“You certainly have done a marvelous job expanding the reach of Atlas, of coming close to Antony Fisher’s dream of a worldwide network of think tanks promoting liberty. . . In seventy or more countries Atlas is helping think tanks spread an understanding of free markets or engaged in creating think tank that will do so. More power to it.”

– Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman, September 2005

On June 22, 2006 Atlas celebrated its 25th Anniversary at the Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco. Atlas started the celebrations with a conference, “Prospects for Liberty in Asia,” where experts and scholars from China, India, Japan, Nepal, South Korea, and Vietnam spoke. Following the Atlas Club Briefing, where the former Mongolian Prime Minister Elbegdorj Tsakhia spoke, the evening festivities began. John Stossel, the keynote speaker, signed copies of his latest book, Myths, Lies and Downright Stupidity: Get Out the Shovel, Why Everything You Know is Wrong, during the reception. The dinner program included Stephen Moore from the Wall Street Journal as the Master of Ceremonies, special remarks from Elbegdorj Tsakhia and Father Robert Sirico of the Acton Institute for Religion and Liberty, and the keynote address by John Stossel. On pages 12–13, you will find excerpts from the remarks during the 25th Anniversary Celebration.
Introducing New Atlas Staff

Since late May, Atlas has welcomed three new staff members. Cindy Cerquitella joined our staff this past May as the Coalition Relations Associate. A recent graduate of Hillsdale College, Cindy received her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Economy. Prior to attending University, Cindy spent four years in Budapest, Hungary where her parents run the Greater Grace International School of Budapest.

Atlas’s Associate Director of Programs is Christian Robey, who was most recently at the Leadership Institute (Virginia) and has also worked for various conservative and free market think tanks including Cato Institute, Americans for Tax Reform, Foundation for Economic Education, and Citizens for a Sound Economy. A native of Northern Virginia, Christian graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Philosophy in 1998, and has done graduate work at George Mason University School of Law.

Most recently, Atlas welcomed Sajid Anani as a program manager for Atlas’s Middle East program. Sajid obtained a Master of Public Affairs degree from Indiana University in May 2006 with concentrations in Nonprofit Management and Policy Analysis. From 2002-2004, Sajid worked at the Al-Hussein Society for the Habilitation/Rehabilitation of the Physically Challenged in Jordan, as the Director of Fundraising and Marketing. Sajid received a Bachelors of Business Administration from the American University of Beirut in 2001.

Atlas’s Summer Fellows & Intern

Each summer, Atlas hosts two fellows through the Koch Summer Fellowship that the Institute for Humane Studies (Virginia) organizes annually. This year, we welcomed Qiang Liu (standing, left), who is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and a researcher for the E.G. West Centre (United Kingdom), and Shreya Shah (seated, left), a masters candidate at Brandeis University who has previously worked with the Inter Region Economic Network (Kenya). Liu currently has an article about private education in China on TCS Daily Asia. The Washington Times and other newspapers have published Shreya’s letters to the editor about enterprise in Africa and the AGOA. Scott Dinwiddie (standing, right), a recent graduate of Hanover College (Indiana), had a fellowship with the Latin American program and is currently volunteering in Honduras. Niki Straub (seated, right), a Spanish & Political Science double major at Grove City College (Pennsylvania), has interned this summer as Alex Chafuen’s assistant.

Atlas’s Alex Chafuen and Colleen Dyble Visit the Maxim Institute

In early May, Atlas’s Alex Chafuen and Colleen Dyble visited the Maxim Institute in Auckland, New Zealand. Alex gave a presentation on “Ethics, the Market and the Free Society” to Maxim supporters, and discussed the role of think tanks on TVNZ’s Breakfast program. To watch the interview on Breakfast, click on “Supporting the think tanks” at:
http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/497100/710210

EDITOR’S NOTE: Atlas invited members from our think-tank network to contribute to this issue of Highlights. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Atlas.
Sir Antony Fisher Lifetime Achievement Award
Given to V. John Raybould

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during the Liberty Forum held in Colorado Springs on April 22, 2006, the Atlas Economic Research Foundation announced the conferring of the Sir Antony Fisher Lifetime Achievement Award to longtime champion of freedom, V. John Raybould.

Several judges of the Sir Antony Fisher Memorial Award decided to bestow this award after pondering for several years the continuous impact of Raybould’s collaboration with so many organizations essential to the promotion of the free society. During his career he has left legacies at the Adam Smith Institute (United Kingdom), the Fraser Institute (Canada), and the Institute of Economic Affairs (United Kingdom)—think tanks that Atlas sees as models to be emulated across the globe. Raybould was also intimately connected with Atlas from our conception. Raybould was a member of the small group that coalesced to launch the highly successful Fraser Institute in Vancouver, Canada. It was there that he met Antony Fisher, who was investing his time as its acting director in 1975. Raybould helped our founder draft the first outlines of what has become the Atlas of today.

Of all his products, Raybould’s outstanding biography of Friedrich August von Hayek, in written and video format, has helped increase the exposure of Hayek around the globe. Raybould, born in London in 1939, is an Honors Graduate of London University, and has been writing and creating visual presentations on economic topics since early on. In 1976, at the Fraser Institute, with Michael Walker, Spencer Star and Sally Pipes (now at Pacific Research Institute (California)), he co-wrote a first primer on Canadian taxation entitled How Much Tax Do You Really Pay? Your Real Tax Guide: Introducing the Canadian Consumer Tax Index. This pioneering book contributed to the many efforts conducted by think tanks today to measure the burden of taxation in their respective economies.

In granting this award, Alex Chafuen, President of Atlas, said, “It is our hope that this lifetime achievement recognition not only will bring more attention to John Raybould’s contribution, but will also encourage many to emulate his dedication to the noble ideal of liberty.”

Hayek: A Commemorative Album (published by Adam Smith Institute, 1998)

In a recent e-mail congratulating Atlas on its 25th Anniversary, Raybould included a photo of himself with Antony Fisher in 1976 at the Fraser Institute (Canada). Raybould wrote, “I can remember when the Atlas Foundation was just a twinkle in Sir Antony’s eyes. I therefore thought the attached photograph would help bring back such memories ... it was taken exactly 30 years ago when Mike, Sally, and I launched How Much Tax Do You Really Pay?”

Raybould, born in London in 1939, is an Honors Graduate of London University, and has been writing and creating visual presentations on economic topics since early on. In 1976, at the Fraser Institute, with Michael Walker, Spencer Star and Sally Pipes (now at Pacific Research Institute (California)), he co-wrote a first primer on Canadian taxation entitled How Much Tax Do You Really Pay? Your Real Tax Guide: Introducing the Canadian Consumer Tax Index. This pioneering book contributed to the many efforts conducted by think tanks today to measure the burden of taxation in their respective economies.
In 1984, Brazil went through a historic process of political opening. Military leaders who had governed the country since 1964 gave way to re-democratization. Citizens and civil organizations pressed for a fast return to democracy and called for a new Constitutional Assembly to establish a new institutional order. Proposals from different perspectives were put forward, but leftist movements made their suggestions echo loudest.

At that time, a group of young businessmen in Porto Alegre, who were pursuing their professional training and who did not agree with the ideological position that prevailed in the Brazilian political and business environment, decided to establish a study institute, a place for debate and intellectual growth guided by values such as responsibility, property, freedom, order, justice, democracy, and a market economy. This is how IEE (Instituto de Estudos Empresariais—Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies) was established, with the mission of educating business leaders who are committed to a model of social and political organization based on the aforementioned values.

These young people called for re-democratization as part of a broader argument in favor of economic openness, the establishment of strong and adequate institutions, and a freer and more prosperous society. After many meetings to define how the institute would be organized, IEE’s founders concluded that the focus should be on the training and education of their own members, thereby creating leaders who would be intellectually prepared with broad social knowledge and strong ethical values to make a positive impact on society.

IEE members can be either permanent or honorary. Permanent members are young entrepreneurs aged 20 to 35 who identify with the values of the institute and who are being trained. Honorary members, having already been through the training cycle, counsel and support the training of those who are younger.

The main goals of our institute are to analyze problems and issues facing society; discuss alternatives and suggestions to solve them; encourage the emergence and preparation of business leaders who are committed to advocating and preserving the market economy and free-enterprise values; foster the training of its members within the principles of good ethics; and to promote the relationship of its members with the cultural and economic segments of society. Additionally, we aim at developing in our members six skills we deem essential for the exercise of good leadership, namely: moral and ethical principles, foresight, vitality and motivation, ability to mobilize and achieve results, an extensive network of relationships, and communication skills.

Our meetings are held every Monday night, when we invite important businessmen, politicians, economists, sociologists, philosophers, and historians to address the members of our institute. Additionally, we organize internal debates and presentations of books, weekend workshops, and publication of books with papers written by the members.

In order to fulfill its mission, IEE has a dynamic and efficient governance structure and training cycle for its members. Our institute is managed and run by a board made up of six members (President, Vice President, Financial Director, Training Director, Communications Director, and Director Secretary), who donate their time to IEE’s activities. The term is one year, and the President cannot be re-elected. Since its founding, IEE has never had a President for more than one term, and this is so for two basic reasons: firstly, to encourage a greater participation of its members and the emergence of new leaders within the institute and, secondly to set a clear power limitation, preventing someone from running the organization for too long. In order to continue with the projects developed, what usually happens is that two members from the board of the previous term remain as members of the new board.
which naturally leads to a smooth transition and continuation of activities.

The institute’s training cycle has proven effective over IEE’s two decades of existence. The process is made up of four phases, each with its own set of requirements, reading materials, activities, and evaluation tools.

In the first phase of the cycle, applicants for membership go through an assessment, in which they have to achieve some targets that are set and clearly identified on the first day they start participating in the activities. At this time, they are assessed for their level of interest, adherence to the values of the institute, and their performance in the proposed requirements, as, for example, the writing of reviews of selected books.

The second phase starts when the applicants successfully meet the assessment requirements and become full members of the institute. At this time, new challenges will be presented and it is up to the members to try to overcome them in order to progress. Examples of activities in this phase include writing short articles, reading selected books, and attending workshops.

In the third phase, members already have experience and knowledge to conduct more significant and demanding activities, therefore they are encouraged to write longer essays to be included in IEE’s annual book published and then to present a book to the other members.

Finally, in the fourth phase, the training process is virtually complete and the challenge facing the members is to be part of the institute management, that is, to be a board member, running and representing IEE.

Another important activity of IEE is the Fórum da Liberdade (Liberty Forum). It is an important venue for debates held every year since 1988 and currently gathers around 6,000 people in two days to discuss subjects such as individual freedoms, property rights, respect for contracts, limitations of power, the institutional environment, and so on. Recognized in Rio Grande do Sul State and all over Brazil for its size and ability to attract the elite of world thinkers, the Liberty Forum is one of the most significant meetings of liberal thought in the world.

IEE is a non-profit organization without any politically partisan commitments. It is funded through contributions by its members and companies that believe in its mission to build a freer and more prosperous society. IEE’s national and international credibility was achieved by the various young people who, in striving for their professional and personal education and dreaming of a better society, devoted their time and efforts to developing and improving, year after year, the activities and management of the institute. The conviction in the mission and values set forth by its founders have always been key to the growth of the institute, as well as the focus and constant dedication of all those who have been members of the IEE board. Shared values and setting challenging growth targets have always been, and will continue to be, part of IEE’s journey.

Wagner Lehnhart is a 24-year-old lawyer who has been a member of IEE since 2003. Currently, he is also the Director of IEE for 2005/2006.
Russia faces deep difficulties in establishing the institutions of a free society that are essential for its long-term prosperity. These difficulties are rooted in the corrupt relationship between government officials and private entrepreneurs: government officials profit from creating obstacles for the private sector that entrepreneurs overcome by paying bribes.

For twenty years I worked in the Soviet government, having the chance to be close to the inner-circle of the Soviet ruling elites, and watched their relationship with representatives of the Soviet private sector, or so-called grey economy.

In spite of the fact that private enterprises and economic activities were forbidden by Soviet law, the grey economy played a rather important role in the USSR, providing the Soviet people with those goods and services that the clumsy and defense-oriented state economy could not produce. By 1985, when perestroika started, one of every three rubles circulating in the country belonged to the private sector.

The initial privatization process in Russia, starting in late 1992, was fraught with problems, which resulted in the continued dampening of the middle class. Instead of “people’s capitalism,” where every worker ended up owning part of a company, the former property of the Soviet state ended up as the capital of the former Soviet ruling elites, who successfully converted their ties with and positions in the government at the federal and regional levels into ownership.

In 1995, there were approximately 860,000 small enterprises in Russia and promising plans to quadruple that number by 2000. However, since the privatization of state property resulted in a very small number of elite owners, there was little or no Russian investment in developing small enterprises.

Instead of quadrupling, by 2000 the number of small-business enterprises decreased by 20,000. Moreover, an enormous tax burden and ridiculous loan requirements pushed many small- and medium-sized businessmen into the “shadows,” making their enterprises illegal in their own country.

In the last fifteen years, a new social and political group of post-Soviet businesspeople has grown up in Russia who understand that their success and future prosperity depend on sound laws, and who believe that they have to conduct their business in accordance with such laws. While these young entrepreneurs are prepared to finance the campaigns of pro-business lawmakers, there are few voters who have a clear understanding of the basic ideas that should structure and influence these laws: private property, rule of law, and individual freedom.

Currently in Russia, there are research institutes that study and understand the problems of Russian small- and medium-sized businesses. However, these research institutes are rarely independent public policy research institutes, or think tanks. They do not propose policy solutions based on their research, nor do they promote these ideas among the electorate, business owners, and politicians.

Russia urgently needs pro-market and pro-business think tanks to help improve its business and political climate. Since Russian authorities today do not support the creation of foreign-financed, non-governmental organizations with policy agendas, I believe that it is likely they will create many obstacles for setting up even Russian-funded organizations that will engage in educating Russian lawmakers, businesspeople, scholars, and civil society. Organizations like the Atlas Economic Research Foundation can play an important role in finding new ways to support the creation of loose associations of private-sector champions in Russia.

Evgueni Novikov, Ph.D., is a visiting fellow on Islamic Studies at the American Foreign Policy Council. Novikov, a native of Kyrgyzstan, defected from the USSR in 1988.
Think Tanks Voice Concern about the Future of Russia

In April, several think tank leaders from the former Soviet Union, brought together by Atlas travel grants to attend the Atlas Liberty Forum and the Heritage Resource Bank meetings in Colorado Springs, began to brainstorm about how to respond constructively to the escalating crackdown on civil liberties taking place in Russia.

During the Resource Bank, Andrei Illarionov, formerly chief economic adviser to Russian president Vladimir Putin, called attention to Russia’s state-control of the media, its violations of property rights, and new draconian regulations intended to sabotage the country’s independent NGOs.

Illarionov remarked that the statement “is a very important signal from the international community in support of Russian civil society, which is currently subject to harsh attacks from the Russian authorities. Those attacks are destroying real democracy and free markets and are rapidly transforming the country into an oil- and gas-based authoritarian sultanate.”

Atlas views the Statement as an important initiative for protecting and advancing liberty in this important country. Visit www.freespeechrussia.org to learn more about the Statement.

We also welcome your involvement in supporting other initiatives that aim to strengthen the allies of the free society in Russia. We believe that the long-term health of Russia can be improved by working with friendly intellectual entrepreneurs in that country and its neighbours. For instance, we seek to:

- Help think tanks and business associations develop in countries such as the Ukraine, which if it can avoid the extremes of Russia, can provide a powerful counter-example to Putin’s economic model.

- Nurture civil society institutions in Russia and in formerly Soviet states of Central Asia, where small-business owners are burdened by cumbersome regulation. (See the article on p. 6 by our friend Evgeni Novikov about the challenges to small-business ownership in Russia.)

- Grow a larger middle class through grassroots work in the areas of microfinance and other means of enabling small-business ownership.

Prior to the Heritage Resource Bank, Atlas organized a special breakfast for new attendees of the Atlas Liberty Forum and Resource Bank, where Rahim Taghizadegan (Liberty Ideas, Austria), Gia Jandieri (New Economic School, Georgia), Vahagn Khachaturyan (Center for Legal, Political, Law and Economic Studies, Armenia), and Tabriz Jabbarov (Free Minds Association, Azerbaijan) had a chance to meet.

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Following Illarionov’s speech, Gia Jandieri (New Economic School, Georgia) spoke with other think tank representatives from the former Soviet bloc about the need for short-term action—to complement, of course, the long-term educational efforts that are the basis of think tanks’ work.

Two months later at the European Resource Bank in Vienna, Austria, Illarionov, Jandieri, and more than 40 other individuals and think tanks signed the Statement. The statement was issued two weeks in advance of a conference, “Druga Rossia” (“The Other Russia”), which occurred prior to the G-8 meeting in St. Petersburg.

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- Grow a larger middle class through grassroots work in the areas of microfinance and other means of enabling small-business ownership.

Statement of Concern for Freedom in Russia

We, representatives of pro-freedom think-tanks and movements from many nations, united by common principles and values, declare our steadfast support for the individual rights of the people of Russia to associate without harassment by the authorities, and to exercise the rights of freedom of expression to which all human beings are by nature entitled. In particular, we declare our solidarity with the NGOs of Russia, which are struggling under the burden of bureaucratic harassment and efforts by the authorities to suppress the independent forces of civil society. We call on the Russian government to cease its efforts to isolate the people of Russia from the wider international civil society and that it cease its efforts to subject them to authoritarian rule. We send our collegial greetings to the participants in the July 11-12 Moscow conference, “The Other Russia.”

Signed, this the first day of July, 2006, in Vienna, Austria.

“It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once.”

– David Hume
Since November 2003, when the first African Resource Bank meeting took place, regional meetings have become important annual events for many think tanks in the Atlas network. Atlas’s Elena Ziebarth discussed the creation and importance of regional meetings and in particular the European Resource Bank with Barbara Kolm-Lamprechter, the secretary general of the F. A. v. Hayek Institut (Austria). The Hayek Institut hosted this year’s European Resource Bank in Vienna Austria on June 29–July 1, 2006.

At the end of June, the Hayek Institut hosted the Third European Resource Bank (ERB). What inspired the creation of the ERB?

The ERB was inspired by the Heritage Foundation’s annual Resource Bank Meeting, along with the Atlas Foundation’s Liberty Forum. We even borrowed the name! That said, we created the ERB out of a genuine need: the think tanks and organizations across Europe, many of which share not only similar goals but similar circumstances, had practically no contact with each other or with a broader like-minded community. The ERB was intended to change that.

What do you see as the primary purpose of the ERB meeting? What should a first-time attendee take away from it?

The primary purpose of the ERB is to bring people together and allow them to pool knowledge, resources, and experiences. The vast majority of representatives who attend come from institutes with only a handful of employees, and many are one-man operations. It may only take one person in a small country to spread these (classical liberal economic/free market) ideas, but the extensive research, analysis, and experience behind these ideas are too much for one person to handle. The goal is that, say, someone from Poland wants to promote a certain type of tax reform may come to the ERB and find that an institute in Lithuania or Ireland has already successfully researched and presented a similar reform in his or her own country. This saves a tremendous amount of work for often overtaxed (pun intended) think tanks. There is no shortage of great ideas in Europe; the biggest problem is spreading them.

A first-time attendee should, above all, come with an open mind, and be ready to absorb. My first piece of advice would be to take notes and pay attention. But during breaks, dinners, cocktail parties—all integral parts of these international conferences—be ready to meet people. Bring business cards, and your rolodex.

“We created the European Resource Bank out of a genuine need: the think tanks and organizations across Europe, many of which share not only similar goals but similar circumstances, had practically no contact with each other or with a broader like-minded community.”

Prior to the ERB’s creation, did European think tank leaders regularly meet to discuss policies and management strategies?

In a word, no. There were certainly circles that would meet on a regular basis, but there was no real organization to these meetings, and it was hard to bring in new ideas, techniques, and strategies, especially from outside the world of think tanks. The idea for the ERB actually began with a group of us who had met in Gummersbach, Germany, for a conference. We decided at that time that we would begin a tradition with a European Resource Bank meeting, and Pierre Garelio (Institute for Economic Studies—Europe, France) took the initiative by organizing the first ERB in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2004. Last year we took the ERB to Vilnius, Lithuania, where Ugnius Trumpa and the Lithuanian Free Market Institute did an outstanding job with the organization.

As a regular attendee of the Heritage Resource Bank and the Atlas Liberty Forum, how does the ERB differ from those meetings—besides the regional focus?

Aside from the regional focus (and size), the ERB is different from the Heritage Resource Bank and the Atlas Liberty Forum in two primary ways: First, we rely, I think, much more on press coverage than the Heritage/Atlas meetings, and we are quite proactive in attracting that coverage. Second, not only the location, but also the hosting institution rotates yearly. Each year a different institute is given the entire responsibility for making sure the meeting goes smoothly, and in return is able to claim most of the success when it does!

As this year’s primary organizer, how did you decide upon the different policy and management topics?

After last year’s meeting in Vilnius, we (the Hayek Institut) were part of a rather lengthy discussion process involving several other institutes. It was finally decided that we would have a conference split into two days; the first would be wholly policy-related, and the second would deal exclusively with management and strategy.
The policy topics were picked by the leading institutes and the agenda this year was designed by a research associate at the Hayek Institut, John Tkacik, who worked on these issues for several months. The theme centered around three main areas: labor market reform and migration, internal market reform and deregulation, and innovation and research and development. These are, incidentally, major parts of the now-defunct Lisbon Agenda, but are vitally important for the future of the EU—hence the title, “Confronting the Challenges to a 21st Century Europe.”

Many people believed the Lisbon Agenda was just an excuse to throw money at education systems and innovation (and many European politicians treated it as such), but the core strategies were actually much simpler and more “free-market” than was advertised, and with this conference we tried to emphasize these strategies.

The management and strategy topics were a combination of what has been shown to be successful in the United States, which has a much more powerful and well-established think tank culture, and what is needed in Europe, which is comprised of many, much smaller but very dynamic institutes. Some strategies cross over quite well, while some do not.

Save-the-Date!
European Resource Bank
Meeting 2007
September 13-16, 2007
Bucharest, Romania

Please visit www.rbeurope.org for updated information on the next European Resource Bank meeting.

What is the most interesting development (biggest success) that has come out of an ERB meeting?

The biggest successes have come out of the increased cooperation and communication between the institutes. For the Hayek Institut, our greatest successes have been in meeting potential Hayek Chairs (professors who teach at Austrian universities on a rotating basis), speakers, or even board members. I think many of the institutes have had similar experiences.

Since the ERB meetings started in 2004, has the European free-market think tank network grown stronger? How and why?

Absolutely. The amount of contact and cooperation we have with other institutes in Europe is incomparable to what we had before the ERB meetings began, which is to say a lot more. For example, we are currently working on a German translation of the brilliant economic dictionary that Ruta Vainiene (Lithuanian Free Market Institute) put together last year—this sort of collaboration was quite rare before the ERB and before I devoted much of my time to networking and linking people together. But there are still many who are not familiar with these methods or are simply unaware of the necessity to divide labor. We continually get ideas, speakers, and topics from e-mails and mailings from individuals and institutes we first met at an ERB—and we try our best to return the favor. ●

(From left to right) Atlas’s Jo Kwong, Nils Karlson (Ratio Institute, Sweden), Barbara Kolmlamprecht (F.A. Hayek Institut, Austria), Jose Pinera, Elena Leontjeva (Lithuanian Free Market Institute), and Bridgett Wagner (Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC) at the 2005 ERB in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Fourteen Fundraising Lessons from Booker T. Washington

by Joseph G. Lehman, Mackinac Center for Public Policy

At the recent Atlas Liberty Forum in Colorado Springs, Joseph Lehman, Executive Vice President of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy (Michigan), gave a fundraising talk based on Booker T. Washington’s autobiography, Up From Slavery, and in particular Chapter XII: Raising Money. The following article is an adaptation of his remarks.

Booker T. Washington was born as a slave in the U.S. in 1856, 150 years ago. He became one of the most important black leaders in the United States after the Civil War ended American slavery in 1865, rising to national prominence as a teacher, author, and leader of America’s racial equality movement. In 1881, Washington founded the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, a school devoted to helping black Americans secure constitutional rights “through their own economic and moral advancement.” Washington’s idea of black self-reliance was a controversial idea at the time, even among proponents of racial equality.

In 1895, the Tuskegee Institute received university status. Tuskegee University today has 3,000 students, 900 faculty and staff, a 2,000-hectare campus with more than 100 major buildings, and assets of $500 million. Most importantly, it has equipped tens of thousands of mostly black, and often poor, students for self-reliance and opportunity.

I have fourteen fundraising lessons for you today, but you won’t hear them from my voice. I’m going to use a voice that comes to us from 106 years in the past. Booker T. Washington’s autobiography, Up From Slavery, is still widely read today. A co-worker, Justin Marshall, read the book and told me one of the chapters was devoted to fundraising! I was fascinated by what a 106-year-old book might have to say about fundraising, so I read the chapter myself. I was so impressed that I decided I had to share Washington’s insights with you.

1. Be optimistic.

Although I never found where Washington calls himself an optimist, it’s inconceivable that any man who overcame slavery and started a college for blacks in the war-torn American South was not a very optimistic man. His optimism was essential for what he accomplished.

2. Think big.

Booker T. Washington was a teacher, which was itself an impressive accomplishment for a man born a slave. But he thought bigger than that. He wanted to create an institution of teachers who would teach thousands.

3. Don’t delay great projects for lack of funds.

The Tuskegee Institute began building Alabama Hall without funding secured. They used students to begin digging.

4. Don’t think of fundraising as a zero-sum game.

Then an unusual invitation came to Washington to travel to the north with General Armstrong of the Hampton Institute, a rival school. The meetings went well and funds were forthcoming for the construction of Alabama Hall.

General Armstrong’s invitation taught Washington something important: “A weak and narrow man would have reasoned that all the money which came to Tuskegee in this way would be just so much taken from the Hampton Institute…. He [General Armstrong] knew that the people in the North who gave money gave it for the purpose of helping the whole cause of Negro civilization, and not merely for the advancement of any one school.”

5. Be a movement builder, not just an institution builder.

“The General knew, too, that the way to strengthen Hampton was to make it a centre of unselfish power in the working out of the whole Southern problem.”

6. Do your duty.

Only once does Washington refer to any explicit rules for fundraising: “As far as the science of what is called begging can be reduced to rules, I would say that I have but two rules. First, always to do my whole duty regarding making our work known to individuals and organizations; and second, not to worry about the results.”

He went on to say that he always had a great deal of trouble with the second rule!
“…persistent asking outright for money from the rich does not, as a rule, secure help. … Persons who possess sense enough to earn money have sense enough to know how to give it away…. The mere making known of the facts … has been more effective than outright begging. … The presentation of facts, on a high, dignified plane, is all the begging that most rich people care for.”

7. So, do your duty and don’t worry.

“… those who have accomplished the greatest results are those who … never grow excited or lose self-control, but are always calm, self-possessed, patient, and polite.”

8. Expect unexpected support.

“Often it has happened, when during the week I had been disappointed in not getting a cent from the very individuals from whom I most expected help, and when I was almost broken down and discouraged, that generous help has come from some one who I had had little idea would give at all.”

9. Expect support at unexpected times.

An angry man practically chased Washington from a home where he was waiting for an audience with a wealthy woman to ask for her support. Finding himself in the neighborhood of another prospect, perhaps with unexpected time on his hands, he asked for an audience with that other prospect, “a gentleman who received me in the most cordial manner. He wrote me his check for a generous sum, and then, before I had had an opportunity to thank him, the man said: ‘I am so grateful to you, Mr. Washington, for giving me the opportunity to help a good cause. It is a privilege to have a share in it.’”

10. Don’t condemn givers for not giving more.

“I have no patience with those people who are always condemning the rich because they are rich, and because they do not give more to objects of charity.”

11. Asking for money can be its own reward.

“While the work of going from door to door and from office to office is hard, disagreeable, and costly in bodily strength, yet is has some compensations. Such work gives one a rare opportunity to study human nature. It also has its compensations in giving one an opportunity to meet some of the best people in the world.”

12. Be professional.

“I have found that strict business methods go a long way in securing the interest of rich people. … Our financial and other operations, such as business methods, … would be approved of by any New York banking house.”

13. Broaden the base of support.

“… by far the greater proportion of the money that has built up the institution has come in the form of small donations from persons of moderate means.”

14. Strong relationships take time to develop.

“The first time I ever saw the late Collis P. Huntington, the great railroad man, he gave me two dollars for our school. The last time I saw him, which was a few months before he died, he gave me fifty thousand dollars…. Between these two gifts there were others of generous proportions which came every year…. It was not luck. It was hard work.”

“When Mr. Huntington gave me the first two dollars, I did not blame him for not giving me more, but made up my mind that I was going to convince him by tangible results that we were worthy of larger gifts. For a dozen years I made a strong effort to convince Mr. Huntington of the value of our work.”

15. Asking for money can be its own reward.

“Often it has happened, when during the week I had been disappointed in not getting a cent from the very individuals from whom I most expected help, and when I was almost broken down and discouraged, that generous help has come from some one who I had had little idea would give at all.”

“… persistent asking outright for money from the rich does not, as a rule, secure help. … Persons who possess sense enough to earn money have sense enough to know how to give it away…. The mere making known of the facts … has been more effective than outright begging. … The presentation of facts, on a high, dignified plane, is all the begging that most rich people care for.”

10. Don’t condemn givers for not giving more.

“I have no patience with those people who are always condemning the rich because they are rich, and because they do not give more to objects of charity.”

To read all of Joseph Lehman’s remarks from the 2006 Liberty Forum, please visit the Think Tank FAQs/Toolkit on the Atlas website (www.atlasUSA.org).

Washington’s Principles in Action

This single Mackinac Center story illustrates at least seven of Booker T. Washington’s fundraising principles: think big, be professional, expect unexpected support, expect support at unexpected times, relationships take time, do your duty, asking is its own reward.

www.mackinac.org

A man called the Mackinac Center and asked about our “Legacy Society,” which is our program for supporting the institute through estate gifts. He had never given us a gift or contacted us in any way we are aware of. Justin Marshall, who we recently promoted to Director of Advancement, took the call and explained how the Legacy Society worked. The man asked Justin to mail him information. Justin mailed the information, with a letter, the same day, and followed up with a phone call a few days later—nothing more.

After a week or so the man called. Justin was on vacation, but returned the man’s call that day anyway. Justin learned that the man had included the Mackinac Center in his estate plans. He had intended to fund other organizations as well, but now decided not to.

Why? Because none of the other groups he called had yet responded to his request for information. He said after dealing with Justin that the Mackinac Center was the only group worthy of his support, and that the funding he was going to give to the other groups he was now going to give to us.

Side note: how did we meet this man? We hired him seven years ago to photograph our building, and we added him to the mailing list at that time.
I want to salute the donors here – the people who have made Atlas a reality. Because of course without you, this institute would not exist. I hope that you recognize how important your contributions are. I hope you recognize that this may be one of the most important financial investments that you have ever made and that you have gotten an incredibly high return on the investments that you have made at Atlas. And I hope that you will continue to invest and [to] increase your investments.

Having been a lead actor that fought against the tyranny of Communism, I can assure you of one thing – that no dictatorship, no military regime, no totalitarian government can stand against the collective will of a people determined to be free. Americans and Mongolians have much in common. Both of our nations were settled by pioneers on horseback who tamed the rugged plains. Both of our nations shook the yolk of colonial rule and built successful free societies. Both of our nations know that our responsibility in the freedom cause does not end at our boarders. That the survival of liberty in our own lands increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands.

I remember 17 or so years ago, walking through the cobblestone streets of Guatemala, as a priest speaking to Alex Chafuen and expressing to him my frustration of tendency to socialism within religion circles. The keen, riveting insight that he gave me in a few words: He said “institutionalize yourself, recreate the process that introduced you to liberty.” So, in a real way since the very inception of the Acton Institute, we have followed that advice that Alex, then John Blundell, and, of course, Leonard Liggio, who is my “godfather of liberty” as it were, have helped us to promote. That’s why it is a personal honor and privileged to be with you tonight to celebrate this worthy event. . . . Lord Acton said that “Liberty is the delicate fruit of mature civilization.” My friends, we have to protect, and promote, and create the environment in which this delicate fruit can flourish for the next generation. God Bless You!
JOHN STOSSEL

I don’t claim to have original ideas – I just popularize what you bring me. But that’s the goal. That’s what Atlas does. We’re not inventing the wheel here, but we know what works. We have 3 billion people on earth living on a buck or two a day. We know what could help them. Economic freedom has lifted more people out of the mud and misery than any system ever. Yet it is vilified at . . . most mainstream elite media organizations in America. Well, I thank you for fighting that, for preserving these ideas, for supporting Atlas, which can teach that to the world.

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Special Thanks to Tim & Denyse Browne

What great fun we had celebrating Atlas’s 25th anniversary in San Francisco! So many people – Atlas staff, friends, and supporters – worked behind the scenes to help us create a memorable evening for all.

We’d like to thank two people in particular for their hard work and dedication to Atlas – Tim and Denyse Browne, two long-time friends and contributors to Atlas.

Tim Browne is one of a small handful of Atlas board members who personally knew our founder, Antony Fisher. In fact, Tim is one of Atlas’s longest-serving trustees, having joined the Atlas board in 1987, back when Atlas was headquartered in San Francisco.

We decided to hold the 25th anniversary celebration dinner in San Francisco to enjoy the city of Atlas’s roots. But that’s not an easy task to achieve without local help! Fortunately for us, Tim and his wife, Denyse, graciously stepped forward to help us plan a successful event.

Thanks to their energy and devotion to Atlas, dozens of new friends joined us on June 22nd. Some have already written to us, congratulating us on Atlas’s work and mission. We’re particularly heartened by the contributions that have been arriving from new donors, thanks to the opportunities we had in San Francisco to share our efforts to advance freedom around the world. Thank you, Tim and Denyse!
Keys to Success: CIS Celebrates its 30th Anniversary

By Colleen Dyble, Atlas’s Director of Coalition Relations

Thirty years ago, a think tank was founded by a math teacher in a backyard tool shed. These were the humble beginnings of the Centre for Independent Studies – now an award-winning organization that has had a real impact on Australian social, economic and foreign policy. In May, I traveled to Sydney with Atlas President Alex Chafuen to join in CIS’s 30th anniversary celebrations, featuring a keynote address by Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

How did CIS get to where it is today? Here are some snapshots of what makes this think tank so successful . . .

Steadfastness and Hardwork

Where they started...

On November 5, 1976, Greg Lindsay wrote the first of a series of letters to George Pearson (then Director of the Center for Independent Education in Kansas and current Atlas Trustee): “I find that if the Centre is to become really a viable institution that I am going to have to put in some really hard work…it appears for the moment, much of it has to be done by me, and me alone. Which is sometimes rather depressing. By nature I am an optimist but sometimes I just wonder if it is all worth it . . .”

Where they are now...

CIS President Greg Lindsay (left) and Atlas President Alex Chafuen (right) at CIS’ current offices.

“When we first started, just about everything we put forward could have been classed as unthinkable, at least politically. Much of what we said then is conventional wisdom today.” –Greg Lindsay

“The growth of CIS over the years would not have been possible without the extraordinary network of human capital that has gradually been built up from a small in-house team to outside volunteers and contributors from academia, business and many other walks of life. CIS also benefits from strong links with respected scholars and commentators from around the world.” — CIS

Cultivating Donor Relations

CIS holds an annual two and a half day meeting, called Consilium, on Australia’s Sunshine Coast which offers existing CIS contributors from a variety of sectors a high-level and exclusive program that provides forward-looking policy sessions on local and international issues. The resort atmosphere is luxurious and intimate and conducive to networking and collaboration. No media is allowed at the meeting and plenty of time is allowed for relaxing and enjoying the location. CIS has been so successful at marketing this meeting that it has become the ‘meeting to go to’ among CIS contributors.

Invest in the Future Generation

Over the past 10 years, CIS’ Liberty & Society seminars have brought together over 600 undergraduates and recent graduates from across Australia and New Zealand to discuss, debate and learn about classical liberal ideas. By investing in tomorrow’s opinion-leaders and policymakers, CIS is contributing to the shaping of the next generation of leaders and is creating a network of individuals that are passionate about the ideas of a free society. Their hard work is starting to pay off – Michael Keenan is the first Liberty & Society alumnus to enter the federal parliament.

During the dinner, Atlas’s Colleen Dyble (2nd from left) sat next to Jocelyn Maxwell (left) and Beryl and Brian Forbes (right), who all support CIS’ work. Ms. Maxwell first donated to CIS in 1976 and has the carbon copy of the check to prove it!
Take Advantage of Opportunities

CIS began its involvement in Indigenous issues after meeting with a nurse and educator from a remote part of East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Jenness Warin generated significant media exposure through a CIS paper she co-authored with CIS Senior Fellow, Helen Hughes, which brought attention to the appalling social and economic conditions that plague Indigenous communities in Australia. The research and advocacy that CIS has done to improve the living conditions of, and increasing the opportunities available to, people living in impoverished and remote Aboriginal communities, has earned them a Second Prize award for Free Market Solutions to Poverty in Atlas’s 2006 Templeton Freedom Awards program.

Output and Impact

Hosting a wide range of events that are both policy-focused and also ones that are more reflective of the ideas shaping public policy.

Publishing is also vital part of the Centre’s activities, with over 250 publications in print.

• Policy (quarterly magazine):
  – brings CIS’ ideas to a wider audience

  – distributed through newsagents across Australia and New Zealand
  – available online

• Issue Analysis series:
  – provides timely research on public policy issues
  – very effective in generating debate and gaining media coverage for an issue
  – available online

• Occasional Papers series:
  – less policy-oriented essays
  – used to publish lectures and short ‘ideas’ pieces

• Policy monographs:
  – provides more detailed policy analysis
  – published in a book format

Look Toward the Future

While 30 years is an impressive milestone, it is important to always consider future sustainability. CIS has launched a capital campaign “to underpin the future development of the Centre and provide a significant boost to [its] ability to participate in policy debates.” This will allow CIS to maintain its momentum in promoting the ideas of a free society through the production of high quality research and student programs and enable it to maintain its commitment to independence.

“As I reflect on the past thirty years, I am filled with optimism. In Australia and New Zealand we have two of the freest and most prosperous nations on the globe. We are indeed fortunate. We can afford a few mistakes, but when we do make them, we must learn from them. The task for us all is to capitalise on what we have, and become beacons of freedom and prosperity for the rest of the world.” – Greg Lindsay

Aboriginal leader, Noel Pearson gives a lecture to CIS members on welfare reform and economic development for Indigenous communities

Australian Prime Minister John Howard gave the keynote address at CIS’s 30th Anniversary celebration.
Atlas's 6th Annual Liberty Forum on April 21-22, 2006 at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs attracted some 230 advocates of free markets and limited government from more than 50 countries around the world. The conference was held immediately following the State Policy Network’s Leadership Development Breakfast (April 20) and the Heritage Foundation Resource Bank (April 20-21). The Liberty Forum gives think tank leaders an opportunity to connect with one another and to refine their management and leadership strategies, while also giving them the courage and energy to go back home and carry on with their efforts. The following are some of the highlights from the Liberty Forum.

Meeting for New Intellectual Entrepreneurs

To help broaden and strengthen the network of free market think tanks, Atlas invites “intellectual entrepreneurs,” who are new to the network or the Liberty Forum meeting, to a special networking event prior to the start of the Liberty Forum and Heritage’s Resource Bank meetings. This year 28 intellectual entrepreneurs from 21 countries met with Atlas staff, Bridgett Wagner (Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC), Ian Vasquez (Cato Institute, Washington, DC), Michelle Jeffress (The Fund for American Studies, Washington, DC), Nigel Ashford (Institute for Humane Studies, Virginia), and Linda Whetstone (International Policy Network, United Kingdom).

17th Annual Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Awards

Atlas awarded the 17th Annual Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Awards to four free-market think tanks, whose outstanding publications and projects promote public understanding about the ideas of freedom. A $5,000 prize for the category of “Established Institutes” (five years old or more) was presented to the Independent Institute (California) for Liberty for Latin America: How to Undo Five Hundred Years of State Oppression by Alvaro Vargas Llosa. Two institutes received the “Young Institute” award (organizations less than 5 years old) and $5,000 in prize money: Fundación Friedrich A. von Hayek (Argentina) for its book Los Derechos Fundamentales y el Orden Jurídico e Institucional de Cuba (Fundamental Rights and Legal and Institutional Order in Cuba) by Ricardo Manuel Rojas and to the Scientific Research Mises Center (Belarus) for its book, Belarus: Road to the Future. Lastly, the Maxim Institute (New Zealand) received the $2000 award in the category of “Innovative Projects” for its Parent Factor reports.

2006 Templeton Freedom Awards

In his address prior to the presentation of the Templeton Freedom Prizes and Award Grants, John Templeton Foundation Vice President Arthur Schwartz commented, “Sir John [Templeton] is so enormously grateful to the leaders of each [winning] organization. I am also grateful – and humbled – by your steadfast commitment and courageous work to advance the cause of freedom and free markets within your individual countries and throughout the world.” Six of the eight Templeton
Freedom Prize winning institutes and eight of the nine Templeton Freedom Award Grant winning institutes joined Atlas for the awards presentation. Also, four of the ten honorable mention grant winners were at the Liberty Forum.

Keynote Address by Alvaro Vargas Llosa

Alvaro Vargas Llosa (Center for Global Prosperity, Independent Institute, California) gave the keynote address at the Fisher Award Banquet. In his speech, The State of Freedom: 2006, Vargas Llosa honored Fisher’s memory saying, “[I am] especially moved to be able to briefly associate my name with that of Sir Anthony Fisher, who had the rare quality of being able to dream awake and to detect that imprecise junction where the ideal meets the possible. We are, in a way, his children and grandchildren. He was, if you will allow me a communal license, one of the patriarchs of our tribe.” His speech noted the great successes that the former Soviet-bloc countries have made in increasing freedom and prosperity during the last decade while also highlighting the challenges that Africa, Latin America and Asia face.

Management Strategy Sessions

The management strategy sessions at the Liberty Forum focused on the usual hot topics of fundraising and communications. The fundraising session covered a range of issues from how to deal with USAID grants, strategies for fundraising outside of the U.S., and fundraising lessons from Booker T. Washington (see article by Joseph Lehman on pages 10-11). The communications session gave updates on new trends such as blogging, documentaries, film festivals, and web-based technology.

Policy Sessions

This year’s policy sessions tackled two very diverse topics. “Think Tanks Empowering the Individual and the Family” showcased the policy work of institutes that focus on matters like education, taxation, and social issues. “Free Trade and Port Security” presented the difficulties of maintaining port security, while not hindering commerce.

Keynote Address by Arthur Schwartz

Dr. Arthur Schwartz, Vice President of the John Templeton Foundation, gave the keynote address at the Templeton Freedom Award luncheon of the Liberty Forum. In his speech, Healing the World, Schwartz outlined the vision of Sir John Templeton and the Templeton Foundation while telling Sir John’s life journey from his childhood in the foothills of Tennessee to becoming one of the most successful investors in the world. Schwartz concluded his remarks referring to the Jewish commandment of ‘tikkun olum,’ or healing the world, and the power of the free market think tanks in following that commandment: “Here is my unique selling proposition: Bill Gates has done more for humanity than The Blessed Mother Teresa. Thus, our challenge is simple: Over the next 25 years each one of us needs to recommit ourselves to helping all of humanity understand that the small entrepreneur — whether in Bangalore or Bangor, Maine — is part of ‘tikkun olum.’ My friends, your passion for promoting and fighting for freedom and liberty is a mitzvah. You are enacting the commandment of ‘tikkun olum.’”

Keynote Address by Alvaro Vargas Llosa

Gordon Johnson (left) stands with Jason Apuzzo (middle) and Govindini Murty (right). Apuzzo and Murty, who spoke on the communications panel, created the Liberty Film Festival, which celebrates free speech, patriotism, religious freedom, and democracy by providing a forum in the heart of Hollywood for conservative and libertarian filmmakers. (Photo courtesy of McIntyre Photography)

Gordon Johnson (left) stands with Jason Apuzzo (middle) and Govindini Murty (right). Apuzzo and Murty, who spoke on the communications panel, created the Liberty Film Festival, which celebrates free speech, patriotism, religious freedom, and democracy by providing a forum in the heart of Hollywood for conservative and libertarian filmmakers. (Photo courtesy of McIntyre Photography)

Gordon Johnson (left) stands with Jason Apuzzo (middle) and Govindini Murty (right). Apuzzo and Murty, who spoke on the communications panel, created the Liberty Film Festival, which celebrates free speech, patriotism, religious freedom, and democracy by providing a forum in the heart of Hollywood for conservative and libertarian filmmakers. (Photo courtesy of McIntyre Photography)
As part of Atlas’s continued efforts to build bridges between academia and the world of free-market think tanks and scholars, Atlas recently gave grants to three startup academic centers in the U.S.: the Center for Vision & Values (Grove City College), the Matthew Ryan Project (Villanova University), and, at its inception stage, the Center for Political Economy and American Constitutionalism (Rhodes College). All three centers, through their programs and student outreach activities, seek to inculcate in the minds of the young a deeper understanding of the principles of the free society and a better appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of enlightened citizenship.

These grants are part of Atlas’s Teach Freedom Initiative (TFI), which helps identify and train intellectual entrepreneurs within universities, so the ideas of the free society get a fair hearing in today’s sometimes hostile academic environment. We see a need for more “Atlas-type” work with respect to academic centers—that is, methodically nurturing and enhancing the development of academic centers that promote the ideas of a free society. Building on Atlas’s early work through the Freedom Project and International Freedom Projects, the initiative seeks to support U.S. and international centers.

On March 31, 2006, Atlas held its first TFI conference, “Promoting the Free Society Through University-based Centers.” Dr. Charles Harper of the John Templeton Foundation gave the keynote address. Harper highlighted the need for academic reforms in many areas, from “buying turf” (in the tradition of the James Madison Program at Princeton) to generating ideas and creating new fields and innovations; from impacting the flow of donor monies and student choices to impacting top-down governance; from addressing legal constraints to resorting to media embarrassment tactics. Harper noted, however, that what’s lacking in all this is strategic thinking on how to achieve these reforms.

Atlas’s Teach Freedom Initiative will work to help remedy many of the challenges that Harper mentioned. Our plans include creating “toolkits” for academic startups; giving out general grants (or project grants) to younger centers just starting up; improving hands-on service to these centers; and inviting more academics to Atlas meetings.

Atlas will also organize conferences that address the nuts-and-bolts of think tank management for academics who are thinking of starting an academic center. These forums will provide perfect opportunities for startups to discuss the challenges and administrative problems involved in setting up such centers.

For more information about the Teach Freedom Initiative, please visit the Academic Programs section of the Atlas website, www.atlasUSA.org.
Teach Freedom Initiative – 2006 Grantees

In May 2006, Atlas awarded three $10,000 grants to the following university centers.

**Center for Vision & Values**
Grove City College, Pennsylvania • Professor Paul Kengor, Executive Director • http://gcc.savvior.com/

“The vision of The Center for Vision & Values is to educate the world about the transforming power of Christian faith and individual freedom.” It has strong interest in public policy and commitment to freedom. It is having an impact on public policy on a local and national level and has been successful in publishing op-eds in major news papers such as the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Washington Times*, and *L.A. Daily News*, as well as faculty appearances on national news programs such as MSNBC, C-Span, and Fox News. Among its policy concerns are:

- American Studies
- Economic Theory & Policy
- Educational Policy
- Faith & Politics
- Middle East & Terrorism
- Poverty Studies
- Public Persuasion & Media
- Science & Faith
- Artificial Intelligence, Technology & Computer Ethics
- Medical Ethics

Its most recent conference, “Mr. Jefferson Goes to the Middle East: Will Democracy Work in the Middle East?” held at Grove City College in April, 2006, was co-sponsored by Atlas.

**The Matthew Ryan Project for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good**
Villanova University, Pennsylvania • Professor Colleen Sheehan, Executive Director • http://www.ryanproject.org/

The Ryan Project “promotes inquiry into the principles and processes of free government and seeks to advance understanding of the responsibilities of statesmen and citizens of constitutional democratic societies.” It is dedicated to advancing civic education in a free, democratic society, with the following initiatives:

- Support of the interdisciplinary Templeton Freedom Studies curriculum in the Core Humanities Seminar Program;
- Support for classes and seminars on the topic of freedom and related subjects;
- Creation of a minor within Political Science in Leadership Studies in Freedom and the Public Good
- Public lectures and major conferences
- Visiting scholars program
- Junior scholars forum
- Undergraduate essay competition and prize for excellence in the study of political thought and politics
- Summer Institutes on the ideas and institutions of the American republic offered to junior high and high school History, Government, and Civics teachers
- Collaborative efforts with other institutions, organizations, and centers devoted to issues of mutual concern in Pennsylvania and across the nation

**Center for Political Economy and Study of American Constitutionalism**
Rhodes College, Tennessee • Professor Daniel Cullen, Executive Director

Still at its inception stage, the Center for Political Economy and American Constitutionalism (CPEAC) will be devoted to fostering teaching, research and deliberation about the philosophical and moral foundations of a free society and the functioning of a constitutional democracy. The Center will be the intersection for faculty in Political Science, Economics, Philosophy, and History who have overlapping teaching and research interests relevant to the Center’s mission. Through a curriculum and a variety of programs, the Center will:

- Cultivate a better understanding of the principled foundations of a free society through study of the classics of political philosophy that promote constitutional order as well as those that reject it.
- Study the historical conditions of the American founding and the challenges to which constitutional government has been subjected in American political history.
- Connect the philosophy and practice of constitutionalism to the significant policy disputes of the day, most of which can and should be clarified by relating them to fundamental questions of liberty, responsibility and justice.
- Encourage Rhodes students to unite their liberal arts education to their ambitions for leadership in the private and public sectors after graduation.
What motivated a few people to start a “free market think tank” in the Bahamas? Quite simply, the aftermath of negative economic growth during the 1980s. The Bahamian economy by 1990 had slowed from a high rate of economic growth, around 7.5 percent in the 1960s and 70s, to a minus-growth rate by the end of the 80s. The hopes for improved living standards had not materialized as promised by the post-independence government, the Progressive Liberal Party.

The explanation is straightforward—free markets and less government were yet to be recognized as essential factors for economic growth and prosperity. Economics as such were not part of polite discussion—politics dominated. It is not surprising that the socialist ideology of the mother country, Great Britain, at the time was expressed in the adolescent “emerging” Bahamas, which became responsible in 1973 for national security and public policy initiatives after its independence.

Free-market ideas seemed “radical” in the 1990s as government was expected to solve social and economic problems. It continued to expand to fulfill this mandate. Law was enacted and current law “updated,” giving power to government ministers that had not previously existed. They included minimum wage laws, labor legislation, increased licensing of trades and services, all of which were alleged to provide a better quality of life for “working Bahamians.”

There seemed no limit to what could be identified as “bad” policy.

In 1995, the Nassau Institute was founded “to see the Bahamas become the first small, developed, sovereign country in the region, recognized as a model for the world.” With a vision that appeared to be counter-intuitive to the philosophy of the times, the Nassau Institute faced a large challenge in getting our ideas printed and the organization funded. We kept overhead expenses to a minimum and all revenue from our fundraising appeals went into producing a quarterly publication covering various policy initiatives that would take away more individual freedom.

Atlas was and still is an important connection for the Nassau Institute, with support both intellectual and, in the earlier days, financial. Atlas’s connections to other free-market think tanks has made it possible for two all-day symposiums in Nassau—“The Global Challenge and the Need for Reform” (April 3, 2004) and “Taking Small Nations to Greatness: Free Trade, Security, and Education” (June 9, 2006).

Our experience as a start-up libertarian institute has shown that laying the groundwork for the ideas is critical. Persuading the public to take a different philosophical position, from the socialist to the capitalist, takes time. However, with each year and so many organizations refuting socialism around the world, the timeframe for change will be shorter than it was ten years ago in the Bahamas.

The directors and supporters of the Nassau Institute are most grateful for the support and encouragement of everyone at the Atlas Economic Research Foundation. They made June 9 an important and memorable day for the history and development of libertarian principles in the Bahamas.

By Joan Thompson, President
Taking Small Nations to Greatness

On June 9, 2006, Atlas and the Nassau Institute (Bahamas) co-hosted the conference, “Taking Small Nations to Greatness: Free Trade, Security, and Education,” at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Nassau Institute president Joan Thompson noted that the very topic of the conference “describes precisely the goal of the Nassau Institute.”

Nearly 100 businesspeople, academics, and local Junior Achievement students attended this conference, which was a follow-up to the 2004 meeting, “The Global Challenge and the Need for Reform.”

Brian Dean of Florida FTAA, (Miami), opened the first session by commenting on the benefits of free-trade agreements, such as the CAFTA-Dominican Republic agreement as a model for future trade agreements. Bahamian Brian Moree cautioned the Bahamas against a ‘rush-to-join’ the multi-country Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME) because of its implications for immigration flows and potential income transfers from economically successful countries to less successful ones.

Dr. Jose Perales from the Manchester Trade Group focused his presentation on the importance of trade liberalization for the area. Noting that imbalances and differences in macroeconomic conditions exist, the common historical and institutional background is a unifying factor for trade co-ordination in the area.

Stephen Johnson from the Heritage Foundation (Washington, DC) pointed out that threats to stability and growth in the Caribbean include drug-running, arms smuggling, and mass migration from low-income countries to the more prosperous ones like the Bahamas. Professor Anibal Romero from Simon Bolivar University (Venezuela) gave an impassioned presentation that reflected deep concern for his country’s future under the “flexible authoritarianism” of Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez.

Haitian businessman and founder of Fondation Espoir, Hans Tippenhauer, presented an overview of the current situation in Haiti. He explained that the main cause of stagnation is not political, but the overall failure of the economy. Tippenhauer views Haiti’s immediate needs as: better infrastructure and public services, more access to modern technology, better education and an understanding of the free market for the youth, and access to loans for new businesses.

The highlight of the day was the luncheon speaker, former president of El Salvador Francisco Flores. He attributed the remarkable changes that turned his country around to free-market reforms and outlined four elements that any country can use to make itself great: responsibility; a long-term vision based on freedom; a new political ethic; and a strong patriotic sense. Flores gave a striking description of how his government dealt with corruption in government, which included termination of one-fifth of the police force.

The afternoon session explored how to empower the young by inspiring noble purpose through entrepreneurship and character. Lionel Elliott, Executive Director of the Junior Achievement (JA) in the Bahamas, moderated the afternoon session and brought the top 25 high school students from the local JA program to the conference.

Eduardo Marty of Junior Achievement in Argentina, who is a former Atlas fellow, spoke about how promoting individual and economic values among youth can change the culture of the country.

Dr. Kimon Sargeant, Vice President of Human Sciences at the John Templeton Foundation (Pennsylvania) explained the work of the Foundation in furthering opportunities for young people. Sargeant spoke about the link between character and entrepreneurship. Using Sir John Templeton as an example, he mentioned a set of principles in which the Templeton Foundation strongly believes: opportunity is choice, choice is freedom, and choice allows people to harness their creative energy.

Following Sargeant’s remarks, Cristina Burelli (Alliance for Family, Washington, DC) showed how character and moral values and the impact that they have on individual development. As an example, she used AFF’s program that redirects disadvantage youth from gangs into constructive and productive citizens can have beneficial outcomes.

Speakers from the final session on empowering the youth are shown with representatives from the Bahamas chapter of Junior Achievement.

Barrie Farrington, Vice President of Kerzner International and a Director of the Hotel Corporation wound up the Conference with a presentation from the study “Bahamian Youth; the Untapped Resource,” which emphasized the need to raise educational standards so the Bahamas can meet the global challenge of the competitive marketplace.
New CD-ROM: Ideas for a Free Society

Linda Whetstone of the International Policy Network (United Kingdom) spearheaded the launch of a CD project, “Ideas for a Free Society,” designed for those who are interested in discovering beneficial economic and political arrangements that lead to economic growth and the elimination of poverty. For a copy of the CD-ROM, please email your request to: info@ideasforafreesociety.org.

Lithuanian Free Market Institute Names New President

On May 9, a joint meeting of the board and shareholders of the Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI) elected Dr. Remigijus Simasius as its new president. Simasius joined LFMI’s team in 1995. Since May 2004, he has served as the institute’s vice president and has led its team of analysts. As an expert on the Austrian School and legal theory, he has gained recognition both in Lithuania and overseas.

LFMI was also featured in a June 2nd article, “Many Institutes, Little Use,” by the Lithuanian weekly Laiskas (“Time”), which looked at the work of scientific research institutes in Lithuania and evaluated their use to the state and society at large. Much attention in this article was given to LFMI’s activities and achievements. “Seemingly there is no proper counterbalance to these free-marketeers in Lithuania,” said the author of the article, who asked representatives from other scientific (but also government-funded) institutes why LFMI is so popular.

IREN Featured on ABC News 20/20

June Arunga and James Shikwati of Inter Region Economic Network (Kenya) were featured in a June segment on ABC News 20/20 by John Stossel entitled “MYTH: More Foreign Aid Will End Global Poverty”—which is a fact that IREN has been pointing out for years. Shikwati commented, “What’s holding down Africans is actually the bad governments, the bad policies that make it difficult for Africans to make use of their own property. What the aid money is doing to Africa is to subsidize the bad policies that are making Africans poor.” The entire report is located at: http://abcnews.go.com/2020/story?id=195564&page=1.

Montreal Economic Institute Releases New Book

Montreal Economic Institute economist Nathalie Elgably’s new book, La face cachée des politiques publiques (Public Policies’ Hidden Face), published in April, reminds French-speaking readers about basic economic principles and uses these principles to debunk popular myths about health care, rent control, the minimum wage, water management, globalization, etc. Elgarbly is one of the very few free-market economists who have access to the popular mainstream media on a regular basis. Her weekly columns are published every Wednesday in the Journal de Montréal and Journal de Québec, Quebec’s most-read daily newspapers. In just a few short months, Nathalie has also become a regular commentator on several TV and radio shows.

A Big Success for the Centre for Civil Society (India)

The Centre for Civil Society (India), through its “Education Choice Campaign,” has succeeded in reforming the school licensing system in New Delhi. Parth Shah, CCS executive director, told Atlas, “The archaic and strangling school licensing system is finally buried. Delhi is setting a great precedent and hopefully the other states will follow soon. The Education Choice Campaign has been arguing [for reform] for a long time, and it seems that, though they are slow, the wheels of government do indeed turn.”

The First Bulgarian Edition of Ayn Rand’s The Fountainhead

Kalin Manalov of the Bulgarian Hayek Society recently announced the very first publication of a Bulgarian edition of The Fountainhead. The translator is Bojidar Marinov. The book was edited by Kalina Lubomirova and was published by “MaK” Ltd., in collaboration Iztok-Zapad (East-West).

Book Launch at Imani: Centre for Human Education

On April 21, Imani (Ghana) director Franklin Cudjoe was the main speaker at the launch of a new International Policy Network book he co-authored, The Water Revolution: Practical Solutions to Water Scarcity, at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development. Franklin made the case that markets are the best way to enable entrepreneurs to solve water scarcity around the world. For more information, visit Imani’s website, www.imanighana.org.
IEA Celebrates Founders’ Day

On July 3, the Institute of Economic Affairs (United Kingdom) celebrated the lives and accomplishments of the four men who founded and built IEA: Friedrich von Hayek, Sir Antony Fisher, Lord Harris of High Cross, and Dr. Arthur Seldon. As IEA Director General John Blundell often says, “The IEA’s founding can be told in nine words: Hayek advises Fisher; Fisher recruits Harris; Harris meets Seldon.”

Liberté Chérie Sponsors “Fête de la Liberté”

On June 25, Liberté Chérie (France) sponsored “Fête de la Liberté” at the Baltard Pavilion just outside of Paris. The free event, which included food and entertainment, highlighted current French classical liberal writers and advocates, and it drew a crowd of thousands. The event was created in response to socialist sentiments in France and attempted to educate people about the principles of a free society.

MPPI (Maryland) Garners Friedman Prize for School Choice Innovation

The Maryland Public Policy Institute received an award of $25,000 from the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation (Indiana) for its proposal to provide school choice to Maryland’s foster care children. This is the Friedman Foundation’s second annual Innovation in Promoting School Choice competition.

Book Launch: CADAL Presents Ladies in White

On May 11 at the Press Foundation in Santiago de Chile, CADAL (Argentina) launched journalist Erika Lüters’ book, Ladies in White (Las Damas de Blanco: Las mujeres de los prisioneros de la primavera negra de Cuba), with remarks by Senator and former Foreign Minister of Chile, Soledad Alvear. Ladies in White is about a group formed by the wives of prisoners of the so-called “black spring” of Cuba on March 18, 2003, during which a group of Cuban intellectuals were imprisoned and isolated because of their counterrevolutionary activities—such as promoting libraries and unsupervised intellectual meetings against the communist regime.

Rio Grande Foundation Releases Study

On June 27 the Rio Grande Foundation (New Mexico) released a study entitled “Building on Success: Leveraging New Mexico’s Strong Fiscal Position for Further Economic Growth,” which highlights the economic stimulus of the 2003 state income tax reductions in New Mexico. In addition, this study discusses possible future steps for the state.

Earlier this spring, the Rio Grand Foundation acquired a new president, Paul Gessing.

Free Minds Association Organizes Youth Seminar in Azerbaijan

From June 8 to 10, the Free Minds Association (Azerbaijan), in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation organized a three-day youth seminar in Nabran, Azerbaijan. The main topic of the seminar was “Understanding the Free Society and Intellectual Change.” More than thirty students participated and discussed a range of topics and lectures, such as “Liberalism and the Role of Intellectuals,” “Property Rights as Fundamental Liberal Values,” “Isaiah Berlin and the Power of Ideas,” and “Perspectives on the Development of a Free Society in Azerbaijan.”

New Think Tank in Japan

The Leadership Institute Japan (LIJ) was founded in March as an educational organization that teaches classical liberal thought. Its mission is to help achieve greater prosperity in Japan by focusing on the role of free markets, limited government, and individual responsibility. It seeks to minimize the role of government by reducing taxes, unnecessary regulations, and other barriers to market exchange. With the cooperation of The Leadership Institute (Virginia), LIJ operates several schools, including the Candidate Development School, Campaign Leadership School, and Fundraising Workshop. LIJ will shortly launch its Campus Leadership Program, an ambitious program to expand classical liberal thinking among Japanese students.
Below are names and Web addresses (where applicable) of institutes mentioned in this quarter’s Highlights. Visit the Freedom Directory at www.atlasUSA.org for more details on the larger network of market-oriented think tanks with which Atlas works.

Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty (www.acton.org)
Adam Smith Institute (www.adamsmith.org)
Alliance for the Family (www.allianceforfamily.org)
Americans for Tax Reform (www.atr.org)
Bulgarian Hayek Society
CADAL (www.cadal.org)
Cato Institute (www.cato.org)
Center for Legal, Political, and Economic Studies (Armenia)
Center for Political Economy and American Constitutionalism (Rhodes College)
Center for Vision & Values (gcc.savior.com/)
Centre for Civil Society (www.ccsindia.org)
Centre for Independent Studies (www.cis.org.au)
Citizens for a Sound Economy (www.cse.org)
E.G. West Centre (www.ncl.ac.uk/egwest)
F.A. v. Hayek Institut (www.hayek-institut.at)
Fondation Espoir (Haiti)
Foundation for Economic Education (www.fee.org)
Fraser Institute (www.fraserinstitute.ca)
Free Minds Association (Azerbaijan)
Heritage Foundation (www.heritage.org)
Imani: The Centre for Humane Education (www.imanighana.org)
Independent Institute (www.independent.org)
Institute for Economic Studies Europe (www.ies-europe.org)
Institute for Humane Studies (www.theihs.org)
Instituto de Economic Affairs (www.iea.org.uk)
Instituto de Estudios Empresariais (www.iee.com.br)
Inter Region Economic Network (www.irenkenya.org)
International Policy Network (www.policynetwork.net)
James Madison Program (http://web.princeton.edu/sites/jmadison/)
John Templeton Foundation (www.templeton.org)
Junior Achievement (www.ja.org)
Leadership Institute (www.leadershipinstitute.org)
Leadership Institute Japan
Libertad y Desarrollo (www.lyd.org)
Liberté Chérie (www.liberte-cherie.com/)
Liberty Ideas (www.liberty.li)
Lithuanian Free Market Institute (www.freema.org)
Mackinac Center for Public Policy (www.mackinac.org)
Maryland Public Policy Institute (www.mdpolicy.org)
Matthew Ryan Project (www.ryanproject.org/)
Maxim Institute (www.maxim.org.nz)
Milton & Rose D. Friedman Foundation (www.friedmanfoundation.org)
Montreal Economic Institute (www.iedm.org)
Nassau Institute (www.nassauinstitute.org)
New Economic School-Georgia (www.economic.ge)
Pacific Research Institute (www.pacificresearch.org)
Political Theory Project (www.brown.edu/Departments/Political_Theory_Project/)
Ratio Institute (www.ratio.se)
Rio Grande Foundation (www.riograndefoundation.org)
Scientific Research Mises Center (www.liberty-belarus.info)
The Fund for American Studies (www.tfas.org)

Charles Murray, author of In Our Hands: A Plan to Replace the Welfare State (2006) and Losing Ground (1985) will be the keynote speaker. The dinner also features Toasts to Freedom from great champions of the free society and the presentation of the 2006 Freda Utley Prize for Advancing Liberty.

For more information about ticket and table prices for the 2006 Freedom Dinner, please contact Atlas at 703-934-6969 or events@atlasUSA.org or check the Atlas website, www.atlasUSA.org

Freedom Dinner
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