

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CCISTERCIAN IRVING, TEXASONTINUUM

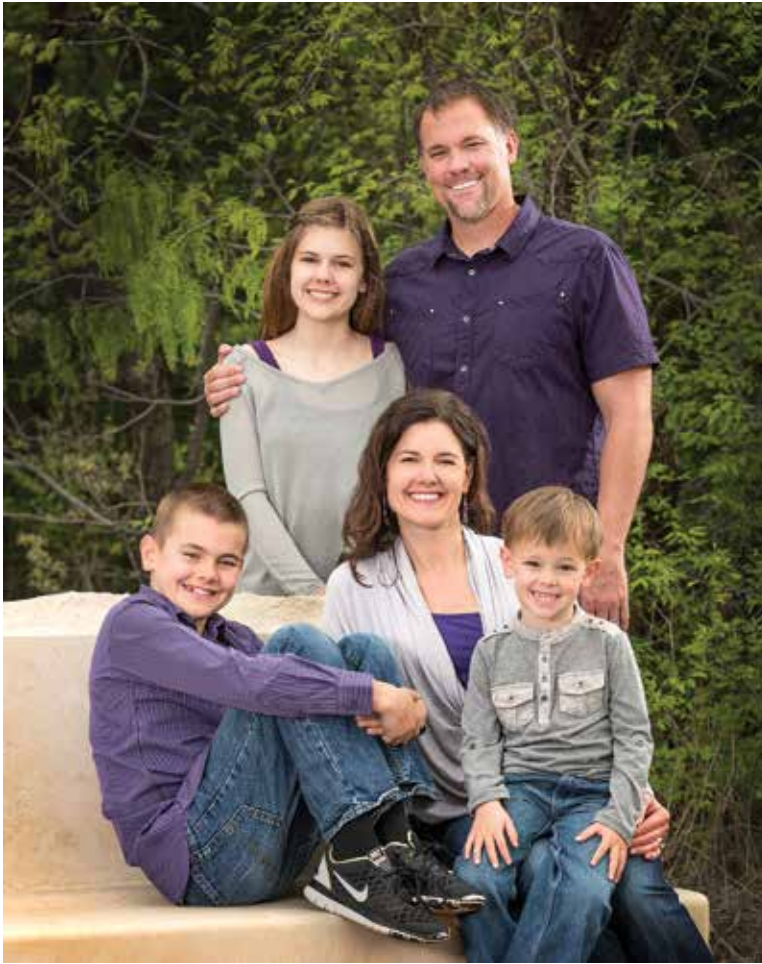
Summer 2013

Matthew Lancaster '13
(left), bound for the
Rhode Island School of
Design, and Jess Clay '13,
bound for Harvard, plan
careers in the arts.

PORTRAIT of the ARTISTS

*How several members of the
Class of 2013 found, and came
to trust, their creative spirit*





Dan and Mindy Lee with their children, Tatum, Trajan, and Griffin.

“I have to give something back.”

Director of Athletics and faculty member Dan Lee and wife Mindy listed Cistercian Preparatory School in their estate plans when they created their will after having children.

“I have been at Cistercian for 20 years, almost half my life,” Lee commented, “and this has been where I have had my professional career. I have learned and gained so much from being a part of this community that I feel that I have to give something back.”

His gift is undesignated, and he appreciates that the abbot and headmaster will use the funds wherever they are most needed.

After working at the School for many years, Coach Lee understands that all parts of the campus need support to enable Cistercian to continue to produce well-rounded students.

MEMORARE
SOCIETY

To remember Cistercian with a planned gift, contact Erin Hart.
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A memorable first year as headmaster

With the arrival of summer, it's a great time, as a new headmaster, to pause and give thanks for a wonderful first year.

Thanks most especially to the hard work of so many dedicated teachers, coaches, and staff, as well as the support of the students and their families.



Letter from the headmaster
Fr. Paul McCormick

But, thanks also to the community at large for rallying around the school in this time of transition.

I have been impressed with former students fully imbued with the spirit of *ardere et lucere* who employ their gifts and talents to help others through causes bigger than themselves.

In "Keeping the Faith," we highlight a few such outstanding men. In future issues, you may find more tales of alumni serving their community.

As a form master graduating my last form,

a further highlight this year was admiring each member of the Class of 2013 as they matured toward their graduation. Now that they've gone, I am already beginning to miss them.

In our lead feature, we chronicle the formation of several artists in this class — including **Jess Clay '13** and **Matthew Lancster '13** who are pictured on the cover — to illustrate the many influences at work as Middle School boys transform into young men of creative depth in Upper School.

It is an effort not only to recognize outstanding talents like Jess and Matthew but also to draw attention to the important role our teachers, our curriculum, and our extra-curricular activities can play in enkindling an artistic flame in our students.

I encourage you to read about the ordination of Fr. Anthony Bigney (page 7), who already has become a considerable presence in the school.

August is looking promising too with the ordination of Br. John Bayer.

Please keep us in your prayers and have a great summer.

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By Kent Clay



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*Cover photography by
Jim Reisch*

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

QUIZ BOWL

Konduri '13 leads Hawks to fifth at nationals

Cistercian sent its nationally-ranked Quiz Bowl team to Atlanta, Georgia, for the NAQT Nationals over Memorial Day weekend, and it came back with very impressive results.

In a field of 256 teams from across the US, The CPS "A" team finished fifth in the nation — the School's highest ranking ever!

Team members include **Vimal Konduri '13** (captain), **Collin Nadarajah '13**, **Mitchell Weldon '13**, and **Lucas Skaras '13**.

Konduri ranked 18th out of the field of over 1,200 contestants.

The Quiz Bowl faculty advisor is Fr. Gregory Schweers.



(l-r) Collin Nadarajah '13, Mitchell Weldon '13, Vimal Konduri '13 (captain), and Lucas Skaras '13 with advisor Fr. Gregory Schweers (center).

ENGINEERING

Cistercian places third at state

Cistercian's Team "C" earned third place overall at the TEAMS state competition held in February at the University of Texas at Dallas.

St. Mark's finished first with W.P. Clements (Sugarland) placing second.

Team C features an all-seniors cast: **Nick Chee-Awai '13**, **Alex Echevarria '13**, **Ben Horlick '13**, **Andrew Jacob '13**, **Collin Nadarajah '13**, **Joseph Raff '13**, **Chris Vernino '13**, and **Mitchell Weldon '13**.

The team was led by physics teacher **Matthew Brnicky '05**. Cistercian's Team A finished in eighth place.



(l-r) Andrew Dudasko '13, Tim Witham '13, and George Uhrick '15 unveil the 80 lb. Hawk head at BraveArt.

BRAVEART

Hawk created from scrap metal may have long-lasting impact on mascot, workshops

A junkyard mean, 80 lb. scrap-metal rendition of a Hawk greeted those attending Coffeehouse at BraveArt on February 22.

This brand new incarnation of the Cistercian mascot had been built in its entirety earlier that day in a workshop led by Cistercian dad, Mike Uhrick (father of **Michael '14** and **George Uhrick '15**).

"When we learned Mr. Uhrick owned a scrap metal recycling business, we approached him about conducting a BraveArt workshop," said Peter Saliga, coordinator of BraveArt.

Uhrick made it clear that a full day would be required to create something of artistic value.

"He also challenged the students to devote time prior to the workshop," emphasized Saliga. "We weren't sure if students would buy into that." But they did.

Seven intrepid seniors and two sophomores signed up in November and by January, the group began meeting on Saturdays to gather pieces of scrap, work on concepts, and learn the basics of scrap metal art.

All the preparation paid off at the workshop. Focused on building a hawk that might be used at pep rallies and football games, part of the group formed the metal while others welded the pieces together.

"We kept getting better the longer we kept melding the pieces together," said **Andrew Dudasko '13**.

"It was like completing a puzzle because the group did not always know where the next piece should go. But we kept adding, subtracting, and bending."

"We are proud of the piece," Dudasko said. "We appreciated the opportunity to leave our stamp on the school through a permanent, tangible piece of art that will always be associated with BraveArt 2013."

Uhrick and the nine students may have transformed more than scraps of metal into art, they may have created a new genre of BraveArt workshops.

TOMASO HONORED WITH COLLINS SERVICE AWARD

With over 625 hours of community service, **Sam Tomaso '14** won this year's James M. Collins Service Award. Since his freshman year, Tomaso has volunteered for the St. Monica Catholic Community's Life Teen Ministry in addition to many other service projects.



Alexander Echevarria '13

ECHAVARRIA '13 WINS HISPANIC HERITAGE HONOR

Alexander Echevarria '13 was one of three area students to be named an ExxonMobil scholar at the Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards regional ceremony in Dallas on Feb. 12. As the silver medalist in the engineering and mathematics category, Echevarria received a \$2,000 scholarship to further his studies toward a degree in biomedical engineering.

5 Place in which the Cistercian Quiz Bowl team finished at the NAQT Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia, the school's highest finish ever at the event.

80 The weight in pounds of the scrap metal Hawk mascot created during BraveArt workshop conducted by parent Mike Uhrick.



In 1997, the theology department included (l-r) Fr. Julius Leloczky, Fr. Paul McCormick, and its chairman, Fr. Roch Kereszty.

THEOLOGY

Fr. Roch retires from teaching at the prep school after 45 years

Fr. Roch Kereszty, legendary Cistercian theology teacher since 1968, has retired.

Fr. Roch will continue to write for journals (including this one) and teach at the University of Dallas.

His influence will continue to be felt at the prep school through many former pupils turned teachers, including three for whom he served as form master: **Abbot Peter Verhalen '73**, **Fr. Stephen Gregg '01**, and **Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01**.

MUSICIANS EXCEL AT TPSMEA CLINIC IN SAN MARCOS

At the Texas Private School Music Educators Association clinic in late January, **Jeremy Garcia '14**, **Aidan McGlinchey '15**, **Patrick McGlinchey '16**, and **Sebastian Ober '14** were selected by audition to perform with the All-State Orchestra. For the first time, Cistercian students participated in the Solo & Ensemble Festival at Greenhill. They included **Alex Banul '20**, **Max '15** & **Christian Schommer '18**, **Galen Hu '16**, **Alexander Ober '16**, **Miko Tanco '14**, and **Conner McCain '14**. Pianists McCain, Ober, and Tanco each won special recognition as "superior."



Drew Pluemer '15, a third degree black belt, won the only US medal at the German Open.

TAEKWONDO

Pluemer '15 brings home silver from German Open

Drew Pluemer '15 returned home from spring break after a trip to Hamburg, Germany. There, as a member of the 2013 AAU Jr. National Taekwondo Team, he earned the only medal for the US in the German Open.

Out of the 55 competitors in the feather-weight division, Pluemer won silver. In all, 1,150 athletes from 68 nations participated.

FR. LAWRENCE BROPHY '01 TO LEAD CLASS OF '21

Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01 was introduced as form master for the incoming First Form (the Class of '21) at the new parents reception on April 21. Fr. Lawrence, who is completing his doctoral studies in mathematics, was a member of Fr. Roch Kereszty's 's last class as form master.



Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01

RETAIL AS ART

Michael McCallum '14 won first place and a \$1,500 scholarship in the Retail as Art competition (sponsored by UCR) with this photo entitled "Knot Royale." UCR is a retail real estate services company.



HILLARY AWARD

Tight end Tulloh '13 touched by the venerable coach?

At the Upper School Athletic Banquet on Friday, May 10, the Tom Hillary Award, which honors athletic and academic accomplishments, was presented to **John Tulloh '13**.

Tulloh earned letters in football, basketball, and baseball. Coach Hillary, SMU's last three-sport letterman, lettered in the same three sports.

As a captain on the football team, Tulloh earned All-SPC honors at tight end. Hillary played tight end at SMU.

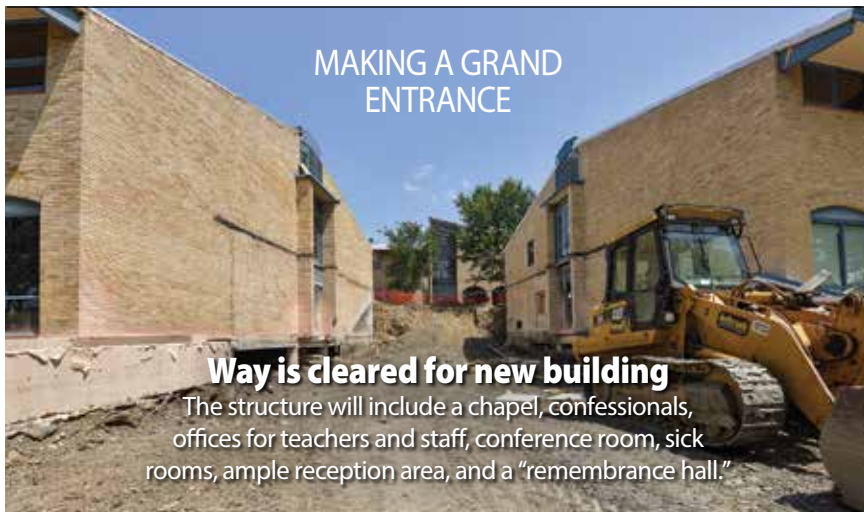
Perhaps it was no surprise then that in the Tom Hillary Classic (the all-star game named for the Cistercian coach), Tulloh had one of his finest games, catching two passes for touchdowns.

SPENCER IN RACHOFSKY ART PROGRAM

Jackson Spencer '14 was accepted to a special art program at The Warehouse, the repository of art for the Howard Rachofsky collection. The three-day workshop offers high school students the opportunity to explore the artistic processes of making artwork. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in critiques of their own work.

44 Number of classes of alumni who were taught senior theology by Fr. Roch. That's every class and virtually every graduate of Cistercian.

3 Number of photographers who won prizes at the UCR "Retail As Art" photo contest: Michael McCallum '14, Mitchell Sawtelle '14, and Stewart Schweinfurth '15.



MAKING A GRAND ENTRANCE

Way is cleared for new building

The structure will include a chapel, confessionals, offices for teachers and staff, conference room, sick rooms, ample reception area, and a "remembrance hall."



Views of the space between the Middle and Upper School buildings as of June 27 from the front approach (left) and the science building (above).

JIM & LYNN MORONEY AWARD

Tough Roppolo '88 accepts honor in emotional speech

Each Jim and Lynn Moroney Award dinner offers humorous insights into a distinguished alumnus and his class. But the highlight of the 2013 edition at the Park City Club on Jan. 26 was not an old prank or joke.

In his introduction, **Fred Hartnett '87** did poke fun at this year's winner, **Mark Roppolo '88**. And he shared tales of a sub-par student and hard-nosed jock who would go on to pilot Navy helicopters.

Then another side of Roppolo emerged.

Through a chance meeting at a law office, Hartnett ran into a Cistercian dad who knew of Roppolo's work with Wounded Warriors.

"He's one impressive guy," said the dad (who asked not to be identified).

In addition to helping disabled vets, Roppolo also devotes time and energy to Carry the Load (including toting a 50 lb. backpack around White Rock Lake for 11 consecutive hours).

"Mark is a man who quietly leads by example," explained Hartnett.

He quoted Roppolo's wife Lynn, an emergency room doctor, as saying, "There are two organizations that Mark will do anything for: the military and Cistercian."

His work for Cistercian was capped by serving on the steering committee for the 50th Anniversary Campaign that raised a record \$15 million.

In accepting the award, Roppolo was moved by the opportunity to declare his love for his parents, children, and wife.

"I can't say what I would say [about Lynn]," said the former Naval officer, "because I would probably break down. I am more sentimental than I appear."

Left: Mark Roppolo '88 (left) accepting the Jim and Lynn Moroney Award from Fred Hartnett '87. Right top: Roppolo with wife Lynn. Middle: With Fr. Roch Kereszty. Bottom: The Roppolo kids (l-r) JP, Will, Maya, and Luke with their grandfather John Roppolo.



1 The number of Jim & Lynn Moroney Award winners who served in the military: Mark Roppolo '88, a 1992 graduate of the Naval Academy.

5 The number of Cistercian staff members whose offices have been re-located to trailers while the new entrance building is constructed.

SPRING ORDINATION



(Left) Br. Anthony Bigney lies prostrate before the altar. (Below) Bishop Kevin J. Farrell of Dallas ordains Fr. Anthony.



Abbey Church filled with Fr. Anthony's loved ones

"It was eight or nine years ago that I first told my parents I was thinking about the priesthood," said Fr. Anthony Bigney, who was ordained April 6 at the Abbey Church.

At the time, Nancy Bigney and her son Ryan Bigney were both working at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in East

Fr. Anthony. "Still, it was the toughest thing to say goodbye to that community."

Many teachers and former students from St. Thomas attended the ordination as did many current Cistercian students (especially members of the Class of 2015 and 2018).

"My ministry is tied to all those young men, and it meant a lot to have them there," he said.

In addition, the ordination served as the spark for a grand Bigney family reunion, attracting aunts, uncles, and cousins from around the country.

"There aren't many times in a room that size you know everybody," Fr. Anthony said, "and you know they all are there for you."

"I was overcome with a feeling of love and happiness."

"The priesthood," Bishop Kevin J. Farrell reflected during his homily, "is the mission of preaching the Word of God, bringing God to the people, and the people to God.

"Only then can we fulfill as priests our reason for existence and our reason for being."

"With my mom's Irish Catholic heritage, priests have always served a role in her life," explained Fr. Anthony, a Michigan native and Marquette University graduate. "To give her my priestly blessing was moving.

"Words can hardly do it justice," he said. "Love, respect, joy. And a sense that our earthly connection will go on forever."



(One above) Fr. Anthony with Fr. Ralph March. (Above) Fr. Anthony gives his mother the priestly blessing.




Fr. Anthony celebrated his First Mass on Sunday, April 7 at the Abbey Church.

Dallas; Mrs. Bigney was teaching Texas History in the fourth grade and her son was teaching and coaching in the sixth and seventh grades.

Knowing of Bigney's vocation and his love for teaching, Fr. John Libone, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas, recommended a visit to the Cistercian Abbey.

"He saw that it would be a good fit," said



like every other day of your life spent dreaming

PORTRAIT ARTISTS *of the*

*How several members of the Class of 2013
found, and came to trust, their creative spirit*

BY DAVID EXALL STEWART

EARLY SIGNS

NOT ALL MOLESKINE notebooks are created equal. “This moleskine had a hardback cover,” Matthew Lancaster ’13 said. It had been given to him by a classmate.

“Mine had a bendy back,” he added.

Dr. Richard Newcomb required moleskine notebooks of his Form IV Algebra classes in those days to promote a sense of pride in homework assignments (and facilitate the grading process).

A precocious artist since the age of three, Lancaster quickly developed an affection for the notebook’s creamy pages and leathery feel. The algebra homework in the front of it erased his inhibitions.

“I started doing really loose pen and ink drawings in the moleskine and it became like a visual diary where I would use drawings and images instead of words to express myself.

“The drawings in there went from free and loose to more finished,” he said. “But I was still open to experimentation and not afraid to mess things up. (See sample at the top of this page).

“I grew attached to the moleskine and wanted to keep building it. I had become frustrated with oil painting lessons the year before. It helped me develop my drawing skills further before I

Matthew Lancaster’s drawings in his second-hand moleskin included the pen & ink *Are You Such a Dreamer* (a detail of which sits at the top of the page). *Invention* (in the background above) was drawn in 2012.

could succeed in oil.

“It was a very productive learning experience.”

Lancaster still treasures that second-hand moleskine.

“HIS VOICE CAUGHT MY ATTENTION,” recalled Erik Tanner ’07 of first meeting Jess Clay ’13 in the fall of 2006. Tanner was selling pizza for the Student Council in the lunchroom during his senior year. Clay, a diminutive Second Former, was buying.

The senior and some of his friends began to engage Clay whenever they encountered him.

“He didn’t seem the least bit intimidated by us,” Tanner added. “Maybe that was because his voice was deeper than most of ours.”

One day, Tanner happened to see young Clay strutting out of the Middle School rest room wearing a Confederate uniform for a class presentation. It gave Tanner a good laugh, and then an idea.

A few weeks later, the ghost of General Robert E. Lee (played by Clay) rode a stick horse into a pep rally, the den of Cistercian Upper School machismo.

“He made quite the entrance,” Tanner remembered of the gathering during an otherwise fairly forgettable football season. The upperclassmen roared.

Tanner and co-conspirator Konrad Stoick ’07 had crafted a script designed for a “Bill Braski/Chuck Norris style of humor,” Tanner said. “Lots of hyperbolic masculinity and jingoism.” Clay played it to the hilt.

The little general extolled his own acts of heroism during the

An avid reader and keen observer, Jess Clay's love for genuine Texas people, places, and history blossomed near a bend in the Brazos River. Pictured here on the river at age 11.



*“The guys, Dr. Pruitt and I,
and all the teachers
were awestruck
by the talents
manifesting themselves
at such a young age
in Matthew and Jess.”*

— Fr. Paul McCormick,
headmaster,
form master of the Class of 2013

War Between the States in which he overcame the gravest of wounds, continuing to fight even when, for example, a cannonball doomed the horse beneath him.

“By the end of it,” Tanner laughed, “I think Jess could have led the Upper School crowd to sack the monastery if he had so chosen.”

Clay would provide equally comical and inspiring pre-game bits in Form IV English, writing and performing fight songs for the eighth-grade football team before each game.

Dr. Tom Pruitt appreciated his talent and later that year encouraged Clay to attend the University of Virginia summer writing program before his freshman year.

“The guys, Dr. Pruitt and I, and all the teachers,” said Fr. Paul McCormick, headmaster and form master of the Class of 2013, “were awestruck by the talents manifesting themselves at such a young age in Matthew and Jess.”

OPENING EYES

“RAP? TALK ABOUT AN OLD-fashioned style of music,” Peter Saliga chided the Class of 2013 during one of the first class periods of their sophomore World Civilizations and Cultures course. “That style was hot, like, 700 years ago.”

“It’s true. Guillaume Machaut started performing these kind of iso-rhythmic compositions in the 14th century.”

Punctuating class discussions on politics and diplomacy with provocative commentaries accomplished more than keeping students tuned in and interested.

“Mr. Saliga had really interesting thoughts and opinions on music and art,” said Andrew Jacob ’13. “We thought he was pretty cool and that made many of us think art was pretty cool.”

While nearly 70 percent of the sophomore history course focuses on conventional historical topics — the class is known for its unusual musical and artistic components.

Students are expected to become familiar with a total of 50 important compositions starting with Gregorian chants from the 13th century.

Both the first and second-semester final exams include a number of 55-second snippets from which students must identify the piece’s name, composer, and time period.

“I don’t have to do much else,” Saliga said, “but let the music work on them.”

To capture the imperialistic tinderbox of 19th century Europe, Saliga pits teams of students against one another singing competing national anthems (e.g., France and Germany) in their native tongues. The team singing with the most convincing nationalistic fervor wins.

“The music helps the guys appreciate the evolution of the European nation-states,” Saliga suggested, “as well as the evolution of their own class, and classmates. As sophomores, they’re finally getting to know their classmates ‘for real.’”

“These kinds of exercises,” he added, “force individuals to peel away a few of the layers they have thrown up around themselves over the years.”

“I HADN’T THOUGHT OF MYSELF as that kind of person,” Andrew Jacob ’13 remembered of the idea of trying to write songs and poetry during sophomore year.

But partially inspired by his guitar teacher and his friend and classmate Colin Stone ’13, that began to change. He was seeing himself as that kind of person.

“I figured out I didn’t have to be like Colin,” he said.

His musical tastes were evolving too, from the punk of his freshman year to indie and folk.

Stone (bass), Jacob (rhythm guitar), Taylor Watson ’13 (lead guitar), Ben Horlick ’13 (vocals), and Christian Potter ’13 (drums) set their sights on the spring coffee house.

It didn’t go as well as they had hoped. They would have to practice harder.

“I was just a math and science guy,” said Christopher Vernino ’13, “but Colin inspired me to work with FLStudio (a digital audio program). He’s the reason I started to write music.

“When I became frustrated,” said Vernino, “Colin kept me motivated.”

Still Vernino kept his music hidden from most of his classmates.

Meanwhile, Anthony Micheli ’13, who had been playing guitar at home for hours every day in Middle School, also branched out sophomore year.

“I befriended Lancaster and Stuart Leach ’12,” said Micheli. “and began to step outside of the musical persona that mirrored my pubescent angst — namely, rock and metal.”



POLISHING THEIR CRAFTS

ART ELECTIVES UNDER ROBERTO MUNGUÍA became available for the Class of '13 for the first time sophomore year. Several members of the class, including Lancaster, of course, took advantage.

But Lancaster's creative spark was missing. "I had a dry spell sophomore year," he said.

Lancaster was living life. As the leading rusher for the junior varsity football team, he was enjoying his life as an athlete. He also thumbed the bass for a band that was playing in a number of clubs and gaining a following. His social life — and popularity with females — expanded exponentially.

There wasn't a lot of time left for art.

It was a stark contrast to the endless hours he spent drawing as a kid, beginning seriously when he would copy the characters from the video games his older brothers played.

"At age 11," his mother Frances Lancaster remembered, "all he wanted for Christmas was a computer pen and tablet."

The pen and tablet allowed Lancaster to draw directly into the computer and submit work to competitions held on-line by the web site www.ratemydrawings.com. His work earned him comments from around the country.

"The competitions motivated me to do the best I could," Lancaster recalled, "and helped me to develop technical skill."

In retrospect, Lancaster's sophomore slump appears like the calm before an extremely productive storm of activity during his junior and senior years.

But in the midst of the dry spell, concerns arose.

"I thought about leaving Cistercian a few times," Lancaster acknowledged.

He received some counsel from a trusted, if unlikely, source.

"I understood where Matthew was coming from," said Stuart Leach, the creative force behind the band in which Lancaster played.

Leach had left Cistercian during his sophomore year

After a sophomore slump, Matthew Lancaster produced pieces like the pen & ink (left) from a photo of a friend being "kissed" by an elephant and the study in 3-D shapes called *Martian Symphony* for Roberto Munguia.

(Lancaster's freshman year) in the hopes of spending more time on writing and performing music; but he hadn't found the mecca he'd hoped for at Coppell High School.

After being accepted back to Cistercian for his senior year, Leach shared with Lancaster his thoughts on the subject.

"I told Matthew exactly what my experience had been in leaving Cistercian," he said, "and how hard it is to find the right balance at any school."

By the end of sophomore year, Lancaster was accepted to an art program in Boston over the summer. He would return to Cistercian with his creative spark renewed.

WAXING POETICALLY ABOUT LAWN MOWER FUMES or the taste of dandelions might not be everyone's idea of a two-week summer camp, but Jess Clay was not going stand still.

"I've had a big speaking voice since I was about three," said Clay, "but by high school, I wanted to develop a literary voice."

At the Iowa Young Writers' Studio at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Clay would hone his craft along side 66 of the finest high school writers in the country, reading cutting-edge literature, writing in a variety of forms on new topics, and critiquing each other's work every step of the way.

"It was exciting to have peers as good or better than me review and precisely workshop my pieces as readers and as fellow writers," Clay said.

Back at Cistercian his junior year, Clay relished opportunities to exercise his new skills and entertain his classmates.

"The boys (i.e., Clay) had been talking about a competitive kind of poetry performance," said Michael O'Brien, who taught the creative writing elective in the fall of 2011. "There would be no notes and their lines would have to be written for meter and rhyme."

RAP BATTLE POETRY SMACKDOWN



Vimal Konduri '13 (left) as JFK takes it on the chin in as Jess Clay '13 lays it on thick channeling Theodore Roosevelt.

When all other members of the creative writing elective were on retreat one Tuesday, the idea evolved into a poetry smack-down, a.k.a., a rap battle, to be held in the lunchroom the following day.

In what amounted to a simulation of two famed presidents meeting to defend their legacies against one another, Vimal Konduri '13, famed quiz bowl whiz and part-time poet, stood in for President John F. Kennedy. Clay would play — and virtually channel — President Theodore Roosevelt.

Konduri's opening four-line salvo drew some healthy "ooohhs" from the crowd, but Clay, who leaned in toward his adversary from just a few feet away, responded passionately. And voluminously.

Through 12 tight verses (to Konduri's two), Clay's torso swayed from back to front on a steady beat, his arms opened and crossed, his head bobbed, and finger pointed.

With compelling detail and combative bravado, Clay ran his colleague through a hip-hopping, history-spouting, Kennedy-disrespecting buzz saw.

Much like you'd imagine a 21st-century TR might.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS

THE HOUSE OF BLUES, the well-known music venue in Dallas' West End, had never been mentioned in the same breath as a Cistercian field trip before the fall of 2011. But something called "the arts initiative" changed that.

The "initiative" was developed in response to recommendations produced by the once-a-decade ISAS accreditation visit in the fall of 2011.

"While additional (perhaps even required) art classes don't appear likely in the next few years," Saliga said, "we are trying to fit activities into the current curriculum geared toward appreciating or generating art."

"Teachers are exploring the opportunities in Dallas and Fort Worth to enhance the students' understanding of their subjects," Saliga said.

In 2011 for example, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was performed at the Wyly Theater in the fall. Pruitt shifted discussion of the book from its customary place in the second semester to the first to coordinate with the performance.

Through the arts initiative, students (and parents) also are being encouraged to participate in programs like the Junior Patrons Guild that brings Cistercian, Hockaday, and St. Mark's kids together for cultural activities.

For his junior-year course on U.S. history, Saliga found two field study programs that he couldn't resist. First, he took them to "Art of the American Twenties" at the Dallas Museum of Art.

Then came the trip to the House of Blues in the West End for *The History of the Blues*. Weaving narration with music, the live

TR THROWS IT DOWN VS. JFK

When I was hunting animals and glory just for show
You was hunting Judith Campbell and Marilyn Monroe

I always made the most of everything I got
You wasted yours on women and the presidential yacht.

You're a bootlegger's child, you have nothin' but good hair
You're a preppie playboy ivy-leaguer multi-millionaire

I advise you take a seat son, you're just a boy among men,
and learn never to mess with Teddy Roosevelt again.

musical performance carried the audience from the birth of the blues to the advent of hip hop.

"Many of the guys said it was the best field trip (or field study) that they'd ever been on," said Saliga.

These Upper School initiatives began to draw increasing numbers of student out of their artistic cocoons.

THE SHOES WERE OFF when Andrew Jacob joined Colin Stone on stage for a song called *Peter and Sally* during the winter Coffee House in November 2011.

"It was one of the first performances where I felt confident on stage," Jacob explained. "I also acted in a skit."

With a lot of students taking the stage, this second winter coffee house was "way better than the first," according to Jacob.

"It is always wonderful to take the stage and entertain people whether it's an athletic or artistic stage," said Saliga. "It's an opportunity to be the guy, to take the lead and find an outlet in which you can excel."

In the spring, a re-imagined BraveArt schedule included a new kind of stage, a segment for student-made short films.

Stephen Hoefer '13 made the most of it by showing his "mocumentary" about Dr. Cambria Reinsborough's Insects elective called *Catch Me If You Can*.

From countless hours of footage taken, Hoefer created a compelling 4 minutes and 20 seconds that showcased impressive direction, cinematography, sound editing, along with a healthy dose of humor. (See it at <http://youtu.be/2JAQkyxG6xI>.)

"It was an amazing effort," Saliga remembered. "And the project wasn't part of any class."

"Stephen is more comfortable behind the camera," Fr. Anthony Bigney said of Hoefer, whose photography played a starring role in the 2013 *Exodus*. "He's very humble."

But he had something to say and he put it out there.

"THE COMPUTER IS MY INSTRUMENT," explained Christopher Vernino during a BraveArt workshop on songwriting in the spring of 2013.

Having composed over 100 songs, Vernino ranks as probably the most prolific musician in the class. And though he knows piano, no keyboards play a role in his creations.

"It's all digital," said Vernino, who also possesses a fine singing voice, but saves that for Christmas caroling, Gregorian chants, Ursuline musicals, and such. "I write music with a focus on mechanical systems." (A portion of the all-instrumental compositions can be found at http://popolothel.wix.com/music-uc#!__songs.)

Most of his classmates viewed Vernino as just a computer guy. He and Nick Chee-Awai formed The Architects in Form VII to work on video game concepts; Vernino did the programming, Chee-Awai the 3-D modeling. (It would lead to a senior project

UNLEASHING TALENTS

ANTANAS MADHAVPEDDY
Violin and guitar

CHRISTOPHER VERNINO
Computer-generated music

NICK CAPASSO
Banjo, bass,
guitar

ANTHONY MICHELI
Guitar



that also included Lancaster and Nick Capasso '13.)

While Vernino's music caught most by surprise, Andrew Jacob's senior year astounded others by its breadth and depth.

He initiated the formation of a music theory elective with Kelly Shea and persuaded enough students to sign up to make it a reality (the first time in over a decade the elective has been offered).

Jacob also performed in the spring drama and then produced a one-act play.

For his senior project, he produced an album that included three original and three cover songs (including "1984" by Colin Stone) on which he sang and played all the instruments. He also served as his own sound engineer (with some help from Vernino).

In the midst of it all, he sang with Marilyn Walker's University of Dallas Collegium Cantorum during the fall semester to get "a little classical vocal training."

By junior and senior year, Lancaster and Clay began to see new horizons for them and their art.

ARTISTIC BLOOMS

"MATTHEW AND I BOTH GREW UP in families of all boys that were pretty crazy," Jess Clay pointed out. "Doodling for Matthew and writing for me provided a refuge."

"Both families played a key role," added Saliga, "by supporting them and trusting them."

The earliest sign of Lancaster's talent, according to dad Jim Lancaster, was a stick figure that he drew of his oldest brother John at age three.

"Even though it was just a few primitive lines," the elder Lancaster said, "it was unmistakably John."

"Matthew has great vision and skill," said Roberto Munguia, longtime artist and Cistercian art teacher.

"He can convey a real connection," he said, "like the painting of his dad that won first place at ISAS."

"Elements of my subconscious come out in my art," suggested

Lancaster. He speaks of his art's capturing "an atmosphere or feeling that resonates with me."

It clearly resonated with admissions officers from the country's top arts schools. Lancaster will attend the Rhode Island School of Design, considered by many to be America's finest.

Clay's literature belies a deep affinity with the South, and more particularly, a corner of Texas near a bend in the Brazos north of Mineral Wells (the Clays' ranch).

"I am intrigued by the history and heritage of the frontier days and the Texas revolution and how they are intertwined with our family history," he added.

"While only two hours west of Dallas, the ranch is a unique and genuine place," Clay said. "We'd spend time in Graford at the grocery store, too. I learned a lot there by listening to townspeople and ranchers.

"My dad grew up in the Panhandle," Clay said. "With few books around, he turned often to the World Book Encyclopedia and became an avid reader. So when we came along, he made sure we had plenty of books.

"As I have grown older," he reflected, "I recognize those influences on him, and me. You can't write about a more poetic subject than ranching and farming."

Some of those impressions found their way into award-winning pieces and the pages of *Reflections* in stories such as "Meat Counter" and "Wire Cutters" (reflections.cistercian.us).

"Jess finds drama in everyday life," said English teacher Gary Nied. "He's a great observer who has a gift for turning off his own ego and empathetically entering other people."

Literature won Clay the coveted Thomas Wolfe scholarship at





ANDREW JACOB
Vocals, Theater



STEPHEN HOEFER
Photography, video



TAYLOR WATSON
Guitar



CHRISTIAN POTTER
Drums



Spectral Introspection by Matthew Lancaster

“For me,” said Antanas Madhavapeddy ’13, who has played violin since he was 5, “it is relaxing, challenging, and rewarding. Musical theory is kind of like calculus: not everyone is going to use it, but it allows you to think in different ways.”

For Andrew Jacob, who will study physics at UD, the long hours spent in rehearsals for theater productions offered opportunities for bonding and improvising when something went wrong.

“We need to try to give everybody a crack at understanding more about himself,” said Peter Saliga, “and bring out of each

the University of North Carolina, a highly competitive award for writers. Only after careful and labored consideration did he take a place at Harvard instead.

FEWER THAN 15 PERCENT of those in the Class of 2013 will pursue art or the humanities. Most will seek degrees in the sciences, math, or business.

So, is there a real need for an initiative to include more opportunities to appreciate or generate art?

“I can’t imagine life without my music,” said Vernino, who plans to study computer science at UT’s College of Natural Sciences and focus on data security.

“Computer programming and music are similar,” Vernino contended, “in that there is no linear approach. You have to make each part function as part of the whole. When you get them to harmonize, it’s like Bach or Beethoven.”

Co-valedictorian Joseph Raff ’13 found the visual arts fulfilling. Poetry helped quiz bowl champ Konduri relax.

student that which might define them as well-rounded.

“The human person is so rich,” he said, “it would be criminal not to unleash all of it.”

Beyond the considerations of college and career, the artistry honed by Lancaster and Clay would prove a healing balm at a pivotal moment for the Class of 2013.

“OUR CLASS WAS RECENTLY BROUGHT CLOSER together,” Clay said in his December 14, 2011, Ring Ceremony speech just a few weeks after the passing of Colin Stone, “not by laughter, but by tears.”

For nearly seven years, Clay had been volunteering words, songs, and skits to entertain his classmates. On this day, they turned to him for perspective, context. As a group, a form, they needed help stepping away from their despair.

“Of all the lessons learned these last few weeks,” Clay said, “one stands out in my mind, and that is that one of the best ways to heal, to teach, to affirm, and to inspire is by telling stories.”

In what many longtime observers say was one of the most moving speeches in over a decade at the Ring Ceremony, the seasoned story-teller soothed the hearts of the Class of ’13, and all who cared for them.

Lancaster delivered another kind of “medicine for the soul.” Painted in response to the passing of both Stone and family friend JT Hunter ’08, his *Spectral Introspection* captured the act of questioning oneself, an activity all too familiar to each member of the class after the passing of their classmate.

“It was a personal dialogue about a change of perspective,” Lancaster said. A challenge to the “live forever” mindset.

“We were blessed to have Jess and Matthew to share such poignant insights with the form, each in their own way, when we needed them most,” said Fr. Paul.

“They ennobled the sense of sadness, transition, and vulnerability we all were feeling.

“And helped us transcend them.”

KEEPING THE FAITH

Cistercian graduates from 2007 and 2008 are acting on their values and working to enkindle others

BY KENT CLAY AND DAVID STEWART

“**Y**ou get to choose what you eat?” The question from an inquiring young Peruvian rocked Ben McCann '08. “The privilege attached to *being able* to be a vegetarian,” admitted McCann who is volunteering at the Ciudad de los Niños de la Inmaculada in Lima, Peru, “had not been part of my thinking before then.”

Founded in 1956 by a Franciscan father, the Christian school for physically and/or morally abandoned boys is now run by Capuchin Franciscan Brothers and educates about 1,000 boys from 3 to 18 years old on the south side of this metro area of over 8 million.

McCann found his way to the school and his 18-month commitment through the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps (Cap Corps) of the Midwest.

“My role is that of a big brother,” he said of his work with the Ciudad’s juniors and seniors, “joking, playing soccer, and helping with homework.”

The Capuchins strive to provide the boys with an educational as well as a spiritual formation. Each student also receives training in a vocation (e.g., auto mechanics, carpentry).

“Mostly, my focus is on building relationships,” he emphasized, “and living as the boys do.”

Everyone at the Ciudad, from the friars and boys to the volunteers

and even the kitchen staff, lives on the 48-acre campus and consumes a diet that revolves around rice and potatoes, almost always served together.

“We have beans three times a week,” McCann explained, “and recently (because of a large donation) we have been eating lots of fish. Everyday with lunch there is soup, a standard Peruvian practice.”

Chickens also are raised on the premises for their meat.

“I eat,” McCann said, “whatever I am given. Meat or not.”

PARTY TIME Ben McCann '08 with three students at the Ciudad de los Niños on the school’s 57th anniversary celebration at which the boys dressed up to perform traditional Peruvian dances.



While many of his classmates from Cistercian and Creighton are enjoying the fruits — as well as the bells and whistles — of their first paying jobs out of college, McCann’s goals led him in a different direction.

“I chose to be on the side of those who do not have the power, privilege, or position to shape their own realities,” McCann explained, “both to share in their struggle and to put my talents at their service.”

“Some of my favorite moments,” he said, “come from the excitement and pride the boys come to me with when they get a good grade or master a particularly difficult problem.”

“I imagine it’s somewhat like how a parent feels.”

Like parenthood, his role does not come without its difficulties. He recalled his frustration with one boy’s

inconsistency with a set of math problems.

“Do you actually understand the underlying concept?” he asked. The boy shook his head.

McCann took the time to explain, slowly, of course, because it had to be done in Spanish.

“After many examples,” he said, “the boy was finally doing the problems on his own. It just took a little outside help.”

Those little victories keep McCann smiling as he wrestles with the immense reality of the poverty, inequality, and unmet needs he sees daily at the Ciudad.

The depth of McCann’s commitment to service can be traced back to a semester in the Dominican Republic through Creighton University’s Encuentro Dominicano program.

There the students are immersed in communities where the inhabitants survive on subsistence farming and occasional outside employment (i.e., no tourism, no beaches, no money).

In addition to 12-18 hours of coursework, the students also

*“I chose to be
on the side of those
who do not have the
power, privilege,
or position to shape
their own realities.”*

— Ben McCann '08

Dr. Susan Calef, professor of theology and woman’s studies at Creighton, “but he holds deep convictions. You could see them emerge after he returned from the DR trip.”

“I believe that the root of living a Christian life,” McCann said, “comes from imitating the loving service of others that Jesus illustrates in the gospels.

“Seeing the reality of poverty during my time in the Dominican Republic (along with my classes back at Creighton) changed how I viewed the world and my role in it.

“Once I saw and learned what was happening, I couldn’t go back to not knowing.”

“C”ow worshipper!” taunted a Cistercian classmate as he threw a slice of sandwich meat toward Naveen Pattisapu '07 during a Middle School lunch period.

Unfortunately, the incident was not an anomaly.

Being ridiculed repeatedly is tough on any Middle Schooler.

But, for the only dark-skinned Hindu Indian in his class, it was unbearable.

“I remember years of waking up every morning and dreading the prospect of another day of fights,” Pattisapu said recently.

“Occasionally, I would lash out at them,” said the lifelong vegetarian and the third of three Hindu brothers to attend Cistercian, “even though I knew it was wrong.”

The Pattisapu brothers (Vijay '02, Prasanth '05, and Naveen) began attending Cistercian on the recommendation of the Konda family (Venu

Konda '96), who attended the same Bala Vihar (i.e., Sunday school) at the Chinmaya Mission in Dallas.

There the boys learned the basic tenets of the Vedanta sect of Hinduism, which emphasizes the balance of the head and heart along with selfless work, study, and meditation.

Over the years, Naveen Pattisapu came to realize that if he were to live up to the ideals of his role model, Mahatma Gandhi, he needed to engage his classmates “with love, rather than more ignorance.”

“I had to understand Christianity as well as I did Hinduism in order to bridge the gap with them,” he recalled. “I studied, consulted my theology teacher, and responded to my classmates with a positive attitude.”

Eventually, the attacks softened and morphed into curiosity.

“Do Hindus really worship cows?” some asked.

“Krishna was a cowherd,” Pattisapu explained, “much like God in your Christian prayer, ‘The Lord is my shepherd.’”



ONE OF THE GUYS Ben McCann '08 (second from left) serves as a mentor for the junior and seniors at the Ciudad de los Niños in Lima, Peru. The school for abandoned boys is run by Capuchin Franciscans.

spend 10 days actually living in a rural village with a local family.

“Slowly,” said Dr. Tom Kelly, a professor of theology at Creighton and the founder of the program, “the students begin to realize that real poverty is not so much the lack of iPods and air conditioning, but rather is a kind of vulnerability, in all aspects of life, which comes from a complex set of factors beyond the grasp or control of those who suffer from them.

“The Dominican Republic experience transforms many of the kids physically, mentally and spiritually.”

The program’s four months certainly had that effect on McCann, who lost 30 pounds and became (at least for a while) a vegetarian.

“Ben is an affable guy who enjoys having a good time,” said



“What your children learn in Sunday school will contribute to their standard of life, their schoolwork will contribute only to their standard of living.”

— Naveen Pattisapu '07

A SPECIAL TEACHER Naveen Pattisapu '07 (second from right) with the three high school graduates who attended Bala Vihar classes (i.e., Sunday school) at the Chinmaya Mission in Austin. Junior swami Brahmacharya Girish Chaitanya is on the left.

As he passed into high school, Pattisapu followed the lead of his older brother, Prasanth, whose burning curiosity about his classmates' religion (as well as his own) earned him several book awards in Theology.

“Prasanth and Naveen were always vitally interested in wanting to understand the belief systems of both religions,” Fr. Roch remembered, “and how they might be utilized to serve others.”

This passion to understand and serve others blossomed for both brothers at the University of Texas through their work with an Austin organization founded to reduce the suffering of those with the AIDS virus. Only a week into his freshman year at UT, Pattisapu joined his older brother in the organization.

In addition to the 15-20 hours per week he spent on these activities the next few years — inspiring volunteers, raising funds, organizing events, and counseling patients — he also found time to serve another, equally important group.

Three years ago, at the Chinmaya Mission in Austin, Pattisapu began teaching Hindu students, ages 13 to 18 years old.

“Naveen developed an incredible syllabus for his students,” said Sivagami Natesan, teacher coordinator of the mission. “He didn't have to. There was enough material that he could have worked with. But that was not good enough for Naveen.”

Spotty attendance would have been overlooked by many teachers. But not by Pattisapu.

“Naveen emailed the students and parents,” marveled Natesan, a junior swami, “to convey his schedule at the university and to implore them to see the hour and a half that they spent in Sunday school as the most important time of their week.”

“What your children learn in Sunday school,” Pattisapu wrote the parents, “will contribute to their standard of life; their

schoolwork will contribute only to their standard of living.”

Attendance was never a problem again.

“If I were to use one word to describe Naveen,” Natesan said, “it would be ‘integrated.’ There is no separation of his character and his philosophy on life. He lives what he learns and teaches.”

She cited his work on the material for the classes he taught for three years at the Chinmaya Mission.

“Naveen took the deeply devotional content that he wanted to work with,” Natesan added, “and made it into a relevant syllabus for today's Hindu child in a western environment.

“I would have thought that impossible,” Natesan admitted. “But I was wrong.”

Of course, Pattisapu, who is preparing to move to Houston to attend the Baylor College of Medicine, had a little “help.”

“The adversity of my Middle School years,” reflected Pattisapu, “helped forge my understanding of Hinduism and Christianity.

“And those Cistercian classmates who used to tease me,” he smiled, “they became lifelong friends.”

“I don't work to create big events,” said John Packer Stevenson '07 of his job as a mission leader at Texas State University for St. Paul's Outreach (SPO). “I try to build relationships that change people.”

SPO is a Catholic-based program based in St. Paul, Minnesota, that actively invites college students to a life of Christian discipleship. Mission leaders like Stevenson establish “households” on selected campuses around the country where members can pray, eat, and support one another to grow closer to Christ.

He leads the morning prayer at 6:30 am, coordinates the meals they share, and conducts formation classes and prayer sessions, some lasting well past midnight.

Many days find him grilling chicken, tossing Frisbees or pulling together a Lord's Day meal.

Basically, Stevenson is working to create a certain rhythm of life and to use the house to reach out to all who may seek ways to awaken or mature their faith.

“John is very charismatic, disciplined, hard working and blessed with a lot of energy,” said Jonathan Palmer, one of the students who has spent the better part of two years living in San Marcos at Stevenson’s SPO house.

“He has led our household entirely on his own, unifying everyone and acting as the glue that holds everyone together,” Palmer insisted.

“John is always looking to serve others through little acts of kindness such as folding the laundry of others that gets left in the dryer, running forgotten homework up to the campus, fixing flat tires, and lending ties should a last second need for one arise.”

Stevenson joined SPO’s Missionary Corps shortly after graduating from Texas A&M in May 2011.

While strong in states like Ohio and Minnesota, SPO officials chose Stevenson to kick off operations in Texas with a house at Texas State in September 2011 with 6-10 male students.

It would be a tough assignment, but Stevenson’s mettle had been tested in the amped-up atmosphere of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M.

“Serving as chaplain for 30 cadets my sophomore year,” recalled Stevenson, “gave me the first view that I might be doing something special here.”

That led to his appointment as chaplain for the entire corps as a senior, serving approximately 2,000 cadets.

SPECIAL HOUSEHOLD The men and women living in the St. Paul’s Outreach Households at Texas State gather for a going away dinner for Fr. Brian Eilers (center) at the Men’s Household. John Packer Stevenson ’07 is standing in the back row in a white shirt (second from left).



“Serving as a chaplain gave me the first view that I might be doing something special here.”

— John Packer Stevenson ’07

“I felt like I was back in Fr. Roch’s World Religions class,” he said of the composition of the corps, “with Buddhists, Jews, Catholics and Protestants.”

But he was always there to help them with opportunities, relying on the strong base of his own Catholic faith to help them seek and understand the truth that was manifest in their religions.

“Some were simply apathetic; some were cynics looking to pick a fight,” Stevenson said. “Some were evangelicals who needed someone to tap a brake on a tendency to preach too much.

“After graduation, I knew I was ready to make an impact,” he added. “I had a great energy to serve.”

That energy has paid dividends for Fr. Brian Eilers, pastor of the Our Lady of Wisdom parish on the campus of Texas State.

“The work of the SPO builds community where communities struggle to exist,” Fr. Eilers explained, “especially at a college parish like this where half the students are commuters.

“John loves sports and communicates well,” he added. “And as a former cadet, he relates easily to the men on campus. And he is not afraid to challenge them to live as Christian men.

“There was one student who had been into the party scene,” remembered Fr. Eilers, “who was not connected to the church. John was able to form a relationship with him.

“Now that young man is working with others himself and doing great work, all the result of one persistent, good man making a difference.”

But Stevenson downplays his role as an evangelist.

“The evangelization that might occur,” he emphasized, “is always through the context of a relationship.”



SOCCKER

Cistercian wins SPC-II crown at Hawk Field by defeating FW Country Day on PKs

A record number of fans (and cheerleaders) gathered on February 16 in hopes of witnessing a rarity, an SPC soccer championship won at Cistercian. (SPC’s winter games are usually played in Houston.)

When FW Country Day and Cistercian remained tied as the sun set on two overtimes, the teams prepared for penalty kicks.

Few had expected the Hawks’ season to reach such a conclusion. “A lot of our juniors hadn’t played varsity before this year,” noted Coach J.P. Walsh.

“The team depended heavily on their commitment, improvement, and passion,” he said. “I have never had so many players — including **Jeremy Garcia ’14, Scotch Gorman ’14, Nick Porter ’14, Gabe Rogers ’14, Krys Terreri ’14, Sam Tomaso ’14, and Michael Uhrick ’14** — improve so much.”

The juniors complemented All-SPC attacker **Antanas Madhavapaddy ’13** and All-SPC mid-fielder **Kyle Rutledge ’15**.

So, with a unique chance to win a trophy at home, keeper **Christian Potter ’13** made a diving save that set the stage for Terreri to bang in the deciding PK.

The crowd erupted and streamed onto the field — it was every Cistercian soccer player’s dream come true.



Kyle Rutledge ’13 during overtime in the SPC-II title game v. FWCD.

BASKETBALL

Talented Hawks notch a school-record 25 victories

The 2012-13 Hawks ran off a 25-9 record, tying them for most wins in school history and topping the best winning percentage.

Johnny Garnett ’13 earned All-SPC honors for his ability to drive and finish at the hoop while playing stellar defense.

Three-year starter and point guard **Matthew Imaizumi ’13** led the team in assists (4.7/game) while **Matthew Merrick ’15** poured in a team-leading 13.2 points per game.

Inside, the 6’5” **Peter Thompson ’13** led the team in rebounds (6.2/game) and put up

11.5 points per game.

The season’s most exciting contest saw the Hawks storm back from a 25-point deficit in the third quarter against Prince of Peace.

With 4 seconds left, the Hawks went the length of the court with **Robert Erickson ’14** scoring on a pass from **Andrew Beytagh ’14**.

In SPC play, the Hawks rang up four wins against the Oklahoma teams (two in conference play and two at SPC). These victories helped make up for a difficult first-round loss at SPC to Austin St. Stephen’s.



Jacob Young ’13 drives to the hoop in what was a record-setting year for the Hawks.



Aadil Khambati ’13 swims the butterfly for the AquaHawks.

SWIMMING

Seniors cap spectacular four-year run as AquaHawks place second at SPC again

The AquaHawks placed second (behind perennial champ St. Mark’s) at the SPC Swimming and Diving Championship Meet held on February 16 in Addison.

Eleven different athletes scored points in nine different events, including second-place finishes in all three relays.

The AquaHawks were led by captain **Jake Watters ’13**, who came in second in both the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle events while also swimming a key leg in two of the three relay events.

Divers **Jess Clay ’13, Jake Shimek ’13, Lucas Skaras ’13, and Timmy Stuard ’14** scored by completing 11 dives each.

Coach Doug Moyses noted that this year’s group was part of the

best four-year run of finishes in the history of the program.

“We had some four-year lettermen — Watters, **Christopher Vernino ’13** and **Andrew Jacob ’13** — who never finished worse than third (out of 18 teams) over the course of their SPC careers.

“The swimmers set two school relay records this season (200 medley and 200-freestyle relays),” Moyses added, “and narrowly missed the 400-freestyle relay record.”

Moyses praised first-time team member **Tyler Young ’13** who earned spots on both record relay teams as well as **Nate Young ’16** (200-meter medley relay) as well as 200-meter freestyle relay members **Galen Hu ’16** and **Davis Benn ’15**.

1 The number of times the Cistercian soccer team has won an SPC championship at home (with or without the Cistercian cheerleaders attending).

13 The number of events in which Academic All-American Jake Watters ’13 has placed in the top three at SPC events over his four years as an AquaHawk.

TRACK

High-jumper Young flirts with school record

Tyler Young '13 will go down in the record books as Cistercian's second-ranking high jumper, one inch behind the 6'8" jump of **James Sivco '91**.

But the most important fact is that Young placed first at SPC with a 6'6" jump, nearing his personal best of 6'7" at last year's Landry Relays at Trinity Christian.

Irving Fireman Bobby Olson played a key role in Young's development.

Perhaps the most unlikely track man was **Harry McGraw '13**, star center fielder for the baseball team, who almost placed in the triple jump.

"I haven't seen many guys do that," marvelled Coach Malcolm Dotson. "He also could have run the relays for us."

Cistercian's future in the track events

A jump of 6'6" earned Tyler Young '13 first place at SPC.

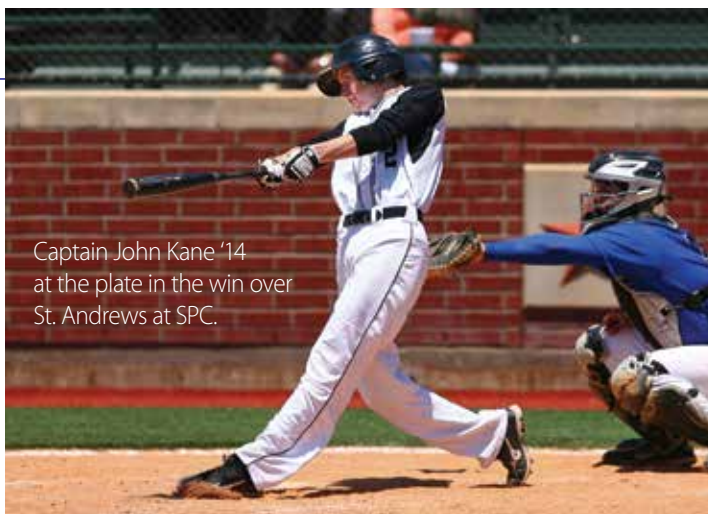
looks bright with **Dare Odeyingbo '15** and **Esteban Pimentel '16** becoming forces in the 400 to 100.

"**Barkley Wilson '13** did everything I could ask," Dotson said. "At SPC, he ran the 800 and competed in the long jump. He had never practiced either, but he was willing to give it his all."

Jake Berard '16 holds promise for the long distances.

Dotson believes hurdler **Will Meyer '14** will also make big strides in the high jump.

Long and triple jumpers to watch for next year include **Timmy Stuard '14**, **Jack Skaggs '14**, and **Michael Molash '16**.



Captain John Kane '14 at the plate in the win over St. Andrews at SPC.

BASEBALL

Hawks defeat St. Andrews at SPC in Houston

The Hawks played some of their best baseball as the curtain closed the 2013 campaign, defeating second-place ESD 6-1 on a two-hitter by All-SPC pitcher **Robert Erickson '14**.

A few days later against first-place All-Saints, Cistercian battled for nine innings before succumbing, 1-0.

In the first round of the SPC-II tournament, the Hawks faced the St. Andrews Crusaders. With the bases loaded in the top of the seventh, catcher **Jake Shimek '13** tripled to clear the bases.

In the bottom of the inning with three men on and two outs, center fielder **Harry McGraw '13** caught a deep fly ball at the wall to seal the 6-2 win. "He saved us a bunch this year," said Coach Mark Gray.

Besides Erickson, first baseman **Tommy Emmet '14** and outfielder **Jack Bitterman '14** also pitched well for the Hawks.

Shortstop **John Kane '14**, second baseman **Kyle Rutledge '15**, and third baseman **Jacob Young '13** played key roles in the infield.

TENNIS

Cistercian places second in SPC-II tournament

William Howard '14 returned as the Hawks' #1 singles player to battle the area's best tennis talent. He earned All-SPC honors for his efforts.

T.J. Skipworth '14 and **Miko Tanco '14** held the #2 and #3 singles slots, respectively, and the trio earned some key wins.

The #1 doubles team of **Peter Yoder '13** and **Mitchell Weldon '13** proved a tough riddle for other teams to solve.

Two young singles players, **Andy Walsh '16** and **Jack Rau '16**, teamed up to serve as the Hawks' #2 doubles team, a role in which they were able to grab some important and surprising wins.

Warming up for the Hawks' final match at SPC, Rau was injured. Walsh, who earned All-Zone honors, would be paired with team alternate **Ethan Perez '14**, who hadn't played a single match.

T.J. Skipworth '14, #2 singles player.

"Ethan stepped in there like a pro," said Coach Skip Boyden. "Even though they had never played together before, Andy and Ethan won their match."

BLONIEN '14 SHOOTS 72, 76 AT SPC GOLF TOURNEY

The Cistercian Golf Team made a splash at the SPC Golf Championship at Woodforest Golf Club in The Woodlands on April 30.

With rounds of 72 and 76, **Patrick Blonien '14** placed eight out of 87 players, earning him All-SPC honors for the second year.



All-SPC golfer Patrick Blonien '14.



2 The number of sports in which Harry McGraw '13 competed at SPC: center field for the baseball team and the triple jump for the track team.

6 Number of Cistercian golfers at SPC: Patrick Blonien '14, Joe Durst '15, Stephen Hoefer '13, William Howard '14, William Pheeny '13, and Peter Thompson '13.

'Sputnik schools' spared little time for the arts

For a long time, it was my opinion that at Cistercian the arts were viewed the way old men look upon children wearing sports jerseys to Sunday Mass. I believe there were two reasons for this.

First, the school was founded in 1962. That year, the Space Race and the Cold War were in full swing, and it was a bull market for math and science. In September, as the first formers attempted to understand their new teachers, President Kennedy spoke clearly in Houston. He made putting a man on the moon our goal.



Afterthoughts
Jess Clay '13

To the naysayers who said, "Why the moon?" Kennedy retorted, "Why does Rice play Texas?" At this point the naysayers decided they should become merely nay-thinkers.

The nation was enthralled by a lunar mission. People began to think of the moon and how to get there, and it did not take a rocket scientist to figure out that poetry, painting, and piano were not the ways to do it.

A month later, nobody sweated Castro's having a ukulele, a paintbrush, or a typewriter, primarily because they were paying more attention to his possession of things like mid-range nuclear warheads and whatnot.

The Communists were a clear and present danger in the race to the moon and the race to win the Cold War. In 1962, they were well on their way to winning both races. They might win an arms race, but there was no way they'd win an arts race.

Lady Liberty was safely ahead of Mother Russia in that respect. Our man Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize that year, while Pasternak was dead and buried. Even when ol' Boris was alive, the Commies wouldn't let him accept the Nobel anyway.

Meanwhile, Texas's very own Van Cliburn had whipped the Russians in classical piano five years earlier, and Andy Warhol painted away at his soup cans. We were safely ahead in the arts.

Of course, the Soviet artists gave it their best shot, but it's hard to win in the arts when everybody's theme is "the glory of the proletariat," and the best artists are hanging out in Siberian prison camps instead of cafes.

But why, some might ask, would beating the Soviets be such a big deal for a newly founded secondary school? Shouldn't the focus be on preparing boys for collegiate excellence?

Under normal circumstances, perhaps. But this school was not founded under normal circumstances. It was founded by Hungarian refugee priests, and if someone thought Kennedy was anti-Communist, the Hungarian Catholics were in a league of their own.

They had fought the Red Menace before, and they would hardly be stopped by exile. They set out (perhaps subconsciously, perhaps not) to build the next generation of freedom fighters. And when your task is creating the next generation of freedom fighters, the arts are about as practical as a SkyMall product.

There was a second obstacle to Cistercian's becoming an arts

school. This was the fact that its students were all male.

At no point in history has a complete lack of women corresponded to a flourishing of the arts. Without them, there are no muses, and there is no audience worth impressing.

In an all-boy environment, students become leery of creating and discussing fabulous art. Granted, this is probably because anyone using the phrase "fabulous art" at a place like Cistercian is in imminent danger of being treated un-fabulously, to say the least.

But boys on the whole seem more geared towards math or science or anything that generally facilitates blowing things up. Watercolors and woodwinds, for all their charm, offer little in terms of destructive potential.

So from the get-go, because it was all-male and because it was the Cold War, an arts school was simply not in the cards. However, just because Cistercian wasn't an arts school (despite Fr. Damian's best efforts) never stopped its students from excelling in the arts. In each form, a group of the artistically inclined inevitably emerges.

Each form has its artist, its writer, its musician, and often a form has several of each. Whether or not the form master is artistic seems to have little bearing.

In my own class, as this issue of *The Continuum* highlights, we managed to thrive artistically.

Now, I cannot say for sure that Fr. Paul is no artist, but if the legibility of his scribbles on the whiteboards is any indication, I suspect my doubts are well-taken.

However, even without being particularly artsy himself, he always supported those who were. I think this must have been the case for every form. Each form master wants the best for his boys, no matter the endeavor, and the arts are no exception.

The culture of support extends throughout the ranks of the faculty. Mr. Munguia and Dr. Pruitt, as cornerstones of the Fine Arts and English departments, are obvious supporters and decades-long mainstays.

But others, like history teacher Mr. Saliga, proved equally ardent in their support. They incorporated artistic elements into their own curriculums, and in so doing put the arts in other contexts for artists and non-artists alike.

I tend to doubt Cistercian will ever be thought of as an arts school. The talents of the boys are too varied and the curriculum is too strong throughout for the arts to take center stage. However, even without the arts at its center, Cistercian offers more than enough for the arts to prosper.

The people and the place offer a level of support that is conducive to boys seeking growth in any field, and the arts are no exception.

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.

On the whole,
boys seem more
geared towards
math or science,
or anything that
generally facilitates
blowing things up.

AUGUST

- 10 **Ordination of Br. John**
- 11 **First Mass - Fr. John**
- 20 **Opening Ceremonies**

OCTOBER

- 4-11 **Silent Auction**
- 11 **Homecoming Game
vs. Cassady
Alumni after-game party**

“At the still point of the turning world”

For many decades I was convinced that Scripture has nothing to say on the veneration and intercession of the saints. I have accepted the Church’s teaching on this issue because it comes from the constant tradition beginning with the second century.

At the end of these musings it will become clear, I hope, why I used as a title for this piece the intriguing quote from T.S. Eliot’s Four Quartets.



On Prayer
Fr. Roch Kereszty

As the full extent of the landscaping project around our monastery began to dawn on me, including the two hundred cedar trees planted by the Fourth Formers, the hand-fitted limestone terrace in front of the Church with the elegant cedar benches surrounding it, the statue of Our Lady of Dallas removed from its ancient post and set facing the entrance of the Church, encouraging us, as it were, to enter, I was wondering why all this upheaval?

Could the money not be spent for a better purpose, such as the poor of Dallas?

But then it struck me: “Don’t you see that your thinking is not very far from that of Judas? (cf. Jn 12:5). Don’t you see that the beautiful new landscape is like the precious ointments of Mary poured out upon the feet of Jesus?”

It serves his plan of love: it makes his invitation to come to him and find a home in him more attractive. All these ‘things of beauty’ whisper to you: stop and see ‘how lovely is the dwelling place of your Lord’” (Ps 84:1).

As I think back on the more than five decades since the Monastery and the School have stood on this hill, I understand now how it has gradually become a “still point of the turning world.”

It is true for many University of Dallas students and professors but increasingly so for our own alumni.

Even those who have moved away from this area keep coming back at the great turning points of their lives.

When they experience a great joy or a great loss, they want to come back to this stable point in their world in order to share with us the news of an upcoming wedding, the baptism of a child, or a life changing illness or death.

They come to talk with us but, consciously or unconsciously, they are seeking something or rather Someone greater than ourselves.



The landscape design by David Hocker '97 enhanced the front of the abbey church with improved walkways, benches, planting areas and the relocated statue of the Virgin Mary (at right).

As the full extent of the [abbey’s] landscaping project began to dawn on me ... I was wondering, ‘Could the money not be spent for a better purpose?’

They sense that Christ himself waits for them here, no matter how far and for how long they have moved away from him.

They know that this Church and Monastery is their Father’s house and that the trees, the flowers and the statue of Mary, all reflect their Father’s peacefully welcoming arms .

What a privilege and responsibility for us, Cistercians, to be guardians of this House of God – to live just a few yards away from the tabernacle of the risen Lord – and at least try to become the signs of his never tiring love for all whom he draws here, to the stable still point of their turning world.