

The Passport

JOHN T. PETTERS FOUNDATION

John T. Petters Foundation News



SAVE THE DATE...

VOL. 1 ISSUE. 3



Mission

In honor of John T. Petters, we prepare students in financial need for success in a global world.

Values

Passion

We pursue our mission as exuberantly as John T. Petters pursued his dream of helping students in financial need study abroad.

Integrity

Our values guide our work, without compromise.

Excellence

We strive for the highest quality in all that we do.

Inclusiveness

We support a diverse group of students from all walks of life.

Courage

We strive to meet the challenges of exploring new countries, new thinking and new skills.

Caring

We demonstrate concern and respect for the needs of the students, families, institutions and benefactors with whom we work.

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2007 LEGACY GALA GOAL SHATTERED!

If you're reading this issue of *the Passport*, chances are you participated in the 2007 Legacy Gala which was a great success! More than \$2.2 million was raised, which includes a generous match from Tom Petters. Thanks to all who helped achieve such great success in only our second year of this event, which is the primary fundraiser for John T. Petters Foundation scholarships.

According to *Newsweek* magazine, the number of students studying overseas grew by 144 percent between 1995-2005, and continues to increase. Schools like Wake Forest, Georgetown and Duke are seeing more than half of their undergrads study abroad. Here in Minnesota, the Carlson School of Management will require students to have a study-abroad experience, beginning with the freshman class of 2008. Overall, the University of Minnesota hopes to increase study abroad experiences from 23% of its students to 50% over the next couple of years. The highest rate of study abroad among Minnesota college students is held by St. Olaf College, at approximately 73% of its undergrads.

Growing tuition rates are challenging the financial capacity of most students, even before they plan study abroad as part of their education. The John T. Petters Foundation will fill a burgeoning need as more and more college students struggle to afford study abroad, which is fast becoming a key component of an undergraduate education. Global competence is essential for our workforce.

The tremendous success of this year's Legacy Gala is greatly boosting our ability to increase the number of students we support each year. The Foundation is seeking to build an endowment of \$10 million or more by 2010, which will yield a minimum of \$500,000 annually for study abroad scholarships. And since American undergraduate needs won't be slowing down any time soon, we won't stop at \$10 million. The future holds incredible opportunity for us to pursue John's dreams and keep his memory vividly in front of us – and American students – as they explore the globe in preparation for business careers. With every student that studies abroad and takes a rightful place in a promising business career, John is sure to be smiling, gratified that he is helping others experience his love of travel and learning.



The Grand Ballroom



Bill Cosby with Honorary Chair Dean Vlahos



A dragon of the Great China Circus

Furthering John's T. Petters' Dreams



By the age of 21, John had visited over 20 countries, seeing more in those years than most people see in a lifetime. Today, John's dream of helping others travel abroad has been ignited by rapid growth in the numbers of American undergraduate student traveling abroad. Before he was tragically taken from us, John foresaw a trend that most of us are just now beginning to see: the need for youth to travel, and experience other parts of the world. It is more critical and essential now more than ever before in both education and business. I see his dreams as a perfect fit with the trends unfolding educationally, economically and technologically. International travel in our youth is a gift our foundation can give, and we feel this value lasts a lifetime.

John's Foundation has grown tremendously in just three years. Recently, we completed a strategic plan that will expand on John's dream. We will support more students each year in their quest to study abroad.

I am so proud that we have funded 21 scholars to travel to various countries. In December, we will begin our next scholarship cycle, awarding study abroad scholarships to approximately 25 more students. The rapid growth of the Foundation has allowed us to nearly double the number of students each year. As John's sister I want to express my thanks for your support, and because of this, John's dream is a reality. Our foundation takes great joy in furthering this dream and we are grateful that you are helping to make it possible.

Look for more information on our next group of scholars in late winter, and mark your calendar now for the next John T. Petters Legacy Gala, set for Saturday, August 9, at the Marriott City Center, Minneapolis. We shall celebrate an evening in Spain. Meantime, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Jennifer Petters



Thank You to the 2007 John T. Petters Legacy Gala Donors for your support.

\$50,000+

- Airbus
- Denny Hecker
- Dean & Michelle Vlahos/
- Redstone American Grill
- Greg Bell & Inna Goldman/
- Lancelot Investment Management
- Jack & Steven Young
- Polaroid

\$25,000

- Sabes Family Foundation
- Camille Chee-Awai
- Fredrickson & Byron
- O'Shaughnessy Family
- Larry & Toni Reynolds
- Petters Consumer Brands
- Acorn Capital group
- Steve & Lisa Ratliff

\$25,000

- Deanna Coleman
 - Stanton Group
 - C.H. Robinson
- \$10,000**
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\$10,000

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- \$5,000**
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 - Cherry Tree Companies, LLC
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 - Craig Oberlander/Robin Alton
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 - College of Saint Benedict
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 - Greenburg Traurig Law Firm
 - Hays Companies
 - Jim & Bonnie Wehmhoff
 - Katten Law
 - Crown Bank
 - Miami University, Farmer School of Business

\$5,000

- Micheal Pierce & Mellissa Hines
- Mike & Brenda Phelps
- Mike Wood Family
- Patty Hamm
- Piper Jaffray
- Rick & Linda Engels
- Shyan Reality
- Tom & Nancy Hay
- UEI
- Space 150
- Best Buy
- Gilbert USA
- UBid.com
- Russel & Anne Marie Levine
- Harold & Ruth Roitenberg

Fulfilling A Dream

Katherine (Kasia) Rzepecki
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
Graduation: May 2008
Major: International Business and Marketing
Management
Minor: Spanish
Study Abroad Program: CIEE Business and
Society, Sevilla, Spain Spring 2007



I feel as though my life before this spring was just that – a bubble – and although I had no immediate need to leave it, I was just itching to. My knowledge of the world was limited to what I had learned in geography classes, seen in the news or Hollywood movies, and read about in magazines such as the economist. I was curious about the world, but looking back, my perspectives were shaped entirely by the stereotypes portrayed in the media. I knew nothing!

My bubble broke the day my plane began its decent into Sevilla, Spain this spring of 2007. I was looking out the window, and things were different. The cities were not arranged in neat, little squares like they were in the US. The vegetation was completely different with palm trees and shrubs of kinds I had never seen. With my broken Spanish I had to hail a taxi, hand him an address and hope I got there okay. The buildings were older, completely not what I was used to. It was overwhelming, so different; I could have never imagined a place like this.

The semester was filled with surprises for me, and I realized how much there was in the world, how I had to step out of my comfort zone to appreciate it, learn it, and truly live it. I took all my classes in Spanish and lived with a Spanish family that took me to salsa lessons with them and introduced me to their friends, I felt like part of the family. I traveled throughout Spain, as well as to Portugal and Morocco. Never in my life did I think that I would be sleeping in the Sahara desert, watching processions of people carrying statues centuries old through the streets of Sevilla during holy week, bartering for rugs with African Touareg tribe members, driving through the cold rain of northern Morocco, snow of the Atlas mountains, and extreme heat of the desert all in one day. It was so incredible.

I cannot believe how much I have changed since that spring. I don't feel so naïve. I love meeting people from other cultures now and learning about them. My appreciation for the world and its cultures has increased ten-fold, and I have such thirst to learn more. I don't think I would have related to John Petter's passion for studying abroad, nor his ambition to help others as much had I not gone abroad myself. Words and pictures can only go so far in describing my experiences, but I wish everyone could have the same opportunity to see it and feel it themselves. I am incredibly thankful for the help I have received from the John T. Petters Foundation and all the donors who have contributed to it. I hope that the Foundation can continue to help more students step out of their bubbles and let the world change them. - Thank you!!!



Scholarships Program Expands

The fall brings cooler temperatures and falling leaves to Minnesota, but it also brings about the most exciting time of the year for the John T. Petters Foundation: our annual scholarship giving!

The Foundation's growth has created big changes for our scholarship program, including a greater number of students we can fund. This will allow us the opportunity to expand our giving beyond just the current fall round each year. In 2008, we hope to add an additional round of scholarships.

Reaching a diverse group of students and those most in need of this funding is a top priority of the Foundation and one we will continually strive to reach. Along with expanding our reach to many new educational institutions, we are also spreading out geographically. By accepting applicants from any accredited college or university across the nation, it will help us increase our candidate base. With today's typical college student being incredibly tech savvy we are using the internet as our main stay to get our information out and scholars in. Going into 2008, we will focus on improving our website's navigation, increasing our volume of traffic, and changing our application to one that is submitted online. Applications are being accepted until Dec 15 for students traveling in the summer or fall of 2008.



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