together to do that, we'd like to do that once and see how it goes."

"We're waiting for that right person to come along that gets it."

"We have a shared sense of humor from our time at Cistercian," Madole said, "and from knowing each other so well. But we also have this shorthand for camera moves from specific movies we all know. It makes things so much simpler."

In the meantime, they wouldn't mind creating another sensation like the "Hamburger Song"

That magical 10 seconds, Madole told *The New York Times*, was their creative response to an agency's call for "low-key, genuine organic moments."

A piece of cake after *The Canterbury Tales*.



ike Dorsey '99 needed a team of people he could count on to solve a range of challenging problems in a pressurized atmosphere. He didn't have to think long.

"I just hired a few of my Cistercian classmates," Dorsey recalled of the moment —



Owen Hannay '81 (left) of Slingshot and Jim Moroney '74 of The Dallas Morning News have formed a new venture called SpeakEasy.

### WHY WORK TOGETHER?

Owen and I had a mutual view of the social media marketing space. We had strengths in sales, they run an effective agency ... and our Cistercian bonds.  
— Jim Moroney '74

his first real entrepreneurial test — in January 2006.

Offered a chance to help lift a start-up off the ground (courtesy of a New York businessman he met on a transcontinental flight in 2002), Dorsey agreed. The idea was to build a business around driving traffic to the web sites of big-box retailers.

One of the first Cistercian buddies he enlisted was Matt Buchanan '99.

“I wanted Matt on my team,” Dorsey said, “because he has the gift of persuasion. But he also had been a point guard, pitcher, and tailback. He attacked projects like a running back — aggressively.” Dorsey, who ran cross country and track (in addition to playing soccer and baseball), attacks them more like a long-distance runner.

“Mike has an innate ability to take a big problem,” Buchanan said, “analyze it, create a clear path to tackling it, then execute on that plan.”

The two classmates had been talking about entrepreneurial ideas since 2004 and 2005, when Buchanan (disillusioned with his job at a consulting firm) traveled to Egypt on Dorsey’s advice. Dorsey was working on his master’s degree from the American University in Cairo. Buchanan found a job with an Egyptian facilities management firm. In their spare time, they brainstormed business ideas (e.g., a new kind of shower head).

Now they had a live project to sink their teeth into.

While it lasted just a few months, that first project quickly led to a second collaboration that Dorsey and Buchanan called Sagax Media (based on the Latin word for wise).

They would take the value proposition of the previous idea (i.e., give advertisers a way to pay for only quality sales leads) and apply it to an underserved market.

They selected the home services industry, and offered these small businesses — from carpet cleaners and roof contractors to plumbers and electricians — a menu of easy-to-customize web sites plus a menu of internet advertising options (not dissimilar to Google Ads).

While neither Dorsey nor Buchanan had formal computer science training, they proved to be quick learners, mastering topics in programming and web site development as needed to move the project forward. But some problems required special assistance.

“We needed a way to manage lots of rows and columns of real-time data,” said Dorsey. So he called on classmate Kyle Resh '99, who had returned to Dallas to escape the devastation in New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina.

“Kyle was the perfect guy for the job,” Dorsey smiled. “He’s fast and reliable. I had seen that at Cistercian. He created the machine that automated the backend of our custom software.”

**Generally you have enough dirt on them to make it really uncomfortable if it goes awry...**

## WHY WORK TOGETHER?

I was just starting my practice after returning to town. We have a choice on anesthesiologists. Andrew called and it was nice to know someone. We played football, basketball, and baseball together for two years. I get to see him quite a bit.

—Dr. Matthew Nevitt '97



Dr. Matthew F. Nevitt '97, orthopedic surgeon and new team physician for the Hawks (left), with Dr. Andrew Kahn '95, anesthesiologist, in a Medical City operating room.

In 2007, Brian Abernethy '99 had passed the bar after law school at Texas Tech, but preferred business to law. He began helping Dorsey and Buchanan, *pro bono* at first, selling the concept to various industry groups.

John Turpin '99 had been in the home-building business and was looking for a career change. His classmates realized that Turpin's experience with contractors (the business's target client) combined with his technical knowledge made him a perfect fit. In 2008, John joined Sagax as CTO.

"As time passed and the business grew," Abernethy said, "Mike and Matt were ready to move on and John

and I took over the day to day operations of the business."

When Dorsey moved to Palo Alto in 2008 to work on his MBA at Stanford and Buchanan moved to Colorado to start a new venture (SnapROI), Abernethy and Turpin moved the company from Dallas to Austin. Dorsey and Buchanan continue to serve on the board of the million-dollar-and-growing business. The four communicate often.

"We all have a level of trust and comfort," Abernethy said of the four classmates. "You can be yourself without any sugar coating."

**...Oh, and they have the same amount of dirt on you.**

— Owen Hannay '81, Slingshot



**ACK IN '99**, I was looking to make a change," remembered attorney Andrew Roberts '82, who had logged 10 years as litigator with a nationwide firm. "So I started meeting with

Cistercian people to see if they knew of an in-house job."

Jim Moroney '74 mentioned that classmate Jere Thompson '74 was looking for legal help with his company, Caprock Communications, which had gone public just a year earlier.

(Moroney and Thompson — founders of the Cistercian Alumni Association in 1981 — owed Roberts. Having seen the association through its early years, they had persuaded Roberts to take the reins as president in 1990. He was still president in 1998.)

Thompson hired Roberts as a legal counsel in February 1999. Mike Donohoe '80 also joined the legal team at Caprock, which was sold in 2000.

After a two-year stint with another start-up called Masergy, Roberts swore off start-ups and once again consulted with a number of Cistercian alumni for his next move.

Old friend and classmate John Sloan '82 recommended a visit with his brother Ken Sloan '78, who had opened his own, one-man legal practice in 1999.

"I knew Andrew growing up," laughed Ken Sloan recently, "I knew a lot about him. When you're bringing somebody along in a small shop with just two support personnel, you want to know who you're dealing with."



Andrew Roberts '82 (left) and Ken Sloan '78 of Sloan & Roberts LLC in their Preston Center office.

## WHY WORK TOGETHER?

I knew Andrew growing up (he was in my brother's class). When you're bringing somebody along in a small shop like this, with just two support personnel, you want to know who you're dealing with.

— Ken Sloan '78  
Sloan & Roberts

Still, Sloan gave Roberts the standard line, “What book of business are you bringing to the table?”

“Get me a desk,” responded Roberts, “and I’ll help you with your clients and then we’ll build it from there.” Several Cistercian alumni and Cistercian families were already Sloan clients, including the Hartnetts, the Nicholson family, the Lipscombs and others.

“I expanded on that foundation, working with Owen Hannay '81 (including SpeakEasy, see photo on page 16), Mike Donohoe '80, Robert Bondy '82, and other alumni (or referrals from alumni).”

“Some of our clients,” he added, “have kids who attended Cistercian. It’s a great network.”

**“MY FIRST FULL DAY BACK IN TOWN** in May,” laughed John-Michael Stewart '89, “there’s an alumni event at the Katy Trail Ice House.

“I was talking to some of the guys there, Luis Barbero '91 and George Cruz '91, about my move and that I planned to spend the next couple of weeks looking for an office manager.”

An interested Cruz met Stewart for breakfast the next morning and discussed what managing an oral surgery practice entailed.

“I told my brothers, Chris [Stewart '91] and Andrew [Stewart '95], and Mike Carty '91,” Stewart said. “They all wholeheartedly endorsed George.”

“Before we opened,” Cruz remembered, “we took a tour to see how construction was coming along. (The of-

ice is located at Northwest Highway and Hillcrest.)

“Sure enough,” Cruz said, “one of the leasing managers was Andrew Bode '97, brother of Robert Bode '92.”

But Stewart’s alumni connections don’t stop at office manager and leasing manager. Black-Eye Digital, owned by his brother Chris, designed his web site.

To cap it all off, Greg Novinski '82 won the bid for Stewart’s oral surgery services at the Silent Auction during Homecoming. (Son David Novinski '12 will have his wisdom teeth extracted over Christmas break.)

So why is Stewart coming back to Texas now?

“My kids are in fourth, third, and first grade,” he smiled.



## EARING GRADUATION AT STANFORD

with a degree in mechanical engineering in 2009, Weston McBride '05 sent an email to a list of students at Stanford’s graduate school of business. “I was looking for a business co-founder so I could run the technology side of this energy start-up I was working on,” McBride remembered.

He received a single response and set up a meeting with the MBA candidate at the CoHo, Stanford’s on-campus internet café/coffee house.

McBride shared details of his idea and the problem of finding a trustworthy business co-founder; then the two shared some background details.

Sure enough, McBride was sitting across from another

Mike Dorsey '99 (center) with his most recent Cistercian cohorts, Weston McBride '05 (left) and Andrew Bellay '05 of FounderSoup at Stanford.



### WHY WORK TOGETHER?

I know that Andrew and Weston went through the same things as me, so I know that under pressure, they'll follow through.  
— Mike Dorsey '99

Cistercian graduate, Mike Dorsey (who was mentioned earlier in this story), who wasn't just studying for his MBA, he was simultaneously studying for a master's in clean energy engineering and computer science. In fact, the two found they were in the same iPhone app-building class. (Note: Dorsey had never studied computer science or engineering before he arrived in Palo Alto.)

"Weston wasn't alone complaining about the difficulty of finding a business co-founder," said Dorsey. "I heard it all the time in the engineering school. Meanwhile, in the school of business, MBAs were having trouble finding software engineers they could count on."

By January of 2010, Dorsey – true to his entrepreneurial bent – was prepared to do something about it. Based on a concept he had heard of at the University of Michigan, he turned the typical pitch event at Stanford on its head.

Instead of entrepreneurs trying to pitch to wily venture capital managers, entrepreneurs would pitch their idea to talented business and engineering students interested in getting involved in a start-up. Everyone would be looking for a relationship with someone with shared passions and a complementary skillset — a co-founder.

At FounderSoup pitch sessions, pre-screened, would-be entrepreneurs are given 90 seconds to share their ideas. Afterwards, the assembled engineering and business students are free to approach each founder as they wish.

The pilot event facilitated the creation of four teams, two of which were able to attract funding. Demand has grown for subsequent quarterly events.

McBride, meanwhile, welcomed Cistercian classmate

Andrew Bellay '05 to Stanford as he began studies at the graduate school of engineering. Bellay, a UT-trained chemical engineer, and McBride shared a passion for conserving the world's energy. They brainstormed ideas, settling on an educational approach they call MetaNeer Labs.

McBride suggested they meet with Dorsey, once again in the CoHo.

"We have the same humor," Dorsey said, "same values, same work ethic, and a shared history."

"I know that Andrew and Weston went through the same things as me, so I know that under pressure, they'll follow through."

"While I really had no idea who they were," he said, "we were immediately able to found an organization."

Today, Bellay serves as president of FounderSoup and McBride as director. Dorsey has moved on to a position at a mergers and acquisitions firm, while he continues to keep his hand in lots of ventures, from Sagax Media in Austin, LifeSwap, SnapROI, as well as FounderSoup.

While Bellay and McBride are growing FounderSoup, there is something else at work.

"In addition to helping create great teams of co-founders," added McBride, "there's an element of helping and mentoring these young entrepreneurs."

"It's like at Cistercian," he remembered, "learning about the upcoming year's classes from the guys ahead of you. And, of course, advising the guys behind us."

"I aggressively work the Stanford network as much as I can," he laughed. "The Cistercian alumni community is equally valuable and worth working."



William Howard '14

TENNIS

**Flanigan, Howard, and Tanco rally tennis team**

The 2012 tennis season will be remembered for several singular efforts that inspired hope as the team fought against the ever-prevalent David-versus-Goliath odds in the world of SPC tennis.

The Hawks fared very well against teams such as Oakridge, FW Country Day, Trinity Valley, and others. The matches gave the team a winning record and gave **Miko Tanco '14** a chance to shine as the team's Most Improved Player.

The team's number one singles player, **William Howard '14**, dominated early in the season and battled mightily against the top players from the upper-level teams (and defeating one of the top players in the state).

At SPC, the fate of the Hawks' first-round pairing against Houston Episcopal came down to one final match. With a large audience watching and the second-round pairing on the line, **Connor Flanigan '12** clawed his way to victory in a marathon three-hour match. It was a fitting end for the senior's career and helped the Hawks finish fourth in Division II.

In addition to Howard and Tanco, the 2013 team will include the doubles team of **Mitch Weldon '13** and **Peter Yoder '13**.

TRACK

**Tough luck at SPC, but good times ahead**

At some meets, things just don't go your way. For the Hawks, the 2012 SPC Track Championships was one of those.

"We didn't have our best meet at SPC," acknowledged new head track coach Malcolm Dotson, "but the guys gave it their all. The seniors did a great job of demonstrating leadership, and we have some talented kids coming up."

**Ikenna Nwafor '12** placed second in the shot put with a throw of 49' 8" (short of his school record 51' 1.5" throw at SPC 2011).

Team MVP **Luke Tomaso '12** participated in the 300 hurdles, the 100, 4x100, and 4x400, leading the team in work load and effort. Tomaso placed sixth in the 300 hurdles (41.88).

**Tyler Young '13** placed second in the high jump (6' 2"), but the high jumper who jumped 6' 7" earlier in the season (see below) had higher hopes. Young finished fourth at the USA Youth Nationals in June.

In the 100, **Paul Kim '13** (11:48) and **William Song '15** (12:46) ran well, as they also did in the 200, in which the pair ran a 23.43 and a 25.18, respectively.

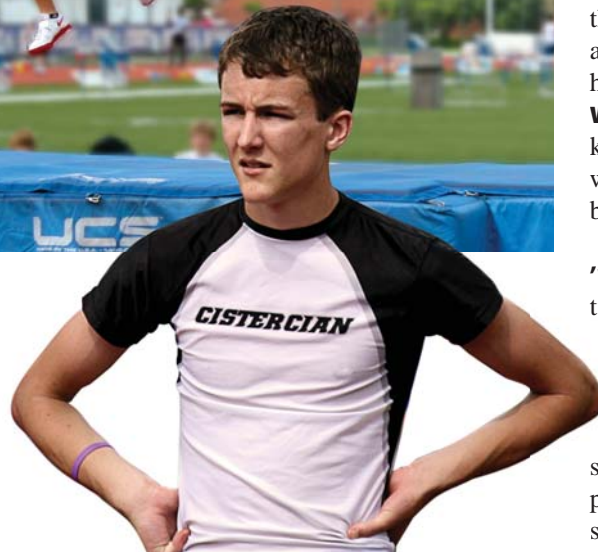
Then there are promising distance runners like **Andrew Beytagh '14**, **Jeremy Garcia '14**, **Ben Horlick '13**, and **Joshua Maymir '15**.

Also coming up are **Nicholas Chee-Awai '13**, **Johnny Garnett '13**, **Harry McGraw '13**, **Barkley Wilson '13**, **Daré Odeyingbo '15**, **Gabe Rogers '15**, **Jack Skaggs '15**, **Tim Stuard '15**, and **Ben Tilden '15**.

"And don't forget our freshmen," Dotson smiled. "They set the 8th grade school record in the 4x100."



Tyler Young '13 at the Tom Landry Meet at Trinity Christian where he jumped 6' 7". He placed fourth at the USA Youth Nationals.



Pitcher Ethan Noel '12

BASEBALL

**12 innings vs. Trinity Valley**

Trinity Valley, a fifth-place D-I team at SPC, visited Cistercian in mid-season, in what would go down as the longest game in memory.

With the score tied at 3-3 after the seventh inning, both teams turned to their closers.

For the Hawks, that meant **Ethan Noel '12** would step in for **Andy Kistler '12**. For four more scoreless innings, the number-one pitchers duelled.

Finally in the 12th inning, after nearly three hours of baseball, **Will Squiers '12** knocked in the winning run, scored by Noel.

"**Sam McGraw '12** caught all but two games for us," Gray said, "and hit lead-off."

**Blake Rutledge '12** stood out at the plate as well as at second base.

**46** The number of Cistercian students participating in track during the spring 2012 season. Coach Malcolm Dotson hopes participation will grow in 2013.

**12** Number of innings in a baseball game between Trinity Valley and Cistercian, a 4-3 win for the Hawks. It is the longest game in school history.

CROSS COUNTRY

**Young Hawks continue to improve, run as a team**

As far as coach Franz Klein is concerned, this year's SPC meet ranks an unqualified success.

While the Hawks placed 15th again, the Cistercian cross-country team improved their times significantly over 2011 (2012 average scoring time: 18:29, 2011: 18:48).

"It also should be noted that last year's race took place on an easier course and in far better conditions," Klein said.

**John Kane '14** - 54th (17:53), **Joshua Maymir '15** - 58th (17:56) and **Jeremy Garcia '14** - 70th (18:16) finished within 23 seconds of each other in a display of the Hawk's teamwork. **AJ Interrante '15** came in less than a half minute later.

SPC was the final meet for seniors **Ben Horlick '13** and **Mitchell Weldon '13**, who led the team admirably throughout the year.

Up and coming runners include **Conner McCain '14** and freshmen **Patrick McGlinchey '16** and **Jake Berard '16**, who greatly improved, according to Klein.

The team placed second at the Carrollton Christian Invitational and the Lake Highlands Invitational.

The Hawks also placed fifth at the Jesuit Classic (small school division).



Senior captain Ben Horlick '13.



Daré Odeyingbo '15 ran for 102 yards while Matthew Merrick '15 threw for 327 against St. John's in the SPC semi-final, small-school playoff in Houston.

FOOTBALL

**St. John's last-second TD defeats Hawks in first-round SPC playoff game, 24-21**

"We didn't know what this year was going to be like," noted Steve McCarthy, Cistercian's head football coach.

But sophomore running back **Daré Odeyingbo '15** and sophomore quarterback **Matthew Merrick '15** played beyond their years behind offensive linemen **Peter Thompson '13** (four-year starter), **Jake Shimek '13** (two-year starter), **Andrew Dudasko '13** (three-year starter), **Tommy Emmet '14** and **Matthew Steidle '14**.

Odeyingbo (6' 1", 230 lbs.) ended the year with 1,639 yards (third in school history) and 25 TDs (single-season record).

When opponents committed to stopping the run, Merrick's poise, vision, and decision-making led the way. He passed for 1,669 yards (fourth in school history) to a variety of targets: **Matthew Imaizumi '13** (406 yards), **Jacob Young '13** (313 yards), **Kyle Rutledge '15** (298 yards), and TE **John Tulloh '13** (185 yards).

Cistercian's scrappy defense, which made key stops on critical downs all season, was led by Thompson, linebacker **Ford Albert '13**, **Bennett Turner '13**, and **Johnny Garnett '13**.

The Hawk's 4-3 conference record landed them in the SPC semifinal of the small school championship bracket vs. St. John's Mavericks.

St. John's veer offense piled up 421 on the ground (0 passing) while Cistercian passed for 327 and ran for 156.

Behind 21-17 late in the fourth quarter, Merrick engineered a long drive that was capped off by Odeyingbo's 20-yard run with 2:09 left. The Mavericks then embarked on a long drive of their own, pulling off a 28-24 victory on a 1-yard run with 26 seconds left.



**NEW PLAYOFF FORMAT FOR SPC**

Colleges conferences aren't the only ones confusing fans.

The reorganized SPC has gone to a North and South Zone format. It eliminates rivalries with Trinity Valley and FW Country Day and shortens the season by a game.

The bonus — four teams from the North and South Zones qualify for an 8-team playoff.

Teams are bracketed by zones, wins, and the number of boys enrolled.

**19** Number of seconds faster Cistercian cross country runners ran on average at the 2012 SPC meet than at the 2011 meet.

**25** Touchdowns scored by Daré Odeyingbo '15 during the 2012 season, the single-season school record. The running back scored 9 TDS his freshman year.

# How a Cistercian classmate saved my life (probably)

I have not done much business with any of my fellow Cistercian grads, but one of my classmates probably saved my life.

I did not know I had a heart problem.

I played football and ran track at CPS, and enlisted in the Marines after graduation. I played (practiced really) a year of football at Austin College, as the world's smallest defensive lineman — and generally stayed in fair shape most of my life — jogging, lifting weights, practicing a martial art here and there.



## Afterthoughts

*Smokey Briggs '84*

I have to. My wife is not a sit-on-the-couch kind of girl. I have learned it gives her physical pain to see a man, especially me, at rest. There is always a tree to remove, or plant, or a hole that needs digging, a fence to mend... the list, I have discovered, is endless.

At 37, I decided I needed an event to train for, to help motivate me to get my rear end out of bed at zero-dark-thirty in the morning, and do my physical training.

A long story short, the guys in my rifle club and I created the annual Run 'n Gun 'n the Sun — a cross country run with shooting ranges interspersed along the way — the west Texas version of the Olympic Biathlon. The course is usually about seven miles. You carry your water and your rifle.

The Run prompted me to become more of a runner than ever before in my life.

A couple of biathlons later, I noticed that no matter how hard I trained, I was not improving.

During the run, I was having trouble as well with heat exhaustion and cramps. Both were a first for me.

I bought a heart rate monitor as a training aid.

It had a little chart that told me that my maximum heart rate was 220 bpm, minus my age. I was 40 or so, so 180 was supposed to be redline for the ticker. The first time I wore it, my heart was pumping along at 220 bpm for most of my six-mile run. Sprinting, I could hit 240. Like a sports car, baby, my engine could run.

Other little flags waved.

I started waking up in the middle of the night with my heart racing, light headed.

Panic attack? Me? I am not the panic attack kind of guy, but maybe I am, I thought.

I discovered that 15 minutes of calisthenics would make the problem go away.

My local doctor was treating me for high blood pressure which averaged a very strange 180/40 — high on one end, low on the other. The blood pressure meds made me feel terrible. I quit taking them.

After about four years of such, in 2007, I took myself to a cardiologist.

"I can tell you what is wrong," he said. "You have a bicuspid aortic valve. I can see it in your carotid artery. It's allowing the blood to flow back into your heart. That is why your pulse is so strong."

An echocardiogram confirmed the diagnosis. Aortic valves are supposed to have three flaps, not two. Mine had two, and they did not close well, or much at all really.

He recommended I have an artificial valve installed, but said there was no hurry, but to quit exercising, except maybe some light walking.

I did not like the diagnosis.

A second opinion yielded the same diagnosis, and the same recommendation. Artificial valve, someday, but no hurry.

I really did not like the diagnosis. I was 42, not ready for the rocking chair, and I really did not like the fact that with an artificial valve I would have to take an anti-clotting agent for the rest of my life — a bad thing to have in your blood if you are fairly active, and live a long way from the emergency room. Minor injuries can become life-threatening when your blood will not clot.

I sat on the information for awhile, and studied medical literature. I kept exercising, but I did quit lifting weights (my concession to the heart docs' advice).

Then I queried my classmates. "Anybody know a good heart doc?"

I knew **Mike Morgan '84**, classmate and one of the linebackers that played behind my nose guard position, was a doctor. I did not know he was a heart doctor.

I asked if he would look at my test results.

He called soon afterwards. I don't remember his exact words, but they were close to, "Go get this fixed right now. You do not have time to mess around."

Mike offered to take care of me at his practice in Arizona.

Literally, the next day, I received a call from a doctor I had emailed regarding a procedure he had pioneered fixing the valve, rather than replacing it.

He specialized in children, but said he would be willing to look at my case and see if I was a candidate for the "fix."

So, I ended up in Houston, not Arizona.

I had an added incentive to visit Houston. Our oldest daughter Ruby was born with a partially closed pulmonary valve. It was ballooned open her second day of life, but the day was approaching when she would have to have an open heart procedure to replace the valve.

So, I had the opportunity to try Texas Children's Hospital out before Ruby was a patient. My surgeon was later her surgeon. As a parent, you cannot ask for more, as you watch them wheel your daughter to surgery.

But first, I cleared the guy with Mike.

Reading a doctor's credentials is one thing. Having a friend who is an expert say, "You'll be in great hands," is another.

After surgery, the doctor told my wife that I had been flirting with disaster. Apparently, the human heart will eventually fail if you run it at redline long enough. (The valve was too far gone to repair. I ended up with a biologic valve, and do not have to take the anti-clotting medicine.)

I feel better than I ever have in my life. I never knew running did not hurt. I do now. I placed third in the biathlon in 2009. Not bad for 40-something. Better yet, I'm alive, loving my wife and children, making a living for them. Life is good.

How long would I have waited if not for Mike's call?

I don't know. Certainly a good deal longer. I had not been made to feel any sense of urgency by the first two cardiologists. I was researching the problem, taking care of my business, living life. My heart was not on the back burner, but it was a long way from the front of the list. I had stuff to do.

Until Mike called.

I've thanked him, but I will again. Thanks Mike!

## Community calendar

DECEMBER

**22 Alumni Christmas Party**

JANUARY

**26 Jim & Lynn Moroney  
Award Dinner**

FEBRUARY

**9 Community Movie Night  
"The Way"**

MARCH

**3 Book Fair**

APRIL

**17 Abbot's Circle Dinner**

# CISTERCIAN

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

3660 CISTERCIAN ROAD  
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## A slight change and its weighty implications

Many people may not have noticed a slight change in the ending of the first presidential prayer of the Mass, the Collect.

In the old translation we heard, "through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever."



On Prayer

Fr. Roch Kereszty

The new one renders the original Latin more faithfully by making one small change: instead of "and with the Holy Spirit," we now have "in the unity of the Holy Spirit."

We will better grasp the importance of this small change if we analyze the meaning of the prayer's entire conclusion.

*"Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son"*

Most Collects of the Mass are addressed to the Father.

In order to make clear, however, that the celebrant does not pray as just one individual Christian but gives voice to the prayer of the Church who always prays, as the solemn ending of the Eucharistic prayer says, "through and with and in" the incarnate Son.

The old, deficient translation sheds no light on the basis on which we dare to pray in such an intimate union with Christ.

*"Who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit."*

The new, correct translation answers this question by saying that we pray "in the unity of the Holy Spirit."

Just as the Father and the Son are most closely united in the Holy Spirit so are we united with the Father and the Son and with each other by the same Spirit.

He brings about communion or unity not by abolishing but rather affirming the personal differences between Father and Son, between ourselves and the Son and the Father, and among the individual members of the Church.

Every other natural unity of persons is based on qualities, interests and goals. The unity effected by the Spirit is based on His active personal presence in each of the (spiritually) living members of the Church.

Thus, if the Spirit lives within us, Christ lives in us since the Spirit joins us to Him and, at the same time, he unites us with every

other (spiritually) living member of the Church.

The divine sculptor, the Spirit who lives within us, carves the features of the Son in our souls so that the Father sees in us the image of his Son and adopts us as his own children.

Conformed to the Son by the Holy Spirit, the Father raises us from the status of a servant to that of his beloved children and brothers and sisters of his One Eternal Son.

The Spirit who personally dwells in us is also the source of new divine energies that characterize the life of the children of God. Already the Old Testament knows that this Spirit is "intelligent, holy and unique... clear, unstained, kindly, firm, secure, tranquil, all-powerful, all seeing" (Wisd 7:22-23).

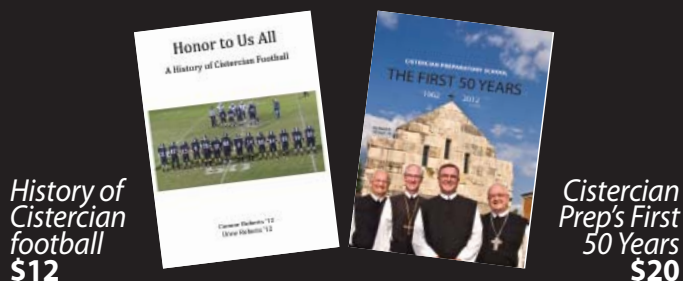
If we cooperate with this Spirit, the fruits of his actions in us will be "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23).

We see now why this small change from "and the Holy Spirit" to "in the unity of the Holy Spirit" has such great import.

The new phrase better expresses the Trinitarian dimension of our life and of the Church's prayer.

When we participate in the prayers of the Mass, we pray not to the Trinity, as if we were "outside," but rather from within the Trinity: united by the Spirit to the Son as his brothers or sisters and as members of his Body, we are now bold enough to address God as "Abba," dear Father (Gal 4:6, Rom 8:15).

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