

I am now auditing a course on the Philosophy of Science. The syllabus provided me with this quotation from William Cory:

“At school you are engaged not so much in acquiring knowledge as in making mental efforts under criticism.

A certain amount of knowledge you can indeed with average faculties acquire so as to retain.... But you go to a great school not so much for knowledge as for arts and habits;

for the habit of attention,
for the art of expression,
for the art of assuming at a moment's notice a new intellectual position,
for the art of entering quickly into another person's thoughts,
for the habit of submitting to censure and refutation,
for the art of indicating assent or dissent in graduated terms,
for the habit of regarding minute points of accuracy,
for the art of working out what is possible in a given time,
for taste,
for discrimination,
for mental courage,
and for mental soberness.

Above all, you go to a great school for self-knowledge.”

[Eton College](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Johnson_Cory

This enunciates clearly what I felt was the best of what Yale gave me. If you and the others agree, perhaps it could be worked into our reunion, maybe at the teachers' awards ceremony.

Cordially,

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