



GWU Investigation of PhD Awarded to Ann Blake Tracy

Cause for Inquiry

It has come to the attention of the GWU administration and Board of Trustees that the PhD in Health Science (also annotated as Psychology) awarded in 1995 to an alumnus by the name of Ann Blake Tracy was given despite such a degree program never being offered in the GWU course catalog. By Tracy's own account in the Deseret News, she also appears to admit that she performed no coursework for this degree, but merely received experiential credit for a previously written book. This casts doubt on the legitimacy of this PhD and has prompted an investigation in accordance with the GWU Policy and Procedure for Degree and Credit Revocation. Both the acceptance and issuance of such degrees constitutes a violation of Section 13-34-104 of Utah law by the individuals involved. Furthermore, Tracy publicly mentions this degree on various websites and other publications through which she presents herself as an authority in the field of psychology with regard to the safety of medical mental health treatments, in particular those medication protocols related to clinical depression. Given the public nature of Tracy's actions and the potential risk to others who may be relying upon her purported expertise, the GWU administration has elected to act on section D, the Expedited Alternate Procedure of the aforementioned policy. Below is the evidence for consideration as discovered by GWU administrators for deliberation in the Executive Review Hearing.

Exhibit A

A letter sent from Oliver DeMille (acting as provost) to Ann Tracy dated March 11, 1994 in which, despite Tracy never having enrolled or participated in coursework at GWU, DeMille informs Tracy that her submitted "portfolio, life experience, and written materials . . . 'earned' 129 academic credits . . . enough for a Bachelors Degree." This is followed by "Congratulations on finishing your degree!"

Exhibit B

A letter sent from Oliver DeMille to Ann Tracy dated three months later on June 29, 1994. DeMille states that the college is willing to accept Tracy's recently published "Prozac: Panacea or Pandora?" as a thesis for a Masters degree or as a dissertation for a PhD, which ever she would prefer, and that she would therefore be finished with that degree. Two different MA options are offered to Tracy: one in Christian Counseling and another in Education. The PhD offered is in Psychology, a degree not found in the course catalog and lacking the religious description required for GWC to claim religious exemption from the Utah Proprietary Schools Act. DeMille's offer for Tracy to choose her degree *retroactively*, after those credits allegedly were earned, clearly demonstrates a violation of proper protocols defined by law and to which other GWU students have conformed. Proper legal protocol requires students to follow a written path to

any degree outlined in advance in a formal program in the course catalog prior to the awarding of degrees.

Exhibit C

Official transcript of Ann Tracy dated December 30, 2000. In addition to transfer credit toward her BA, 65 hours of life experience credit, course credit is noted as occurring through a course numbered as PSY795R. According to two registrars, no such course existed in the catalog or was offered at GWC. This discrepancy is consistent with the letter in Exhibit B which points to the fabrication and awarding of these credits after the fact.

Exhibit D

The transcript of Ann Tracy in the present system. The course numbered PSY795R has been renamed R-RS796 Political Research. Given that the prior course number didn't exist, this actual number was chosen by the registrar in an attempt to approximate the most logical fit in the category of course credit. The prior letters, however, demonstrate that it is the category that is incorrect, not the course number, and that it should be re-classified as life experience credit.

Exhibit E

Article in the Deseret News dated August 22, 2004. In the page linked here <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/595085602/Depressed-over-Prozac.html?pg=5> Ann Tracy states plainly how she was awarded her degree. This is consistent with the evidence in the exhibits mentioned above.

Ann Blake Tracy, according to the International Coalition for Drug Awareness web site, has a doctorate in health sciences with an emphasis on psychology. There is no mention of the institution that awarded her this degree — George Wythe College, in Cedar City. Tracy explains that the Ph.D. was awarded for "lifetime experience," specifically for the writing of "Prozac: Panacea or Pandora?" which she says she has been told is the equivalent of, or "far beyond," a dissertation. Self-published, the book contains spelling and punctuation errors and incomplete sentences (although Tracy says an edited version will be published in the next few weeks).

Exhibit F (Appendix I)

Portfolio of Tracy's advocacy efforts and media exposure. Tracy expanded this portfolio and submitted it to GWU after her degrees were awarded, apparently to demonstrate her vast media exposure and efforts to evangelize her position on anti-depressants. Most of it is one-sided and is not a scholarly work. Again, it is after the fact of her degrees. This is not necessary to read in its entirety.

Summary

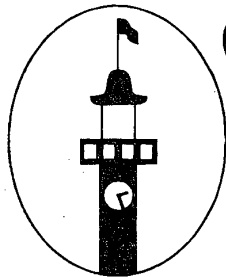
It is noteworthy that Tracy lists this PhD from GWU in the bio for a number of websites and has mentioned it in numerous venues to establish her credibility. For innocent parties placing trust in such credentials, the stakes may in fact be high and with serious consequences. Because Tracy was familiar with the procedures of enrolling and attending college courses for earned credit, such as the credit she earned at Eastern Arizona Junior College, naivety can be ruled out as an explanation for her actions, at least in part. Her and DeMille's willingness to arrange payment installments beyond the date of her graduation for "tuition" leaves little room for

interpretation that anything less than a specific favor was being provided in this case as both collaborated together for Tracy to obtain and utilize her degree.

If GWU's religious exemption during its years under Coral Ridge Baptist University were to be argued as justification for departing from state law, the degree name would still require a clear religious label and not be presented as a psychology or health sciences degree. This has not been the case. Additionally, Tracy's claim to the Deseret News that others had stated that the book was dissertation quality is both unverifiable and irrelevant. Tracy's research, writing and media efforts may, in fact, have been a substantial private undertaking with a good deal of personal research, but it is not a scholarly work. It also did not occur as part of a formal degree program offered by George Wythe University.

The reasons for revoking this degree are several:

1. The degree violates state law by not being listed in the catalog prior to initiating the degree program, or even at any time.
2. All doctoral credits were awarded after the fact, constituting life-experience credit.
3. Collaborative deception with a top level administrator was a factor in obtaining the degree. However, the level of Tracy's understanding of the law cannot be determined.
4. No GWU coursework was completed.
5. No doctoral level work was presented.



George Wythe College

Coral Ridge Baptist University

Exhibit A

Dr. Donald N. Sills, President

Dr. Jeff Burnsed, Chancellor

Dr. Oliver DeMille IV, Provost

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Washington D.C.

Jacksonville, FL

Cedar City, UT

11 March 1994

**Ann Tracy
3851 Saddler Dr.
West Jordan, UT 84088**

Ann,

The George Wythe College/Coral Ridge Baptist University curriculum accrediting committee has reviewed your portfolio, life experience, and written materials for academic credit. Your submitted work and life experience earned 129 academic credits, enough for a Bachelor's Degree.

Congratulations on finishing your degree! Your B.A. in Biblical Studies and Psychology will be presented at our graduation ceremony this June. Call if you have any questions (801-586-6570 or 865-7670).

I would like to personally commend you for the quality of your work. I look forward to seeing you at graduation.

Sincerely,

**Oliver DeMille, Ph.D.
Provost**

**P.O. Box 1565
415 S. Main
Cedar City, UT 84720
801 586-6570
Fax 586-6571**

Exhibit B

June 29, 1994

Anne Tracy
3851 Saddler Dr.
West Jordan, UT 84088

The George Wythe College/Coral Ridge Baptist University Accrediting Committee has reviewed your new submissions and awarded 59 credits of course work. In addition to your earlier credits this gives you a total of 188 credits. Since 128 were applied to your Bachelor's degree, you now have 60 credits toward graduate work.

The College is willing to accept your latest publication, *Prozac: Panacea or Pandora?*, as a thesis or dissertation. You may apply your graduate credit two different ways:

1. 45 toward an M.A. in Christian Counseling or an M.A. in Education with an emphasis on Forensic Psychology. The additional 15 credits will be applied toward a doctoral degree if you pursue further studies.
2. All 60 credits toward a Ph.D. in Psychology. This option would leave you without a master's degree. The Ph.D. requires 60 credits and a dissertation, so you would be finished with this degree.

Please let me know how you plan to proceed. Call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Oliver DeMille, Ph.D.
Provost

Addendum: March 6, 1996

The total cost of this program at the time I sent this letter was \$3790; you were awarded a half-tuition scholarship which reduced the rate to \$1870. On January 1, 1996 the tuition price increased: your total would be \$4448, with your scholarship your total would be \$2224. Because of your special situation I have authorized a 90-day extension of the old rate. If you pay before March 31, 1996, your total cost is the original \$1870; if you pay after March 31, 1996, your total cost will be \$2224. Your work is of high academic quality and real societal value and we are pleased to be working with you as a student. Please give me a call if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Addendum: March 29, 1996

We received a payment of \$1,683. You still owe \$187. I have extended the due date to April 10. Please send the balance by then to maintain current price rate.

Thank you,
Dr. DeMille

STUDENT INFORMATION

NAME : Ann Blake Tracy
 STATUS : Graduate
 MAJOR :

DATE PRINTED: December 30, 2000

DEGREES AWARDED: B.A., Biblical Studies &
 Psychology, 1994; Ph.D., Health Science, 1995

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Must bear official seal

TRANSFER CREDIT

Eastern Arizona Junior College

LANG	SPN 60A	4
SCI	BIO 11	4
ELEC	HPE 4A	1
SOCSCI	REL 60	2
LANG	ENG 2	3
ELEC	ART 1	2
LANG	SPN 60B	4
SCI	BIO 27	4
LANG	ENG 4	3
SOCSCI	PSY 20	3
THEO	REL 12	2
SOCSCI	HIS 2A	3
SOCSCI	SOC 54	3
LANG	ENG 64A	3
ELEC	HPE 2A	1
MATH	MTH 1	3
THEO	REL 150	2
THEO	REL 101	2
ELEC	ENG 4	3
SOCSCI	SOC 55	3
SOCSCI	ANT 1	3
HLTH	LP 78	2
ELEC	EN 64	3
SCI	PS 11	4
ELEC	MU 98	2

Tfr. Hrs. 69

Thatcher LDS Institute of Religion

THEO	REL 22	2
THEO	REL 21	2
THEO	REL 142	2

Tfr. Hrs. 6

Cum. Hrs. 75

LIFE-EXPERIENCE CREDIT

Prozac Research	20
Prozac Community Service	15
Prozac Speaking	15
Prozac Conventions/Scholarly Debate	15
LEx Hrs 65	
Cum Hrs 140	

COURSE CREDIT

Winter 1993

PSY795R	The Prozac Pandora (Res & Pub)	19	P
Trm Hrs	19		
Cum Hrs	159		

Summer 1994

PSY795R	Dissertation		
	(Prozac: Panacea or Pandora?)	29	P
Trm Hrs	29		
Cum Hrs	188		

DEGREES AWARDED: B.A. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES
 & PSYCHOLOGY, 1994
 PH.D. IN HEALTH SCIENCE, 1995

GEORGE WYTHE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar

970 South Sage Drive; Cedar City, Utah 84720



Unofficial Transcript

Note: This is an unofficial transcript and is for informational use only. As such, it carries no official status and is not valid for official verification purposes.

Student Name: Ann Blake Tracy

Student ID:

Current Major:

Enrollment Date:

Date Printed: 10/9/2012

Degrees Awarded:

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Biblical Studies, Business

10/1/1994

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Health Sciences

10/1/1995

Course #	Course Name	CR	Grade	Course #	Course Name	CR	Grade
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Transfer Credits Accepted

Eastern Arizona Junior College

Arts & Sciences Transfer	26.00
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Foreign Language Transfer	17.00
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Statesmanship Transfer	26.00
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Eastern Arizona Junior College Total:	69.00
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Thatcher LDS Institute of Religion

Statesmanship Transfer	6.00
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Thatcher LDS Institute of Religion Total:	6.00
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Total Transferred:	75.00
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Exhibit D

Life Experience Credits Accepted

LE801 - Statesmanship Life Experience	65.00
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Total Life Experience:	65.00
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Winter 1993

R-RS796	Political Research	19.00	P
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Semester GPA:	0.00	Semester Credit Hours:	19.00
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Cumulative GPA:	0.00	Cumulative Credits Passed:	84.00
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Cumulative Credits Total:	159.00
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Summer 1994

CL995	Dissertation	29.00	P
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Semester GPA:	0.00	Semester Credit Hours:	29.00
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Cumulative GPA:	0.00	Cumulative Credits Passed:	113.00
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Cumulative Credits Total:	188.00
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===== End of Transcript =====