

The



CONTINUUM

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

Summer 2008

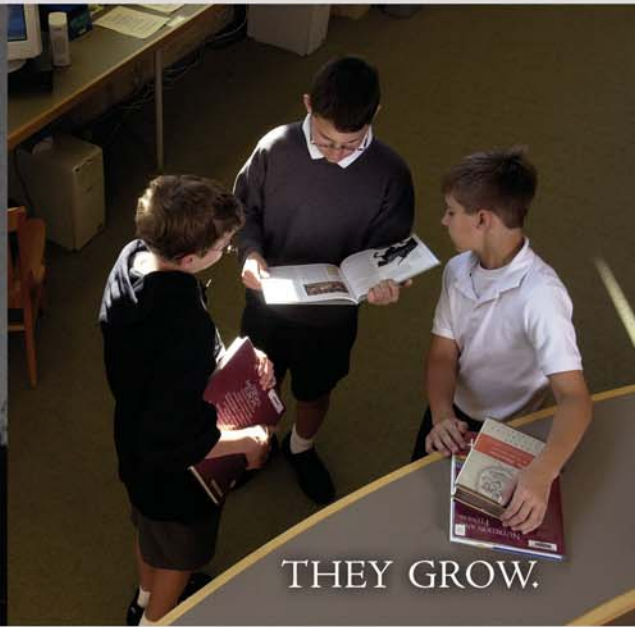


Making ART work

Geoff Marslett '92
with scenes from his
upcoming feature, *Mars*,
and the short, *Bubblecraft*.

Earning a living in
the arts can test even
the most talented

THE GREATEST LEGACIES DO MORE THAN LAST.



THEY GROW.

The Memorare Society was established for members of our community who wish to include Cistercian in their financial plans through bequests, trusts, wills, or other means. It's a wonderful way for people to include the school as part of their long-term financial planning.

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All enquiries are welcome. Call 469-499-5406, or send an email

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Required reading for the school year

This edition will inspire you to pursue your highest ideals and goals

The best preparation for this school year, I think, is to read this edition of *The Continuum* from front to back. You will find stories to help you set goals for the year and find the motivation to keep working toward them.



**Letter from
the headmaster**

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73

Our cover story, "Making Art Work," shows how some of our artistic alumni are achieving success, each in his own way, as they pursue their passions and earn a living.

Dr. Pruitt's story captures how each year our incredible teachers, students and families breathe new life into the Cistercians' centuries-old legacy of enkindling and enlightening.

On your own, you'll find humor throughout this issue, but I most enjoyed that of our young columnist, **Will Arbery '07**. He pokes a bit of fun at

himself, while contemplating the transition from home and Cistercian to college.

Most importantly, however, this edition of *The Continuum* provides many reasons for gratitude.

The remodeling of the Upper School is coming to a completion. Students are winning awards, earning acceptances to wonderful colleges, posting personal bests in a final track meet.

Alumni are starting, and growing, their families. Under the direction of **Joseph Shea '78**, alumni are collecting contributions to endow a scholarship in honor of their form master, Fr. Roch.

They are serving in combat in the Middle East. And we are all most grateful for the recovery of **Smokey Briggs '84** from his surgery.

I do hope that this issue will motivate you to set your goals high and to continue striving for them, to stand back in humble admiration at the goodness of others, especially our parents and those who have preceded us, and to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

volume 35, number 2

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Making *art* work 8

Cistercian alumni are finding ways to express their creative passions in a wide variety of fields. Why they do it and who might hit it big.

By David Stewart

Darryl Ratcliff II '04 ▶



Enkindled & enlightened 14

The Class of 2008 produced lots of leaders. Three among them, with constant support from their parents, personify Cistercian's mission. *By Tom Pruitt*

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Cover photography:
courtesy of Geoff Marslett '92

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.



Upper School additions



50th anniversary

CAMPAIGN

Fund-raising
Donors generously give to all three school funds

Between Sustentation, Phonathon, and the 50th Anniversary Campaign, donors contributed a record sum to Cistercian in the past year.

The contributions exceeded goals for each of the school's three fund-raising efforts.

Sustentation, which funds extraordinary expenses related to the physical plant, raised \$502,115, breaking the half million mark for the second consecutive year and beating the goal by over \$100,000.

Phonathon also exceeded its goal, bringing in donations for scholarships of \$128,185. As is their custom, 100 percent of the Class of 1983 contributed.

Finally, the 50th Anniversary Campaign raised an astounding \$8.5 million of the \$15 million goal in its first year. The campaign is envisioned as a four-year project.

As a result of these outstanding gifts, a large-scale renovation and addition to the Upper School was made over the summer and was completed in time for the first day of school (see photos at left).

The Middle School renovation is already scheduled to start in 2009.

"The 50th Anniversary Campaign is fulfilling our dreams," said **Fr. Peter Verhalen '73**.

"At every turn during the Upper School renovation, we have opted for the more beautiful, more lasting alternative.

"The renovated version remains true to the O'Neill Ford inspiration," he added, "yet it is energy efficient, attractive, and up-to-date.

"It will last us another 50 years."



These photos by Jim Reisch show the progress on the additions to the Upper School and the reconfiguration of the gym's vestibule, which will now house the Spirit Store, video lab, and publication room. All construction will be complete by the first day of school. Hats off to Andres Construction.



College destinations New scholarships help Class of '08 hit prestigious targets

The Class of 2008 will, no doubt, be remembered as one of the brightest and most decorated classes in Cistercian's first 50 years.

It may also lay claim to the title of "Most Fortunate" as well.

On December 10, 2007, Harvard announced the most significant middle-class scholarship program in recent college history.

A large number of universities soon followed suit.

Before 2004, Harvard — along with many of the highest-priced universities — would pay the entire tuition for a student whose family earned \$30,000 or less.

Then, over a three-year period, the income-level was raised to \$40,000 and then to \$60,000.

Nevertheless, "a huge middle-class gap in the demographic profile of the incoming classes was developing," said Nash Flores, Harvard's regional director for the State of Texas and co-chair of Harvard's Dallas Schools Committee.

So, in December, Harvard announced that students whose families earn between \$60,000 and \$180,000 will be required to

pay only 10 percent of their annual income.

"The number of applications rose 20 percent this year," Flores noted. But despite the increased competition, five Cistercian students were accepted to Harvard, and four are attending

"I believe this year's bumper crop for Cistercian can be attributed to the increased number of applications from the school and Janet Bucher-Long's long relationship with the university," Flores said.

"Peter Smith '74, Alex Nettune '94, and I also have been working for years to encourage

the university to take a longer look at Cistercian students."

The ripple effect — 63 institutions followed Harvard's lead — made a major impact on the number of students deciding to attend college out of state.

NUMBERS GAME

Class of 2008

28 (or 64 percent) leaving Texas, most in recent history

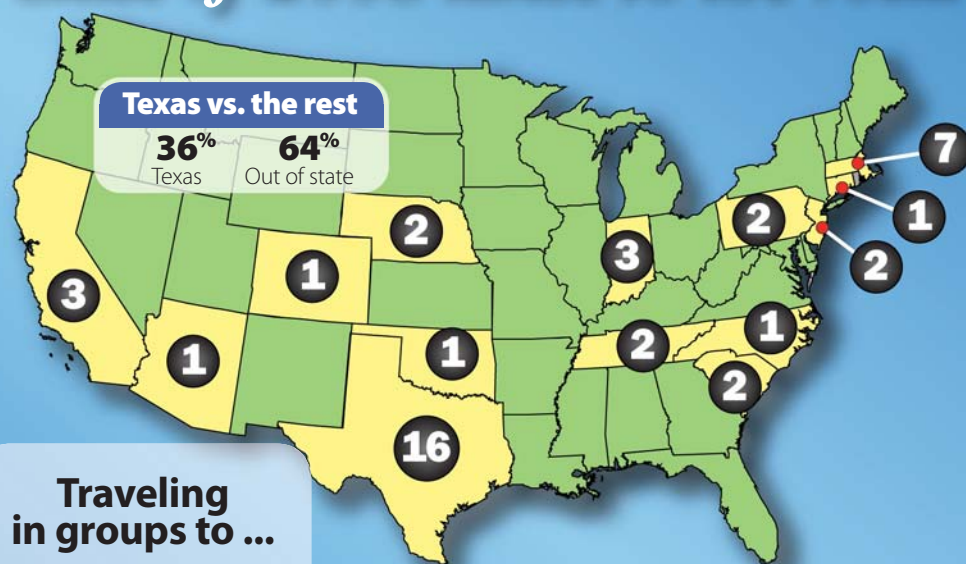
8 (or 18 percent of class) attending Ivy League schools

16 attending 10 different Texas schools

44 attending 28 different colleges and universities

COLLEGE DESTINATIONS

Class of 2008 takes to the road



Texas vs. the rest

36% Texas
64% Out of state

Traveling in groups to ...

Harvard	4
Notre Dame	3
Texas A&M	3
UT Austin	3
Creighton	2
Furman	2
Northeastern	2
Princeton	2
Rice	2
SMU	2
Vanderbilt	2

Traveling solo to ...

Arizona State University	University of Dallas
Baylor University	University of Denver
Olin College of Engineering	University of Pennsylvania
Oklahoma State University	University of San Diego
Santa Clara	University of Southern Cal.
Swarthmore	UT Dallas
TCU	Wake Forest
Texas Tech	Yale University
Trinity University	

Over the past 10 years, the percentage of seniors attending college out of state hovered around 50 percent or below.

Sixty-four percent of the Class of 2008 are attending school out of state.

In all, eight from the Class of 2008 are attending the Ivies.

Bryan Hsu '08 is attending the University of Pennsylvania where he'll combine a business management degree from the Wharton School of Business with an engineering degree.

Co-valedictorian **Clay Jimenez '08** also will pursue engineering at the Olin School of Engineering.

Alejandro Torres '08 became the first Cistercian student to win a Gates Millennium Scholarship and **Jack Squiers '08** was awarded a Presidential Scholarship (see stories on page 6).

Connor Heard '08 was offered Washington & Lee's most generous scholarship, but turned it down to attend Harvard. Likewise, co-valedictorian **Richard Newcomb '08** won the most prestigious scholarship at Rhodes College, but will attend Harvard.

Heard wins Hillary Award

Connor Heard '08 followed in the footsteps of brother **Zach Heard '06** by winning this year's Hillary Award. Heard, who is attending Harvard, played football, basketball, and baseball.

The award is given each year to the senior who most exemplifies academic and athletic excellence.



Connor Heard '08

Gates Millennium Scholarship *Torres wins lucrative educational award*

Alejandro Torres '08 was named Cistercian's first Gates Millennium Scholar (GMS) last spring.

The scholarship helps outstanding minority students reach their full potential by financing a great deal of future expenses associated with their education.

A renewable award, the Gates scholarship funds a student's unmet need based on the total cost of attending college, including tuition, room, board, books, meals, and fees.

Gates Millennium Scholars can pursue any field of undergraduate study and can receive funding through their doctoral degrees in fields of study including: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health, and science.

Torres plans to pursue a path to medical school.

Designed for students of color from lower income families, the program was funded in 1999 by a \$1.6 billion grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

It is especially fitting that Torres would be awarded this scholarship since he attended Cistercian on the Fr. Pascal Kis-Horvath Scholarship funded by the Gates Foundation.

Torres is one of nine students from the Metroplex to receive the scholarship, and one of only three from Dallas (the others attend Hockaday and St. Mark's).

Alejandro Torres '08 is attending Yale. The Gates Millennium Scholarship will help pay for both his undergraduate and graduate education.



Photo by Jim Reisch

Teacher honored Haaser wins "Work of Heart" grand award

The entire Cistercian community holds Bob Haaser in the highest esteem. At this year's Closing Ceremonies, that esteem took the form of a "Work of Heart" Grand Award.

The 39-year veteran of Cistercian has served in virtually every capacity at the school, save a priest. Yet, he remains a saint in the eyes of many for his devotion to Cistercian, its students, and its principles.

Currently, he leads the Class of 2014 as its form master and teaches social studies and history, while serving in the demanding job as Director of Admissions.

Parents, students, and teachers nominated Haaser for the award. Haaser's influence "quakes through his students, years — even decades — after they have graduated," one nomination read.

"He inspires and influences not only his students and former students, but his students' families as well."

Hawks in combat

Please keep in your prayers those alumni who are in harm's way defending our country:

- Nathan Porter '95**
- Vinnie Sherman '96**
- Donovan Campbell '97**
- William Parish '98**
- Eddie Anderson '03**
- Gary Darby '03**
- Robert Reagan '03***

* in flight training

Please email Carolina Pruitt cpruit@cistercian.org to add other alumni to this list.



Photo by Jim Reisch

Jack Squiers '08, who is attending Princeton this fall, was named Cistercian's third Presidential Scholar.

National honor Squiers earns Presidential Scholar award for 2008

Jack Squiers '08 was named a Presidential Scholar in May.

He is only the third Cistercian student to receive this honor (**Jim von der Heydt '92** and **Michael Montoya '07** preceded him).

On June 23, Squiers and the other 138 recipients traveled to the White House to receive their gold medals from the President and the Secretary of Education.

Squiers becomes the first Cistercian student ever to win both the Presidential Scholarship and the prestigious Davey O'Brien Award (for scholarship and athletics). **Robert Schoenvogel '95** is the only other Cistercian student to win the Davey O'Brien.

Squiers is a National Merit Semifinalist and a winner of the Saint Bernard Gold Award.

He served as vice president of the student council, and played on the varsity football, swimming, and baseball teams.

Five of this year's Presidential Scholars hail from Texas (two from Dallas, one from Austin, and two from the Houston area).

Squiers plans to study engineering at Princeton.

Community service Catholic Charities honors Cistercian students, families

The Catholic Charities of Dallas honored Cistercian three times over at their Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in the spring.

“As a school,” said Fr. Paul McCormick, community service advisor, “our students were celebrated for their generous work.”

At Thanksgiving, students

stocked the food pantry. At Christmas, students adopted families, and, most recently, students assisted with the Thrift store.

Andres Trejo '11 and **Andrew Jacob '13** represented Cistercian at the event and accepted the awards.

In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greenfield were recognized for the efforts mentoring a refugee family from Burundi, Africa. The Greenfields have given their time in mentoring refugee families frequently over the years.

The Gerry Jacob family was honored as the Volunteer Family of the Year in Dallas.

Quiz Bowl Young team gains valuable experience in Washington, D.C.

The Cistercian Varsity Quiz Bowl Team flew to Washington, D.C. at the end of the school year to participate in the National Academic Challenge.

Captain **Michael Lawson '09** led the team comprised of **Alex**

Howells '09, **Jonathan Wu '10**, and **Arnaud Zimmern '10**.

Cistercian's young team played aggressively and managed to win several close matches. The Hawks finished the day with four wins and two losses.

In the championship round, Cistercian lost in the single-elimination format the next day.

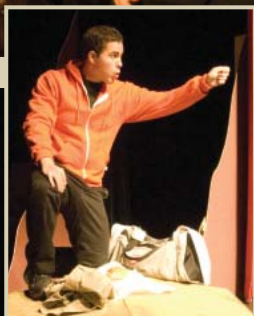
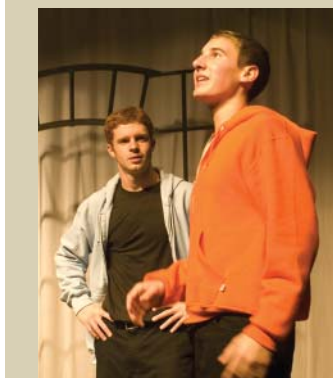
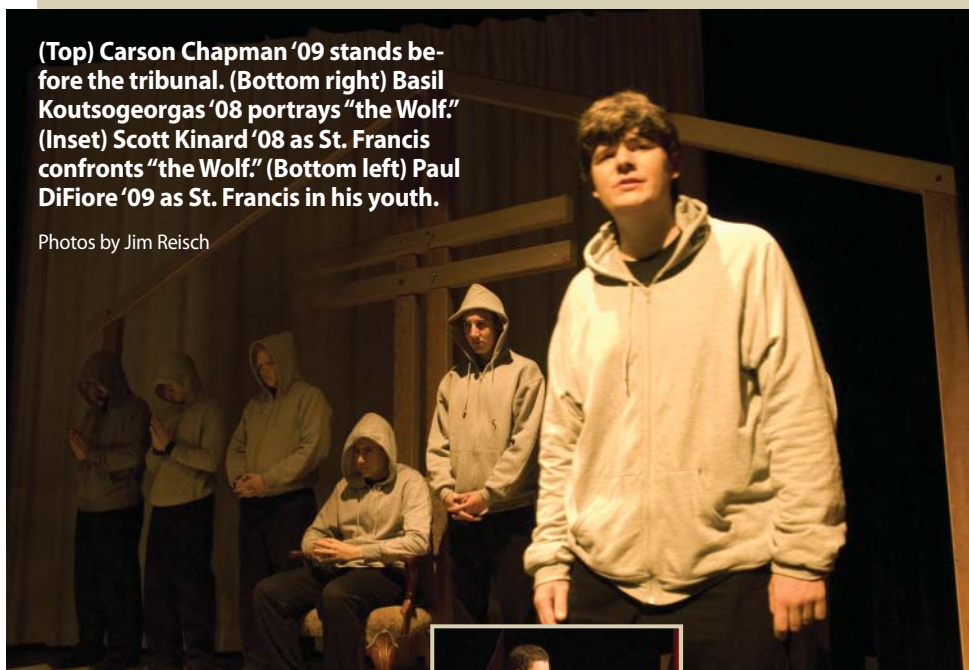
“I was very proud of the team's strong play,” said Fr. Gregory Schweers. “We look forward to a superb fall season in 2008, with *all* of our team members returning for Varsity play.”

UPPER SCHOOL DRAMA

St. Francis resurrected in Scenes from Assisi

(Top) Carson Chapman '09 stands before the tribunal. (Bottom right) Basil Koutsogeorgas '08 portrays “the Wolf.” (Inset) Scott Kinard '08 as St. Francis confronts “the Wolf.” (Bottom left) Paul DiFiore '09 as St. Francis in his youth.

Photos by Jim Reisch



No one in the audience failed to grasp the message of *Scenes from Assisi*, this year's Upper School drama, directed by former Cistercian teacher (and current parent) Jonathan Leach.

Drawing on Laurence Housman's *The Little Plays of St. Francis* (1922), Leach — also a Cistercian parent — arranged parts of the author's work into a five-act format to tell the story of St. Francis' life.

“The actors wore sweatshirts and the sets (built by Director of Students **Greg Novinski '82**) were very simple by design,” Leach said. “I wanted the audience to focus on the overtly religious theme,”

In all, four different actors, each wearing orange, played St. Francis to convey St. Francis' transformation from fun-loving youth to serious saint.

The plot turns when St. Francis (**Philip Schnorbach '08**) encounters a leper (**Basil Koutsogeorgas '08**).

“What stood out,” recalled Leach, “was the pain and hatred that Basil conveyed in his character, and Philip's initial revulsion and then deep compassion for the leper.”

In the final scene, **Scott Kinard '08** brought “a real sense of the wrath of God to his portrayal of St. Francis,” Leach said.

Audiences responded emotionally to the fine performances and the elegant poetry of Housman's words.

The audience and actors also clearly appreciated Leach's return to Cistercian.



**CITY-BOUND
COUNTRY/CAJUN BAND**

Nick Beaudoin '92 (front) and the rest of the New York-based Doc Marshalls pose for the cover of their second album, *Honest for Once*.

Making ART work

Cistercian alumni are finding ways to express their creative passions in a wide variety of fields. Why they do it and who might hit it big.

By David E. Stewart

Nick Beadoing '92 began performing at Riley's Tavern in Hunter, Texas (population: 50) on a cool Tuesday in April about 9 pm. Only two cowboys, the pool table, and shuffle board were listening. It had already been a long day on an exhausting solo tour for the singer/songwriter.

Only a few hours earlier, he had concluded a five-hour trek through the Hill Country to three country radio stations where he had given interviews and sung songs on the air.

About midway through his first set at Riley's, the lone listeners stepped outside for a few minutes; then the bartender retired to replace a keg. Beadoing found himself singing for no one except for four historic walls.¹

Such lonely moments can lead any artist to consider the eternal question: "Why am I doing this?"

For the most part, however, Beadoing's success these days leads to nothing but confidence.

Since 2001, he has served as the front man for the honky-tonk/Cajun band, the Doc Marshalls. The fact that they're based in New York City, where country music serves as court jester rather than king, only adds to the luster of the group's growing success.

Their second album, *Honest for Once*, has met with rave reviews from critics, listeners, and radio stations. They command large fees for their gigs in the City and around New England, Upstate New York, Philly, D.C., Texas, and Louisiana.

¹ Riley's Tavern served the state's first licensed beer after Prohibition was repealed in 1933.

Pop Matters, a well-known and respected online magazine, recently declared that the Doc's new CD "makes nearly every other country record released in 2008 pale in comparison."

The New York Times' Ben Sisario caught three of the group's "rug-cutting sets" at Hill Country at 26th Street and Broadway in Manhattan on a Tuesday in December. He described them as "a first-rate Cajun and country band."

The Doc's are receiving strong radio play, especially on college campuses and on XM, where the new CD has spent countless weeks in the Top 40 of the X-Country Chart.

The Doc Marshalls return to Texas often. The group came last fall to promote *Honest for Once* and Beadoing toured again in the spring, this time flying solo. (Look for the group again in October.)

The reality of life on the road clashes with romantic notions.

"I was so busy driving to and from gigs and radio stations," Beadoing wrote on his blog about the spring trip, "that every night I would collapse immediately upon my return, the AC blasting at 100 percent and an untouched six pack of beer chilling in the fridge. Now, that's the *real* honky-tonk life."

The opportunity to visit and play on the radio with Ray Wylie Hubbard at Tavern in the Gruene (Gruene, Texas) stood out as a highlight. "It felt like tacit approval from a country legend," admitted Beadoing of the writer of *Up Against the Wall Redneck Mothers*.

But that night at Riley's ranked right up there, too.

After the cowboys left for good, a group of college-aged kids arrived and cosied up to the stage. They began requesting songs from the Doc's first album, *No Kind of Life*, and sang along.

Pixar Magic

Creative and technical wizardry brings images to life

AWARD-WINNING WORK
Jon Reisch '98 projects one of the scenes from *Ratatouille* that won him and his team "Best Effects in an Animated Motion Picture" from the Visual Effects Society.

"How can I grow up to do what you do?" 14-year-old Jon Reisch '98 asked Hollywood special effects guru Dennis Murren at the 1994 USA Film Festival in Dallas. A few rows back, 16-year-old J.D. Northrup '96 perked up. Both hung on the words of this founder of George Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic and the man who created the special effects for the first *Star Wars* movies, *Jurassic Park*, and many others.

They must have listened well.

Today, both work at Pixar Animation Studios, the preeminent Computer-Generated Imagery (CGI) animation outfit in the world.

Reisch arrived at Pixar's Bay-Area headquarters in 1994, fresh out of Texas A&M's Visualization Sciences (VizLab) graduate program. (Thirty VizLab graduates currently work at Pixar.)

"As part of A&M's architecture school, it marries a purely computer-science graduate program with a masters in fine arts."

"The Viz Lab program really helped me to see the elegance, even the beauty, in the technical approaches to the very visual problems we deal with in computer graphics," he admitted. "It's all in service of the image on the screen."

Northrup studied computer science at Brown with a focus on graphics. He helped research several papers on topics like "Art-based rendering of fur, grass, and trees." Northrup also served as a teaching assistant for computer-graphic luminaries Andries Van Dam and John Hughes.

After graduation, Northrup tried his hand producing electronic music. But he soon returned to computer graphics where he met his fiancée Jamie Cameron. Northrup was hired by Pixar in 2007.

As a technical director on Pixar's current release *Wall-E*, Northrup worked with his team to animate cloth and crowds.

On *Ratatouille*, Reisch and his team toiled to make the food look

life-like. He is currently working on *Up*, due out in the spring.

"The most familiar things can be a real challenge," said Reisch, an effects technical director, "like pouring wine into a glass."

"From their experience with it, the audience has a high visual expectation of what wine should look like," Reisch explained, "how it should move. To do it right, requires a lot of research and a lot of creativity both technically and aesthetically."

During "production crunch," typical work weeks average 60 hours a week or more and frequently require work on Saturdays.

"Everything is geared toward the directors's schedule," Reisch said. "When we reach a certain point on a shot, we review them with my immediate team and then the effects supervisor to generate feedback. You can't have thin skin. We push each other. By the end of the week, we sit down with the director to go over it with him.

"I hope to hear the director say, 'Final!'" he said, "but usually he issues a round of revisions, and the process starts over."

At the 2008 Visual Effects Society Awards, with Steven Spielberg in attendance, all the hard work paid off. Reisch and his team won "Best Effect in an Animated Motion Picture" for the food scenes in *Ratatouille*.

Reisch's wife, Angelique, works in lighting at Pixar. She also is running Pixar's first undergraduate intern program.

(When sifting through applicants, her eye was caught by the word "Cistercian" on the resume of David Haley '06. He was selected to be a member of the first class. So during the summer, three Cistercian alumni roamed Pixar's halls.)

"It's great to have Angelique at Pixar," Reisch said. "We both understand what it means to be in the movie industry — lots of long hours and hard work. Occasionally, we grab lunch together.

"Still there are weeks," he acknowledged, "when we hardly see each other, except in the car commuting to work and back."

"They knew every line of most of the songs," Beadoing marveled. During breaks, they talked with Beadoing about their favorite Doc Marshall tunes.

"They were super fans," Beadoing remembered, "no doubt about it."

"Just when things seem a little rough on the road, people can come out of the woodwork to lift your spirits."

"It can be tough to take that leap from a steady job to going out on your own," acknowledged cinematographer Graham Futerfas '94. "I worked as a lighting technician while I learned the craft of cinematography. It paid pretty well and it was hard to let that go."

"As a free-lancer," he commented, "the pay is great as long as you're working." Futerfas recently served as director of photography for *Boomin'*, Tobymac's latest video, which won "Best Music Video of the Year" at the Gospel Music *Dove* awards.

Tom Molanphy '89 has taught writing at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco for the last eight years. He's working on his second novel. "Teaching keeps me sane," he said, "through balance and human interaction."

In Austin, you'll find a number of Cistercian alumni playing music. The jazz piano of Rob Greenfield '92 can be heard around town; he also stays busy teaching (like Mom), doing theatre, church work, and accompaniment.

Tim Trentham '89, who has drummed for bands since he was at Cistercian, doesn't plan to stop any time soon. The Bad Rackets are doing all right; their music video "Somebody Dropped the Baby" can be found on YouTube. But he hasn't quit his day job either. "Drumming pays for itself," he acknowledges, "but that's about it."

Art and work nearly coincide for Danny Reisch '01. He drums for two bands (the Lemurs and Belaïre), runs his own recording studio, and freelances at another. At his studio on 3rd Street, Super! Alright!, Reisch spends most of his time on audio post production work for TV and film (including the History Channel and PBS). He also engineers and produces recordings for the likes of Vox Trot and The Octopus Project.

Even with his growing popularity, Nick Beadoing is holding on to his day job as a copyright/entertainment attorney for Hearst Magazines at the company's NYC headquarters on West 58th Street.

"I think it is a compromise most artists have to make," he said. "Everyone needs health insurance."

But he's hardly a slave to the legal business. Instead of seeking the 14-hour-a-day jobs that lead to big bucks at major law firms, he chose an in-house position that provides normal hours and allows time off for gigs, festivals, and tours.

"This holding pattern has been all about providing me with the freedom to write songs I like," he said. "I can't maintain it indefinitely though. There is a window and I'd love to play music full-time."

Meanwhile, Mike McGee '75 finds himself on the arts rebound. A published concert photographer back in his twenties, McGee found that the digital era rekindled his love for photography about

seven years ago. Now he enjoys shooting and "sharing the beauty of God's creations."

Asher Wood '94 pursued his art work full time for a number of years after college. Then he began to branch out. Today, his continues to paint and sell his pieces quite successfully. But, he also sculpts, fabricates, and designs polyurethane foam pieces for restaurants, nightclubs, churches, museums, and family-entertainment centers. And, he earns a regular paycheck from Dell.

Young artists like the most recent crop of college graduates — Darryl Ratcliff II '04, Kit Reisch '04, Matt Whitenack '04, and Giacomo Yaquinto '04 — have experienced success in college. Now each will have to find his own way of balancing his passion, his appetite for life's necessities, and life's other dreams.

People come to Canters Deli on North Fairfax Avenue in Los Angeles for the thick pastrami and corned beef sandwiches, the chopped liver, and cheese blintzes. David Patrick '86 prefers the Reuben sandwich. But in February 2005, he approached the deli with more important matters on his mind.

At age 38, Patrick was eking out a living as an actor and stand-up comedian — as he had for 12 years — by supplementing his income with work as a stage manager and waiter.

"How long are you going to do this?" friends and family back in Dallas frequently asked.

It wasn't that Patrick, an Amherst graduate, had never considered the question. He knew that LA was littered with thousands of wannabe actors who struggle to make ends meet while the few, the chosen, are showered with ridiculous sums of money. In such artistic pursuits, little middle ground exists. Patrick joked that he wouldn't mind having health insurance and a 9-5 job. But he also had a dream.

Patrick had experienced some success in both Chicago and LA. He had learned the intricacies of improvisation and sketch comedy working with the likes Steve Carell and Stephen Colbert at Second City. Then he had hired an agent, joined the Screen Actors Guild, moved to LA, and actually made a living in film, commercials, theater, industrial films, and stand-up for two and a half years.

FUNNY GUY
David Patrick '86
performs one of
his stand-up acts.

But at some point during those six years in LA, other dreams crept into his consciousness. In addition to insurance concerns and



“I want to encourage my audience to do something, not just to sit there and think about it.”

Grady McGahan '00,
on his short films

normal hours, he began to imagine a house and a family.

At Canters Deli, Patrick met a friend who would shed some cold, hard light on his conflicting dreams.

“You must come to terms with what it means to be an actor,” his friend explained. “Either you love acting and you’ll do whatever you have to do, or go do something else.

“You can’t have one foot in and one foot out.”

It would take a year for Patrick to step out of his role as an actor and stand-up comedian. But during those months, he was focused on new dreams. They did not include waiting tables.

He decided to pursue a sales career in Los Angeles.

But after returning for his 20th Cistercian class reunion in 2006 and seeing his nephew play a baseball game, Patrick decided to move back to Dallas. He now sells internet security solutions, serves as a speaker, and chases opportunities to act and make people laugh.

Reflecting on past volunteer activities as a story teller and TV host at Children’s Hospital in Chicago and Cedar Sinai in LA, Patrick continues to cherish the feeling of making patients forget about their pain for a while.

“The reason I pursued an acting career is that I love making people laugh, and being with those children and their families allowed me to be of service and share that at the same time.

“Those experiences also reminded me to be thankful for my blessings. That’s important when you love the arts.”

“Right now, I am more interested in making powerful films quickly,” insisted Grady McGahan “than I am in making something breathtaking.” Instead of art for art’s sake, it’s art for goodness’ sake.

With the backing of Dallas philanthropist Stuart Crow and his production company, Pete’s House Productions, McGahan has made four short films in the past year – *New York Century*, *Acorns of Hope*, *Saving Port Gibson*, and *Tour de Trees* (due out in September).

“These films are designed to make people act,” said McGahan, who served as the production coordinator on Michael Moore’s recent film *SiCKO*. “I want to encourage my audience to *do* something, not just to sit there and think about it.”

In *Saving Port Gibson*, Crow and McGahan sought support for those trying to prevent a four-lane highway from being built through the scenic Mississippi town. Viewers on the Current TV web site are encouraged to become involved if they are so moved.

“But more importantly,” McGahan admitted, “it moti-

vated Port Gibson citizens, most of whom had been apathetic on the highway issue, to care and become involved.”

(Tim Sullivan '70 introduced McGahan to Crow. McGahan and Sullivan became friends at the older alum’s ranchito in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, which he had made available to Roberto Mun-
guia and Cistercian artists.)

With several projects currently online, McGahan is brainstorming on how a web site might be created to serve as a clearinghouse for good causes across the country. “I’d like to see a map,” he said, “on which you could click a location to learn about service opportunities there.”

An artist in his own right, Darryl Ratcliff II '04 is preparing for a another kind of creative career.

“I want to help creative people,” said, who majored in art and political science at Davidson College, “make a living out of being creative.”

Ratcliff, a recipient of Davidson’s prestigious Romare H. Bearden Scholarship, served as a grant writer for a children’s music group last summer as part of his ExxonMobil Community Internship.

Then as a senior at Davidson, Ratcliff founded *Davidson Creates*, a two-day public arts festival, inspired by Cistercian’s *BraveArt*, that showcased drama, dance, music, spoken word, photography, visual art, film and fashion. He hopes it will create a lasting event for the various art communities at Davidson.

Ratcliff currently works as a financial advisor for AXA Advisors. “I get to help teachers, artists, hospital workers, and those who work at non-profits,” Ratcliff said. “They’re the people I love.”



Eyes of the beholder

Self and Christ (above), a recent work by Asher Wood '94, caused some interesting misinterpretations at a Nashville exhibition exploring the idea of “Self.” Wood felt viewers “discussed the painting more from their own perspective and the lens of their own faith, instead of from the painting itself.”

“I was just attempting to say a few simple things about the space between Christ and myself,” he insisted. “I see myself as a stubborn, incomplete, thoughtful, prideful, and observant. I see Jesus as a servant, a King in hiding, bridging the gap between the darkness and the light. He allows me to be who I am, and quietly offers me love, wholeness, and freedom.”



But he hasn't given up on the arts and his commitment. He's currently starting a non-profit organization to "develop the next generation of artists, while nurturing the artists of today."

When Ryan P. Shrimel '96 reflected on the favorites among the many roles he's played, "I discovered that I'm almost always drawn to outsiders in all their variations. From underdog to superhero to pariah to king, the richness of characters struggling to understand themselves as different from the mass consciousness has meant so much to me as an actor, but even more as a human being."

Born in Dallas to Lebanese immigrants, Shrimel earned a degree in economics at Harvard. But the accomplished singer and dancer never entertained a doubt about his acting career, despite the required "waiting tables, bartending, brokering real estate, selling comedy tickets on the street, designing web sites, temping, etc."

He is very proud of his work as a producer and performer for the NY Arab-American Comedy Festival, which was founded five years ago after the terrorist attacks of September 11.

The festival, which helps other Arabs to understand and appreciate themselves in a world that stereotypes them, has grown steadily ever since. Its Los Angeles debut in January of 2006 sold out several shows in a matter of days. But the rapid ticket sales paled in comparison with the audience's reaction on opening night.

"They immediately jumped to their feet," Shrimel recalled, "but it was not just enjoyment and approval for a job well done. It was a deep sense of relief, pride, and joy. They felt vindicated. There was a sense of gratitude for our speaking up, for saying what they did not have the voice to say."

"We helped them feel proud, once again, of who they are."

"That show had a deep personal impact, because for the first time in my career I felt like I was imparting more than just entertainment."

G Geoff Marslett couldn't wait any longer. He and producer Robert Howell had booked an Austin studio. They decided to go for it and proceed without the long-awaited Hollywood money. They would make Marslett's first feature-length animated film as planned, just with less money and, oh yeah, a new script that had not yet been written.

"I decided," Marslett recalled, "to turn a 12-page story of mine about robots into a 100-page script. It's called *Mars*, it's an animated sci-fi romantic comedy about why humans love to explore. It pays homage to space travel."

HEADING FOR MARS

Geoff Marslett '92 with Mark Duplass shooting his new animated feature *Mars*. On the right, the photo shows how the animated image will appear on screen.

The 1999 *Monkey vs. Robot* put Marslett on the map. Set to the music of James Kochalka Superstar, the lo-fi animation reminds us that monkeys and robots "both love their mothers. Why must they hate each other?"

After being picked up by Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation, *Monkey vs. Robot* played on HBO, PBS, and at more than 70 festivals worldwide. Over 2 million have viewed the short.

In *Bubblecraft*, released in 2006, he experimented with a new piece of software he wrote that "processes the color palette by reducing the colors in the footage, but it also has hand-drawn detail work on top of it for eyes and outlines." The resulting images take on a comic-book feel.

The actors perform in front of the studio's 40 x 20 ft. cyclorama green screen so that Marslett easily can "key out" the background in favor of hand-drawn environments.

Filming on *Mars* began in the summer of 2007 with a budget of \$200,000, most of it consumed by the studio and actors. Currently in post-production, the cast includes Mark Duplass (*The Puffy Chair*, *Baghead*, *Hannah Takes the Stairs*), Kinky Friedman (almost the governor), Liza Weil (*The Gilmore Girls*), Cynthia Watros (*Lost*, *Drew Carey Show*), and Don Hertzfeldt (*Rejected*, *Billy's Balloon*).

Besides writing the script, directing, animating (along with his team of five animators), and writing the software to rotoscope the images, Marslett also plays a cameo role.

"Working with a small budget can be limiting," he admitted, "but it gives me a lot of freedom." But not a lot of time.

"Eking out a living in the arts is really tough," Marslett said. "In my case, I am lucky enough to teach in my field. I have a place to live, and eat some food once in a while."

"There does have to be a balance. I have been offered nice promotions, but I didn't take them so I could continue to focus on my art."

"When stuff starts selling more, and there is a potential to generate more income," he added, "I'll change my set up."

Until then, Marslett will press forward and "make it work."

"It does eat into your free time," he acknowledged. "But in the end, I really do like making films."

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Daniel Box '08 will attend the University of Dallas so he can remain close enough to help out his mom Thelma.



Enkindled & enlightened

The Class of 2008 produced lots of leaders. Three among them, with constant support from their parents, personify Cistercian's mission.

Story by Tom Pruitt • Photography by Jim Reisch

In the “Welcome to Cistercian” statement on our new web site, we read that “Cistercian Preparatory School is a community in which every boy’s natural capacity to understand and to work for the good of others is enkindled so that he can then go forth and enlighten the world in which he will live.”

So, we might wonder — Is this straightforward explication of the school’s motto more or less true? Is it just so much superficial window dressing, designed to attract potential parents and satisfy donors? Our own sense of integrity as an institution demands that we constantly reassess where we are in relation to what we claim to be.

From this perspective, the stories of Daniel Box '08, Richard Newcomb '08, and Alejandro Torres '08, warm the heart.

“If I could give any advice to other families coming into the Cistercian community,” remarked Thelma Box, mother of Daniel Box, “it would be to develop good relationships with other families.”

“We’re all in this experience at Cistercian together. We all pull for each other’s sons, each other’s families.” As a single parent who had lost her husband three years before Daniel entered Cistercian, she spoke from difficult personal experience.

“We all have to learn the life lesson that we need each other; being dependent on others is not a bad thing. We just all need to be willing

to give — and be equally willing to receive — help when needed.”

Daniel, who has known Richard Newcomb since their pre-K days at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School in Arlington, added Alejandro to his list of fast friends very quickly after entering Cistercian. The three remained close throughout their eight years at Cistercian.

“Daniel was my first friend in this new and strange place called Cistercian,” commented Alejandro Torres. “I didn’t know anyone

when I arrived on that first day, but soon after, just knowing I could make a new friend so quickly made me feel like the school wasn’t so bad after all.”

What worked for the boys worked for the parents as well.

“As Daniel and Alejandro were becoming friends,” Thelma Box remembered, “I discovered that Angelica (Alejandro’s mother) was from the state of Jalisco in Mexico, where my mother grew up, so as we traded old, traditional recipes and talked about ‘home,’ we too became close.”

“I knew that if we were going to the Torres’ for dinner, we were in for a treat.”



OLD FRIENDS
(l-r) Ian McLaughlin '08, Alejandro Torres '08, Daniel Box '08, and Richard Newcomb '08 clown around in 2001.

“A community in which every boy’s natural capacity to understand and to work for the good of others is enkindled...”

It is, in fact, a community which is often (to the point of becoming a cliché) called “close-knit.” But the metaphor is a good one; it is a community knit together of various strands: the first, and most fundamental, is a boy’s desire — no Cistercian student can be successful, can be happy, unless he has the desire, through all the ups and downs, through the grind and the tedium as well as the exhilaration and the joy, to embrace the full experience, and embrace it together.

“Success for me is finally not a matter of academics, though I always worked hard in my classes, but a matter of relationships, or forming friendships,” remarked Torres. “I didn’t just go off to English class, I went off to English class with friends.”

Torres has worked this summer in a recreation center in his neighborhood, and while the experience has been both rewarding and challenging, it has also brought him a measure of sadness.

“In my interaction with the nearly 50 campers, I have come to know some who are clearly very smart, and I continue to challenge them to do whatever they must do to get a good education. But most of them just say they don’t want to work that hard, that what they’re getting is good enough. But I want somehow to get across to them that being smart is not a curse but a gift, a gift they need to use and develop, a gift they eventually need to give back to their community.

“It just makes me sad that I haven’t found a way, yet, to get them to see that.

“I would love for them to have that knowledge and the confidence about their futures that I have.”

“Richard was always a self-starter; we can’t take much credit for his success,” remarked his father, Dr. Richard Newcomb, long-time Cistercian faculty member and head of the math department.

“He was always very open to the whole learning process, and the studious atmosphere at Cistercian was a natural fit for a boy like Richard.” While he wouldn’t take credit for Richard’s academic success, he would admit to at least one triumph: “I always enjoyed the long car rides when we commuted to Cistercian from Arlington. We had some good talks, listened to *The Lord of the Rings*, and a lot of music. While I’ve not yet succeeded in getting him to like jazz, he has come to appreciate good classic rock.”



Mario and Angelica always prayed for a good education for Alejandro. Torres is attending Yale with the dream of becoming a doctor.

“I want somehow to get across to [my campers] that being smart is ... a gift they need to develop, a gift they eventually need to give back to their community.”

— Alejandro Torres '08

it’s a gift he’s passed on to me. What more could I ask for?”

“Between 2000-04, we struggled with the aftermath of Don’s death,” remarked Thelma Box, “and the illnesses that befell us. But I never doubted that Cistercian was the right place for Daniel. It became even a more perfect fit once Daniel got into high school and was able to work on community service projects alongside Fr. Paul.

“They hit it off so well partly because they shared a passion for serving others, and because they have the same laid-back, easy-going personality. But Fr. Paul went beyond the level of personality. He always took such an interest in Daniel and became a kind of surrogate father to him, urging him on and keeping track of his progress, making sure he was where he needed to be.

“I think Daniel will always value his wisdom and his friendship.”

And finally there is the all-important strand of the parents, who have to swallow hard as they pay their tuition and drop their 10-year olds off at the front door to be taught, mentored, and cared for by a predominantly (though thankfully not too predominantly) male faculty overseen by an order of monks who have tried to assure them that their call to “Trust us” is an act of faith which they as parents will soon come to understand and appreciate.

A second important strand is the dedication of teachers, along with their compassion and commitment to excellence. They have to love sharing their knowledge of a particular subject matter with the boys they teach with the passion of a vocation; otherwise, the long hours, the intensity of the work load, for them as well as the students, the constant demands on their time and energy all will simply combine to “eat their lunch” and drive them away toward something less stressful — and perhaps more lucrative.

“It is clear to me that my dad loves God, his family, and math — in that order,” says Richard Newcomb. “Being a TK (Teacher’s Kid) was very difficult at first. I had to endure all the jokes about getting all the answers at home and all the requests for copies of the tests, but I soon came to have a great respect for my dad as Teacher.

“He would often come home from a full day of teaching and helping students both before and after school, and then tutor other students with the same enthusiasm he had shown in the classroom. He truly loves, and continues to study, what he teaches—and

“*Mira, Alejandro, con una buena educación, tu podrás hacer lo que tu quieras, porque una buena educación te abrirá muchas puertas.*”

“This is one of my mother’s favorite sayings,” Torres said, “and as it was repeated almost daily in very audible Spanish, it instilled in me a great thirst for knowledge and education. But their daily sacrifices spoke even louder,” Torres admitted.

“Long after they were no longer able to help me with my homework (which for most Cistercian parents, happens at a pretty early stage), my mother continued to show her support, even during the long nights of homework in high school, by staying up until I was finished. ‘Please go on to bed,’ I’d tell her, knowing that she had a full day of work ahead of her, but she’d respond, ‘I wouldn’t be able to sleep until I knew you are finished with everything.’”

“With devotion like that behind you,” he said, “it’s hard not to succeed.”

So that he can then go forth and enlighten the world in which he will live.”

So what will these three do now, and how do they look toward the future? Newcomb is headed to Harvard, Torres to Yale, and Box to the University of Dallas.

Newcomb chose, before his orientation begins, to go early to Harvard to clean dorms, mopping up after the summer residents and preparing for those like himself, who will arrive in the fall.

“I’m going up a week early. It’ll be a good way to learn the campus, make some friends, and see a little of Boston. There’s just no reason not to do it.”

It is all just part of his approach to life: begin at ground level, work hard, and prove yourself worthy by giving back a portion of what you’ve been given.

Yolanda Newcomb, Richard’s mother, confided that her prayer every day for her boys is that they remain in the path of God and in the grace of God, and that every day they will find an opportunity to serve others.

“All is from God; our talents, successes, everything, is a gift, and if you remain with God, you can cope with anything, and you will find the strength to lend a helping hand.”

“I have been given so much — my family, Cistercian, my community,” Torres reflects, “that I’m really now all about giving back; it’s



Richard and Yolanda Newcomb say son Richard was always a self-starter. He’s attending Harvard and hopes to become a doctor.

Newcomb will arrive at Harvard early to clean dorms ... [That’s] his approach to life: begin at the ground level, work hard, and prove yourself worthy by giving back a portion of what you’ve been given.

up for me,” remarked Box. “If I had to put what Cistercian has meant to me in one word, it would have to be ‘community.’”

“And while it may sound weird, one thing I wish is that, even though I spent eight long years with most of my classmates, I still wish I had more time with ‘the guys,’ especially those I hadn’t become as close with. I’m sure that deeper friendships would have come with a little more time.”

“People at other schools just don’t get this about Cistercian,” Torres chimed in, “how you can have 45 friends that you want to hang out with and that you want to know for the rest of your life. And it isn’t just your classmates, but your teachers as well. You feel like they’ve become your friends as well.”

“*Butterflies and Hurricanes* by Muse has been going through my head a lot lately,” Newcomb reflected.

*Best, you’ve got to be the best
You’ve got to change the world
And use this chance to be heard
Your time is now.*

Mission accomplished.

tpruit@cistercian.org

my passion, it’s what drives me. And I want to be a doctor. I want to make a difference.”

“I was raised,” says Angelica Torres, “with the saying ‘*todo es nada sin Dios*’ and it was very comforting to me to know that Cistercian was not only reinforcing but adding to what Alejandro’s dad and I were teaching him at home.

“The Alejandro that Cistercian produced is an Alejandro that makes me confident about his future, and I mean more than just going to a good college.

“Cistercian made him the best student, son, and friend that he could be. He learned to be open-minded and to accept the differences that make other people who they are.

“I’m so grateful from the bottom of my heart that he was able to receive such a magnificent education — but most importantly I’m grateful that my dream became a reality.”

“I wanted to see him go to a good school and then to a good university, and now here we are!”

“If you don’t know where you come from, then you won’t know where you’re going. That pretty much sums it

BASEBALL

Hawks pitch way to SPC-I

On April 15, the Hawks secured a place in the SPC Div-I Tournament with a 4-1 win at home against Trinity Valley.

Nick Gurguis '10 threw a three-hitter in the victory that hinged on a game-tying squeeze play executed by the clutch hitting of **Connor Heard '08** that sent **Holden Godat '09** home from third.

"It was our most important game of the year," said Mark Gray, head baseball coach.

"That victory," Gray added, "put Cistercian back in the Division I tournament for the first time in five years."

This year's squad played some of its best baseball against the toughest opponents.

The Hawks lost to St. Mark's by a score of 3-2, and it took a late home run for TAPPS-5A Austin St. Michael's to snatch a win.

Pitching ace Gurguis was named an All-SPC performer as was left fielder Godat who hit .445.

Veterans **Mike Gultinan '08** (.354) and Heard (.330) also had good years at the plate.

A seventh-inning homer by Austin St. Andrews downed the Hawks in the first game of the SPC Div-I Tournament.

But it didn't diminish the team's accomplishments.

"I was very proud of the team," Gray said, "not just for making the Division-I tournament, but for the way they battled the toughest teams we faced."



Photo by Jim Reisch

DYNAMIC DUO (l-r) Clint Murchison '08 and Charlie Hoedebeck '08 formed a nearly unbeatable doubles tandem. The pair lost just two matches during the season.

Double the fun in tennis

The Hawks' 2008 tennis team was led by its doubles teams, and, in particular, by its #1 team of **Charlie Hoedebeck '08** and **Clint Murchison '08**.

"I was very proud of the way all of our doubles teams competed," said Coach Skip Bowden.

While Hoedebeck and Murchison lost only two matches all year, the #2 doubles team of **Greg McGuire '09** and **Richard Hong '09** also performed admirably.

"We had a little trouble competing in the

singles matches against some very top-notch players," Bowden conceded, "but our top singles guys, **Alexander Hinckley '08** and **Scott Sloan '10**, fought their hearts out."

George Adesanya '11 provided the season's biggest surprise by earning the #3 singles spot and performing well.

At the SPC-II tournament at Trinity Valley, Cistercian succumbed to the tournament-hosting Trojans, a team the Hawks had defeated twice in the regular season.

Murchison earned All-SPC honors.

Track team finishes fourth at SPC

The Cistercian track team finished strong, ranking fourth among the 14 SPC schools that competed.

The relay teams earned the lion's share of the team's points.

Winning third place in the 4x800 with a time of 8:37.49 were **Paul Pesek '09**, **Michael Massad '08**, **Chris Martinez '09**, and **Richard Newcomb '08**.

The 4x100 team of **Jordan Beardslee '08**, **Connor Haley '09**, **David Newcomb '10**, and **David Baillargeon '09**, ran to a fourth place finish with a time of 45.00.

Earning fifth place with a time of 3:33.84 in the 4x400 relay were Connor Haley, Chris Martinez, Michael Massad, and **Patrick Spence '08**.

The team's highest finish in any event went to David Newcomb in the high jump. Fighting injuries for most of the year, Newcomb willed himself to a personal best 6' 2" jump, good enough for second place. (**James Sivco '91** holds the school record of 6' 8".)

Patrick Spence, who primarily ran the 330-hurdles, was named the team's MVP.

"Patrick is one of those typical Cistercian kids," said McCarthy, "who stepped up as a junior and worked extremely hard during the off-season. This year, he finished in the top three or four all season long."

Nick Echevarria '09 finished fourth (16.02) in the 110-hurdles (16.94), and **Daniel Stewart '08** recorded a personal best 43' in the triple jump, earning fifth place.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

2008 Hawks

Aug 29	at Greenhill	7:30 pm
Sep 6	FW Christian	7:30 pm
Sep 12	at Grapevine Faith	7:30 pm
Sep 19	Country Day	7:30 pm
Sep 26	at St. Stephen's	7:30 pm
Oct 2	St. Andrews	7 pm
Oct 10	at Oakridge	7:30 pm
Oct 17	Trinity Valley	7:30 pm
Oct 24	at ESD	7:30 pm
Oct 31	All Saints	7:30 pm

Games in yellow played at home.

Every exit presents an entrance somewhere else

In high school, I was the artsy one — *Reflections*, drama, that kind of stuff. At Kenyon College, where I just completed my freshman year, everyone seems to write, direct, perform, or “tech.”

Creative writing classes have ridiculously competitive enrollment processes. Writing is to Kenyon what football is to a state school.



Afterthoughts

Will Arbery '07

In some twist of fate, the things that made me different at Cistercian make me common at Kenyon. And the characteristics that describe most every Cistercian student, distinguish me from just about everyone there.

People at Kenyon were surprised to find out that I was from Texas, and further surprised to find out that I was Catholic. I didn't look the part. They'd never met anyone from Texas. They didn't know any practicing Catholics.

I fielded questions like “You don't have a cell phone? Is that because you're Catholic?” and then later, when I got a cell-phone, “You don't have a texting plan... is that a Catholic thing?”

Of course, there were some more serious, personal ones, too, but we won't get into those.

Now, in keeping with the theme of this edition of *The Continuum*, I cannot possibly talk about my transition to college without addressing the arts, because it's the arts that made me choose this tiny school in Gambier, Ohio.

My transition to a mostly liberal school in a land of snow and Amish farmers was eased greatly by my work in theater at Cistercian. In my very first week at Kenyon, I was accepted onto the board of an all-freshman theater troupe.

There were nine of us, and it was our job to choose and produce and make possible the production of shows that were acted, directed, and “teched” entirely by freshman. We were expected to put up three or four throughout the course of the year.

We did six: Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, an adaptation of *Rebel without a Cause*, Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Noah Haidle's *Mr. Marmalade*, and two one-act productions, one of them with entirely freshman-written material.

In the end, we used about 100 members of the class in acting, writing, directing, or “teching” roles. That's almost a fourth of our class. This massive undertaking was painful, but it made my year what it was, and I would not trade in a second of it. I ended up acting in two of those productions and directing two others.

Next year, I have a job at the school's art gallery, installing art exhibitions of student and faculty work. I've never done it before — and I've been told that it requires a great deal of patience, care, and creativity.

But I think the reason I got the job was that I got into a long discussion with the manager of the gallery about the similarities between what he was describing and what I had experienced in theater and at Cistercian, working on the literary magazine *Reflections*.

He talked about spaces — how the gallery space always remained the same, with the same walls and windows and frustrating juts and shadows. But with each show, the space needed to seem as though it magically housed, with seeming ease, the work that was living in it for a while.

Columnist Smokey Briggs '84 is recovering from heart valve replacement surgery in May. The scheduled surgery in Houston has the tough-talking, soft-hearted ex-Marine well on his way to a healthy future. Please keep him in your prayers and send emails to smokey@pecos.net.

I thought instantly of the responsibility of a tech crew building a theater set.

One night, my set designer David (a kid from Chicago with a big, white-boy afro) stayed after rehearsal until three in the morning building a set that seemed impossible for a space that used to be a bank: a carpet floor, no slant, six windows. The next day, it was a Parisian bar in 1905.

And I thought of last summer, before I went to Kenyon — those long nights with H.T. Flanagan '07, Nick Rotundo '09, and Mrs. Greenfield, working on Nick's laptop in the Preston Center Starbucks to finish *Reflections*, fitting digitalized paintings and poems onto every page. Every page remained the same size, but each was transformed by acts of interpretation.

And maybe this is what I'm trying to say.

Moving from one space in Irving, Texas to another space in the Middle of Nowhere, Ohio, I need only remember the spaces I have been in.

Art is created in spaces — the spaces of Cistercian, the spaces of Kenyon — but when you are away from the most crucial spaces, you keep them inside of you. They jut out like beacons. They hold enough weight to create shadows in the heart.

Right now, the most important spaces in my life form a sort of triangle across the country, but I know that more points will join the shape of my life eventually, and each one will be crucial. In moving from the space of Cistercian to the space of Kenyon, and having loved them both, I've come to appreciate what it means to be at a “threshold.”

You have to leave one space in order to descend upon another. Or, to quote a play I directed last year, “every exit is an entrance somewhere else.”

In my imagination, I used to be obsessed with the spaces in my life that I had never set foot in. But when it comes to creating, when it comes to the arts, I'll choose spaces that create shadows in my heart, the spaces that have been with me from the beginning, or the ones that promise to stay with me to the end. These are the spaces that I know and that, in invoking, I find the most thrill in interpreting.

Most remarkable, I think, is how our favorite spaces have the ability to affect others. Next year, my roommate is the only other guy from Texas in my class.

Last week, my good Jewish friend from the D.C. area left a message on my (Catholic) cell-phone, saying that she had gotten in a wreck. It was entirely her fault.

When the man she hit got out of his car, he was the nicest man she'd ever met. She asked him where he was from, and he said “Dallas, Texas.”

On top of it all, the wreck happened in front of the national cathedral. She said that it was fate.

She said she likes Texans now. And Catholics.

And me.

email: arberyw@kenyon.edu

“From that hour the disciple received her into his own”

(Jn 19:27)

Protestants often wonder why Mary is so important for Catholics. Does devotion to Mary not diminish the central role of Christ in our faith? I admit that there are ways in which Marian piety can marginalize the Triune God in our prayer life.



On Prayer

Fr. Roch Kereszty

But such devotion would be against the very intention of Mary and the authentic tradition of the Church. Marian piety should be deep and intense but christocentric and theocentric just as Mary's was. We can find the secret of such an attitude in the scene described in Jn 19:25-27: The crucified Jesus tells his mother, “Woman, behold your son,” and to the beloved disciple who represents under the Cross all believers: “Behold your mother.” And the evangelist adds: “And from that hour the disciple received Mary into his own.”

The Greek phrase “eis ta idia” does not simply mean “into his home”; it includes “into his life and into his heart.” In other words, John receives the mother of Jesus into all that is his, and Mary will share with him her intimate knowledge of her Son. Who else knows a son better than his mother?

Who else knows Jesus better than Mary? Only the Father in heaven knows the Son fully, but the Father must have shared his knowledge with the mother of his Son more than with anyone else. Mary knows Jesus as her Creator but also as her own child.

She depends completely on Him in every moment for her existence, but the child Jesus depends on her mother for nourishment, survival and growth. She remembers the first words Jesus ever uttered; she looked into the eyes of the newborn baby, returned his first smile and wiped off his tears.

She and Joseph taught Him to walk, prayed with Him, and conversed with Him about God and his people Israel. Reflecting on the words of Jesus, she constantly deepened her understanding of the mystery of Jesus' vocation.

Time and again she was made aware of the infinite abyss that separated her from her Son (“Why were you looking for me? Did you

not know that I have to be in my Father's house?” Lk 2:49; “Woman, How does your concern affect me?” Jn 2:4), and time and again her faith caught up with Him. At the end, at the foot of the Cross Mary, full of grace, consents to her Son's sacrifice with a broken but undivided heart and identifies with Jesus' almighty prayer: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing!” (Lk 23:34).

It is at this point that the painful birth of the Messiah is completed as Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, King of the Jews and of the world (Jn 16:21; Rev 12: 2). At the same time Mary's motherhood is extended far and wide to embrace all the actual and potential believers: “Woman, behold your son!” (Jn 19: 27). If we truly receive Mary into our life and heart, our holy communions will change because we will ask Mary's help in receiving her Son and in identifying with Him.

Mary gave birth to God's Son both in the flesh and in the spirit. We can do it only in the spirit — that is, we can shrink our ego so as to provide space to Jesus within us. Let him “increase,” while we “decrease” so that more and more He would speak, act and feel through us. In this way Mary does not diminish the centrality of Christ but rather helps us to be united with Him.

The image of giving birth to Jesus within us calls for some further explanation. It obviously means a spiritual birth, yet a birth which does not affect exclusively the soul. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit Mary takes both our soul and flesh, our concrete, individual humanity and molds it — to the extent that our free cooperation allows it — into the expression of Jesus' presence in the world.

Yet this way of presence will not eliminate our “I” and our personality but — to varying degrees — our “I” and our personality are transformed into expressing Christ's love and activity. As long as we are pilgrims on earth, this birth of Christ in us — which is the same, from another viewpoint, as our rebirth to a new life in God — is just a beginning and is certainly incomplete.

The glory of Christ will shine through us without the admixture of sin and imperfection only in heaven where Christ will be all in all in his creation.

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calendar

OCTOBER

17 Homecoming
vs. Trinity Valley

NOVEMBER

3-4 Alumni Phonathon
15 Memorare Mass

DECEMBER

20 Alumni Christmas Party

JANUARY

30 Moroney Award Dinner

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