

I speak this evening specifically to the Honors graduates, and although not all of my remarks apply to correspondence graduates, many of them do.

There are at least 10 things which make GWC unique, and therefore your degrees unique.

We expect you to live up to each of them.

1. GWC emphasizes leadership education.

Most schools provide worker education, career education. Their goal is to prepare students to get a job.

A few schools provide manager education which they call leadership education: schools like Harvard and the Ivy League, Law and Medical schools, MBA programs, and select others.

But they still consider a career the end-all: education to get a job is the focus.

GWC, in contrast, emphasizes education for world leadership. Yes, you are prepared for your careers, but you are also prepared for much more.

Leadership requires the ability to think independently and creatively, analyze, organize, communicate, inspire and follow through. Leaders must be able to define problems, not just solve them; they must identify hard questions, be able to challenge prevailing assumptions, and be skilled negotiators, delegators and counselors. Above all, leadership education teaches students HOW to think, not what to think. A school system based on following instructions, memorizing professor's ideas, and playing the game of grades prepares followers. George Wythe College, in contrast, trains leaders.

2. GWC studies are individualized.

Since the Industrial Revolution, American education has adopted the conveyer belt method of learning. Everyone receiving the same lectures at the same age from the same textbooks. At the college level, majors are predetermined. Even electives require conformity to a preset curriculum. "Good" students are those who conform well to the system; in this system, inconformity is the same as ignorance.

At GWC, we build the studies around the individual student. The student determines what their goals are in life, and we help them develop an educational plan specifically designed to achieve their goals. Every student receives a personal mentor and personalized graduation requirements. Students are not expected to simply fit in, to follow a pre-appointed learning track, or learn by any certain method. Each student learns from their own personalized college program, major, and even course curriculum.

3. GWC studies are mentorial, not professorial.

Mentors provide one-on-one, personalized education with every student.

4. A GWC education is self-directed.

G. Wythe believed that all education is self-education.

Most schools tell students what & how to learn. But even the best schools complain that academic standards have steadily decreased over time.

At GWC students choose what to study and how to study, but no credit is awarded unless they meet the highest academic standards.

For example, two grades are given at GWC: A and DA (do it again).

5. GWC emphasizes entrepreneur education.

GWC students are uniquely prepared for their careers. As broadly educated, leader-ship oriented, independent thinkers, GWC graduates add both breadth and depth to any organization. Since GWC emphasizes entrepreneurship and business creativity, our program is better suited for *employer* preparation than *employee* training. There are many schools for students who want a successful career; GWC educates students to invent, define and dominate entire career fields. As for money-making, real wealth is made by entrepreneurs rather than employees.

6. At GWC education means becoming, not just learning.

Real education changes us, makes us better, transforms us into different, better people.

Mere memorization of data, facts, dates, theories, or formulas is a poor substitution to actually becoming a better, more exalted human being.

The measure of your education is not just what you know, but how you use your knowledge to better the world.

7. GWC studies are God-based.

No educational system which has factored God out of learning will produce greatness. There is no greatness without God.

GWC students all double major in a theological field. This is not denominational, as each student is required to study his or her own religion.

But it goes even deeper: no class, no lecture, no field of science or the arts or the social sciences is studied without looking at what Holy Writ teaches of those fields.

-At GWC science is scholarship and faith is the search for truth.

8. GWC education is a classical education.

Primary sources are emphasized in all courses, and all Honors graduates are required to complete a reading list of the great books and great works of art, music and scientific discoveries. Students typically spend a year of their 4-year degree on these great works, in addition to the high use of the great books in courses.

9. GWC education is preparation for greatness.

The purpose of education is to come face to face with greatness.

GWC students come face to face with the greatest men and women of history:

Christ on the Cross
Paul before Agrippa and on Mars hill
Michelangelo's Cistine Ceiling
Luther's "Here I stand"
Handel's Messiah
Hamlet's "to be or not to be"
Washington at Valley Forge

You have faced these great questions and many others, and you are greater yourselves as a result.

10. GWC education is future oriented.

You have a mission--to change the world.

This is not cliché: you have the education for it. You know how.

You know that the world is never changed by the masses--always by the few.
And seldom is it changed openly or suddenly--not real change.

Real change usually comes behind the scenes in calculated and often inspired long-term planning and implementation. And it requires sacrifice.

Now, GWC class of 1995. On the basics of history, English, language, science, math, the arts and other general education, you are on par with graduates of any college in this nation--ahead of most, since you've studied the secular AND scriptural view of each discipline.

But in leadership education, you are ahead of any graduating class anywhere.

So, good luck in your careers--you are prepared for them.
But never forget your real calling--to be leaders.

Tonight I challenge you to make a vow to fulfill the Mission Statement of GWC:

To become the greatest generation of statesmen since the American Founding Fathers.

It appears that the Mission Statement "To build men and women of virtue, wisdom, diplomacy and courage, who inspire greatness in others and move the cause of liberty" was not yet adopted.