

2007 graduates' Money Smart video places 1st in contest

By JODI HECKEL
jheckel@news-gazette.com

CHAMPAIGN — Just how "money-smart" is the average college student?

Depends on whom you ask. When Sam Carmichael and Jack Ross asked, they found some were working at part-time jobs and thinking about how to invest. Others were relying on their parents to pay for college and were spending their spare time on Facebook, rather than earning money.

"Say they spend 20 hours per week on Facebook. They could go out, get a part-time job and invest the entire paycheck in the stock market," Carmichael said.

He and Ross — both 2007 gradu-

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Teenagers develop entrepreneurship ideas

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CHAMPAIGN — Erin Holm plans to take advantage of the interest in healthy food, and escaping the long months of cold Illinois weather, with her smoothie bar, The Chambana Cabana.

This won't be just any smoothie bar. Her business plan says it will be a tropical-themed, health-conscious, money-making machine!

Holm's cabana will have a floor covered with sand, shallow pools for customers to soak their feet, parrots and reggae music. Her plan includes marketing partnerships with a next-door bikini shop and with fresh fruit vendors and plans for expansion to other cities.

Holm, a junior at Centennial High School, developed the plan for her algebra class. Teacher Jason Franklin focuses his classes on how students will use math in the real world, and in preparing them for succeeding in the workplace.

Students in math classes get down to business



Vanda Bidwell/The News-Gazette
Ed Ogen, a member of the Service Corps of Retired Executives, talks with Centennial High School students, counterclockwise, Alyssa Petruzzello, Erin Holm, Angela Ruggles, Marissa Moxley, Amanda Rogan, Judd Van Antwerp and Joe Paul at the business leaders conference. It was held at the Round Bam Banquet Center on Wednesday.

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Vanda Bidwell/The News-Gazette

Centennial graduate Sam Carmichael tapes the business leaders conference on Wednesday.

VIDEO

Continued from A-1

ates of Centennial High School — asked University of Illinois students how they paid for college, if they had jobs, and how they spent their free time. They videotaped the answers, talked with some of their former teachers at Centennial High School and produced a video they entered in a Money Smart video essay contest, sponsored by the UI Department of Finance. They won first place and a \$5,000 scholarship.

Carmichael considers himself pretty money smart. After

all, he started two businesses before he left high school. Now 19 and a Parkland College student, he's into his third season of a mowing business. He also has a videography business. He's done a wedding and musicals at Centennial and Central high schools.

On Wednesday, Carmichael videotaped a business leaders conference his former math teacher at Centennial, Jason Franklin, developed. Franklin plans to use the video to help other teachers learn how to set up a similar conference.

Carmichael has also been working with Franklin all year in his classroom, videotaping some teaching strategies on integrating real world les-

sons into the math curriculum. Franklin will use that as well in teacher training.

"Sam is a great example of what the whole point of the conference is, to get kids to think outside the box," Franklin said. "School is to teach kids there are opportunities out there. Sam is the epitome of that."

Carmichael plans to go to Flashpoint Academy in Chicago this fall for a two-year film school program. But even if his film career never takes off, he knows he can fall back on his business knowledge and start another business of his own.

"I know how to do that," he said.