



Las Obras

SUMMER 2014

THE WORKS OF CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL



In the classroom, the community and Chicago

THE CLASS OF 2014

On Friday, June 13th, 114 seniors turned their tassels and crossed the stage as the newest class of Cristo Rey graduates. In a crowded gymnasium full of family and friends, dozens of Cristo Rey alumni also returned in support of their fellow Cristeros. Once again, every student from this year's graduating class was accepted to college!

In a heartfelt speech, class valedictorian Roxana L. turned around the Dr. Seuss classic "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" and detailed the places the Class of 2014 had been, recounting the joys and challenges she and her classmates experienced over the past four years.

Seniors Francisco C. and Yasmin V. received our highest award, the Cristo Rey "Man and Woman for Others." Each year, faculty and staff choose one graduating male and female student who

exemplifies the characteristics that reflect the Jesuit Graduate at Graduation goals. At Cristo Rey there are six characteristics: open to growth, religious, intellectually competent, loving, committed to justice, and work experienced. Francisco will be attending Lewis University this fall, while Yasmin, a recent "celebrity" after her appearance on *CBS This Morning* the day before graduation, is off to Dominican University.

With the Class of 2014, Cristo Rey now has nearly 1,500 alumni. These new graduates are off to join their fellow alumni in following the advice of St. Ignatius of Loyola to "Go forth and set the world on fire."

"CROSS CITY" RUNNING IS GROWING

*By Aidan Gillespie, P.E./Social Studies Teacher
and Cross Country Coach*

A seven mile run for my high school cross country team in suburban Saint Louis meant passing four or five stoplights, a few parks with rolling hills, and some subdivisions. When the Cristo Rey cross country and track teams take to the streets of Pilsen, we navigate a vibrant but often overwhelming and treacherous landscape. We encounter countless stoplights, inhale a variety of smells from restaurants and exhaust pipes, and weave through canine and human pedestrians. We also stumble upon the set of Chicago Fire, witness breathtaking views of the city skyline, and – at the end of our longest runs – gaze out over Lake Michigan with the city at our backs.

The stark contrast between city running and most cross country courses hit home at last year's regional race. One of our runners emerged from the woods with a bruised knee and mud splattered on her legs. "What happened?" I asked. She replied, "I tripped over a tree stump." After all of our "cross city" training – where runners had to avoid broken glass, cracked sidewalks, and cars rolling through stop signs – a feature of the natural landscape had thwarted our fastest runner.

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Demonstrating her true mastery of both English and Spanish, which is the goal of our dual-language curriculum, Roxana L. spoke seamlessly between both languages as she gave her valedictorian speech (above). Francisco C. (upper right, center) and Yasmin V. (below) were chosen to receive the highest honor, our "Man and Woman for Others" award.



DEAR FRIENDS,

These past months have been a great time of planning for the future direction of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School.

Nine years after its founding, the Leadership Team undertook a strategic planning process in 2005 to ensure that the institution was staying true to its founding mission and simultaneously evolving and progressing as a school.

Nine years later, we are once again evaluating how our school is embodying the mission, and how it should continue to live out the Magis – to do more; to aspire to make better.

The Boston Consulting Group, under the pro-bono services of board member Andrew Taylor and Charlie Weikel, along with the school's Director of Development, Beth White, are facilitating a strategic planning process. The process has been overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of school administrators, teachers, board members, and alumni.

Listening to our constituents is a cornerstone to this process. We, therefore, identified eleven distinct constituent groups (i.e., parents, students, corporate partners, alumni, colleges, etc.) to interview. We created a Working Group comprised of 23 members of the Cristo Rey faculty and staff. In pairs, they conducted 64 face-to-face interviews in February and March. A survey of faculty and staff was also undertaken. In all, 90 voices were heard in this fact-gathering phase.

Boston Consulting Group analyzed the data, and along with the Steering Committee identified four strategic priorities for the school – reinforcing and strengthening academic excellence, building the alumni community, maintaining Corporate Work Study Program's competitive edge, and better communicating the distinct Cristo Rey mission and model.

Four task forces are exploring these areas and diving into the questions that surfaced. Their work will provide a better defined vision for the future of Cristo Rey. At the conclusion of the strategic planning process, we will have determined our priorities, institutional commitments and resource allocations for the next three to five years. As we approach our 20th anniversary in the 2015-2016 academic year, we hope to continue to evolve and find ways to better serve our students, families, corporations and community.

Sincerely,

Antonio Ortiz, President

IMAGES CREATED IN POETRY

By Angela Moret, English Teacher

To celebrate National Poetry Month this April, *The New York Times* article "A Call for Haiku about New York City" asked New Yorkers to send in haikus – 3 line poems made up of 5 syllables, 7 syllables, and 5 syllables, respectively. The haikus had to relate to one of the following themes: island, strangers, solitude, commute, 6 a.m. or kindness.

I immediately thought of my sophomore English students and the varied images they see and experience every day. I wanted to hear their thoughts about Pilsen, peace, the CTA, 7:40 a.m., downtown and the Cristeros. Though their poems are simple in structure, our students' worlds are not.

Cristo Rey students navigate several worlds: the academic bustle of the hallways on campus, the corporate environment of their work study jobs, and their rich Mexican heritage at home and in the neighborhoods they serve through volunteer work. They write about these worlds in the haikus that follow.

It's maroon and gold
The colors that describe us
Our God unites us
-Monserrat C.

I walk alone to
work looking at the buildings
around me all day
-Karen B.

A single heartbeat
can change the world forever
and it could be yours
-Cristal R.

The rush of people
The way you can't avoid them
How I love downtown
-Karen G.

Buildings so high up
making me wonder will I
ever get so high up
-Marybel D. R.

How I wake up now
might not be how I'm waking
up in twenty years
-Jhovanny T.

A busy downtown
People rushing to their work
My busy city
-Ulises M.

Two worlds: A view of downtown Chicago from Pilsen.



GOD IN THEIR SMILES

By Miguel R., class of 2014

Four seniors went to the Dominican Republic during Holy Week (their spring break) as part of a Mission Trip. Pablo Vega, S.J., is a Jesuit Regent from the Puerto Rico Province and is teaching Spanish at Cristo Rey. Pablo invited students to join him on this annual trip sponsored by his community. Our group joined 54 other students, mostly from Puerto Rico. This is one Cristo Rey student's reflection of the experience.

Going on a service trip can change a person dramatically. This particular one has opened my eyes to see God in the littlest things and that changed me. I didn't know how to react to all of the poverty I saw and heard. I never imagined it being so brutally low in the slums of the Dominican Republic. The houses were made of wood and sheets of metal which often were decaying and would never hold up against a storm, if it ever happened.

I became close to a little girl named Anadelia. She is seven and told me about her daily life. She wore torn up t-shirts and skirts, but no shoes. Kids there rarely wear shoes even though the gravel streets are covered with glass and manure. My first day there she came up to me, held my hand, and looked up to say, *"Tienes una galleta pa' mí? Es que no he teni'o nada pa' comen en dos días porque mi mama se fue a la capital pa trabajar y me dejo aquí..."* She literally told me, "I haven't eaten for two days because my mother left to the capital to work." It turns out this is just another regular day for any kid in Arenoso. Kids and families would not eat, they had no sanitation, and they were basically isolated from the whole world!

Yet one thing stood out to me throughout the whole way – their smiles. All day they listened to bachata and smiled while singing along. I said to myself, "God, how amazing that these people are so poor and struggle the most, yet you glorify them with a smile and they live on, you give them hope." I saw God so many times in their smiles, in our presence there, in the baby that was born in one of the houses, in the houses we built, and many more occasions. All of this changed me so much! I no longer take half an hour in the shower, I no longer eat when I'm not even hungry, and I now see God in the smallest things that I am blessed with.

Just today I stared at the toothpaste and was grateful for it because over there they didn't even have any toothpaste. I stare at my socks and thank the Lord for them. I learned that we are all blessed to be in a country where almost anything is possible, where over there almost anything is impossible.



Edgar H. (left) joined Miguel (below) and two other seniors on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic over spring break. They helped build and repair homes and participated in Holy Week services in the community.



Join us Monday, August 4, 2014!

Golf for Cristo Rey
Jesuit High School
www.cristorey.net/golf

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COMMUNITY BANKS



SHAKESPEARE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

By Alex Wyman, English and Spanish Teacher



Students pose with English teacher, Tom Angiello, at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

An interesting debate, which was very appropriate for our dual-language educational environment, recently arose in a senior British Literature class: How does one translate “To be, or not to be: that is the question,” into Spanish? A consensus was not reached, but one proposal was “*Ser o no ser: ese es el dilemma.*”

Administrators know that gaining familiarity with the works of Shakespeare is an essential part of preparing for the rigors of college. Teachers are happy to see students challenged by some pretty difficult texts – which are known to elicit cries of anguish from the uninitiated – getting them to dig beyond the surface and find meaning in seemingly archaic language.

As difficult as Shakespeare can be, students are realizing that as they gain experience reading his opus, it becomes ever more accessible. As senior Uriel F. said, “It’s easier now than freshman year when I first read *Romeo and Juliet*. Now I can better predict what will happen next. I understand enough to keep reading without stopping to look words up.”

Outside of their required reading, the works of the Bard have taken on new life for Cristo Rey students as they take field trips to see his plays – the most recent excursion bringing the entire sophomore class to Navy Pier to see a well-received staging of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

Students also participated in Cristo Rey’s Shakespeare Fest. Here Cristeros acted, recited and improvised in front of dozens of their peers. Performances included a comedic, pantomimed demonstration by three freshmen of the many Shakespearean character types, as inspired by a Mr. Bean skit; the opening scene of *Romeo and Juliet* adapted to modern, urban language, complete with slang; and two captivating monologues from *Macbeth*. Teachers and staff also took to the stage and presented a farcical scene from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

Shakespeare is an essential component of our English curriculum. Required reading includes *Romeo and Juliet* for freshmen, *Macbeth* for sophomores and *Hamlet* for seniors. While it is demanding, students are glad when learning brings opportunities for fun. Through these extra activities, our hope is that students will gain a lifelong love of reading the works of Shakespeare and will be better prepared for college.

RUNNING... continued from page 1

The Cristo Rey cross country team has been growing. In 2011, there were only two runners who attended more than 80% of the practices, and the average three mile time at the regional race was over 26 minutes. This past season, 18 runners attended more than 80% of the practices, and our average time dropped to under 25 minutes. We fielded full teams for both the boys and girls regional races, and the girls team qualified for the sectional meet for the first time in school history. Sophomore Michael F. also qualified for sectionals with a three mile time of 18:26 – a school record for that race.

This spring, our fledgling track program has grown from a small group of 4-5 casual runners to a dedicated team of 10-20 student-athletes who compete in local 5k races and track meets. Though we are a track club without a track, we improvise by driving to the lakefront for long distance runs unencumbered by stoplights and by measuring 400 meter segments in Harrison Park for interval workouts.

Running at Cristo Rey is unique, and not just because of the urban milieu we must negotiate. Our runners work one day each week and often miss practices and meets because of this commitment. The cross country coaches – Angela Moret, Paul Bubash, and I – are hopeful for the future of running at Cristo Rey. As the momentum of the program continues to build, we hope our runners see their efforts pay off by qualifying for the state cross country meet. We hope our student-athletes recognize the life-long benefits of running and the joys of healthy competition. And most importantly, we hope the teams we coach can contribute to the formation of men and women for others at Cristo Rey.



Cristo Rey cross country runners show off their medals (right) and the whole team cools down after a long practice run through the city (below).





ALUMNI VISITS HAVE POWERFUL IMPACT ON STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

By Carolyn Alessio, English Teacher

The first photo on the screen showed a sculpture composed entirely of pizza boxes, surrounded by young men. “Dorm floor,” my former student Carlos narrated, during his visit to my Senior British Literature class. My high school students laughed at the sculpture, and also at the next photo, of Carlos’ dorm room jam-packed with guys playing FIFA on a large screen. A few photos later, however, our classroom became more subdued. A young woman lay napping at a library table, her head resting on a pile of books and papers. “Finals week,” said Carlos. “I studied so much there were two days I didn’t even see the sun.”

I was not surprised that my students were spellbound by Carlos’ presentation. The pattern has held true nearly every time I invite a former student to come back and talk to my current students about college. At many other high schools, the talks might not be so memorable or fascinating, but the majority of Cristo Rey’s classes are filled with first-generation students. Most of our students’ immigrant parents did not have the opportunity to further their education, either in their native country or here. A rising number of our students experience college campuses during the summer, but many still view college as a semi-mythical land.

Carlos and other returning alumni become invaluable emissaries. The experiences and tips of former students resonate far more with my students than any advice I could dispense. We also examine sample essays, research projects and assignments – seeing evidence of actual college coursework makes my own assignments seem less tangential.

Alumni also visit my sophomores. I have seen younger students become more involved in their planning regarding grades, specific institutions and academic programs. Last January, a sophomore wrote in response to a college student’s talk that “I didn’t know you could be Undeclared for a major when you start college.”

When I first started at Cristo Rey 13 years ago, one of my main goals was to make sure that students were “included in the conversations” of their future, college classrooms. My colleagues and I work toward our students having the crucial confidence to know how to find a resource. When an early, former student came back and mentioned that he did not feel prepared to discuss Chaucer in college, we worked together to make that happen for future students.

Now we regularly read *The Canterbury Tales*, as well as a modern, best-selling novel based on them called *One Amazing Thing* by Chitra Divakaruni. Two years ago, we were fortunate to Skype with Professor Divakaruni and several of our graduates who went on to Marquette University. We were delighted to find that the novel was required reading for the entire campus!

I still teach with a goal of preparing my students for academic conversations, but my former students have helped me to expand on it. After Carlos’ visit to my senior class, we were chatting as everyone left the classroom. Carlos mentioned that his Rhetoric class had discussed *A Modest Proposal*, which we had read the year before. He said they were talking about satire on “The Family Guy” when the reference came up, and he was glad he knew it.

I jumped in, starting to say how happy I was that he had felt at home in the conversation, but fortunately, Carlos gently cut me off. “Have you read a book called *They Say, I Say*?” he asked.

I shook my head, moved back into silent-airplane mode as a teacher.

“We read it in that class, too, and it was really interesting,” he said, zipping up his coat. “I rented the book, but then I wished I’d bought it. I think you’d like it.”

When I looked up the title of the book Carlos had recommended, I saw the subtitle: “The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing.” Now I am hoping to use an excerpt with next year’s classes.

CBS THIS MORNING VISITS CRISTO REY

The day before graduation, *CBS This Morning* ran an inspiring story about Cristo Rey and the growth of the Network. Jesse and Yasmin, two seniors, were interviewed by Dean Reynolds. Jesse was working at BMO Private Bank that day, and it happened to be his 18th birthday! To see the story, visit www.cristorey.net.



GUESTS ENJOY NEW ACTIVITIES AT ¡VIVA! 2014

Cristo Rey's annual fundraiser for scholarships, ¡VIVA!, was bustling with new activity this year. On May 15, 2014, nearly 700 guests joined together at Millennium Park's Harris Rooftop Theater and the Pritzker Pavilion Stage and enjoyed a new menu, games, and entertainment. Presented by Insurance Auto Auctions, along with more than 40 generous sponsors and dozens of in-kind contributors, ¡VIVA! 2014 raised nearly \$465,000 with all proceeds going to the Cristo Rey Scholarship Fund.

The evening began with a reception honoring Fr. John Foley, S.J., Cristo Rey's founding president, with the first-ever *A Rey of Hope* award. As the evening progressed, guests enjoyed popular local

cuisine at new interactive food stations provided by Yo Soy!, Nacional 27 and Howells & Hood. Many tried their skill at the hole-in-one golf game and their luck with the whiskey pull and prize wheel. And they memorialized the night with pictures at our colorful photo wall, which many sent out (#cristoreyviva) via social media.

We are grateful to the ¡VIVA! Committee made up of Dan Pierce (chair), Emily Blaha, Nick Daley, Meghan Koeppel, Gaby Martinez, and Paul Stroka for all of their creativity and hard work. We are also thankful for everyone who supported and attended ¡VIVA! 2014. We hope to see you again next year!



Two alums posed in front of our very popular photo wall (above). Tsi-tsi-ki Felix (left) once again served as our emcee, sharing that this is her favorite event!



Chefs from local restaurants prepare food for ¡VIVA! guests (right). The bidding was exciting in this year's live auction where a Blackhawks box and zamboni ride, a trip to Italy, and the Ultimate Manchester United Soccer package were big hits! (below).



The Pritzker Pavilion Stage where we hosted the Honorary Reception (above). Fr. Foley, S.J., with Steve Baine and John and Rosemary Croghan. Rosemary and Steve are founding members of the Cristo Rey Board of Directors. (right).



From sunglasses to beer coolers to gift cards to event tickets, guests won lots of great items at the new Prize Wheel (above).



A Rey of Hope Award

At the Honorary Reception at iVIVA!, the Inaugural "A Rey of Hope" award was presented to Fr. John Foley, S.J., for his work as the founding president of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and the Cristo Rey Network. This award honors those who work for a better future and who commit themselves to inspire hope in others.

In receiving the award, Fr. Foley reflected on what an honor it is to have his name linked to hope. He believes that we can all give hope by reminding "kids of all the tremendously positive, valuable qualities that they have. By showing that life can be enjoyable.... There can be fun in life at the same time that it is difficult. There is a tremendous element that we're doing it, we're making it, we're overcoming it, we're moving ahead. And that's the one thing that this school does: it shows kids that there is a future. There is a way out. There is a light at the end of a tunnel."

Student Reflection at iVIVA!

Ellena G., class of 2015, spoke during the Honorary Reception. The room was absolutely silent as she shared her family story. Her two older brothers are Cristo Rey alumni – Adrian graduated from St. Xavier and Ruben is an alum of Loyola University. But the one who inspires her on her educational journey is her father.



"[My dad] grew up in a really small pueblo in Guanajuato, Mexico. He went to school for four days of kindergarten. Being the oldest, my grandparents needed him to work. He came to the U.S. when he was 19...My dad taught himself to read and write...My entire life all my dad has ever told me to do was study. He said I never have to worry about anything else but doing well in school, which for the most part I have... If my dad would've had the opportunity to go to college, he wouldn't be working in a factory for more than 14 hours, 6 days a week. If he had the chance he wouldn't have to come home with cuts on his hands, or black finger nails. My father shows me he loves me from the callouses on his hands."

Ellena concluded her reflection with these words: "Thank you to Cristo Rey for bringing people into my life that have not only changed my perspective but helped me to grow... And thank all of you for creating a school that's changed my life and has become another home."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 7–11 CWSP Summer Business Institute:**
Week #1, 8:00am – Noon
- 14–18 CWSP Summer Business Institute:**
Week #2, 8:00am – Noon

August

- 4 Cristo Rey Golf Outing:** 10:30am Registration & Lunch, 12:00pm Start, and 5:00pm Cocktail, Dinner and Live Auction all at North Shore Country Club
- 18 First Day of Classes**
- 21 Mass of the Holy Spirit:** welcoming Mass for the entire school, 10:45am
- 22 CWSP Student Team Orientation:** all students visit job sites as full teams
- 29 Field Day:** outdoor day of sports and activities

September

- 1 School Closed for Labor Day**
- 13 Freshman Retreat**
- 18 Misa de la Paz:** all-school Mass, 10:45am
- 25 Board of Directors Meeting,** 7:30am
- 27 Freshman Retreat**

All events are at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School unless otherwise indicated.



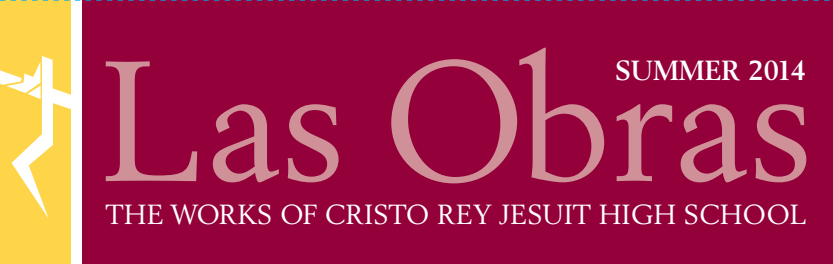
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Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
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Welcome to Cristo Rey Jesuit High School's newsletter, Las Obras.

In English, las obras means "the works" as in collected works, i.e. the works of Shakespeare, the works of Christ, the works of Cristo Rey. We thought it a fitting title to share the news about the "school that works."

Here you will find stories written by our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Together we will share with you the great works that we are doing in the classroom, the community, Chicago and beyond.

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In the classroom, the community and Chicago



In the classroom, the community and Chicago

Summer 2014

Las Obras

THE WORKS OF CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL



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