

The Success of Homeschool Graduates
by Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

Qualifications

- Helped Develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes homeschooling materials through Berean Builders
- Is an adjunct professor at Anderson University

NAME: Christopher Stout

Education: Homeschooled K-12 Graduated with Honors, USC Film School

Occupation: Creative Director of The Story Locker

He looked at USC and the “reasonable” option, University of Delaware. “The time had now TRULY come for my parents to put their money where their mouth was. Either all things were possible for me, or all things within reason. Either greater was He who is in me than He who is in the world, or greater was He than pretty much everything but the darkness in Hollywood.”

“I’m just getting started on this whole life thing, and there’s not a whole lot of wisdom I have to impart from experience, but my experiences have encouraged me to confidently assert one thing – **trust your kids**. If my generation is called to make disciples of the nations, we’re going to have to get our hands dirty. We might have to go to college with tax collectors and sinners...I’m confident that there was no better place to learn how to do that than at the front line of the battle between light and darkness.”

Stout’s film company has landed contracts for commercials, viral videos, and documentaries. Their short film *Nimrod* is a story about redemptive love, and it premiered on 5/9/2009 to rave reviews.

NAME: Naomi Thomson

Education: Homeschooled K-12

Occupation: Owner, Silver Spoon Cakes

As a **homeschool assignment from her father**, she started her business, which has now serviced over 100 events, mostly weddings.

“Home schooling has been my life. It was not a time in my life spent behind a desk listening to someone teach me; my school experience has been at home. Learning about life in the context of life.”

“Dad always said, ‘They need to learn how to think.’ I have learned to use my head, practically, academically, and spiritually. I have learned how to learn, and as a result of that, my ‘Homeschool’ experience is not just something that has been in my life, but it is something that

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continues in my life...I've been given the responsibility of my own mind. Which has been one of the greatest burdens, and greatest blessings, I have ever been given.”

“Thinking back, I love that every childhood memory I have is at home with my family...I have lived a homeschooled life; and what a joy it has been! I consider myself very blessed.”

NAME: REDACTED

Education: Homeschooled K-12 University: **REDACTED**

Occupation: Active spy for a U.S. government contractor

She was thinking about being a speechwriter for elected officials or being a part of a public policy team before going to college. She majored in Government at **REDACTED**.

“I never guessed in a million years I would be doing this, but God has worked it out so well.” Homeschooling helped her learn how to learn independently, and “...that skill is universal.” It helped her learn how to interact with lots of different kinds of people, and that helped her in college and helps her in her work today.

“I went to...school...[with] homeschoolers and have watched them go out to the workplace, and **THEY STAND OUT**. There is no question about it. They don't have the baggage that others have. They know how to think and how to learn, and that's an incredible gift.”

“I remember times when we were doing math, and I was in tears; my mom was in tears. But it was so worth it. I have been given such an amazing gift.”

NAME: Dr. Brandon P. Brown

Education: Homeschooled K-12, Graduated with Honors, (premed) Univ. of Dallas, (MD and Mst. Philosophy) Indiana University

Occupation: Practicing Physician, Pediatric Radiology

In early high school, he thought he was going into politics, preferably as an elected official. In 10th grade, he took a chemistry course, and all that changed. He eventually decided to be a physician, but to blend it with political science by also getting a masters in philosophy (bioethics concentration).

While he loves being a doctor and helping people one-on-one, he considers one of his greatest achievements to be a chapter he co-wrote in the book *The Ethics of Embryo Adoption and the Catholic Tradition* (edited by Sarah Vaughan Brakman). A while after the book was published, the publisher (Springer) received a letter from the Vatican, thanking the publisher for the book and indicating that it helped the Vatican form its official statement on frozen embryos.

“I wouldn't be where am I today if I hadn't been homeschooled.”

NAME: Nathan P. Hay

Education: Homeschooled K-12 Graduated (EE) Cedarville Univ.

Occupation: Network Engineer

Nathan initially thought he would a pure electrical engineer, working on hardware systems. The more he got experience in Information Technology, the more interested he became in it.

He took a fifth year at Cedarville in order to get several certifications for network engineering, and decided to stay at Cedarville because he liked it. He took over his boss's job.

Homeschooling helped him to be independent, both as a student and as a network engineer. In the job he is doing now, he is the ONLY person who can do what he does. Thus, there is no one who can “supervise” him in the traditional sense. He does a lot of decision-making in terms of computer initiatives and upgrades.

He is working on his Masters in Information Security through Nova Southeastern (FL) distance learning. Since it is much like homeschooling, Nathan feels perfectly “at home” with his masters work.

He says he thinks his math was not quite up to speed with his fellow students, but **“Because homeschooling taught me how to learn independently, I quickly caught up to them.”**

NAME: Rebecca Christopher

Education: Homeschooled K-12 Graduated (His) Asbury Coll., (Gov.) PHC, (Law) Indiana University

Occupation: Full-Time Mother

Her parents were true pioneers in Indiana homeschooling. They homeschooled before it was clearly legal in the state. This was back when Abeka would not sell to homeschoolers. She wanted to become a judge so she could make court rulings based on a Biblical standard.

When she was about to graduate from Asbury, she heard about PHC and thought what it was doing would help her be a better lawyer. She also was excited about being part of a college's inaugural class. She interned with the RNC on Capitol Hill while a student at PHC.

While in Law school, she met Jonathan and married him within 10 months. She began work at the clerk's office in the Indiana Supreme Court's appeals division. When she learned she was pregnant, she worked up until two weeks before delivery.

She is not sure what she will do with her law degree now. She plans to stay at home and home school all her children.

NAME: Victoria Miller

Education: Homeschooled K-12, B.A., Elementary Education

Occupation: Elementary School Teacher

She had a lot of college credits before coming to university, so she graduated after having been a student for only three years.

She did not accept credits for any classes related to education, but she did take credits for unrelated courses.

One reason she wants to be a teacher is that homeschooling instilled in her a deep appreciation for how important education is.

At the same time, however, she wasn't prepared for the diversity of views that exist among her peers, even at a Christian university.

“Find the balance for your children so that they have a strong faith in Jesus while at the same time having exposure to others besides just homeschoolers. They need to be able to converse with unbelievers and other people outside of their realm. It helps mature your children and prepare them for life outside of school...You might not be useful for Jesus if you continue to be shocked about what's going on.”

This is the wisest thing she said to me: “Make sure that you don't think your ways are always right. Sometimes, we can get so focused on our walk with God that we forget to be open minded in a healthy way.”

This has all sorts of applications to education and to our spiritual lives.

Think of the Pharisees. They were absolutely certain they were right. Even though they knew the Scriptures better than anyone, they did not recognize the Messiah!

NAME: Robert Rowlett

Education: Homeschooled K-12, Political Science BA, Law degree (honors), Indiana U.

Occupation: Deputy Attorney General, Indiana

Like Victoria, he was not ready for the immoral behavior of some of his fellow students (at a Christian University).

“Continue to stress with your children that when they go to college, they will have a lot of opportunit[ies] to make bad choices...Tell them, “When you see all of your friends going to the bar, and they are all underage...just don't be stupid. Don't go.”

He has this advice for university students, which also applies to life in general:

“Focus on the things that you have skills in, but don't be afraid to move around. I switched majors. I started in biology, switched around, and still graduated early. If you get in marketing, for example, and hate it and want to switch to psychology or dance, do it.”

NAME: Sydnee Tuckett

Education: Homeschooled K-12

Occupation After Homeschool: African orphanage supervisor

When Sydnee was **17**, she graduated homeschool and decided to follow the Lord's leading to work in an orphanage in **Monrovia, Liberia (Africa)**. The orphanage specializes in adoptions, mostly to foreigners.

“My parents were not all that crazy about the idea at first, but after a lot of prayer, they came around. I am so glad they did.”

“I saw parents meet their children for the first time today... for this I was tearing up. These parents have waited so long, taken out loans, done so much paper work, have loved so much even when they have never even met the child.”

The orphanage has a hospital, and Syndee helped there as well. She watched children die, watched parents scream at God for taking their babies. One particular parent was so exhausted by her outbursts, Sydnee gave this woman her own bed to sleep in until she was rested enough to walk home.

When I asked her if it was hard to adjust to the culture she said, “Yes...when I got back. In Africa, it’s all about relationships. Strangers talk to you because they care. Here (in Canada), no one cares about strangers.”