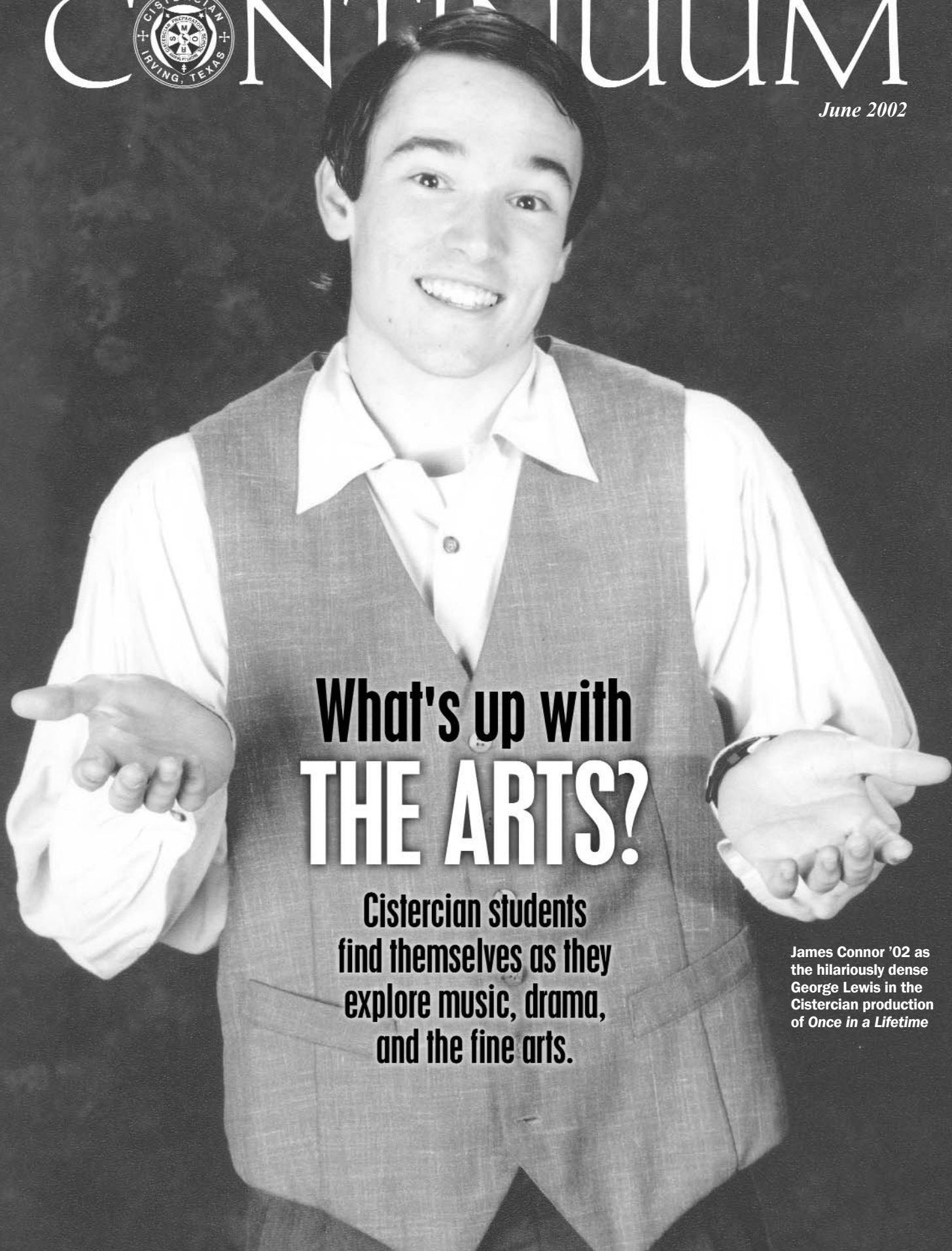


The

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CCISTERCIAN IRVING, TEXASNTINUUM

June 2002



What's up with **THE ARTS?**

**Cistercian students
find themselves as they
explore music, drama,
and the fine arts.**

**James Connor '02 as
the hilariously dense
George Lewis in the
Cistercian production
of *Once in a Lifetime***

Dear Cistercian Families, Friends, and Alumni,

How do you evaluate a school year? As students, we should track our final GPA, considering whether we reached our personal goals. As coaches, we always have an eye on the win-loss record. As teachers we are constantly assigning grades in evaluation of student performance. As Form Masters, we strive to “retain,” to promote, as many of our students as possible.

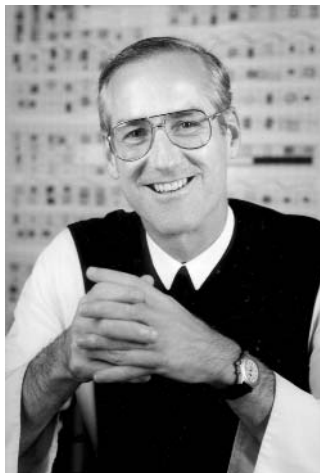


Photo by Jim Reisch

Achievements, quantifiable and measurable achievements, are important. Seeing Fr. Mark bring to a joyful and proud and successful graduation 38 seniors, his first class, is important. Knowing that a greater percentage of seniors earned National Merit Recognition than the seniors in any of the other private schools is not just cause for pride but evidence that the academic program is sound. Administering more than 150 Advanced Placement tests bears witness to the ambition and hard work of the Upper School students and their teachers.

But there is a less quantifiable, less measurable result that we must look at. Have Cistercian students been inspired with a passion for learning and the ambition to succeed? We certainly hope that every student will be so inspired sometime during his career at Cistercian in some area — in an academic discipline, in athletics, in service to others, in his faith. In this issue of *The Continuum* we look at the stories of several students who have found that inspiration in the arts. The topic is fitting, for it highlights the need to provide facilities in keeping with the talents and passion of the students and the breadth of our arts program. This summer we will do just that: add a music room and renovate the Lecture Hall into a first-class drama space and performance hall.

Of course, there is one further way to evaluate our year, the only one that really counts. After all the reports cards and book awards have been distributed, we still must ask ourselves, “Have I grown into a more mature Christian, learned to use my talents to help others and bring glory to God?” I hope Cistercian has been a place, a community, that has helped you answer that personal evaluation with a grateful and modest, Yes.

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73
Headmaster

CISTERCIAN
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL



ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Peter Verhalen '73
Headmaster

Rev. Bernard Marton
*Assistant Headmaster
College Counselor*

Mr. Rodney J. Walter
*Administrative Assistant
Director of Transportation*

Mr. Greg Novinski '82
Dean of Students

Mr. Robert J. Haaser
Director of Admissions

Mr. Michael Bums '81
*Director of Development
and Alumni Relations*

Mr. Danny Lee
Director of Athletics

Mr. James Bloodgood '74
*President, Cistercian
Alumni Association*

EDITORIAL STAFF

Mr. David Stewart '74
Editor & Art Director

Dr. Tom B. Pruitt
Copy Editor

Mrs. Sally L. Cook
Assistant Copy Editor

Mr. Jim Reisch
Photography Editor

*The Continuum is published by
Cistercian Preparatory School*

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

F E A T U R E S



Art for
art's sakes

6

We visit with four students who have discovered new sides of themselves through the arts. Tom Pruitt focuses on Giancarlo Colombo '02 whose commitment has turned his accomplished piano work into true artistic expression.

D E P A R T M E N T S

Letter from the Headmaster	2
School News	4
Sports News	11
Class Notes	12
On Prayer	15
Calendar	16
Development News	16

Cover photography by Jim Reisch

LETTER

**Vermont's
to the left**

I genuinely enjoy reading *The Continuum* and always find it a nice trip down memory lane. You do a superb job and I enjoy staying in touch with the school with each issue.

Among the many things I resisted being forced to learn at Cistercian and later came to greatly appreciate, Geography was near the top of list. Now I often find I am grateful for having a larger world view and appreciation for other cultures than most Americans

thanks to the many hours of trying to understand the late Fr. Thomas' thick accent.

You can, therefore, imagine my dismay on finally opening the June '01 issue. As a proud graduate of both Cistercian and Middlebury College, I was delighted to learn that another Cistercian graduate has chosen my alma mater for his college career. However, the accompanying map has New Hampshire shaded and identified as the destination state rather than Vermont!

I know it is difficult for most Texans to understand the subtlety of New England rivalries; but, believe me, con-

fusing New Hampshire and Vermont "is fightin' words!" New Hampshire is the one on the right, Vermont is the one on the left — politically as well as geographically.

Vermont, in addition to always making the list of poorest states, also boasts being the only New England State with no coastline and being admitted to the union as the 14th state, thereby missing the magic original 13 by one! Magnificent scenery and famous maple syrup, however, make its people a proud lot who are not amused by confusion with its neighbor!

Trey Hunt '74

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

COMMENCEMENT

A triumph of valedictory addresses

Three Valedictorians? It was a first at Cistercian and no one was quite sure how to handle it. What is one supposed to do with *three* valedictorians? Aren't there tie-breakers for this kind of situation (e.g., arm wrestling)?

In meetings with Fr. Peter, the three discussed the crucial issue: who would speak at commencement?

Tommy Heyne '02 suggested a three-way speech, a kind of round robin of valediction based on Dante's *Inferno*. Unheard of! Absurd!

Maybe, but it worked.

Taylor Poor '02 began the speech by explaining how they would play off the eight circles of Dante's *Inferno*. He quoted the work in Italian, "In the beginning of the journey of our life," eloquently emphasizing the collective road that Cistercian students travel together. Each circle, he pointed out, represented one of his form's eight years at the school. Then each valedictorian took turns describing the eight years.

James Connor '02 ended up with the senior year and Tommy Heyne concluded with the traditional expressions of gratitude.

The commencement crowd received the unusual address warmly.

"I guess they were listening in the fall," said Fr. Gregory, who led the seniors through their study of Dante's classic work. "Sometimes I just wish I was as smart as my students," he laughed.

The Abbot was happy that the speech expressed collective, not individual, excellence. "It was unique and quite nice," he commented.



Photo by Jim Reisch

VALEDICTORIANS ALL (from left to right) Taylor Poor '02, Tommy Heyne '02, and James Connor '02 moments before their three-way valedictory address at the 2002 Commencement Exercises.

ACADEMICS

JETS, mathletes, & Quiztercians make their mark

The Varsity-AJETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society)

team placed first in Texas state TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science) competition held last month. The team placed fifth nationally among schools of the same size. The A Team includes **Giancarlo Colombo '02, James Connor '02, Tommy**

Heyne '02, Anthony Ngo '02, Taylor Poor '02, Adam Reeves '02, Kevin Resnick '02, and Mike Seitz '02.

The Junior Varsity JETS team took first place in the state and placed second in the national competition.

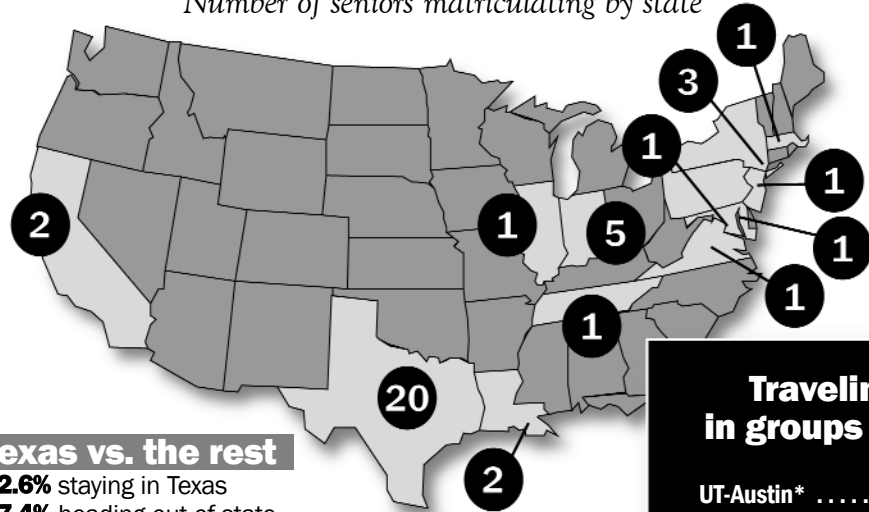
In the American Mathematics Competition, James Connor's score of 136 out of 150 ranked sixth among math students in the state and broke the previous school record of 128 by **Jimmy Flaherty '95.**

John Davies '04 qualified for the United States of America Mathematics Olympiad (USAMO). Davies flew to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on May 4-5 to participate in this contest.

Davies was one of only 250 selected from about 350,000 of the nation's top students.

Texas schools dominate college selections

Number of seniors matriculating by state



Texas vs. the rest

52.6% staying in Texas
47.4% heading out of state

Traveling solo to ...

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Austin College | Princeton Univ. |
| Babson College | Rice Univ. |
| Baylor Univ. | Texas A&M Univ. |
| Georgetown Univ. | UT at Dallas |
| Indiana Univ. Bloomington | Vanderbilt Univ. |
| Johns Hopkins Univ. | Wabash College |
| Loyola Univ. Chicago (IL) | Washington & Lee Univ. |
| Northlake College | |

Traveling in groups to ...

- UT-Austin* 7
- Notre Dame 3
- Univ. of Dallas 3
- Loyola (New Orleans) . 2
- SMU 2
- Stanford 2
- Univ. of Texas Arlington . 2
- Villanova 2

* One is Plan II

James Peacock '04 finished in first place individually in the McNabb math competition sponsored by the Greater Dallas Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The team of Peacock, John Davies, and **Chandan Vangala '04** won first place in the team championship at this level.

Cistercian's Quizzical Hawks traveled to Austin in late April for the final regular season match of the year. Host St. Stephens' Episcopal and Cistercian fought it out in the finals, with St. Stephen's coming away with the championship trophy.

The Quiz Bowlers will have one more shot at greatness as the A Team — comprised of John Davies '04, **Brian Holland '04**, **Robert Cenzone '04**, and junior **Alec Kemp '03** — prepare to do battle in the NAQT (National Academic Quiz

Tournaments) Nationals, held this year in Austin on June 8-9.

BIBLICAL COMMISSION

The Abbot enjoys meeting with Ratzinger

Abbot Denis returned from Rome impressed with the Pontifical Biblical Commission and its leader Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Cardinal Ratzinger was present not just in our meetings but at the breaks, and several lunches and dinners. He was very willing to stand around and talk with everybody," the Abbot said.

"Cardinal Ratzinger set the goals but he did not try to

push through an agenda," the Abbot emphasized. "He created an atmosphere in which everyone was free to express his opinion."

When the members considered a vote on how to proceed on day two of the week-long meetings, Abbot Denis suggested that the members needed some direction from the man who had brought them to the Vatican.

"With a big smile, Cardinal Ratzinger rose and spoke extemporaneously in Italian" Abbot Denis said.

"He spoke very well and defined exactly the purpose before us."

The incident demonstrated that the Abbot from Texas (and Hungary) is not afraid to speak up (no surprise to us!).

"I live faraway from the great center of Christianity," he shrugged. "I don't have any greater ambitions so I just say what I have on my mind."

Members of the Commission stayed at the Vatican house recently built for Conclave, the Cardinals who will elect the next Pope.

NOTEWORTHY

■ Four faculty members will not be returning to Cistercian next year. Coach **Karl Pointer** is moving on up to Plano East High School. French teacher **Wadad Finan** will be teaching at Emma Willard School in Troy, NY. Biology teacher **Pebble Barbero** will stay home to take care of her infant Victoria. Math teacher **Dr. Videla** will accompany his wife who is being transferred to Houston.

■ On May 19, UD President Milam Joseph and Bishop Grahman, acting as Grand Chancellor of the university, presented **Abbot Denis** an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters. The university also has extended to the Abbot an open invitation to teach.

■ Demolition on the large lecture hall in the Science Building will begin shortly after Closing Ceremonies in order to make way for the new theater. **David Novinski '90**, who has been advising the school on the project, believes "the new lobby area, expanded backstage, theater seating, and improved stage, lighting and sound will significantly enhance the quality of our productions and give our actors added confidence."

■ **Peter Saliga** and Jean Toman's wedding date has been set for Nov. 23 at St. Luke's in Irving. "I would love to pack the church," Saliga said.

■ **Fr. Gregory** will enlighten those assembled for the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas on *Henry IV*, Friday, July 5. Seniors are encouraged to volunteer that night to help set up before and clean up after the event. Check www.shakespearedallas.org for more details.



PROM TIME Happy members of the Class of 2002 surround Form Master Fr. Mark at the Prom.

PROM 2002

How low can you go?

This 2002 prom went off without a hitch. About 200 attended this year's event at the Tower Club in Thanksgiving Tower. An elegant meal featured chicken and a petit filet plus — much to the delight of the hungry young men — a large dessert.

But the limbo competition for the small, dorm-sized refrigerator stole the show. The refrigerator, donated by the Student Council, holds a special place in Cistercian lore and bodies contorted in unimaginable ways in order to secure the prize.

"There were a lot of concave backs out there," commented Peter Saliga. "Bodies were not designed to bend that way."

Then it was time for dancing the night away to the deejay's music.



SCREAMING FOR MORE
Matthew Whitenack '04 with
his work "Unsettled" that
earned critical praise at the
ISAS in New Mexico and won
him a \$100 stipend from the
University of Texas at Dallas.

Photo by Jim Kensch

WHEN THE ART OF **MATTHEW WHITENACK '04** suddenly blossomed in the Fall of 2001, it's hard to say who was more shocked. There was Cistercian art teacher Roberto Munguia, who had not observed any special artistic spark in Whitenack over the years. There was Matthew's mother, Nancy, who owns the Conduit Art Gallery in Deep Ellum and who had been careful not to push her son into her chosen field. Then there was Whitenack himself.

"I don't know what clicked," Whitenack said. "For many years, we had lived in an apartment in the same building as the art gallery. Last summer we moved into a different building. Maybe being away from the gallery helped me realize I had an interest in art."

"Being around all of those images and artwork all my life, it was inevitable that they would come out in some form or fashion," he said.

"When Matthew suddenly started painting, it was kind of a quiet surprise to me," Mrs. Whitenack said. "I want him to feel free to pursue art for his own pleasure. It is very special to see one's own son find something that means a lot to him."

"I give a lot of credit to Roberto who I think is a remarkable art teacher. Where Matthew is currently in his art comes from the careful and attentive tutelage that Roberto has given the kids."

Much of Whitenack's creative explosion occurred during the fall when he wasn't enrolled in an art elective. With some acrylics borrowed from Mr. Munguia, he just began to paint in his spare time.

"I start with a creative impulse that I really want to explore," Whitenack said. "The best way for me to do that is with paint on a canvas. What I end up with may not be what my initial idea was, but I let it carry me through the process."

Whitenack's piece entitled, "Unsettled," recently won recognition at the Texas Visual Arts Association's High School Art Competition at the University of Texas at Dallas. Thirty-three schools submitted 1,304 works of art; 216 pieces were selected for exhibition. Whitenack was one of five students to win the Dennis M. Kratz Dean's Award which includes a \$100 check as well as an opportunity to be considered for a full tuition scholarship to UTD.

"'Unsettled' was really about the paint, the texture. It involved scraping. I covered things up and then uncovered them. I wanted to put something figurative into the painting. I had been playing with a mouth and expressions. I placed it in the upper-right-hand corner of the painting. I worked until I felt it was complete."

Whitenack's work attracted some high-powered attention at the ISAS show in New Mexico this spring.

Art for art's sake

**Cistercian students
discover themselves through
music, drama, and the fine arts.**

By David Stewart '74

“An instructor from the school for the Boston Museum of Art sent him a long note encouraging him to continue his work,” said Mr. Munguia. “He said Matthew’s work was five steps ahead of anything else there. Another critic who spent a couple of hours with us was very complimentary of his work.”

It was quite a debut for an artist who started painting only five or six months before.

Whitenack’s not certain about his career path at this point. “I’m really not sure. I’m trying to leave all my options open,” he said. Either way, he expects his Cistercian education to be an asset.

Making time for both academics and art will pay off, says **Asher Wood '97**, who is painting full-time now.

“I wasn’t just an art student,” said Wood, “but also a student of Physics, History, English, Religion, and sometimes other subjects. People like Fr. Gregory, Dr. Pruitt, Mr. Leach, Mr. Martin, Fr. Bernard, and Fr. Julius were huge influences. At Cistercian, I felt like I learned how to see things differently, and how to better articulate my observations. Nowadays, it’s not enough for an artist to be ‘just an eye.’ Talking with potential clients, dealers, and other artists, it’s important to have not only a strong foundation of ideas, but also the means with which to articulate those ideas.”

PERFORMING SERVES AS AN EXERCISE IN self-exploration for **Alex Tong '07**, who plays both violin and piano. “It’s pretty exciting to perform for other people,” said Tong, who has played violin since he was four and piano since he was eight. “There’s the nervousness and the foreboding, ‘What if I make a mistake? Will they notice?’ It’s exciting to see if you know what you’re doing while you express yourself in such a nice way.”

Tong often plays with orchestras but it is playing solo that proves the most nerve-racking and the most rewarding.

“After you’re done playing solo, you analyze what you did wrong. Was it not enough practice or was it the entirety of the situation, the circumstances?

It’s different if you’re trying to impress a girl, playing for your family, or competing before a judge. In a competition, you know that a mistake will come back to haunt you.”

Then there’s playing for your peers.

At this year’s Middle School Talent Show, Tong played an abbreviated version of Mendelssohn’s Third Movement.

“It was kind of like you want to impress someone really badly. You want to try to impress them so much that they won’t want to pick on you any more,” Tong laughed. “It didn’t work, but at least I tried.”

For Tong, he seems to win regardless. “Once I succeed in one thing, it promotes success in other things. If I fail in

one thing, it promotes even more success because it motivates me.”

William and Ann Tong began to immerse their son Alex in music at age four as a means of self-defense. “Alex had a lot of energy,” Mr. Tong remembered. “We wanted to find the best way to channel his energy constructively. We chose music and the Suzuki method because it provided an environment in which he could be introduced to music in a natural way. They do not have a schedule; they allow the student to progress through the curriculum at their own speed.”

After a slow start, Alex progressed at a remarkable pace. By age seven, he was chosen to play with the North American Youth Orchestra on their tour of Houston, LA, China, and Taiwan. Alex was the youngest musician on the trip, by six or seven years.

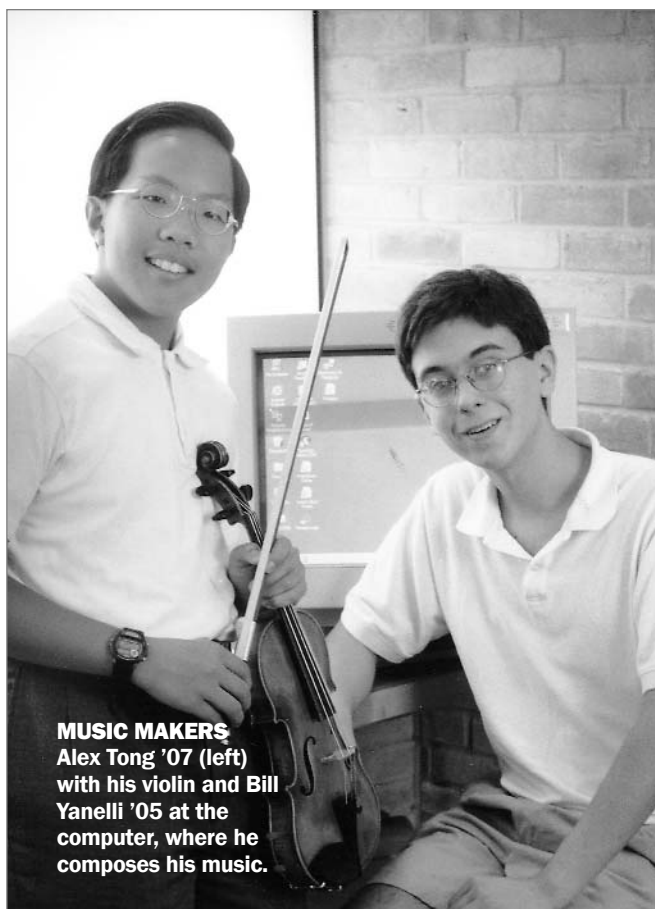
“We see music,” said Mr. Tong, “as a way to help Alex learn to develop himself through a different channel.”

“I probably stay up a bit later than most people,” said Alex Tong in explaining how he manages to practice for his violin and piano lessons while keeping up with his school work, Chinese lessons, and a few school sports. “Making time for my violin and piano practice just has to do with good timing. I prioritize my activities. My first priority is my studies. If I can’t practice both violin and piano because I have a lot of studying, I work on violin first because my violin lesson is on Sunday and piano is not until Tuesday.”

Math is Tong’s favorite subject because “it relates so much to music; it is a kind of fluid mathematics expressed in sound.”

Another passion is football, which he just discovered this year. “Football rocks!” Tong said. “I enjoy the way we hit each other like cannibals. It’s a way to express raw emotions. I think it makes us more relaxed off the field.”

Combining academics, sports, and music isn’t always easy. “I guess you just have to *really* want to make time for music. It isn’t enough just to want to. You have to put your heart into it.”



MUSIC MAKERS
Alex Tong '07 (left)
with his violin and Bill
Yanelli '05 at the
computer, where he
composes his music.

Photo by Jim Reisch

“WOULDN’T BE surprised if Bill is scoring music for movies one day,” said Melody McMullen, who has been teaching piano to **Bill Yanelli '05** for six years. “He has that capability. He’s been interested in composing music since third grade. His motivation has always been writing.”

While his parents and his teacher remember Bill showing an inclination toward composing at an early age, Yanelli says that his composing career began in earnest while in Form III. “I arranged a piece based on the music from the video game *Final Fantasy 7*. I really learned a lot from working on that arrangement. It made me think of what a song is made

Continued on page 9

By Tom Pruitt

Making beautiful music

performing a piece with accuracy and skill. Giancarlo, however, is among the few who raises his performance to a higher artistic level. He turns his practice into understanding, assimilating his knowledge of the piece and his technical mastery into an expression of emotion, giving the music an intensity, a shape and color, a life of its own. It has been a real joy to see Giancarlo translate his technical mastery of the piano into an understanding and expression on such a profound, elemental level.”

Such mastery is not accomplished without both considerable natural talent and a serious commitment of time and energy. Giancarlo’s case certainly illustrates this. “All through middle school and the first part of high school,” Giancarlo reflects, “the balancing act between managing the serious academic program at Cistercian and my quasi-serious commitment to music wasn’t too hard to manage: I did my schoolwork and played in my off-time. I practiced virtually everyday, but if I got in an hour or even just a half-hour, that was big time.”

But over the summer of 2001, everything changed. His practice of classical music, which he had viewed primarily as a way to “nimble up” his fingers for jazz, became a more serious devotion. “I suddenly took a strong liking to it and decided subconsciously to take advantage of everything my teacher Dr. Steve Hall could offer me. All the elements were in place: a superlative teacher, a Yamaha grand piano (which my parents had invested in for my sake), parents who not only took me out to concerts but who also allowed me the luxury of practicing at home whenever I had the urge, and the prospect of a long summer uninterrupted by any extended vacations.”

As his commitment deepened, a transformation began. “During that summer I came to realize that a teacher can only do so much before he has to turn it all over to the student. At some point the student needs to take all that’s given to him and process it, internalize it and make it his own.” In addition, Giancarlo’s teacher thought his motivation would be sharpened by the prospect of participating in a major competition. Giancarlo never had any qualms. “An exterior pressure, whether it is a competition in an artistic program or a grade in an academic subject, can be a very good thing. I had never done a major competition before — now suddenly I was preparing six months in advance for a big piano concerto competition — but I jumped emphatically at the challenge to study a real piece, like the pros play! I sat down every day that summer for four hours and practiced, sometimes only classical, sometimes both classical and jazz.”

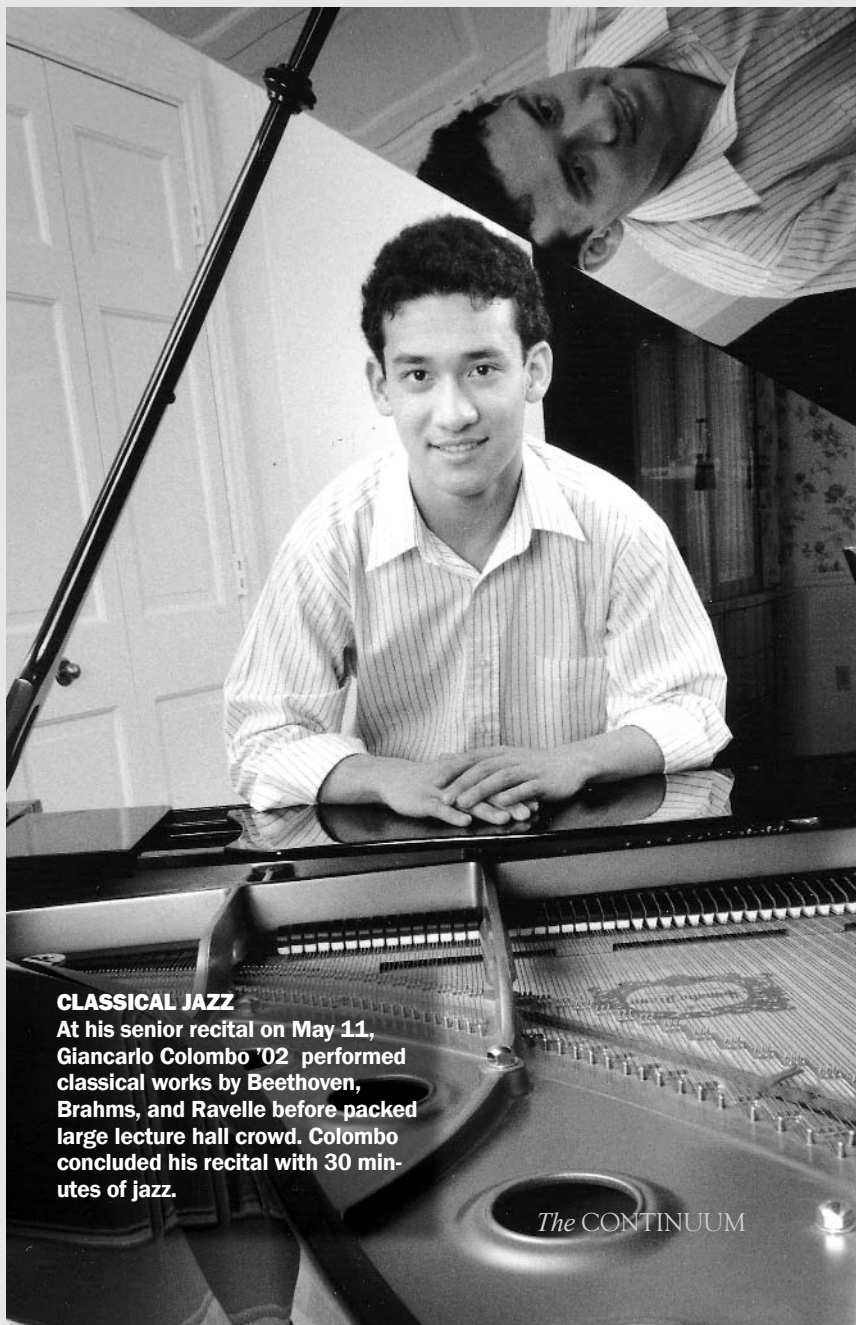
A new commitment turned the accomplished piano work of Giancarlo

“It has been very exciting to watch Giancarlo develop over the past eighteen months,” says Dr. Steve Hall, the piano teacher of **Giancarlo Colombo ’02**.

“Most students merely play the piano, placing their hands on the keys, striking the notes correctly, performing a piece with accuracy and skill. Giancarlo, however, is among the few who raises his performance to a higher artistic level. He turns his practice into understanding, assimilating his knowledge of the piece and his technical mastery into an expression of emotion, giving the music an intensity, a shape and color, a life of its own. It has been a real joy to see Giancarlo translate his technical mastery of the piano into an understanding and expression on such a profound, elemental level.”

Then the summer ended and it was time for school, for senior year, to start, and he found himself at a crossroads. Was it back to the old routine of schoolwork first and piano when there was time or should piano become a top priority? Giancarlo went with the latter. “My daily routine changed and my stress level heightened, but, oddly enough, I became a better player. I wanted to get it all done — schoolwork, piano practice, college applications, after-school job, as well as other things — so I just found a way to make it happen. But it was difficult, keeping up a five-hour-a-day practice schedule (I peaked at one seven-hour session of classical practice) while trying to keep all the other activities going at the same time.”

Yet in praising Giancarlo’s accomplishments in music, we risk, perhaps, unfairly downplaying his other more academic accomplishments. As of the end of the third quarter, he managed to attain, despite his rigorous practice regimen, a perfect 4.0 average (with an A+ in Dr. Newcomb’s very demanding calcu-



CLASSICAL JAZZ

At his senior recital on May 11, Giancarlo Colombo '02 performed classical works by Beethoven, Brahms, and Ravelle before packed large lecture hall crowd. Colombo concluded his recital with 30 minutes of jazz.

The CONTINUUM

Giancarlo Colombo '02 into artistic expression

lus class!). He was one of only five students accepted into the jazz and classical program in the music conservatory at Northwestern University, but, after much soul-searching, he turned that down in order to attend Stanford University. "Though I finally decided against matriculating at Northwestern, I know that I have to continue to feed this passion for music. I don't know what I will do with the music I plan to learn in college, but I do know that I have to keep playing because I love it and just cannot give it up."

Since last fall, Giancarlo has competed in four major competitions. In the first of the four, the Texas Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Competition, Senior Division, he won first place. In the second, the Lennox Young Artists Competition, he received a semifinalist ranking. Then, in February he was invited (along with 19 other participants from all over the state of Texas) to compete in the 2002 Baylor University Solo Piano Competition, Senior Division and won first place. Most recently, in April he was one of ten finalists chosen from all over Texas to compete in the McKinney Symphony Orchestra's 2002 Young Artist Competition for pianists. He won the grand prize and a \$500 scholarship to boot.

What keeps Giancarlo from burning out is not primarily his extraordinary success, though that adds a certain sweetness to the long hours, but his fundamental attitude toward what he does at the keyboard. "The reason I have been successful, I believe, is that I have approached the study of music not like someone whose approach to school is simply to get good grades, to get 'results.' My success at these recent competitions came about only after the desire was there to make good music. When the only objective is to make beautiful sounds, allowing nothing else to impede that, then there's a likely chance that real music will come out."

Reflecting back on the time in eighth grade when his love of jazz first awakened, Giancarlo expresses much of what later came to be his broader love of and devotion to music in general. "In eighth grade I went to a jazz concert and was instantaneously mesmerized by the sound. The next week I asked my mom to enroll me with a jazz improvisation teacher. As I look back, the timing couldn't have been better. I had the 'best-fit' elements: good 'chops' (or fast fingers); a great teacher, which I know is indispensable; a pure love of jazz; an intense desire to learn to play it well, and parents who were very open to letting me try something new and who didn't mind listening through all my practice sessions."

But at its deepest level, Giancarlo's success is part and parcel with the true success which we all emulate and attempt to teach our children regardless of their pursuits. "The most wonderful thing about this process, though, was that it started from the heart, rather than from my parents or a warped sense of obligation or feigned enthusiasm. And now, since I have been able to study music which I enjoy — it really is not at all work — I know that picking a concentration of study, even a career, will have to meet the same fundamental criterion of how intensely it moves me as a student.

"If it isn't 'fun work,' it's not for me."

Continued from page 7

of at its most basic level. A few months later, I began to work on my first composition."

"Once I had the melody, I figured out what chords the melody was based on. Then I gave it an accompaniment pattern and a structure. It was pretty basic."

Yanelli performed the piece at last year's Middle School Talent Show and then again at his piano recital. At both, Yanelli received a positive reaction.

"At that point, I had learned so much," he said. "I felt that there was more I could do. There were more songs I could write."

Yanelli says he doesn't have a problem fitting his artistic endeavors into his busy schedule as a student. In fact, he's also found time to begin designing and programming a video game.

"I make time to compose music and program my video game. It's really important so I just have to find the time," he said.

"Monday through Thursday, I spend a few hours a night studying. My composing and video game work happens mostly on the weekends. I typically spend a few hours on Friday and Saturday night working on it."

For Yanelli, the creative impulse can "start with a particular emotion or maybe a scene. Eventually that's what the piece has to express."

"I keep the old versions of all my songs so I can see how they've changed over time. Composing, as well as writing words, is a continuous process. It starts with an idea, and the idea is refined until it is finished. The best part about it is listening to the finished product."

"My advice to any artists, musicians or actors at Cistercian is to practice your craft," said **Brendan Hogan '00**, who is studying theatre at TCU. "Use whatever pathways you have at Cistercian to do so. Take advantage of ISAS, BraveArt, and the various plays that are put on at Cistercian. Just remember that if you feel that calling towards the arts you should see if it's truly right for you."

THE BUTTERFLIES ANNOYED **JAMES CONNOR '02** as he stood backstage watching the opening night crowd file in for Cistercian's production of *Once in a Lifetime*. "I was really, really nervous. I was never this nervous before a football game," remembered Connor, who was named the Hawk's top linebacker this year.

The rest of the cast would have been amused to find Connor sweating it. The leading man, who maintained a 4.0 average throughout high school, always seemed under control. Despite having more lines than any other actor in this play, he had his part memorized early on in rehearsals. What could Connor have to worry about?

"I kept thinking, 'Am I going to blank out? Can I keep up with it all?'" Connor explained. The play began with Connor strolling on stage while cracking some nuts. "My hands were shaking," he said. "I hoped no one noticed."

"As a sophomore, I wanted to see what drama was like,"

"I make time to compose music and program my video game. It's really important so I just have to find the time."

—**Bill Yanelli '05**

“The performing arts is an exploration in self-knowledge. As an actor, you’re trying to read a script and find out who this person is in you.”

— David Novinski '90

Connor said. “I didn’t think of myself as the performer type because I am kind of an introvert. At any other school, I wouldn’t have even tried acting. But it turned out to be a lot of fun.”

“James is the perfect example of the Cistercian actor,” suggested **David Novinski '90**, who has been directing drama productions at Cistercian for the last three years. “As a sophomore, he thought he would give drama a try on a lark. Larger parts have come his way ever since.”

It was during rehearsals for *12 Angry Men* three years ago that Connor first realized that he could find a way to connect with a character and act in a way that was outside his comfort zone.

He was working on a part where his character grew very angry. “I’m a mellow guy. It took a lot of persuading but Mr. Novinski helped me trust in myself and do it.”

“The performing arts is an exploration in self-knowledge,” said Novinski. “As an actor, you’re trying to read a script and find out who this person is in you.”

Although not extensive, the arts curriculum at Cistercian

affords students an opportunity to sample a variety of creative outlets and a chance to find out a little about themselves.

“My life at Cistercian consisted of my trying almost every single art form I could get my hands on,” said alumnus Brendan Hogan. “I tried creative writing and painting in the various electives offered, I performed musically at the BraveArt festivals, I made several films in the video elective that was offered, and I was able to act in several plays during my eight years at Cistercian. It definitely opened up my pathways to see what I wanted to do in the arts.”

It is unlikely that drama will become a part of James Connor’s future. The valedictorian ranked sixth among math students in the state in the American Mathematics Competitions and may major in mathematics at Stanford.

“Few Cistercian students will pursue art as a career,” said Novinski. “But an important function of high school art is to give the boys the chance to do what most people cannot do after high school: the chance to practice art for art’s sake.”

For James Connor, acting in dramas at Cistercian was special, a “once in a lifetime” opportunity.

ARTISTIC EXPLOSION This year’s Upper School drama included 34 actors. Pictured below are (left, from top to bottom) Wheeler Sparks '02 as Kammerling; Meghan Ohlenforst and Annabel Obek as Florabel Leigh and Phyllis Fontaine; Jamie Holland '02 as Glogauer; (center) Sheridan Malphurs as May Daniels and Andrew Theilen '03 as Hyland; (right, from top to bottom) Taylor Poor '02 as Ernest; Kathleen Crombie and Mary Simon as cigarette girls; Trevor Turner '02 and Joel Schubert '03 as Meterstein and Weisskopf.

Once in a Lifetime



Hawks fall by one run in the SPC II Championship

Despite injuries to several key players, Cistercian's baseball team managed some big wins and clawed its way back into the SPC Division II Championship game this year.

Left fielder **Matt Truitt '03**, second baseman/pitcher **Patric Turner '02**, and shortstop **Gary Darby '03** suffered injuries that kept them out of action for much of the season. But all returned for the stretch run.

The season's biggest win came against St. Mark's. The Hawks, who had never defeated the Lions on the baseball diamond, "were really pumped up to play them," said Coach Mark Gray.

"We hit the ball very well. We had 11 hits and **Mike West '02** pitched hard and smart," he added. Cistercian rang up 14 runs versus 4 for St. Mark's.

The Hawks reached the SPC Division II Championship by whipping Holland

Hall and ESD over at ESD.

"The kids picked it up another level in the tournament," Gray said. "Mike West, our number one pitcher, was solid all year long." West held Holland Hall to just two runs in the Hawks 3-2 victory.

Behind the pitching of Patric Turner, the Hawks held on to defeat ESD 6-5.

The championship game, held at Cistercian for the third year in a row, featured the Hawks versus St. Stephens.

West pitched well, but the Hawks lost by one in a well-played game, 3-2.

"I was very proud of the boys' effort, not just in the tournament but especially when we were playing hurt during the season. They pulled together when they could have gotten down."

"We'll really miss Mike (All-MISC, All-SPC) and Patric," Gray said. "Mike is going to play for UD next year."



Photo by Peter Graham '02

BRINGING A HAWK HOME

Brent O'Donnell '03 prepares to bring home the Hawk hovering at third.

SPRING RECAP

Tennis team lands second SPC I berth

Led by captains **Andrew Theilen '03** and **Peter McCormack '03**, the tennis team marched to its second consecutive SPC Division I berth.

As in last year's tournament, the Hawks went 1-2. But the disappointing end to the season couldn't dim the bright hopes for the future. **Chandan Vangala '04** won the MVP award and **Justin Ramirez '05** was recognized as Newcomer of the Year.

With a team loaded with young talent, the next couple of years could see the Hawks seriously challenge for the SPC Division I Championship.

Middle Schoolers set the track & field on fire

This year's Middle School track team set a new standard for Cistercian. The team won the MISC Meet, nearly lapping the nearest competitor, 194 to 113 over Fort Worth Country Day. The team won the St. Mark's

meet by 20 points even though the Hawks didn't compete in three events.

A myriad of strong individual efforts produced the wonderful team result. Some of the stars included: **Sam Bowler '06**, **Gabi Ferenczi '06**, **Kerr Freidman '07**, **Landry Jarvis '06**, **David Haley '06**, **Jon Paul Heyne '06**, **Will Murchison '06**, **Matt Purcell '06**, **Jere Thompson '06**, **Kyle Welch '07**, and **Greg Wallingford '06**.

In the MISC Meet, these athletes helped the team place in nearly every event. A few of the many highlights:

■ **First** in the Open Mile, the 110 hurdles, the 4x100, 4x400, 4x800, Pole Vault, and tied for first in the High Jump,

■ **First and second** in the Long Jump and Triple Jump,

■ **First, second, and third** in both the 800-meter and the 300-meter hurdles.

The future for this group looks very bright. Stay tuned.



Photo by Peter Graham '02

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

Travis LaMothe '06 races to the finish in the 800-meter event before an enthusiastic crowd at Cistercian.

CISTERCIAN CALENDAR

August

16 Black & White Scrimmage

21 Opening Ceremonies

September

26 Fall Open House

October

18 Homecoming

November

29 Private School
Classic (basketball
tournament)

December

20 Ring Ceremony

21 Alumni Casino Night

CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ONE CISTERCIAN ROAD
IRVING, TX 75039-4599

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 281
Irving, Texas

Address corrections

If this publication is addressed to a son who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the Development Office at 972-554-2291 or mburns@cistercian.org. Thanks for your help!

Development News

Capital campaign reflects school's fiscal conservatism

"How's the campaign going?"

That is the question most people ask of the Development Office. Of course they are referring to the status of The Campaign For Cistercian. The short and easy answer is that we are over halfway there. We have pledges of \$3.4 million towards our goal of \$6 million for a new gym, renovation of the lecture hall into a theater, music room, tennis courts, and an endowment to maintain these buildings.

But the answer ought to be about more than dollars. The real meaning behind the question is, "Do the members of the Cistercian community understand the importance of this project?"

That answer is a little more involved. Prior generations have graciously provided us with a wonderful campus that facilitates an excellent education. Now, today's parents, alumni, and friends must renovate and build facilities to enhance the Cistercian



THE POINT The Campaign For Cistercian will fund the construction of much needed new space for both the arts and athletics.

experience and produce well-rounded graduates.

David Novinski '90 succinctly explained our need for a theater space: "We do theater in a lecture hall." Coach Lee explained that we simply don't have enough gym space for all our basketball teams and a PE program. This issue of *The Continuum* highlights the musical achievements of a number of our students, but the school doesn't have an adequate music space for all our talented boys.

We hope that everyone understands the careful consideration that preceded the largest capital campaign in the school's history, the needs that these dollars will address, and the fiscal conservatism that is a

trait of all Cistercian capital projects.

When that happens, then the easy answer to "How's the campaign going?" will simply be "Great!"