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Presidential Scholars Notes

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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Leadership

- No question each of you will be leaders
- Leaders of organizations
- Leaders in your disciplines

Passion--there, I've taken care of the PC part. What I really want to do is exhort each of you to find the work, mission or role that excites you. Find it, nurture it, channel that passion and let it direct you and guide you through the difficult choices in your life.

Story about the National Cathedral window architect.

Story about Dunn's own career path--didn't quite have it identified when he began his professional career.

More personal details.

The wrinkle--other people have found their passion and that passion may be in direct conflict with yours.

- Need to find ways to hold fast and be true to what you know
- Need to respect the passionately-held positions of others

The passionately-held positions of others are not always valid and do not always require the courtesy of your time--but they do require the courtesy of a basic hearing and consideration.
An invitation to talk or a willingness to listen does not constitute and endorsement.

This may be the critical message for young people of our time. We've not set a good example for you. What passes for debate and a fair hearing of opposing opinion today is more like a shouting match--often one dripping with sarcasm and poorly concealed contempt.

Antioch example as one revered to this day as an effective way to handle those poorly conceived passions of others.

Revolution vs. Evolution

“People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.”

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross quotes (Swiss-American psychiatrist and author)