

For family, friends, & alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CCISTERCIAN IRVINGNTINUUM

Fall 2014

Nick Lau '98 at
FIFA headquarters
in Switzerland

INSIDE
Young monks
building
relationships
2014 Annual
Report of Giving

WORLD VIEWS

*Catching up with alumni who have
made their homes overseas*





Fr. Philip Lastimosa with his parents, Augusto Cezar and Cynthia Lastimosa.

A bright future

Cistercian has played an important role in the life of our family since 1986, when our older son, Kinnier, began attending Cistercian. Our second son, Caesar (Fr. Philip), began attending Cistercian in August 1992.

We are committed to support the Cistercian community and its bright future by naming Cistercian as a beneficiary of our retirement accounts and our estates.

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SOCIETY

To remember Cistercian with a planned gift, contact Erin Hart.
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Proclaiming the goodness of the Lord

"All the earth proclaims the goodness of the Lord." (Ps. 19) This fall's *Continuum* reminds me of this joyful declaration of the Psalmist.



Letter from the headmaster
Fr. Paul McCormick

At a time when so many international headlines can be a cause for concern and anxiety, it is wonderful to read of the ever greater numbers of our alumni, having been enkindled by their time at Cistercian and inspired by the school motto, *Ardere et Lucere*, to make a positive difference in the world, both abroad as well

as at home. In doing so, they indeed discover and proclaim the goodness of the Lord to be found among every people and in every land.

I hope you also enjoy our article highlighting the goodness of the Lord found in the increasingly active and diverse roles the young monks play

in the life of the school here at home. (In all, 16 Cistercians serve the boys and their parents this year — the largest number of monks ever having worked in the school at one time!)

Fr. Roch reminds us in his column that the roots of the school's current success run deep. He traces them back to the heroic sacrifices of such brave Hungarian monks, as Abbot Wendelin, sharing a moving excerpt from Wendelin's prison memoirs. And, as only he can do, **Smokey Briggs '84** returns this edition to provide some homespun wisdom imparted by his father.

Please enjoy all these pieces along with the various updates throughout the magazine on the many diverse activities and achievements of both current students and alumni. And, do take a moment to examine the accompanying Annual Report which highlights the financial security the school enjoys and those many generous donors who continue to make fulfilling our mission possible.

Indeed, "all the earth proclaims the goodness of the Lord!"

Volume 41, number 2

In this issue



One relationship at a time 8

The eleven ordained between 2009 and 2014 are reaching out in their roles as 30-something-year-old monks, priests, and teachers

By David E. Stewart

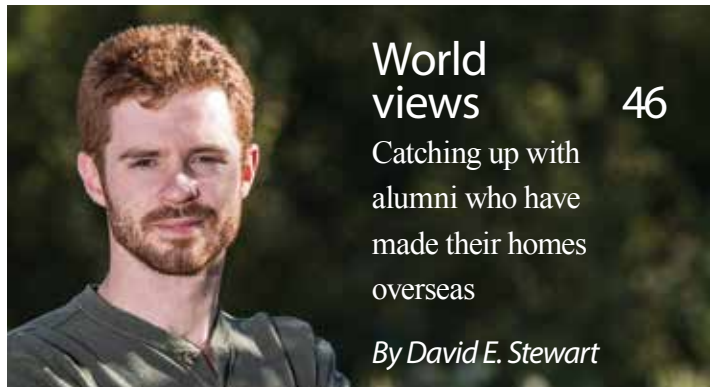


Annual Report 17

Departments

- News & Notes 4-7
- Sports 52
- Class Notes 53-54
- On Prayer by Fr. Roch Kereszty..... 55
- Afterthoughts by Smokey Briggs . 56

Cover photography by Manon-Caroline Nyffeler



World views 46

Catching up with alumni who have made their homes overseas

By David E. Stewart

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

FULBRIGHT GRANTS Lenzen and Oliver teach English in Asia

Two members of Fr. Mark Ripperger's Class of 2010 were awarded Fulbright grants to serve as English teaching assistants during the current school year.

Matthew Lenzen '10, who graduated from Texas A&M in 2014 with a degree in accounting and a masters in finance, is teaching at Aboriginal elementary schools in the small town of Taitung, Taiwan.

He is learning Mandarin Chinese, coaching soccer and "atoning for his behavior in elementary school at Cistercian."

Preston Oliver '10 graduated from TCU with a degree in finance. He is teaching English in Macau, China.

"I had never been to an Asian country before," Oliver said, "so the culture is an entirely new experience and adventure for me."

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Program awards approximately 8,000 grants annually (roughly 1,600 college graduates).

The program facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction on an individual basis in the classroom, field, home, and in routine tasks, allowing the grantee to gain an appreciation of others' viewpoints and beliefs, the way they do things, and the way they think.



Matthew Lenzen '10



Preston Oliver '10



New faculty members gather in the courtyard (l-r): James Burk, Br. Francis Gruber '01, Adam Hauser, Br. Raphael Schaner, and T.J. Alcalá '09.

NEW TEACHERS

A passion for teaching and coaching

All of Cistercian's new faculty members bring with them significant teaching experience and/or training.

T.J. Alcalá '09, who is teaching math to Forms III and VI and serving as the MathCounts Sponsor, earned a BS in Mathematics and a masters in Science and Teaching for Adolescent Math from Fordham University.

"Being back at Cistercian," said the talented musician who completed his student teaching in the Bronx, "has only reinforced my desires to make a career out of teaching math."

"Providence," Adam Hauser thought when he received an offer from Cistercian.

Hauser earned his masters degree from Creighton's Magis Catholic Teacher Corps program, and is teaching Form III English and Form II English lab as well as serving as the varsity cross country coach, assistant track coach, and Middle School basketball coach.

Hauser comes to Cistercian from Strake Jesuit in Houston (2012-14) where, in addition to teaching English, he coached

cross country and freshman "A" basketball.

James Burk came to Cistercian with a wealth of experience in coaching and strength and conditioning from ESD, First Baptist, and John Paul II.

Burk is teaching Form III Health and serving as the director of strength and conditioning, assistant football coach, and assistant track and field coach.

Br. Raphael Schaner was "ecstatic when I was approached about teaching." He feels teaching (Form II Latin) "has deepened my prayer life with the opportunity to pray for the boys."

Previous experiences include teaching and mentoring under-represented Chicago students.

Br. Francis Gruber '01 also brings inner-city experience to the job of teaching Form I English Lab.

The Texas A&M graduate, who earned a master's at the University of Chicago, has found that the First Formers have responded well to his "Teach for America" philosophy of creating clear classroom expectations, regularity, and consistency.

FLANNERY O'CONNOR CONFERENCE NOV. 6

Cistercian hosts an interscholastic academic colloquium entitled "Flannery O'Connor: A 50-Year Retrospective" Nov. 6. Students from Cistercian and 10 other schools are participating. Noted O'Connor scholar Dr. Ralph C. Wood delivers the keynote.

MUSIC IN FOUNDERS HALL

Thanks to Michele Gardill, a regular at Sunday mass, her 75-year-old classic Baldwin Acrosonic Spinnet now sits in the foyer of Founders Hall. "We hope it encourages the boys to play some music," said **Fr. Stephen Gregg '01**.

CISTERCIAN'S LINKEDIN PAGE CONNECTS ALUMNI

Examples continue to multiply in which alumni fill or find positions through Cistercian's LinkedIn



Anthony Micheli '13

page. The latest: **Anthony Micheli '13** interned with Pizza Hut thanks to **Artie Starrs '94**. Now it's your turn.

3 The number of pianos in the school available for students to play, including two in the music room and one now on the second floor of Founders Hall.

2 The number of alumni who joined the faculty this fall: Br. Francis Gruber '01 (English Lab, Form I) and T.J. Alcalá '09 (Math, Forms III and VI).



Artist Will Frank (left) and Aaron Frei of Emil Frei & Associates stand with the stained glass window they designed for the school chapel, located in the new entrance building. The two delivered a presentation on the window to an Upper School assembly on October 1.

FINAL TOUCH TO ENTRANCE BUILDING

Stained glass unveiled and installed in school chapel

At an Upper School assembly on October 1, Aaron Frei and Will Frank of Emil Frei & Associates discussed details of the stained glass window installed in the school's new chapel the day before.

"This project was a great joy for our studio," said Frei, who spent four years in the monastery as Br. Abraham. His brother Nathaniel Frei also spent four years in the monastery before joining the family business that was founded in 1898.

Frank, the artist, also has Cistercian ties. He attended the University of Dallas, where his father still teaches. Frank's brother attended Cistercian for several years until the family moved to Rome.

"I have carried this place with me everywhere since I left," Frei said.

Through a series of slides, the former monk explained the art and the craft of

creating a stained glass window, from the types of glass used to the colors selected.

Then, cautiously, he teased his Upper School audience with some hints about the meaning of the art in the window.

"We were inspired by Philippians 2, verses 6-11," Frei said. "I don't want to say too much. Let's just say simplicity and humility played a key role in our thoughts for this piece for Cistercian.

"Humility is important," Frei smiled, "since you guys are pretty smart. You need to keep humility in mind."

"The chapel's steep roof called for a design with a central image," Frank remarked.

"I encourage you to come by in the morning," Frei added.

"The morning sun throws an echo of the window's colors on the wall. It's really beautiful."

PASSING

Fr. Benedict Monostori, 1919-2014

Fr. Benedict Monostori, 95, passed away quietly at home in the abbey on September 22, in contrast to the way his priesthood began.

The monastery's oldest priest entered the Cistercian Monastery of Zirc in August 1937, at the apex of the order's prestige and importance in Hungary.

But by the time he was ordained by the future Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty in May 1944, the Cistercian Order in Hungary had been humbled and their vast land holdings nationalized by the Nazis.

The invading Soviets would soon do much worse.

Fr. Benedict escaped the Abbey of Zirc with 20 other Cistercians in August 1950, only weeks prior to the October arrest of Abbot Wendelin Endredy, an event that sent the Cistercians underground for the following 40 years.

In Dallas in 1954, Fr. Benedict began his new life, learning English and joining the first faculty of the University of Dallas, where he would teach physics until retiring in 1989, at age 70.

Fr. Benedict served as prior of the monastery from 1975 to 1988. Upon the death of Abbot Anselm Nagy in 1988, he was one of two candidates considered for the position of abbot.

He served as the chaplain for the Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters in Grand Prairie for 22 years (1989 - 2011).

For the younger generation of monks, he set an example.

"Seeing Fr. Benedict shuffling to choir everyday, rarely missing," said **Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01**, "was an incredible witness."



Fr. Benedict Monostori was ordained in 1944.

4 The number of years that Aaron Frei spent in the Cistercian monastery as Br. Abraham and as a novice mate of Br. (now Fr.) Joseph Van House.

1919

The year Fr. Benedict Monostori was born in Kővágóórs, Hungary, on the northern shore of Lake Balaton, a favorite vacation spot.

CLASS OF 2014 COLLEGE DECISIONS

Intense focus leads to some interesting selections for Haaser's guys

Members of the Class of 2014 set about the college selection process "with a great deal of focus and diligence," said Peter Saliga, Cistercian's college counselor.

"That focus produced some great results."

Eight of the 43 graduating seniors focused on, and are attending, Texas A&M. That's the largest group of students from Cistercian to attend one university in recent memory.

Each had his own reason for selecting A&M, like Jackson Spencer, who is enrolled in the Vizlab program that blends art, science, and technology (Pixar recruits here).

In all, 30 different colleges and universities were selected, 56 percent outside of Texas (including two in the United Kingdom).

CLASS OF 2014 CAMPUS SNAPSHOT

18.6%

Percent attending Texas A&M University

Finances contributed to the decisions of 55 percent of the class.

A full 70 percent plan to major in business and engineering.

Renewed interest in schools like the University of Michigan (which attracted two members of the class), Loyola University (N.O.), Providence College, Middlebury College, and Villanova University, was, according to Saliga, "the direct result of the extensive research these guys did."

And for the first time, a Cistercian alumnus is taking

55%

Percent of those in which finances played a role in decision

classes in the storied halls of Cambridge University (England).

Andy Cook '14 and **Jacob Barnes '14** achieved their objectives. Cook earned the Hunt Leadership Scholarship at SMU (3 percent of applicants are admitted) and Barnes was accepted into the inaugural class at UT Austin's Jefferson Scholars Program, an interdisciplinary program in the great books (17 percent of applicants are admitted).

Two are pursuing music-related interests. **Miko Tanco '14** is

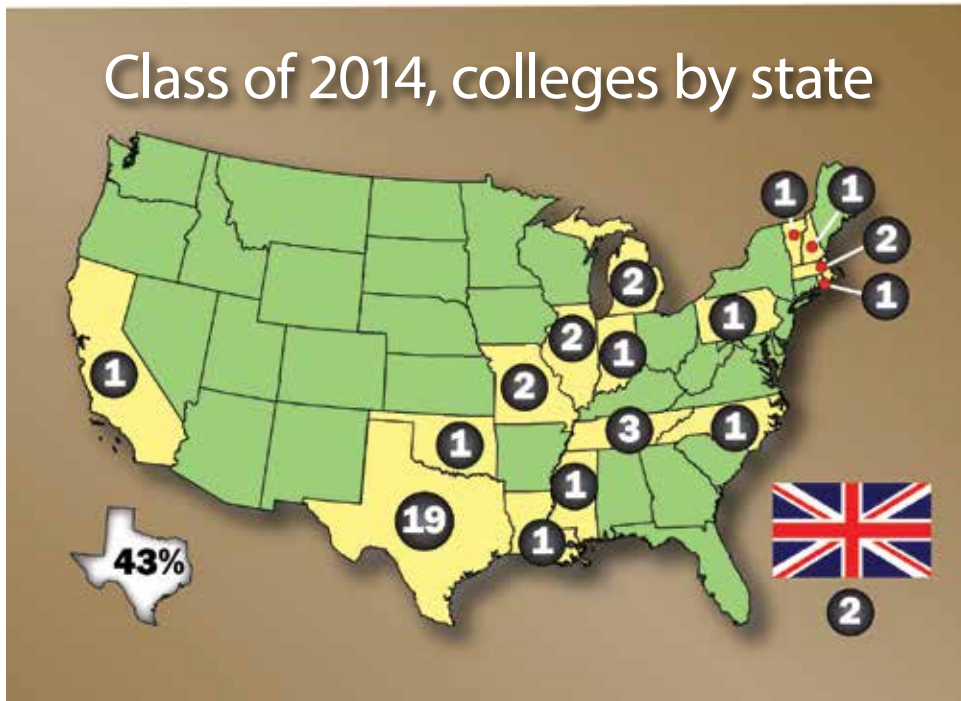
70%

Percent planning to major in business or engineering

seeking a BS in Music Industry at Loyola, combining music theory, composition, and performance with arts entrepreneurship and business management.

Conner McCain '14 is taking master classes in conducting with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland), where he plans to major in French, German, and Russian.

A discussion of the intense focus of the Class of 2014 would not be complete without introducing its six college athletes (see list below).



Sports

- FOOTBALL** **Andrew Beytagh**, Univ. of Chicago
Matthew Steidle, Austin College
- BASEBALL** **Robert Erickson**, Middlebury College
Michael McCallum, Univ. of Dallas
- GOLF (CLUB)** **Patrick Blonien**, Baylor (ranked #1)
- HOCKEY (CLUB)** **Jack Skaggs**, Villanova

Colleges

- Austin College
- Baylor (3)
- Boston College
- Cambridge (England)
- University of Chicago
- University of Dallas
- Dartmouth
- Georgetown
- Loyola (NO)
- Univ. of Michigan (2)
- Middlebury
- Univ. of Mississippi
- Univ. of Missouri
- Northeastern
- Northwestern
- Oklahoma State
- Providence
- Notre Dame
- St. Andrews (Scotland)
- Santa Clara
- St. Louis Univ.
- Texas A&M (8)
- UT - Austin
- UT - Dallas (2)
- Vanderbilt
- Villanova
- Wake Forest

4 Cistercian graduates attending St. Andrews in Scotland: **Connor Roberts '12**, **Drew Roberts '12**, **Antanas Madhavapeddy '13**, and **Conner McCain '14**.

1 The number of Cistercian graduates to attend Cambridge University in England. **Sebastian Ober '14** is the school's first.



Fr. Justin ordination truly a family affair

The August 15 ordination of Fr. Justin McNamara, the final in a succession of eleven ordinations in six years, caused a few double-takes among the assembled.

The familiar face serving as deacon that people had a hard time placing belonged to Fr. Justin's brother, John.

"Not many priests can 'boast' of having a second priestly vocation in their family," said Fr. Justin, "so it was a tremendous blessing to have my older brother, soon to be ordained a priest, serving at both my priestly ordination and first mass."

Many other members of Fr. Justin's family attended as well. It was especially meaningful "on account of the great geographical distance between me and my family ever since I joined the abbey."

"We've had few opportunities to spend time together and their traveling to

my ordination was a very visible testimony of their love and support of me."

As he had at the previous 10 ordinations, Bishop Kevin Farrell marveled at the growth and importance of the Cistercian community.

"After I was ordained," said Fr. Justin, "the bishop greeted me with the sign of peace and imparted his heartfelt wish that God keep me faithful to the priesthood. I felt deeply that I had now truly become a 'son' of his and a fellow worker in the Lord's vineyard in the church of Dallas."

Among the support from the community of Cistercian fathers, one father's enthusiasm could not be missed.

"As at my solemn profession and my diaconate ordination," Fr. Justin added, "Fr. Benedict [Monostori] radiantly bestowed his blessing upon me."

From the oldest to the newest.



Clockwise from top left: Bishop Kevin Farrell ordains Br. Justin as his brother John serves as deacon. Top right: The bishop blesses Fr. Justin. Bottom right: Fr. Justin prays during the mass. Bottom left: Fr. Justin blesses his mother and father. Middle left: The bishop gives Fr. Justin the sign of peace.

Building a community **ONE**
RELATIONSHIP
at a time





Monks mingle outside on the lawn and (above, right) pray in community inside the church



*The eleven ordained
— all 30-something years old —
are reaching out in their roles
as monks, priests, and teachers*

By David Exall Stewart

GREEN GRASS AND BLUE SKY framed the massive stone blocks of the abbey church on a recent sunlit Sunday morning. Individual groups of church-goers mingled with monks peppered across the lawn. As they have for 22 years.

Not long after graduating from Cistercian in 2001, a talkative Episcopalian named Andrew Gregg '01 pondered the ramifications of converting to Catholicism here. When not in school at Sewanee, he would hang out at the abbey as if it were a second home.

In 2002, a UTA architecture student named Juan Jose Peacher was spotted on the lawn after he secured living quarters at the Cistercian retreat house. Over several years with the Cistercians, Peacher discovered, to his surprise, that the abbey offered him more than a place to live.

A University of Dallas student and Nebraska Cornhusker fan named Brian Esposito was drawn to the abbey after meeting the Cistercians at UD.

On the lawn, each young man had found a way to explore the wisdom and peace of the Cistercian monks, one on one.

Between 2002 and 2009, this patch of grass helped connect many young men with the monks and spiritual counselors like then-Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy, Fr. Roch Kereszty, and Fr. Paul McCormick, vocations director. Eleven would be ordained as priests between 2009 and 2014. All have been playing (or are in their last years of preparing to play) integral roles throughout the school and abbey.

In front of the church on this September day in 2014, the monks sport darker hair and

slimmer waistlines than those 10-12 years ago. But they offer the same open invitation to those wanting to talk.

And one can't help but wonder whether one or two among the many gathered in the monastery's front yard today — around the likes of Fr. Thomas Esposito, Fr. Stephen Gregg '01, and Fr. Ignatius Peacher — might be tip-toeing towards a calling.

IN THE UPSTAIRS LOBBY OF THE SCIENCE BUILDING, student representatives were discussing preparations for the homecoming party with Fr. Thomas on a Tuesday afternoon.

"So," offered the 31-year-old student government sponsor whose amiable good nature belies his long list of theological degrees, "if the freshmen have the entrance and the concession stand, and the juniors have the moon room and are helping with the casino area, what does that leave for the sophomores?"

In addition to bringing his easy-going consensus-building style of leadership to the student council, Fr. Thomas teaches Form VIII World Religions and Form III Religion at the prep school and Biblical Greek and Understanding the Bible at UD, where he is often surrounded by a posse of students.

"Am I getting close?" a student asked Fr. Ignatius Peacher, 38, on a Wednesday morning in the art room where 11 Fourth Formers stood at easels mixing blue and white paints hoping to find the sky blue pictured in a poster at the front of the room.

The class comprises one of the four parts of a new Form IV initiative implemented this year to stoke the artistic sides of Cistercian's 13 and 14-year-olds. By May, each group of 10-11 Fourth Formers will have rotated through music appreciation, fine arts, art history, and drama during the course of the year.

"This," emphasized Fr. Ignatius, who has degrees in both art and architecture, and also teaches Form II art, "may be the only chance these guys ever have to paint on a canvas."

Next door, Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" was playing in Cistercian's music room. A gaggle of Fourth Formers sat staring at a vintage 1962 "music video" on one side of the big screen. On the other, Fr. Stephen highlighted important lines in the song's lyrics.

An accomplished musician and vocalist who isn't far from completing his doctorate in English, Fr. Stephen spoke quickly as he shared this lesson on the development of blues and rock 'n roll in the 20th century (part of the music appreciation component of the new Form IV arts curriculum).

He played a few bars of Bach on a nearby keyboard, suggesting that its beauty belied the pain and suffering the composer must have experienced in the 17th and 18th centuries.

"When Dylan sings, 'If your time to you is worth savin'," he asked, focusing the boys' eyes on the lyrics in boldface, "what do you think he means?"

"GOD WAS CALLING ME to try this," remembered Fr. Joseph of his years at UD leading up to his decision to join the monastery as a novice in August 2002. "But I didn't really imagine myself becoming a Cistercian."

He did, however, feel an undeniable affinity for the abbey's academic mission.

As a high school student at Pope Pius X High School in Atlanta, Van House excelled in his studies and at debate. A sense that he might be called to the priesthood, however, led him to focus his attention on the campus ministry program during his





Clockwise from top right: Fr. Ambrose Strong enjoying a laugh. Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01 with his boys. Fr. Ignatius Peacher with a Form IV artist. Fr. Stephen Gregg '01 at a football game. Fr. John Bayer at an abbey reception. Fr. Anthony Bigney doing lunchroom duty as form master. Fr. Philip Lastimosa '00 visiting with parents

senior year.

And that call led him to eschew institutions like Northwestern, Emory, and UT-Plan II for UD, “where the students were engaged and enthused about their classes and their faith.”

He quickly ran into the Cistercians at UD. Fr. James Lehrberger served as his academic advisor and taught him first semester; Fr. Robert Maguire taught him second semester. By his sophomore year, Van House began engaging Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy in conversations about the turmoils of war-torn, Soviet-occupied Hungary.

“God had put all these Cistercians in my life,” he said, “examples of what it is to be like a priest.

“Still, the idea of being tied to one community made me uncomfortable. So I decided to look around at a number of other orders.

“Fr. Denis and Fr. Roch were pretty open about that. They never forced the issue, never became impatient.

“In the end, of course, I trusted and respected these priests. I prayed a lot for light. When it was given to me, through a lot of reflection, I saw it was the right step.”

Br. Joseph’s step — along with the steps of Br. Abraham (Aaron Frei, who stayed for four years) and Br. Athanasius (who left after 10 months) — signaled a giant leap for the abbey.

IT’S HARD TO IMAGINE THE ODDS. But when Jason Parzynski (Br. William) departed Irving — and the novice class of Br. Anthony Bigney and Br. John Bayer — providence connected him with a soft-spoken Chicagoan named Ryan McNamara, 1,000 miles to the north.

“God brought me to Texas through the invitation of Jason Parzynski,” laughed Fr. Justin McNamara, 32, the last of the eleven to join the ranks of the 30-something monks.

Ordained in August, Fr. Justin is spending the current year studying German and Latin at the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz in Austria. (On his return next year, he is expected to reinforce the school’s Latin curriculum.)

The personal journeys of two young men trying to find themselves intersected at Mundelein Seminary (part of the University of St. Mary of the Lake campus in suburban Chicago).

Parzynski had left Texas for Chicago in hopes of pursuing a diocesan vocation at Mundelein.

McNamara was well into what was beginning to seem like an endless string of seminaries in search of a home for his vocation.

His search had begun at Loyola University Chicago, where he first explored the idea of becoming a priest at St. Joseph’s Seminary. While there, he earned a degree in philosophy and became fascinated with the Rule of St. Benedict.

He set out to find a community in which he would feel comfortable practicing St. Benedict’s ascetic lifestyle. He visited St. Meinrad’s (a Benedictine monastery in Indiana) and the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky (made famous by the Cistercian author, Fr. Thomas Merton). But a dearth of young vocations scared him off from both monasteries.

After a summer of working day jobs, he resumed his search at Mundelein. He was persevering through his second year when he ran into Parzynski.

Understanding McNamara’s desires, Parzynski enthusiastically “talked up the Cistercians,” and recommended he visit Texas.

“Fr. Denis and Fr. Roch did not put pressure on me,” remembered Fr. Justin. “They gave me the space I needed. They

THE ELEVEN

In 2001, the Cistercian monks and community prayed for vocations. A goal was set for five vocations in 10 years.

Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy made it his priority to serve as a counselor for any young men considering a vocation.

He offered his time freely, at any time of the day or night, to serve as a sounding board and to guide them through the process of discernment. And it became a full-time job.

These relationships prompted far more young men to take their temporary vows than any had hoped. From those, the eleven priests below were ordained (in order of seniority).



Fr. Ignatius, 38

Born/raised: Guadalajara, Mexico/
Texas

Ordained: 2011

Art (Form II); Visual Arts (Form IV). Army brat lived in Germany between the ages of 11 and 15; high school in Texas; has a degree in art (St. John's Univ, MN) and a masters in architecture (UTA); ranks as the elder statesman of the eleven monks:

longest sojourn to find his priestly vocation; novice master and liturgy master in the abbey.



Fr. Joseph, 33

Born/raised: Atlanta

Ordained: 2009

Head of the Theology Dept. and Campus Ministry; Form Master (Form VI), Theology (Form V), Religion (Form II).

Born/raised: Atlanta

Excelled in academics and debate at Atlanta's St. Pius X Catholic High School; attended UD where Cister-

cian Fr. James Lehrberger was his academic advisor; guest master in the abbey.



Fr. Thomas, 31

Born/raised: Oakland/Nebraska

Ordained: 2011

Religion (Form III); Theology (Form VIII); Student Council Sponsor. Nebraska Cornhuskers football fan who attended UD for its Rome campus; also spent five years studying in Rome as a Cistercian; succeeded Fr. Roch as the teacher of World Religions course (Form VIII); teaches

several courses at UD; vocations director in abbey.



Fr. Augustine '00, 32

Born/raised: Dallas

Ordained: 2010

Form Master (Form V); History (Form VI); Campus Ministry Assistant; Assistant Quiz Bowl Sponsor.

The only priest among the eleven to attend both Cistercian and the University of Dallas; began work on his masters in history at UTA the same year he began as form master;

serves as assistant choirmaster in the abbey.



Fr. Ambrose, 31

Born/raised: Ft. Worth

Ordained: 2011

Form Master (Form IV); Latin (Form I); Religion (Form IV); Theology (Form VI).

UD graduate loves the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and sports like soccer, baseball, golf; Pro-Life Club sponsor; an enthusiastic assistant coach for many of his form's youth

sports teams.



Fr. Philip '00, 32

Born/raised: Dallas

Ordained: 2010

Form Master (Form III), Science (Form III), Physics (Form VIII).

The Cistercian and Lehigh graduate was always one of the youngest in his class; often receives unsolicited advice from his brothers in the abbey; enjoys board games; works with the Young Catholic Professionals;

schedules the monks for diocesan assignments; infirmarian.



Fr. Stephen '01, 32

Born/raised: Dallas

Ordained: 2012

English (Form IV); Music Appreciation (Form IV); *Reflections* Sponsor.

Was admittedly "over engaged" as a Cistercian Upper School student; born an Episcopalian, he converted to Catholicism in 2002 at the Episcopalian university Sewanee; nearing completion of his PhD in Literature

at UD; choirmaster in the monastery.



Fr. Lawrence '01, 32

Born/raised: Dallas
Ordained: 2012
Form Master (Form II); Physics (Form VII).

A star athlete at Cistercian, who still holds the Form IV record in the 100-meter, Fr. Lawrence was also an outstanding student; earned his BS and MS degrees in math from Texas A&M, nearing completion of his

doctorate at North Texas; a dedicated planner and organizer; kitchen master (cellarer) in the abbey.



Fr. Anthony, 32

Born/raised: Michigan/Ohio
Ordained: 2013
Form Master (Form I); Religion (Form I); Government (Form VIII);
Exodus Sponsor.

Attended high school outside Chicago; played soccer; graduated from Marquette where he majored in political science and minored in broadcasting; was teaching at St.

Thomas Aquinas in East Dallas when he heard his call.



Fr. John, 30

Born/raised: Texas/New York
Ordained: 2013
Currently studying at the Gregorian University in Rome for his degree in dogmatic theology; has taught Latin, religion, and theology at the prep school; known for his athletic ability and for his love of playing with Middle School students at halftime of football games; passionate about

teaching at Cistercian or UD.



Fr. Justin, 32

Born/raised: Chicago
Ordained: 2014
Currently studying at the Heiligenkreuz Abbey in Austria where he is brushing up on his German and Latin; expected to infuse the school's Latin program with new energy upon his return; eager to become an integral part of the school as a teacher or form master; last of

the eleven to be ordained.

made me seek it for myself.”

Everything clicked — the caring interest of older priests, the healthy number of young vocations, and the mission of the prep school (where his newly enkindled academic interests might find a place).

“I just sensed that something special was going on here.”

“**Y**OUR HEART EXPANDS when you become a form master,” explained Fr. Philip Lastimosa '00, 32, who presides over Form III (Class of 2020). “That’s what Fr. Augustine (Hoelke '00) told me, and it’s true.”

This year, six Cistercian priests — all members of the 30-something class of priests ordained between 2009 and 2014 — are serving as form masters, a ratio not seen since the school’s early days. (In all, sixteen monks are teaching in the school — the highest number ever — a ratio of about 22 students per monk.)

“I have so much joy watching my kids do anything: play, take a test, even eat lunch,” added Fr. Philip, a Cistercian and Lehigh graduate who teaches Form VIII physics and Form III physical science.

“My kids see me as warm and caring in a very obvious way,” he chuckled, “while kids in other forms see me as cold and mean” (especially when they’re threatening his boys).

The “form master effect” (a long debated theory that suggests students are influenced by the characteristics of their form master) threatens to transform his Third Formers into highly analytical, yet slightly silly adults who love board games.

The Fourth Formers, meanwhile, may become outdoorsmen who love hunting, fishing, and golf like their form master, UD graduate Fr. Ambrose Strong.

“The kids are constantly growing and changing,” smiled the slim, bespectacled Fort Worth native, whose calm suggests he’s sunk more than his share of pressure putts, “going through new phases.

“It’s part of the exciting work, acting as a pastor, father, and teacher that a form master has with his students,” Fr. Ambrose added. In addition to serving as a form master, he is teaching Form I Latin, Form IV religion, and Form VI theology this year.

“It is important to be an authority figure and yet develop a good relationship, respect, appreciation, and love for the students.

“Participating in their activities, going to events, playing their games with them — that’s a big part of it.

“But,” he added, “each form master has to have his own tailored approach.”

“THEY HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS!” said Fr. Anthony, form master of Form I (the Class of 2022) in mid-September, sharing just a hint of exasperation.

He discovered his passion for teaching kids when — immediately following graduation from Marquette University in Milwaukee — he followed his parents to Texas and began teaching at St. Thomas Aquinas in East Dallas. It was there that he began to hear the call to the priesthood.

“They are fun and talented, and I am having a great time with them. It just takes a lot of time to help them with so many of the small tasks.”

As the yearbook sponsor and Form VIII government teacher, Fr. Anthony is experiencing both ends of the Cistercian eight-year continuum.

Fr. Augustine Hoelke '00
teaching history last May



“The questions are fewer in Upper School,” he acknowledged, “but they’re bigger.”

According to Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01, he should feel much better by the end of the Form I year.

A star halfback and salutatorian in his Cistercian days, Fr. Lawrence characterized his experience as a Form I form master as “pretty wonderful.”

“It surprised me how quickly the boys made friends with each other,” he added. “That was not something that came easily to me while I was here.”

The “math monk,” who is closing in on his doctorate in mathematics from North Texas, brings a serious focus on planning and organization to his duties as form master.

“Instead of day-dreaming about what the boys can be,” Fr. Lawrence insisted, “in the school you can help make it happen. I look for what I can do to promote, redirect, but allow a boy to continue to grow to become a leader who can improve himself and the class.”

“The same,” he acknowledged, “is true for us as monks. As a group and as individuals, we have to realize our potential.”

“**W**E COMPARE NOTES A LOT at dinner,” noted Fr. Augustine '00, form master of Form V who also teaches Form VI history. “What’s the best way to spend time at an outing at a specific park? Opinions on approaches to parent parties, form meetings, and so many other occasions.”

And countless other details — and larger issues — involved in leading a class for eight years. Some more important than others.

“We are a very tightly knit group and we want to see each other succeed,” insisted the Cistercian alumnus who is nearing completion of his master’s in history from UTA. “It helps that we have come to know each other’s strengths and weaknesses over

*“We are a very
tightly knit group
... it helps that we have
come to know each other’s
strengths and weaknesses
over the years.”*

— Fr. Augustine Hoelke '00

the years.

“There’s a healthy dose of competition amongst us as well,” he added. “It’s driven me to try harder, to focus on working with students and parents one at a time.

“It surprised me how long it would take to build those relationships with some of the students and parents,” he said. “Relationships are one of the most joyful parts of being a form master, but they develop at different paces.

“So I have tried to go one on one, get to know an individual’s likes and dislikes, his ambitions — to build relationships over the long term.”

“POWERFUL,” FR. JOSEPH VAN HOUSE ACKNOWLEDGED of the 10-day span in August 2009 in which he transformed from a full-time student to a priest, full-time teacher, and form master. “And abrupt.

“No amount of mentoring could have made that transition smooth.”

“I was surprised how much I enjoyed teaching younger kids,” he said. “On the other hand, I was disappointed in how difficult it was to connect with the students.

“But one of the really beautiful aspects of living this life is that there are people who have been through this right down the hall. I took lots of walks after dinner to talk about things informally with men like Fr. Peter, Fr. Roch, and Fr. Paul.”

A year ago, when his freshmen attended their first “after party” following the season’s initial football game, he surprised everyone by diving into the pool in his habit and joining with them in their big moment.

“I wanted to honor my form as they started a new chapter,” he said. “and to do something really, really fun.

“What surprised me is how much they all enjoyed it — and



Fr. Joseph Van House joins his guys at their first football party last fall

how much it meant to them.”

Standing with Fr. Joseph at a recent Friday night football game, a student caught the Form VI form master’s eye; knowing looks were exchanged that suggested the form master was keeping an eye on the teen.

“Student-teacher thing,” he confided with a smile.

“THERE IS A CERTAIN KIND OF ROOTEDNESS among us now that wasn’t here when I was a ‘little’ monk,” reflected Fr. Stephen, “living and teaching day by day, year by year. Now sitting together at dinner, we are pretty certain what we’ll be doing 10, even 40 years from now.”

“What is beautiful about this community,” said Fr. John Bayer, 30, who is spending the fall studying at the Gregorian University in Rome, “is that while we have different talents and interests, I never met a brother who was slacking off or uninterested.”

No one ever accused the UD graduate from New York of being uninterested during halftime at home football games. The image of his bundle of black-and-white robes streaking across the field to catch a pass has come to represent the special connection the “30-something” monks have with the students. (He has been missed at this year’s games.)

“Ultimately,” he added, “everyone has a strong sense of purpose and call. We all share a vision for this work. It is not just a job to any of us. Our work as monks, priests, and teachers is an extension of our prayer life as a community.”

“As a group,” suggested Fr. Augustine, “we have an opportunity to build on the shoulders of the monks who went before us. We are free from the foundation-building problems of the previous generations, so we can fine-tune and work on the follow-through of the mission.

“We have luxuries like the recently completed chapel at the school,” emphasized the Cistercian alumnus who is assisting Fr. Joseph in creating a campus ministry program. “There are new opportunities to help lead and guide the students.”

“**B**RIAN PRICE CAME TO CISTERCIAN freshman year and he became everybody’s friend within a month,” remembered Fr. Stephen of his former classmate. “When he died that same year of a congenital heart condition in a movie theater, it traumatized us, and forced us to start asking some tough questions.”

Fr. Roch, form master of the Class of 2001, shared his wisdom with his boys. He helped them process the sadness, and the reality. He counseled them personally and through his homily at the funeral service.

“Apparently any of us can die at any moment,” Fr. Stephen remembered thinking. “I want to figure this out: why am I still here?”

“Fr. Lawrence, Br. Francis (Gruber ’01), and I were all good friends with Brian. His death connected us deeply to this place. Cistercian wasn’t just our school, it was this place where we had experienced a lot of our deepest loves and losses.

“It also deepened our love and appreciation for Fr. Roch. It is strange how that loss endeared him to us, and made us grow up very quickly.”

“I COULDN’T IMAGINE,” reflected Fr. Anthony recently, emotion surfacing briefly in his voice, “the grief the family was experiencing.”

He was recalling the deep sadness all felt at the tragic death within the family of an Upper School student.

This student and Fr. Anthony had developed a strong relationship, partially through an elective, but mostly outside class. Now, that student needed the monk to counsel him, and his family, by delivering the homily at the funeral.

Fr. Anthony sought the help of Abbot Peter and Fr. Paul, men who have shouldered such difficult responsibilities in recent years.

“It was the hardest thing I’ve ever had to write,” he said.

But the homily wasn’t the only priestly duty Fr. Anthony performed that week. An old friend had asked the monk to officiate his wedding in Missouri. Then, at week’s end, he baptized the son of another friend.



Professor Fr. Thomas Esposito with UD students after class

“In moments like these,” he reflected, “I have begun to recognize I am a priest who has something to give.”

“THERE IS VERY LITTLE TALK in the abbey about ‘I am going to be this person,’ or ‘I want this job,’” reflected Fr. John before his departure for Italy. “I have sensed a more humble attitude, a genuine desire to be obedient, to serve the community, to perform the tasks of the superior.

“The first priority is being available to the needs of the community,” said the priest, who is a passionate teacher and will probably teach theology at the prep school and perhaps at UD when his studies are complete.

But is there any further ambition, greater hope?

“I hope and pray that our community, in doing our work, can change the way people perceive a life devoted to Christ,” he said.

“Our way of life is not antiquated,” he added, “it is still vital. And I hope we can set an example that shows people how wonderful it is.

“If we can offer a convincing witness of the life, joy and community that can be found in Christ — that alone is a very meaningful and important service in our world.”

THE FINAL OF THE ELEVEN

30-something monks, Fr. Justin, was ordained in August.

During the solemn “laying of the hands,” all the priests lined up to spend a quiet moment over the newly ordained Fr. Justin, who knelt before them.

Fr. Benedict Monostori, 95, took his turn. After a few seconds resting on the bowed head of the abbey’s newest priest, the abbey’s oldest hands suddenly exploded skyward in a jolt of energy. His arms remained elevated for a couple of seconds — signaling, it appeared, a touchdown.

A sly smile crossed his face.

The monastery’s oldest (and perhaps quietest) monk — who passed away a little over a month after the ordination — took this opportunity to declare things well and “good.” (He had enjoyed watching football and baseball games with Fr. Justin.)

Having witnessed the breadth and depth of the Cistercian’s journey from Hungary to America, Fr. Benedict’s perspective should be reassuring.

He had seen the stability and grandeur of the Abbey of Zirc in the late thirties, and embraced Abbot Wendelin Endrédy’s call in 1938 for the Hungarian Cistercians to unify their communal life with the schools and students that they led.

When Soviet oppression threatened to end the Cistercian’s way of life, Fr. Benedict joined others who fled Hungary in August 1950, with the hope of reviving Abbot Wendelin’s vision in the New World.

In America, he worked to adapt and to fulfill his duties to Our Lady of Dallas — learning English as a 40-year-old, earning his doctorate in physics, and serving as a UD professor until 1989.

He would continue to serve as a soft-spoken mentor even after he retired — this time as chaplain for the Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters in Grand Prairie — in 2011.

The 30-somethings ordained between 2009 and 2014 filled him with joy, confirming his life’s work and Abbot Wendelin’s vision of Cistercians praying in community as monks while serving as priests and teachers.

In his theatrical gesture over the head of Fr. Justin, Fr. Benedict shared his special affection for this quiet

30-something monk, one who perhaps reminded him of a young monk ordained 70 years before in Hungary.

And he celebrated — if but for an instant — their singular relationship.



Fr. Justin McNamara in the sacristy shortly before his ordination in August

The abbey’s oldest hands suddenly exploded skyward in a jolt of energy. His arms remained elevated for a couple of seconds — signaling, it appeared, a touchdown.



WORLD VIEWS

Catching up with alumni who have made their homes overseas

By David Exall Stewart

John H. Moody '88
with his two
daughters overlooking
Lake Constance
in Lindau, Germany

“We walked through the falling snow to church,” remembered John Harley Moody ’88 of the Christmas he spent visiting his college-age brother in Altötting, Germany as a Cistercian Fifth Former. “Past candlelit graves, through massive medieval oak doors into a densely packed foyer lit with candles and filled with strange and ancient art work.

“I couldn’t keep my eyes off a massive clock,” he said. “Upon it stood a carved wooden figure of death swinging his scythe back and forth with each movement of the pendulum.

“Birgit, my host sister, giggled,” recalled Moody, who would go on to major in German at Syracuse, study in Germany, and become a translator for ING BHF Bank in Frankfurt.

“She explained that each swing forward represented a life being harvested and with each swing back a child being born. My 14-year-old mind was thrilled to experience something so macabre — at church of all places!”

Since that experience, Moody said, “I’ve always loved languages and traveling. Living abroad, you get to discover who you are in a new and different culture.”

“I traveled to Egypt countless times as a youth,” said Kareem Dabbous ’00, who was born to Egyptian parents in America, “but the experience of spending day after day, month after month, with colleagues, neighbors, and acquaintances on Egyptian soil has unlocked an entirely different understanding and appreciation of the dynamics and depth of Egyptian society.

“I have been forced to abandon various comfort zones and adapt to local customs at times,” he added. “It is important to conform

since tradition is a hallmark element here.

“Egyptians take great pride in the fact that their civilization has endured several thousands of years. Consequently, their nationalism and self-awareness are constantly palpable. Likewise, Egyptians are quick to respect and/or trust in outsiders they see celebrating their way of life by recognizing and engaging in it.

“Oddly enough, there has been tremendous change in Egypt during the time I have stayed here,” said Dabbous, a project manager for an oil and gas company. “There have been three presidents, two revolutions, and two transitional governments. Circumstances and opinions have changed suddenly and radically.

“Ultimately, it has been indescribable to closely witness a population revolt in unison, encounter strife, and then navigate through the challenges to establish a new future.”

“Back in 1997,” said Peter Bithos ’90, “I was a 25-year-old strategy consultant with no language skills who wanted to go to the Far East.

“I got offered Sydney just three years before the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games,” he smiled. “It was an easy decision.

“I consider it one of the highlights of my life to have been a part of Asia’s global rise. I have had a chance to do business in Sydney, Melbourne, Singapore, and the Philippines, and experienced business cultures from all over Asia,” said Bithos, who spent nine years in Australia, returned to the U.S. for three years, and is now chief operating officer for Globe Telecom, the second largest telecom in the Philippines.

“I deal extensively with Chinese businesses and deal with

Indian, Indonesian, and Thai partners very frequently.

“Living there, you really see the 21st century playing itself out in real-time,” he said. “There are about 3 billion people in Asia trying to make their lives better. It’s great to work on the front-line and to be a part of it.

“As for the Philippines, things are changing at light speed.

“The Philippines is the fastest growing economy in Asia (yes, faster than China), the third largest English speaking country in the world (behind the U.S. and India), the second youngest country in Asia (average age is around 25), and the most socially networked country on the planet (as a percent of internet users).

“I am very grateful,” said Bithos, who is of Greek descent, “that my parents traveled a lot and took my sister and me with them. That meant always being aware of a broader world outside LBJ ... and I’m not referring to Plano.”

The nature of the work at FIFA,” said Nick Lau ’98, an executive with the worldwide governing body of football (a.k.a., soccer), “has exposed me to various corners of the world, from Chile, to South Africa, to New Zealand, to the United Arab Emirates, and most recently to Brazil, Russia, and Qatar.”

Ethnically Chinese, Lau and his parents were born in Trinidad and Tobago. The family moved to Texas when Lau was just two.

“We were raised Catholic,” he said. “My identity is as an American and a Trinidadian — and a Texan.”

His Chinese looks, American upbringing, and Harvard education would seem to have prepared him beautifully for a life of globe trotting. But it took patience, passion, and ingenuity to earn his position at FIFA.

“It was a tough job market in 2002,” he recalled of the post-9/11, post-internet-bubble job market when he graduated from Harvard with a degree in biochemical sciences, “so I stuck around campus doing various jobs.

“When the director of the Office of Career Services suggested my passion could be my career,” said Lau, “my radar was tuned to anything to do with soccer.”

Following a tip from a pickup soccer game, he enrolled in the FIFA Master, a ten-month program that takes its students to England, Italy, and Switzerland (home of FIFA) to explore the humanities, management, and law of sport.

Lau then engineered a research project reviewing FIFA’s development programs. That project led to a string of consultancy projects that continued for two years while Lau lived in Malaysia.

An opportunity finally arose with FIFA in 2007, at their headquarters in Zürich, Switzerland.

Lau quickly worked his way up from competition services to event management to the team administering the double bidding process (during which the host countries for the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups would be selected).

That process culminated on December 2, 2010, with the selection of Russia and Qatar for the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups, respectively.

Lau then moved on to a newly formed department charged with planning for the 2018 and 2022 events.

At the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, he organized programs to help officials from Russia and Qatar gain first-hand experience.

Through it all, he’s learned a few things.

“I have to say the cultural differences are part of the great experience of living overseas,” he said. “But they also can be difficult — accepting cultures that have different values or

A sampling of global experiences

MATTHEW LAWSON ’04 ■ 2012-CURRENT: ENGLAND

Works from home as a software engineer for London-based HouseTrip. “Main motivation was to be around more English folks, though, much like London itself, the company is more European than simply English.”

STEVE KINARD ’04 ■ 2010-13: PANAMA

Worked as a financial analyst at an investment bank after graduating from Texas A&M. “My mom is Panamanian and I majored in international studies so I always had an interest in living abroad.” Recently completed his MBA at George Washington University and is working in Houston.

MIKE BOSCARDIN ’95 ■ 2008-10: BRAZIL

A chance to “solidify my Portuguese fluency while taking on a unique challenge” in strategic sourcing. “This expat assignment was opened up for me, so I jumped on it, especially since I didn’t have kids. It seemed like a once in a lifetime opportunity, and it was.”

PETER DUGAN ’01 ■ 2008-09: EQUATORIAL GUINEA (AFRICA)

“Lived outside the U.S. off and on since I was a kid (living in the Dominican Republic).” Working in international development (anti-corruption and social development project). “Always wanted to work to improve some of the inequality I saw in developing countries from an early age.”

DEMETRIOS VENETIS ’94 ■ 2005-07: HONG KONG

“In order to truly understand the dynamic world of global trade and international logistics, you have to familiarize oneself with Asian culture, origin sourcing, and the region’s ever changing customs regulations and infrastructure.” Now working for a Hong Kong-based firm helping U.S. companies distribute their products in Asia.

CHRISTOPHER KRIBS ’85 ■ 2003-04: MEXICO, ’09-10: FRANCE

Served as professor in mathematics as a Fulbright Scholar to Mexico and Marie Curie Scholar to France. It was a chance “to collaborate with research colleagues in other places, and on the personal side to experience life in a different culture.”

JEFF SCHNEIDER ’94 ■ 2000-02, ’07-10: TURKEY

Taught at a Turkish University for two years. Later, returned as a minister ordained in the Presbyterian Church and worked at a small Turkish-speaking Presbyterian congregation in Istanbul. Married to an American he met in Istanbul and living in Chicago.

PAUL ORSULAK ’90 ■ 1996-2001: GERMANY

Worked at TRW’s German office to develop vehicle safety systems for European car companies. “I designed, tested and certified the frontal safety system for the first BMW X3, for example. Great experience all around.”

Finding fresh water at the well

In a country locked in another time, Moldovan girls needed this opportunity to win an appreciation of their own value

The way women are treated in Moldova shocked me,” recalled Philip Schnorbach ’08, who returned in August from a two-year Peace Corps mission to help incubate developing businesses in this long neglected Eastern European country of 4 million.

Schnorbach and about 15 other Peace Corps volunteers had undergone an intensive two-month training program on the ground to prepare for their jobs (including a crash course in Romanian, the country’s primary language).

Adapting to life in Moldova came relatively easily for the Trinity University graduate. He got along well with his host family far from the capital, enjoyed the challenge of helping local businesses, and hardly noticed the lack of conveniences (like access to indoor plumbing and safe drinking water).

But he found the way men treated women truly disturbing.

“I had friends, wives, who were being bullied by their husbands,”

he said. “It is one thing to read about incidents in the news, but it was another thing to see a friend suffer.”

Schnorbach had never been a champion for women’s rights, but he decided to investigate a program called Technovation that was in its fifth year of empowering high school girls to learn the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and technology.

Sponsored by a San Francisco company called Iridescent, English-speaking girls around the world are given the chance to develop an application designed to make life better in their country. Contestants submit their ideas through an on-line presentation for

evaluation by the California judges.

The winners of the various continental competitions are offered the opportunity to present their concepts to investors in person in San Francisco.

“It’s a way to show women in countries like Moldova that they can be independent,” Schnorbach said. “It has the chance to motivate them to become entrepreneurs and to avoid the kind of work most 30+ women in Moldova do.”

In a small way, he hoped to break the cycle of financial handouts and teach at least a few Moldovan women how to fish for themselves.

So in January, Schnorbach enlisted the help of his fellow Peace Corps volunteers to try to assemble some willing girls in their towns to participate. It wasn’t easy.

“Many girls didn’t believe Moldovans had the talent to create a winning app or presentation,” he said. “And they thought if they did,

their work would be overlooked since they’re from Moldova. They assumed that an American competition would favor Americans.”

Schnorbach — who ran an English club in his spare time to help students in his town with their grammar and pronunciation — had to encourage the girls in his club to participate, persuading them that they had the talent, and that the contest would be fair.

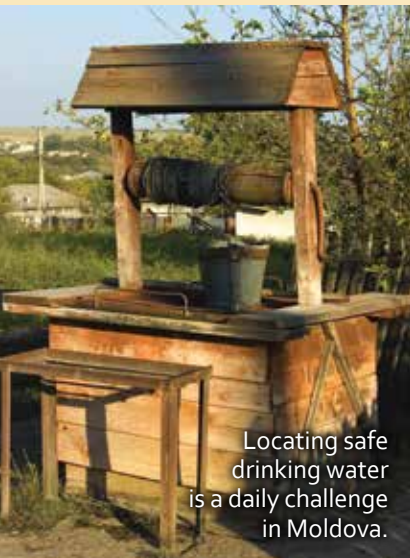
In the end, the Peace Corps volunteers organized and began mentoring seven teams of girls, five from rural areas of Moldova (like Schnorbach’s team) and two from Chişinău, the capital.

“All of our teams were really impressive,” he said.

“Still, once all the projects were submitted (including a business plan and a demo of the app),” Schnorbach admitted, “my fellow volunteers and I didn’t really believe any of our teams would be selected — over all the submissions from other European countries — to go to San Francisco.”

They were wrong.

The girls from Ştefăneşti had a winning idea, plan, app, and presentation (see <http://www.technovationchallenge.org/world-pitch->



Locating safe drinking water is a daily challenge in Moldova.



2014/). Their app, called ApăPură, is designed to help Moldovans locate wells with the best drinking water. The app maps the wells and rates each for water quality (e.g., smell, taste, known bacteria). It also suggests treatment options when the water quality is poor.

The news of their selection in April caught everyone by surprise. Schnorbach had to scramble to help find the funds for their flights as well as procure passports and visas for the team's trip to California in June.

And all the Peace Corps volunteers (including one with an MBA in marketing and another who had worked at a Federal Reserve Bank) put on a workshop for the Ștefănești team to help them polish their San Francisco presentation.

"This win by a Moldovan team made an impression on all the girls who participated," Schnorbach insisted. "At the end of the competition, they had so much fun, they said, 'we're definitely doing this next year.'"

"I've received emails from them since I've been back asking if it's not too early to get started on next year's project."

Schnorbach expects his fellow Peace Corps volunteers will find a Moldovan organization to take over the project to ensure that it continues.

"In Moldova [which has been called the next Ukraine]," said Schnorbach, "status, money, and advanced positions come almost always as the result of connections."

"Through Technovation, we helped to change the mindset of a few girls. They are empowered now to take control of their own destiny."

"Technovation is a way to show women in countries like Moldova that they can be independent. It has a chance to motivate them to become entrepreneurs."

— Philip Schnorbach '08
Peace Corps volunteer
Moldova, 2012-14

priorities than I do and always remembering the need to adapt and be on my toes.

"It has been a true test of faith and a point of reflection to witness such a variety of religious experiences.

"During my time living in Malaysia, traveling around that part of the world, and now living in Europe, I saw Muslims, Buddhists, and practitioners of many faiths be very kind and generous.

"Then, on the other hand, I sometimes saw members of my own faith, acting in not the most holy of ways. Of course, the inverse is also the case.

"All told, it gives food for thought about what is good and true."

"My experiences at Cistercian were key influences," said Will Dawson '90, "on my taking my first job overseas in Italy in 2000, and then my subsequent positions in Sweden, France and the UK.

"Not only did we have a diverse mix of teachers at Cistercian," he explained, "I also had a diverse class: one Muslim, two Hindus, the son of a Baptist minister, the grandson of the founder of the Dallas Greek Orthodox church, and even an atheist.

"Each of these people brought a different world view to the classroom and to my life. Living and working abroad was just a natural extension of my time at Cistercian."

So the newly married technology consultant embarked on what would become 12 years of working and going to school (an MBA in London) outside the U.S. (He and his family of four returned to the U.S. in 2012.)

Dawson took up a local sport in each of the four countries.

"It was a good way to pick up the nuances of the local culture," Dawson explained. "People are more themselves when they are doing something they enjoy.

"In Italy, I took up soccer. In Sweden, I took up Innebandy (a.k.a., floorball, similar to ice hockey, but played on a basketball court and with no physical contact). In England, I took up rugby.

"My first couple of weeks of meetings were not going very well in Sweden, and I could not figure out why.

"It was through playing Innebandy that I learned the Swedes were a consensus-led society. I adapted my meeting style to take this into account."

A concrete slab and a wooden block (substituting for a mattress and a pillow) helped Todd Bryan '86 explore the Asian mind.

The sleeping accommodations were part of two 10-day Buddhist retreats in Thailand during his seven years in Asia as a strategy consultant and investment banker.

"Asia's economies boomed in the mid-nineties," Bryan said, "and along with it, my company's business. We added one new office in Asia approximately every year — substantial considering Boston Consulting Group only had 15 offices globally when I joined.

"Transferring to Asia offered me an entrepreneurial, exotic, and exciting professional experience, and greater responsibility earlier in my career than I could have gotten in the U.S. I got far more than I bargained for."

Including his future wife, a native of Thailand.

Through the retreats, in which participants meditated for 14+ hours a day, Bryan became familiar with the form of Buddhism called loving kindness or Metta meditation.

"Both retreats gave me a strong inner peace. I would not say I am now a Buddhist, but I respect the example of the Buddha, his teachings, and the Buddhist community.

Representing America on the world stage

Throughout Asia there are two reactions to Americans: 1. Envy and respect of individual Americans. 2. Extreme displeasure with America as a whole.

I found that Asians easily separate the concept of the individual and the state or nation — probably because many Asians strongly dislike their own governments, or have such strong regional differences within their own countries.

— Todd Bryan '86

Over the last 10 years overseas, many Americans and I have been asked to explain or defend some very difficult things... from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the global financial crisis and recently the NSA scandal.

I have personally lived through the erosion and evaporation of global support for America which peaked following the September 11 attacks (which happened my senior year of college) and hit major lows during the recent wars and scandals.

— Nick Lau '98

In the Philippines (and Australia), they think Americans are loud, a bit uncouth, and that Americans think the world revolves around them.

— Peter Bithos '90

Years of donor (usually Western) nations providing large transfers of aid money has taught the Moldovan population that the job of a Westerner that comes to their country is to bring a monetary contribution.

When I denied their urgings to simply seek grant funds, and instead sought to transfer skills or improve the management of the existing resources, I was met with significant resistance.

Sadly, we bear much of the responsibility for this culture in Moldova.

— Philip Schnorbach '08



Todd Bryan '86 and his Thai wife make an offering to a Buddhist monk at their wedding.

“While my meditation practice has fallen off,” said Bryan, who moved back to the states in 2004, “I still take time to remember every day that all humans are the same, that anger only hurts the angry person, and that everything, including life, is temporary.”

Just a year out of USC and already on his third startup, Jason Mitura '03 was looking toward opportunities in Silicon Valley when — out of the blue — he was drawn toward Ukraine.

“I had heard about this cool technology there,” he said. “I went to see it, and was hooked.”

Other tech types had been intrigued by the possibilities of the talented engineers at Kiev-based Viewdle, but quickly determined they didn't want to be the first to invest in a tech company in a former Soviet satellite.

“I was just dumb enough not to say no,” Mitura laughed.

In Kiev in 2008, Mitura joined a core group of engineers working at a state-run university lab who were developing state-of-the-art vision technologies (think facial recognition).

“It would be very difficult in the U.S.,” Jason Mitura '03 would tell a London-based *Bloomberg Businessweek* reporter in November 2012, “to find the caliber of talent we have in Kiev, at any price point.”

Still, as Mitura acknowledges now, “the complexities of running a tech company in Ukraine never fully dawned on me.

“The legal structures we take for granted don't really exist in Ukraine,” Mitura said. “People there aren't as accustomed to taking this kind of entrepreneurial risk.”

Cash is king. Corporate loyalty doesn't exist.

Having always been used for outsourcing by worldwide firms, Ukrainian engineers had rarely been offered a piece of the pie.

For Ukrainian engineers to introduce their own ideas to the worldwide market would require a totally new mindset, in and outside Ukraine.

“They needed a U.S. presence,” ventured Mitura, who was eventually the company's only U.S. employee. That presence would help Viewdle employees perceive themselves differently. And it would help Western investors lend the enterprise more credence. It just took four long years.

Mitura started by raising salaries and offering stock options, all signs that “we were operating as if we were in Silicon Valley, like everyone was living in San Francisco.

“We wanted investors and employees to recognize that Viewdle was located in Ukraine not because it was cheaper,” Mitura emphasized, “but because Ukraine had the best talent.

“We offered the stock options to everyone from secretaries to interns,” laughed Mitura. “Most of them would have sold them back to us for \$5 during some of the lean years.”

Mitura started as chief product officer, became president, and by 2012, served as the chief executive officer.

“We had to experiment a lot to find something that worked,” he acknowledged. But as the team worked to build a marketable product, Mitura was able to ramp up financing by attracting \$15 million in venture capital investments from the likes of Best Buy and Qualcomm.

When Apple purchased Polar Rose (a company with similar technology as Viewdle) in 2010, “we wondered, ‘why not us?’ But by being the last one standing, our value increased.”

And those stock options came in very handy for Viewdle employees.

In November 2012, Google purchased the technology and the



staff for a reported \$45 million. (It was the tech giant's first acquisition of a Ukrainian company.)

Instead of only acting as if the company is located in San Francisco, many of Viewdle's Ukrainians now live there.

Mitura? He's partnering with a couple of Israeli co-founders on to his next tech startup: robots that can see and understand objects.

Life in England came to an end in August 2013 for Daniel Hoyt '96, a banker who moved there in 2003 after meeting his English wife in Austin at UT (she was studying abroad in the U.S.). "My family and I were relocated to New York with my employer. This was supposed to be a permanent relocation.

"What I missed most was how easy it is to walk around town centers in the UK," he said, "small, dense areas where you can find libraries, parks, grocery stores and all the other things you need day-to-day.

"Even in the suburbs of NYC," he added, "we found it hard to find such walkable areas, and this made it more difficult for us to feel attached to a community."

But the move to the states didn't last long. Following a reorganization, the Hoyts (now a family of six) are back in London.

"I love the vibrancy of London, and the openness and diversity of life here," he insisted. "I am here [in London] for the duration, or at least, until the U.S. can field a decent cricket team."

Since helping engineer the sale of Kiev-based Viewdle to Google, serial entrepreneur Jason Mitura '03 has moved on to a new tech venture being founded in Israel.

"We wanted investors and employees to recognize that Viewdle was located in Ukraine not because it was cheaper, but because it had the best talent."

— Jason Mitura '03

"There is never a dull moment in Egypt," emphasized Kareem Dabbous, "due to the range and intensity of raw emotion here.

"Every time I return to the U.S., I am always taken aback at how much life calms down and the pace decreases.

"During my time here," Dabbous said, "I have not come across another full-blooded Egyptian who was born and raised in the West and came to live in Egypt in adult life." Most seek opportunities in the West.

"Egyptians have shown me a great deal of unexpected interest in

and surprising gratitude for 'taking on' life here."

Dabbous has grown quite accustomed to living in Egypt. "I love the passion and fervor of it," he said.

John Moody and his family — having lived in Germany (1993-2003), Boston (2003-13), and now Germany again — have learned a lot about their German and American selves.

"Being a public school teacher for 10 years in the U.S. was great for catching back up on my American slang. I was able to rediscover who I was in my culture.

"Now that I live in Germany again," Moody reflected, "I have a good perspective of both cultures and a good sense of 'who I really am,' which is somewhere between German and American.

"My American self likes to chat people up on the street and have relaxed, friendly conversations.

"My German self appreciates history, nature, culture, and the small intangible treasures of life that you can't put a price tag on."

CROSS COUNTRY

Strength of youthful runners and early-season successes provide hopeful signs for Hawks

As we go to press, Cistercian’s cross country team is headed into the championship-portion of the season starting with the SPC North Zone Championship on Oct. 17 and the SPC Championship on Nov. 8.

At the HSA Small School Invitational this year, the Hawks swept the High School and Junior High divisions with first-place team finishes.

(The Middle School has won two of their four meets and second place in a third.)

“We have a very young cross country program,” said Cistercian’s new cross

country coach Adam Hauser, “that has the potential to grow into a powerhouse.”

The varsity is led by seniors **Joshua Maymir ’15** and **Jeremiah Hess ’15** with strong contributions from juniors **Jake Berard ’16**, **Esteban Pimentel ’16**, and **Patrick McGlinchey ’16**.

Approximately 65 percent of the roster is comprised of freshmen and sophomores like **James Flegle ’17**, **Fielding Brown ’17**, **Greg Butler ’18**, and **Michael Jaquez ’18**.

“Looks like we should have a strong team for years to come,” said Coach Hauser.



Jake Berard '16 on the run for the Hawks.



Kyle Rutledge '15 scores on a 5-yard pass against FW Christian.



Connor Ryan '16 led the Hawks in catches, receiving yards, and TDs.

FOOTBALL

Hawks battle SPC South titans with Cistercian’s most prolific offense, ever

Talk about lighting it up! As of press time (weeks before the end of the season), the 2014 football Hawks had already cemented their place as the most prolific offense in Cistercian gridiron annals.

But it was the character of this team — in a year when the Hawks were scheduled to play against the South Zone’s large and talented teams — that stood out for Coach Steve McCarthy.

The team’s performance against Ft. Worth Christian stood out since star running back and dominating defensive end **Dare Odeyingbo ’15** sat out with an injured ankle.

“Without our best player,” McCarthy noted, “the guys stepped up and played together.”

Tied in the third quarter at home, **Jack O’Toole ’16** picked off a pass that turned the tide and led to a 21-point outburst to end the game, 42-21.

The scrappy offensive line — **Nick Skalak ’15**, **Ben Lenzen ’15**, **Dane Garnett ’16**, **Jameson Clay ’16**, and **Daniel Lawson ’17** — shined, despite being outweighed by 100 lbs. per man in some games.

They helped Odeyingbo '15 extend his gaudy lead in career rushing numbers (over 5,000 yards) and quarterback **Matthew Merrick ’15** polish off a record-setting career of over 4,500 passing yards (including 28 TDs for the 2014 campaign alone).

With the speed and talent for catching deep balls, **Connor Ryan ’16** stood out in the receiving corps. As of press time, his receptions gained an average of 20.5 yards per catch, with a quarter of them scoring TDs.

The defense was led by linebacker **Jack Garda ’15**, cornerbacks **Garret Hoard ’15**, **Thomas Williamson ’16**, and safety **Kyle Rutledge ’15**.

65 The percent of Cistercian cross country runners who are freshmen and sophomores this year; they suggest a strong future for the team.

8 The number of touchdown passes thrown by QB **Matthew Merrick ’15** in the Hawk’s 65-48 win over Houston St. John’s.

The roots of Cistercian's success lie buried

Several years ago at the Abbot's Circle Dinner, one speaker after another complimented the achievements of the school and the abbey. Alumni and parents were happily commenting on the surprisingly fast growth of the Cistercian Abbey: In seven years, eleven solid young men joined us. (Since then two more have been added.)



On Prayer
Fr. Roch Kereszty

In the midst of the buoyant conversation, Fr. Abbot Denis took the microphone to deliver his concluding remarks. "Do you want to know the secret of our success?" he asked.

In the ensuing sudden silence, he read for us the conclusion of the Prison Memoirs of Wendelin Endrédy, the Abbot of Zirc, who was imprisoned, tortured, and confined in solitary confinement under hardly imaginable conditions for over six years (see sidebar below).

Without heat in the cell for years, the sewage canal dripped upon his bed and an army of bedbugs assaulted him at night. A physics and math teacher who enjoyed precision and objectivity, he counted the bugs he killed at one point (1,050 in six days).

Abbot Wendelin's case, however, is only the most conspicuous from among several other Cistercians who suffered prison and death under Communist domination because they were too effective in their priestly ministry with the young, or they kept the Cistercian community alive even though it had been suppressed.

The famous saying of the 2nd century Church Father Tertullian, however, proved right also in the 20th century: "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians."

Indeed, the suffering of the martyr Cistercians has become the seed of new Cistercians. There is no worthless suffering, if endured in loving union with Christ. "Through him and with him and in him," every tear, every physical or psychic suffering becomes an invaluable treasure, a seed for new life and new growth in the Church.

On our tabernacle door Billy Hassell '74 carved out ancient

Christian symbols. In the middle a cross stands which is at the same time a vine stock. Its branches, laden with bunches of grapes, wrap around the stem and the side beams of the cross.

The branches are the suffering Christians and in our story, the suffering Cistercians in Hungary, who embraced the cross of Christ. Thus, for them the cross became the fertile vine stock out of whose rich sap they bore fruit in Our Lady of Dallas, Irving, Texas, an eventuality none of them could have dreamed of in their earthly lives.

The important lesson for us is to realize that the secret of our success lies much deeper than in anything we could have ourselves



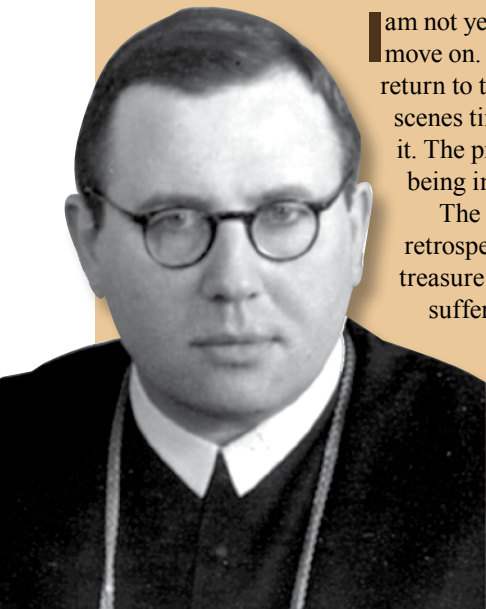
The tabernacle door at the abbey church, designed by Billy Hassell '74, features symbols of the suffering of the Cistercians.

accomplished. And for you, our dear alumni and parents, the fruits of the Cross are also available.

If you unite your sufferings, small or great, illnesses, frustrations, the burdens of family life, of your job or your joblessness, but especially the sufferings you freely choose in order to remain faithful to Christ, you may bear, in this way, the most precious fruits of your entire life.

PRISON MEMOIRS ~ FINAL THOUGHTS

Abbot Wendelin on prison and his tormentors



I am not yet able to make a closure and move on. My thoughts repeatedly return to the prison; I relive each of its scenes time and again. I cannot help it. The prison transforms a human being in some fundamental way.

The first thing I tell myself in retrospect is that for no earthly treasure would I give away the sufferings of these six years. I was given an immense amount of gifts. I finished an education, graduated and now I hold a diploma on which it stands written: an

improved human being.

I would have been a bad student of physics if I had not seen in my prison-life a basic law of modern atomic physics proven: "All matter is ultimately light." Today even voice can be pictured. Even that is light. We pick up a few grams of dust from the ground, we may precisely measure and calculate the energy its atomic particles could release. It has been proven that a city like Budapest with more than a million inhabitants could be provided with light and heating from the energy contained in a small amount of matter.

Thus, the second conclusion I come to is this: every piece of trash, no matter how riff-raff and valueless it is, can become light, eternal light, if God's Sun shines on it and releases it from the burden of the horror of evil. This is why I am unable to feel hatred toward those who have hurt me, those who tormented me. I hate none of these evil men. I like to pray for them from the bottom of my heart, asking that they may convert and become good human beings.

With this I think I can come to a closure.

DECEMBER

**20 Annual & Parent
Christmas Party**

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

7 Admission testing

CISTERCIAN
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
3660 CISTERCIAN ROAD
IRVING, TEXAS 75039

Wise advice: Don't worry about looking foolish

Technically, each edition of *Continuum* has a central theme or two, and technically, my column is supposed to coincide with one or more of said themes.

Anyone interested in my thematic discernment abilities should consult with Dr. Pruitt (some of his gray hairs probably have my name on them).



Afterthoughts
Smokey Briggs '84

Upon finishing the “Great Gatsby,” and being asked what might a central theme be, I wrote, “Death via boredom induced by the incessant whining of a narcissistic, neurotic author who would have better served humanity by getting a job.”

Apparently, most literary critics disagreed with my thematic assessment.

Continuum editor and mogul-in-chief David Stewart recently shared with me the feature stories for this issue: 1) alumni working outside the United States, and 2) the young monks of Cistercian.

Being in a fine mood the day I was so informed, I emailed back, “So, you want a tight 700-word column tying together (thematically) expatriate CPS grads who hang out in Bangkok (think *The Hangover Part II*) with eleven men who devoted their lives to God? Yeah, no problem. You want a Danish with that?”

So here we are, or there I was, or whatever.

What nexus, pray tell, would the lives of Cistercian grads working overseas have with eleven youngish men living a monastic life in Irving, Texas?

At long last, I decided the nexus was fear.

I know, “fear” is a very broad subject — any idiot could relate any several dissimilar lives with the topic of fear, right?

Bingo — see Dr. Pruitt, I did learn a few things about thematic writing and such.

What human being lives past the age of three without experiencing fear? None.

Yet, while fear is a universal constant in the human experience, what we do with that fear, how we deal with it, or fail to, is another matter.

I lost my first fist fight in the first grade. So began a seemingly endless series of life lessons that taught me on a regular basis that we

cannot all be the strongest, or the fastest, or the smartest, and I was not destined to ever be any of these things.

Maybe that is why the victories of the human heart and mind, the victories of the spirit, are the victories that have always captivated me.

After 49 years of observation, I suspect much of life’s misery is self-inflicted as we give counsel to our fears.

Fear of failure. Fear of the unknown. Fear of commitment. Fear of looking the fool. Fear of...? I know my mind has the ability to conjure fear from almost any of life’s moments.

I remember my father’s words of wisdom before I started my first football game. I probably looked the bundle of frayed and frightened nerves that I was as he looked across at me from behind the steering wheel of our old International Scout.

“Life is not a dress rehearsal. Play your heart out. Don’t worry about looking foolish. Nobody ever looked foolish going full speed.”

I took my father’s advice that day. It was a good day, that I remember clearly 36 years after the fact.

I used to marvel at how well the Old Man could pinpoint my feelings, my fears, with such surgical precision, and then speak so perfectly to them.

How did he know my deepest fear at that moment was not physical harm, but simply looking foolish with the world (or at least my classmates) watching?

I know now, as a father myself, that he spoke from experience.

I suspect that anyone who ever contemplated accepting a job overseas, or anyone who contemplated devoting themselves to a monastic life, spent plenty of time wrestling with their fears.

Neither vocation is within the realm of the status quo, and we human beings are usually most comfortable within the safety of the crowd — within the safety of the known.

That forest just past the outside of the herd is a fearful place.

As mariners once lettered on their maps, “Monsters be here.”

Of course, we all face these fears on a daily basis.

From what I have seen, those of us who are most satisfied with our lives are those who have learned to take no counsel from their fear.

My space is limited to this ground, so I will shut up and leave you with words of wisdom from my father, Olin Briggs, regarding life and our personal fears — “Nobody ever looked foolish going full speed.”

I think those words may apply to all of life, not just a football game.