



Newcomers 2006



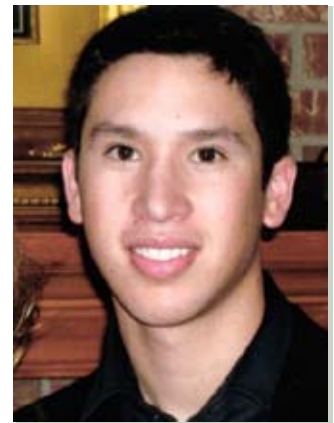
Christopher Adams
Garden City, New York

Chris, 24, earned a BA in philosophy and theology from University of Scranton, a BA in philosophy from the Catholic University of Louvain, and an MA in theology from Oxford University. An organist and clarinetist, he sang with the Oriel College Chapel Choir; he enjoys computer science, history, and jazz. (New York Province)

Introducing this year's Jesuit novices

On these pages you will meet about half of those who joined the Society of Jesus in the United States this year (the others will be included in our upcoming Winter issue).

It's traditionally in the middle of August that these newcomers to the Society of Jesus arrive at the order's novitiates in Berkley, Michigan; Culver City, California; Grand Coteau, Louisiana; Portland, Oregon; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Syracuse, New York, to begin their first two years as Jesuits. Wish them luck and send them your prayers!



Kyle Barela
Tampa

Kyle, 20, attended Regis High in Denver and studied Russian at the University of North Texas in Denton. He has traveled in Italy, France, and Mexico and spent a month with a family in Spain to learn Castilian. Kyle has taught English as a second language and participated in several school retreats as a student leader. (Missouri Province)



Jacob Boddicker
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Jake, 22, studied archaeology at the University of Wyoming in Laramie and history at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. He has worked as a librarian and has experience building and dismantling hydraulic jacks. Jake volunteered with the Knights of Columbus and enjoys the outdoors, poetry, and science fiction. (Wisconsin Province)



Cormac Brissett
Minneapolis

Cormac, 32, has studied at Augsburg College and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He has worked in non-profit development, retail, and journalism, and he has traveled extensively in Europe and Southeast Asia. He likes running, exercising, reading, and meditating. He is attracted to the Society's social justice works. (Oregon Province)



Christopher Calderón
Los Angeles

Christopher, 22, has a BA in Latin American studies from the University of San Francisco. He has traveled in Guatemala, Belize, Italy, and India and has volunteered at the Casa de los Pobres in Tijuana and in the L'Arche community in Toronto. He also taught foreign languages at his alma mater, Loyola High School in Los Angeles. (California Province)



Marcus Fryer
Minot, North Dakota

Marc, 24, graduated from Strake Jesuit College Prep in Houston and earned a BA in management from Texas A&M, where he was supervisor for Emergency Medical Services. He worked with the EMS Division of Houston's fire department and also was catechist at several parishes. He enjoys swimming and movies. (New Orleans Province)

Newcomers



Alexander Gac
New York

Alex, 23, earned a bachelor's degree in finance and information systems from Creighton University. He founded Well Written Webs, a web design company, and has worked in the investment banking industry. He participated in the Six Weeks a Jesuit program in Milwaukee. He enjoys soccer, scuba diving, and archery. (Wisconsin Province)



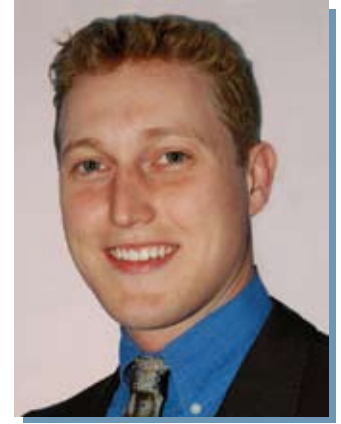
Christopher Gagnon
Terre Haute, Indiana

Christopher, 21, studied theater at Indiana University in Bloomington. He served as music director and volunteered in the soup kitchen at Saint Patrick Church in his hometown. He has also worked as a dental assistant in Bloomington; in his spare time Christopher enjoys reading and drawing. (Chicago Province)



Luis Infante
Barranquilla, Colombia

Luis, 32, has a BA in English and Spanish from the Universidad del Atlántico in Colombia. He has taught at Colombian high schools and volunteered as a counselor and pastoral minister in Colombia and Virginia. He worked in customer service for an HMO in Virginia. His many interests include travel, theater, and music. (Maryland Province)



Stephen Kramer
St. Louis

Stephen, 28, graduated from St. Louis University High School and attended Saint Louis University. He owned and operated a computer repair company; he also coached high school wrestling and volunteered at a center for autism in St. Louis. He loves hockey, building computers, watching films, and listening to music. (Missouri Province)



Anthony Lusvardi
Sandstone, Minnesota

Tony, 26, received a BA in English and philosophy from the University of Notre Dame. He spent two years in Kazakhstan with the Peace Corps and three summers working with Georgetown University's summer program in Fiesole, Italy. His other travels have taken him to East Africa, the former Soviet Union, and the Middle East. (Wisconsin Province)



Brett McLaughlin
Burlington, Vermont

Brett, 25, earned BAs in history, political science, and religious studies at Holy Cross. He attended the Air Force Officer Intelligence School in San Angelo, Texas, and served in the air force, stationed in England for a while. He has taught religious education for four years and enjoys hiking, running, and movies. (New England Province)



Francis Nguyen
Saigon, Viet Nam

Francis, 22, who came to the United States with his family in 1993, graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in architecture and construction management. Francis is fluent in Vietnamese and English and knows some Spanish. He loves martial arts, nature, a good nap, and spending time with friends. (Oregon Province)



Joseph O'Keefe
Boston

Joseph, 42, has a BA in philosophy from St. John Seminary College and an MBA in international trade from Suffolk University, both in Boston. He served as Massachusetts Assistant Secretary of Environmental Affairs and held positions in the Massachusetts Legislature and Boston City Council. He has traveled in Africa and Spain. (California Province)



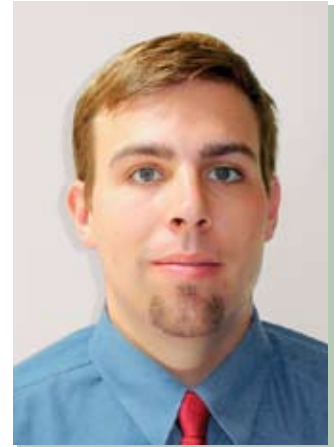
Matthew Prochilo
Southampton, New York
 Matt, 22, has a BA in philosophy from Fordham University in the Bronx. He worked as an assistant to golf pros at a New York golf club, and, prior to joining the Jesuit Associates program, participated in a formation program through the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Matt enjoys walking, biking, and sailing. (New York Province)



Andrew Rodriguez
Quezon City, Philippines
 Andrew, 30, has a BA in liberal studies from California State University Los Angeles and an MA in education from Azusa Pacific University. He taught for seven years in the Los Angeles school district and did volunteer work with the Brothers of the Missionaries of Charity. He likes reading, playing the piano, and attending the performing arts. (California Province)



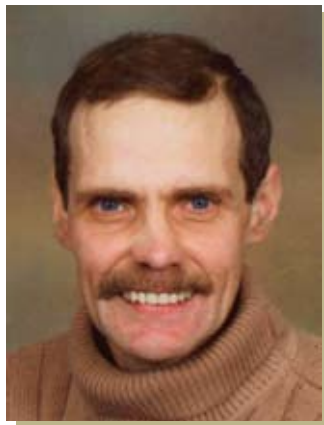
Scott Smith, Jr.
Baton Rouge
 Scott, 23, has a BS in chemical engineering from Texas A&M, where he was active in student government and a Katrina relief effort. Scott has sold cars and was a writer for National Academic Quiz Tournaments. His interests range from racquetball to English literature; he was an \$8,000 winner on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* (New Orleans Province)



Brian Taber
Blue Grass, Iowa
 Brian, 23, received a bachelor's degree in classical civilization from Creighton University. He worked as a restaurant manager during his time at Creighton. He has assisted in youth programs at Marquette University High School and St. Patrick's Parish in Milwaukee. His interests range from baseball and bowling to fishing and reading. (Wisconsin Province)



Daniel Spotswood
Mobile
 Daniel, 23, has a BA in humanities from Spring Hill College in Mobile. For the past year he has been a Jesuit Volunteer teaching grade school in Omak, Washington. He has worked in the restaurant business and has taught CCD at his parish. He enjoys reading, writing (especially journaling), soccer, and hiking. (Oregon Province)



Hendrickus Van Meijel
Venray, Netherlands
 Henk, 50, attended a mechanical trade school in Holland. He immigrated in 1977 to Canada and worked in landscaping before starting a lawn equipment business. He was active in the Knights of Columbus and his parish. He is the father of three, all grown, and enjoys hiking and reading. (Upper Canada Province)



Christian Wagner
Riedlingen, Germany
 Chris, 35, studied in Germany and France and earned a doctorate in microbiology from the University of Basel in Switzerland. He has worked in drug development for Glaxo-SmithKline and Abbott Laboratories and has taught biology at Loyola University Chicago. He is a jogger, a hiker, and a swimmer. (Chicago Province)



Jason Welle
Valencia, California
 Jason, 33, has a bachelor's degree from UC Santa Cruz. He has worked as a travel agent and flight attendant; he also spent two years in the Peace Corps in Malawi as a community health volunteer. He is interested in international development and social justice ministry, especially to the homeless, immigrants, and Native Americans. (Oregon Province)