

# THE STATESMAN



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Happy Holidays!  
From George Wythe College

## On Campus Seminars:

- Dec 16-17 [Roots of America](#)
- Mar 4-5 [How to Read a Book](#)
- Mar 7-8 [A Grand Strategy for the 21st Century](#)
- May 2-27 [Psychology II](#)
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- July 15-16 [Transition to Scholar](#)
- July 4-Aug 3 [Youth for America \(6 seminars!\)](#)
- Aug 1-2 [The Bible on Politics](#)

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

For a Statesmanship Seminar in your area, [click here](#).

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## New 2005

## George Wythe College Campus

On October 16, 2004 at the first Annual Alumni Gala, the following announcement was made:

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For more newsletters, [click here](#).

## A GWC Student Attends Law School

Part 1: Getting Into  
Law School



By Kyle Nuttall, GWC Class  
of 2003

I know that there are many prospective students who consider George Wythe College and then decide not to attend because of accreditation. For those whose educational goals are satisfied with a four-year degree this is not a complete turn off, but for someone wanting to pursue graduate work at another institution it can be a very negative factor. I want to erase that stigma as best I can by first telling the story of how I got into law school without an accredited degree, and then by explaining how I was much better prepared than almost any of my classmates.

It all started when I graduated from George Wythe in October 2003. I had decided just before I graduated that it was necessary for me to get a graduate degree, so I started looking into different options. First I checked into getting an MBA (Master of Business Administration). I talked with a friend who was about to complete her MBA, looked at some information on the Internet about taking the GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test), and studied several MBA programs. I couldn't find anything that seemed ideal to me, so I decided to research law school. After just a couple of minutes reading about the LSAT (Law School Admission Test), I realized that law school was what I was meant to do.

At first, I thought I'd go to work for a while and

earn money for law school. But I kept thinking that I needed to go to law school immediately. So using all the leadership skills and planning strategy I'd learned at GWC, I went to work.

The first hurdle was the LSAT. In my studying about law school I discovered that a good LSAT score was the most important criteria to admissions committees. I found the money to pay for it, signed up to take it, and started studying. I only had five weeks to study for a test that some people spend months preparing for, but I had something most people don't—GWC study skills. So I put aside other things and concentrated. It quickly became apparent that my weakness was in one particular section and that if I could improve my performance in that section, I would do well on the test. To make a long story short—I did improve, and I did score well. My LSAT score was in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile (with a couple more months of study I believe I could have increased this at least six points), good enough to garner attention in all but the most prestigious schools in the country. I did believe with more study than just five weeks I could retake the test for a much higher score (to enter the following year in a top-ten school); but again, my gut feeling was to go for it immediately.

Now I had to decide which schools to apply to and what criteria I would use in evaluating them. I spent several days on the internet considering things like location, application deadlines, average LSAT score, price, study abroad programs, and the availability of joint JD/MBA programs. I finally decided on the University of Oklahoma, a great law school with a long tradition and huge historical impact on American government. I did the hard work and submitted my application. I hoped to be accepted right away for the Fall, but Plan B was to use the extra year to increase my LSAT score and then reapply to numerous schools the next year.

At this point it should be noted that I was way behind schedule during the whole process. Most people study for and take the LSAT in their Junior year of college, and then apply to several schools no later than January of the year in which they plan to start school. They then spend many months filling out all the available financial aid forms. I'm not sure how I would have done this differently; if I had known I

was bound for law school, I might not have gotten the excellent preparation for law school that I got from GWC—the temptation would have been great to follow a more traditional track. Nevertheless, I was at a disadvantage because of timing.

By now, many of the top applicants had already received letters of acceptance and were deciding which to accept or decline, while finishing the financial aid process. I was still gathering letters of recommendation and transcripts that had to be turned into the Law School Data Assembly Service. I was way behind the curve, but I hurried through the process and met the deadlines.

Now I just had to wait and see if I had been accepted or not. Because of the “complication” of having a non-accredited transcript, I didn't expect to hear anything for a long time, but I got a letter from OU just four weeks later accepting me as a student at OU Law!

That's the whole “on-the-edge-of-your-seat story.” It tells the basic facts, but doesn't illustrate well some of the lessons I learned. I naturally, without even realizing it, used my GWC “go to the original source” and other research habits during the entire process. I spent a lot of time doing detailed internet research about schools, and as I searched I found things that people had written about their experiences in applying to school. I also read some candid advice from Admissions Committee members—and applied it. I figured out what the system required, and how to excel at it. Admissions committees are not made up of machines and automatons which crunch the numbers and give the same answer to every situation. They are made up of people who are weighing and balancing different factors for each applicant. I learned, as I mentioned before, that the LSAT score is the most important factor to them in determining whom they are going to admit. It's the only thing that the schools know is consistent across the board for every applicant. GPA is also important, and your personal statement is less important, as are letters of recommendation. At least, that's what the experts said.

But what the experts said didn't apply to me. I needed something that would catch the attention of admissions personnel and get them to take a close

look at me in spite of a non-accredited degree. The LSAT was my key. I studied and prepared for that test more than I studied for almost any of the simulations at GWC—and that’s saying a lot! When I got a good score on the LSAT, I knew I had a fighting chance to get in. In applying for a graduate program, I can’t stress how important it is to do well on the standardized test for your program. That’s what’s going to open admissions personnel’s eyes and make them think that you deserve a shot even if you went to an unknown, possibly untrustworthy school.

I couldn’t do anything to convince admissions personnel that my GPA meant anything. It was a good GPA—so it didn’t count against me—but from an unaccredited program, neither would they count it in my favor. I didn’t spend any time thinking or worrying about either it or my transcript.

But I could do something about my test score. It would show where I really ranked against “accredited” students. And more than that, I could really do something about letters of recommendation and my personal statement—they could be transformational, different, they could really shine. For the letters of recommendation I picked two people who knew me well, who could write well, and whose personal achievements gave credibility to their recommendations. I gave a lot of thought to this. I chose people who I knew would think about writing a transformational letter, even in something as routine as a letter of recommendation.

My next step was to produce an excellent personal statement. Almost all schools have suggestions and guidelines to follow when writing your personal statement (and for letters of recommendation) which are posted at their internet site. I used these guidelines as a starting point, a middle, and an end. In other words I didn’t include any information they didn’t ask for, and I told them about everything they requested. Of course I had good writers edit my work, then I edited it myself, and had someone check my editing. I wanted them to think, “he can handle law school work,” and “he’s a really good writer.” Subconsciously, I wanted them to see that I followed their system with exactness in every detail, an important trait in law school, and that I followed it really well. It was a work of art when I turned it in.

All told, it was a lot of effort and study. But then, an education at GWC is a lot of effort and study too. I have to say that a GWC education helped me in my preparation for law school. I knew this from the very first day of OU Law orientation. The professors sounded just like you hear at GWC. They spoke of learning how to think, learning how to manage your time, spending hours and hours each day reading and taking notes, not just relying on readings and note-taking but being ready to discuss in class the cases you read out of class. I felt right at home. As I looked around the room, I could feel the stress level rising. But I wasn’t stressed at all. I remember thinking: “I may be the best prepared out of all the 170+ 1L’s because of my non-accredited degree!”

A non-accredited degree may hurt your chances of acceptance to graduate school, but a superb education will open doors that accreditation simply can’t. I believe that with the right kind of LSAT score (or whatever standardized test you have to take for your masters program) you would still have a chance if you stress in your personal statement that you will add variety, leadership, and perspective to their student body. After all, the admissions people are looking for good people regardless of where they come from. They are human and enjoy a high quality presentation just like anybody else.

George Wythe alums already know we can deliver once accepted; we just need to use all our unique skills to get accepted. I remember GWC mentors saying that if we used our skills, we’d make our own way. Now I know from personal experience that it is true. One of those skills (which I used a lot) is real prayer.

Admissions people want their school to shine, and if you give all the signs that you will do well you are just as likely to get in as anybody else. Anybody would be hard-pressed to turn down someone that looks better on paper than most of the students they already accept. What it comes down to is: if you look good in the ways that they want you to look good, it doesn’t matter if you’re not from an accredited school. Play their game, play it in true GWC style, and they’ll reward you for it. To illustrate this point, I’m going to quote from a letter that was included in my packet at orientation. I don’t think anybody else got a letter like it.

“Dear Mr. Nuttall: The University of Oklahoma – College of Law has determined by a file review that even though your undergraduate institution is not accredited by our normal accrediting facilities, we will admit based upon the strength of course work and other factors submitted in your application packet.” It was signed by Stanley L Evans, Colonel, USA (Ret), Assistant Dean, University of Oklahoma – College of Law.

The one other thing I had going for me was that going to law school was part of my mission, and I knew it. God wanted me here. When it looked bleak and I didn’t think I was going to do well enough on the LSAT, or that I wasn’t going to be able to write a good enough personal statement, or when I worried about the accreditation requirement, I could remember the feeling of inspiration as I made the two decisions: one to attend law school, and the other to begin law school in the fall of 2004. George Wythe College prepared me for a life mission, and I’m going to accomplish it. I look forward to the day when GWC is accredited, but I’m not going to wait around for that. Going to GWC was the right thing for my personal mission, and I will never consider my George Wythe education and degree anything but an asset in accomplishing my mission.

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For more newsletters, [click here.](#)

[\(continued from page 1\)](#)

“George Wythe College has a new building under contract and will close the purchase of this new location by the end of the year and occupy the building in the winter of 2005.”

This announcement was a welcome surprise for most of the 300 people in attendance, but I have to say that more than one person was a little skeptical. GWC has never done anything like this before, how can they pull this off? Where will they get the resources to fund this project? Who has the expertise at GWC to do this?

Let me summarize all that has occurred in the past 51 days since we committed ourselves to this task:

- Within one week of the above announcement, we had raised \$50,000 in pledges. Within three weeks we had raised over \$300,000 in pledges and hard cash. To date we have \$350,000 in pledges and cash donations.
- We secured funding and closed on the building at 4:45pm, November 22, 2004.
- Construction was begun within minutes of closing.
- A wall raising ceremony was held on at the new location on November 23, 2004.
- We have a construction schedule that will have us in the building before January 1, 2005—we are actually one day ahead of schedule.

As I am writing this update, a crew of ten drywallers are quickly hanging drywall and should be ready for painting in less than two weeks.

Thank you so much for all of your support. Every dollar and supportive phone call counts and is very heart felt.

[\(Photos on next page\)](#)



