



The Hampden-Sydney men at Discovery School: Chris Russo '03, Chris Yates '73, Gordon Yowell '01, and Gordon Johnson '97.

At Hampden-Sydney College they discovered that education is not a luxury: it is the hope of the world.

IN A REMOTE CORNER of a remote county in Virginia, teenagers are stripping bark from a felled tree—a replacement pole for one of the big tents which the boys build themselves, without power tools. Labeled “problem children,” these boys eat, sleep, and work together in order to earn the right to attend academic classes.

“These kids got ahead by manipulating the angles,” says CHRIS YATES ’73, who founded the Discovery School of Virginia, a year-round

therapeutic program for bright but behaviorally-challenged teenage boys. “But out here, there are no angles.”

Several Hampden-Sydney men have worked at the Discovery School. History major CHRIS RUSSO ’03 became a group leader shortly after graduating from Hampden-Sydney. He lived and worked with ten students in the wilderness, teaching outdoor skills, leading work routines, planning adventure activities, and helping students grow emotionally.

GORDON JOHNSON ’97, who also majored in history, taught formal academic classes at the Discovery School. “These guys used to hate school,” he recalls. “But as they came to see each class as a privilege, they wanted to succeed.”

GORDON YOWELL ’01, religion major and former assistant dean of admissions at Hampden-Sydney, was a liaison between the students and their families, helping to reintegrate the students into home life.

CODY WHITE ’05 spent much of the second semester of his junior year on an internship at the Discovery School. Yates says the school looks for interns from Hampden-Sydney. “Men who can teach boys the right way to do things and the

importance of honesty and integrity in their lives are always needed; these are the kind of men Hampden-Sydney produces.”

CARLOS ALVARENGA ’90 is an executive for a global technology firm based in Asia. In the upper echelons of this competitive profession, people with business degrees from Harvard, Yale, and Wharton are the norm. So this may seem an unlikely position for a Greek and Humanities major from Hampden-Sydney.

Not so, says Carlos.

“Hampden-Sydney teaches you to read and communicate well. With that, you can do anything.” Including, in his case, being a Vice President and Global Supply Chain Practice Leader for Satyam Ltd.—and teaching nowadays at the same schools his colleagues once attended, as well as in MBA programs in India and China.

The backstory? Carlos was two years into a Ph.D. program in classics at Cornell—where he



Carlos Alvarenga '90 has used his liberal arts skills in journalism, graduate school, and business.

had won a fellowship—when the civil war in his native El Salvador ended. He immediately packed up his car and headed south.

There he took over a bankrupt newspaper, which was operating out of a hotel basement because its original offices had been bombed by insurgents. Two years later, *The El Salvador News* had sixty employees and was being sold in four countries.

Carlos introduced real political reporting to the war-torn country; his newspaper played a central role in exposing political corruption.

Having helped rebuild the country, he headed back to the States. After writing a book on economic conditions in Latin America, Carlos used his liberal arts background to storm up the ranks, first in consulting, then in business.

“Sometimes you have fifteen minutes to convince a client to trust you with a multi-million-dollar deal,” he says. “They don’t care how well you

did in finance class. What’s important is understanding your client and articulating your ideas clearly.”

“A lot of my colleagues have told me, ‘I don’t know where you went to school, but you have one of the best college educations I’ve ever seen.’

“And I agree with that,” Carlos says. “I rank it on par with Harvard and Yale. At Hampden-Sydney College, you can get a tier-one education.”

You can do anything with a degree from Hampden-Sydney College.

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

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“This Place Ignited a Fire in Me.”

ALUMNI TELL HOW HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE CHANGED THEIR LIVES



DREW KENNEDY ’02, A HISTORY MAJOR, WAS INSPIRED BY WRITING A

REPORT IN FINE ARTS CLASS TO BECOME A TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER-SONGWRITER. HIS “DOLLAR THEATRE MOVIE” CD SCORED 25 ON THE CHARTS.