

THE STATESMAN

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Announcements:

Any veteran or their dependants, who qualifies for the G.I. Bill, may now apply their veteran's benefits toward tuition at GWC.

Month long intensive Summer Seminars are now open for enrollment. [Click here for more information.](#)

Check out the new and improved [George Wythe College Bookstore.](#)

A Thomas Jefferson Education Book on CD (unabridged) is [now available](#)

Seminars:

April 5-6 [Current Events](#)

June 17-18 [Core & Love of Learning](#)

June 14-26 [Youth for America \(Sessions 1-4\)](#)

June 25-26 [Scholar Phase: An In-Depth GWC Seminar](#)

For a Face to Face with Greatness seminar in your area, [click here.](#)

21st Century Examples of Statesmanship

by Shanon Brooks

When we speak of Statesmanship, it resounds of nobleness—patriotism—benevolence, and historical examples are plentiful. We visualize heroes and heroines, great deeds accomplished against all odds, solving difficult political problems in the face of impending disaster and great men and women making self-sacrificing decisions that benefit thousands and set new standards for the moral bar.

However, it begins to get fuzzy around the edges when we shift from Statesmen of the past to Statesmanship of today. It is common sense, although we probably don't think too much about it, that a recognized Statesman was likely doing Statesman-like things long before he or she was noticed in the spotlight of public attention. History has shown that Statesmanship is more an attitude than an image, more a lifestyle of action than a charismatic personality or good intentions. It is a long accumulation of thoughts, deeds and hard work that tend to culminate at just the right time guided by Public Virtue.

My several responsibilities at George Wythe College grant me a unique point of view—I have the opportunity to see perhaps more budding Statesmen in action than most others. From working closely with the On-campus (Undergraduate as well as Masters and Doctoral) programs, Distance Studies, Extension and Seminar Programs, and with the Faculty and Staff, I have witnessed first-hand many acts of Statesmanship and private efforts of budding Statesmen that are every

bit as inspiring as Statesmanship of the past. May I share a few examples with you?

Public Virtue: Sacrificing Self for the Benefit of Others

George Wythe College has been participating in Home Schooling Conferences for well over a decade. It has only been during the last four years however, that we have moved into the seminar arena. Two years ago, after holding about ten seminars, we made a determination that although the seminars were very life changing for those who attended and paid the price to study, the seminars weren't financially viable and we could no longer subsidize the effort.

The outcry was surprising and a number of people declared that it was almost a moral duty to hold these seminars. We explained that although we agreed, we could no longer bear the financial burden—and then a miraculous thing occurred. Individuals began to step-up and take the responsibility to ensure that come what may, seminars would be held in their cities. For many, this has meant severe sacrifice and going well beyond personal comfort zones.

Symbria Patterson of San Fernando Valley, California, although influential in her own neighborhood, had never done anything such as recruiting and holding a seminar or speaking in front of total strangers about education at book clubs, park days and home schooling conventions. This unassuming wife and mother felt inadequate to the task as she became a lightning rod for the huge demand that was to follow. Final results—after just 15 months she has hosted 8 seminars in the Los Angeles area and now coordinates most of the Face to Face With Greatness seminars in the United States.

I had tried for years to find a group to help us bring Face to Face with Greatness Seminars to San Diego, but could never make it happen. That's when **Stacy Harmer** (I believe shaking in her shoes) called me and asked "how do we do this?" She was very concerned about time with her family and about not offending anyone. In the end she found that sharing the principles of "A Thomas Jefferson Education" outweighed her other concerns. Stacy has hosted three seminars in San Diego and holds the record for

the largest first time seminar.

After hosting one seminar in Rigby, Idaho, it became obvious that although there was considerable interest in holding more seminars, resources were slim and would not be sufficient to continue the series. **Melanie Ilher** very quietly contacted me and said that these seminars were of vital importance to her area and that she would do whatever it took to make them a reality. Unbeknownst to most in attendance, the last three seminars that have been held there have been largely subsidized by Melanie personally. Melanie is now enrolled as a Ph.D. Candidate in the "Thomas Jefferson Degree."

At present, there is a whole group of moms who while experiencing successful home schooling efforts, feel a need to take up the torch and bring Face to Face with Greatness Seminars into their own communities as a way to introduce more and more families to the concepts of Leadership Education. Utah seems to be the leader in this latest surge for seminars.

A number of other moms are founding and running what Dr. Oliver DeMille calls "Mom's Schools," local programs, theatre groups, clubs and courses which benefit their children and many other youth in the community. It is exciting to see people like **Aneladee Milne** of Bountiful, Utah and a host of others take the plunge and lead these wonderful youth programs—taking a Thomas Jefferson type Education to a new generation of future Washingtons, Madisons and Abigails.

Donna Goff is helping spread the message through on-going discussion groups and mentoring on-line, thereby reaching people in a geographically unlimited format. **Diann Jeppson** of Salt Lake City took action after seeing a real need in her community for leadership education. She began a club of kids called the Statesmanship Club which promotes American History, principles of good government, private and public virtue, etc. After a few years, she now has a number of clubs in operation and has expanded to include other communities.

In terms of impacting the world of education and leadership, these women and many others have over the last two years made it possible for George Wythe

College to enter literally thousands of homes and they are, in reality, changing the future of the world by training leaders in the tradition of the great leaders of history. Those who will read this article in years to come will be the blessed recipients of these women who overcame their fears, sacrificed their time and talents and even financial resources “to inspire greatness in others”. Truly they are modern-day examples of Public Virtue—of Statesmanship.

“Pay the Price”

In today’s society, to attend college or a university is usually less than arduous. George Wythe College students, on the other hand, spend on average 40-50 hours in study each week. For those of you who are familiar with our On-campus program, you have seen how hard our students study and how it is a primary focus for them. What you may not have seen are the efforts of our non-traditional students, those who have either left their situations of fulltime employment to study in Cedar City full time, or who are studying full time and working to support a growing family—or those who are still caring for a husband and family while holding down a full time study schedule from home.

Laura Bledsoe is a wife and mother of five children, two still at home. She has been applying the educational principles espoused in *A Thomas Jefferson Education* for the last three years in her home school. After hosting a couple of seminars in her home town of Logandale, Nevada, she began assisting with seminars in California. She now is a speaker at Face to Face with Greatness Seminars, traveling at least once a month and maintaining a 35-hour study week as a GWC Distance Student while managing her home and caring for her family. Her husband Monte is very supportive of her long hours and is excited about the great work she is doing and all the people she has influenced, not to mention their own son who is currently an On-campus freshman at George Wythe College.

Kelly Rogers of Saratoga Springs, Utah is one of the budding Statesmen who felt a need to improve her education and share the process with others. Starting out as a seminar Host, she has hosted 7 seminars (by the printing of this article) in the American Fork, Utah

area. She has been on an intense study program while holding down a very time consuming lay position in her church and home schooling a family of five children; all the while helping to teach in seminars, traveling and working at home school conferences. Currently she is a T.A. for Dr. Julie Earl in Extension Courses in Northern Utah.

For the last five semesters, we have offered a new way to study at George Wythe College through Extension Courses. It has been inspiring to watch these new students rearrange their home schedules so they can study as much as twenty hours per week to participate in the weekly courses held in their local areas. There is no better example of this than a group of students from the North Salt Lake–Layton area. **Bonnie Jones, Teena Horlacher, Jennifer Jensen, Renae Zentz and Gaylene Hatch**, among others, all Master’s students, have been strenuously engaged in their Graduate studies for the last year and a half. Soon to graduate, these models of budding Statesmen have shown their dedication to Leadership Education, and are becoming leaders in their own right.

Statesmanship is Action

Statesmanship is about application. In the Roseville area of Sacramento, California, at least one man has taken Statesmanship seriously. After enrolling in the Constitutional Law Ph. D. program over three years ago, **Dean Forman** became aware of discrepancies in the conduct of certain schools in his family orientated district. After making inquiries there and counseling with a Mentor, he ran for an open school board position, and won! Then the difficulties began. He found himself opposed by very articulate and well respected members of the board, not to mention school administrators and teachers. Through applying principles gleaned from his doctoral studies and attending Graduate Seminars where doctoral candidates hash out principles and issues of government using the best thinking from the past as a guide, Dean has had incredible influence for good, impacting thousands of students and their families.

While learning as a non-traditional student at GWC, **Gail Griffin** served in the Arizona Legislature where she became known as a strong proponent of families and protection of rights. On the international front,

GWC doctoral recipient **Susan Roylance** had a huge influence on various U.N. conferences and documents including the famous Beijing Conference on Women and Istanbul Conference on Families. There are many others involved in various governmental positions and influence on good government.

We have received many offers of assistance over the years but none quite like that of **McKay Earl**. A Senior at GWC, McKay has seen a need and filled it. With a background in Audio/Visual recording and duplication, he attempted to secure full time employment with us but was turned down. I thought that would be the end of McKay, but he was not so easily deterred. He saw this refusal as an opportunity and ended up creating an entire product line of CD's and cassette tapes—which many of you are now familiar with. As an entrepreneur, McKay created a niche out of nothing and is now supporting his young family while he promotes the college and “moves the cause of liberty.”

Bridgette Harding is a typical example of Statesmanship in practice. Serving as an intern at the Utah State Legislature, she quickly distinguished herself as a powerful leader. While older interns ended up setting up tables and helping with computers, she was given a group of bills to shepherd, with the assignment to defeat some and get others passed. She organized other interns and got the job done. In fact, she is now raising her family and counsels with her husband in Washington D.C. where he is the senior legislative advisor for a U.S. Congressman.

Dr. Troy Henke was one of the creators of and currently helps direct Idaho Leadership Academy, a charter school in Southern Idaho which is helping take Thomas Jefferson Education-like principles into the public school arena. Other GWC alumni who are teaching at the Idaho Leadership Academy include **Craig Simmerman, Allen Levie, Marie Quist, Rinda Goff, Chani Logan** and **Rick Earl**. Dr. Henke is also helping spread the study of mathematics through the classical approach, and is an expert on educational methodology.

Tiffany Earl saw the need for freshman at George Wythe College to be better prepared, and decided to do something about it. So several years ago she

founded Thomas Jefferson Academy as a resource for youth to do certifications, guided studies and other activities which take them to a whole new level of classical learning. In fact, all but one of the recipients of last year's Andau Character Prize, which requires writing and passing an oral exam among other things and carries a full scholarship to GWC for the winners, was a member of her youth program. Tiffany has been a speaker at many GWC seminars, and she is currently co-authoring a sequel to *A Thomas Jefferson Education* with Dr. DeMille.

Many people may not be aware of our activities outside of the United States. In Canada, **Heather Burton** of Sterling, Alberta has been very instrumental in not only bringing Face to Face with Greatness Seminars to Edmonton and Lethbridge, but is currently providing a service that is “heaven sent” in the opinion of many Canadians. She and her family have opened the doors of a new business venture—George Wythe College Bookstore-Canada, to provide hard-to-get materials (we take this so for granted, don't we) that make a Thomas Jefferson Education possible.

Going South towards Mexico City, Mexico, a very enterprising couple is creating a name for themselves and for the College in the resort town of Tequisquiapan. **Mario and Laurie Lagos** are providing internships for George Wythe College students while they build their language training Center—the Benito Juarez Leadership Training Institute. This couple hopes to use this leadership training program to acquaint many of their friends and thousands of their countrymen to the principles of leadership education promoted by George Wythe College. They are also teaching the Spanish courses at George Wythe College starting this year.

A number of GWC students and alumni have had a real impact on society, including: Ambassador **Mark Siljander**—who earned a doctorate degree at George Wythe College after serving in the United States Congress and as a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and who is currently involved in high level international negotiation; **Carol Walker**—founder of Financial Freedom, International, a very successful public company which has helped thousands of people get out of debt; **Reverend Carlin Dempsey**—who runs a very successful church in Northern Virginia;

Roy Maynard—a journalist at *World Magazine*; **Dr. Andrew Allison**—co-author of *The Real Thomas Jefferson* and *The Real Benjamin Franklin*; **Jodie Fisher**—President of the Utah College of Midwifery and a board member of a national accreditation agency; **John West**—who after finishing his doctorate at George Wythe College served as the administrator of a major Texas hospital; and well-known authors/speakers such as: **Vicki Jo Anderson, Gracia Jones, Gladys Allen, Kimberly Smith, Dan Hunter, Paul Leatham, Ray Gwilliam**, and others.

Conclusion

Having a clear view of current problems, knowing what needs to be done to solve them and inserting one's self in the middle to effect the change is the end of Statesmanship. These are only forty-three of literally hundreds of students and graduates that I could mention. Statesmanship is catching hold. It is becoming more and more evident On-campus, in the Distance Studies, Extension and even in the field where we have no formal presence. If you have been inspired by these stories and want to know how you too can be influential in promoting Statesmanship, visit our website at: www.gwc.edu or contact us at 435 586-6570. Most importantly, take stock of what Statesmanship is needed in your community, state and nation, and seriously consider how you can get involved. The first virtue of Statesmanship may well be initiative, and if you are getting or have already obtained a superb liber education, then you are as well suited as anyone to take courage and jump into the ring to “inspire greatness in others and move the cause of liberty.”

Dr. Shanon D. Brooks is the Vice President of George Wythe College. He holds three earned academic degrees, sits on several educational and corporate boards, is the president of his own family-run business and father of six.

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