

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CISTERCIAN IRVING, TEXASONTINUUM

Fall 2013

André Bruce,
Cistercian's new
athletic director.

CISTERCIAN
FOOTBALL

HERALDING A NEW ERA

*A passion for mentoring
fuels new AD André Bruce*

INSIDE

Finding
Founders' Hall

2013 Annual
Report of Giving



Ali and Nelson Wood '98 with their children, Hamilton, Kennedy, and Tennyson.

“Make it happen today”

In 2004, when Abbot Denis announced the creation of the Memorare Society, Nelson was about to marry Ali. Even with this major life decision, he did not hesitate to sign up as the youngest member of the Memorare Society by making a significant gift to Cistercian.

Nelson and Ali’s legacy gift to the School is through a life insurance policy. Nelson has followed in the footsteps of his father and three generations before that in the insurance business, so he understands that a life insurance policy can be an inexpensive but impactful way to create a legacy at Cistercian at almost any point in a person’s life.

Nelson comments, “We are not promised tomorrow. If you want to give something in the future, make it happen today.”

MEMORARE
SOCIETY

To remember Cistercian with a planned gift, contact Erin Hart.
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The CONTINUUM is published twice a year (spring and fall) by Cistercian Preparatory School.

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Looking forward, drawing from the past

Greetings from Cistercian as we begin our 52nd school year. If this issue seems a bit thicker than those of the past, it is because we have decided to start combining our Fall *Continuum* with the Annual Report.



Letter from the headmaster
Fr. Paul McCormick

Combining the two will enable us to continue providing the same engaging and informative stories and photos, along with highlights of the most recent news around campus and among our alumni. But, hopefully, it will also permit us to be even more cost effective by including in this one magazine an annual update on the fiscal health of the School and a comprehensive recognition of all those generous benefactors among the current and alumni families, as well as the larger community, that makes it all possible.

In this issue, one sees Cistercian's first bold

steps as we pursue our second 50 years looking to the future in terms of our facilities, with the nearing completion of the new entrance and chapel, as well as key personnel, given the new direction being taken in Cistercian athletics.

At the same time, we do so with a keen appreciation for all the dedicated men and women who have come before us, giants like Fr. Matthew and Fr. Pascal, whom we lost this past year, and all those — religious and lay — whom we hope to honor with our new Founders' Hall.

And, how better to capture this dynamic of confidently looking forward, even while drawing inspiration from the past, than with the art and architecture of the new building crafted by alumni and long-term friends of the Abbey and School?

I do hope you will enjoy our feature on those contributing their amazing talents to produce an environment that will not only be beautiful and peaceful, but will also inform subsequent generations of students, families and faculty about the wonderful legacy we have inherited and upon which we must continue, by God's grace, to build.

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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, creed, national, or ethnic origin in the administration of its admission and education policies, financial aid programs, athletic programs, and other activities.

VOICES HEARD

Python programming language to be integrated into math courses

In an important departure from past practices, the Python programming language is now being introduced and integrated into the core curriculum at Cistercian.

The language will first be explored in Fr. Mark Ripperger's Form II computer class.

Simultaneously, programming instruction is being integrated into the math curriculum in Forms IV, VI, and VIII.

"We have a proof-based approach to math in general," said Dr. Richard Newcomb, head of the math department. "Programming fits in nicely with that philosophy.

"For at least five years," he added, "surveys of our college freshman have indicated a strong desire for more programming in our curriculum."

"We chose Python," said Dr. Jonathan Gray, "because of its easy learning curve."

Gray expects to feature programming in 15-20 class periods per year in Form VI.

Newcomb plans to set aside 10-11 class periods for programming in his Form VIII calculus class.

Programming electives will continue to be offered by Greg Graham.



(l-r) Dr. Richard Newcomb, Dr. Jonathan Gray, Greg Graham, and Fr. Mark Ripperger.



(l-r) Fr. Thomas Esposito, Dr. Halim Maouche, Fr. Anthony Bigney, and Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01.

NEW TEACHERS

Maouche takes on French duties, monks assume increasing responsibilities

Not all of Cistercian's "new" teachers are exactly new, but each is serving in a new role that comes with fresh challenges.

Let's start with Halim Maouche, who is new to Cistercian.

A French Algerian who earned all his degrees (including his Ph.D.) from the Université de Vincennes (University Paris 8), he has taught French literature and language for more than 20 years.

"I am so excited to teach Cistercian's students," Maouche said, "and to be a part of this wonderful staff. I hope to create an inviting, encouraging and innovative place to learn."

As the form master and math teacher for the newly minted Class of '21, **Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01** has far more responsibilities than during his last stint as a part-time teacher.

"My biggest challenge in teaching math," said the Ph.D. candidate, "is balancing the wide range of aptitudes and

abilities.

"It's also difficult to get every student ready to start thinking more abstractly."

For Fr. Anthony Bigney (Form II religion, history elective, Exodus sponsor), this year's newness revolves around serving as assistant form master for Form II.

"I greet the students as they arrive each morning, and supervise the (controlled) chaos," he said. "Lately we've been playing 'Attendance Bingo.' The first row or column to be filled with arriving students wins."

Fr. Thomas Esposito is splitting his teaching between the University of Dallas and the prep school, where he is replacing the legendary Fr. Roch Keresty who has taught the Form VIII World Religions class for over 40 years.

"Luckily for me," said Fr. Thomas, "I find myself in the role of Pope Francis, with Fr. Roch playing Pope Benedict XVI. Whenever I need help, I know where to find him!"

FIBER OPTIC CABLE COMING TO CISTERCIAN

Faster Internet connections are on the way to Cistercian. According to Greg Graham, director of administrative technology, Verizon is in the process of installing 3,600 ft. of fiber optic cable that will triple the school's bandwidth (from 4.5 MB to 14.5 MB/sec).

FR. GREGORY IN LONDON ON SABBATICAL

Fr. Gregory Schweers is spending the academic year in London brushing up on his art history. Senior English is being taught by the Dr. Tom Pruit while Fr. Augustine is handling Fr. Greg's duties as the faculty sponsor of the Quiz Bowl team, which is continuing to make the school proud.

PRESS BOX RENOVATED

Thanks to funds from Sustentation, improvements have been made to the press box at Hawk Field that include new energy-efficient windows, carpet, and re-wiring the scoreboard.

11 The number of programming class periods Dr. Newcomb plans to devote to programming in his Form VIII calculus class.

3,600 The number of feet of fiber optic cable being installed on campus by Verizon to boost Internet speeds.

CLASS OF 2013 COLLEGE DECISIONS

A group with superior social skills made selections with poise and independence

“The Class of 2013 destroyed my couch in three months,” said Janet Bucher-Long, Cistercian’s director of college counseling, shaking her head. “They were bigger than life.”

With an out-sized sense of confidence, and guidance from Bucher-Long, the 41 members have fanned out in an impressively independent fashion — attending 32 different institutions in 19 different states and one foreign country.

“They are as skilled socially as any class I’ve counseled at Cistercian,” she said. “They also have a spirit of adventure.”

Several of their destinations had not made a Cistercian college list in decades: Dickinson College, Harvey Mudd College (one of the Claremont Colleges), University of Miami, North-

CLASS OF 2013 CAMPUS SNAPSHOT

42%

Percent for which significant financial aid played a key role in the college decision.

western University, University of Tulsa, University of Nebraska, and Rhode Island School of Design.

“They will do fine off on their own,” she said. “I don’t have a worry because they can make things happen for themselves.”

Significant need-based financial aid played a key role in the decisions of 42 percent of the class.

Several members of the class surprised Bucher-Long with their determination, poise, and ini-

32

The number of individual institutions selected by the 41 members of the class.

tiative to push top schools to increase need-based offers. These efforts made it possible for them to attend their first choice.

“I have never seen students act with such conviction. No door was ever shut to them.”

Financial aid offers made on April 1 may represent only a starting point for negotiations if the student is well qualified.

Almost 30 percent of the class intend to focus on engineering, 20 percent on business, 25 percent on sciences and pre-

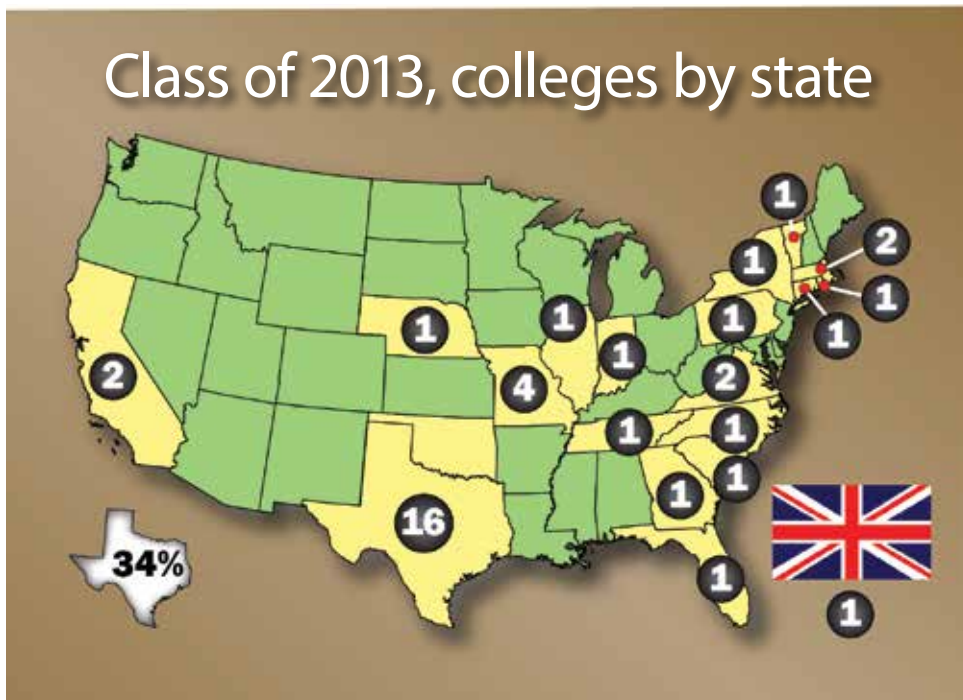
85%

Percent planning to major in engineering, business, science, or computer science.

med, 10 percent on computer science, and 15 percent on the liberal arts (including the fine arts).

Approximately 72 percent are attending private colleges and universities.

Three of the seniors are playing sports at the collegiate level: **Andrew Dudasko '13**, football at Austin College; **Stephen Hoefler '13**, golf at Dickinson College; **Peter Yoder '13**, who is the kick-off specialist for the University of Richmond football team.





Pianists: (l-r) Connor McCain '14, Robert Erickson '14, Christian Raroque '14, and Mico Tanco '14 with Kelly Shea at the new piano in the music room.

GRAND ADDITION Piano donation makes musicians happy

Drs. Jill and John Westkaemper (parents of **Corbin Westkaemper '16**) recently donated a baby grand piano to Cistercian.

"We are thrilled to have such

a quality instrument," said Kelly Shea, who teaches music in Forms I and II.

"It will be a lovely addition for the musicians and will be used to create much joy."

SUMMER CHANGES New recreational camps spread Cistercian spirit

Over the summer, the school launched its recreation camp project for grades three through eight, under the direction of Michael Humphries.

"The idea was to create a camp that reflected the Cistercian spirit," Humphries said. "So there were academics, sports, and recreation. We tried to make them all fun."

The camp, which ran for four weeks from early June through early July, included activities like origami, the science behind paper airplanes, making balloon animals, and lots of hands-on science (like spotting craters on the moon for NASA and the mechanics of making sand castles).

A total of approximately 200 boys came through the camp during its four-week run.

The school offered select parochial schools three need-based scholarship spots.

Next year, the camp and the scholarship numbers are expected to grow.

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY IS BIG SUCCESS

The North Texas Giving Day raised \$287,975 for Cistercian from 338 donors. Through this annual program, the Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) gave Cistercian \$18,000 in bonus funds.

LIBRARY RECEIVES AN HISTORICAL GRANT

Cistercian has been awarded a \$1,000 grant to fund the digitization of archival photographs. The grant came from "The Portal to Texas History," an initiative of the University of North Texas. The organization seeks to preserve primary historical documents.

ANTHOLOGY OF CISTERCIAN WRITERS

This spring, Cistercian will publish an anthology showcasing the writing talents of our graduates. Nearly 40 alumni representing 19 graduating classes have submitted work that ranges from poems, short stories, and song lyrics to editorials, spiritual reflections, and literary criticism.

HOMECOMING AUCTION RAISES OVER \$33,000

The 2013 Silent Auction at the Oct. 11 Homecoming game offered some very attractive items and drew large crowds to the tent on the tennis courts.

The event raised a total of \$33,000 for the **Patric Turner '02** and Tom Hillary Scholarships. Thanks to the generosity of those who donated items/services, the underwriters, volunteers, and all the many bidders.



Community mourns loss of Fr. Matthew and Fr. Pascal

(Above) Abbot Peter Verhalen '73 blesses the coffin of Fr. Pascal Kis-Horváth on August 13. (Left) Abbot Peter with the coffin of Fr. Matthew Kovacs at his funeral mass on July 16. Tributes to Frs. Matthew and Pascal can be found on pages 8 and 9.

56 The number of years both Fr. Matthew and Fr. Pascal served as Cistercian monks. They were ordained together in the summer of 1957.

5 The number of organizations participating in the North Texas Giving Day (September 19, 2013) that generated more donations than Cistercian.

Br. John lies prostrate before Bishop Kevin Farrell at his ordination on Saturday, August 10, 2013.



A touching event for the abbey's youngest monk

The ordination of Br. John Bayer on Saturday, August 10, began with a somber announcement by Abbot Peter Verhalen to the filled Abbey Church.

Just 90 minutes before, Fr. Pascal Kis-Horvath, a quiet hero of the community (see p. 9), passed from this earth.

While the news saddened all, it heightened the appreciation and importance of every moment of Fr. John's ordination, which was presided over by Bishop Kevin Farrell.

It also appears to have heightened Fr. John's senses.

"During the laying on of hands," Fr. John said, "often I thought I could tell whose hands were touching my head."

"It seems special that I feel so familiar, so much a part of the community, that I could guess the touch of my brothers."

The chalice used during the service was a gift to Br. John from his family.

"Fr. John has a special energy that endears him to everyone," said Abbot Emeritus Denis Farkasfalvy.

Many family members traveled long

distances — including his grandmother from Germany — to witness the event

Cistercian friends from around the world, who happened to be in the US for the summer, also attended.

The following day, Fr. John celebrated his First Mass at St. Maria Goretti in Arlington, TX, the church in which he was baptized twenty-nine years before.

"My grandparents, who have attended St. Maria Goretti for 40 years, asked me if I would consider it," he said. "Little did they know, I had the very same idea."

"The pastor and his team made it happen, and a large number of parishioners turned out for the occasion."

"It was really very special."

Fr. John is spending the year studying at the Gregorian University in Rome.



Left top: Bishop Farrell anoints the hands of Br. John prior to his ordination. Left middle: Fr. John greets novice mate Fr. Anthony Bigney. Left bottom: The laying of the hands from Fr. Thomas Esposito. Below: Fr. John's First Mass at St. Maria Goretti.



FR. MATTHEW KOVÁCS | 1929 - 2013

A love for people and the priesthood plus an appetite for theatrics, candy, and fun

Not long after completing his Master's degree in German Language and Literature at Texas Christian University, Fr. Matthew began teaching at Cistercian Preparatory School in 1963, its second year. It was fifty years ago this fall.

It is hard to imagine Cistercian being Cistercian without him.

Brian Melton '71 and **Mike Kurilecz '71** remember his "roaring, maniacal laugh, and bug-eyed vaudevillian face" as well as his "keen intelligence."

"After all these years," said **Gary Lucido '73**, "I've concluded that we were too young to appreciate his sense of humor.

"Looking back, he was actually pretty funny."

He introduced a sense of theater to the contest for grades, dramatizing the quest for achievement with each quiz or test.

Anthony Micheli '13 recalled how Fr. Matthew would walk around the classroom handing tests back personally to each student.

"He made an effort not to make known the poor grades of students, so he would announce 'confidential' for a C and 'very confidential' for a D."

"My fondest memory of Fr. Matthew," said **Peter McCormack '04**, "was how his level of excitement, enthusiasm and showmanship peaked when we had open house."

Since the seventies, he would carefully prepare his classes the day prior to these special occasions. Everyone, he directed, should enthusiastically raise his hand in response to all of his questions.

The students who actually knew the answer should raise their right hand. Those who were not so sure of the answer should raise their left.

"That way," he explained, "we all look good!"

"As First Formers," McCormack said, "we all told our parents they *had* to come see his Latin class performance.

"He delivered with a light-hearted sense of humor and a unique kind of sincere

Fr. Matthew Kovács began at the prep school in the fall of 1963 teaching German. He is remembered as an unforgettable teacher of Latin and supervisor of lunchroom antics.

gracefulness that made everyone smile from the heart."

Important lessons — like the four masculine nouns in the Latin first declension (Poeta, Agricola, Incola, Nauta) — received special attention.

"Everyone," laughed **Todd Bryan '86**, "would come to know the meaning of PAIN."

"He could let out a robust laugh like the best movie villain," said **Mark Ratway '07**.

"Then throughout the year we all realized how kind, patient, and fun he was.

"He would 'make it rain' with candy. Learning Latin was enjoyable with Fr. Matthew. When he laughed or smiled, it was downright contagious.

"As I grew older, I remember seeing First Formers surrounding him, and feeling the nostalgia even then.

"The men we grow into don't forget the boys that we were," Ratway said. "I believe that Fr. Matthew had a deep and graceful understanding of that premise."



Br. Matthew (left) and Br. Pascal at the Cistercian General H. Having overcome obstacles erected by Soviet oppression,

FRESH SKILL SET AT ZIRC

In the final days of the grand abb help from problem-solvers like B

In early August of 1950, Abbot Wendelin Endrédi was drowning in people and problems at the once regal Abbey of Zirc. Thanks to the Soviets, its spacious halls now resembled a severely overcrowded boarding house.

The abbot had to find places and food for the many nuns and priests who had been dumped at Zirc as he sought to protect his flock from the inevitable demise of the abbey itself.

Under these dire circumstances, advanced degrees meant little. He needed people to solve real-world problems.

In Br. Matthew Kovacs and Br. Pascal Kis-Horváth, he found two he could trust.

Br. Matthew possessed farming experience that made him a natural to serve as foreman of the abbey's fields. For the few remaining months of the abbey's existence, Br. Matthew helped to



Fr. Pascal Kis-Horváth in Rome, December 1956, shortly after their escape. Most problems in the West paled by comparison.

Fr. Pascal and Br. Matthew sought out Abbot Wendolin

keep the many hungry mouths fed.

The abbot asked Br. Pascal, his nephew, to go undercover to western Hungary to explore connections to help with an escape route for an individual monk.

Br. Pascal returned with a plan for a much larger escape attempt — one that would result in freeing 13 (five of whom would make it to Irving) while imprisoning eight others, including Br. Pascal himself.

In November 1956, both Brs. Pascal and Matthew escaped and found their way to Rome. They were ordained together in the summer of 1957 and spent two years at the University of Graz, where they served and enjoyed the company of Hungarian refugee college students.

With the completion of the Cistercian monastery in Texas, they left Austria for their new life in America.

FR. PASCAL KIS-HORVÁTH | 1923 - 2013

Content behind the scenes, a personification of the sacrifices made to build the American house

“At our wedding,” recalled Cathy Leonard, whose family came to know Fr. Pascal through his years of service at St. Monica, “Fr. Pascal told us in his homily that marriage would be hard, but that Christ would always be there in the marriage.

“He quoted Mother Teresa saying, ‘For love to be real, it must hurt.’”

Fr. Pascal knew something about hurting.

From the age of 11, he limped as a result of tuberculosis of the left hip.

While many of the Hungarian Cistercians could tell tales of their escape from Hungary, Fr. Pascal could tell the tale of two escapes — and of being captured and tortured after the first in 1950. (He successfully escaped in 1956.)

Fr. Pascal’s story lies at the heart of the Cistercian experience.

Not just because he instigated and steered the greatest single escape of Hungarian Cistercians to the West (see center sidebar), an escape that supplied critical personnel to the fledgling American effort.

Not because he suffered the harrowing fate all feared most — being arrested.

Not even because he came about his heroism naturally, even jovially.

His story captures the ultimate testament to his love for God, the Cistercian Order, and to obedience to his superiors.

In Irving, these qualities in Fr. Pascal would continue to serve as a beacon, even as he served behind the scenes as Abbot Anselm’s right-hand man in charge of the monastery’s purse strings.

“He also was our problem-solver,” said Fr. Julius Lelóczy. “He did our shopping and arranged for repairs. He kept the house going.

“Among all the priests, he was the only one without a college education,” Fr. Julius added. “Yet he seemed to understand human nature far better than the rest of us.”

His relationships stretched far and wide, including many members of St. Monica like the French family, Melinda French Gates

was said to have asked Fr. Pascal to marry her and husband Bill. (He declined due to illness.)

After Fr. Pascal presided over the wedding of Cathy Leonard and her husband John, the couple had trouble conceiving a child. They asked for Fr. Pascal’s prayers.

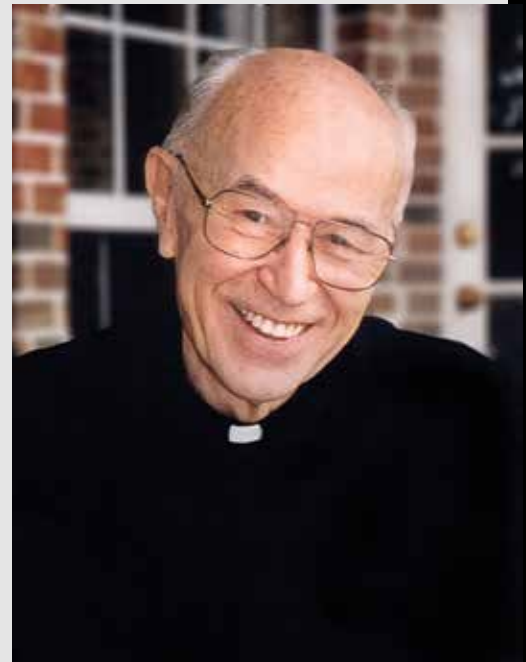
When their many efforts came to fruition and their first daughter was born, Fr. Pascal wrote them a letter. He asked them to share a piece of wisdom with their daughter.

“Teach her, convince her that we can be loved without having deserved it,” he wrote. “Let her see that grace comes first, and not our merits.”

“That letter,” noted Leonard, “was kept in a frame in her room from house to house, all the way up through her graduation from college.”

In his latter years, Fr. Pascal’s disarming charm disguised the torment he endured from flashbacks to moments of imprisonment and torture at the hands of the Soviets.

His suffering served as a stark reminder to all in the abbey that the success of the Hungarians’ outreach in America had come with a heavy price.



Fr. Pascal Kis-Horváth served as Abbot Anselm’s trusted advisor for nearly 30 years, including 12 years as subprior from 1976 to 1988.



Cinder blocks frame the space that will become the chapel in Founders' Hall. The front wall of the chapel (at the far end of the space) will be made of stained glass.

finding Founders' Hall

As the vision for honoring the school's founders evolved, opportunities for art, architecture, and redemption grew

By David Exall Stewart

“**T**his will be the last building project at Cistercian for a long, long time,” reflected architect Gary Cunningham ’72 in September, his voice trailing off briefly as he pondered that thought and the 6,000 square feet of space

between the Middle and Upper Schools.

Having played a key role in all building projects at Cistercian from the abbey church forward, Cunningham might have been contemplating how this last one — the smallest of them all — felt like it had taken longer to design than the rest put together.

Then, in an instant, his mind snapped back into overdrive and resumed its customarily lightning-quick pace.

“We’ve redesigned it about six times,” he acknowledged. “We’ve had to scramble really hard to get the chapel design right. It is a very tricky roof system, very involved, like origami. We’re still finalizing some things.”

Back when the 50th anniversary campaign was launched in 2007, the concept for the “entrance building” did not include much more than offices, a reception area, and the vague notion of a “founders’ hall.”

By 2010, the idea of a small chapel downstairs had helped ignite enthusiasm for the project and give it a higher purpose. But the project continued to suffer from an identity crisis.

By late 2012, Abbot Peter Verhalen ’73 called for the chapel to be elevated from the basement to a place of prominence upstairs.

But Cunningham’s initial designs of the upstairs chapel failed

to inspire the abbot.

“We hadn’t clarified in our own minds just how important this chapel should be,” suggested Greg Novinski ’82, assistant headmaster and head of Upper School. After many conversations, he sought to synthesize his feelings and the thoughts of the central players, including Abbot Peter, Fr. Paul McCormick, Chris Medaille, and Tim Parker ’90.

“We have been trying,” Novinski wrote in a memo, dated March 21, 2013, “to find ways to fit [our desire for a sacred space] in among the other needs.

“But perhaps we have it backwards,” he contended. “Maybe we need to consider the chapel the first goal.”

“It does not have to be large but the chapel needs to make a statement — in that it ought to be a building which could be nothing else, which could never be confused for a classroom or meeting room, even decades from now.”

With this new direction, Cunningham went to work and designed the hall around the chapel, highlighting the unifying spirit of the school — and so by extension, celebrating the spirit of the founders.

“Inside and out,” Cunningham said, “the chapel is covered in limestone, very similar to the church. We also refer back to the Abbey Church by using the same wood slats in the pitched ceiling.”

“So now, instead of just a meditation space,” he said, “the school will have a sacred space in the middle of campus where up to 25 can attend Mass.”



Emil Frei & Associates is a multi-generational family company that was founded in 1898. (l-r) Steve Frei with his father Robert, 88, and daughters Elizabeth and Jennifer.

The chapel's mood will be created by an expanse of stained glass that will stretch from the floor to the ceiling of the east (front) wall.

Twists and turns through the wooded 10-acre estate in the Kirkwood section of St. Louis wind up at an old house and the cozy studio of Emil Frei & Associates, Stained Glass Artisans.

In September, Abbot Peter and Fr. Paul found classical music playing inside amidst chatter, laughter, and a stream of near-constant jokes from Steve Frei, the firm's president.

"Texas is a big state," said Frei, unable to resist with visitors from Dallas. "My brother lives out in West Texas and he told me it takes two days to drive across the state.

"Yeah," I told him, "I had a car like that once."

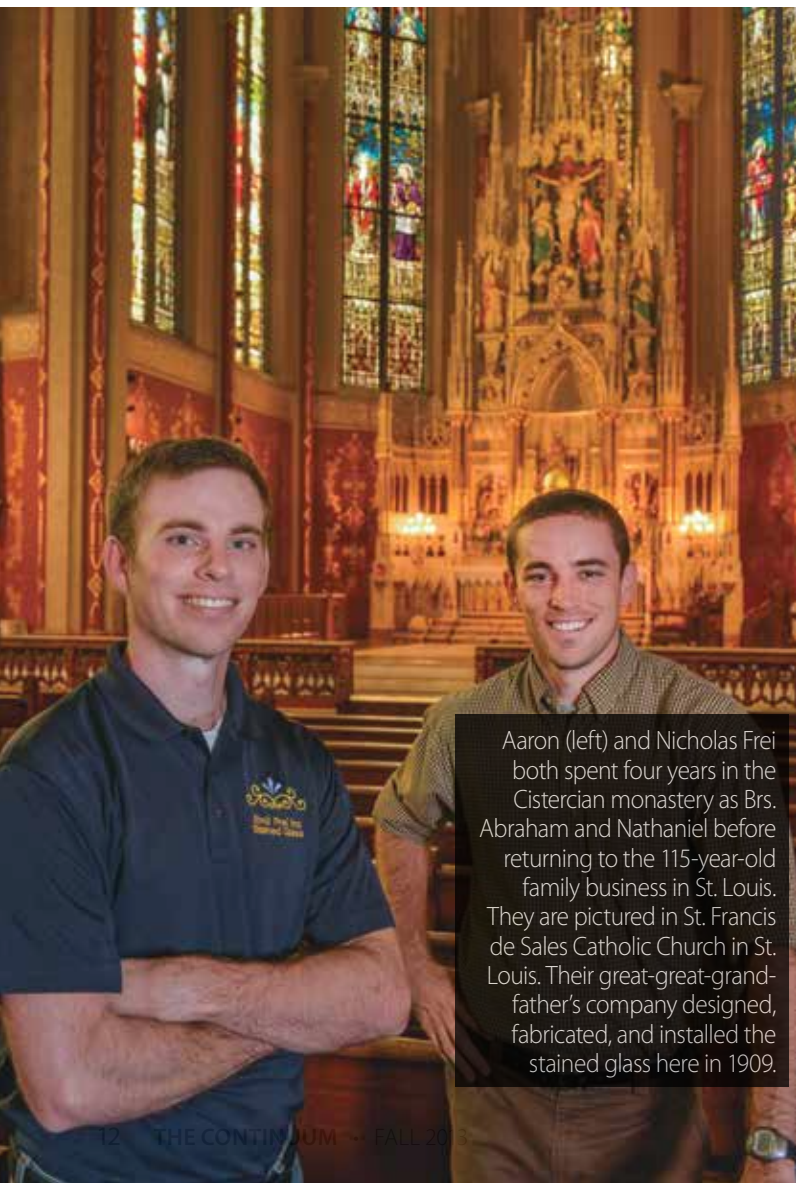
"It is an amazing and unique family-run business," said Abbot Peter. "It has been all about art and beauty for over 100 years."

For virtually that entire span, the firm has used only its own stable of artists who understand the power and intricacies of the stained-glass art form and are dedicated to sacred art.

Stained glass designed, fabricated, and installed by Emil Frei can be found in thousands of places of worship around the world. Some notable works include the "Space Window" at the National Cathedral, Washington, DC (which includes a moon rock) and Holy Trinity Church in Dallas (notable primarily as the abbot's parish when he was growing up).

"About half our associates are family members," Frei said, turning serious. "Most will never take another job. Everyone loves it here." At lunch, they eat together outside on the patio (weather permitting).

Eighty-eight-year-old Robert Frei, an artist and former president of the company, rarely misses a day. He reminds everyone of the art and craftsmanship that have stood as



Aaron (left) and Nicholas Frei both spent four years in the Cistercian monastery as Brs. Abraham and Nathaniel before returning to the 115-year-old family business in St. Louis. They are pictured in St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in St. Louis. Their great-great-grandfather's company designed, fabricated, and installed the stained glass here in 1909.

Artist William Frank, a UD graduate, will design the windows and, where he sees fit, will paint on the stained glass with metal oxides.



hallmarks of Frei stained glass since 1898.

Four of Steve Frei's five grown children currently work at the firm, including sisters Jennifer and Elizabeth, plus sons Aaron and Nicholas.

Today, youngsters can be seen running around the studio taking on some of the same tasks that his children did decades ago.

They represent the sixth generation and are expected to carry on Emil Frei's world-wide reputation for stained glass well into the latter part of the 21st century.

"Growing up," said Nicholas Frei, 30, "my dad invited all the kids to participate. He never pressured us. But all five kids worked at the studio a lot growing up. We grew up doing this work. And it was there if we wanted it."

"I was totally shocked," remembered Steve Frei, "when Aaron (Br. Abraham) announced that he wanted to become a priest and join the Cistercian Abbey."

The eldest of the Frei brothers, a 2003 graduate of the University of Dallas, joined the monastery in August 2003 along with Br. Joseph Van House. The two represented hope for the future; few dared to imagine the volume of vocations to come.

Br. Joseph and Br. Abraham personified the aspirations of the entire Cistercian community. As the eldest of the "young monks," they played important roles in attracting successive classes of young men to consider a vocation, and leading them.

"There was lot of sadness in St. Louis," recalled Steve Frei, "although we knew that Aaron's feelings for the Cistercian community were very strong."

It wasn't easy for Br. Abraham either, whose chosen name may have suggested the significance of the sacrifice he was asking of himself.

"Aaron is a natural leader," said Abbot Emeritus Denis recently. "He lights up the room when he enters it."

A talented high school hurdler, Br. Abraham coached track for two seasons and frequently could be found playing in pick-up basketball games at the school.

Three years later, younger brother Nicholas joined the monastery as well, becoming Br. Nathaniel.

"If there were shenanigans in the abbey before," Abbot Denis once told Steve Frei of the year that both Frei brothers lived in the abbey, "I knew it was Br. Abraham. Now I don't know whether it is Abraham or Nathaniel."

When making their decision to join the monastery, each Frei brother recruited a UD classmate to take his place in St. Louis at the family business.

Both John Wheadon (via Aaron) and William Frank (via Nicholas) have become integral members of Emil Frei and Associates.

"I understood there was some sadness in St. Louis when your son joined us in 2003," Abbot Denis told Steve Frei when Br. Abraham decided God wanted him in St. Louis in the summer of 2007. "Now I know how you must have felt."

Three years later, Br. Nathaniel came to the same conclusion as his older brother, and returned to St. Louis and the family business.

"They left a part of their hearts in Dallas," admitted Steve Frei of his two sons. "Now, our job is to create something that all the Cistercians can appreciate."

"I have a couple of renditions," piped in artist William Frank, who grew up with a brother and a number of friends who attended Cistercian. He attended church at Cistercian occasionally while a student at UD. "But I am not happy with them yet."

"I am trying to take into account the general shape and aesthetics of the space which resembles a square with a triangle on top."

"Will has shown remarkable talent," said Aaron Frei, who will

cut the glass for the project, “especially for his age.”

“We would love for Cistercian to have one of his best works.

“It is a small window,” he noted, “but because the room is small, it will be really impressive.”

“Aaron will control the color palette,” said Frank, “and through his selection of the various mouth-blown glasses, he will control what the viewers see behind the stained glass (e.g., trees, people).”

On their September visit to the studios of Emil Frei, Abbot Peter and Fr. Paul discussed the content of the window. Not surprisingly, they had little difficulty in communicating the theology of their ideas.

“Beauty can be a powerful evangelical tool or witness,” said Aaron Frei. “While in the abbey, teachers reminded us that rationality is great, but to witness beauty and love is the thing that moves people.”

“Beauty can be a powerful evangelical tool or witness.”

— Aaron Frei
Emil Frei & Associates

“We hope the images on the stained glass at Cistercian can interest and provoke students’ thinking for years to come,” he said.

“There was always this thing in the back of my mind,” insisted Nicholas Frei of his four years in the Cistercian monastery. “Fr. Roch used to talk about the going out and the return — the concept that everyone must go out and explore to find themselves.”

“Exitus et reditus.”

“Still,” he laughed, “It always bothered my dad that Cistercian didn’t have any stained glass.”

“I think we both wanted to serve the church,” said Aaron Frei. “We were just torn whether to teach or to do stained glass.”

Now, it appears all will be happy.

“My hope is to enkindle and enlighten through painting,” said Fred Villanueva (*91) in a 2008 news release that accompanied the debut of *Pope Benedict XVI at Prayer with the Holy Theologians*, a 8’ x 14’ oil and acrylic painting on canvas.

The piece was displayed in New York City at the National Museum of Catholic Art and History, and in Washington, D.C., where Pope Benedict XVI had a chance to view it at the Pope John Paul II Center on April 17, 2008.

Word of the piece and the Cistercian-esque “enkindle and enlighten” quote made its way back to Dallas through Roberto Munguia, who passed the news on to Fr. Peter and Abbot Denis.

Both wrote Villanueva to congratulate him.

“I felt a sense of having actually gone out into the world and accomplished something that was worthy,” smiled Villanueva recently. “I began to feel that I was raised to do this and I had been nurtured there at Cistercian.”

The road to believing in himself and his art had been a lengthy and bumpy one.



After leaving Cistercian after Form VII for Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet, Villanueva tried his hand at the applied arts (e.g., furniture design) at his family’s ironworks business near Fair Park.

“I failed miserably,” he laughed.

But he learned from it, and began to travel to see the masters — from Europe to those of his Hispanic heritage.

Living blocks from ground zero in New York City at the time of 9-11 also made its mark.

“It felt like a war zone,” he recalled. “It shocked my senses and served as a wake-up call. It helped my understanding of theology and how to integrate it into my life.”

All the experiences seemed to enkindle and enlighten him.

Last year, Villanueva and wife Norah settled down in Dallas.



Fred Villanueva ('91) painted the 8' x 4' *Pope Benedict XVI Praying with the Holy Theologians* (top) in 2008. Villanueva will paint an 18' x 9' mural that will be digitally reproduced and sandwiched between glass (in the area where the Cistercian seal is positioned in the rendering above).

He purchased the warehouse near Fair Park that had housed his family's business for so many years, but now sat empty. He had become an artist full time.

“I was talking with Tim Parker at BraveArt where I was a juror,” Villanueva said. “We talked about my mural paintings and my show in New Orleans.”

With the chapel moved upstairs in the new designs for Founders' Hall, ideas were being considered for a translucent screen between the reception area and the faculty work room in the rear of the first floor.

Villanueva had recently completed a series of canvases (both oils and acrylics) that were on exhibit at the New Orleans Museum

of Art from March to June. Included in the show was a 10' x 16' work entitled *Pope John Paul II with Saints Venerated in New Orleans*.

Soon discussions began with Villanueva to create an 18' x 9' piece capturing the school's history.

“I am fascinated with how the Cistercian Order exploded under St. Bernard,” Villanueva said.

“In a sense, we are the benefactors, the heirs of that apostolic succession.”

Another chapter in the mural for the reception area captures the strong influence of the Hungarian Cistercians and their oppression at the hands of the Soviets.

“In Fifth Form, we watched the 1956 documentary film in which Fr. Denis appears briefly,” Villanueva recalled. “That image

has stuck with me.”

The mural’s third panel will outline the school’s relatively brief stint in Texas.

“I started by assembling photographs into a collage,”

“Fr. Paul mentioned that pines planted by Fr. Damian had to be removed.”

— Steve Wilder ’95

should make quite a statement.”

“I believe Cistercian gave me the theological teaching and the inspiration to do something ambitious,” Villanueva said. “Something out of the ordinary.”

Villanueva said.

“When we’ve settled on all of the content, I’ll paint the finished design on canvas. In the end, it will be scanned and digitally reproduced on a laminate that will be placed inside the glass partition.”

“Fred’s style is big and bold,” Cunningham said. “In between the glass, it will allow light to shine through. It

“My experience is pretty limited,” admitted Steve Wilder ’95, who is leading the effort to build the altar for the chapel in Founders’ Hall.

“In fact,” he said, “I’ve only made a few pieces of furniture for my parents. I don’t have a lot of tools, just a mitre saw and a sander.”

So how did Wilder land the assignment?

On a visit to campus over the summer, Fr. Paul offered to give Wilder a tour.

“He showed me around,” said Wilder. “I saw all the renovations and he gave me a sense of what the new building was all about. He pointed out where the new chapel would be located.”

“In passing, Fr. Paul also mentioned that some pines planted by Fr. Damian [Szödényi] had to be removed.”

“During my drive home,” Wilder said, “it hit me that I should volunteer to build an altar for the new chapel with those logs.”

“Cistercian means a lot to me,” Wilder explained. “I was born in Irving. I met my wife of 13 years, an Ursuline graduate, here at Cistercian.”

But there has been a void for Wilder and his classmates.

When Fr. Tim Coble left the monastery and the priesthood behind in 1998, he left the Class of ’95 without the glue most

forms take for granted after they graduate.

“A lot of us still love the school,” said Steve Wilder, “but logistically, we don’t have the form master to pull it all together.”

“Fr. Peter and I would love for you to build the altar,” Fr. Paul said.

“I was shocked,” Wilder said. “It is a big honor to build this centerpiece of the chapel.”

He will have some help. Greg Novinski ’82, whose father Lyle Novinski designed and built the original altar for the school back in the sixties, will help.

They will use a design similar to the original.

“I am just so happy they are building this church right in the middle of the school,” Wilder said.

“We have three children and my youngest, a four-year-old, is a boy,” said the UD graduate.

“I hope he gets to see the altar his dad made.”

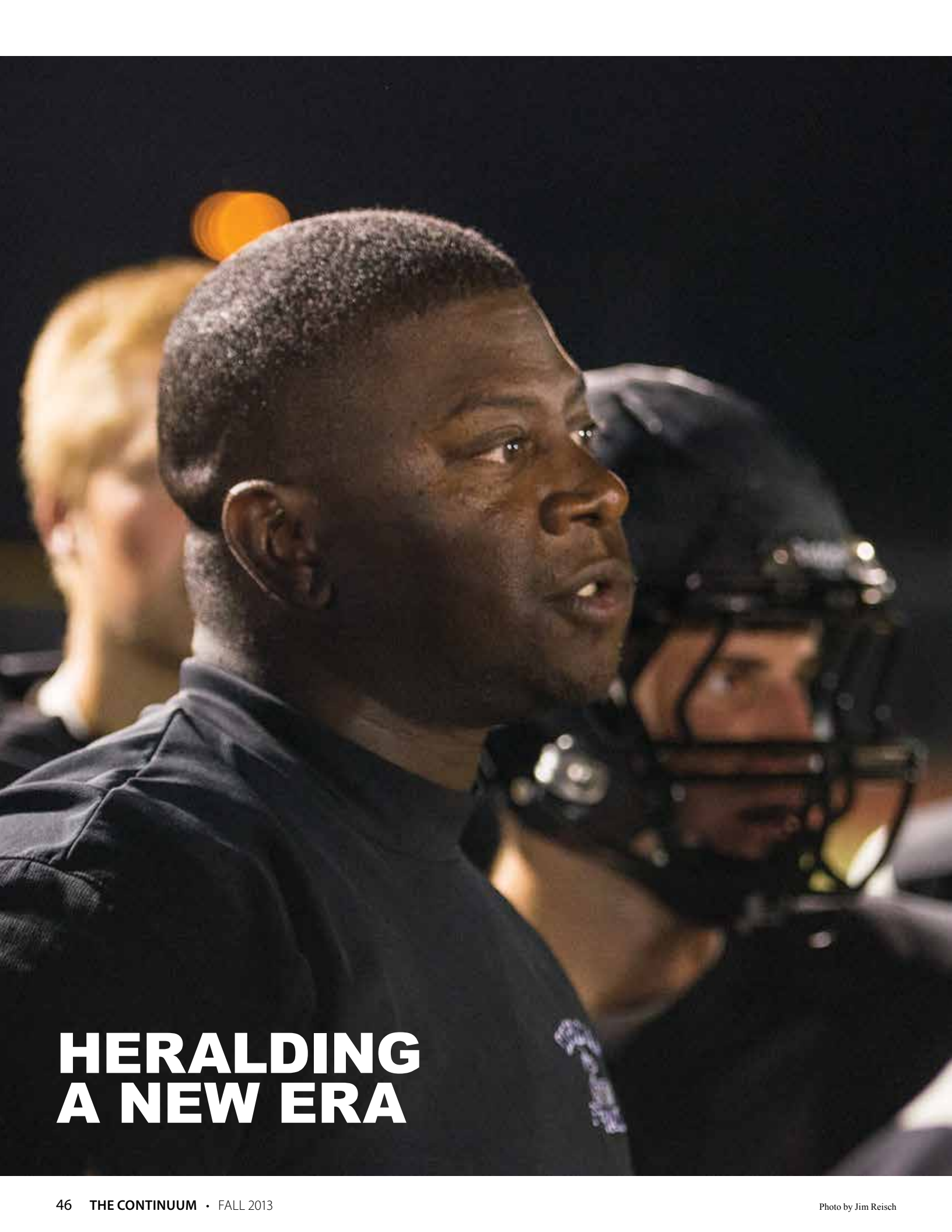
“I felt strongly that I should offer this up to the school,” Wilder added. “I am just going to trust that it works out.”

Spoken in the true spirit of the school’s founders.



(Above) Steve Wilder '95 with the pine logs prior to their being milled on Oct. 11 in Sanger, Texas. He has volunteered to craft an altar for the chapel in Founders' Hall from the trees felled in preparation for construction on the project.





HERALDING A NEW ERA



*A passion for
mentoring
fuels new
athletic director
André Bruce*

By David Exall Stewart

“YOU’RE NOT RUNNING hard enough,” barked the new coach through the heat on the first day of strength and conditioning workouts in June of 2009.

“Ikenna,” he said pointedly and more forcefully, “we need your *best* effort.”

“He kept yelling at me,” recalled Ikenna Nwafor ’12. “It made me mad. He wasn’t even my position coach.”

At the end of practice, the new coach, defensive coordinator André Bruce, and the 6’4”, 260-pound sophomore defensive tackle talked as they walked from the field.

“You may be physically superior to everyone on the field here,” Bruce said, “but I expect you to strive to do your best regardless. I am not going to let you get by on your natural gifts. I want effort.

“No one can fault you,” the new coach added, “as long as you’re giving it your best effort.”

“That stuck with me,” said Nwafor, who after his red-shirt year as a freshman, is starting to earn some playing time at nose guard for the Top-10 ranked Stanford Cardinal.

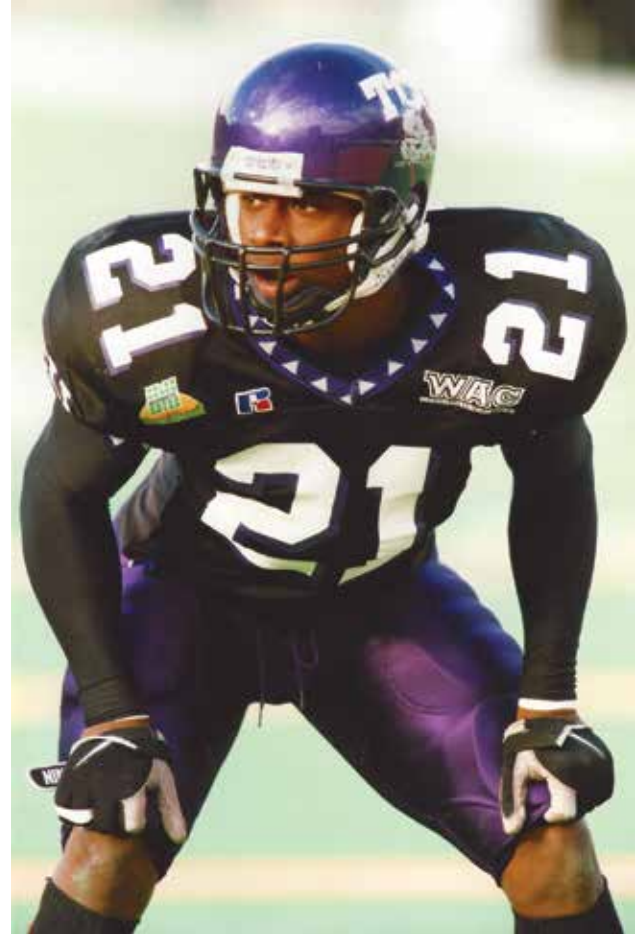
“When I got to Stanford, everyone was bigger, faster, and stronger than me,” he said. “Coach Bruce and I would talk and he encouraged me to keep working hard and persevering and told me that I would eventually get to where I need to be.

“He reminds me a lot of the coaches out here,” he added. “He’s one of the tougher coaches I’ve ever had. He expects a certain level from everyone.

“He expects a level of greatness.

“He helped everyone on our teams at Cistercian to realize their potential.”

AD André Bruce also serves as defensive coordinator for the varsity football team. Here he prepares the defense for a series against St. Mark’s.



“It’s all about man-on-man mentorship with Coach Bruce,” said Jamal Lett, who played cornerback for Bruce at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, between 2007 and 2009.

“I remember being late to one of his 8 am meetings,” Lett laughed. “He made me run in practice and told me, ‘Jamal, you’ve got to get yourself together.’”

While Bruce coached the cornerbacks, a defensive lineman named Derrick caught his eye.

“This young man had some problems in his life,” remembered Bill D’Ottavio, associate head coach and defensive coordinator at Samford, “and he was struggling with classwork. He was about to flunk out.

“André encouraged Derrick and eventually helped him to apply to a junior college,” D’Ottavio added. “He called occasionally to check on him.

“If André doesn’t extend himself in that situation,” he said, “who knows?”

“Coach Bruce made sure Derrick was going to classes,” Lett added, “and that he was going to graduate, and going to church.”

“He doesn’t brag about the good things he does,” Lett said. “He just does them.

“He would always say, ‘You’re my players forever, you’ll always be my players.’

“When I got my first job,” Lett smiled, “I called him just to tell him I arrived on time. He laughed and said, ‘Jamal, I knew you’d get it.’”

“It’s all about man-to-man mentorship with Coach Bruce...He always said, ‘You’re my players forever, you’ll always be my players.’”

As a running back who ran for over 2,200 yards and 34 touchdowns his senior year for the Clear Brook Wolverines, André Bruce attracted college recruiters from around the country to the family home in Clear Lake (near Houston).

But one coach stood above the rest. Pat Sullivan.

“One of the things that we do in recruiting,” explained Coach Sullivan, the 1971 Heisman Trophy winner from Auburn who was head coach at TCU from 1992 to 1998, “is to start with character. That’s first. Second is the student. And football is after that.”

(Sullivan succeeded in finding many fine character guys as well as some pretty good football players during his tenure at TCU. They included LaDainian Tomlinson and 16 others who were drafted into the NFL.)

“I could tell on my visit to André’s home,” said Sullivan, who has served as head coach at Samford University since 2007, “that he was a quality person, real close to his mom and dad.”

Bruce’s mother, a nurse who passed away in 2008, had pushed André to be the best student he could be.

And dad Gary, who worked nights at the Celanese petro-chemical plant in Houston, helped shape his son outside school, including on the football field. (As a 120-pound wide receiver, the elder Bruce played for Texas coaching legend G.A. Moore at Pilot Point.)

Bruce started at running back as a freshman Horned Frog, but dark clouds arose on that career path on a sunny Saturday afternoon at Amon Carter Stadium in November 1995.

In the final contest between SMU and TCU as members of the Southwest Conference (a 19-16 win for the Horned Frogs), Bruce broke his leg.

“With the screws they had inserted,” Bruce said, “I was



(Far left) André Bruce as a highly touted running back in high school with his dad in 1994. (Left) As cornerback with TCU in 1997. (Above) As assistant director of football operations at TCU in 2000. (Right) As defensive coordinator of the Cistercian Hawks in 2013.

advised that I would be better served to avoid getting hit.” His days carrying the football were numbered.

Bruce tried to embrace the change. “I liked the idea of dishing out some punishment on defense.”

Still, as a sophomore, he played running back for several games before making the switch to cornerback, and defense, permanent.

Unfortunately, the Horned Frogs foundered during Bruce’s junior year, going 1-10. Coach Sullivan was replaced by Dennis Franchionne.

As a senior, Bruce earned the Abe Martin Award (TCU’s highest award) and the Iron Frog award. He made several key plays in TCU’s unlikely 28-19 upset of USC in the 1998 Sun Bowl, including a key deflection in the end zone on a Carson Palmer pass attempt.

With the switch from offense to defense and the head coaching change in 1998, Bruce had never had the same position coach from one season to the next.

But Coach Sullivan remained his coaching role model.

“I think very highly of Pat Sullivan,” said Bruce. “It was not just the X’s and O’s.”

Coach Sullivan brought Bruce from Rice University to coach cornerbacks at Samford University in Birmingham in 2007.

“Coach Sullivan emphasized that relationships are the most important, the most long-lasting things you gain from playing and coaching football.”

“Relationships are the most important, the most long-lasting things you gain from playing and coaching football.”

“I want to pass that down,” he said. “The relationships from sports last a lot longer than the bumps and bruises.”

The drive from Birmingham to Dallas stretches about 650 miles. Most of the way, Interstate 20 points due west. But as the 31-year-old André Bruce drove to Dallas in the spring of 2009, he wasn’t exactly sure where he was going professionally.

Behind him lay a college coaching career that in the course of six years had taken his young family from Emporia State in Kansas, to Rice University in Houston, and to Samford University in Birmingham.

Ahead in Texas lay wife Heather and daughter Alanah, 6. They had begun looking for schools the month before.

“Coach Bruce could be very stern,” laughed Jamal Lett, who played for Bruce at Samford, “but he loves the Lord and he loves his wife and daughter (Bruce now has two daughters, Alannah, 10, and Zoey, 2, and one on the way).

“When his daughter called, his whole demeanor changed. That was huge.

“Some guys don’t like going home,” Lett commented. “Coach Bruce loved going home.”

“That’s why he left Samford — to spend more time with his family. That is first.”

“My older daughter had reached school age,” Bruce recalled. “Heather and I agreed that the responsibilities of a college football coach were not conducive to being a dedicated father and husband.

“So we moved back to Texas, to be near my wife’s family in Southlake.

“Other than that, we didn’t have a plan,” he added. “We relied solely on faith.”

Heather Bruce, the daughter and granddaughter of football



(Above) Head Football Coach Steve McCarthy on the sidelines at the St. Mark's game. As of Oct. 18, his teams had won 93 games (against 55 losses) since he became head coach in 2000. (Right) Assistant AD and Head Basketball Coach Craig Sklar brings administrative know-how and a stellar JV record to his new jobs. (Opposite page, left) David Novinski #7 makes a tackle on the final drive of the All Saints game in 2011. (Opposite page, right) One of the notes Coach Bruce wrote to each of his Form III basketball players at the end of the season last year.

coaches, knew the drill. She began sending out emails to Dallas-area schools, public and private.

It wasn't long before Bruce was contacted by Cistercian Athletic Director Dan Lee, who needed to replace Jim Taylor, his longtime defensive coordinator who had decided to try his hand in real estate.

(Taylor would return when illness forced Rodney Walter to retire from teaching. Taylor was named director of admissions at Cistercian in 2011).

"Wow!" Bruce remembers thinking on his first visit, "I didn't know this place was back here."

Coach Dan Lee and Coach Steve McCarthy impressed Bruce as "quality individuals who represented the school very well."

"I am eternally grateful to Coach McCarthy for welcoming me as a member of his staff."

Cistercian players recognized Bruce "was the real deal from our first defensive backs meeting," said Liam Flanigan '10.

"When he began to explain our basic coverage," Flanigan said, "well, it was one that didn't seem basic at all."

There was the military-like precision of his practice drills. And then there was his leadership.

To fire up the players at the beginning of that first season, Coach Bruce compared the first game to the pilgrims' first days in the New World.

"They would set fire to their boats — the ones that could take them back to their homeland," he emphasized, his eyes searing. "And they stood on the beaches watching them burn.

"They knew they could never return. They had to make their

new world work."

The phone rang in the athletic department a little after 8 am, like it had many times before. "Good morning, Fr. Paul," Bruce said.

"Yes, I am available to substitute," he responded evenly. "Of course, Fr. Paul. For me, it is an honor to be able to serve."

Those phone conversations began in 2009 when Fr. Paul was beginning his administrative duties for the school, duties that would, by 2012, land him in the headmaster's office.

"It evolved into a trust factor," Bruce acknowledged. "He knew I'd be in my office early and that I would do whatever I could to help out. He found he could rely on me."

But Fr. Paul's reliance on Bruce was spreading well beyond substitutions.

"He impacted the lives of so many of our students and our athletes," said Fr. Paul. "They continue to write back, now as alumni, in gratitude for having been coached by him.

Fr. Paul also had noted that when field trips were scheduled to a museum, opera, theater, or other such event, "inevitably Mr. Bruce was most frequently asked to help chaperone. His mere presence assured the administration that the kids will be their very best selves."

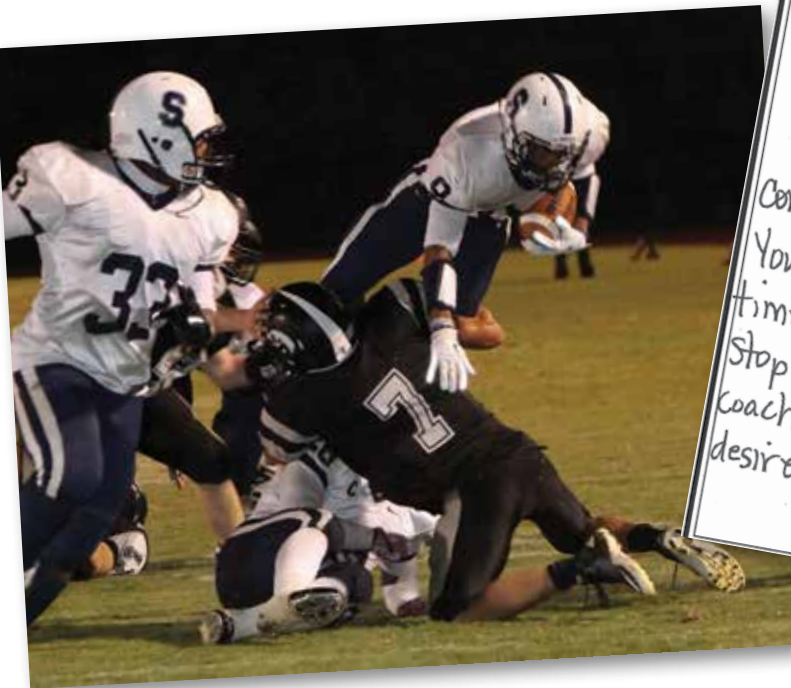
In the spring of 2013, as Fr. Paul began to consider directions for the athletic department after the departure of Dan Lee, Bruce's name began to crop up.

Following the example of other ISAS and SPC schools, Fr. Paul determined that the director of athletics should forego head coaching duties and focus all his energies on all the students and all of athletics.

"In this regard," said Fr. Paul, "Coach Bruce was reading out of our play book."


On May 6, Fr. Paul named Bruce director of athletics and physical education and Craig Sklar the assistant director of athletics and varsity basketball coach.

"Coach could be very stern, but he loves the Lord and his wife and daughters. When his daughter called, his whole demeanor changed."



#21

Jake,



I want you to know that I have so much confidence in you that it's hard to put into words. You should be a confident player and person at ALL times. Your possibilities are unlimited! Don't ever stop competing and please understand that a coaches criticism is never personal. It is only a desire to make you the best you can be.

-Coach Bruce

“Fr. Paul’s theme for this year is ‘for the good of the other,’” Bruce told Form VI parents at a recent parent coffee. The parent coffees offered the first chance for most parents to hear the new athletic director speak.

“Our task,” said Bruce, “is to be another avenue in which our boys experience growth, formation, and development. Athletics and physical education should play into your son’s life as he seeks to develop his mind, body, and spirit.

“In my time at Cistercian I have come to better understand the demands our boys face in the upper school.

“It’s becoming more and more common to hear our young men opt out of participating in athletics due to the obligations.

“While we readily admit that academics and learning should be paramount in our environment,” Bruce said, “I ask you to keep in mind that learning is taking place on the court or playing field as well. [It is] learning that goes beyond teaching concepts in basketball or how to improve upon one’s ability in the long jump.

“Your sons learn valuable lessons like time management, humility, leadership, discipline, character, and how to maintain a healthy attitude.

“There is a lot to be gained,” he added, “even if a player is not on the playing field the entire game.”

“Coach Bruce has great football knowledge, but he would always listen to his players if we thought we saw a problem.”

A man of few words, and even fewer smiles, Bruce offers a rare role model for those around him. “He constantly challenged us to grow,” recalled Jamal Lett, a cornerback under Bruce at Samford and now a middle school football coach in Chattanooga, Tennessee, “to stay with our technique, and to know our assignments. He had

us take tests before games.”

“He prepared us well and he never stressed during games.

“I had come from a high school program in Alabama where we won all the time,” Lett said.

“But at Samford, it took a while to earn our first one. But I will never forget it.

“It was the first time I saw him smile all season. He gave me a hug and said, ‘college wins don’t come easily, do they?’”

“When a coverage would not work correctly,” recalled Liam Flanigan ’10, “Coach Bruce asked us for our opinions.

“Coach Bruce has great football knowledge,” he said, “but he would always listen to his players if we thought we saw a problem.

“And when things went well,” Flanigan added, “Coach Bruce was the first to give credit to us, even though on almost every occasion, his schemes and play calls led us to those successes.

“I envy the kids that will play for him all of their Cistercian careers,” he said, “not only for what they will learn on the field but also what they will learn from Coach Bruce as a person.”

“I will never forget my final game at Cistercian,” said David Novinski ’12.

“All Saints was the top-ranked team in our division with a number of potential Division-1 recruits. We had played great and led the entire game.

“But in the last couple seconds, All Saints scored. It still haunts me to have come so close and lost.

“We should have won that game.

“I began walking off the field with my teammate and best friend Luke Tomaso ’12 when Coach Bruce walked up to me.

“Instead of the usual ‘you did your best’ and moving on to the next player, he stopped and gave me a hug.

“I lost it and cried right there.

“I was a mix of emotions,” Novinski said. “He held me until I pulled myself together.”

CROSS COUNTRY

Teamwork, talent, and determination help to boost successes for cross country team

Cistercian’s cross country teams are off to a great start this year. At Carrollton Christian, all three teams — the Middle School, JV, and varsity — won first place.

In several meets in the fall, the Hawks placed second.

“Those kinds of success speak to how the boys are working together as a cohesive unit,” said Coach Jonathan Gray (a.k.a., Dr. Gray, math teacher).

“I am carrying on the emphasis on team running that (former coach) Franz Klein introduced to the boys,” Gray said. (Klein took a teaching position in North Carolina.)

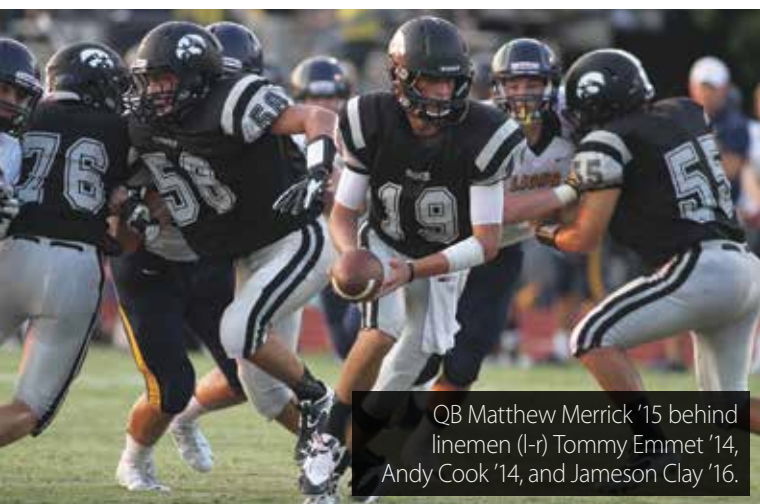
It also doesn’t hurt that the team is filled with talented runners, starting with **John Kane ’14**, **Joshua Maymir ’15**, and **Jeremy Garcia ’14**, the team’s fastest.

Young talented runners are working hard to challenge and complement them, like **Lucas Eddy ’15** (“hardly missed a run over the summer”), **Jake Berard ’16** (ran 50 miles/week over the summer), and **Trey Grijalva ’17** (“who ran 13 miles just trying to see how far he could go”).

“I see this team continuing to be strong, maybe even a powerhouse, for the foreseeable future,” Gray said.



(Front, l-r) John Kane '14, Nick Porter' 14, with (behind Kane's shoulder) Joshua Maymir '15 .



QB Matthew Merrick '15 behind linemen (l-r) Tommy Emmet '14, Andy Cook '14, and Jameson Clay '16.



Safeties Krys Terreri '14 (left) and Gabe Rogers '14 jar a St. Mark's Lion.

FOOTBALL

Hawks earn an SPC berth with impressive wins over OK teams (plus Oakridge)

With impressive victories over Holland Hall, Casady, and Oakridge, the Hawks had (as of Oct. 22) earned an SPC playoff berth.

The victories showcased an offense that features great balance, and a defense that — when healthy — flies around making plays.

The attack keys off the blocking of center **Tommy Emmet '14** (three-year starter), tackles **Matt Steidle '14** (two-year starter) and **Jameson Clay '16**, plus rotating guards **Andy Cook '14**, **Sean Kennedy '14**, **Dane Garnett '16**, and **Michael McCallum '14**.

The line has helped running back **Dare Odeyingbo '15** continue his record-breaking career, one in which he has already surpassed the school’s career rushing mark (and blazes new territory with each successive game).

Against Oakridge, Odeyingbo scored twice, gaining 258 yards on 27 tries. Through Oakridge, he has run for 1,496 yards on 204 carries.

Quarterback **Matthew Merrick '15** meanwhile is spreading the ball around. Receivers **Kyle Rutledge '15**, **Andrew Beytagh '14**, **Landry Lilly '15**, **Mark Dorsey '15**, Odeyingbo, and **Connor Ryan '16**, all have over a 100 yards. Merrick has completed 105 of 187 for 1,676 yards and 10 TD, nearly 16 yards per completion.

Defensively, the Hawks are anchored by three two-way players: end Odeyingbo, and tackles Emmet and Garnett.

“As a sophomore, Garnett has been a force and shown great potential,” said André Bruce, defensive coordinator.

Rutledge and Beytagh bring ball skills to the cornerback positions and **Gabe Rogers '14** and **Krys Terreri '14** provide solid play at safety.

3 The number of Cistercian teams that placed first in the Carrollton Christian cross country meet: Middle School, JV, and varsity.

7.33 The number of yards Dare Odeyingbo '15 averages each time he runs with the ball (as of the Oakridge game).

A tear for Fr. Matthew, a Latin coach who really cared

I have been truly blessed in my life in more ways than I can count. I have a beautiful wife who claims she loves me after 23 years of marriage. I have four wonderful children. Working as a newspaperman, I have not actually “worked” in 15 years because I love what I do.



Afterthoughts
Smokey Briggs '84

As the deadline for this issue of *Continuum* approached, two things tugged at my mind as my fingers poised above the keys of my laptop.

The first is the passing of Fr. Matthew Kovács. The second is the hiring of André Bruce as Cistercian’s new athletic director.

As I mulled these two disparate moments of life, it occurred to me that much of my current happiness can be attributed to the many great teachers and coaches who pushed and tugged and demanded and rewarded and mostly put up with me over the past 48 years.

I have been blessed with far more fantastic mentors than any one man deserves.

When you think about it, teaching and coaching are the same thing.

We call coaches in the academic setting teachers, and we call teachers in the athletic setting coaches, but when you get down to it, the jobs are the same.

In my experience, great teachers and coaches all share one thing in common — a genuine love of their students. They have different styles of teaching that fit their personalities — but all of them, all of the great ones — love their kids.

I don’t tear up often. When I heard that Fr. Matthew died, I sat for a long while in my office with tears running down my cheeks, remembering long forgotten moments.

Every one of those moments brought a smile to my lips.

Fr. Matthew, somehow, coached me through my first two years of Latin.

It is easy to coach the talented, I suspect. Great coaches, also coach the not-so-talented.

When it came to Latin, I fell into the second category (and probably the same could be said regarding football, track, algebra, grammar... the list is long).

Great coaches create greatness in the absence of talent. I never was great at Latin, as Fr. Henry later informed me, but I passed. For me, that was a great accomplishment, and truthfully, a great tribute to Fr. Matthew’s ability as a Latin coach.

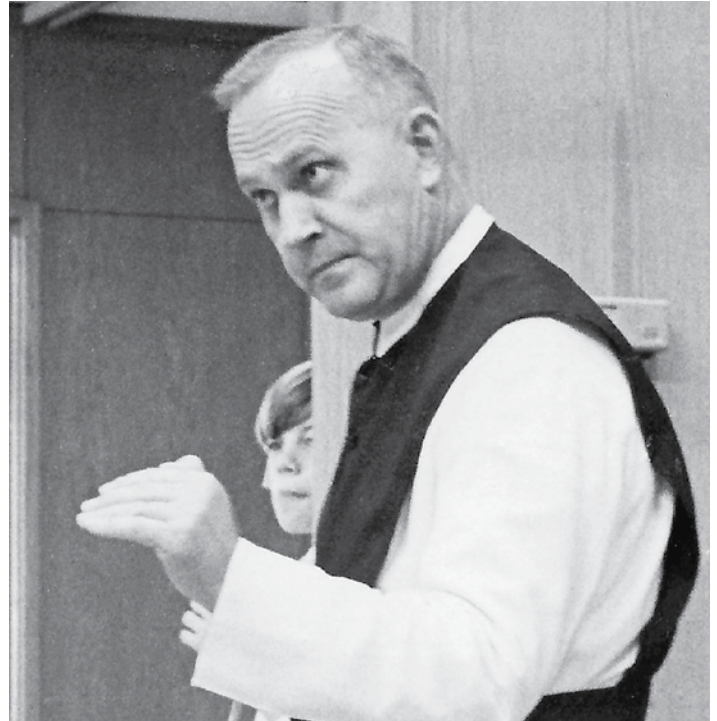
There was far more to Fr. Matthew than his ability to coach one not-so-bright kid through two years of Latin.

That, alone, probably could not bring tears to my eyes. An acknowledgment of gratitude, yes, but not tears.

I think it was the realization that a very special person, and one who really cared about me, was gone from this earth.

That is selfish, but it is the truth.

That was one of Fr. Matthew’s real gifts. Even when he was throwing a yellow flag on your desk, penalizing your horrible conjugation of a verb, flapping about the room like some prehistoric black and white bird, muttering, “Boy, boy, boy,” — you somehow knew that he really cared. It mattered to him if you learned. You mattered to him.



Fr. Matthew Kovács flashes his serious side in the seventies. His theatrics, from the outrageous to the hilarious, accomplished far more than just entertaining the students. They showed how much he cared.

If a person I coached in life sheds a tear when I retire from this earth, I suspect I will have accomplished some good in my time.

Somehow he communicated that in everything he did at Cistercian.

There were a lot of great teachers and coaches at Cistercian from 1980-1984. Fr. Matthew was one of them, and one I will sorely miss.

Which brings me to André Bruce, the new athletic director.

I don’t know you, Mr. Bruce, but I suspect that if the good fathers of Cistercian picked you for the job, you are made of good stuff.

If a person I coached in life sheds a tear when I retire from this earth, I suspect I will have accomplished some good in my time. I cannot think of a higher compliment.

I hope the same for you.

Ultimately, the goal of the school is to enkindle and enlighten.

Should the time come when the Communists make a comeback, it is comforting to know that we have our fair share of science guys who could enkindle a fire in the name freedom. But it is also reassuring to know that through things like the arts, we learn how to enlighten as well as enkindle.

To me, that has been, and always will be the true value of a Cistercian education.

Community calendar

DECEMBER

**21 Annual & Parent
Christmas Party**

JANUARY

25 Admission testing
**25 James & Lynn Moroney
Award Dinner**

FEBRUARY

1 Admission testing

CISTERCIAN
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
3660 CISTERCIAN ROAD
IRVING, TEXAS 75039

Yearn to be 'wounded by love' (Song of Songs 4:9)

As I was reading a commentary by Origen on the *Song of Songs*, a beautiful love poem of the Bible, I began to wonder: how many of our alumni know that this is a love story about

God and the Church as well as God and the individual soul?

Do they realize that God wants to wound each one of us with his love, with a wound both delightful and painful at the same time?

Isn't God's love for most of us only an abstraction?

We want to believe in it, but earthly loves — of spouse, children, parents and friends — have a much more powerful pull upon us.

Yet St. Bernard and many other saints confidently declare that no matter how much



On Prayer
Fr. Roch Kereszty

a soul is "burdened by sins, covered with mud, distracted by worries, trembling with anxieties," God wants to light the fire of his love in her.

Whether male or female, God wants to espouse the soul to himself in a pure, virginal love in comparison with which every earthly love pales and yet from which every earthly love receives ever renewed strength and purity.

If you are wounded by the love of God, you can heal the wounds you inflicted upon one another in a long marriage.

So why do we continue with our minimalist policy of trying to avoid grave sins but otherwise allow our venial sins to keep us at a safe distance from God's love?

Such a life sooner or later runs out of steam; our work and our relationships become stale, the boring daily routine numbs us.

St. Therese of Lisieux does not stop repeating how much God is yearning for our love.

He does not need it since in his Trinitarian life of perfect communion he is the fullness of love and joy, but he wants to long for our love and is waiting to pour his love down upon us, yet we are obsessed with trivialities.

Think of Jesus' question to Peter, repeated three times: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Offer yourself and
your actions to the
Father every morning
and ask that your life
that day may
give joy to him.

Think of the special joy Jesus says will be in heaven over the conversion of just one sinner.

But you are wondering, "I am a weak, mediocre soul for whom a life of love would be too heavy a burden."

I assure you, his yoke is easy and his burden light. He does not expect you to wear a hair shirt or adopt a diet of bread and water.

He only asks you to do the ordinary things you have been doing with greater fidelity as an offering to him.

Offer yourself and your actions to the Father every morning and ask that your life that day may give joy to him.

Kiss your spouse in the morning with more tenderness, deal with your employees or with your boss during the day with greater kindness, try to create a more enjoyable atmosphere in your office. Be interested in your colleagues and find something admirable in everyone you can.

Yearning to love God is already the beginning of love and is a sign that God's grace is working in your soul.

If you persevere and thank God for this beginning, your heart will expand and be ready to receive more of God.

Perhaps you will have no great emotional experiences, yet in faith you will know not just abstractly but in some real way the breadth and length, the height and depth of God's love for you since he will be dwelling in you.