



Students For Liberty

2008-2009 Annual Report

Students For Liberty



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Students For Liberty

Letter from the Executive Director & President

Students For Liberty (SFL) has successfully completed its first full year of operation! I can't express how amazed and proud I am to write that sentence. What began as a 12 person roundtable during the Institute for Humane Studies' 2007 Koch Summer Fellowship has turned into a global student movement for liberty with hundreds of organizations and thousands of members coming together for the cause of freedom. We had no idea what the magnitude of the project we were embarking upon was when we held that first roundtable, but I could not be prouder of SFL's successes and the role that SFL is and will continue to play in the cause of liberty.

The following pages will detail our successes and growth, so I don't want to waste space here highlighting them. What I think deserves recognition is the triumph of students' passion and perseverance to create an organization with unlimited potential. Two years ago, there was no mechanism to support student groups dedicated to liberty, no instruction manual for starting a group, no support network on best practices for leading students, and no opportunities to meet other students and get excited about spreading the message of liberty. While there were opportunities for individual students to get involved in the cause of liberty, they were generally limited and difficult for students to learn about. It was a spam email that first introduced me to the world of pro-liberty nonprofits. I was one of the lucky ones to receive that email. But there were and are so many others who are interested in these ideas and want to participate in the cause of liberty that would never learn about them without an organization seeking them out and informing them of those opportunities.

I and SFL's other founders saw a market need and knew there were two options: wait for someone else to realize the importance of supporting and reaching out to pro-liberty students on campus, or do it ourselves. We chose the latter. Instead of sitting in dorm rooms and complaining about the need for an organization to support

students, we decided to give students what they were demanding. First, it was a 100-student conference at Columbia University in February 2008. Then, it was a nonprofit organization in August 2008 with Regional Conferences, free books for reading groups, handbooks on organizing, webinar training on leadership, and a plethora of other services and resources. Now, it is an international movement with thousands of students and hundreds of organizations promoting liberty by every means possible.

SFL is developing leaders of liberty at all levels in all fields. That is one of our new mottoes and one of the most apt descriptions of SFL. Because we empower students to promote liberty in their own ways, SFL's most important successes are not direct products of our programs. That



we have brought hundreds of students to conferences and trained thousands of students is not important in and of itself. What makes SFL's work so valuable is that our members and alumni use their experiences to start their own initiatives for liberty. There is no blueprint for how to accomplish a free academy or a free society. There is no silver bullet that can

eliminate the looming threat of statism. The students who start their own student groups, who devise new coalitions between groups, who create new nonprofits, who create new positions at existing think tanks, those students are the ones guiding the future course of our world. SFL is giving them the resources to lead the fight for liberty.

In one year of existence, SFL has accomplished more than we ever dreamed. SFL's future is bright. The future of liberty is bright. I, for one, am excited to see it come.

Sincerely & For Liberty,

Alexander J. McCobin
Executive Director, & President



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Bullet Point Successes

SFL has had a tremendous number of successes over the past year, more than this Annual Report will be able to cover in a single document. While the rest of this report will outline them in narrative format and try to provide a substantive account of them, this list of bullet point successes will try to condense some of the most important successes for you to refer back to and use as a reference when thinking about SFL. In our first year, SFL:

- Received full 501(c)(3) status from the IRS – perhaps our greatest administrative accomplishment to date for anyone who knows what it’s like to work with the IRS;
- Founded and connected 109 student groups for liberty around the world;
- Involved 1,000+ participants in SFL conferences, trainings, and programs;
- Worked with students in 22 countries including Venezuela, Ghana, and Russia;
- Helped form 3 coalitions of pro-liberty student groups to support one another in their regions;
- Sent a delegation of students to act as international observers in Venezuela’s November elections, organized entirely by Venezuelan students, constituting the only delegation of observers not paid for and brought in by the Venezuelan government;
- Was featured on C-SPAN when SFL’s Executive Director, Alexander McCobin, delivered a speech at the 2009 Conservative Political Action Conference;
- Developed and connected alumni who are now interning and/or working full time at organizations like the Cato Institute and the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, running political campaigns, and are starting their own nonprofits to promote liberty thanks to the training they received from SFL;
- Published the *Journal of Liberty and Society*, an academic journal highlighting students’ papers on liberty in order to encourage intellectual work, debate, and discussion on the future of liberty;
- Created an innovative E-Leadership series to train students on effective organizing from the comfort of their dorm rooms, which grew five-fold in the spring semester;
- Developed the most comprehensive listing of pro-liberty internships around the US for students to access at www.studentsforliberty.org/college/internships/;
- Connected high school students with professors to study the intellectual backing behind a free society through the Foundations of Freedom Fellowship;
- Inducted SFL’s new leadership with a week-long retreat to learn about the history of SFL and strategize for the upcoming year. This is one of many new ways to institutionalize and ensure the long-term existence of SFL so that our goal of promoting liberty effectively as possible to as many students as possible continues to guide us; and
- Expanded to the point where we both needed and were able to hire our first full-time staff member and received donated office space from the Cato Institute for his work area.



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SFL's Global Network

SFL's growth has been dramatic. What began in July 2007 as a roundtable discussion of a dozen students turned into a 100-student conference at Columbia University in February 2008, and has now become a movement with thousands of students all over the world. At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, SFL's network of student groups consisted of 109 active organizations. Going into the 2009-2010 school year, we are already up to 140 organizations, and more are joining the network every week.



(Map of SFL's network of pro-liberty student groups)

SFL's philosophy in working with pro-liberty student groups is not to dictate in a top-down manner how groups should form, the names they should use, or the activities they should run. Rather, we work with groups to facilitate their formation and growth according to the interests of the groups themselves. If a group wishes to focus on a particular philosophy of liberty, such as Austrian Economics, we provide free books for them to start reading groups. If they wish to advance the ideas of liberty generally and educate their university about the ideas, we connect them with speakers and anything we can provide. If we can create multiple pro-liberty groups on a campus to fill different niches and broaden the cause of liberty, all the better.

In addition to connecting individual student groups with the SFL network, SFL has helped establish region-based coalitions of student groups. These coalitions provide localized networks of support that groups can rely on to develop their capabilities and strengths. The first coalition, the Philadelphia Forum for Freedom, was created only months after the inaugural conference at Columbia and hosted its own conference at the University of Pennsylvania. The DC Forum for Freedom soon followed at the start of the 2008-2009 school year with groups attending one another's events and co-sponsoring protests on campus. The Ivy League Alliance for Liberty was then formed to take advantage of the Ivy League's name and challenge the reputation of abundant statism at some of the country's most prestigious schools.



Students For Liberty

List of 2008-2009 SFL Groups

American University Students For Liberty	Rutgers Libertarians	University of Oklahoma Libertarians
Arizona State Students For Liberty	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Libertarians	University of Pennsylvania Libertarian Association
Albion Students for a Free Economy	San Jose State University Economics Club	University of Pittsburgh Libertarians
Amherst College Libertarians	Saint Cloud State University Libertarians	University of Richmond Libertarians
Brown Students for Liberty	School of the Woods Afternoon Economics	University of South Carolina Upstate Libertarians
Case Western Reserve University Young Americans for Liberty	Seton Hall University Students for Individual Liberty	University of Tampa Libertarians
Catholic University Young Americans for Liberty	St. John's College-New Mexico Austrian Economics Club	UT-Austin Libertarian Longhorns
Columbia College Libertarians	Tallahassee Community College Libertarians	Austrian Economics at UT Dallas
Colorado School of Mines Libertarians	Temple Libertarians	University of Tulsa Students for Liberty
College Libertarians at Cornell University	Tidewater Community College Young Libertarians	University of Virginia College Libertarians
Dartmouth Libertarians	Truman State University Libertarians	University of Virginia Students for Individual Liberty
Drexel Student Liberty Front	University at Buffalo Libertarians	University of Virginia Liberty Coalition
Emory & Henry College Libertarians	Objectivist Club at UC Berkeley	University of Wisconsin-Madison Young Americans for Liberty
College Libertarians of Florida State University	Oral Roberts University College Libertarians	Republican Liberty Caucus at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Franklin & Marshall Economics Club	UCLA L.O.G.I.C.	Valencia Community College Students for Liberty
George Mason Economics Society	University of California-Santa Cruz Libertarians	Vanderbilt Libertarians
George Mason Students for Liberty	University of Cincinnati Bearcat Libertarians	Wake Forest Young Americans for Liberty
George Washington University College Libertarians	University of Chicago Students for a Free Society	Western Michigan University Libertarians
Georgetown Students For Liberty	University of Connecticut Students for Liberty	Whitman Libertarians
Grand Valley Economics Club	University of Florida College Libertarians	Yale College Libertarians
Grove City Students for Liberty	University of Iowa Advocates of Liberty	Objectivist Study Group at Yale
Hampden Sydney Classical Liberals	University of Kansas Students of Liberty	<i>Australia</i> – Australian Liberal Students' Federation
Harvard Libertarian Forum	University of Kentucky Students For Liberty	<i>Belgium</i> – Flemish Classical Liberal Students Association
Indiana University-Purdue Fort Wayne College Libertarians	UMass-Dartmouth Libertarians	<i>Brazil</i> – Circulo de Estudos Roberto
James Madison University-Madison Liberty College Libertarians of Kennesaw State University	University of Maryland Students For Liberty	<i>Canada</i> – Institute for Liberal Studies
Lewis & Clark College Students for Liberty	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor College Libertarians	<i>Canada</i> – University of Regina <i>Libertas</i>
Loyola Students for Liberty	University of Michigan-Flint College Libertarians	<i>Egypt</i> – Egyptian Union of Liberal Youth
Maryville University Libertarians	University of Missouri College Libertarians	<i>Ghana</i> – Ghana Students For Liberty
Mercer University Freemarketeers	University of Nevada-Reno Students for Liberty	<i>India</i> – Liberal Youth Forum-India
Michigan State University Young Americans for Liberty	Notre Dame Libertarians	<i>Italy</i> – Italian Students for Individual Liberty
MIT Libertarians	UNC-Chapel Hill College Libertarians	<i>South Africa</i> – South African Liberal Students Association
NYU Libertarians	University of North Texas Students for Individual Liberty	<i>UK</i> – Cambridge Libertarian Society
Ohio University Students For Liberty		<i>UK</i> – University College London Libertarian Society
Oklahoma State University College Libertarians		<i>UK</i> – London School of Economics Hayek Society
Pace University Students For Liberty		<i>UK</i> – Students for Freedom
Penn State College Libertarians		<i>Venezuela</i> – Nuevas Premisas
Penn State Students for Liberty		
Princeton College Libertarians		
Rochester Institute of Technology College Libertarians		



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SFL Leadership

2009-2010 Executive Board & Board of Directors

Katya Akudovich, George Mason University, *International Director*
Born in Minsk, Belarus, Katya grew up under totalitarianism and began to fight for liberty early on. During her second year at Belarusian State University, Katya founded an NGO called “Community of Young Economists and Entrepreneurs.” In 2009, she transferred to George Mason University to finish her bachelors.



Carlo Cordasco, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, University of Pisa, *European Director*

Carlo began studying classical liberalism at age 16 after reading *Human Action* by Mises. Carlo founded the Italian Students for Individual Liberty and the Italian Hayek Association. He is a research fellow at the Tocqueville-Acton Institute.

Sam Eckman, University of Pittsburgh, *Director*
Sam attended the University of Pittsburgh and was a Koch Summer Fellow in 2007. Sam is currently working on Capitol Hill for a US Senator.



Alexander Falkenstein, Arizona State University, *West Coast Director*
A rising senior, Alexander was first introduced to the Austrian School of Economics after reading *The Road to Serfdom*. Experiences both inside and outside the classroom have strengthened his desire to fight for liberty.

Sloane Frost, Cornell University & University of Chicago, *Director*
Sloane will be starting her Masters in Public Policy at the University of Chicago this Fall after graduating from Cornell University in 2008. She became interested in liberty after studying the relationship between economics and government in high school and particularly while studying health care in college. Sloane served with City Year, an AmeriCorps program, during this past year.



William Freeland, Northwood University, *Midwest Director*
A rising senior, William is co-captain of the Northwood Mock Trial team, the reigning national champions in the 2008-2009 school year. Inspired by the works of Milton Friedman, William has interned at the Foundation for Economic Education, Mackinac Center, and Cato Institute.

Jared Fuller, Wake Forest University, *Southern Director*
Jared received his AA in liberal arts from San Juan College in NM and is now a rising senior at Wake Forest. While he always considered himself a libertarian, he became an active student of liberty during Ron Paul’s 2008 presidential campaign.





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Masood Manoochchhri, Columbia University, *Northeast Director*
Masood’s personal experiences, including a dozen years in the New Jersey public school system and two years of studying abroad in Iran, motivated him to reconsider the role of government. Masood is particularly interested in the intersection between science and philosophy.

Alexander McCobin, UPenn & Georgetown University, *Executive Director*

Alexander recognized the formal principles of his beliefs after reading *Atlas Shrugged* in ninth grade. After founding the Penn Libertarian Association in as an undergraduate, Alexander spent a year as a Koch Associate at the Cato Institute. He is starting his PhD in philosophy at Georgetown this Fall.



Irena Schneider, American University, *Mid-Atlantic Director*
A rising sophomore, Irena is originally from Russia and has always been fascinated by the clash of political philosophies between her old home and new home in the US. Irena became involved by forming a student group at AU, founding the DC Forum for Freedom to unite DC student groups, and most recently joining SFL.

First Full-Time Staff Member: Clark Ruper, Program Manager

Clark is a University of Michigan alumnus and committed pro-liberty activist. Early in college he was inspired by the writings of seminal philosophers: Locke, Aristotle, Bastiat, Rand, Rothbard, and Nozick. He went on to take campus leadership roles with the UM Young Americans for Freedom, College Libertarians, and Students of Objectivism. Since graduating, he has committed himself to a lifelong defense of liberty. In the past few years Clark has worked for many pro-freedom causes such as The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, The Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, and FreedomWorks. From personal experience he believes that college activism is one of the best ways to get young people excited about the ideas of liberty. He was thrilled to join SFL in June and has played a pivotal role in SFL’s growth since then.



Board of Advisors

SFL is honored to have such an esteemed list of individuals on our Board of Advisors to provide both oversight and insight into SFL’s affairs and direction. The Board of Advisors currently consists of:

Dr. Nigel Ashford, Institute for Humane Studies

David Boaz, Cato Institute

Dr. Tyler Cowen, George Mason University

Matt Harrison, Prometheus Institute

Jo Jensen, Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation

Dr. Alan Charles Kors, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Jo Kwong, Atlas Economic Research Foundation

Dr. James W. Lark, III, University of Virginia

Michelle Muccio, Acton Institute

Dr. Tom Palmer, Atlas Economic Research Foundation

Lawrence W. Reed, Foundation for Economic Education

Dr. C. Bradley Thompson, Clemson University

Professor Eugene Volokh, University of California, Los Angeles



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Collaboration With Other Organizations

You may be wondering: how is SFL able to do so much in such a short period of time and while on a minimal budget? Besides running primarily on student energy and knowing how to use state of the art technology to keep costs low, we have been so effective thanks to our philosophy of collaboration with other organizations. We are not here to reinvent the wheel or do the same thing other organizations are doing. Many organizations are doing terrific work to promote liberty already, and we want to let students know about that work. SFL seeks to connect students with the great work others are doing by distributing other organizations' resources and exposing students to the many opportunities to promote liberty.

Atlas Economic Research Foundation
Bureaucrash
Cato Institute
Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Foundation for Economic Education
Foundation for Individual Rights in
Education

Institute for Humane Studies
Institute for Liberal Studies
Moving Picture Institute
Reason
State Policy Network
Tax Foundation
The Fund for American Studies

Here are two examples of just how SFL collaborates with other organizations:



SFL and the Cato Institute have always had a strong relationship, which has only become even stronger by Cato donating office space to SFL to support the organization's continued growth with a permanent home. Cato has donated its Pocket Constitutions for SFL to distribute to our student groups, sponsored an evening reception during the 2009 International SFL Conference, and co-sponsored an anti-economic intervention ad with SFL in college papers. SFL

also advertises Cato's new student outreach program, Cato on Campus, to our members by distributing fliers and hosting speakers at our conferences. SFL members also learn about Cato University and Cato internships at SFL events.

The Institute for Humane Studies has been a strong proponent of and collaborator with SFL since our inception (SFL was first conceived during the 2007 IHS Koch Summer Fellowship). IHS advertises SFL conferences to their students and alumni. IHS has donated books for groups to start reading groups, hosted socials for students to meet one another, and distributed a copy of SFL's How to Start a Student Organization for Liberty Handbook to every student at their summer seminars. This serves as a bridge for students to take the lessons learned at IHS and apply them to their own college campuses. From our end, we recommend all of our students attend IHS seminars, which reaches a previously untapped group of students.





Publications

Students For Liberty

10 Step Process to Starting a Student Organization

- 1. Find Others:** A student organization is defined by the people who comprise it more than anything else. Especially when an organization is being formed, having a dedicated group of individuals who will dedicate their time and energy to the organization is absolutely crucial. Before you can do anything else, you need to find a group of 2-5 students (including yourself) who will make a serious effort to start the organization.
- 2. Develop a Mission Statement:** To be effective, the purpose of your efforts and organization must be clearly laid out so you all know what you are working towards. The culmination of the discussion of why you want to start a student group should be a mission statement for the organization that all activities are measured against.
- 3. Come Up With a Name:** Once you have established the mission of your organization, you should tailor the name to what you wish to accomplish. The name of the organization is how you will be known from here out so choose the name wisely.
- 4. Learn Your School's Procedures:** To effectively run an organization on campus, you must know how to maneuver through your school's bureaucracy. Learn how to reserve rooms, access university funding, gain school recognition, etc. Become as knowledgeable as possible on how student organizations function within your school.
- 5. Ratify a Constitution:** The Constitution of a student organization formalizes the organization's existence and lays out the rules for how the organization shall operate. Take time in drafting this document and ratify it according to your school's guidelines to make sure it will meet the approval of administrators.

How to Start a Student Organization for Liberty Handbook

This handbook provides a simple 10 step process for how students can begin their own student organizations dedicated to liberty. Downloaded over 400 times during the 2008-2009 school year, the handbook has been recommended by organizations like the Atlas Economic Research Foundation in their first Ask Atlas feature and state conventions of the Libertarian Party as an example for how other organizations can support students.

Libertarian Campus Calendar

Many students have the energy and enthusiasm to create a successful student organization but need guidance for what they should do, what events to hold and activities to bring in new members. The Libertarian Campus Calendar is SFL's resource to assist groups by highlighting special pro-liberty dates throughout the academic year. This is a template for campus liberty activities that students can adapt to their group's schedule and needs.

Students For Liberty

April						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

13th - Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
 Throw a party to celebrate Jefferson's birthday and honor one of the greatest advocates of liberty in the modern era. Just be careful, dancing in public places today may lead to being arrested!

15th - Tax Freedom Day
 Today may raise the greatest amount of support for liberty from traditional opponents of any day during the year because it is the one day that people see the tangible effect of government taking away their money. There are many ways to highlight abuses of government taxation that

SPN STATE POLICY NETWORK

College Students: the Future & the Present

BY ALEXANDER MCCOBIN

"Students are not only the future. We are the present too!"
 Isaac Salmeron, Venezuelan Student Movement member

THE NEED for student outreach is best summed up by Isaac Salmeron's quote. And, there has never been an easier time to reach out to college students. Thanks to the Internet, students are mobilized in ways that past generations could only dream about. Students are energized by egregious violations of fairness and justice through government-sponsored cor-

Major author of the Institute for Humane Studies engages participants at a Students For Liberty conference.

Students: The Future & The Present

Written by Alexander McCobin, this article was published in the February 2009 State Policy Network Newsletter.¹ The article outlines the importance of state-based think tanks supporting pro-liberty students as well as tangible suggestions for how to create a student outreach program at state-based thinks.

Sample Executive Board Handbook

Leadership transition is one of the most difficult issues that student groups face. Many pro-liberty groups have been formed in the past and run successfully by their founder for 2-3 years, but then die out as soon as the founder leaves. An effective means of overcoming this problem is for groups to develop an Executive Board Handbook where the current group leaders list the lessons they have learned in their time as a leader and provide valuable information for new leadership to take over the organization. This *Sample Executive Board Handbook* provides a rough draft for student groups to replicate and fill in with their specific information.

¹ Available at: http://www.spn.org/docLib/20090204_SPNews0901FINALweb.pdf.



Students For Liberty

2nd Annual International SFL Conference

153 Students

82 Schools

13 Countries

1 Student Conference

The inaugural Students For Liberty Conference was held in February 2008 at Columbia University in New York City with 100 students from 42 schools in 3 countries. Building on the success of this first conference, the 2nd Annual International SFL Conference saw rapid expansion, drawing 153 students from 82 schools in 13 countries. The conference was sponsored by the Institute for Humane Studies, Cato Institute, Students for Saving Social Security, Foundation for Economic Education, and Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania. With highlights such as a social reception at the Cato Institute and workshops on international student collaboration, students left the conference motivated to advance liberty on their campuses and eagerly anticipating the 3rd Annual International SFL Conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Yon Goicoechea, recipient of the Cato Institute's 2008 Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty for his work in leading the Venezuelan student movement for liberty. Mr. Goicoechea was supposed to speak about the power of young people to change the world, but was unable to attend the conference because of political turmoil in his country as a result of an election eliminating term limits for Hugo Chavez. A taping of his speech at the 2008 Milton Friedman Prize Dinner was shown instead.

Nick Gillespie, editor in chief of Reason.tv and Reason.com. Prior to his current role, Mr. Gillespie was editor in chief of *Reason* magazine from 2000 to 2008, during which Reason won the 2005 Western Publications Association "Maggie" Award for Best Political Magazine. Mr. Gillespie spoke to the conference on "Why You're Living in the Libertarian Moment: And what you can do to keep and expand your freedom."



Robert A. Levy, chairman of the Cato Institute's board of directors. Mr. Levy is well known for his recent work in putting together the lawsuit that resulted in the famous US Supreme Court case, *D.C. v. Heller*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms. Mr. Levy spoke on "The Worst Supreme Court Cases of the Modern Era," and followed his speech by autographing copies of his new book, *The Dirty Dozen*.



Students For Liberty

Fall 2008 Regional Conferences

One conference per year is not enough. Too many students want more opportunities to meet other students dedicated to liberty and learn how to be better leaders of liberty. SFL's Regional Conferences were hosted to provide those opportunities. With three extremely successful Regional Conferences in 2008, SFL was able to reach new students and energize participants to go back to campus and fight for liberty with a passion greater than before.

Philadelphia Students For Liberty Conference @ University of Pennsylvania



Fifty students from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and other areas attended the Philadelphia SFL Conference. Hearing about the importance of being activists on campus as well as using the ideas of liberty as their own best arguments, students formed their own committees to discuss the different justifications for liberty.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tom Palmer, Atlas Economic Research Foundation

Midwest Students For Freedom Conference @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Co-hosted with Michigan's Students for a Free Economy, a project of the Mackinac Center, the Midwest Students For Freedom Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor drew fifty students from Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. Students received advanced training on how to communicate the ideas of liberty with panels on blogging, how to effect social change, and the need for persuasion.



Keynote Speaker: Lawrence W. Reed, Foundation for Economic Education

Boston Students For Liberty Conference @ Harvard University



With 30 students from all over Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York, the Boston SFL Conference offered an intimate opportunity for students to get to hear from speakers across the spectrum. Occurring one week before the presidential election, different speakers argued for why libertarians should vote for either John McCain or Barack Obama.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Jeffrey Miron, Harvard University



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E-Leadership

The pilot SFL E-Leadership Program was launched in the Spring of 2009 and was a tremendous success. E-Leadership offers virtual training seminars on topics related to leadership, liberty, and the pro-liberty community in order to cultivate the leadership potential of students around the world. The seminars are conducted using new media technologies, such as webinars, online radio, and teleconferencing. This serves to cut down on the transaction costs associated with connecting students to each other and to experienced leaders in the various fields. The program trains future liberty leaders by utilizing both outside experts and student leaders to present their unique knowledge in specialized areas of the pro-liberty community. This year, the SFL E-leadership Program worked with 54 participants and saw benefits both immediately inspiring new campus projects and in long-term development of students' skills.



Past Seminars

- April 20, 2009 – “Market Based Management® for Student Groups” by Tony Woodlief, Market Based Management® Institute
- April 7, 2009 – Student Panel on “Alumni Involvement”
- March 24, 2009 – Student Panel on “Transitioning Leadership”
- March 11, 2009 – Student Panel on “Threats to Liberty Around the World”
- February 11, 2009 – “How to Get an Internship for Liberty” by Scott Barton, Institute for Humane Studies
- February 3, 2009 – “Student Leadership” by Alexander McCobin, Students For Liberty



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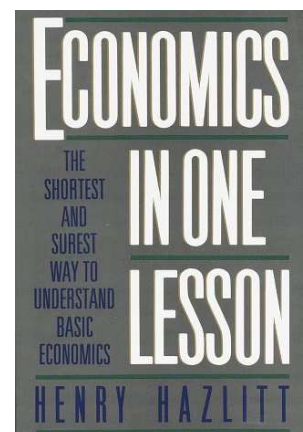
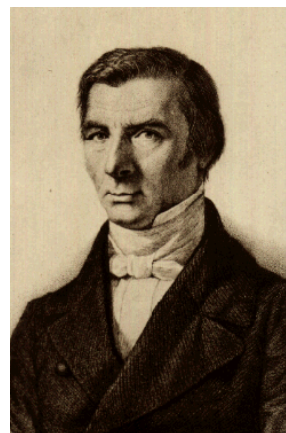
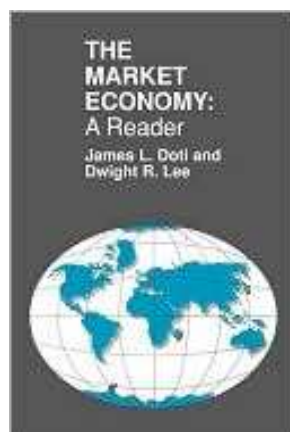
Free Books

The cause of liberty has primarily been led by intellectuals who have produced tremendous works justifying liberty. All too often, though, students are not exposed to these figures. Henry Hazlitt and Ludwig von Mises are not taught in classrooms. Students only come across these names when friends recommend them. One of the most valuable services that student groups provide is a forum in which their members can learn about these ideas and learn about the academic foundations of liberty. SFL's Free Books Program sends copies of pro-liberty books to student groups so that they can change the status quo and start reading clubs for working through a book in a semester and meeting to discuss it every week.

All books offered through SFL's Free Books program are donated by the Foundation for Economic Education, the Institute for Humane Studies, and the Cato Institute. Ultimately, our philosophy with the free books program is a simple one: It's never a bad thing to have more students read Mises, Bastiat, Hazlitt, or any other pro-liberty author.

Here is a list of books currently available for students:

1. Frédéric Bastiat, *Economic Harmonies*
2. Frédéric Bastiat, *Economic Sophisms*
3. Frédéric Bastiat, *Selected Essays on Political Economy*
4. Henry Hazlitt, *The Foundations of Morality*
5. Henry Hazlitt, *Economics in One Lesson*
6. James L. Doti & Dwight R. Lee, *Market Economy: A Reader*
7. Johan Norberg, *In Defense of Global Capitalism*
8. Ludwig von Mises, *Marxism Unmasked*
9. Ludwig von Mises, *The Free Market and Its Enemies*
10. Leonard E. Read, *Anything That's Peaceful*





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Journal of Liberty & Society

In May 2009 SFL published the first volume of the *Journal of Liberty & Society*, a peer-reviewed academic journal for undergraduate students that accepts papers from all disciplines and all perspectives related to liberty. In the inaugural edition of the journal, papers covered diverse topics ranging from liberty in gothic literature to a theoretical synthesis of libertarianism and identity politics. The *Journal of Liberty & Society* is an innovative and unparalleled tool to support student interest in the intellectual underpinnings of liberty.



The Prometheus Institute Prizes are special awards given by the Institute that recognize authors who demonstrate the most innovative approaches to promoting the ideas of liberty. These prizes are intended to discover and reward the most creative young thinkers and writers in the movement. The Top Papers in the *Journal of Liberty and Society* each received \$350. The Honorable Mention received \$100. All three winners were invited to join the Prometheus Institute staff for the Fall 2009 semester.

TOP PAPERS

Those Capitalist Demons! Anti-Market Bias in Buffy The Vampire Slayer

Heidi C. Lange, Hillsdale College

For its creative application of popular culture themes to political ideals, Heidi Lange's paper on the literal demonization of capitalism in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* received top honors.

Unlikely Parallels: Libertarianism and Identity Politics

Francis Boyle, Temple University

For its powerful synthesis of seemingly disparate political ideologies, Francis Boyle's article on the similarities between libertarianism and identity politics received top honors.

HONORABLE MENTION

Mill and Hayek: Liberty, Morality, and Socialism

Andrew Knauer, University of California, Santa Barbara

For its recognition of the importance of evolutionary concepts to freedom, Andrew Knauer's paper on Mill and Hayek's different interpretations of socialism received honorable mention.

OTHER PUBLISHED PAPERS

The Rule of Law and the American Gothic, Kevin Waterman, Seton Hall University

The Venezuelan Student Movement, Yana Chernyak, Franklin & Marshall College

In Defense of Capitalism: The Great Abolitionist, Jessica Johnson, Florida Gulf Coast University

Liberty Defined, Red Davies, George Washington University



Students For Liberty

Foundations of Freedom Fellowship

The Foundations of Freedom Fellowship is a year-long academic fellowship that provides talented high school students with the opportunity to academically engage the ideas behind liberty and prepare for their college ambitions. Each Fellow is assigned an advisor who specializes in the student's subject of study (e.g. a college professor or public policy expert).

In its first year, the Fellowship accepted one student: Alex Koren, a senior at the Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School. Alex first became interested in liberty through Lincoln-Douglas debate, which encouraged him to study philosophical and political works. In an effort to spread these areas of study to other students, Alex founded and currently leads his school's debate and mock trial teams. In addition, Alex was the president of his school's Interact club, a high school division of Rotary International. Alex's senior thesis, "Liberty: The Alienable Right", analyzed the rise and fall of the philosophy of liberty throughout American history, providing an argument for how the philosophy could be restored. Alex will be starting college at Vanderbilt University this Fall.



On the Fellowship, Alex writes: *"The FFF was an amazing introduction to the concept of liberty. The opportunity to read and explore philosophical texts on liberty with an expert while still in high school was an invaluable experience - the knowledge I have gained will be useful in college and throughout life. I am honored to have been a part of such a fantastic program."*



Alex's Advisor was Aeon J. Skoble, Professor of Philosophy and Chairman of the Philosophy Department at Bridgewater State College in Southeastern Massachusetts. He is the co-editor of the anthology *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections* (Prentice-Hall, 1999) and author of *Deleting the State: An Argument about Government* (Open Court, 2008), as well as many essays in scholarly and popular journals.

On the Fellowship, Professor Skoble writes: *"I was very excited to learn about this great new program for high school students, and was happy to be asked to help get it started. Students at this stage in their education are perfectly situated to start learning about politics and economics in a theoretically sophisticated way, an opportunity they don't always get. I have high hopes for this program's success at furthering students' learning about liberty in all its philosophical dimensions."*

The 2009-2010 Foundations of Freedom Fellowship will include four rising seniors from Texas, Maryland, and New York. Instead of focusing on political philosophy, the coming year's fellowship will focus on economics by delving into the history of economic thought and modern issues in economics.



Students For Liberty

Student Quotes



Irena Schneider, American University: *“I’ve honestly never felt more important in a movement so striking and so global. I’ve met a really indispensable network of the most supportive liberty minded individuals. I’m going to go home and immediately open books.”*

(Irena gave this quote after her first Students For Liberty event in October 2008. She founded and was co-President of the American University Students For Liberty during the past year. She also founded the DC Forum for Freedom to connect pro-liberty students in DC. Because of her incredible work, she was elected to the Students For Liberty Executive Board in February 2009.)

Aaron Moyer, Drexel University: *“Students for Liberty has been instrumental in rejuvenating liberty on today’s college campuses. Through Students for Liberty, I’ve been able to meet and work with some of the most incredible students in the world, acquire key knowledge and resources to promote liberty in Philadelphia, and learn from several of the most amazing, educated individuals alive today. Networking at Students for Liberty conferences has played a monumental role in advancing freedom in Philadelphia. I am proud to be a part of Students for Liberty, I am proud to have befriended freedom-loving students from across the globe, and I am proud to say that SFL’s mission is vital to the future of liberty.”*



(Aaron was awarded Students For Liberty’s 2009 Student of the Year award for founding the Drexel Student Liberty Front, acting as the first President of the Philadelphia Forum for Freedom, and most recently starting his own nonprofit organization to advance liberty.)



Amol Kapila, Brown University: *“Observing events at home and abroad, it is often easy to be discouraged both by the incompetence and corruption of our leadership and by the extent to which people look to government for solutions to their problems. But then I think of Students For Liberty, which is part of a quiet, but burgeoning revolution, one in which young people throughout the country and the world, among whom are future leaders, are realizing that government is the problem, not the solution. And so, I remain an abiding optimist.”*

(Amol was President of the Brown Students for Liberty. On one of the most socialist campuses in the US, he has helped keep the flame of liberty alive. Since graduating he has interned at the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation.)

Anya Heithold Bryce, University of Pennsylvania: *“Students For Liberty is the kind of organization that the cause of liberty needs. Without the resources, networking opportunities, and passion that SFL brings to students, the Penn Libertarians would not have become the active, institutionalized organization it is today. Without SFL, the cause of liberty would be dead on campus.”*



(Anya is currently President of the University of Pennsylvania Libertarian Association, one of the most active pro-liberty student organizations in the country.)



Students For Liberty

Plans for 2009-2010

Students Rights Week

Anyone who has been through freshman orientation knows what a brainwashing experience it can be. Administrators and counselors spend days lecturing incoming students on what they cannot say on campus, what the campus police are allowed to do at their whim, and the many ways that students are supposed to conform to the university's will.

We students who believe in liberty, though, think freshmen need to hear the other side of the story. Students need to know that the US Constitution gives them rights that do not end at the entryway to the ivory tower, that freedom of speech is paramount in higher education, and that there are limits to police power. **That is why SFL will be sponsoring the first ever Students Rights Week.** We invite all pro-liberty student groups across the country to join us in this important venture to make known what rights students have on campus.

SFL is providing the materials. Student leaders are putting them in the hands of students at their universities by flyering the campus, setting up a table in the public square, bringing in a speaker, and hosting a movie night. Available resources include:

- Pocket Constitutions donated by the Cato Institute
- Fliers, sign-up sheets, and other marketing materials
- A DVD of *Indoctrinate U* for movie night donated by the Moving Picture Institute
- Guidebooks and information donated by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
- A Students Rights Week "How To" Guide
- A list of available speakers who specialize in free speech and student rights to invite to speak on campus



Students Rights Week will be the first week of school on every campus, ideally after new student orientation has occurred. Students Rights Week's motto is "*You've learned their rules, now learn your rights!*" Not only is this an opportunity for students to educate their peers about students rights, it is an opportunity for student groups to promote their organizations and attract new members early in the school year.



Students For Liberty

7 Regional Conferences in Fall 2009

This Fall, SFL will be hosting seven Regional Conferences all across the US to bring the message of liberty to the students. These conferences are a unique opportunity for students to come together and discuss how to best promote the ideas of liberty to today's youth while hearing from current leaders of liberty. These Regional Conferences continue to be inspired by the initial small gathering that propelled SFL into existence. The energy that comes out at SFL conferences with hundreds of students in the same room is unparalleled.

These conferences are not just to give pro-liberty students another opportunity to hear from the same speakers, though. These conferences are designed to draw new students into the cause of liberty and to introduce new, local experts to the students. Students who are interested in politics, philosophy, or economics will be invited to attend and participate. Wherever they personally stand on the ideological spectrum, these Regional Conferences will allow them to hear from leaders of liberty and gain exposure to ideas that they rarely hear.

Here is the full schedule for the 2009 Regional Conferences:

- New York Conference @ Columbia University, October 10th
Keynote Speaker: Fred Smith, President of the Competitive Enterprise Institute
- Midwest Conference @ University of Chicago, October 17th
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter Leeson, Professor of Economics at George Mason University
- Texas Conference @ University of Texas-Austin, October 24th
Keynote Speaker: To Be Announced
- Southern Conference @ Wake Forest University, October 24th
Keynote Speaker: Fred Smith, President of Competitive Enterprise Institute
- West Coast Conference @ Arizona State University, October 24th
Keynote Speaker: David Nolan, Founder of the Libertarian Party
- Northeast Conference @ Harvard University, November 7th
Keynote Speaker: To Be Announced
- Mid-Atlantic Conference @ Drexel University, November 7th
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Alan Charles Kors, University of Pennsylvania Professor

These conferences are a tremendous opportunity to reach out to new students and enthruse existing pro-liberty students around the US. At each conference, a "Student Organizing for Liberty" panel will be held where student leaders will talk about their experiences and share their advice on how to be an effective advocate for liberty on campus. With such a powerful line-up of speakers as those listed above and new marketing strategies utilizing both social networking hubs and traditional campus flyering, these conferences are sure to make huge waves across the country.



Students For Liberty

Brand New SFL Conference Website:

www.PoliticalConferences.org

STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY CONFERENCES

FOR A FREE ACADEMY, A FREE SOCIETY

HOME
REGIONAL CONFERENCES
NEWS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ABOUT



Regional Conferences

Students For Liberty will be hosting seven Regional Conferences around the country this fall...



NOVEMBER 7
🗨️ 2

Mid-Atlantic Conference in Philadelphia


Saturday, November 7, 2009 *Any



NOVEMBER 7
🗨️ 0

Northeast Conference in Boston

Students For Liberty Northeast Regional Conference November 7,



OCTOBER 24
🗨️ 0

Western Conference in Phoenix

This year at the Arizona State Campus, ASU Students For Liberty will be



Students For Liberty

Free Student Media

This Fall, SFL will be introducing a revolutionary new project called Free Student Media (FSM), which will provide a network of support for student media that promote a philosophy of liberty. FSM will provide resources, training, and examples for students to effectively craft and spread the message of liberty on campus. FSM will provide resources to help develop student media that promotes liberty. By working with campus media of all stripes, FSM will broaden the media by which liberty is advocated and help identify and develop talented students particularly in new media.

FSM will support all student media, but focus on new media. While traditional print newspapers and magazines still exist on campus, many are following the route of national publications and beginning to convert to purely online formatting. To keep the message of liberty at the forefront of the media, students must be prepared to handle the rapidly changing environment of communicating the message of liberty. The standard for what FSM will support is premised upon the mission of supporting media sources with a pro-liberty message. This includes, but is not limited to, blogs, filmmakers, print newspapers, print magazines, radio, and television.

FSM's support for pro-liberty student media will include:

1. *Networking* – By providing a means for pro-liberty bloggers, filmmakers, etc. to communicate with one another, SFL will be sparking unprecedented discussion and support between students that has unlimited potential.
2. *Resource Updates* – A weekly email will be sent to the members of FSM. This will highlight the progress of students around the world and highlight the media progress made by pro-liberty organizations.
3. *Handbooks* – FSM will produce free handbooks for distribution online with instructions for how students can start pro-liberty media on campus.
4. *Blog* – FSM will develop a blog series that provides regular tips on how to build up media for liberty and highlights examples of what libertarian media are doing to act as inspiration for student media.
5. *Webinars* – Building on SFL's strengths with the E-Leadership program, FSM will offer webinars and video tutorials with advice on being an advocate of liberty in the media.
6. *Consulting* – FSM will work with individual students to develop their potential as members of the media by partnering them with experienced media experts.
7. *Highlighting Student Work* – FSM will highlight the work of pro-liberty students in the media as examples and inspiration for others.

FSM's website, www.FreeStudentMedia.org, will be fully functional by September 2009. The website will aggregate media dedicated to liberty from students and non-students and serve to resource and network student media.



Students For Liberty

Students For Liberty Finances 2008-2009

SFL's fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30. Since SFL was formally incorporated on August 14, 2009, SFL's first fiscal year began on that same date. On principle, SFL does not solicit or accept any government contributions. We are primarily funded by individuals and foundations that support the cause of liberty amongst students. Three notes should be made about SFL's finances in our first fiscal year:

Note 1: SFL's revenue stream grew exponentially over the course of the first fiscal year. SFL had minimal income for the months immediately following incorporation in August 2008. However, as SFL developed its reputation and gained recognition, the organization saw a significant influx of donations and has continued to see strong growth in fundraising since the end of the first fiscal year.

Note 2: Leadership expenses are those funds used by the Executive Board and student leaders in their work for SFL. Since the Executive Board is run by students, these are not administrative as much as they are investments in the leadership skills of highly talented students who are leaders in the liberty movement now and will continue to be in the future.

Note 3: Outreach to new students received its own category due to its unique role in accomplishing SFL's mission. Finding other pro-liberty students and introducing liberty to new students is crucial to SFL.

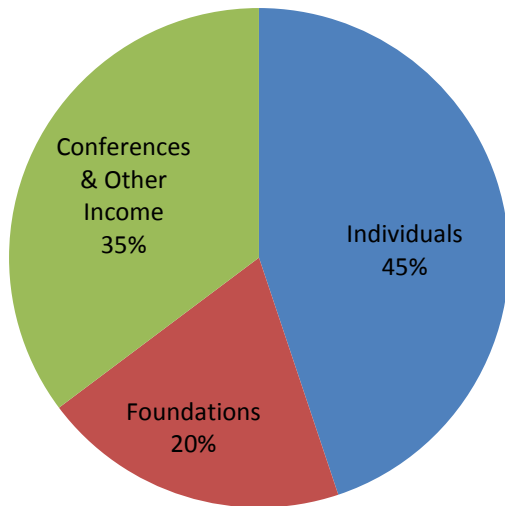
2008-2009 Income

Individuals	\$22,517.59
Foundations	\$10,000
Conferences & Other Income	\$17,700
 Total Income	 \$50,217.59

2008-2009 Expenses

Conferences	\$19,487.28
Leadership	\$4,545.97
Outreach	\$4,014.74
Development	\$2,421.02
Operational Expenses	\$1,967.91
 Total Expenses	 \$32,436.92

2008-2009 Income



2008-2009 Expenses

