



AIA
Quote of the
Month

page 4



Marquette
University
Still Critical
of Suspended
Professor John
McAdams

page 2



Trump Studies
Proliferate

page 3

CAMPUS REPORT

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Moving the Tassel Further by the Decade

By Malcolm A. Kline

A few years back, a commencement speaker mused from the podium that he hoped the movement of the tassel from right to left was a political metaphor.

His wish appears to have come true, at least in presidential elections until last year. On the speaking side of the podium, the dominance of progressives at Graduation Day ceremonies is a topic that preoccupies right-leaning groups such as ours every spring.

Nevertheless, to the casual reader, this annual trend that we've chronicled might, for the attention they are able to give it, occur with the frequency of a solar eclipse. We decided to do our own review of commencements in the recent past to see if that were indeed the case.

Every year, we look at all the available information we can glean on the roster of commencement speakers at American colleges and universities in order to ascertain whether or not lectures reflect academia as we know it. In other words, we want to see if they tilt as far Left politically as it does.

In this issue, we took a gander at three colleges and universities local to us in Washington, D. C., namely, American, Georgetown and George Washington. Also, we took a look at most of the Ivy League—specifically Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Penn, Dartmouth and Princeton. Also, we threw in Stanford, Duke and MIT.

For openers, at American University, AU proudly proclaims that past commencement speakers include "U.S. presidents: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton." You might notice that only one of these is a Republican despite the fact that in the half century covered by the proclamation, nearly half a dozen Republican presidents have occupied the White House.



At Georgetown, Obama Administration officials dominated the rostrum in the past decade while the Republican administrations that preceded and succeeded the Obama government were nowhere nearly as well represented. Since 2012, Obama cabinet officials who have shared their wisdom with graduating Hoyas included former Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, former Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew and former Defense Secretary Robert Gates. We should note that Elaine Chao, who served in the administration of George W. Bush as Labor Secretary, spoke at the Business School at Georgetown in 2015.

During the Obama years, both Michelle Obama (2010) and Rahm Emanuel (2009) spoke at George Washington University as did U. S. Senator Cory Booker, D-NJ. (By the way, Booker also did the honors at Penn last year and at Stanford in 2012.) In fact, the last reported commencement sighting of Republicans at GWU commencements was more than a decade ago in 2006 when both former President George H. W. Bush and Barbara Bush came to the campus.

Interestingly the Obama Administration alumni most in

continues on page 3

Marquette University Still Critical of Suspended Professor John McAdams

By Spencer Reed Irvine



Professor John McAdams, who last taught at Marquette University in 2014, has been placed on indefinite and unpaid suspension over a blog he wrote. McAdams is a conservative professor at the private, Jesuit Catholic, Wisconsin-based university and was embroiled in controversy when he wrote a blog critical of a graduate student.

In the blog, McAdams criticized a graduate student who instructed a class, which a different student recorded. The graduate student, during the class, told another student that he could not disagree with her opinion on same-sex marriage in her theory of ethics class. Her reasoning was that disagreeing with her opinion was homophobic and offensive. McAdams' opinion, which apparently offended the university administration, went along the lines that the graduate student was discouraging freedom of speech and her opinion contradicted Catholic moral values.

The Marquette University administration reviewed his-



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case and suspended him indefinitely. University President Michael Lovell ordered McAdams to apologize to the graduate student and the other student McAdams involved, which McAdams refused to do and remained suspended without pay. McAdams sued the university on the grounds that the university sought to fire him, despite his tenure status. McAdams' suit is currently being considered by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Despite the civil case being heard at the state's highest court, the university has allegedly run advertisements on Google, a global web search engine, which try to bolster the university's case against McAdams. McAdams sent Google advertisements which make the university's case that they were correct for suspending McAdams to *The College Fix*. For example, the university claimed it is being transparent in its suspension and review process, despite McAdams' claims to the contrary.

McAdams' case is supported by the American Association of University Professors (The AAUP), which does not share his views, as a case of freedom of speech, as it could set a dangerous precedent for universities to punish or fire professors for exercising their freedom of speech. The AAUP, in a brief filed in support of McAdams, asked the state supreme court to "protect those who express controversial views from discipline and the silencing of their voices, thereby advancing the cause of academic freedom." The AAUP also pointed out that the university issued unilateral punishment that singled out McAdams by requiring him to apologize to the graduate student, in addition to the university hearing committee finding that McAdams' blog was protected free speech and did not recommend firing McAdams.

A Note to our Readers

Thank you for your support!

Please use the enclosed card to make an additional donation so that Accuracy in Academia can continue to be your campus watchdog.

Respectfully,
Don Irvine
Chairman

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continued from front page

demand, at least from the looks of his speaking schedule, is former Vice-President Joe Biden, who is also, arguably, the least cerebral. Perhaps it's because nobody knows what he is going to say next, including, it seems, him. Then again, maybe it's because he's always available.

Just last year, he spoke at Colby College, Cornell and Harvard, along with many other engagements on the college lecture circuit. "Biden told an audience at Colgate University in March that he regretted not running for president in 2016," Kelly Cohen reported in *The Washington Examiner* on April 17, 2017.

This year, U. S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Georgia, is giving the commencement addresses at Harvard as well as at Cal Tech and the University of California at San Diego. Liberals may be in danger of jet lag during commencement season but it is a malady which is not likely to afflict conservatives.

When he was governor, Democrat Deval Patrick could

be counted to make appearances at famous Bay State institutions such as Harvard and MIT.

The Ivy Leagues draw more media types than professional politicians, although they are far from apolitical, and even less likely to be politically conservative, as the archives at our sister organization—Accuracy in Media—show. For example, Jeff Bezos, Katie Couric and Stephen Colbert spoke at Princeton in 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

More recently, Mark Zuckerberg, Stephen Spielberg, Michael Bloomberg, Oprah Winfrey and CNN's Fareed Zakaria spoke at Harvard in 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013 and 2012. Winfrey and Zakaria have also done the honors at Duke. Bloomberg also gave the bon voyage speech at Stanford in 2013.

Jake Tapper, David Brooks and Conan O'Brien gave the sendoff at Dartmouth in 2017, 2015 and 2011.

When Biology Bows to Ideology

By Alex Nitzberg



Many colleges across the country exalt leftist gender ideology over biology. Consider this: There are all-women colleges allowing males into their ranks if those males identify as females.

Smith College, which has an undergraduate program only for women, will admit biological men who identify as women but will not admit biological women who identify as men.

Mount Holyoke College allows both biological women who identify as men and biological men who identify as women to apply. The school says it "remains committed to its historic mission as a women's college. Yet, we recognize that what it means to be a woman is not static. Traditional binaries around who counts as a man or woman are being challenged by those whose gender identity does not conform

to their biology."

This institution includes "Gender Neutral/Affirming Ways to Address Your Class" on its website. Following are two of the bullet points:

- "When discussing the student body, say 'Mount Holyoke students' rather than 'Mount Holyoke women.'"
- "Avoid making statements like 'We're all women here...,' or referring to '...the two genders...'"

Many colleges also subscribe to gender bending ideology. Some college websites contain information about pronouns and say that people should ask others which pronouns they prefer. Emerson College's website says that "When someone is referred to with the wrong pronoun, it can make them feel invalidated, dismissed, and alienated. It is as if their very essence has been erased."

And consider this utter dearth of decorum at the University of Maryland—the "Sex Week" student organization's "Sex Week" events included an event so debased that it illustrates the definition of impropriety: A "Condom Fashion Show," which is a fashion show consisting of clothes constructed out of condoms. And sadly, 2018 not the first time this revolting "fashion show" event has occurred—it's the sixth. This "Sex Week" event is also listed in the college's "Pride Month 2018 Calendar of Events."

Alex Nitzberg is a freelance conservative journalist and commentator and the host of The Alex Nitzberg Show podcast. He was formerly an intern at the American Journalism Center.

Trump Studies Proliferate

By Malcolm A Kline

He may not be welcome on many campuses but the president has increasingly become a preoccupation of academics.

Combining their love of the exotic with their increasing emphasis on political action, often at the expense of actual higher education, colleges and universities are making our chief executive the centerpiece of college courses. Leaving aside the emphasis placed on the Trump Administration in other courses and conferences, to which we have devoted



three issues of this newsletter, we found a sextet of courses actually named after him, at least initially, a distinction not even the troubled Trump University could claim:

- In this school year, Amherst College offered a special seminar called Trump Point/Counterpoint. “This course looks at the Trump Administration from a variety of inter-

disciplinary perspectives—political science, race and ethnicity, gun rights, culture and the media, religious affiliation, global and local labor trends, gender and reproductive rights, internationalism and foreign relations, linguistics and the arts—offering a forum whereby to ponder, in civil fashion, the clashing liberal and conservative viewpoints that define the United States and the world today,” the course description reads. “The framework will rotate around the legacy of the Enlightenment as well as theories of individualism, free enterprise, First Amendment rights, American exceptionalism, and neo-liberalism, among others.”

- The University of Oregon offers an honors course called “The Rhetoric of Racial Reconciliation: Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and the Promise of Intersectionality.” In case the word “intersectionality” doesn’t give you a big hint, the course description, from the get go, makes clear where the class is heading: “This course centers on the rhetoric of race, adaptive racism, adaptive anti-racism, and racial reconciliation. Barack Obama’s forty speeches on race during his two terms as president and the discourse of Donald Trump’s white identity movement will serve as the primary texts for the course.”
- Rutgers has offered its own honors course on The Trump Phenomenon. This course description gives a pretty good idea of what the university expects of honors students who enroll in it: “The surprise election of Donald Trump has created an urgent need to reexamine American history and current politics to understand what forces brought us here. The historically unprecedented nature of Trump’s election hardly requires restatement: In defiance of virtually all polling and expert prediction, the nation elected its first president completely lacking in political or military experience; unschooled in policy and uninterested in articulating a detailed program beyond a few demagogic promises; fervently resisted by many if not most of the leading voices in his own political party, as well as the opposition; heedless of all the rules and conventions of not just politics but of civil society; and infamous for

personal and public behaviors that cast doubt on his honesty, competence, respect for law, and even mental stability.”

- “Trump: Impeachment, Removal, or Conviction,” a course at San Diego State University, was renamed by administrators. “In retrospect, we realize the title of the course, ‘Trump: Impeachment, Removal, or Conviction?’ is inconsistent with the course content described,” a university statement stated in February. “As a result, the title will be amended to accurately reflect this course offered now and for future offerings of this course. The course presents an overall framework of impeachment, removal, or criminal investigation of a president and rather than focusing on President Trump, reviews all 19 impeachments in U.S. history. The one-unit, weekend class is not a requirement for graduation and is not paid for by state funds.” Currently, no course information is available on the SDSU website and registration is closed.
- Last year, Butler University in Indiana offered a course called “Trumpism & U.S. Democracy.” This year, the course cannot be found on the university website.
- During the 2016 campaign, Savannah State University in Georgia offered a special summer course called The Trump Factor in American Politics.

As we noted earlier, even when the president is not mentioned in the title, you often don’t have to go very far in the course description to find a broadside against him. For example, the description of a course at Brown University on “The Struggle (against) Civil Rights: From the Civil War to Now” begins “The history of race in America is often told as a linear story of progress, beginning with the emancipation of slaves during the Civil War, continuing with the expansion of civil rights in the twentieth century, and culminating with the election (and re-election) of Barack Obama. After his two-term presidency, when many imagined, briefly, that we had entered a post-racial period in American history, the rise in white nationalistic rhetoric (and not only rhetoric) and the election of Donald Trump was a surprise for many.”

Malcolm A. Kline is the Executive Director of Accuracy in Academia in Washington, D.C.

Quote of the Month

“I think that a lot of what happens at universities happens because we self-censor.”—Mollie Ziegler Hemingway, senior editor, *The Federalist*.