

*For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School*

# CISTERCIAN CONTINUUM

*Spring 2014*

## BUILDING A MISSION

*Since the age of 20,  
Bob Haaser has been  
helping young men,  
and Cistercian itself,  
grow and succeed*

Bob Haaser, form master  
of the Class of 2014

**INSIDE**  
First impressions  
of the entrance  
building



*Jim Bloodgood '74 with Abbot Emeritus Denis Farkasfalvy near where they met in 1971 to discuss Jim's future.*

## “I am indebted to Cistercian”

**M**y older brother was smart. He was accepted into Pre-Form for Cistercian's third class (Fr. Henry's Class of '72). My parents made me apply ... but I never felt like the Cistercians' decision to admit me was a good one. And after five years (following Form IV), my academic performance suggested to my family that my intuition was correct.

They decided I would enroll in the DISD for ninth grade.

After that very long year, I realized that I had blown a great opportunity.

Without a word to my parents, I decided in late May after my year away to ride my motorcycle to Cistercian. Hwy 114 wasn't built yet, and it was a long drive.

I remember thinking several times that I should turn around, that this was a stupid idea and I needed to accept that Cistercian was not a place for me.

But for some reason, I didn't.

*Turn to page 24 for the entire story.*

**MEMORARE**  
SOCIETY

To remember Cistercian with a planned gift, contact Erin Hart.  
469-499-5406 | [ehart@cistercian.org](mailto:ehart@cistercian.org)





## CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Rev. Paul McCormick  
*Headmaster*

Greg Novinski '82  
*Assistant Headmaster  
Head of Upper School*

Christine Medaille  
*Head of Middle School*

Jim Taylor  
*Director of Admissions*

Janet Bucher-Long  
*Director of College Counseling*

Erin Hart  
*Director of Development  
and Alumni Relations*

André Bruce  
*Director of Athletics*

Barry McCain '02  
*President, Cistercian  
Alumni Association*

### School Board

Rt. Rev. Peter Verhalen '73  
Rev. Roch Kereszty  
Rev. Julius Leloczky  
Rev. Robert Maguire  
Rev. Bernard Marton  
Rev. Paul McCormick  
Kent Clay  
Charles Lipscomb '84  
Kathleen A. Muldoon  
Stephen C. Rasch '80  
Peter P. Smith '74  
Jere W. Thompson, Jr. '74

### The CONTINUUM

David E. Stewart  
*david@yardstick.co*

Erin Hart  
*Alumni Relations*

Jim Reisch  
*Photography Editor*

The CONTINUUM is published  
twice a year (spring and fall)  
by Cistercian Preparatory School.

3660 Cistercian Road  
Irving, TX 75039  
469-499-5400

[www.cistercian.org](http://www.cistercian.org)

# Adapting to meet evolving student needs

The history of Cistercian is one of maximizing often limited resources to provide the very best education for a highly talented and motivated student body.



Letter from  
the headmaster  
*Fr. Paul McCormick*

From its move from Merici Hall in 1964 into the original O'Neil Ford structure to the recent addition of our distinctive entrance, courtyard, and chapel, Cistercian has never built just to build.

There is always a responsibility to respond to the real and evolving needs of our students. I hope you enjoy reading about all the ways that our newest construction is already bearing fruit in the academic, social, and spiritual lives of our boys.

The whole campus is now intimately and beautifully linked in a way that finally unifies

our buildings, even while also centering them more clearly around the chapel.

Even more fundamental is the dedication and adaptability of an amazing array of talented faculty.

I'm sure you'll enjoy the remarkable cover story of our beloved Mr. Bob Haaser, who in his 45 years of mentoring young men at Cistercian, has enthusiastically embraced so many different responsibilities as both he and the School have grown.

And, like me, you'll admire his humility, drive, and passion in being always present for the seniors he is about to graduate.

There are notable items to update you on the many diverse activities and achievements of both current students and alumni.

Certainly not least, we also remember the passing of Fr. David Balás, who came to Dallas from Hungary in 1959, as well as the ordination of Br. Justin McNamara to the diaconate.

We are indeed a blessed community.

## Volume 41, number 1

## In this issue



## First impressions 8

Cistercian's new building serves many functions and yet it accomplishes so much more

*By David E. Stewart*

## Building a mission 14

Since the age of 20, Bob Haaser has been helping young men, and Cistercian itself, grow and succeed

*By David E. Stewart*



## Departments

News & Notes .....	4-7
Sports .....	20
Class Notes .....	21-22
On Prayer by Fr. Roch Kereszty .....	23
Afterthoughts by Jim Bloodgood .....	24

*Cover photography by  
Jim Reisch*

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



Headmaster Fr. Paul McCormick (l-r), Abbot Peter Verhalen '73, and Joel Fontenot at the benediction of the entrance building.

### BUILDING DEDICATION

#### Enthusiastic crowd sees abbot bless new entrance

A large, eager crowd turned out for the entrance building's "big reveal" and dedication on February 9.

Alumni, alumni parents, students, teachers, and staff celebrated the opening of the campus' new jewel, which was made possible by donors to 50th Anniversary Campaign.

In addition to the blessing of **Abbot Peter Verhalen '73**, lead fundraiser Joel Fontenot and Headmaster Fr. Paul McCormick expressed their joy and thanks.

### DECEMBER BASKETBALL CAMP ATTRACTS YOUTH

Under the guidance of Craig Sklar, Cistercian's head basketball coach, the school hosted its first ever Cistercian Basketball Clinic in December over the Christmas holidays. Sklar enlisted the help of his assistant coaches (including **Bobby Crews '06**) and members of the varsity basketball team.

The camp attracted 80 players in grades 3-8, including students from a variety of schools. Sklar also organized an alumni tournament over the holidays.

By the way, the varsity had its most successful season ever. See p. 20 for details.



LEGAL TEAM Eight of the 15 lawyers who helped teach the Intro to Law elective gathered to celebrate after the semester: (l-r) Vincent Ansiaux '93, Shae Armstrong '98, Jeff Tinker '97, Alex Frutos '87, Gino Rossini '88, Sean Hanna '96, Paul Wehrmann '84, and Stefan Zane '96.

### TEAM EFFORT

#### Alumni teach Intro to Law elective

The Introduction to Law elective conducted by **Shae Armstrong '98** offered Upper School students a sophisticated survey course that featured presentations by 15 different alumni.

"We have covered everything from Anna Nicole Smith's Texas Deposition (thanks **Fred Hartnett '87**) to the prisoners of Guantanamo (thanks **Ben Weston '98**)," said Armstrong.

"It was also pretty spectacular watching **Stefan Zane '96** cover two semesters of Contract Law in 45 minutes."

"I can't fail to mention that you should have seen the students' faces when **Michael Donohoe '80** itemized all the expenses that an average adult enjoys."

The elective filled up quickly with 10 seniors.

"I have a new appreciation for the teaching profession," Armstrong laughed. "Everybody gave great presentations."

"I did not think that directing 15 lawyers was going to be this easy."

### CISTERCIAN CITY LIMITS

#### Impromptu venue pleases big crowd

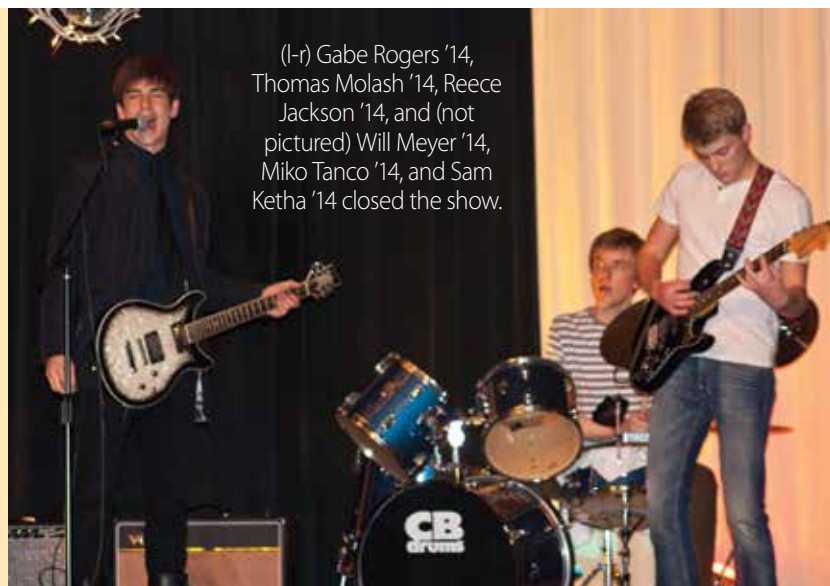
Threatening weather on March 22 spoiled plans to hold Cistercian City Limits (as the coffeehouse was freshly christened) in the amphitheater between the gym and Upper School.

But rather than retreat to the familiar confines of the lunchroom, students struck out for new territory: the west (old) gym.

"The boys feared the stage and space might be dull," said Michael Humphries, student government advisor, "but they improvised decorations and found the lighting impressive."

Students employed a mammoth American flag to cut the gym in half and make the space feel more intimate. It worked.

The seating, sound, and performances pleased the crowd estimated at 220 students. In its first year apart from BraveArt (now Art-a-Zoa), the musical event appears as healthy as ever.



(l-r) Gabe Rogers '14, Thomas Molash '14, Reece Jackson '14, and (not pictured) Will Meyer '14, Miko Tanco '14, and Sam Ketha '14 closed the show.

# 19

Number of years BraveArt and Coffeehouse stretched Cistercian artistically. It worked! Arts events are now occurring with more regularity.

# 26

The number of performances at Cistercian City Limits on March 22, all of which may be sampled at "Cistercian City Limits" on YouTube.



## REFLECTIONS 2013 WINS COLUMBIA'S GOLD CROWN

The 2013 *Reflections*, Cistercian's literary magazine, won a prestigious Gold Crown. Cistercian, St. Mark's, and Hockaday were the three local schools out of 16 nationally to earn the recognition for their literary magazines. Kudos to editors **Sam Tomaso '14** and **Jacob Barnes '14**.

## FIRST FORMER FRUTOS STATE CHESS CHAMP



**Chase Frutos '21** made all the right moves at the 17th Annual Texas K-12 Grade and Collegiate Chess Championships in Houston in November. It was not his first rodeo. Frutos has earned three state titles and, before arriving at Cistercian, was national co-champion of the 4th Grade Section of the 2012 K-12 National Chess Championships in Orlando, Florida. He's also traveled to Brazil and Canada to represent the US, placing in the top 10 in both.



Phong Nguyen '15 speaking before 1,500 at The Catholic Foundation dinner in February.

## THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION Essay on ancestors wins Nguyen '15 scholarship

"My entire life," **Phong Nguyen '15** explained to The Catholic Foundation audience of over 1,500 on February 7, "is the result of the chaotic roller coaster that my parents and grandparents had to ride."

He was reading from the essay that persuaded the Scholarship Committee to select Nguyen as the recipient of the Youth Scholar award and its \$5,000 scholarship.

"But even as they watched their world crumble around them," he said of his Vietnamese family, "one fundamental pillar of their lives remained strong and resolute: their faith."

"Ever since I was young," Nguyen added, "my parents have taught me that education was my ticket out of the poverty they had to experience, but above all, my parents wanted me to understand that faith had to be the foundation on which I built my life."

Nguyen is the fifth Cistercian student to win the award, following in the footsteps of **Michael Greenfield '99**, **Juan Muldoon '05**, **Vincent Zimmern '06**, and **Paul Kim '13**.

Cistercian, Nguyen said, "gives me the opportunity to push my academic limits while the Catholic atmosphere ... allows me to cling to the faith my parents worked so hard to nurture."

## MOCK TRIAL TEAM

### In their second year, Hawks rival traditional powers

In just its second year in existence, Cistercian qualified as the third-place team for the final round in Region 10 of the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition (the region includes all of North Texas except for DISD schools).

"Competing against so many large and established programs," said Rwan Hardesty, co-sponsor of the team, "this was a phenomenal finish."

It was no surprise that **Thomas Molash '14** won "Best Witness" in the region's finals and **Jack Bitterman '14** received honorable mention in the "Best Attorney" category.

As sophomores, Molash and Bitterman had petitioned the school to form a team. Jackie Greenfield, long associated with Cistercian's mock trial electives and projects, was unsure how to make it happen until good fortune introduced her to Rwan Hardesty, wife of **Tim Hardesty '96**.

The 2009 SMU Law School graduate volunteered that she hoped one day to teach a mock trial course at Cistercian. It was not long before her wish, along with those of Molash and Bitterman, came true.



Jack Bitterman '14 (left) and Thomas Molash '14, founders of the Cistercian Mock Trial team.



In March, the Upper School presented four showings of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, Bertholt Brecht's cautionary tale of when good men stand by and do nothing. Directed by Dylan Key, the production included (l-r) Jackson Spencer '14, Ian Kampine '14, and Anthony Brandt '14.

**5** Number of Cistercian students who have won The Catholic Foundation Scholar Award since its inception in 1998

**6** Number of Gold Crowns awarded to *Reflections* by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association: in 2005, 2006, 2007 and in 2011, 2012, and 2013.



Michael Donohoe '80 with his family (l-r), Fifth Former Nick, wife Linda, and Second Former Matt.

## JIM & LYNN MORONEY AWARD

### Donahoe thanks Cistercian family for their prayers

The 2014 Jim and Lynn Moroney Award Dinner at the Park Cities Club on January 25 stood out for revealing precious little “dirt” on recipient **Mike Donohoe '80**.

It wasn't for a lack of trying.

“No one could remember Mike ever getting into trouble,” explained presenter **Steve Rasch '80**.

That reputation, along with his exploits as an outstanding athlete and student, earned Donohoe the nickname, A<sup>3</sup>B (All-American Angel Boy) during his days at Cistercian.

So instead, veteran presenter Rasch regaled the audience with stories of

Donohoe's *reactions* to his *classmates'* outrageous shenanigans — “always extreme in their moderation,” even in the face (and hair) of, well ... you had to be there.

And, of course, he told of Donohoe's service as an elective teacher, a Sustentation form captain, chairman of the alumni golf tournament, and co-president of the Booster Club.

But he also shared the story of Donohoe's recent battle with myeloid leukemia, a frightening experience that Rasch suggested would prompt most people to reassess their priorities in life. Not for Donohoe.

“From my vantage point,” said Rasch, “Mike had his priorities right all along.”

“Family is what I think of when I look around this room,” Donohoe said in accepting the award. “In this family, we answer calls for help.

“In some small measure, I may have answered a few calls for help.”

But he wasn't prepared for the aid that came his way while undergoing nine weeks of hospitalization and 22 days of chemotherapy during his five-month bout.

“Everyone offered prayers,” he said. “So many people helped out.

“We had no idea how big our family truly was,” Donohoe explained. “We thank the Lord for all our blessings.”



Mike Donohoe '80 receives the Jim & Lynn Moroney Award from classmate and presenter Steve Rasch '80.

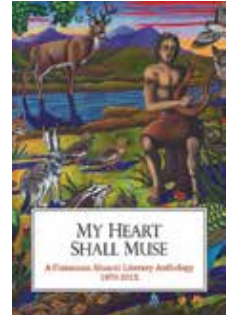
## ALUMNI ANTHOLOGY

### Collection of poetry and prose now available

“My Heart Shall Muse,” an alumni literary anthology, was published in February under the direction of Gary Nied, head of the English department.

In nearly 150 pages, the paperback features the work of over 37 alumni who represent 20 different classes, starting with the Class of '71.

A limited quantity is available for \$13.50 on-line at: [www.cistercian.org/anthology](http://www.cistercian.org/anthology).



In October, Abbot Peter Verhalen '73 attended the ordination of Fr. Michael Tinker '03, who is a member of the Franciscan Order.

## FIRST MASS

### Fr. Michael Tinker '03 ordained a Franciscan

**Michael Tinker '03** was ordained a Franciscan priest on October 26, 2013, in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

**Fr. Abbot Peter Verhalen '73**, his form master, attended the ordination.

Over the Christmas holidays, Fr. Michael celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Abbey Church surrounded by family and friends from the Cistercian community.

**4** The number of winners of the Jim & Lynn Moroney Award from the Class of 1980: Paul Tomaso '80, Ed Johnson '80, Steve Rasch '80, and Mike Donohoe '80.

**2** The number of Cistercian alumni ordained outside of the Cistercian Order: Fr. Michael Tinker '03 (above) and Fr. Andrew Van Kirk '00 (Episcopal).





The funeral mass for Fr. David Balás was held at the Abbey Church on February 12.

## PASSING

### Fr. David Balás, member of the “great escape” of 1950, leaves a legacy of scholarship at UD

David László Balás, born on August 6, 1929, in Budapest, was a student at the Saint Emery Cistercian School until his family fled to Germany in the last month of WW II.

After returning to Hungary, he joined the Cistercian Abbey of Zirc as a novice on August 29, 1948, under the guidance of Fr. Lawrence 'Sigmond.

Br. David would escape Hungary as a part of the “great escape” of 1950 in which 23 Cistercians fled. As part of the lucky group who avoided arrest in Austria, he made his way to the Cistercian abbey of Stams in Austria, and then to Rome. He was ordained at Stams in 1954.

In 1959, he came to Texas and began teaching philosophy and theology at the University of Dallas.

Fr. David served as the head of the theology department and graduate dean. In 1962, he obtained his doctoral degree (STD) in theology.

Though he was barely 5-feet in height, Fr. David's intellect towered over most, and he used it to help students focus on the essentials.

“Those of us who had the extreme good fortune to study with Fr. David,” Randall B. Smith, a professor at the University of St. Thomas said, “were given the gift of a mentor who was not only extraordinarily well-versed in the philosophical and theological traditions of the Church, both Eastern and Western, but who was extremely balanced and judicious in his judgments.”



Fr. David Balás at UD where he taught theology and philosophy beginning in 1959.

**11** The number of “young monks” who have been ordained to the diaconate in the last six years, beginning with Fr. Joseph Van House in 2008.

## Br. Justin McNamara heartily welcomed into the diaconate

Snowy weather on March 2 failed to keep a large gathering from assembling at the Abbey Church to attend the solemn vows of Br. Justin McNamara.

As the last of the original wave of “young monks” who have rejuvenated the abbey and school, Br. Justin has witnessed many of his brothers recite these vows.

But, of course, it was different this time.

“Signing the solemn vows,” said Br. Justin, “and leaving them at the altar was especially moving.

“It felt like a complete offering to the Lord, committing myself to Him *usque ad mortem* (until death).”

Afterward, he placed his hands in the hands of Abbot Peter Verhalen '73, pledging his obedience.

Br. Justin's parents attended the ceremony; his brother and sister joined his parents for his ordination to the diaconate on March 8.

“I have been used to seeing the deacons and priests at the altar,” Br. Justin said, “but it is a whole different experience when you're in the midst of those ministries. It is a real honor.”

Another moment, near the end of the ceremony, stuck with Br. Justin.

“It was during the sign of peace when I approached Fr. Benedict for his blessing,” Br. Justin remembered.

“His face lit up,” he said of the community's most senior member. “He was glowing and encouraging.

“It was a confirmation for myself,” he said, “and a reminder that the commitment we make is for life.

“Fr. Benedict is such an example to all of us,” he added, “a witness each day, and genuflecting at age 94.”

(Above) Br. Justin McNamara is ordained by Bishop Kevin Farrell on March 9. (Below) Br. Justin with (l-r) Abbot Emeritus Denis Farkasfalvy, the bishop, and Abbot Peter Verhalen '73.







BY DAVID EXALL STEWART  
*The new building serves  
many functions and yet it  
accomplishes so much more*

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

PHOTOS BY JIM REISCH





From his seat in the entrance building's new conference room, Abbot Peter Verhalen '73 is sitting with his back to the view — a sea of trees topped by Las Colinas skyscrapers silhouetted by the western sky.

His eyes are trained in the opposite direction, inward, toward the new entrance building.

"There is a sense of openness, transparency," marveled the abbot. "You see activity, teachers at work, students stopping to chat with teachers, upstairs and down.

"Somehow, the building makes it feel more comfortable for students to talk to teachers," he said. "It makes conversations more dignified. Almost like a living room. Very personal."





Light streams in from a variety of angles, including windows tucked up near the ceiling of the building that are barely visible.

“The lofted space from downstairs makes you immediately look up,” said Tom Pruitt, form master of Form VII. “You feel uplifted by the light, and know that you have entered a place where inspiration is built in.”

“I love watching parents’ faces when they see the inside of the building for the first time,” said Kathy Nevitt, school nurse and receptionist (a.k.a., director of first impressions).

“It’s gratifying to know that they so easily recognize and appreciate the Cistercian aura that permeates these walls.”

Moms (and sick boys) also appreciate details like the building’s full-fledged sick room that is well-equipped with basic medical necessities (not to mention its own bathroom).

“The new building has unified the whole school — upstairs and downstairs,” said Chris Medaille, head of the Middle School. “We

used to walk from Middle to Upper School hurriedly and with heads down in the cold or drizzle.

“Now the same walk invites us to slow down and appreciate our campus.

“From the large upstairs windows,” said Medaille, “we can see the tennis courts and even the baseball field; to the right is the chapel, which calls us to spend some quiet moments in prayer; and the journey down the center reminds us of the Cistercian heritage.”

Offices in the new building offer teachers more elbow room.

“I’m pleased with the functional desks in the new office space,” said Gary Nied, head of the English department, “a far cry from the accordion-door cubicle I had when I first started at Cistercian.”

“It’s awesome having my office so close to the classrooms,” commented Fr. Joseph Van House, form master of the Class of ’17. “It helps me stay in communication with the students.”

“It’s handy, too,” added Fr. Ambrose





Strong, form master of the Class of '19, "when I need to relay a quick message to Kathy Nevitt – I can just step out my door and holler down from the balcony.

"I wouldn't mind a fireman's pole," he joked. "Three seconds and you're on the first floor."

"I love the door to the courtyard by the chapel," said English teacher Jackie Greenfield. "When I take Upper Schoolers to mass or the library, we don't have to walk through the Middle School."

It's a door that connects the science building to the Upper School as well.

As a result, the building — located at the center of campus — becomes the school's focal point.

The second floor conference room overlooks the lower campus and its creek and trees.

"Long meetings in the new conference room are better than anywhere else on campus," said Fr. Joseph.

"It just lifts your spirits to be able to literally look around and see a bird's eye view of the whole institution we are serving!"

Then there is the chapel.

"While the rest of the building is transparent and full of energy and movement," said architect Gary Cunningham '72, "the heart



of the building (and school) is the calm, stoic box that anchors it all."

Novice Br. Raphael Schaner has conducted Form IV confirmation students there.

"The 14 rough stones embedded in the walls (representing the stations of the cross) immediately reminded them of the Abbey Church," he said.

"The eastern orientation of the chapel also impressed them, pointing us toward the rising sun as a reminder of our looking towards Christ, the True Rising Sun.

"With the chapel located so centrally at the school," Br. Raphael added, "I urged the boys to take advantage of making 'visits' to Our Lord during the school day, even just to say 'hello.'"

"They seemed awestruck at the thought that Jesus will be waiting for them in the chapel."

"I stepped into the chapel the other day to say a quick prayer for a student," said Pruitt, "and somehow having that sacred space right here in the midst of our lives, with all the hustle and bustle, the to and fro from classrooms and the gym, makes the prayers more powerful.

"Perhaps we can make a difference in the lives of our students — but only with God's help, the space seems to announce."







“Once the stained glass is installed,” said Cunningham, “it will take your breath away.”

Perhaps the most surprising element of the project can be found outdoors.

“The courtyard is perhaps my favorite example on our campus of the seamless blend of beauty and utility,” said Pruitt.

“The lighting, the wooden and stone benches, the landscaping, the various elevations, the generous flow from segment to segment is just a real pleasure to behold and to meander through—both day and night.”

“It’s a functional design that connects the dots,” said David Hocker ’96, the landscape architect, referring to the gym, science



## O'NEIL FORD'S PREFERRED ENTRANCE

For five decades, locating the entrance to Cistercian could be as difficult as senior Calculus.

In the sixties and seventies, the Middle School entrance often confused visitors who found no reception area, only an empty hallway and a set of Spanish-tiled stairs. Hmm.

By the nineties, the office building constructed between the Middle and Upper School formed a natural entry, but visitors were greeted with standing space not much larger than some modern closets.

"From the beginning," said Gary Cunningham '72, who was once a student of O'Neil Ford (the school's well-known original architect), "Ford believed the entrance to the school should be from the second story in the area near the headmaster's office. There, visitors would be greeted by views looking out over the creek and trees."

Ford, however, was overruled by Abbot Anselm Nagy.

And so, Cistercian marched on without a suitable entrance. Until now.

"Ford," Cunningham mused, "finally has his view from the conference room." And Cistercian has its formal entry.



building, and entrance building.

"In addition to the bench seating," Hocker said, "there will be metal chairs that can be moved and arranged so that groupings can be created organically."

"It's really an urban space," said Cunningham, "that is a response to the increased energy, programming, and activity at the school."

"It reminds me of an Italian piazza," said Abbot Peter, "a place that invites people to gather."

The project — inside and out — appears to have energized students, teachers, and staff.

"Honestly, it feels like I'm teaching in a brand-new school,"

said Gary Nied. "I feel better all-around — body, soul, and mind."

"It calls you to growth, in community," said Greg Novinski '82, head of the Upper School. "Like all our new buildings the entrance building emerged out of a growth in size, programming, and need in the community. It calls us to grow as we make use of it."

"A lot of elements converged in this project," Cunningham said. "It feels like sacred ground in terms of the energy and what happens here."

"In a sense," reflected the abbot, "the new building marks the maturity of the school. Cistercian is no longer hard-scrabble, just trying to survive and make a name for itself."

"It is clear now that we've arrived."



## LOOKING TO INSPIRE

Bob Haaser with seniors (l-r): Ian Kampine '14, Patrick Blonien '14, Timmy Stuard '14, and Sean Kennedy '14.

# BUILDING A MISSION

**K**AY AND BOB HAASER WERE DRIVING to Houston for the 2014 SPC winter tournament. Haaser (pronounced Hahzer, for those of you who pronounce it *Howser* — you know who you are) was talking excitedly on his wife's cell phone about the Hawks' prospects for the upcoming weekend.

"It's going to be awesome," he said of seeing the seniors, members of the Class of 2014, perform. As their form master, he has mentored them from the moment they set foot on the Cistercian campus as First Formers.

He has cherished every moment being there with them, for them. And he never spared an opportunity to *be there*.

Two weekends prior to SPC, Haaser had spent nearly four hours downtown watching the Hawks (including five from his class) prepare and compete in a Mock Trial tournament.

He and wife Kay had to leave early to make it to the Catholic Foundation Gala. There, he caught up with Ann Molash (mother of Mock Trial member Thomas Molash '14) at the volunteer dinner, located in a separate room from the gala.

"Mr. Haaser had been searching for me," Molash laughed. "He wanted to find out if the boys were one of the teams that had qualified to go on to the semifinals the next weekend.

"He was beyond excited when he found out that they were."

Naturally, he and Mrs. Haaser attended the semi-finals of the

*Since the age of 20, Bob Haaser has been helping young men, and Cistercian itself, grow and succeed*

BY DAVID EXALL STEWART

Mock Trial the following weekend. They left just in time to grab a bite at McDonald's before the start of the Greenhill-Cistercian soccer game, the final conference game of the season.

The Hawks, led by a defense populated primarily by seniors, won, qualifying them as the number one seed from the North Zone (a first for a Cistercian soccer team).

A couple of weekends following SPC, he was seen at the Ursuline musical, cheering on two of his seniors who played major parts in the *Wizard of Oz*.

"He's pretty much everywhere," said Sean Kennedy '14, "all the time."

"I don't know how he does it, but he seems to know everything about everyone. It's amazing.

"Mr. Haaser can relate to all of us — athletes, mathletes, musicians, actors, everyone."

In his 45 years at Cistercian, Haaser has served in a broad spectrum of roles — from student-teacher to teacher, from assistant coach to head coach, from athletic director to admissions director, from assistant form master to form master.

**"I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THE BAT HIT THE BALL,"** UD sophomore Bob Haaser was telling his teammates after the longest homer of his baseball career had bested the Tarleton State Texans, 1-0, in April of 1969.



Batting ninth in the line-up, up in the count 3-0, with the game knotted at zero in the final inning, Haaser had killed it.

Nearly hitting the lights atop the pole down the third-base line, the home run (about 400 ft.) also helped Haaser emerge as the game's winning pitcher (a two-hitter).

Despite the theatrics of it all, Haaser's mind was elsewhere on the bus ride back to campus from Stephenville.

UD students had been voting for their next student body president, and Haaser, elected as a student government representative in his freshman and sophomore years, had put his name on the ballot.

"Great game today," said Jimmy McCloskey, a senior second baseman, at a dance after the game. "Sorry about the election." Despite his single-handed heroics on the diamond, Haaser had not prevailed in the contest for student body president.

"Hey Bob," the Chicago native added, "promise me, you'll go visit with the Cistercians."

For several months, McCloskey had been trying to persuade his teammate to follow in his footsteps as a coach at Cistercian Prep School. McCloskey, who had also served as Haaser's RA freshman and sophomore year, was convinced that he would be a good fit.

"You set it up," said Haaser, whose defeat in the election had just cleared afternoons on his calendar for the following year, "and I will go."

**ON AUGUST 15, 1969, BOB HAASER ARRIVED** on the Cistercian campus prepared to begin coaching the Form IV football team (the Class of '74). This was, after all, the job for which he had interviewed and been hired in the spring by the school's new headmaster, Fr. Denis Farkasfalvy.

But circumstances had changed.

It all started with a phone call on August 1, after a dizzying summer for the 33-year-old headmaster who was attempting to steer the young school through a slew of growing pains and management issues. Suddenly, more bad news.

The school's first head football coach had been offered better opportunities elsewhere. He (along with his assistants) quit.

Fr. Denis would have to move fast in order to find a coach to blow the whistle for the inaugural summer practices scheduled to begin in a matter of days.

Lacking connections to call upon in this time of need, the Hungarian administrator called on the only one he had.

As form master of Form IV, he'd seen his boys play at the Park Cities and Town North YMCAs in Dallas. So it was on a recommendation from the Y that Bill Coombes, a former SMU Mustang, was hired for the position of head coach.

Coombes quickly commandeered the unsuspecting Haaser, a standout halfback during his days at Catholic High in Little Rock, Arkansas, to coach the varsity's running backs and receivers as well as the defensive backs.

"It was a little intimidating at first," Haaser admitted of his first weeks as an assistant coach for Cistercian's first varsity football team. "I was coaching guys who were just a couple of years younger than me."

Haaser had turned 20 years old just three months before.

*"I knew who I was  
as a football coach  
— three yards and  
a cloud of dust. The  
fact that I had no  
experience as a form  
master attracted me."*

— Bob Haaser

"Bob was always so utterly kind," remembered Charlie Williams '70, a senior end on that team.

"He was a look-you-in-the-eyes coach, resolute, a great 'encourager.' A fine coach notwithstanding his youth."

Over the years, Bob Haaser would grow into Cistercian's head football coach, a well-respected history teacher, and an athletic director who implicitly understood where athletics stood in relation to academics.

Under his direction, the Hawks would win their first conference championship in football (1980).

It wasn't the last time that the home-run-hitting Haaser would excel when thrown a curve ball.



**IN THOSE YEARS," RECALLED HAASER** of the spring day in 1984 when Headmaster Fr. Bernard Marton asked him to forego coaching teams to lead a class, "most form masters were priests."

Up until that point, a select few lay faculty members had served as form masters. And only in the school's embryonic stage of development had a lay form master, Jerry O'Brien, led a class to graduation (the Class of 1971).

"The school was still establishing itself in the eighties," reflected Haaser, "carving out a niche, trying to form an identity from the inside."

That identity — amidst attempts to expand the school — sat between a rock and a hard place. Fr. Bernard had no one in the abbey to call upon to fill the leadership vacuum.

"What do you think?" Fr. Bernard asked.

"Let me talk with Kay about it," Haaser answered.

"I was very happy at home with the kids," remembered Kay Haaser, who had three children, including two-year-old Elizabeth. "And as a coach, Bob was already staying late."

So the decision came down to Haaser's giving up football and trying something with which he had no experience.

The latter fascinated him. The former frightened him.

"May I continue coaching," Haaser asked Fr. Bernard the next day.

"Bob," cautioned Fr. Bernard, "being a form master is a full-time job."

"How about just a couple of years?" asked Haaser.

"I guess I can't expect you to quit cold turkey," Fr. Bernard acquiesced.

"I knew who I was as a football coach," said Haaser, who had been named Coach of the Year in the TISC for the 1980 football season. "Three yards and a cloud of dust."

"The fact that I had no experience as a form master attracted me."

And begrudgingly, Fr. Bernard would allow the coach-turned-form-master to continue leading Middle School football teams (including the Class of 1991 for which his son Bobby played) for a total of four years. Then the cord was cut, for good.

**"A UNIQUE POSTURE — FOR THE CLASSROOM,"** reflected Jackie Greenfield, longtime Cistercian English teacher and mother of Rob Greenfield '92, "the posture of an athlete getting ready to



hand off a football.

"No matter how relatively unimportant the object being handed off may be," said Greenfield, "to Bob Haaser it was important.

"From my perspective," she said "no small detail of being a form master was ever dropped, fumbled, or botched because he didn't just hand off papers.

"He handed off the message, 'Anything that touches you, touches me, because you are important to me.'"

"I had no real experience," Haaser said. "All I had was my experience as a coach, a teacher, and a parent."

"Using some of my experience as a coach, I tried to figure out the strengths and weaknesses of the boys," he added, "and develop their strengths."

"He loves sports, but taught sportsmanship," said Mark Peterman '92. "He loves history and made it real and relevant. He loves God and in Christ-like fashion seems to always be giving everything for his students."

"He had his own family," said Ivan Konermann '92, "his own children, his own life to live outside of Cistercian.

"But for many years, none of us knew that.

"All we knew was that if we asked Mr. Haaser for help, or he saw that we were struggling, he made time."

"Avid athletes," reflected Jackie Greenfield, "know you protect the ball, you cradle it when you have to.

"And when it is time to let it go, you hand it off."

**"HAASER, GET DOWN HERE," SCREAMED** the dorm's junior resident assistant, Jimmy McCloskey, to the freshman who remained up in his room on a beautiful fall day in 1967.

McCloskey was throwing the football around outside with some guys in the dorm. He had heard that Haaser might be worth recruiting onto their intramural flag-football team. An important spot needed filling.

The request went unanswered, at first.

"I had a grant to come to UD that required I maintain a solid average," Haaser said, "so I was trying to be a good student."

Soon the pressure and the invitation were too much to pass up.

"I was a decent student and worked hard," Haaser said, "but given a choice, I'd always go for the group of people, the interactions and relationships in the community."

"Hit me on a square-out," McCloskey ordered, flipping the ball to the bespectacled freshman.

When the spiraling ball arrived on time and on target, McCloskey declared Haaser the team's new quarterback.

Through his educational grant, Haaser was offered an opportunity to take a campus job.

Freshman year, Haaser was assigned the duties of sacristan.

"I prepared for several masses each day and then cleaned up the little chapel on Saturday before the big Sunday mass," he said. "I dusted and vacuumed and made sure wine and water were in the cruets."

On a number of occasions, Haaser's theology professor, a Cistercian named Fr. Roch Kereszty, celebrated mass there.

"Periodically, we'd talk about vocations," Haaser said.

There was a desire growing in the young man, but he wasn't sure it included a priestly vocation.

In the wee hours of the night in a dorm room at UD, Bob Haaser and some buddies were talking about how they planned to cure the ills of the world.

The discussion led to an epiphany.



THROUGH THE DECADES (clockwise from bottom left) A promising young pitcher; a double-threat halfback in high school; a "look-you-in-the-eyes coach" in the seventies; a passionate history teacher in the eighties; a tireless director of admissions in the nineties; and an honorary graduate of Cistercian in 2012.



"If I can help a boy grow up and become a solid young man, help him build physically, academically, and help him establish a strong character and spiritual life," Haaser dreamed aloud, "I would have done pretty well I think."

**"A**

**M I READY?" HAASER ASKED** Fr. Peter Verhalen '73 in May 1996. The freshly minted headmaster had just asked Haaser to step in and succeed him as admissions director.

"You know how we function," chuckled Fr. Peter. "You'll be fine. You know the school inside and out."

Haaser had been apprenticing for the job for several years.

After guiding the Class of '92, Haaser began helping Fr. Henry as an assistant form master for the Class of '96. Subsequently, he also helped Fr. Henry, whose stamina was waning, with his duties as a member of the admissions committee.

So, in the fall of 1996, Haaser took to the new job as director of admissions with his characteristic energy, his innate love for people, and some experience under his belt.

His approach reflected an empathy gained as a parent who had had moments of anxiety about his own son's chances at Cistercian (Bobby Haaser '91 is now a Ph.D in physics).

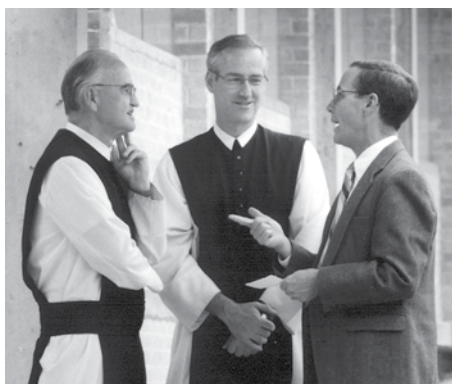
The coach in him quietly evaluated, carefully positioned, and openly encouraged candidates.

"We're looking for boys who are both interesting and interested," Haaser was fond of saying.

The experience of building classes through the admissions process (including two for which he would serve as form master) broadened Haaser's horizons and his perspective on Cistercian students.

"I realized that as a form master for the Class of '92, I had been focused primarily on academics and athletics," he said. "As director of admissions, I grew to appreciate a wider range of





talents in boys, like chess, Boy Scouts, music, and art.”

That welcoming feeling for boys of various talents was rarely lost on boys or their parents.

“To us,” said Monique Losson (mother of David ’14 and Daniel ’17), “Mr. Haaser is the face, the firm handshake, and the warm hello of Cistercian. He was our first impression of the school.

“Mr. Haaser greeted our son *first*,” she noted pointedly. “He didn’t even have to say ‘hello’ at that point.

“He already had me.”

**ANOTHER KIND OF CANDIDATE FOR CISTERCIAN** particularly excited the “face of Cistercian” as he gave tours of the school — young men exploring a vocation at the abbey.

“Bob embraced the notion that the monastery must thrive for the school to thrive,” Abbot Peter explained. “And he certainly had a role to play.

“Bob promoted the school as the work of the abbey,” the abbot added.

“As the vocations director during the dry years,” remembered Headmaster Fr. Paul McCormick, “I regarded Bob as my associate, my partner. And when a young man would enter the monastery, ‘Bob was the most ecstatic.’”

Haaser rarely missed a ceremony at the abbey church that involved a young man making vows, even temporary.

“Bob attends virtually every monastic event,” Abbot Peter laughed. “Even when we receive novices, which are private ceremonies to which even parents and siblings are not invited, Bob is the one lay person who finds his way in.”

“He is not just an honorary alum of Cistercian,” the abbot added (referring to the honor he was awarded in 2012), “he is an honorary monk.”

Haaser’s closeness and connections with priests began in high school.

**“DON’T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO** than to visit an old man,” Fr. George Tribou (pronounced Trī-bū) would greet Bob Haaser and his buddies when they’d drop by Catholic High School on the occasional Saturday night in the mid-sixties.

“We had a great relationship with him,” remembered Haaser of the school’s legendary headmaster who lived in the apartment directly above the school’s front door.

Catholic had been founded by a Little Rock bishop in 1930 on the premise that priests from the diocese — serving as teachers at an all-boys school — would boost vocations.

“We all complained as freshmen about the all-male environment,” Haaser remembered. “Then as seniors, Fr. Tribou took a poll of our class on the subject, and the vast majority voted for a single-sex school.”

At Catholic, Haaser’s personality and athleticism made him a standout. He starred in football and track in addition to serving as president of the student body and editor of the yearbook.

He also played club baseball in the summer, which occasionally clashed with football, as when his summer league team progressed to the state finals. Haaser pitched the winning game in the finale. But, the tournament prevented him from attending the first week of two-a-day football practices at the start of his sophomore year.

It cost him. Catholic High’s football coach, Mike Malham, did not take kindly to Haaser’s apparently misguided priorities. He forced the promising young quarterback to switch to halfback and denied him the opportunity to letter as a sophomore (sitting Haaser for the final couple of games of the season).

But in the following two seasons, the coach would lean heavily on his halfback’s skills, both as a ball carrier and a passer — running the halfback option pass early and often.

Most of Haaser’s halfback passes were directed at Pat Morrison, who would play at Arkansas and earn All-Southwest Conference honors.

Senior year, Coach Malham wanted to know if Haaser was interested in college football. He wasn’t (even though the likes of legendary Coach Frank Broyles took a quick look at the diminutive halfback with the big arm).

Fr. Tribou wanted to know if he was interested in the priesthood. Haaser expressed limited interest.

Still, Fr. Tribou steered his “Mr. All-Around” to the University of Dallas, where he could play baseball, receive a grant (covering all but his room and board), and, if the spirit so moved, avail himself of the newly opened Holy Trinity Seminary.

**“B**IG SMILE, FIST PUMPS,” remembered Timmy Stuard ’14 of his form master’s reaction when he joined the Cistercian swim team as a diver near the end of sophomore year.

“You can see the inner coach come out sometimes,” he smiled.

After an active sports schedule during Middle School (including a rigorous schedule as a gymnast), Stuard’s enthusiasm for school sports had evaporated in Upper School. He had even quit gymnastics.

“I really wasn’t doing much in the way of sports during my freshman and sophomore years,” Stuard said.

“Every once in a while, Mr. Haaser would mention how the swimming team needed some divers.

“He thought I’d be good at it.”

“With your gymnastics training, Timmy,” Haaser said. “you could do this. You could even get All-SPC.”

Stuard didn’t bite.

Haaser consulted with Fr. Greg and learned that the team was moving practice locations from Loos Field House to SMU’s posh natatorium, and that the divers were practicing with the divers from Ursuline.

“Yea,” Stuard laughed, “Mr. Haaser got me when he mentioned that the team worked out with the Ursuline team at SMU. That, along with the hot tub at SMU, did it.”

Stuard placed first in diving at SPC this past winter.

At the end of Middle School, Haaser felt that Patrick Blonien’s grade-point average didn’t reflect his capabilities.

“Patrick was selling himself short,” he said.

“Mr. Haaser didn’t lecture me,” Blonien said. “Midway through the semester, we’d talk.”

“What kind of effort are you giving on math?” Haaser asked about one of his stronger courses.

“Even math guys have to work all the homework problems,” the form master suggested, “to solidify an A.

“On your weaker subjects,” he asked, “how much extra effort would it take to move, say history, from a C+ to a B-?”

“Mr. Haaser never asked me to do the undoable,” said Blonien, who has become a consistent honor roll student as well as an All-SPC golfer since sophomore year.

“When I got a B in history with Mr. Saliga,” he added, “Mr. Haaser was super ecstatic.”

“Senior year,” Haaser recalled, “some of the guys were talking about the Upper School drama, and the name of Ian Kampine ’14 came up.

“In English, they said, Ian excelled in putting on some of the scenes from Shakespeare and had an incredible voice.”

Kampine, however, had never auditioned for a part in any Upper School drama. He had instead opted for back stage roles, as a tech guy. Haaser saw an opportunity.

“Ian, this is your last chance,” he told Kampine, “give it a shot.”

Still no luck, so Haaser turned to his peers.

“With their encouragement,” he said, “Ian tried out and won a good part. He was fun to watch in this year’s production.”

**“MR. HAASER,” THE WORDS OF THE BENEDICTINE** nun at Our Lady of the Holy Souls shot across the grade-school classroom like a lightning strike, “tell us the name of Nebraska’s capital city, please sir.”

The nine-year-old froze and turned beet red.

Being called upon had this effect on Richard and Ann Haaser’s son.

But the utterances of the nuns did not always elicit such responses. Especially in church. Although their Gregorian chants and the responses sung in Latin initially baffled him, Haaser would grow to love them.

It was easy to see the goodness in the young boy.

“Bob,” suggested Mrs. Haaser to her son at the beginning of fifth grade, “you will want to be a server at Mass this year.”

“No mom,” he said with a terrified look on his face, “I couldn’t stand up there and hold the wine or water! My hands would be shaking.”

“I was a nervous nelly as a youngster,” admitted Haaser.

When asked by adults what he might want to be one day, Haaser would only say, “I can tell you what I won’t be — a teacher



**ALWAYS THERE** Bob Haaser with Fourth Formers Sebastian Ober ’14 and Patrick Blonien ’14 in 2009 (inset above) and seniors (l-r): Thomas Molash ’14, Robert Erickson ’14, Gabe Rogers ’14, and Andrew Beytagh ’14.

or a priest. I hate getting up and speaking in front of people.”

Haaser would not serve as altar boy until college, and only then when no males showed up for an early morning mass at UD. Haaser was there in his capacity as the sacristan, when Fr. Roch said, “There are only girls here today. I need someone to serve mass.”

“But father, I’ve never done it before,” said Haaser.

“You are the only male here today. You’ll be fine,” said Fr. Roch. “I’ll show you.”

**“M R. HAASER HAS BEEN SOMEONE** I could look up to and talk to whenever I needed,” said Sean Kennedy ’14. “He is always there to help any way he can, and he’s always been involved in everything I am doing.”

Nearly all of the seniors in the Class of ’14, of course, could say the same thing.

But for Kennedy, the form master’s role has had special meaning.

“My father died when I was four,” Kennedy explained, “so when I came to Cistercian, Mr. Haaser immediately became the father figure in my life. He’s been that for me for all eight years.

“He was there in the stands at our games,” Kennedy said, “and he’d often sit with my mom and my grandfather. They became great friends.

“Mr. Haaser didn’t just attend our games,” Kennedy said, “he came to a lot of practices too.”





important part of the Kennedy clan.”

**NOT ALL 44 OF THE VOICES** during a recent mass of Class of '14 sang on key, but still one could sense a special harmony between the stone walls of the Abbey Church.

In Middle School, Haaser had served as cantor at each class mass, despite “my terrible singing.” He led them in the Latin responses and the Gregorian chants just as the Benedictine nuns had led him during his elementary school years (pre-Vatican II) at Holy Souls in Little Rock.

But starting in Upper School, Haaser announced his days as a cantor were finished. Someone else in the class would have to step up and serve.

Eventually, Sam Tomaso '14 took on the job, followed later (after an *American Idol*-style contest) by Gabe Rogers '14 and Mitchell Sawtelle '14.

The class' eight pianists rotated on the church's organ. All Catholics took their turns as altar boys and two trained as sacristans (Conner McCain '14 and Daniel Miller '14). Catholics and non-Catholics alike served as readers. All joined in the communion line, either to receive communion or a blessing.

As many as seven or eight members of the class were involved in each class mass; a complex A schedule of the participants in the class masses was posted in both classrooms.

It sat on one side of the door.

Across from it, on the other side of the door, hung a poster of Norman Rockwell's painting “The Golden Rule,” which captures people of every age, gender, race, creed, and color.

This 1961 classic of the American painter — along with its important message — has graced the classrooms of the Class of 2014 and the Class of 2006 during each of their years at Cistercian.

**“I CAN TELL IN THE WAY HE TALKS,”** said Sean Kennedy, “how much he enjoys being here. I've heard him say, ‘I could never see myself retiring.’

“He truly appreciates everything about the school and the community. It's like he graduated from Cistercian.”

Junior year, the form master took the Class of 2014 on a tour of the abbey church, the familiar venue for so many ceremonies and class masses.

He had a special message in mind.

“Have you ever looked closely at the stones?” he asked the guys as they sat in the pews.

“This is weird,” Kennedy admitted thinking at first.

The form master recalled the thrust of a sermon that Abbot Emeritus Denis Farkasfalvy delivered not long after the completion of the abbey church.

A church, the abbot had emphasized, is just a collection of stones. But *the* church refers to a community of people.

Haaser focused the young men on the different kinds of stones around them, their placement, their imperfections, their beauty, and their importance. He pointed out the ones at the bottom and in the middle, the cornerstone, the altar stone, along with those at the top on which the copper roof had bled green.

“If you were one of the church's stones,” he suggested, “which one of them would you be?”

“You know,” said Kennedy, “now I think about them that way.

“It seems like all along, he has been helping us see how we fit in and what kind of people we are.

“And what kind of people we can be.”

When school work proved difficult, Haaser was there.

“There were times when Sean struggled a little academically,” Haaser acknowledged.

But he wasn't going to abdicate his role and let Kennedy down.

“I worked with Sean and his mom and we got through it.”

Junior year, Kennedy faced his toughest test.

“When my three-year-old cousin passed away,” he said, “my mom, sister, and I were crushed. I knew someone had to step up.”

With his cousin's parents devastated along with his mom, sister, and grandfather, Kennedy understood it would have to be him.

“I needed to be that rock they could hold on to,” he said.

Both Haaser and wife Kay attended the rosary.

Kennedy took the Haasers around to meet everyone. And to the open casket.

“Oh my God, Sean,” Haaser confided, “I don't know how you're holding up.”

“I'm going to make it,” he whispered.

Kennedy missed a week of school in order to help the family through their grief. Haaser e-mailed teachers to keep them apprised.

“Mr. Haaser called me every night to check up on how I was doing,” he said. “He helped me set up a schedule for making up the work. ‘Why don't you do this assignment tonight.’ He walked me through it.

“Talking to Mr. Haaser about what I was going through,” Kennedy said, “helped keep me sane.”

“Sean may still be a teenager,” Haaser reflected, “but he had really matured. He was playing that role, stepping up to be an

## SOCCKER

### Hawks win second place in SPC D-I with stingy defense

“Our goal at the beginning of the year,” said Coach J.P. Walsh of his soccer team that lost just three starters to graduation, “was to qualify for D-I and go undefeated at home.”

After defeating Greenhill on Feb. 8 at home in the final counter game, the Hawks had met and exceeded those lofty goals by qualifying as the top seed in D-I, an historic first for Cistercian soccer.

With a defense stacked with senior savvy — **Gabe Rogers '14** at sweeper, **Nick Porter '14** on the left, **Michael Uhrick '14** on the right, and **Krys Terreri '14** at stopper — the Hawks allowed just two goals in counter games (nine all season). They helped keeper **A.J. Anderhub '16** (subbing for the injured **Ben Lenzen '15**) acclimate quickly.

The offense radiated from All-SPC center mid **Kyle Rutledge '15**, who guided the attack and scored 18 of the team's 60 goals himself.

Cistercian defeated Kinkaid 1-0 in the first SPC match on a shot by **Jordan Pemberton '17**.

In the semis, the Hawks scored on a pinball-type play in which Rutledge headed



Midfielder Jeremy Garcia '14 in action in the Hawks' first-round SPC victory over Kincaid.

a ball (served to him on the back post by Pemberton) to the near post and teammate Porter, who buried it with his noggin.

But Greenhill scored late to send the game to OT, and finally to PKs. The Hawks drilled their shots home and keeper Lenzen stepped in and used his length to make two saves, and send the Hawks to the championship game.

ESD defeated the Hawks 2-0 in the final, but the Hawks had made history.

All-SPC honors went to Porter, Rogers, and Uhrick, in addition to Rutledge.

**Tommy Nealon '17**, Pemberton, **Jeremy Garcia '14**, Terreri, and **Sam Tomaso '14** earned All-Zone recognition.

## SWIMMING

### AquaHawks set records, win second at SPC, and launch a new era

The Hawks' 200-meter medley relay team of **Alvin Jiang '17** (backstroke), **Davis Benn '15** (breaststroke), **Nate Young '16** (butterfly), and **Galen Hu '16** (freestyle) nearly upset St. Mark's, losing by a hair.

Their time of 1:40.80 beat the school record by five seconds and ranks third-fastest in SPC history.

Freshman Jiang, who gave the Hawks the lead, had served notice.

In the 100-meter backstroke, he swam a 51.23, breaking the previous SPC record by almost a full second.

To put an exclamation mark on his debut, Jiang's time of 1:54.97 in the 200 individual medley broke the SPC record by two seconds. “That's an eternity in swimming,” said Coach Doug Moyse.

Many swimmers sacrificed individual honors to help the team win points.

“We leaned on Davis (Benn),” Moyse said. “His two personal bests (PBs) in the 200 and 400 free relay kept us in the hunt.”

Hu also swam to PBs on all his relay

## BASKETBALL

### Cistercian finishes atop North Zone, third in SPC D-I

“It was a pretty cool moment,” said Craig Sklar, Cistercian's first-year head basketball coach.

He was referring to the 52-36 win over Houston Episcopal that earned the Hawks their first appearance *ever* in the D-I SPC semifinals.

“This team had been all about defense,” he added, “and that game was the fifth game in a row that we held our opponent under 40 points.”

In the semifinal match, the Hawks faced a Kincaid team ranked #1 by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

Cistercian trailed by just two with 50 seconds remaining, before falling 44-36 after Kincaid went six-for-six from the free-throw line.

D-I dramatics appeared unlikely when 6'6" center **Robert Erickson '14** was lost for the year. And even more unlikely after a defeat at the hands of Casady on Friday night in OKC.

But the next day at Holland Hall, Cistercian bounced back with a defensive intensity that marked their historic (by Cistercian standards) run.

“**Matthew Merrick '15** is the face of the team,” said Sklar of the

shooting guard's 14-point scoring average. “**Andrew Beytagh '14** was our court leader.”

Both earned All-SPC honors.

**Chris Wainerdi '15**, who scored crucial points at small forward, and **Dare Odeyingbo '15**, who defended the opponent's best player, were named to the All-Zone team.

Point guard Andrew Beytagh '14 (right) won All-SPC honors for his court leadership, tenacious defense, and ability to drive and score.



**0** The number of times Cistercian's winter sports teams all ranked in the top three of the SPC in a single year (prior to 2014).

**.65**

The fraction of a second Cistercian finished behind St. Mark's in the 200 medley relay. Their school-record time of 1:40.80 ranks third in SPC history.





The 400-meter free relay team of Davis Benn '15, Alvin Jiang '17, Galen Hu '16, and Will Odom '16 celebrate their second-place finish.

swims. On the second-place 200-meter free relay team, he swam with brother **Daniel Hu '17**, Benn, and **Will Odom '16**.

The 400-meter free relay team of Benn, Galen Hu, Odom, and Jiang finished with a team record time of 3:24.66 and second place in the final event of the meet.

Divers **Timmy Stuard '14** and **Matthew Steidle '14** placed first and second in diving, adding to Cistercian's record-setting point total of 97.5.

All of the swimmers and divers mentioned won All-SPC honors.

Cistercian's performance also earned the Hawks a second-place ranking among all Texas private schools.



**All-SPC football players:** Andrew Beytagh '14, Tommy Emmet '14, Matthew Merrick '15, and Dare Odeyingbo '15.

## '74

**Jim Bloodgood**  
jblood6014@aol.com  
40th reunion in June '14

## '79

**Mark Talkington**  
mtalkington@sbcglobal.net  
35th reunion in June '14

## '84

**Chris Marcellus**  
chrismarcellus@yahoo.com  
30th reunion in June '14

## '86

**David Patrick**  
deepbeep@aol.com  
Fiona Eden Bryan is three and loved visiting the school over the holidays with her dad **Doug Bryan** and fellow alums **David Patrick**, **Matt Walter**, **Rod Walter '83**, and their dad **Rodney Walter** (honorary alumnus). The all-inclusive tour was given by master tour-giver Fr. Bernard. Fiona (*below*) loved the library the



best and her dad hopes that continues through high school. The group thought it was interesting that those who live in the Dallas area have only daughters who will not get to appreciate a Cistercian experience. Both **David** and **Doug** married former Cistercian cheerleaders, so perhaps Fiona will find a CPS lad someday...when she's 30.

## '87

**Chris Rakowitz**  
rakowitz@yahoo.com  
**Sam Lam** recently published

the third of four volumes on hair restoration. At 950 pages, it is twice the size of the largest hair transplant textbook and the only book series on hair transplantation ever published.

## '89

**John-Michael Stewart**  
jms@jmsoralsurgery.com  
25th reunion in June '14

## '90

**Tim Parker**  
tparker@cistercian.org  
**Ken Adams's** family

focused their energies in 2013 on Paper for Water, an organization started by two of his daughters, Isabelle and Katherine, to raise money for Living Water International which funds water wells in India, Liberia, Ghana, and Kenya. Paper for Water raised over \$250,000 in 2013, and the Adams girls have set a goal of \$500,000 for 2014. To visit their

website: <http://www.paperforwater.org>.

## '93

**Vincent J. Ansiaux**  
ansiauxv@yahoo.com  
Liz and **Sony Kalluvilayil** were blessed to become parents for the second time. Soshanna Rooha Kalluvilayil was born October 8, 2013 weighing 7 lbs. 13 oz. Older brother Skaria is happy to share his parents' love with his new sister. **Ryan Sitton** continues his run for statewide office and hopes to become the next Railroad Commissioner in Texas.

## '94

**Scott Schoenvogel**  
scott\_schoenvogel@hotmail.com  
20th reunion in June '14  
Catherine and **Alex Nettune** celebrated the July 3, 2013 birth of their son, John Robert Nettune (*below*).



## '95

**Andrew Kahn**  
andrew.kahn@sbcglobal.net  
Jessica and **Andrew Kahn** welcomed Anson Martin Kahn to the world on November 29, 2013. **Bubba Futerfas**, **Andrew**



**Kahn** and **David Pettineo** (*above*) ran the Dallas Running Club half-marathon in November. **David Pettineo** married Kristen Orsborn in St. Louis on November 16, 2013. **Erin** and **Joe Norman** moved recently to Loveland, Colorado with their daughter, two-year-old Abby. They are enjoying the front range and are happy to be closer to family and the mountains. Erin is a pastor at a local Congregational church, and Joe is a sculptor working mainly in steel and wood.

## '97

**Matthew F. Nevitt**  
mfnevitt@yahoo.com  
**Andrew Bode** is the Senior VP at Fults Commercial Real Estate in Dallas and is actively involved in the progress and plans for the Trinity River. He has gone from working for a Greenhill alum to Fults, where one partner's



## Class notes

children attend St. Mark's, and the other partner is a Jesuit alum. The verdict is still out, but Andrew has high hopes that they will be able to overcome their differences.

### '98

**James Hoelke**

[jdhoelke@yahoo.com](mailto:jdhoelke@yahoo.com)

**Nick Lau** is still based in Zurich, traveling mainly to Brazil, Russia and Qatar to prepare for the upcoming FIFA World Cups, 2014, 2018, and 2022 respectively. Each has a host of issues, so he's generally trying to stay out of trouble wherever he goes.

### '99

**Bobby Hoyt**

[thefan25@hotmail.com](mailto:thefan25@hotmail.com)

15th reunion in June '14



Emily and **Nick Heyne** welcomed baby daughter, Genevieve Joan (above with Uncle JP Heyne '06, left, and her dad) to their family on November 2, 2013.

### '00

**Brent Hogan**

[Brent.Hogan1@gmail.com](mailto:Brent.Hogan1@gmail.com)

**Brent Hogan** is moving to Nashville to sell side equity research at an investment bank covering health care information technology as well as payment processing and waste disposal.

### '02

**Josh Campbell**

[josh.campbell.12@gmail.com](mailto:josh.campbell.12@gmail.com)

**Danny Fuller** married



Emily Vinson (left) on August 31, 2013 with several of his classmates in attendance. The couple is making their home in Houston. Classmates

**Vijay Gorrepati, Adam Reeves, Vijay Pattisapu, Abel Lopez, and Cody Skinner** attended the ceremonies.

### '03

**Robert Reagan**



**Tyler Bethea**

[tbethea@gmail.com](mailto:tbethea@gmail.com)

Raelen Lampier in Sapri, Italy on September 14, 2013 (left).

**Chris Sakowski** is completing his residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at USC in Los Angeles and was married

on November 16, 2013. The newlyweds plan to move back to Texas when Chris finishes at USC. Jenna and **Matt Truitt** welcomed their baby daughter, Parker Lucille Truitt (right), on August 27, 2013.



### '04

**Stephen Bailey**

[sju.bailey@gmail.com](mailto:sju.bailey@gmail.com)

10th reunion in June '14

### '05

**Alejandro Hernandez-Gonzalez**

[alejandro.hernandez.g@gmail.com](mailto:alejandro.hernandez.g@gmail.com)

**Toni Listi** is working on his Masters in Marketing Analytics at UT Dallas. **Dan O'Brien** is hard at work on his Ph.D. in St. Louis where he is projected to graduate in Summer 2014 and plans to begin a postdoctoral fellowship at another university soon thereafter.

### '08

**Richard Newcomb**

[richard.newcomb32@gmail.com](mailto:richard.newcomb32@gmail.com)

**Chase Dorsey** married

Laura Chapman on Dec 21 in Dallas (below) with



many classmates on hand. **Jack Squiers** married Cristina Martinez (below) the following day in Miami in the company of classmates as well.



### '09

**Addison White**

[j.a.white@tcu.edu](mailto:j.a.white@tcu.edu)

5th reunion in June '14

### '10

**Preston Oliver**

[preston.oliver@tcu.edu](mailto:preston.oliver@tcu.edu)

**David Klaudt** graduated in December with a B.S. in accounting from Kansas State University.

### '11

**Jack Bobzien**

[jackbobzien@gmail.com](mailto:jackbobzien@gmail.com)

**Brendan McLaughlin** is studying abroad in Japan.

### '13

**Joseph Raff**

[josephraff7@gmail.com](mailto:josephraff7@gmail.com)

**Vimal Konduri** was elected a News Editor for The Harvard Crimson, Harvard's daily student newspaper. He is part of the newspaper's 143rd Guard and was elected after completing a set of requirements known as "the comp", which in the case of the News Board is writing a certain number of articles. **William Pheeny** was selected to the Trip Internship Program at Texas A&M. He went through six consecutive hours of interviews with board members from corporations from all over the country and was one of 30 selected from more than 300 applicants. As a freshman, he is the youngest ever to be selected. **Aubrey Skalak, Jacob Durst, and Peter Yoder**, who is kicking for the University of Richmond, caught up with one another after a game (below).





# What happens to faith and religion after graduation?

Being semi-retired now, I think more about our alumni and spend more time corresponding with them. The question that often comes to mind is the title of this piece: What happens to faith and religion after graduation?



On Prayer  
*Fr. Roch Kereszty*

The human heart is tortuous according to Jeremiah. I can't fully know even my own standing before God, how could I know the standing of our alumni? But I can try to outline some of the major factors that influence the development of a young man's faith and will draw up some stereotypes. You, the alumni, can then determine how far these conjectures are from your own personal state of mind.

Starting a new life in college, away from parental constraints and former teachers, can have an intoxicating effect on the freshman mind and heart. The lure of an intense social life, the many new activities, the thrills of freedom may prove irresistible for some. The first thing that falls by the wayside in such cases is the Sunday Mass and, later, daily prayer. God becomes the last resort after a late night cram session for the half-awake freshman who stumbles into the classroom and begs God to help him during the exam.

I like to think there are very few among our alums who fit this stereotype. Most have finely honed study habits and nurture a great ambition to excel and want to make the most out of their college years.

So they find a balance between hard work and fun. This group holds on more or less regularly to their habits of praying and going to Mass; nevertheless, the many excitements of campus life often take a heavy toll on their desire to draw closer to God.

Other young people, however, have a very different experience: God's grace breaks into their lives, quietly or forcibly, slowly or suddenly, and they become aware in a new way that God is real. This may happen while reading a book, attending Mass, or walking alone through the autumn fog. They experience its fruits: a surge of joy and peace, a new energy to embrace the world and people around them. They embark on many adventures and recognize in every event, joyful or hurtful, the guiding hand of God. Everything becomes a manifest blessing or a blessing in disguise leading them to a life of service. With time, the first excitement of being in love with God abates, but the peace and joy deepen as love slowly transforms their lives.

There are a few, however, who lose their faith in college or insist that they had never had any "real" faith. This often happens when a young man falls into a habitual sin but does not want to face it. Every time he thinks of God, the feeling of suppressed guilt turns into hostility towards religion. He might convince himself that God does not exist or if he does, he is a cruel tyrant who does not deserve to be worshipped. If they are intelligent, they will build up an impressive system of logical arguments to support their stand. I may be able to show them where their logic breaks down, but that alone does not change their mind. In one case when I tried to show a young man in a long conversation that "if God does not exist, then something equals nothing, being equals non-being," he agreed but stuck to his denial. There might be some whose doubts or denials derive mainly from intellectual reasons, but so far I have not met a single certain case.

More helpful than the logical argument is an existential approach: I recommend that such alumni have a sincere desire to know the

truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, courageously uncovering any suppressed guilt. They must be persuaded to follow their conscience wherever it leads and whatever change of life it demands. Sooner or later their thirst for the truth will lead to God.

I worry only about those who live comfortably in their self-made habitat of lies and are too weak to face the truth about themselves.

Meeting the right kind of girl can become a milestone in many young people's relationship to God. Those who had clung before only to an inherited minimum of faith life may find themselves enveloped in a love that brings out the best in them. As the friendship deepens and wedding plans materialize, the lukewarm young man and his bride may discover God's gentle hand in their mutual love. He chose them for each other so that the spouses may become for each other a road to God. Added to this experience is the awareness that they cannot educate their children without the support of a stable framework of faith, so many of them return to a more sincere, personal faith life.

God's grace accompanies each one of us throughout our whole life but we are perfectly capable of turning a deaf ear to its call. His last mercy comes in our dying, the most drastic reality check, to make us realize that we are not gods, that we do not cause our own existence. We are gifts to ourselves and are now returning the gift to God.

My dear alums, young, middle-aged or retired! Let me know if you disagree with this outline or if you want to add or correct something from your perspective.

Time to tee  
it up for fun

**Friday,  
May 30**

And to support the Michael  
Montoya '07 and Tom Hillary  
Scholarship Funds

A four-player Florida Scramble  
at Bear Creek Golf Club near DFW Airport.  
Shotgun Start at 1:30 p.m.  
Dinner following tournament.

Before May 1	After May 1
\$150/adult, \$120/student	\$175/adult, \$140/student

**12th  
Hawks Booster  
Club & Alumni  
Golf Tournament**

Entry fee includes green fees,  
cart, range balls & dinner.

Register on-line @  
[www.cistercian.org/golf](http://www.cistercian.org/golf)

## Community calendar

APRIL

**30 Abbot's Circle Dinner**

MAY

**17 Commencement**

## Reunions Weekend

Friday, May 30 - Sunday, June 1

*Friday* **Golf Tournament**

*Saturday* **Alumni tournaments  
and picnic**

*Sunday* **Alumni mass & brunch**

## CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

3660 CISTERCIAN ROAD  
IRVING, TEXAS 75039

# To me, Cistercian represents community first

**M**y older brother Mark was smart. He was accepted into Pre-Form for Cistercian's third class (Fr. Henry's Class of '72).

In the sixties, the new school was, of course, not well known and it struggled to get young boys to apply to a non-coed environment.



Afterthoughts

*Jim Bloodgood '74*

And yet somehow, the scenic Trinity River and sports like bombardment and fencing did fire my imagination.

My parents made me apply and since there was more emphasis on the interview with the likeable Fr. Damian than the entrance exam, I was accepted.

I never felt like the Cistercians' decision to admit me was a good one. And after five years (following Form IV), my academic performance and some escapades on the Texas History trip suggested to

my family that my intuition was correct.

They decided I would enroll in the DISD for ninth grade.

After that very long year, I realized that I had blown a great opportunity. I had failed to realize that I was part of a great class with incredibly passionate teachers and a stable environment.

Without a word to my parents, I decided in late May after my year away to ride my motorcycle to Cistercian in hopes of visiting someone at the abbey.

It was a long drive in those days.

I remember thinking several times that I should turn around, that this was a stupid idea and I needed to accept that Cistercian was not the place for me.

But for some reason, I was intrigued with the thought of discussing my life with Fr. Denis, my former form master (who had recently been appointed headmaster).

Even if he had no suggestions for me, I knew that he cared and would be honest.

My family situation was stressful for me.

I had five siblings and a grandmother living with us in a small

home. When my uncle's house burned down and his family with three more children moved in, chaos and confusion combined with obvious financial challenges made me want to run away.

Instead, I rode my motorcycle to Irving.

Fr. Denis was glad to see me. He hated my motorcycle, but he hated my predicament more.

After listening to my update and asking several questions, he asked me if I had ever thought about returning to Cistercian.

I was shocked. He asked me if I would consider it if he presented some options and if I thought my parents would support us.

He told me if I did my part, he would take care of the rest.

I returned to the Class of '74 in the fall of 1972 and received tremendous support. In lieu of tuition, I worked around campus. I was not an academic star.

But I was never embarrassed, and I was given the opportunity to participate in several respectable athletic programs. I graduated in May of 1974, and while I felt that I at least deserved my diploma, I was certainly the most grateful graduate to receive one.

Cistercian to me represents community first and academics second.

The community provided me with a lifeline when I was 15. At the time, a stable environment filled with people who cared was more important for me than an education.

The community believed in me while I was a student and continued to provide support way beyond graduation.

As a freshman at UD, I worked at the school. Many years later, my two boys were

admitted to the school.

And the community, especially my classmates, have always been there during difficult times.

Countless opportunities have come my way as a result of being affiliated with Cistercian. And many of the people I respect the most are members of the school's faculty, parents, and graduates.

I am indebted to Cistercian.

And I am proud to be a part of the Memorare Society.

The community  
provided me with a  
lifeline when I was 15 ...  
A stable environment  
filled with people  
who cared was  
more important for me  
than an education.