

Year 2007 Golden Legion
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

Professor Allen Klinger, Class Representative

We are called to the Golden Legion in a celebration that reminds us of our early years and draws thoughts to our benefactor, Peter Cooper.

During Cooper's youth, trades were considered more useful than education. Although he is known for his many concrete achievements, these words by Jamir Phillips say what endures:

Peter Cooper's greatest achievement was the establishment of the Cooper Union School for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences in 1854. Cooper Union provided a free education to the gifted working class of New York City.

Looking back, Cooper Union taught *learning how to learn*. As students we learned through reading, writing, crafting, and creating. Most of that activity was tested through communicating with our peers who often challenged us.

Cooper got us to work, and for many, also to cooperate. But it also got us to consider different things. To see, where before we might have not seen; to participate, when before we would have only watched; and to value activity and partake of play

Phillips' web article quotes Peter Cooper about the undersea cable:

The work was finished at last, and I never have regretted it, although it was a terrible time to go through.

Perhaps they too describe undergraduate days, although as the years pass happy times stand out. John B. Sheerin said that:

Happiness is not in our circumstance but in ourselves. It is not something we see, like a rainbow, or feel, like the heat of a fire. Happiness is something we are.

John F. Kennedy defined happiness this way:

The full use of your powers along lines of excellence.

Steve Trussel, wrote words that fairly describe a Cooper education:

I am extremely fortunate to have attended The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, in New York City, one of the great educational institutions of America. There I received the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, majoring in sculpture, in 1970. Anyone interested in higher education in the arts, architecture, or engineering must know of this wonderful school, which provides full scholarships for all its students, along with an education unrivaled at any price.

Cooper Union helped make us what and who we are. We are now the year 2007 Golden Legion. The status comes with responsibility to strive, as did the founder, for greatest achievement.

References

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