



EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

2010 Convocation Remarks

Sandra O. Archibald, Dean and Professor

Efrain Gutierrez, Evans School Student Organization President, MPA '10

General Peter W. Chiarelli, United States Army Vice Chief of Staff, MPA '80

Convocation 2010: Dean Sandra O. Archibald Remarks

Please be seated. Good morning! I'm Sandra Archibald, dean of the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs. Thank you for joining us today.

If you haven't done so already, please mute your cell phones and other noise-making devices for the duration of the ceremony.

I want to welcome our graduates, fellows, families, friends, and distinguished guests.

We are especially pleased to welcome the Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Peter W. Chiarelli, and members of our visiting committee. When I call your name, please stand so we can recognize you:

- The honorable Daniel J. Evans, former United States Senator and Washington State Governor
- The honorable Greg Nickels, former City of Seattle Mayor
- Rear Admiral William D. Center
- Colleen Willoughby, chair of our Visiting Committee
- Ann Pryde
- Dr. Constance Rice
- And Dick Zais, chair of our Denny Alumni Council

I'd also like to introduce, recognize, and thank the members of the Evans School's administration. Please stand as I call your name:

- Associate Dean for Research Ann Bostrom
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Alison Cullen
- Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Ann Marie Borys
- Assistant Dean for Finance and Operations Linda Lake
- Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Jason Smith
- Graduate Program Coordinator Rachel Garshick Kleit

This has been a challenging year for all many of us, but for our Evans School faculty in particular. They are the teachers and researchers that our graduates have spent countless hours with over the last several years. I'd like to ask the **entire faculty** to stand up so that we can give them a round of applause.

I've often said that the Evans School has the most fantastic **staff**. In addition to supporting all of our graduates throughout their studies, they also support our faculty and administration with flexibility, kindness, and intellect. They've been busy this morning putting today's event together. Please help me give them a round of applause.

Before we begin, I want to ask our graduates and fellows to acknowledge and thank the **family and friends** who have supported you during your time at the Evans School and are now here to honor you on this great occasion. Please stand up, turn around, and give them a round of applause.

Please be seated.

Graduates and fellows, today is an important milestone for you, and for the Evans School. You are about to join thousands of other Evans School alumni making their mark on our community, our nation, and the world.

But, before you leave, I'd like to reflect on your time here with us at the Evans School.

You have been a truly superlative class in nearly every way.

You are the largest class we have had the honor to work with.

Your class has been one of the most talented and academically rigorous. It was clear to all of us that you took your studies at the Evans School very seriously.

One example of your excellence is the number of Presidential Management Fellows in your graduating class. More of you were accepted into the Presidential Management Fellows program than in any other Evans School class. In fact, we are in the top three public schools of public affairs this year for Presidential Management Fellowship finalists.

Many of you have also already secured extraordinary positions in the U.S. State Department and General Accountability Office, in the City of Seattle and King County, at nonprofits like Catholic Relief Services and Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, and in private industry at companies like McKinstry and Deloitte.

Your contributions over the past several years, as well as your future contributions, play no small part in the Evans School's success. You should be proud to be a graduate of a school that is in the top six public schools of public affairs in the nation, and one that is ranked fourth among all public affairs schools in the nation for faculty scholarly productivity.

You have had the opportunity to learn from a truly excellent faculty, innovators engaged in cutting edge research, dedicated to teaching, and filled with a collaborative spirit.

You have been supported by a dedicated staff, who gave their all to make your Evans School experience great.

You have benefitted from the generosity of our donors, who gave time and money to assure you had access to the best in graduate education.

Our alumni and friends have mentored you and provided learning experiences for you through internships, Public Service Clinics, and, yes—jobs.

You now have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of nearly half a century of outstanding Evans School alumni, including mayors, elected officials, entrepreneurs, nonprofit executives, and more. Knowing your class, many of you will also blaze new trails for future alumni to follow as well.

These alumni have created a legacy for you, Evans School graduates and fellows—a legacy of excellence, of innovation, of public service at the frontier in both practice and theory.

You have the values of an Evans School education—leadership, ethics, courage, practicality, and rigor—and the skills demanded to solve the challenges we face today, as well as those that lie ahead.

You have the talent, and now the training and the network of your peers, to take on the most complex regional, national, and international policy and management challenges.

You now have an obligation to those who supported you, to those who came before you and those who will come after you, to use your education to make a difference.

Wherever you land, and whatever you do, I am confident that you will be leaders and change makers.

We expect nothing less of Evans School alumni. From my own experience, I know better than to expect anything less than greatness from the class of 2010.

Having had the privilege of knowing you, I have nothing but confidence in the future of our region, our country, and our world.

Thank you and congratulations.

Convocation 2010: ESO President Efrain Gutierrez Remarks

Dear fellow Evans School students, Dean Archibald, General Peter W. Chiarelli, Governor and Ms. Evans, visiting committee members, faculty, staff, and everyone that is celebrating with us today.

I am so honored for the opportunity to represent this group of smart, diverse, hard working, inclusive and awesome group of people...Class of 2010 ... all of you have been so accepting and amazing. I can tell you that I have never felt so proud of who I am as a person in my life. Thank you so much

I still remember that first day in school during orientation, sitting in almost this same room, being really nervous about what was coming. We were all "justifiably proud of being at the Evans School" and we were all showing how smart we were...I remember how during the first week, I felt I was the only one not understanding things during class...everyone was looking at the professor.... I thought it was maybe the language barrier.... but you know what, a few days later I discovered that there was a lot of people that were lost like me, and then I started discovering the real you, Class of 2010. It felt so good the first time that I could look at another classmate during class and say..."I can't understand anything!"

And now after two years spending time with you... you know...the quality time we spend working together in the computer lab a day before the memos were due, or learning all those great management tools in Parrington 108, and how to forget all the time we spent learning how to write succinct and to-the-point memos...after sharing all these moments with you guys I feel that the word that defines the class of 2010 is *passion*, we are passionate people...about different things but we all came to the Evans School because of our passion...some students are passionate about helping the poor in the developing world, others want to protect the environment, or create a better education system, or develop better services in the cities, or fight for the rights of those who are oppressed...all of us have different interests...but clearly sharing that passion to make things better for our communities, for our countries and for the world.

And now after graduation, we will have the opportunity to start putting that passion into action in the work place...And to be honest with you...it makes me feel happy...I can't wait to see you being the program officer of an international development program, or the director of a nonprofit that works for the rights of women, or the head of a federal or city government office...and you know why that makes me happy? Because it gives me hope of a better world for everyone,...because I am confident that when we are on those positions we will help create a more equitable society, a more efficient government, a place where we pollute less and respect the environment more, and I am confident that whatever we end up doing, we will do it right; we will do it with the passion and leadership of the class of 2010...

While I was writing this speech I decided to ask some of my classmates what they were going to miss about the Evans School...After receiving several responses I started seeing a pattern...I think all of us are going to miss sharing...we are going to miss sharing this brilliant group of professors here at the Evans School, we are going to miss going to the talent show and laughing about things that are unique to the Evans community...we are going to miss sharing all those great discussions we had during our classes...we are going to miss sharing the celebration of Thanksgiving with our beloved Humphrey Fellows, and we are also going to miss sharing historical moments like the democratic process that resulted in the election of the first African American president in the history of this great nation...a lot happened these two years and I am going to miss sharing those moments with you in the future.

But I believe that after graduation we still have a lot to share and we will always be part of the Evans community...I know that in the future we will be there for each other; we will be there to provide and receive advice, to help each other out, or even just for happy hour...

Now that we are talking about the Evans community, I want to thank the Humphrey Fellows for bringing different perspectives to the Evans School, to the Executive MPA graduates for bringing all those years of experience and management to our community, and also to the first graduate of our Ph.D. program; I hope that the program continues getting stronger...and also to my fellow MPA graduates. We are all the Evans community and your contributions make a big difference, thank you so much

I also want to thank Dean Archibald for her leadership, to the brilliant professors we have at the School, to all the hard working staff, to the visiting committee members, and everyone that makes the Evans School one of the best public affairs schools in the world...

Finally I want to thank our families for their support...thanks to all the parents, partners and family members of the Class of 2010 for your support, thanks to all the family members and friends that are here with us celebrating this achievement...but also thanks to all the families that could not be here today...I also want to make a special mention to our donors, without their help there is no way students like me would have been able to study for a masters...Thanks to all of you for helping us achieve this dream, thanks for helping us becoming better people...

I want to finish my speech with a quote by novel price winner Octavio Paz, my favorite Mexican writer. The quote was intended to be used to define Mexicans, but I believe it applies to all of us today in this globalized world:

“Today we all speak, if not the same tongue, the same universal language. There is no one center, and time has lost its former coherence: East and West, yesterday and tomorrow exist as a confused jumble in each one of us. Different times and different spaces are combined in a here and now that is everywhere at once.”

Convocation 2010: General Peter Chiarelli Remarks

Good morning! It is great to be back at UW.... I appreciate the warm welcome home!

Dean Archibald.... Governor Evans.... university administrators, faculty and staff.... fellow alumni.... other distinguished guests; it is wonderful to be here and to participate in this very, very special ceremony!

Graduates.... this day has finally arrived – *congratulations!*

Congratulations also to the parents, spouses, and family members in the audience.... I know you are incredibly proud. This is a remarkable achievement. And, you deserve a share of the credit for the graduates' success. I am certain they would all agree they could not have done it without your love and support.

As I said, it is great to be back on this very, very special occasion. Thirty years ago to the day I was sitting where you are this morning. I will tell you—it remains one of the proudest moments of my career.

I grew up in Seattle; and, as a young kid I spent a lot of time at UW, going to football games or other events on campus. To me, it represented all that was good in the world. And, I just knew that someday I too would be a Husky! Now, truth be told – it took me a few years longer than I had expected! My mother didn't want her only son to be lost in this "big school." Instead she convinced me to go to Seattle University, which, of course, is a wonderful institution of learning and I had a terrific experience. But, the truth is I didn't feel totally complete until I became a Husky! The fact that I could come here in the middle of my Army career, before teaching at West Point – really was a dream come true for me.

What you learn during your years here at UW will provide the strong foundation for the rest of your lives. I can attest to this firsthand. I absolutely attribute much of my success as a leader, as an Army officer, and as a soldier to the education I received as a student in the graduate school of public affairs.

A wise person stated: "*Leadership is action, not position.*" I believe this quote perfectly captures—in a single sentence—the UW experience. This esteemed university's commitment to graduate men and women of character committed to responsible citizenship and to making the world a better place is clearly evident in the superior caliber of students, faculty, and alumni.

I had the distinct privilege in November of participating in the dedication ceremony for the new Medal of Honor Memorial located nearby at the end of Memorial Way. The monument honors eight UW alumni—*more than any other public university*—who earned our nation's highest award for valor. Eight "*Huskies*" who "*.... risked their lives above and beyond the call of duty*"

while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.” Each recipient’s story is absolutely remarkable. I would encourage anyone who has not visited the memorial to make a point to do so.

While the monument commemorates the lives and heroic achievements of eight soldiers and Marines, the virtues it pays tribute to are not unique to our military. In fact, they can be found in any profession or segment of society. And, that is the message I want to emphasize in my remarks to you today. There are many, many forms of public service.

One of the people I most admire in history was General of the Army George C. Marshall. In many ways I have tried to emulate him throughout my career. Over a 50-year period, General Marshall served as chief of staff of the Army during WWI.... as a special presidential envoy in China.... as U.S. Secretary of State.... as president of the American Red Cross.... and as Secretary of Defense during the Korean Conflict. He was *Time Magazine’s* “Man of the Year” in 1943 and again in 1947. In 1953, he headed the United States delegation to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Later that year he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his post-war efforts.

General Marshall was the epitome of a soldier-statesman. When President Roosevelt asked him to serve as the 15th Chief of Staff of the Army, he simply replied: *“I will give you the best I have.”* And, he most certainly did.

Not everyone—*in fact, very few*—will reach the levels achieved by General Marshall.... or serve for as many years. Some choose public service as a career, others for a shorter period of time. And, that’s okay. I’ll be honest—when I joined the Army in 1972 my plan was to finish my commitment in four years, get out, and do something entirely different. In fact, they had processed my separation paperwork and I had a job lined up in Portland.

Then the Army came to me and offered the opportunity to come here to UW for a couple of years, earn a master’s degree, before heading off to teach at the United States Military Academy. I took them up on their offer.... I had an absolutely fantastic time during those two years here at UW and during the six years I spent at West Point. And, I haven’t looked back since.

Over the past 38 years, I have been very, very fortunate.... I’ve had the opportunity and privilege of leading soldiers, America’s sons and daughters—*in peacetime and in combat*. I am incredibly proud of all that they’ve accomplished, particularly over the past eight-plus years in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have made tremendous progress, and many of their most important achievements have been towards improving the lives of the people living and working in both theaters.

I will tell you—they’re tired.... Many of our junior non-commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers have deployed two, three, four—in some cases even five times—*on 12- to 15-month rotations!* But, they continue to go without complaint.... they leave their families and comforts of home behind.... and bravely risk their lives.... to get the job done.

I wear flashy stars and ribbons on my uniform; I have a big office at the Pentagon and a long, prestigious title as vice chief of staff of the Army. But, the absolute truth is my success is every bit a reflection of their success. I may come up with a strategy or a plan, but they are the ones on the ground.... *“looking the devil in the eye”*.... making it happen.

Over the course of the two years I spent in Iraq I lost 650 Soldiers. I think about them every... single... day. I would trade all of the medals and ribbons on my chest and every bit of rank to get even one of them back. They were men and women.... husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters.... privates, sergeants, second lieutenants, colonels.... infantryman, gunners, logisticians, engineers. The one thing they all had in common was a devotion to a cause greater than self. The contributions each of them made may have been different, yet they were equally important.

I am often reminded of the famous, rousing speech General George S. Patton, Jr. delivered to the men of Third Army on June 5th, 1944, the eve of the Allied invasion of France. He told the men assembled:

“All of the real heroes are not storybook combat fighters.... Every single man in this Army plays a vital role. Don't ever let up. Don't ever think that your job is unimportant. Every man has a job to do and he must do it. Every man is a vital link in the great chain.”

This is absolutely true, and it doesn't apply just to soldiers and members of the military. The contributions made by the men and women who wear the uniform of this great nation are no more important or enduring than those of teachers, public defenders, members of law enforcement, first responders, researchers and scientists, humanitarian aid workers, Peace Corps volunteers, public policy experts, civil servants, religious and community leaders, and the list goes on and on.

Unfortunately, these individuals—*in spite of their remarkable achievements*—don't often receive the same level of notoriety or recognition for their efforts as public figures or uniformed personnel with very visible displays of rank and achievement. Yet, what many of them have accomplished is no less remarkable.

Ms. Nettie Craig Asberry is widely believed to be the first African American woman in the United States to receive a doctorate degree. She earned a Doctorate of Music in June of 1883 from the Kansas Conservatory of Music and Elocution.

After settling nearby in Tacoma, Washington she became the organist and choir director for the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church. She taught hundreds of young people music. She was also very active in protesting racial discrimination.

She was the founder of the Tacoma chapter of the NAACP in 1913; their first official act was to help defeat legislation that would ban interracial marriages.

Mrs. Asberry also began several African American women's clubs in Tacoma during the club movement. Near the end of her life she served as a volunteer social worker and as founder and president of the Allen Red Cross.

She was a truly remarkable woman, and certainly an individual worthy of emulation. Yet, many of you likely had not heard of her until today.

Mr. Takuji Yamashita emigrated to the United States from Japan in the 1890s. According to an article published in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in February 2001, Yamashita *"left his tiny Japanese fishing village for Seattle, determined to 'work for the public good' on the bustling American frontier."*

In 1902, he graduated with a law degree from the University of Washington law school and passed the state bar exam with distinction. But, the Washington Supreme Court barred him from practicing law solely because he was Asian. Mr. Yamashita took his own case to court, filing a 28-page brief. The Washington State Supreme Court's unanimous decision was that he was not eligible to be an American, and therefore could not practice law.

Over the next two decades, Mr. Yamashita opened restaurants along the waterfront in Seattle. However, Washington law barred Asians from owning or even leasing property. Yamashita attempted to get around this restriction by establishing a corporation, the Japanese Real Estate Holding, Company. When the Washington secretary of state refused the application, Yamashita took his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. It was eventually denied, and the law was not repealed until 1966.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the U.S. government interned Mr. Yamashita and his family in an internment camp. When he was released three years later, at age 70, he'd lost his businesses and virtually everything he owned. After the war, he worked as a live-in housekeeper in West Seattle, before he and his wife moved back to Japan in 1957.

Mr. Yamashita worked tirelessly throughout his life as a campaigner of civil rights, directly challenging three major barriers against Asians in the U.S.: citizenship, joining a profession, and owning land. In spite of the many great injustices he endured, he never gave up. In 1952, Congress changed the law to allow Japanese persons to become U.S. citizens. Nearly 50 years later, the UW School of Law, the Washington State Bar Association, and the Asian Bar Association of Washington successfully petitioned the state Supreme Court to admit Yamashita posthumously as an honorary member of the State Bar. Unfortunately he did not live to see the day, but many others have benefited from his courage and perseverance. Mr. Yamashita was also a truly remarkable individual; and, a person worthy of emulation. Yet, many of you probably had not heard of him until today.

The cause of public service is a noble one. Your goal as you continue on in your lives and careers should be to do what these remarkable individuals have done—*however you choose, in whatever capacity*—make a lasting contribution to the world.

One week ago today, the sports world lost a true legend, Coach John Wooden. He was 99-years-old; among his many achievements, he led the UCLA men's basketball team to 10 National Championships in 12 years. He taught his players invaluable lessons about the game of basketball....and life, to include the importance of hard work, discipline, character, loyalty, and—*most importantly*—unwavering integrity.

Coach Wooden famously said: *"It isn't what you do, but how you do it."* In other words, whatever you choose to do, do it the very best you possibly can. Whether you spend a career in public service or a shorter period of time, make the most of it. I can assure you, you will get far more from the experience than you can possibly imagine. It will bring you tremendous satisfaction 30-, 40-, 50-, 60-years from now when you're sitting in your rocking chair reflecting back on your life.

Now—as *your friends and colleagues may point out*—you're not likely to get rich in public service. But, as television journalist and author Tom Brokaw quipped, *"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."*

And, that—*my fellow Huskies*—should be our shared ambition.

Best of luck to all of you....thank you again for the opportunity to join you here on this very, very special occasion. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement!

Go Huskies!