

# John Graham on Campus



Life's an adventure, John Graham says, and sometimes a risky one. The key is knowing what to take risks *for*, and how to take them well.

He should know.

He's dodged violent death many times, surviving avalanches on distant mountains and wars and revolutions on three continents.

A slow learner, the only lesson he got from these early adventures was that he was indestructible. But the decisions he made during a terrible battle in Vietnam forced him to realize that his life had to be about more than taking risks. It had to have real meaning. After Vietnam, Graham started a long quest for a deeper sense of purpose. He found it in working for the common good, in helping solve problems that mattered.

Graham's audiences love the often hair-raising, sometimes comical tales of his life-journey. Starting with his voyage as a 17-year-old seaman on a freighter in the Far East and winding through war zones, hazardous mountain climbs, conflicts at the United Nations and a shipwreck off the coast of Alaska, he arrives at the role he's filled for the last 25 years. As President of the Giraffe Heroes Project, he's moved thousands of people to find the meaning in their own lives by expanding their focus beyond their own needs.

The lessons that Graham draws from his own story are provocative, exciting, and profoundly relevant to young people leaning forward into a pivotal part of their lives.

"How important to you is it to find and lead a meaningful life?" he challenges students. "Others' maps have helped guide your course for 20 years. Now you're heading for uncharted waters. How do you find the right path for your one precious life?"

Graham also offers workshops on leadership themes. A former US diplomat, he is always happy to visit foreign policy-oriented classes as part of his campus visits.

Stick Your Neck Out



Giraffe Heroes Project

For more information,  
and to book a speech  
or workshop with John  
Graham, contact:

**Giraffe Heroes Project**

PO Box 759

Langley WA 98260

360 221 7989

(fax) 360 221 7817

office@giraffe.org

<http://www.giraffe.org>

# Campus Feedback

“The personal stories you shared with us to express your ideas made a huge impact on us. Some student comments were: ‘Now I believe in the importance in leadership of having a vision—I can see where I want to go and how to get there.’ ‘It was great to be forced out of normal thinking-.’ ‘Now I believe I can *do* something about my concerns.’ ‘John Graham is dynamic, stimulating and informative.’”

—Nicole M. DiDomenico, State University of New York, Plattsburg NY

“Your keynote address was all that we could have wanted...and more! All we heard was praise for the way you used the theme of the conference and personal experiences to effectively encourage and motivate conference participants... Most helpful from the workshop was your dynamic presentation and your ability to inspire.”

—Tabatha B. Burn, Florida Office for Campus Volunteers

“Students appreciate John’s informal style, and yet they understand that what he is saying is serious business. They are fascinated by the examples John draws from his experiences at the U.N., in Libya, and especially in Vietnam. I have the highest regard for John and his work, and I heartily recommend him as a speaker for your college community.”

— Carrie Crawford, Brookhaven College, Dallas TX

“You received rave reviews. Your presentations were just as we hoped they would be—inspiring and eloquent but also realistic and well-grounded. We appreciate all that you did to make the conference such a success.”

—Mary McIntire, Dean of Continuing Studies, Rice University, Houston

“Your offering was so incredible, and folks still speak of it. One of the most powerful moments of the day occurred when you went around the room asking each person what their next risk would be—the responses were unbelievable! Many were motivated to make changes after the day with you; now we want others to experience your important message.”

—Lynne Somerville, Capilano College, Vancouver BC

“Your powerful comments made a lasting impression on the Brigade, the Academy staff and our retired and civilian guests. The presentation was a tremendous success and will continue to resonate in the minds of the midshipmen as they continue to grow into our next generation of officers.”

—Rodney P. Rempt, Vice Admiral, Superintendent, United States Naval Academy

“Over 600 faculty and administrators attended, and the standing ovation you received let you and us know your speech was right on target. Our planning consortium met this week, and they are reporting their faculty are still talking about your presentation, which according to one president is nothing short of a miracle.”

—Diane C. Ohlman, Everett Community College, Everett WA

“Your message was inspiring and thought-provoking. Thank you for sharing your spirit, your passion for life and your expertise.”

—Carrie Dershin, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

“Thanks a ton. You were a hit!”

—Gene Edgar, University of Washington, Seattle

Stick Your Neck Out



Giraffe Heroes Project