

# THE STATESMAN

Volume 11 Issue 6 June 2007

## On Campus Seminars:

2007

Jun 7-8 [Core & Love of Learning](#)

Jun 7-16 [Youth For America](#)

Jun 11-12 [The Love of Learning  
Transition To Scholar](#)

Jun 14-15 [Scholar Phase](#)

Jun 28-30 [Statesmen Retreat -  
Rethinking Leadership](#)

Jul 9-28 [The Mountain Seminar](#)

Jul 9-Aug 3 [Freshman Prep](#)

Jul 16-17 [Liber League Summit](#)

Jul 27-28 [How to Read a Book](#)

Oct 19 [Commencement](#)

2008

May 13-31 [War](#)

## Other Events:

Jun [European Field Experience](#)



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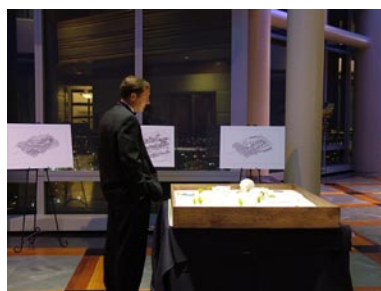
## Gala 2007: George Wythe College Unveils its Philanthropic Society

By Bryan Hyde

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

20<sup>th</sup> Century anthropologist Margaret Mead's words were brought into sharper focus during the Wokh-sá-pe Pte San Philanthropic Society Gala held May 4-5. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor Event Center at the Wells Fargo Building in downtown Salt Lake City was the gathering place for nearly 300 people who came to dine, dance, donate and enjoy the company of others who seek to change the world. The theme for the gala was "Vein of Gold" referring to the streak of personal excellence found within each of us.

During the reception, the guests were introduced to Brad Houston, a classically trained architect who shared with them renderings of the future campus of George Wythe College and offered details regarding the classical architecture and design of the campus. Houston explained that the future campus would



engender a sense of community with great care taken to preserve the beauty, the solitude and natural peace that should accompany a Jeffersonian education.



After the guests were seated for dinner, the invocation was offered by Lacey Harris, a Northern Ute/Northern Paiute spiritual leader. Harris first offered the prayer in his native tongue, and then explained it in English to the attendees. He explained the significance of the White Buffalo Calf Woman to the people of the First Nations both anciently and in the future. This served to introduce the meaning of the unusual name of the Wokh-sá-pe Pte San Philanthropic Society.



Among the first highlights of the evening was the announcement

made by George Wythe College CEO, Shanon Brooks, regarding the acquisition of 520 acres of land in Monticello, Utah which will be the future site of a second George Wythe College campus. As Dr. Brooks presented a multi-media slide show of the general area and introduced members of the Monticello City Council and County Commission, the body rose in applause and continued the standing ovation for almost a minute. It is anticipated that classes will begin on the new campus in fall of 2009, though the headquarters of GWC will remain in Cedar City for the foreseeable future.

After the introduction and recognition of several visiting dignitaries including Utah Lieutenant Governor Herbert, Utah State Senator Madsen, the George Wythe Foundation Board of Trustees and Mayor Doug Allen (Monticello, UT) and Mayor Mike Montandon (North Las Vegas, NV), Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff



was named the recipient of the Statesman award, presented to non-GWC affiliated individuals who exhibit the qualities of statesmanship outlined in the GWC Mission.

Guests also had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Andrew Groft, Provost of GWC, who delivered his inspirational Renaissance of Kings commencement address; first given in fall of 2006. Dr. Groft spoke of the power created by individuals living lives of greatness that create light and positive change in the world around them. He explained that the answers to so many of the challenges faced by the world today will not be found in a single hero, but in the lives of millions of heroes who live lives of greatness.



The keynote speaker of the evening was James Ferrell, author of *The Peacegiver* and a managing director of the Arbinger Institute. Ferrell spoke of the necessity of avoiding self deception that we might find peace in ourselves and of the importance of establishing genuine relationships with those around us as prerequisites to finding peace in a world in which harmony is increasingly lacking.



Following the speakers' remarks, the remainder of the evening was spent socializing and dancing to the music of the Jim Brague and Company Jazz Quintet. Many of the dignitaries and businessmen attending knew each other from previous

meetings, which added to the sense of goodwill and camaraderie not to mention the existing friendships of the regular GWC supporters. Scheduled to end at 11:00 p.m., the festivities went on well past midnight. People just seemed to not want to leave.



On Saturday morning the participants returned to the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor to enjoy a continental breakfast and to hear Dr. Oliver DeMille speak. Dr. DeMille's address outlined the five types of education required to prepare leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as well as the Path of the Hero as described by Joseph Campbell in his book *The Hero of a Thousand Faces*.



Following Dr. DeMille's remarks, participants had the opportunity to attend two breakout sessions featuring Dr. Shanon Brooks and Mr. Dan Ralphs.

Dr. Brooks provided attendees with a strategic/long range plan for George Wythe University outlining key dates and goals for the next 23 years. He also provided a more complete definition of philanthropy that goes beyond charitable giving to creating an enduring legacy that lifts mankind. Brooks provided a number of inspirational examples of men and women of statesmanship who were also philanthropists.

In the other breakout session, Dan Ralphs provided a contrast and comparison of the Oxford and Prussian models of education



to explain the GWC approach to leadership education. Ralphs also expanded upon the now familiar 5 Pillars of Education, adding to them colleges as explained in the long term plan, Hebrew as the language of liberty, and Mission as the purpose for which one becomes educated.

In the end, the Wokh-sá-pe Pte San Philanthropic Gala proved to be a springboard of excellence for those actively pursuing that "Vein of Gold" within themselves and one of opportunity for the future growth and development of GWC.



Many guests have emailed their congratulations and well wishes to the college for such a wonderful event. Many stated that they can not wait until next year's gala which will be held both in Salt Lake City (May 16, 2008) and Calgary, Alberta (September 2008). As a fundraiser, the event was very successful and exceeded our funding goal with a total of \$123,000 collected. Our thanks to many helping hands that made the event possible.

Be watching for your save the date card and we hope to see you next year.



Bryan and his wife Becky live in Cedar City, Utah with their five children. He has been a radio personality for twenty-two years and is a full time student at GWC.

For more photos from the gala visit: [www.gwc.edu/gala2007photos/](http://www.gwc.edu/gala2007photos/)

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