

Hamilton promotes UA funding, liberal arts skills

by Thane Kelly
WHALESONG REPORTER

President Hamilton walked in, extra large espresso drink in his hand, to deliver a speech in the Egan lecture hall last week on funding. The room was about half full, mostly with older adults and perhaps ten people under thirty nestled into the audience.

Hamilton described his job as, “wandering around asking for money, which is incredibly boring.” He talked about his goal of fixing something significant before he leaves. He also stated that he feels we should re-negotiate our contract with the state, because all economic development evolves by passing through the university system, training our workforce and elevating the economic opportunities for the community. Hamilton pointed out that while federal grant funding has doubled over the past five years, the state funding has decreased by 40 percent.

Another point Hamilton brought up was the relative value of a degree, in the eyes of future employers. According to Hamilton, in 1950, roughly 20 percent of all U.S. jobs required a four-year degree. By 2004, this statistic increased a whopping two percent. As he also pointed out that the founders of Microsoft were college dropouts, who, after learning what they could, left without a degree. Hamilton also stated that the typical business response is that it takes two to three

years for a new college graduate to become efficient in their jobs. Because of these issues, Hamilton stated that we “need to take a good hard look at vocation.” Hamilton suggested that after students graduate, there should be a continuation of the training process, through apprenticeships and other employment opportunities.

The next topic was the importance of liberal arts in general. The general message was that even vocational students, business degree seekers or non-liberal arts majors can gain a lot from the basic education and well-rounded nature of liberal arts. Hamilton also discussed the criteria that most employers are looking for in a new graduate. The most important traits are honesty, discipline, good communication skills, and the ability to read for content. Technical skills are not as important, since they are usually developed on the job anyway.

As Hamilton pointed out during the questions and answers section, the study of Liberal Arts was embraced by our founding fathers as a course of study to prepare people to contribute in a free society. It’s not about being liberal politically. It’s about being more than a worker bee when you get out of school. Graduates are also going to be members of their community, voters and citizens. In order to be competent and effective at these broad levels requires a broad educational base. 🐋

UAS 🐋 POLITICAL 🐋 PUZZLER!

ACROSS

1. The election before the official election
7. Ancient form of Japanese poetry
8. Second Amendment organization
9. A speaker does this
11. First name of our governor
12. Before, to a poet
13. Exists
14. Southern vegetable
16. Not up
17. You ride it down a snowy hill
20. Number of candidates who win
22. As in Bering or Red
24. Chicken ___ king (2)
25. Stomach muscle, singular
26. Kentucky
27. Detention
28. Yes in Russian
29. Slang for Diamond
30. A type of cheese
32. Military student
34. We live in this kind of country
35. Greek god of war

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DOWN

1. Those who are running face off in ____
2. Rhode Island
3. Variation in spelling for icon
4. Winner of the republican senate primary
5. When you are the voter, you are also this
6. One who is running for an office
10. Spans of memorable time
11. Common name for your dog
15. “On bended _____”
16. When two candidates face off
18. This group was first allowed to vote in 1919
19. To choose
21. Green party candidate
23. Much debated wildlife/oil acronym
30. Fantastic Four, AKA
31. Channel that specializes in biography
32. California abbreviation
33. Crème ___ la crème (really good)

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