



# Pete's Report

Winter 2006/2007

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## Future CEOs Get Their Start at St. Peter's College

### Students Launch College Store and Newspaper

By Addison Thiel

The students in Glen Kobussen's Commerce 101 course this year have undertaken a groundbreaking, unique and interesting project.

Rather than going through the material in the textbook and testing the students on it, as most other university commerce classes do, he saw the opportunity to let the students get experience in the real world of business and marketing.

His strategy was to let them design a business plan and organize the opening of a store in the College, as well as design and distribute a newspaper.

The eight students in the class had the choice of choosing this task, or else reading the textbook and writing tests.

They decided to go ahead and undertake the business project, where their mark will be dependent on how thorough and well-researched their business proposal is and how successful it is. This will give the stu-

entrepreneurs in the future, or to work in business.

"This turned out to be a lot more work than writing tests would have been, but I got to do something unique that will give me a great deal of experience doing hands-on work with a business, and working on a team to achieve goals and meet deadlines," remarked Cody Penrose, a student in the class.

The students developed integral skills involved with the delegation of duties, time management, predicting and solving problems, effective marketing and the universal interdependence of individuals in a business or corporation; they also learned many of the pros and cons of becoming entrepreneurs, which would not have happened if they were attending a larger college with much larger class sizes, where such a

newspaper, and had individual tasks within those groups. There were weekly meetings with members of the staff to give the class advice and assess their progress.

The business team decided on the name, "C<sup>2</sup> Clothing and Coffee," since the main products sold would be specialty coffee and clothing, particularly exclusive U of S Huskies clothing, and possibly a St. Peter's College line as well.

They designed the floor plan of the store, ordered light fixtures and helped with painting and putting up the slat wall for the merchandise. The team also decided on the brand of specialty coffee to be sold and acquired the coffee machine, and many other tasks. After the numerous renovations to the room, the store slowly took shape. The new inventory was shipped in and put on display, completely ready for business

by December 1, with the grand opening on December 6th.

The newspaper team arranged

For information on these issues, they talked with Keri Dalman and Kent Peters from the Humboldt Journal to tap into their knowledge and experience. In the final stages, the team edited all the articles that were submitted, decided on which pictures would be included and finalized the layout before sending off the final prototype to the printers.

In addition to all of this, the students were responsible for writing up their business proposal, which detailed all the projections and plans that were involved in the project.

There are plans for students to assist in running the store, and the paper the students are putting together is the College's official public newspaper, a communications vehicle that we expect will become an annual or bi-annual piece to connect the community and College.



Commerce 101 Class in C<sup>2</sup> Clothing and Coffee

Left back row – Kyle Christopherson, Cody Penrose, Paul Penrose

Left front row – Michael Magnussen, Jillian Ewen, Christine Haugen, Travis Wasserman, Addison Thiel

*It was a long, busy, and sometimes stressful process to take the plans from the drawing board to reality.*

project would not be feasible. It was a long, busy, and sometimes stressful process to take the plans from the drawing board to reality. The students arranged themselves into groups to work separately on the store and the

the layout for the pictures and articles and organized its publication and distribution.

They had to first decide on the goals of the newspaper and target audience, what could be produced with the budget allotted, as well as determine what types of articles would be included. In addition, it was important to determine the most effective and efficient printing and distribution methods.

## Small Town, Giant Future

St. Peter's College is a hospitable community where making friends comes easily and students are known by name. The College atmosphere allows for a smooth transition between high school and university, which is made possible by the charming

nature of the place and the people who shape it.

There are many benefits to studying at St. Peter's College. Classes are kept small, never exceeding a total of 30 students. This allows for more flexibility, innovative teaching strategies and

enhanced learning through group projects and discussion. Small class sizes also increase the amount of time that each student has to work directly with instructors. This ensures that students have ample opportunities to seek help whenever needed.

There are numerous facilities on campus to enhance each student's experience at St. Peter's College. Among these are St. Peter's Library, the third largest academic book depository in Saskatchewan. As well, there is a computer lab with 24-hour student access, a cafeteria and dining hall, and the Sports Complex complete with indoor and outdoor facilities for year-round use.

Additional student services include employment opportunities, career and academic

advising, a housing registry, and campus ministry.

St. Peter's College is also home to the Father James Grey Academic Centre for Excellence (ACE) where specialists offer training in critical thinking, reading, and writing, research, time management, and exam-writing. The ACE is also home to St. Peter's journal, the Society, where we celebrate excellence in all forms of writing and the visual arts by students, faculty, and professionals from across Canada.



2005 St. Peter's Annual Soccer Meet Champions

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# St. Peter's College Unique In Canada

President's Perspective

## Studies Show Students Are More Than Satisfied

By President Rob Harasymchuk

I've been at the College for just over a year now and I continue to be impressed at how combining the old with the new provides our students and the region with a setting that can't be found anywhere else in the country.

Our students this year, for example, are experiencing the same excellence in education as our alumni did over 80 years ago. I note that our traditions of hospitality and mentorship provide students with a chance to grow into confident, caring people - the future leaders of our community and province.

Records show that more than 5,000 people have attended St. Peter's, Canada's only Benedictine Arts and Science College. These former students, whom we call alumni, are the entrepreneurs, lawyers, health and science professionals, educators, priests, innovators, and leaders that have gone on to serve the College and the communities in which they live. It is humbling to hear alumni credit St. Peter's College with changing their lives, giving them the wherewithal to be personally and

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financially successful and creating bonds of life-long friendships.

We have found that our emphasis on mentorship and real-life learning contributes significantly to student and alumni success. The value placed upon student education, personal growth and development continues to distinguish St. Peter's College. I believe it's the traditions that permeate St. Peter's that provide students and their families, past, current and future, with unique strengths, opportunities and life-long lessons.

Further, a recent Systematic College Review confirms our students have an excellent learning experience that significantly contributes to the successful continuation of their studies.

So how do we do it? Well, the 40 or so faculty and staff, along with the Monastic Community of St. Peter's Abbey and our Board of Governors are committed to offering quality university education, research and other opportunities for people of this region. We ensure this through providing smaller class sizes, student scholarships and awards, easy access to instructors and maintain-

ing an intimate and beautiful campus.

I've been told by community leaders that the region depends on the College for its cultural, social and economic development.

St. Peter's College has been and continues to be a centre of culture, arts and community activity. Internationally acclaimed jazz musician and St. Peter's College music instructor Mark DeJong represents the commitment and values that St. Peter's promotes in bringing a combination of the discipline of musical performance with an educational perspective to the region. St. Peter's Community Gallery, under the curator-

*Each year, about 10,000 people walk through our doors and use our campus, and as an economic engine, we generate and attract millions of dollars per year to the local economy.*

ship of Grant McConnell, continues to focus on student works, exhibitions of historical value and contemporary artists.

St. Peter's College continues to forge excellent partnerships with business, industry, alumni, government and regional communities to prepare stu-

dents to achieve academic excellence, to build a vibrant community and to live rewarding lives. These partners tell us that St. Peter's makes it easier for rural youth to make a smooth transition from high school into university.

Programming that benefits the whole region would not be possible without the College's facilities. Resources of the College are also used by many provincial and national organizations, from the Provincial Soccer Association and the regional hockey club to St. Peter's Orchestra and Choral Societies. Our facilities ensure that regional sports and cultural initiatives remain vital.

Each year, about 10,000 people walk through our doors and use our campus, and as an economic engine, we generate and attract millions of dollars per year to the local economy. Clearly, people are right when they tell us the well-being of the region is a meaningful indicator of the economic, social and cultural value of the College.

So the next time you drive down Highway #5 and pass by the fragrant evergreens near Muenster, stop in and see for yourself how we are emerging as Canada's pre-eminent rural college through our commitment to university, professional and community programming. I'm confident you'll be impressed, too.

## Investors Share St. Pete's Focus

*For nearly a century, people have been recognizing the significant contribution St. Peter's College makes to university education in rural Saskatchewan.*

Dave Doepker, a graduate of St. Peter's College, stands in his company's Anaheim shop, looking at the people from rural Saskatchewan and around the world who manufacture the award-winning company's line of truck trailers.

"It's common sense for us to support St. Pete's," says Doepker, Executive Chairman of the Board and VP International Business of Doepker Industries. "We realize the value of having St. Peter's College in our part

of rural Saskatchewan."

With operations in Anaheim, Moose Jaw, Humboldt, Salmon Arm, and Saskatoon, Doepker Industries employs more than 400 people who work on modern equipment with a state-of-the-industry paint department, 3-D solids modeling engineering and design software capability, robotics and CNC equipment technology.

"This College not only provides excellent education for the students," says Doepker. "It helps us recruit people to our company and is a source of training and education for our employees and their children."

To help Saskatchewan, and indeed Canada, meet the increasing demand for a well-educated and leading workforce, St. Peter's College has declared that its key focus is to increase the accessibility of university training through growing its programs and enhancing its facilities.

This priority has been supported by the College's students, alumni, educational partners, business and industry, community organizations, and the

province of Saskatchewan.

"In the past 48 months, more than \$2.2 million in capital and \$8 million in operations have been invested in the College," says Lisa Laskowski, Director of Development at St. Pete's.

St. Peter's College recognizes the importance public and private investment has on the College's ability to provide quality education, facilities and services.

Because of this tremendous support from organizations like Doepker Industries, Big Sky Farms and the Knights of Columbus, along with the College's friends and alumni, the sports complex was renovated, classroom technologies were enhanced, scholarships were enhanced, and the refurbishment of the College Building began.

"Private and public investors tells us they value the College's role in the region and our contributions to its development of Saskatchewan," says Laskowski.

This investment in St. Peter's College demonstrates a strong willing-

ness to support quality programming and students in rural Saskatchewan.

"Because business, industry, community leaders and government tell us there is a critical demand for a qualified workforce, and because St. Peter's College is experiencing a high demand for quality programming and enhanced facilities," says Laskowski, "we will continue to take steps to increase the quality of accessible training focused on a student-centered approach to excellence."



**Dave Doepker,**  
Executive Chairman  
of the Board and  
VP International  
Business of  
Doepker Industries

*"St. Pete's is an essential part of the infrastructure that we need to maintain our business in the local communities and it will be even more important in the future with the looming skills shortage in our province."*



**Florian Possberg,**  
CEO, Big Sky  
Farms Inc.

*"We look at what St. Peter's College can continue to do for our young people and create a vibrant community for our area. In our view, a strong St. Pete's is good for our whole community and definitely good for our business."*

## Upcoming Events

**December 6, 2006 C<sup>2</sup> Clothing and Coffee's Grand Opening.**

**December 10, 2006, 2:30 pm. St. Peter's Chorus presents 40th Anniversary Advent Concert with guest artist: St. Peter's Chamber Orchestra, at the St. Peter's Church in Muenster.**

**February 19, 2007 Richard Stevenson, an author and instructor, will be reading at St. Peter's College.**

**In late March, the Launch of the Society, featuring award-winning Saskatchewan author Sharon Butala, will be sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts.**

# St. Peter's College Awards Night

## A Celebration of Student and Community Success

On September 8th, St. Peter's College celebrated its annual Awards Night. The College's awards program was established several years ago to celebrate the goals and accomplishments of St. Peter's College students.

Each year, award-winning students are honoured for their leadership, positive role-modeling and academic achievement. Unlike other years, this year's event took place in Humboldt at the Sutherland Theatre.

According to St. Peter's College Marketing and Student Services Officer, Wes Volk, "The intention this year was to involve the greater community in celebrating the success of our students. We wanted to bring St. Peter's College to

the people."

Aside from the change in venue, the most notable

Following the awards presentations, world-renowned illusionist Lou Leventhal

tricks and illusions; at one point, he appeared to decapitate one of St. Peter's

As a result of the new location and format, there was significant community interest, and the event was sold out weeks in advance.

In all, 23 students were recognized for their achievements, both academic and community-based. The value of the awards varies from a few hundred dollars all the way up to covering full-time tuition, and the number and value of awards is growing.

"The Awards Night is just as much a celebration of the community as it is the students," says Development Director Lisa Laskowski. "With the support of contributors and the community, these awards and the success of the College are possible."



2006/07 St. Peter's College Award Recipients and Presenters

change to this year's event was the entertainment.

fascinated the audience with an amazing assortment of

Abbey's monks, Br. Basil Schaan.

## Course Outline

Following in the Arts and Science tradition, St. Peter's College offers a wide range of first and second-year courses. However, many students are not pursuing arts and science degrees. A large number of students attend St. Peter's College to fill the arts and science requirements for professional colleges. The most common program streams are listed below:

### University of Saskatchewan:

- Arts & Science B.Sc. & B.A.
- Agriculture
- Commerce
- Pre-Education
- Pre-Dentistry
- Pre-Pharmacy
- Pre-Nutrition
- Pre-Nursing
- Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Pre-Law
- Public Administration
- Aboriginal Public Administration

### University of Regina:

- Pre-Education
- Pre-Social Work
- Pre-Journalism

### Other Institutions:

- Pre-Optometry
- Pre-Architecture
- Interior Design

Our emphasis on real-life learning and mentorship contributes to a significant student success rate. Students

select majors from more than 15 areas, and can complete many requirements for a broad range of non-direct entry programs such as education, medicine, pharmacy, law, dentistry, and veterinary medicine, among others. Some of the specific courses offered include 100 through 400 level Drawing and Painting classes, Art History, first and second-year Chemistry classes, first and

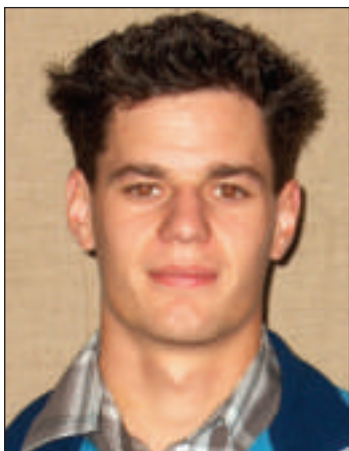
second-year Commerce classes, Biology, Computers, Economics, many levels of English, including a Writing SPC Diploma, Geography, Health, History, Kinesiology, Math, Music, Native Studies, first and second-year Psychology, Religious Studies and Statistics. Academic Council reviews courses yearly so that St. Peter's College students receive the best possible selection of classes.

## Alumni in Action

**James Thompson**, right after high school, enrolled into the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. He soon discovered that he was under-equipped for the Math and labour-intensive college. He struggled throughout the year, and only passed a few courses.

James moved back home to Naicam after his first year and went to St. Peter's College. He chose his classes carefully, staying away from Math. He took English, Biology, and Native Studies.

The following year, James chose to continue attending St. Peter's College. He enrolled in History, Economics, a second-year English class, and decided to retake his previously failed Math class. James found his professor was willing to spend



time with him to bring his math skills up to the necessary level.

"I came to St. Peter's College with a 33% in Math, and left St. Peter's college with a 93%. Thanks to my SPC Math prof, Michael Szafron, I am now on my way to an honours degree in Mathematics," said James. James is enrolled in the College of Arts and Science and is taking upper-year classes in Math and English.

Thanks to the professors at St. Peter's College that are willing to spend extra time with one-on-one teaching, James was able to excel in an area which he thought he was a failure.

Thanks to the learning experience at St. Peter's College, students like James are able to prosper and succeed.

## Money Matters

### Scholarship Money More Important Than Ever

Since 1990, university tuition across Canada has nearly tripled. At the same time, other expenses such as housing have also seen a significant increase.

According to the University of Saskatchewan, a typical undergraduate student can expect to spend between \$10,000 and \$14,000 per academic year in Saskatoon. For an average four-year Bachelor's Degree, that equates to between \$40,000 and \$52,000. For those not in the upper income brackets, the cost of funding a child's (much less two or three children's) university education is beyond a parent's capacity.

So what options does a student have? To begin with, students are more often choosing to stay at home for their first year of studies. Those lucky enough to live within commuting distance of a college or

university can expect to save more than half of the average cost of attending university, roughly \$5,000 to \$8,000, in food and rent by living at home.

Another option that is becoming increasingly important for students is scholarship money. Traditionally the domain of only the most academically minded students, money is frequently becoming more accessible to students.

At St. Peter's College, there are three classifications of monetary awards available to students. Scholarships, as traditionally defined, are based on the academic merit of an individual. Bursaries, the second most common type of award, are based on financial need. The final type, simply termed "awards," are typically granted on a combination of academic merit, financial need and other criteria, such as

community involvement.

It is the latter two award types that are seeing significant investment in recent years. In fact, St. Peter's College now offers more bursaries and awards than scholarships. Thanks to the contributions of alumni, friends, businesses and other benefactors, such as the business community, St. Peter's College Students Association and St. Peter's Abbey, students of St. Peter's College receive the support necessary to finance post-secondary education.

**Don't Forget...**

Scholarship deadline:  
May 1, 2007.

Enrollment  
Application deadline:  
August 15, 2007.

## Teacher's Review

Math Instructor and Sciences Coordinator Michael Szafron has been teaching at St. Peter's College for four years, and at the U of S for five. He is currently writing the last chapter of his PhD dissertation. Michael's research, though mathematical in nature, has potential applications in the study of unknotting DNA in the cellular process of DNA replication.

"Teaching at St. Peter's College has been a very unique teaching experience for me. The small class sizes allow me to work one-on-one with my student, which gives me the opportunity to get to know each of the students.

Because I am able to interact with the students on an individual basis, I am able to

customize my lectures to suit the needs of my audience.

Consequently, I am able to provide my students with many unique opportunities that result in the students' best chance of being successful in my class," said Michael.

Michael's commitment to learning and teaching can be seen in his own accomplishments. He attended Brandon University for 4 years, achieving a 4-Year Specialist Degree in 1997. He then went

*"I am able to provide my students with many unique opportunities that result in the students' best chance of being successful in my class."*

to the U of S and graduated in 2000 with a Master's of

Science degree, and, along with his doctoral work, has also nearly finished his Bachelor of Education.

Outside of teaching and working on his PhD, Michael is interested in many other things, some of which include wine making, carpentry, cooking, golfing, and gardening.

He is a novice beekeeper under the tutelage of Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB, and maintains two honey beehives in his back yard. Recently, Michael shaved his head and eyebrows to raise money for breast cancer research.

Having the expertise and dedication of Michael Szafron teaching at St. Peter's College is a great benefit for all students making the transition from high school to university.

## Did You Know

- St. Peter's Abbey was founded in 1903.
- On May 21, 2003, the Abbey celebrated its 100th year.
- St. Peter's all-boys high school opened in 1921.
- St. Peter's College has been affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan since 1926.
- St. Peter's College is the only Benedictine Arts and Science College in Canada.
- The College offers an exceptional transition from high school to larger campuses; students can take first-year university classes and some second-year classes at St. Peter's College.
- More than 5,000 students have attended St. Peter's College.
- The school motto is, "Begin, Belong, Become."
- Three current faculty members have won university teaching awards.
- One-quarter of the professors at St. Peter's College have been teaching here for more than 10 years.
- St. Peter's College has its own administration, library, information technology services, computer lab, science labs, art studio and drama studio.
- St. Peter's College Library is the third largest academic library in the province. It has about 46,000 titles. It is a selective depository for Canadian government publications.
- The College also has its own indoor hockey (ice-skating) rink, recently renovated gymnasium, outdoor soccer field and track.
- The College is also a member of the Prairie Athletic Conference and participates in tournaments across the province.
- Michael Hall is the college building that was named after the second Abbot, Michael Ott.
- Michael Hall has been declared a provincial heritage site.
- Campus tours can be arranged at any time.

## Champions for the Community

### Students Take Care of Business

The St. Peter's College Student Government (SPCSG) has big plans for the upcoming year. With various events coming up, the students and staff are

*The world of college politics is not a simple one; it is very much the opposite of that. Differences in vision between members have led to many heated debates behind closed doors at the SPCSG meetings.*

sure to have a great year.

Most recently, the SPCSG held a Halloween-themed dance, hosted by Much Music. It was a huge success with over 600 people, showing a lot of support from local youth. Because it was such a great success, more dances will be happening in the near future.

The SPCSG doesn't just do things for pleasure, though; there is a business side to the organization, as well. Fundraising through dances will be used to improve the student lounge, where great strides will be taken to make it the best

student lounge possible. Through painting, renovations, new furnishings, and new entertainment, the room will become an oasis to the whole student body, to complement the already magnificent Michael Hall at St. Peter's College.

The fierce campaign for this year's student government was effective in giving the students what they truly want and need, a highly motivated and effective Student Government. The final group consists of eight students, who, with their strong leadership, dynamic new ideas, and genuine dedication to the overall success of the entire college, will surely leave a legacy behind from the adventure of 2006/2007.

This group of young students consists of:

Jason Fisher: Co-President  
Paul Penrose: Co-President  
Addison Thiel: Sports Chair  
Cody Penrose: Social Chair  
Layne Gordon: 1st-year Member  
Troy Christianson: 2nd-year Member

Travis Wassermann: Secretary  
Brendan Showers: Treasurer

The athletic talents of the students at SPC will be unleashed when the soccer season begins in only a few months, and the rumour of a basketball team is now floating around. Sports fans are encouraged to come out and cheer on our athletes at St. Peter's Annual Soccer Meet (S.P.A.S.M.), held January 26th and 27th. Many students are excited at the prospect of becoming college athletes, and are sure to make a lasting impression on the world of small college athletics.

The world of college politics is not a simple one; it is very much the opposite of that. Differences in vision between members have led to many heated debates behind closed doors at the SPCSG meetings, though compromises are made. These altercations expose one of our potential faults, which is caring too much for the well-being of the College. Perhaps one of the most passionately argued topics for this year's student government is how to achieve one of its primary goals, namely to immortalize the greatness of the College through some sort of spectacular project that will leave a legacy that fully embodies the vision and values of the college.

With their hard work, proficiency and steadfast dedication to perfection, the College is in for a rare treat. Who knows where the ambitions of this group will them?



St. Peter's College c. 1925



St. Peter's College today

## Alumni in Action

**Germain Dauk**, who is a grand knight at the Knights of Columbus in Naicam, attended St. Peter's College for three years in the late 1950s. St. Peter's College helped him to complete two degrees at the University of Saskatchewan, and also to "develop leadership skills, gain a life-long spiritual appreciation, and participate in many sports," Mr. Dauk stated.

Germain is not only part of the Knights of Columbus; he is a farmer and has been teaching middle school and high school for 24 years. Germain is a volunteer at St. Peter's College and helps as much as he can.

Recently, he sat as a chair member of an advisory committee for

environmental farm planning, as chair of the Canadian Special Crops Value Roundtable, as Executive Member of Minister Glen Serby's Action Committee on the Rural Economy, as Executive Member of Minister Wartman's Saskatchewan Agricultural Environmental Advisory Group.

To Mr. Dauk, St. Peter's College is a great transition between smaller high schools and a large university. "I understand St. Peter's grads receive a higher percentage of scholarships, are on more Dean's Honor Rolls, and simply have greater success than students who do not go to St. Peter's for at least one year. Those are some of the things that motivate me to do all I can to help this institution grow."



2006/07 SPCSG



## Begin. Belong. Become.

Visit our website [www.stpeterscollege.ca](http://www.stpeterscollege.ca) or contact us at (306) 682-7888, by mail: Box 40, Muenster, SK S0K 2Y0 or by e-mail: [spc@stpeters.sk.ca](mailto:spc@stpeters.sk.ca). St. Peter's College is affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan.

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