

Rich Wilson - Lecture

“Race France to France, Leave Antarctica to Starboard”

Perseverance, Risk-Taking, Follow Your Dreams



Great American III

Harvard (AB '72); MIT (SM '76);
HBS (MBA '82); Mass. Maritime (Hon. DPA '11)

Rich Wilson finished 9th of 11 finishers of 30 starters in the Vendee Globe 2008-9, the solo, non-stop, sailing race around the world. He was the only American, the only asthmatic, and the oldest skipper (58) in the fleet.

Sailing 28,790 miles in 121 days, Wilson endured broken ribs, a facial gash, compressed vertebrae, hurricane force gales, an ascent up the 90' mast, crushing fatigue, fear, and gear breakage in braving the course via the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn, in his 60' monohull *Great American III*.

The primary purpose of his voyage was K12 education. Founder of sitesALIVE!, Wilson connected his voyage to 250,000 students and 7 million readers by publication of a 15 part weekly series (written aboard ship) in 50 U.S. Newspapers in 12 states, and by www.sitesalive.com. Schools in 15 foreign countries participated online.

*“You were so fabulous! I have gotten extraordinary feedback on your talk.
Thank you so much for what you did for us. It was amazing!” ...Jon Crames, Fidelity Investments*

*“That was quite incredible. Bring Rich Wilson again any time. I'll call in sick to listen to him all day.”
...Pierre Moreels, Facebook*

“Your talk and presentation was incredible! I'm a climbing speaker junkie, so I've heard all the Boston locals do their Mt. Everest and K2 stories but the Vendee Globe makes them all look like slackers!” ...Alice Howard

“Thank you so much for your time, enthusiasm and top notch speech! I spoke to numerous students and families after the ceremony and they really enjoyed it – it resonated with all of them! I also spoke to our Faculty and many of our Trustees - they are saying that it is the best Commencement Speech that has been delivered here at the college.” ...Gretchen Manning, VP-Advancement & Enrollment, Marian Court College

Past Talks: Facebook, AMD, Fidelity, Genentech, Novartis (France), The Entertainment Gathering, Innovent Technologies, MIT Club of Boston, HBS Club of Boston, Mystic Seaport, Peabody Essex Museum, New York Yacht Club, etc.

Entertainment & Motivational Speaker for Corporate, Non-Profit & Private Events

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“Race France to France, Leave Antarctica to Starboard”
More Comments on Rich Wilson’s Lectures on the Vendee Globe 2008-9

MIT Museum

“Wow...it's not only dealing with the elements, the navigation, the ocean, the physical stamina, but it's being on this bucking bronco of a boat that could explode at a moment's notice (wait...that's probably NO notice). And you have all of the mountain climbers’ equipment (ropes, jumars, grigri, satellite phones) plus about 1,000 other potential breakable items to worry about. The way you incorporated so many other people in your talk was wonderful, as well, giving it such a human dimension. You don't make yourself the center of the story. You brought out how important support from other people was along the way.” ...Alice Howard

Facebook

“That was a riveting hour and I was disappointed when it was over. I could have stayed in there listening for another hour or two at the very least. Please pass my appreciation to Rich – his experience is truly inspiring. When is his book coming out?” ...Aileen Cureton, Facebook



Novartis (France) – talk (in French) to 200 pulmonary physicians

“THANK YOU in the name of our team, for your very impactful and emotional testimony about your Vendée Globe experience. It was a real pleasure to have you among us during this weekend. Our physicians really appreciated your testimony and were quite amazed by your exploit. Also all our reps and team members were very impressed by your testimony and I think that made them even more proud of working on such a product! I hope your program for severe asthma in the US will have more and more success and visibility to physicians.” Anne Debeaurain, Novartis

MIT Club of Boston

“I am still basking in the afterglow of your wonderful presentation. What an incredible experience you had. Thank you so much for sharing it. The audience was clearly mesmerized by your story.” ...Bonny Kellerman, MIT Club of Boston

“First, let me thank you again for sharing your Vendee story with us last week at the MIT Club of Boston event. I have seen several other world class sailors speak about our sport, including Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, and I must say your presentation was spectacular. You have a great ability to really convey the emotions you were experiencing and the chronology of the race and the events happening to you and the other competitors came together in a very logical and coherent way. I was at the event with another MIT alum, but a non-sailor, she really connected with a lot of what you shared and could not stop talking about the incredible stories and your efforts in education.” ...Tim Pennington

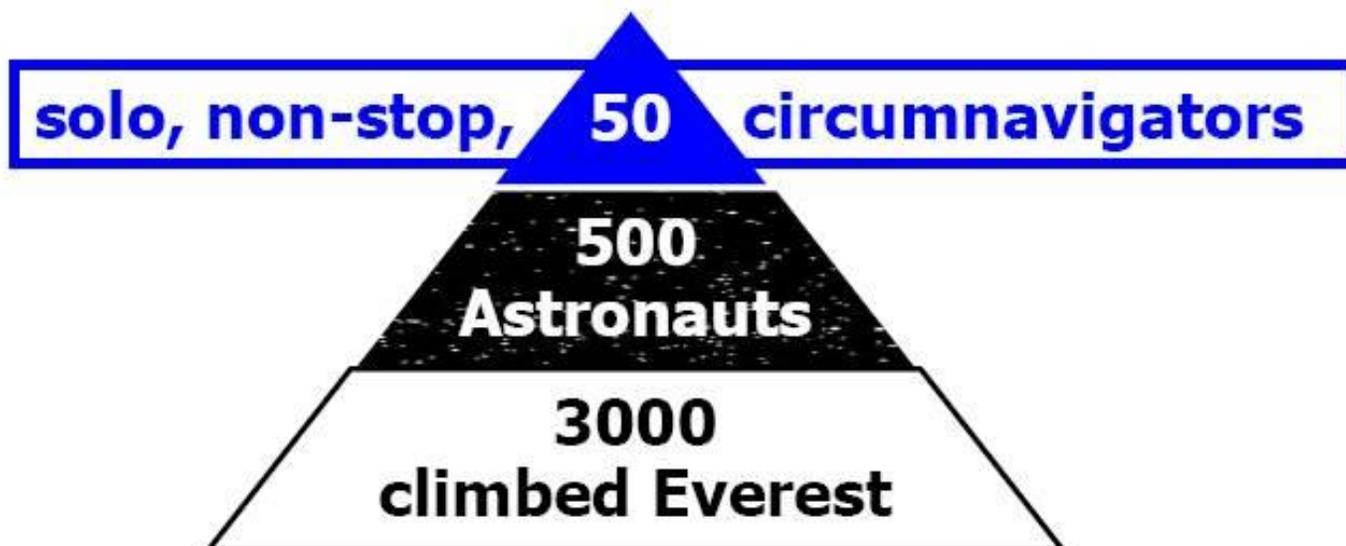
Mystic Seaport Museum

"What a fabulous presentation! Your own personal accomplishments as a world class seaman in finishing the world's premier single handed race were stunning. Not often one is in the presence of greatness as those in the audience were. The standing ovation was their recognition of this fact. Your sensitivity to the human dimensions of the race in France and among competitors was equally impressive. But also, your very successful attempts to engage millions of young people in the project put you in a league apart. Finally, there was your sense of a duty to honor the game and the race. So, at the end of your presentation, it was my sense that we had just heard a world class sailor and a world class human being describe one of the most remarkable accomplishments I have heard." ...John Van Slyke

Marion Music Hall

"On a scale of 1 to 10, his talk was a 12." ...Dennis Makepeace

"Rich's talk is one I shall never forget. There aren't many people in the world with that degree of knowledge, skill, determination and above all courage who would undertake such an endeavor. Galen [career diplomat/Ambassadorial rank] and I both felt exhausted just experiencing it vicariously through his lecture! What also impressed me was his motivation for this voyage – the children of the world who would not only learn about geography, etc., but also be inspired to undertake something really difficult for a good cause. I for one will never forget that talk!" ...Anne Stone



Sea Education Association

"What a remarkable presentation you made at the Annual Meeting. You said some very big things in a very understated way. Many thanks, it was awesome...I'm at a loss for words." ...Bill Duggan, Trustee, S.E.A.

New York Yacht Club

"What a wonderful evening we enjoyed with you last night at the NY Yacht Club. Your presentation was amazing! What a fascinating life experience that you shared with us. We had followed you around the world through your daily skipper's log. This made your narrative & videos especially exciting. Thanks so much." ...John Sculley

"What an amazing presentation. You were informative, dynamic, funny, and inspirational. I must say despite thinking I knew something about what you did I was clueless! I was so impressed, even more moved by what you did. As I have said, crazy but amazing. It really brought it to life and reality for me. I was and am proud to have you as a friend." ...Mike Fascitelli, CEO, Vornado Realty Trust

"That was the most interesting, riveting, Vendee Globe talk that I've heard, and I've heard a few. That was brilliant, I was enthralled all the way. It was wonderful, wonderful." ...Merfyn Owen, Owen-Clarke Yacht Design

Essex Shipbuilding Museum

“Your talk was amazing. The two hours flew by and my surprise was that it seemed that there was a ton more that you could have said. The parts where you talked about you, the emotional moments, are really critical, I think, no matter who the audience is. Don't take this the wrong way: it is hard to connect 'you' (reserved, gracious, not muscle-bound, put together, self-deprecating, necktie) with the physicality of the Vendee Globe, even with the film footage and photographs of you on your boat. The Vendee Globe is a race that is beyond imagination; it is simply impossible, just like landing on the moon is beyond imagination. My point is this: the emotional moments were the proof that you actually were there.”...Dr. Robinson

At Sea

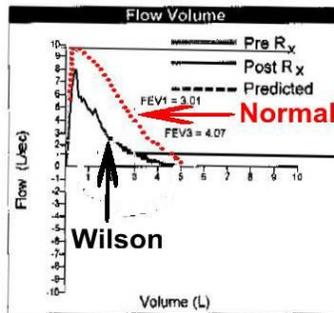


K12 Education



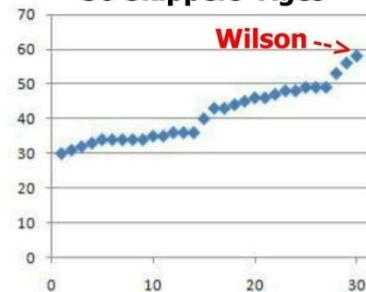
Programs Ashore

Asthma



Seniors

30 Skippers' Ages



Finish



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