A Comment on Campus Life

In spite of the snow and below-zero weather that have enveloped us in this "spring semester," my spirits have been raised recently by a couple of significant campus events: the annual Brian Smith Memorial Basketball Game, and the Forum on the Iraq War sponsored by Student Government Association. Both of these events are hopeful and speak well for the character of the students of Paul Smith's College.

On Saturday, March 22, I had occasion to enjoy a wonderful display of basketball skill put on by returning alumni and present members of our basketball team. Besides evidencing much grace on the court, what most struck me was the obvious camaraderie and warmth among the athletes, as well as the joy taken in the whole experience. At court side were many family and friends, lending their support, too, all very enthusiastically. I had a chance to visit with a number of former students, Antonius and "D", Nevar and Kieman, and too many others to mention—all impressive young people making their way in college and career. Their evident joy in returning was only matched by our pleasure in seeing them again. We missed some wonderful people, too, like "Tiny," but hope and pray they will be able to return next year.

On Monday, April 7, there was another very different—but also very special—kind of event, the SGA-sponsored Forum on the Iraq War. I was honored to be chosen to serve on the panel with other faculty and staff, but what I was most impressed with were the perceptive comments and incisive questions from the students, and the maturity with which diverging points of view were expressed. Although many felt very deeply about their views, there were no personal attacks and each speaker was listened to with courtesy. I doubt very much that such a discussion could have been held as professionally on many other college campuses.

With all of the insanity and inhumanity in the rest of the world and all of the inability of people in our own society to listen respectfully to one another, Paul Smith's stands as an island of civility, a place where people from widely differing backgrounds come together, live and learn, and treat each other with kindness—and this is because of our fine student body. The warmth of this campus community, in spite of the cold spring, is a remarkable and lasting thing and will continue to warm us in seasons to come, making Paul Smith's the truly special place it is.

Kirk Peterson
Professor

Graduation

Here is some information that you might find helpful with the upcoming commencement ceremony.

Commencement 2003:
Date: Sunday May 4, 2003
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: Alumni Park on campus behind Phelps Administration Building—Buxton Annex if inclement weather

Caps and Gown ~ Available for pickup at the Packbasket.

Graduation Pictures ~ Chappell Graduation Images will be on campus to take pictures of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Proofs will later be sent to parents and those wishing to purchase prints may do so at that time.

Sunday Reception ~ A lakefront post-graduation reception will be held immediately following commencement. In case of inclement weather it will be held in Buxton

Participation in Commencement ~ If you have any questions about your graduation status please check the official list in the Division Office in Pickett Hall 208

Financial Obligations ~ If you have unpaid balances with the Fiscal Office you may not receive your diploma, so please ascertain the status of your account with the office today.