

May 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Ken Krogue, Founder and President of InsideSales.com and former member of the Board of Directors of George Wythe College and later George Wythe University. I was present at the original planning retreat in early 1995 when the mission, motto and strategic goals of GWC were codified.

I helped pen every specific word that went into the mission statement:

*To build men and women of courage, wisdom, diplomacy, and courage, who inspire greatness in others and move the cause of liberty.*

I was there when we distilled from all these concepts a simple motto:

*Becoming Statesmen*

I agreed when we changed it from *Becoming* to *Building Statesmen* to better capture our purpose.

Those words had power. They have great power today. I believe them.

I know that all of those involved still try to live them. I stayed involved as the Five Pillars of Classics, Mentors, Simulations, Field Experience, and God were instituted and I was thrilled to see their impact.

I was a board member and donor from 1994 through 2009. My son went to George Wythe and counts it as a blessing to have been mentored under these guidelines. He met his wife while in Cedar City and feels doubly blessed.

I remember the original mission was to present a new model of education—one based on performance and results, not paper and credentials. We all knew the college was not accredited and did not want it to be. That was the whole point of what we did! Everyone who was a part of George Wythe prior to 2002 understood the degrees offered were not even designed to be a credential accepted by traditional academia.

The decision was made going into 2002 to become part of the Utah Postsecondary Act and thereafter follow different guidelines. The whole process the current board of directors and those who are helping the board make decisions seems to be one of comparing apples to oranges.

I helped try to defend Oliver when many were doing their best to tear down what we had built and destroy his good name and his health. Allegations of a “diploma mill” even today make me shake my head with incredulity.

You know you are over the target when you start getting flak. I am a product of the thought process that went into George Wythe College, though I didn’t make it even far enough to claim to have graduated from the same institution. But it helped me learn how to think.

You see, I am an entrepreneur.

I speak to competent audiences and teach credible corporate clients two dozen times a year and I never faced such a daunting time as when I would drive to Cedar City to spend a couple of days teaching the students of George Wythe College. With my busy schedule I only got a brief and occasional taste of the regimen set forth to help prepare the students at George Wythe to actually get results in the real world. It was one of the few places I saw both mentor and student alike embrace a statesmanlike and entrepreneurial thought process that actually caused people to learn **how** to think, not just when to think and what to think.

I compare that favorably with the daunting two years I spent at the United States Naval Academy under an appointment from the Honorable Orrin Hatch of Utah. If any allegation of “diploma mill” has substance it would be the terribly disappointing few years I spent afterwards at the University of Utah getting a bachelors of science in psychology—a degree that, based on its merits alone, would leave me qualified to push a broom on the late shift at a ward in a few state-run institutions if I was lucky enough to know somebody who could get me an interview.

That disappointment led me to drop out of an “Executive MBA” program from another institution here in Utah after research showed me that, upon entering the marketplace, I would have to unlearn nearly anything they taught me because it was not only irrelevant, but out of date.

I remembered deeply what I learned in those early years participating in the studies at George Wythe College under the tutelage of Oliver DeMille and the demanding questions of the student body being guided by the inspiration of a God that had been allowed back in the classroom.

When I find that almost 80% of all graduates from public institutions of higher learning don't use the degrees they graduate in I reflect deeply on the meaning of the phrase “diploma mill.”

I have been greatly concerned with the recent conflict between the current leadership of George Wythe University and the original leadership made up of Oliver DeMille and Shanon Brooks. I feel it is my duty to step forward and make my voice heard to make sure the best possible outcome ensues. I respect and believe both sides are trying to do what is right for the ongoing legacy of the school and the students, but I believe that the methods being used are excessive, in error, and violate what George Wythe stands for.

I have been involved with several legal conflicts and have found that the only winners are the lawyers. I ask that sanity and common sense be used to get all parties to sit down and talk things through to an optimal outcome. When I found out that both parties had not actually sat down to make this attempt face to face I felt to speak to and remind us what we stand for.

We are better than this.

I was recently approached by the representatives of the current leadership of George Wythe to help fund an audit of degrees for what they call a “cleansing.” I was very open to assisting when asked. At first it seemed to make sense. I had also been briefly approached by Rachel DeMille, Oliver's wife, to ask that I share my personal recollections and experiences with George Wythe, and hopefully speak out in regards to the character of both Oliver and Shanon in an attempt to have the college retract several statements the DeMilles and Shanon Brooks feel are defamatory. I had made a few comments earlier though social media to them that I felt what was being said was

uncalled for. It seemed the current administration was unnecessarily dragging their names through the mud.

I talked with Oliver and Shanon and they told me directly that besides the primary reason they had chosen to move ahead with the lawsuit to stop the damage to their own reputation and their ability to support their families with a viable income, but to also stop the damage to many of students by current leadership in a well-meaning, but perhaps misdirected attempt at revoking degrees. Thereby fixing something that under it's original intent (and the laws governing its operations) wasn't broken.

Oliver and the students who studied at George Wythe College prior to 2002 were there to change the way people learn. They knew the degrees offered were not to be compared to traditional, accredited degrees. That was by design.

In speaking with the current parties at the college I was told they were operating under the guidelines of the State of Utah in taking the actions that they have taken and the wording they have used. Recently I have come to understand that the State of Utah has made unequivocal statements that they made no such requirements to the current board of George Wythe.

I went out to the website and read the wording that they chose to use and was taken aback at the strong use of such words as "bizarre" and "frivolous." Needless to say I was saddened and disappointed. But I was far more so when I read the carefully chosen phrases that contained such strong words as "illegitimate degrees" and "fraud" and "fraudulent" referring to the actions of Oliver DeMille and the previous administration.

These are not words to be used lightly. They infer intent. I feel they are used unfairly and unethically and in no way describe the true intent or the actions that occurred. I would feel defamed as well if someone said these things about me. Therefore I can't stand by and allow them to be used inappropriately against two men I know from long association to be honorable.

It seemed the only approach taken by the school was to use the power of a press release or two rather than the virtue, wisdom, diplomacy, and courage espoused by all involved to actually sit down face-to-face and resolve the matter.

I ask again, why hasn't this been done?

And the press releases themselves seemed way over-the-top. I overlooked using a press release to respond to the article printed from the Salt Lake Tribune since it is easy to consider the political leaning and past track record of anything in print coming from the Tribune.

I shared the entire story with Snapp-Conner PR, one of the top professional agencies in Utah to get their professional opinion. They also asked why such strong words were being used and were amazed at how it was handled. They asked why the college didn't go meet directly with the Salt Lake Tribune and ask for a printing of a fair response, which would have been the appropriate practice. I wondered the same thing.

Besides Oliver, there have also been some very strong allegations in regards to the actions of Shanon Brooks. I share a summary of them:

- 1) Shanon Brooks developed the Monticello project without the knowledge or approval of the Board at the time, and the Board at the time approved the Monticello project without opportunity for due diligence, in a precipitous fashion, and under duress.
- 2) Shanon Brooks engaged in fundraising in the form of accepting loaned money on promissory notes without the knowledge or authorization of the Board at the time.
- 3) Shanon made an unauthorized transfer of ownership of a portion of the donated land to an individual to the detriment of George Wythe, and in such a way as to benefit personally from the transfer.
- 4) Shanon Brooks was dismissed in disgrace from service as president of the university.
- 5) Subsequent to his stepping down from the presidency (which current leadership now characterizes as his having been “removed”), the Board’s disregard for and lack of confidence in Shanon was such that he was given no role in any high-stakes project, or any position of trust.

Rather than going into every one of these individually, let me say this. None of the current board members were there when any of this was happening. I was. We were just coming through the most difficult economy of our lifetime following the Crash of 2008.

I participated in the continual and detailed updates from Shanon to the board. Myself and my company got behind the incredible effort that was necessary to try and pull George Wythe out of the terribly difficult situation it was in in early 2009. Nearly half of the tuition-paying student body were dropping out and we had contractually agreed to put on a very expensive fundraising gala in May at the Utah State Capitol Building.

I helped Shanon and the team rally the troops to try and save the school and the gala. With 90 days to go prior to the event I was asked to step up and help get 500 people to spend \$500 each and to get one or two dozen corporate donors. Under Shanon’s leadership we did it. He made it happen, like nearly every other thing he was asked to do. He got it done. He brought results.

Times were very difficult, more so because of the economy. But they had never been easy for a school that chose to go against the traditional model of higher education. The conservative worldview the school represented was under continual fire from nearly all sides. The Monticello Project had been approved by the board to move forward and many commitments had been made. But I never found that Shanon hid anything from the board that I was aware of.

On the contrary, I was continually exhausted by the depth of detail that was consistently brought to our board meetings. I often wondered if I could continue serving with my busy schedule. Fundraising had long been underway and Shanon was holding it all together when many organizations had to close their doors. Insinuations were made that Shanon was not above-board, even bordering on criminal. These are, in my perspective, totally unfounded. And Shanon stepped down, not in disgrace, but to allow the school to attempt to move forward under other leadership that soon proved unable to deliver the results required.

I had my own disagreements with Shanon in regards to commitments that were made to my company, InsideSales.com, as the primary sponsor of the Gala that night of May, 2009. And I knew that Oliver and Shanon were making some significant decisions about ongoing leadership of the school. I told Shanon that I feared the school would become fragmented and never recover.

But I still deeply respect Shanon Brooks. Nobody else waded into the fray to try to uphold the commitments and the mission of the school. Many waded out of it. Some struggled with their own personal challenges. I had to step back completely just to give everything I had to my own business during such a challenging time. But Shanon kept going forward to the best of his ability.

Why haven't Oliver and Shanon spoken out earlier? I asked them that.

They told me that they didn't want to drag the George Wythe name through the mud. They could not see a way to rectify the narrative in a way that didn't hurt the school and the students. They showed generosity and restraint, even though the Board had greatly hurt their reputation and their ability to even make a living. But it was when the current board began the "degree cleansing" program and started revoking hard-earned student degrees and trashed the good names of Oliver DeMille and Shanon Brooks as the means by which to do it that they had to come forward.

I took it upon myself to call up several of the previous board members that were there, like I was, when all of this was happening. I even called several who have disagreements with Oliver and Shanon to this day as a sanity check.

I asked them two questions:

- 1) Is Oliver a fraud?
- 2) Is Shanon a criminal?

Every one of them, to a person, said no. Emphatically no. And we were there. And we will not stand by and allow those who were not there to say otherwise.

Let us sit down together and solve this honorably, diplomatically. Let us remember who we are. The price we have paid. The commitments and covenants we have taken upon ourselves to move forward the cause of liberty. I am committed to a positive outcome.

Most respectfully yours,

Ken Krogue  
Founder and President, InsideSales.com  
Former Board Member, GWC & GWU