

The Craig Ellison Scholarship Fund

Preserving a Legacy



Preserving the Legacy of Dr. Craig Ellison, Founder of the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling

The Alliance Graduate School of Counseling (AGSC) began in 1982 as a concept that Dr. Craig Ellison envisioned for a master's level counseling program to train future counselors passionate about addressing the psycho-spiritual needs of hurting people in the church, on the mission field, in urban centers, and in local communities.

Craig Ellison's death on March 13, 2012 was a loss felt deeply by many. Less than a year after his passing, a team of AGSC alumni mobilized to honor the pioneering founder with the goal of establishing an endowed scholarship in his name.

Why endow the Craig Ellison Scholarship Fund?

Today AGSC is the fastest growing Christian counseling program on the East Coast. From its inception in 1999 on the Rockland County campus in Nyack with just 18 students, AGSC expanded the program to New York City in 2002, and now educates nearly 300 students on both New York campuses.

The success of AGSC graduates speaks volumes about the quality of the program. AGSC alumni consistently perform above average on the national counselor exam compared to graduates of other American master's degree counseling programs. Some graduates have gone directly to doctoral programs in mental health. Some administrate community-based

service programs or have created faith-based initiatives. Many have contributed to professional publications.

The Craig Ellison Scholarship Fund will also be an effective tool to enhance AGSC's recruitment and retention efforts.

How can you honor the legacy of Dr. Ellison?

Dr. Ellison had you in mind when he committed to developing the best possible degree program for men and women who would walk alongside troubled, hurting people in search of comfort and victory. Every AGSC graduate is the beneficiary of this life-transforming program and so are the individuals who will be ministered to by these clinicians.

The Craig Ellison Scholarship Fund is a tremendous opportunity for students, alumni, colleagues, and friends of AGSC to invest in a program that will provide financial assistance to deserving students who are pursuing their dream of earning a counseling degree.

No gift is too small and every contribution ensures that the name and work of Dr. Ellison will continue to be honored as generations of students benefit from this resource.

Contribute to the Craig Ellison Scholarship Fund:

Online: www.nyack.edu/givenow

By Phone: 866.721.7946

By Mail: Nyack/ATS Office of the President
1 South Boulevard, Nyack, NY 10960

YES, I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CRAIG ELLISON SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

with a gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other: \$_____

Name: _____ Check (made payable to Nyack College)
Street Address: _____ VISA MasterCard Discover
City, State, Zip: _____ Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____
Phone Number: _____ Exp. Date: __ / __ / __ CID: ____
Email Address: _____ Name on Card: _____



Please mail this form with your gift enclosed to:

Nyack College Office of the President
1 South Boulevard, Nyack, NY 10960
All gifts are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged with a receipt. Thank you!

A TREASURED WORD FROM OUR AGSC FOUNDER "Life is Like a File Cabinet: BE YOURSELF!" by Dr. Craig Ellison

Did you ever have a talk with your file cabinet? It has an incredible amount to tell you.

A couple of years ago, I was musing over my file cabinet and began to think about how much it had taught me about life. I had the God-given gift of relationships with many very well-known people, which was wonderful but for a while had me wondering why I couldn't have some of their talents. No matter how I longed to be like these brothers and sisters, I was just me...trying to teach like Paul Siu, Bryan Widbin or many of you...no such success! I wanted to be a prize-winning author, but Gary Collins, Jim Dobson and Tim Clinton, among others, were my competition.

This caused me to be dissatisfied with the contributions I had been able to make through my discipline. The result of these comparisons was that I felt very incompetent until I began to notice that my file cabinet was really the history of my life, not a reservoir of what I had done or had not done competitively. Slowly but surely, I began to change my view of the file cabinet and see it as a reservoir of the gifts that God had given specifically to me and I began to enjoy them as well as affirm others of the gift packages God had given them.



It's very easy in academia to be dissatisfied with ourselves because we are being constantly compared to others and we compare ourselves with others. It's important to remember that God has made each of us with special gifts and abilities, to cultivate those abilities and to accept ourselves as He has made us. I have been highly impressed during the last 25 years here at Nyack and ATS with the high quality of faculty, administration and staff members that we have here. We may not be Harvard, but we'll give them a good run for it, just by being ourselves and following the gift track that God has given to us! In addition, we have the prospect of God's "well done." We're not just academicians but we're His servants as well. Let me encourage you to keep on with a heart of gratitude for what God is doing in your life, even if it doesn't look or sound ritzy. When my life comes to an end, what matters most are family and people I've loved and the Lord I've served, not so much what I've produced.