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LIBERTAS

• THE PUBLICATION OF YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION •





The 2018



River Cruise



RON ROBINSON

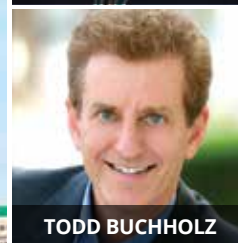
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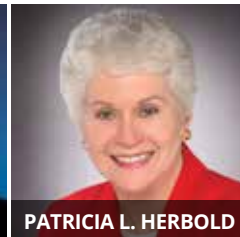
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March 1, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Many of our students and supporters read the *Los Angeles Times*' feature on Young America's Foundation and the power of the Reagan Ranch site. The front-page *Times* article was syndicated to many other newspapers across the country.

The *Times* notes we "keep alive bedrock conservative principles by teaching them to students around the country."

"Young America's Foundation...has become one of the preeminent, influential...forces in the nation's" Conservative Movement and serves as "a counterweight to liberal the thought."



The featured article described the Reagan Ranch as "a cathedral of conservatism, where the former president's legacy is preserved and future generations are trained in free-market capitalism, individual liberty and the faith-based tenets of the American right...Rancho del Cielo has allowed the foundation's reach to transcend generations."

The *Los Angeles Times* reinforces a recent *New York Times* front-page feature that found Young America's Foundation to be the "conservative force" behind the spreading of your ideas on campus. The *New York Times* also wrote that our statement of principles "proved to be a seminal document in bringing different kinds of conservatives together."

Politico reported Young America's Foundation is "a key pillar of the conservative movement." The *Washington Post* conceded students are "leaving [our programs] reaffirmed in their principles."

These aren't self-congratulatory claims divorced from reality that you sometimes see on the internet. They are well-deserved concessions from leftist sources—unaccustomed to conceding any point to conservatives—that our programs are successful in passing your conservative ideas on in ways that transcend generations.

Thank you for making these results possible.

Sincerely,

Ron Robinson
President

LIBERTAS

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On the Cover:



The special fold-out cover features award-winning artist Steve Penley's version of "Washington Crossing the Delaware." Young America's Foundation has acquired a copy of this masterpiece for display in Dale Phelon Hall at our national

headquarters. Mr. Penley previously gifted several of his iconic paintings featuring Ronald Reagan for display at the Foundation's Reagan Ranch Center in Santa Barbara. For more information about Steve Penley, visit penleyartco.com.

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Alumnus Greg Gutfeld Headlines NJC's 40th Anniversary Celebration

THE NATIONAL JOURNALISM CENTER WRAPPED UP 2017 WITH A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS of truth-seeking journalism at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Fox News host and NJC alumnus Greg Gutfeld headlined the event with a witty speech, describing “six degrees from NJC” and how the program helped him develop professionally after he graduated in 1987.

Gutfeld spoke of his NJC internship, sharing stories from his first days at the *American Spectator* working with Editor R. Emmett Tyrrell, who was in attendance at the event.

The Fox News host encouraged younger alumni to keep in touch with the people they have met through their NJC experiences and reflected on the impact NJC has had on his journalism career.

Gutfeld was preceded by NJC Director Elizabeth Donatelli, who underscored the importance of NJC today; and Chairman of the National Journalism Center Board of Governors T. Kenneth Cribb, who toasted the current and past leadership of NJC and Young America's Foundation.

The anniversary reception drew a capacity audience of 150 journalism professionals, alumni, friends, and NJC internship partners from across the D.C. area.

In addition, notable speakers, alumni, and supporters attended, including Reagan Ranch Board of Governors Chairman Frank Donatelli; Reagan Ranch Board of Governors member George Allen and his wife, Susan;



Fox News host Greg Gutfeld addresses 150 NJC alumni, friends, and supporters at the National Press Club.



Governor George Allen, Susan Allen, and Foundation President Ron Robinson meet with Gutfeld prior to his remarks.

Washington Times Editor-at-Large David Keene; NJC alumnus and Loudoun County Supervisor Ron Meyer; and local WMAL radio host Larry O'Connor.

The reception provided an opportunity for NJC alumni to reconnect and form new professional relationships while celebrating 40 years of the impactful program.



(From left) Kelleigh Huber, John Gizzi, Elizabeth Donatelli, T. Kenneth Cribb, Kirby Wilbur, Katie Pavlich, Emily Jashinsky, Chris Bedford, Gabby Morrongiello, and Tom Winter participate in the NJC Board of Governors meeting prior to the anniversary celebration.

Ron Robinson Receives Annie Taylor Award

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT RON ROBINSON RECEIVED THE 2017 ANNIE TAYLOR AWARD from the David Horowitz Freedom Center. The annual award is named in honor of schoolteacher Annie Edson Taylor—the first person to survive a trip over Niagara Falls in a barrel—and given to people who exhibit great courage by “going over the ledge when others would be afraid to even go near it.”

The 2017 recipients included Robinson, Fox News’s Jesse Watters, and James Damore.

In his presentation of the award, David Horowitz shared Robinson’s lifelong dedication to building Young America’s Foundation into the premier conservative organization for young people.

“Ron’s organization is, today, the chief sponsor and funder of conservative speakers who come to college campuses...Just as important, Ron turned his organization into an activist vanguard,” Horowitz told the audience. “In my eyes, Ron Robinson is a revolutionary within the Conservative Movement who has created its most important youth organization.”

Horowitz also highlighted Young America’s Foundation’s many student activism initiatives: the 9/11: Never Forget Project, our work with students on more than 2,000 campuses, the Reagan Ranch project, and YAF’s life-changing conferences and seminars.

Upon receiving the award, Robinson thanked the five “S’s” who have contributed to Young America’s Foundation’s success over the past five decades: our students, speakers, supporters, staff, and his spouse, Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute President Michelle Easton.

He offered remarks on the Foundation’s mission:

Our organization, Young America’s Foundation, has been very much influenced by Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan said there’s a spark in all of us, if struck at just the right age, will light up the rest of your life. We try to ignite that spark in young people around the country.

We do it in part by preserving President Reagan’s western White House, the Reagan Ranch, our National Journalism Center programs, the 9/11 project...more than 20 conferences



David Horowitz, president of the David Horowitz Freedom Center, presents Foundation President Ron Robinson with the Annie Taylor Award in recognition of his work to advance freedom among the next generation.

and seminars we have every year, but especially through the more than 400 college and high school lectures around the country.

Robinson also discussed the challenges facing young conservatives today, highlighting the increased number of leftist obstructions, protests, and disruptions at the Foundation’s campus lectures and events. He noted, “Since November 2016, in over 400 events around the country, that number [of disruptions] has risen almost fourfold [from 12 percent] to 46 percent.”

Concluding, Robinson thanked David Horowitz for all he has done to mentor young people around the country. “He understands thoroughly what Ronald Reagan said time and time again to our national audiences. He said, ‘Freedom isn’t won at any one moment in time. We must struggle to preserve it every day, and freedom is never more than one generation from extinction.’”

ANNIE TAYLOR AWARD RECIPIENT: RON ROBINSON

The president of Young America’s Foundation is honored at Restoration Weekend.

December 7, 2017 Frontpagemag.com



Kate Obenshain Keeler and Emily Jashinsky Elected to Young America's Foundation Board of Directors

DURING A MEETING IN DECEMBER, YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD: frequent Foundation speaker and alumna Kate Obenshain Keeler and recent Foundation spokeswoman and alumna Emily Jashinsky.

Kate Obenshain Keeler has been involved with Young America's Foundation since her days as a student at the University of Virginia. While at UVA, she edited the campus conservative newspaper and organized a state-wide rally in support of America's troops.

She has served on the Foundation's staff in several key capacities, including director of program development, director of lectures, and vice president. She previously served on the Foundation's board of directors from 2004 to 2008.

Kate is the author of *Divider-in-Chief: The Fraud of Hope and Change*. A popular speaker and commentator on national television and radio shows, Kate has spent her career championing expanded liberty in America and impressing upon young people an understanding of the blessings of freedom.

Kate has been speaking on college campuses for 24 years, has appeared on Fox News, CNBC, and MSNBC, has written for numerous publications, and has been on hundreds of radio shows. She has appeared regularly on Fox News's *Hannity*.

Kate served as chairman of the Virginia GOP from 2003 to 2006, when she led the fight against tax increases and

the expanding role of government; as advisor to former governor George Allen and as his Senate chief of staff; and as vice chairman of the Virginia State Council for Higher Education.

In 2004, she founded the Jennifer Byler Institute, a leadership training program for women in Virginia.

She is currently a member of the Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute's Board of Directors and Young America's

Foundation's Alumni Board, having formerly served on the Steamship Institute's Advisory Board and the NRA's National School Shield Advisory Board.

Kate is also a writer, blogger, and small business owner. Her most treasured role, however, is that of mother to six children. Currently, she resides in

Charlottesville, Virginia, with her husband and children.

Emily Jashinsky is a commentary writer at the *Washington Examiner* where she covers politics and culture.

She served previously as the spokeswoman for Young America's Foundation, where she spearheaded media initiatives to push back against bias on college campuses.

Her work has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Real Clear Politics*, the *Hill*, the *New York Post*, and elsewhere. She is a regular guest on Fox News and Fox Business.

In 2016, *Red Alert Politics* named Emily to its "30 Under 30 List" of leading young conservatives. Jashinsky also serves on the National Journalism Center's Board of Governors.

A native of Delafield, Wisconsin, Emily is a 2015 graduate of The George Washington University where she was chairman of her campus YAF chapter.



Kate Obenshain Keeler



Emily Jashinsky

Brian Kilmeade Headlines Wendy P. McCaw Reagan Ranch Roundtable

YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION WELCOMED BRIAN KILMEADE BACK TO THE REAGAN RANCH CENTER to discuss his new book, *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans*.

Kilmeade, a popular Fox News host, provides viewers with the latest updates on breaking news, sports, public policy, and entertainment on a daily basis through his morning show and radio program.

During his remarks at the final Reagan Ranch Roundtable of 2017, Kilmeade discussed how Andrew Jackson's saving of New Orleans made him a national hero and preserved his nation's hard-fought independence.

Kilmeade recounted, "He bleeds red, white, and blue—he'll do anything for his country—and he lives for revenge on the British." In an amazing battle that shaped the future of the nation, "Jackson's forceful leadership would help record one of the most decisive and stunning upset victories in military history."

Kilmeade also discussed his other history books written about George Washington's spy ring and Thomas Jefferson's war with the Tripoli Pirates. He recounted the process of writing these true stories, recalling that when he started he "had no idea there would be a war on history at the time. [But he also] had no idea there was such a thirst for American history." He added, "If you tell someone a real story about their country that took place that [they] don't know enough about, they care."

He also addressed the recent condemnation of Andrew Jackson:

When people get critical of Jackson—which sometimes that seems to be in vogue today—I just think about past Presidents. Abraham Lincoln studied Jackson. Teddy Roosevelt liked him so much he wrote a book about him. Before World War II started, FDR insisted on going to visit the Hermitage, and when they said, "We have a ramp for you," he said, "No, I need to walk these steps." Harry Truman kept a figurine of Jackson on his desk. And Ronald Reagan insisted before he took office, he wanted the cover of Time magazine to be with him in front of that statue of Andrew Jackson—the one many want to take down.

Kilmeade concluded, "How dare we as a generation be arrogant enough to judge past generations instead of studying them?"

Following his remarks, Kilmeade signed copies of *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans* for all guests.



Fox News's Brian Kilmeade speaks to Foundation supporters and students at the final Wendy P. McCaw Reagan Ranch Roundtable of 2017.



Supporters Andrea and Mark Preiser meet with Kilmeade following his remarks at the Reagan Ranch Center.



Kilmeade visits the Reagan Ranch Center and signs copies of his latest book, *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans*.

Alumnus Chris Bedford Speaks at YAF Headquarters on His New Book, *The Art of the Donald*

YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION WELCOMED *DAILY CALLER* NEWS FOUNDATION EDITOR-IN-CHIEF CHRIS BEDFORD to our headquarters to discuss his new book, *The Art of the Donald: Lessons from America's Philosopher-in-Chief*.

Bedford, a YAF alumnus and member of the National Journalism Center Board of Governors, addressed YAF supporters, friends, and alumni on his experiences with the President and lessons other public officials and business leaders can learn from Donald Trump.

Bedford has an extensive background in journalism. His work has been featured in the *Daily Signal*, *National Review*, *Wall Street Journal*, and elsewhere. He regularly appears on Fox News and Fox Business.

The book features personal anecdotes and lessons from Donald Trump's career in business and offers advice on achieving success. During his remarks, Bedford explained Trump's approach and offered insight into the President's leadership style.

He also discussed some of his personal interactions with President Trump: "The first time I met Donald Trump was at a steakhouse in New Hampshire. He wasn't faking it... The Donald Trump you got on the election trail is the Donald Trump we got in the Oval Office."

After his speech, Bedford took many questions from the audience and signed copies of *The Art of the Donald* for all attendees.



Chris Bedford speaks to Foundation supporters and friends at YAF's national headquarters.



Bedford, a YAF alumnus, signs copies of his book, *The Art of the Donald*, for event attendees.



Bedford addresses local supporters, students, and alumni in Dale Phelon Hall at the Foundation's national headquarters.

RICHARD VIGUERIE, DAVE KEENE, FRANK DONATELLI, KIRBY WILBUR, MICHELLE EASTON,

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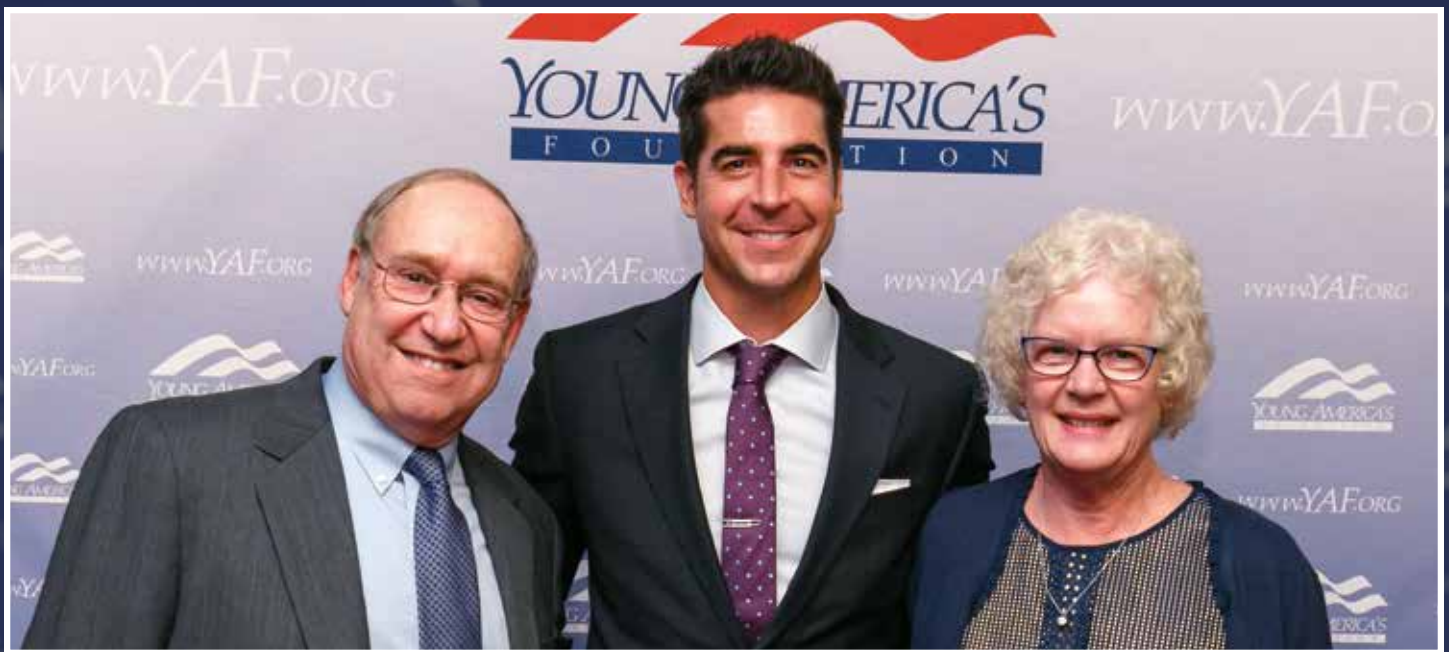
A Project of





Jesse Watters, Sheriff Clarke, and Declan Ganley Inspire Young Leaders at Chicago Freedom Conference

By Amy Lutz, Young America's Foundation Alumna



Richard and Jane Schwartz—Chicago Freedom Conference sponsors and members of the Reagan Ranch Board of Governors—meet with Fox News's Jesse Watters.



Students (from left) Michael McKinney, Satya Ath, Brandon Crockett, and Patrick Doyle are inspired by the weekend-long program in the Midwest.



Irish business leader Declan Ganley underscores the importance of a strong free market in growing an economy.

“It’s great to hear the truth after being in a sea of lies,” said Marty Coplen from the University of Central Oklahoma after attending Young America’s Foundation’s Chicago Freedom Conference. Marty joined more than 280 participants from 30 states to spend two days in the Windy City networking with conservative peers and hearing the truth from an array of conservative leaders. Reagan Ranch Board of Governors members Rick and Jane Schwartz (*see page 24*) generously sponsored this life-changing conference.

Fox News’s Jesse Watters kicked off the weekend as the opening dinner speaker. He also made an appearance at

the Foundation’s supporter and alumni reception prior to the dinner banquet. “I’m Jesse Watters, and this is my world,” Watters greeted the audience, referencing his popular television program. Watters regaled the students with tales from the biggest media stories of 2017. Then, he entertained the audience with some of the most ridiculous answers to questions about American history he’s received when filming his man-on-the-street segment, “Watters’ World.”

Dr. Jake Jacobs, history instructor at Lourdes Academy in Wisconsin, opened the second day of the conference with an in-depth discussion of the roots and values of conservatism. Dr. Jacobs referenced YAF’s founding document, the Sharon



Kenny Xu from Davidson College participates in a Q&A session with a speaker during the Freedom Conference.



Christina Hoff Sommers shares her thoughts on how the Left has distorted the true meaning of feminism.



Fox News's Jesse Watters delivers opening remarks at Young America's Foundation's Chicago Freedom Conference.

Statement, saying if students hadn't read it they should take some time to do so.

Following Dr. Jacobs, businessman and CEO of Rivada Networks Declan Ganley made his debut as a YAF speaker. Ganley spoke to students about the free market and the problem of what he called "crony corporatism," the unholy alliance between the government and big corporations. "The secret sauce to economic success is making sure people have the freedom to transact, innovate, think outside the box," said Ganley, underscoring the need for free markets.

Robert Spencer of Jihad Watch joined the day's slate of top-notch speakers, discussing the dangers of radical Islam and the

benefits of standing up for free speech. He opened his speech by suggesting that, because of the rampant political correctness and leftist nonsense students face on campus, we should dub this era "The Age of Absurdity." Spencer encouraged the students to stand up for their conservative beliefs, saying, "If you persist and do not lose heart...there is no doubt that you will prevail."

David Clarke, who served as Milwaukee County sheriff from 2002 to 2017, then discussed the Left's attacks on law and order. "The American police officer defends the rule of law. They're on the front lines," said Clarke. He followed up with a critique on Black Lives Matter: "If black lives truly mattered to these folks, they'd be protesting in front of every abortion clinic in America."



Super Bowl champion Burgess Owens leads a conversation on American exceptionalism.



University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College students (from left) Tiffany Nolet, Abigail Scanlon, Moira Trausch, Megan Walsch, and Kate Lechner learn how to best defend their beliefs through YAF's unparalleled conservative student conferences.



Young people from around the country make like-minded friends at YAF's Freedom Conference in Chicago.

Super Bowl champion and television commentator Burgess Owens continued the conversation, discussing both leadership and the American dream. "I believe this country is the greatest gift any person could get in their lifetime," declared Owens. He encouraged the students to become leaders in their communities and defend American values: "We live in the freest country in the history of mankind. We have the chance to get up every day and make a difference."

The "Factual Feminist," Dr. Christina Hoff Sommers, rounded out the day, discussing modern feminism. "I don't want to give it up. I want to take it back. I want to take back feminism," said Sommers, underscoring the need to pull

feminism back from the grips of the Left. She also encouraged students to pursue higher education and scholarly initiatives.

The weekend had a profound impact on the students in attendance. "The quality of YAF conferences never ceases to amaze me. I am extremely thankful for the supporters who made this possible," said Mae Sementilli of the University at Buffalo.

Many students, such as Abby Streu of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, were inspired to go back to their campuses and share the lessons they learned in Chicago. Streu said, "I want to change lives by writing what I see and reporting the truth."

The Socialism Epidemic Plaguing America's Campuses

By Raj Kannappan, Director of Young America's Foundation's Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise

The Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise

Today's campus climate is a challenging one for young people. The idea of socialism appears to be in vogue on campuses across the country. An endless supply of so-called experts stand eager to teach students progressive myths about the free market system that has, in fact, allowed America to become "a shining city upon a hill" for millions around the world.

It is for these reasons that Young America's Foundation's Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise focuses squarely on educating and inspiring the next generation of America's leaders to champion free enterprise principles among their peers on campus and as they enter their careers.

Through life-changing experiences—including campus lectures featuring leading economic thinkers and doers such as Dr. Art Laffer, Steve Forbes, and John Stossel; innovative Road to Freedom seminars providing lessons by proven experts like Dr. Walter Williams and Stephen Moore; and other programs—our Center popularizes the ideas of free markets and limited government among students nationwide.

The following piece reveals why the work of our Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise is so critical today.



CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
& FREE ENTERPRISE

In a 2015 speech at Georgetown University, Senator Bernie Sanders proudly lectured a student audience: "Democratic socialism means that our government does everything it can to create a full employment economy." He then claimed, "Every person in this country must have the right to go to a public college or university tuition-free."

With these statements, Senator Sanders revealed not only a fundamental misunderstanding about how a free society functions and how young Americans can achieve prosperity but also his disdain for the values of hard work, personal responsibility, self-reliance, and entrepreneurship that have historically powered America's status as the world's leading economy.

Since Senator Sanders' speech, this narrative has only become more pervasive in American society. Government bureaucracy, the mainstream media, and Hollywood all serve as theaters for this recycled script. Indeed, the turn

towards collectivism is most jarringly evident on our country's college campuses.

Over the past few years, multiple national surveys and polls have highlighted this reality. In a joint 2017 YouGov and Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation study, 45 percent of millennials stated they would prefer to live in a socialist country compared to 42 percent who said they would prefer to live in a free market-based country. Roughly one in three millennials surveyed view Che Guevara, the mass murderer who joined forces with Fidel Castro's tyrannical regime, and Karl Marx, the intellectual influence

for totalitarian leaders throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, in a positive light.

Yet, despite their favorable view of socialism, millennials are often unclear about the ideology. In fact, 66 percent of millennials surveyed were unable to accurately define socialism at all.

*A 2016 Harvard Institute
of Politics poll found that a
majority of millennials reject the
free market economic system.*

In addition, a 2016 Harvard Institute of Politics poll found that a majority of millennials reject the free market economic system.

At schools nationwide, an axis of administrators and constantly growing programmatic staffs—along with activist peers obsessed with economic equality rather than economic opportunity—are attempting to rewrite history and pressure freedom-minded students to surrender their values and beliefs.

Not only are our schools often failing to provide meaningful experiences to educate students on basic history and economics, but they are also teaching the ideology of socialism to these impressionable youths.

For instance, as reported in Young America's Foundation's 2017 *Comedy and Tragedy* survey of U.S. institutional course catalogs, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, one of the largest public universities in the country, offers a course titled *Class, State, and Ideology: An Introduction to Social Science in the Marxist Tradition*. This class is designed to teach that the free market produces “a world of great misery, inequality, and oppression” that “is irrational in ways that hurt nearly everyone.”

Williams College, the #1 ranked liberal arts college in the country, provides a course named *Racial Capitalism*, which purportedly questions the ways in which free markets “have always and everywhere relied upon forms of racist domination and exclusion.”

Brown University, an Ivy League institution, has developed a course titled *Robber Barons* that “explores what the lives of America's ‘robber barons’ can tell us about the role of economic privilege in shaping America's social, cultural, and political history.”

These are merely a few among the hundreds of slanted and impractical courses our country's most recognized educational institutions are providing students in return for hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt.

So what does all of this mean?

There is a deep void in the education of our young people. Many of them are enthusiastic about socialism, but they do not know what it means and what it entails. They have lived through their parents' loss of jobs and careers during the



Senator Bernie Sanders brings his leftist views to high school students at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, Iowa, in 2016. (Photographer Daniel Acker/Bloomberg via Getty Images.)



Brexit strategist and UKIP leader Nigel Farage enlightens and energizes hundreds of students during his remarks at the 2017 National Conservative Student Conference.

2008 financial crisis, the economic stagnation of the Obama years, and the drag wrought by America's welfare state. They believe these—not economic choice, the freedom to innovate, and limited bureaucratic intervention in daily life—are the characteristics of a free society.

This challenge presents a tremendous opportunity for conservatives to restore free enterprise to its proper place in America. Young people have a timeline of many decades, and they will become tomorrow's leaders in business, media, education, and other areas of society. If we are to build a stronger foundation for a prosperous future, we must begin with the education and inspiration of our youth. This investment will pay dividends for years to come.



Dr. Walter Williams addresses a Road to Freedom seminar at Young America's Foundation's national headquarters in 2016.

Foundational Books That Promote Economic Understanding

By Dr. Walter E. Williams, John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of
Economics at George Mason University

A Professor You Need to Know

Today's young people are rarely introduced to the ideas of free enterprise and a free society in their classrooms and on their campuses. In fact, most go their entire academic careers without meeting or hearing from a single conservative professor. There is, however, hope among a select group of courageous faculty members.

Dr. Walter E. Williams, the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, is one such academic leader. For more than three decades, Dr. Williams has regularly addressed Young America's Foundation's college and high school programs, where he consistently receives some of the highest speaker ratings from our student audiences.

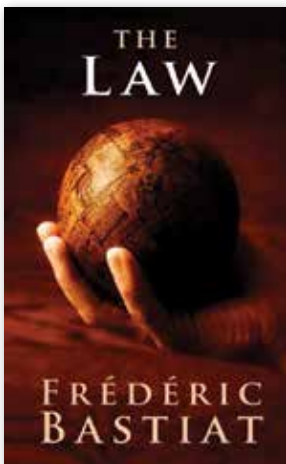
In addition to writing his nationally syndicated weekly newspaper column, Dr. Williams is the author of more than 150 publications and has appeared on scores of television and radio programs. He is also an occasional substitute host for the *Rush Limbaugh Show*. In 2017, Dr. Williams received the distinguished Bradley Prize for his defense of "personal liberty, economic freedom, and limited government."

In this article, Dr. Williams shares the best books students should read to gain an introduction to economics.

There are many excellent economics books that are worth the time and effort of young people. I have listed and discussed just a few here that ought whet one's appetite for further learning.

The Law

BY FRÉDÉRIC BASTIAT



Frédéric Bastiat was a French philosopher economist who lived from 1801 to 1850. His major contribution was that he made the ideas on liberty so clear that even the most untrained person could understand the principles of liberty.

His most widely read work, *The Law*, was written in 1850 shortly before his death. Like others, including our nation's founders, Bastiat recognized

that the greatest single threat to liberty is government. Note the simplicity of how he defines that threat. Bastiat says, "See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime."

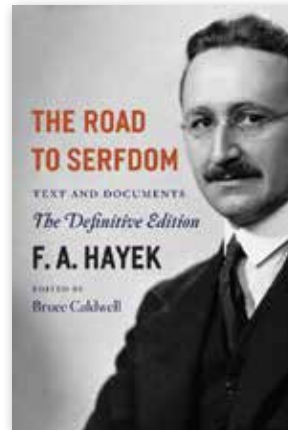
Given that description, one cannot deny that most government activity, including that of ours, is legalized plunder or legalized theft.

The Road to Serfdom

BY FRIEDRICH AUGUST VON HAYEK

Nobel laureate Friedrich August von Hayek was one of the greatest economic philosophers of the 20th century. His widely read book, *The Road to Serfdom*, was published in 1944 just as World War II was ending. In it, Hayek challenged the popular view among British academics that fascism was a reaction to capitalism.

Instead, Hayek argued that fascism and National Socialism, more commonly known as Nazism, had



common roots in centralized economic planning and government control over the individual. Hayek gave the name "spontaneous order" to the idea that market prices should not be fixed or interfered with by government but instead be fixed by the interactions of individuals operating in various markets.

He emphasized the benefits of decentralization and advocated a free market economy. He insisted

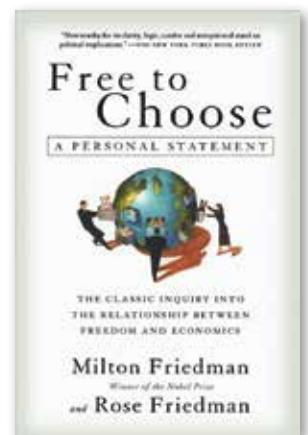
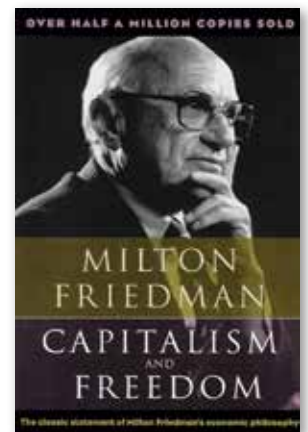
that governmental powers are best restricted to maintaining the rule of law with minimal interventions.

Capitalism and Freedom and *Free to Choose*

BY MILTON FRIEDMAN

Professor Milton Friedman was perhaps the greatest economist of the 20th century. His most significant contribution was creating a better understanding of monetary economics.

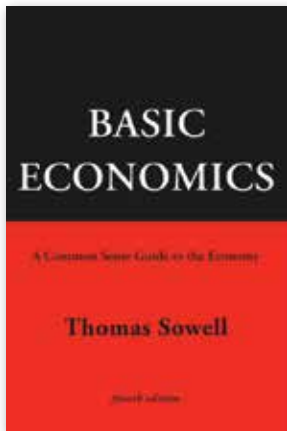
He is best known, however, for his work in popularizing economics in a way that the ordinary layperson could understand. His first effort in that direction came with his 1962 book *Capitalism and Freedom*. That effort was followed up in 1980 with *Free to Choose: A Personal Statement*, co-authored with Friedman's wife, Rose. The book was based on a fabulously successful ten-part television series of the same name. *Free to Choose* was on the bestseller list for five weeks.



(Continued on page 18)

Basic Economics and *A Conflict of Visions*

BY THOMAS SOWELL



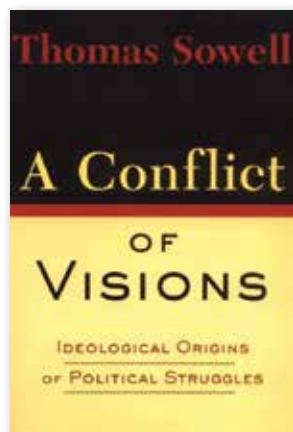
The next two books were written by my longtime friend and colleague, Dr. Thomas Sowell. The first, *Basic Economics: A Citizen's Guide to Economics*, has seen five editions and been translated into eight different languages. *Basic Economics* contains not one graph, not one equation, and no economic jargon; but it manages to teach the ordinary person lessons that they

cannot obtain from most economists. In fact, even many economists would benefit enormously from reading *Basic Economics*.

Dr. Sowell's *A Conflict of Visions: The Ideological Origins of Political Struggles* was originally published in 1987. His opening chapter explains why the same people tend to be political adversaries on issue after issue, when the issues are unconnected to one another and vary in subject matter. The root of these conflicts is that people have different visions about human nature.

There's the "constrained" vision, which sees human nature as unchanging and selfish, as did the founders of our nation. The response to that vision is to create a system of governance that minimizes the harm created by mankind's flaws.

The "unconstrained" vision sees human nature as being malleable and perfectible, and all that is required is to get the right people in charge of things. That vision led to tyrannies of all sorts—from the French Revolution to Hitler, Stalin, and Mao.



The Federalist Papers

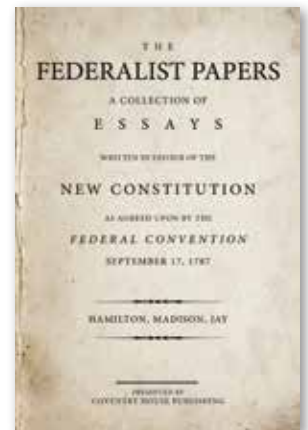
BY ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JAMES MADISON,
AND JOHN JAY

Friedrich Hayek said, "Nobody can be a great economist who is only an economist—and I am even tempted to add that the economist who is only an economist is likely to become a nuisance if not a positive danger." A truly good understanding of economics requires an understanding of the political rules of the game that sets up the legal structure. It is the rules of the game that determine economic outcomes. The best single source for understanding the foundation of our rules of the game is the *Federalist Papers*, written by the nation's founders Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay.

The *Federalist Papers* were written to persuade the citizens of New York—and secondarily, other states—to ratify the Constitution. Ratification was no easy task. The 1783 Treaty of Paris, which ended America's war with Great Britain, held that each state was a sovereign nation. As such, each state feared giving up its rights to a powerful central government.

Anti-federalists wanted some sort of guarantee that states would remain sovereign and that the power of the federal government would be limited, and it would be recognized as a creation of, an agent of, and a servant of the states. They said their votes to ratify could only be secured if the 1787 Constitution was amended to contain a bill of rights guaranteeing the rights of the people and their states.

The most notable and influential anti-federalists were Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, George Mason, and Richard Henry Lee.



The books I suggest herein are excellent sources for students to begin the understanding of economics, which in turn will persuade one that personal liberty is morally superior and that its main ingredient is limited government.

A large background image of Brad Thor, a man with short dark hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt under a dark brown leather jacket. He is leaning against a wooden post on the left side of the frame. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

LEAVE A ★ ★ ★ LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

"Rancho del Cielo has allowed the Foundation's reach to transcend generations." – LA Times

PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN REILLY

Brad Thor

Bestselling Author

YOUR LEGACY HELPS SAVE AMERICA

My name is Brad Thor. You may know me as the author of bestselling thrillers. My love of America and freedom inspires my writing. And that love is a gift from my father. My dad was a Marine and successful entrepreneur. My dad worked constantly to impress his values and love of country on his children.

That's my dad's legacy. **I would ask you to consider your legacy.**

You can create a personal legacy through Young America's Foundation. Young America's Foundation is the largest youth outreach organization in the Conservative Movement and the only group that uses the power of the Reagan Ranch to shape future generations. The Foundation is the exclusive owner and operator of the Reagan Ranch, having worked with Ronald Reagan and the Reagan family since 1962 to advance freedom. Today, Young America's Foundation hosts conferences and seminars at the Reagan Ranch to inspire young people and policy makers with President Reagan's freedom philosophy of limited government, free enterprise, and a strong national defense.



To receive a free Estate Planning Guide or to learn about the exciting benefits of membership in Young America's Foundation's *Ranch in the Sky Legacy Society*, please call Kimberly Begg, vice president and general counsel, at 1-800-USA-1776 or visit www.yaf.org/legacy.

Shapiro, Reagan, Hannan, and Swain Headline Fall College Retreat at the Reagan Ranch

By Amy Lutz, Young America's Foundation Alumna

“YAF is the birthplace of inspiration for conservative students,” noted student Obed Coy of California State University, Los Angeles, after attending Young America's Foundation's Fall College Retreat at the Reagan Ranch. Like Obed, hundreds of students from across the United States were inspired to take their conservative activism to the next level after connecting with their peers, walking in President Reagan's footsteps at Rancho del Cielo, and hearing from top-notch conservative leaders.

More than 230 participants from 23 states, two countries, and 59 schools met at the Reagan Ranch Center for a weekend of learning, fun, networking, and conservative empowerment. The weekend was held in conjunction with the Foundation's annual President's Club weekend for supporters.

Ben Shapiro, popular campus lecturer and editor-in-chief of the *Daily Wire*, kicked off the weekend with a discussion of the values that conservatives should fight for on their campuses.

“We're fighting against the idea that we're living a rootless, meaningless existence,” said Shapiro, encouraging students to understand and defend the values that ground us. Following his speech, Shapiro took photos with the excited attendees.

Michael Reagan, commentator and son of President Reagan, then discussed the lessons he learned from his father. “If you want to be successful, you need to fail,” mentioned Reagan, stressing the importance of learning from experience.

YAF's associate general counsel, Mark Trammell, wrapped up the afternoon discussing student rights on campus and the Foundation's efforts toward preserving those rights. Earlier in the day, Reagan Ranch Board of Governors

(Continued on page 23)



Conference speaker Dr. Carol Swain tours Rancho del Cielo with Amy Brooker, assistant to the director of the Reagan Ranch.



Popular campus speaker and bestselling author Ben Shapiro kicks off the weekend-long program with an engaging and informative address at Young America's Foundation's Reagan Ranch Center.

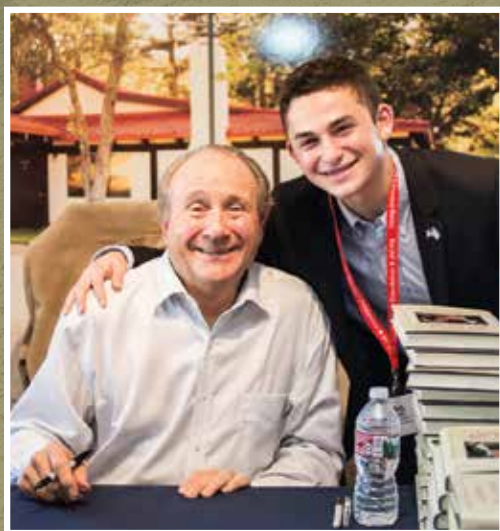


Reagan Ranch Board of Governors member and talk radio host Mark Larson broadcasts his program live from the Reagan Ranch Center Exhibit Galleries during the annual Fall College Retreat.



During a special conference session in the Hay Barn at Rancho del Cielo, college students listen intently as President Reagan's close friend and longest-serving Secret Service agent, John Barletta, shares stories from his time protecting the President.

Considered a rite of passage for every young conservative, college students from around the country visit Ronald Reagan's beloved ranch home during the Fall College Retreat in Santa Barbara.



Michael Reagan meets with Jacob Viviano from the University of Michigan following his remarks at the YAF conference in Santa Barbara.



Conference participants gather near the Humvee used by the Secret Service to protect Ronald Reagan at his ranch home.



Brexit architect and member of the European Parliament Daniel Hannan captivates the audience with a passionate address on the importance of free trade.

(Continued from page 20)

member Mark Larson invited Trammell on his radio program to discuss the Foundation's *Censorship Exposed!* initiative.

The evening's dinner banquet, emceed by Mark Larson, featured 37th United States Treasurer and popular Foundation speaker Bay Buchanan.

"You have to be prepared to defend what you believe," said Buchanan, encouraging students to become educated on the issues they're most passionate about. Later, citing the Left's need for ideological isolation, she said, "You don't need a safe space, and what's more, you don't want one."

The following morning, students heard from a pair of Foundation alumni: Deroy Murdock and Jason Mattera. Murdock, a commentator and contributing editor with *National Review Online*, spoke at length about bringing conservatism to the black community and promoting better education in our schools. He slammed liberals' use of America's education system as "structured child abuse" and suggested that the free market is the best antidote to these abuses.

Mattera, a *New York Times* bestselling author and Emmy-nominated journalist who previously served as YAF's spokesman, discussed the wave of political correctness students are facing on campus.

"When I was a student, remarkably, there were only two genders," the YAF and National Journalism Center alumnus quipped. He continued, "If hearing different opinions sends you sprinting to the campus psychiatrist, you need to toughen up."

The students joined Foundation supporters at Rancho del Cielo for a barbecue luncheon on the lawn. There, they heard from former Vanderbilt University professor and author Dr. Carol Swain, who spoke about the American dream.

Continuing the weekend's discussion of political correctness on campus, she stated, "You cannot be educated in a safe space." She encouraged students to rise up and request higher educational standards at their schools, noting, "It's time for conservative students to organize and demand intellectual diversity."

Following the luncheon, students enjoyed the unique opportunity to walk in President Reagan's footsteps as they toured Rancho del Cielo—Ronald Reagan's home for nearly 25 years and the only home he owned during his Presidency.

During their tours, the group heard from President Reagan's trusted protector and friend, retired Secret Service Agent John Barletta, who also serves on the Reagan Ranch Board of Governors. Barletta signed copies of his book, *Riding with Reagan*, and regaled the students with tales of his many years protecting the President.

The weekend concluded with a memorable dinner banquet emceed by Reagan Ranch Board of Governors Chairman Frank Donatelli and featuring Daniel Hannan, member of the European Parliament and architect of the successful Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom.

Hannan spoke at length about the benefits of free trade, underscoring that "it works every time." Later, he paid homage to Young America's Foundation, stating, "We're winning the battle of ideas because of organizations like this one."

Students left Santa Barbara the next morning refreshed and ready to return to their campuses to advance their ideas. Taylor Ewing from the University of Central Missouri summarized her experience at this life-changing YAF program: "My heart is filled with joy to have the opportunity to come together with these conservatives. I feel like this has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Providing the Spirit of Opportunity

By Raj Kannappan, Director of Young America's Foundation's Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise

LOCATED IN DAYTON, OHIO, IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT SHARES a great deal with the mission and values of Young America's Foundation. It is neither a foundation nor an organization within the Conservative Movement. In fact, it is a unique and very successful business.

This extraordinary company is Winsupply Inc., a leading national supplier of residential and commercial construction and industrial supplies and equipment. The privately held company—which is structured as a family of 600 relatively autonomous companies operating in 45 states—employs more than 6,000 Americans, all focused on distributing products ranging from plumbing, heating, and electrical supplies to pipe, valves, and fittings.

How are Winsupply and Young America's Foundation connected? The person whose life best tells this story is Rick Schwartz, the chairman of Winsupply.

Rick Schwartz and his wife, Jane, are among Young

America's Foundation's most generous supporters, having first invested in our students in 1998. Since then, they have reached young people across America with the ideas of individual freedom, limited government, and—most importantly for them—free enterprise.

The Schwartzes have made possible some of Young America's Foundation's most important efforts over the years. They sponsored our Freedom Conferences in Columbus, Ohio, in 2012 and Chicago in 2017 (*see page ten*), allowing hundreds of students from around the country to learn from national leaders about conservative principles and gain training to advance these ideas among their peers.

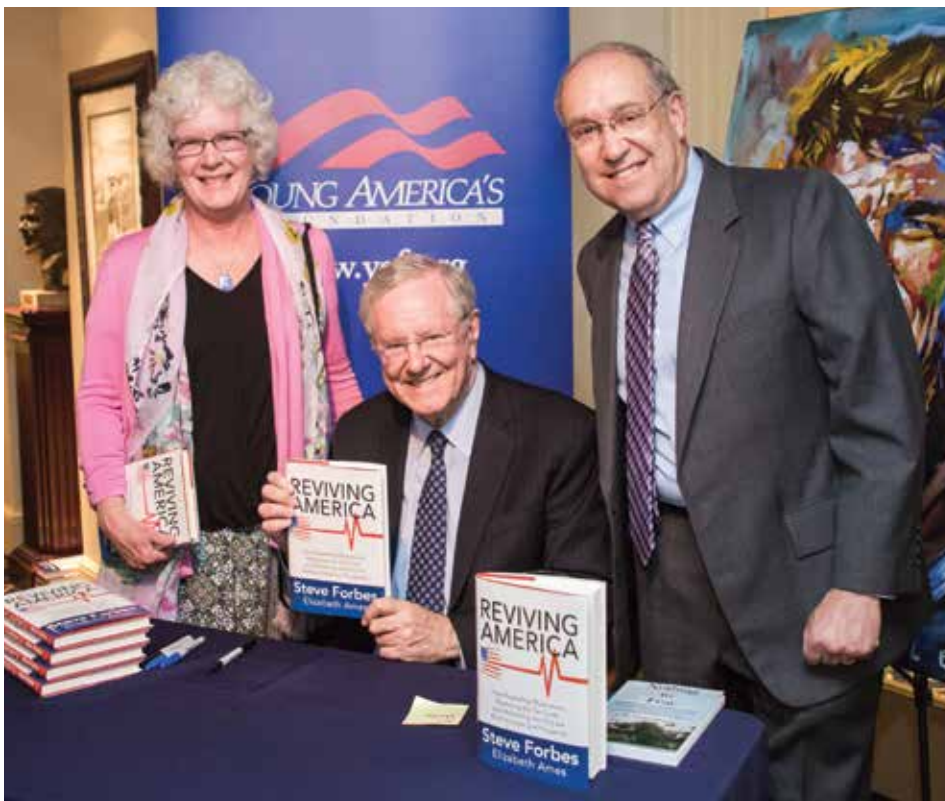
They gave the gift that allowed Young America's Foundation's Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise to partner with the Foundation for Economic Education in producing and distributing the book *Excuse Me, Professor*, an essential guide for students to challenge those who spread destructive myths about our free enterprise system.

In 2011, the 100th anniversary of Ronald Reagan's birth, they sponsored the House Vista Overlook Acre—a critical piece of American Presidential history at the Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, California, that provides a pristine front-patio view of the simple adobe home of Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Since 2011, Rick and Jane Schwartz have also served on the Reagan Ranch Board of Governors, helping to ensure that future generations of Americans have the life-changing opportunity to walk in President Reagan's footsteps.

And most recently, their support was vital for an important capital project that allowed Young America's Foundation to upgrade the fire suppression system at the Reagan Ranch. Thanks to them, the Reagan Ranch is now better protected from future fire threats.

The Schwartzes have introduced their children and grandchildren to



Reagan Ranch Board of Governors members Rick and Jane Schwartz meet with CEO Steve Forbes during the Foundation's 2016 Rawhide Circle retreat at the Reagan Ranch Center.



Rick Schwartz visits Winsupply's 200,000-square-foot distribution center in Dayton, Ohio.

Young America's Foundation as well, visiting the Reagan Ranch numerous times since 1998. Their family has journeyed to the historic Presidential property to appreciate the ideas in which Ronald Reagan believed so dearly and to view the fruits of their generosity.

Conservatism is not merely a personal philosophy for Rick and Jane. It is very much a part of their family. This becomes evident when Schwartz is asked about his most fulfilling experience in life. He answers without hesitation, "Jane and I raised two conservative daughters! And we have two conservative sons-in-law. We're four for four!"

Rick Schwartz's passion for free enterprise, however, took hold before he and Jane partnered with Young America's Foundation.

Schwartz was born in 1949 in Dayton, Ohio—which he points out is the birthplace of the Wright brothers, the self-taught aviation pioneers credited with flying the world's first successful airplane—and grew up in an environment that allowed him to experiment and learn. He talks fondly about

helping his grandfather, a toolmaker for the National Cash Register Company who also ran a print shop on the side. Schwartz would often tinker with some of the equipment to see if he and his grandfather could improve the printmaking process to save time and money. Additionally, with his father being a chemical engineer and his mother involving herself

in community projects, he saw firsthand the virtue in creating and providing a product or service of value to others.

Subsequently, while a student at the University of Akron in Ohio, Schwartz decided to pursue a major in industrial engineering and join the Air Force ROTC. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1971 and

later went on to receive the university's Frank L. Simonetti Distinguished Business Alumni Award.

Rick and Jane met during high school, forming a lifelong partnership that would allow them to build a wonderful family and contribute significantly to the revitalization of the Dayton, Ohio, community through both Rick's leadership at Winsupply and their joint philanthropic vision, which they

Conservatism is not merely a personal philosophy for Rick and Jane. It is very much a part of their family.



Rick Schwartz (center) meets with fellow Reagan Ranch Board of Governors members (from left) Richard Gaby and Barbara Van Andel-Gaby, Attorney General Ed Meese, and Chairman Frank Donatelli in 2016.

carry out through their family foundation. They found in each other a genuine passion for life, likely best encapsulated by their love of everything aviation. It was in 1971 that they both first took flight lessons and caught the aviation bug. They have since been involved in general aviation activities and aircraft ownership, flying their Daher TBM 900 jet prop aircraft across the country.

Following his college career, Schwartz gained a commission as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. He quickly shipped off on an assignment to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he was involved with computer technology and industrial engineering work for the Air Force Weapons Lab.

Afterward, he took an opportunity that has helped him in hiring employees for Winsupply. Schwartz went into the Air Force Reserves, serving as an admissions officer and evaluating candidates for entrance into the Air Force Academy and for Air Force ROTC scholarships.

Regarding his time in the military—from which he retired in 1998 as a lieutenant colonel—Schwartz recalls, “I learned a lot about management from the Air Force. And I was humbled by people who just got things done.”

Schwartz began his business career with Winsupply’s predecessor, Primus Inc., in 1972, when his wife’s uncle, the CEO at that time, saw in him the technical skills that could aid in the company’s growth. Back then, the organization had

40 locations, and its annual sales were roughly \$35 million. For comparison, the Winsupply of today has increased the number of locations nearly 15-fold, and the organization’s annual sales exceed \$3 billion.

Schwartz quickly learned the wholesaling business and moved into a series of leadership roles within Winsupply. While Winsupply had, since its founding, provided ambitious and hardworking entrepreneurs the pathway to become business owners, Schwartz saw an opportunity to improve the company in the service side of the business.

Under Rick Schwartz’s leadership—eventually as president, CEO, and chairman of the board of directors—Winsupply was structured into a company whose headquarters now considers itself an entrepreneurial support center for each of the 600 local companies. The headquarters team provides the critical services around finance, IT, legal, marketing, and other back-office responsibilities that often make starting and running a small business cost-prohibitive. Additionally, local Winsupply companies can get fast access to top-quality products from 130 vendors through Sourcing Services, Winsupply’s standalone company that operates a national network of distribution centers. This kind of support allows the local companies to focus even more relentlessly on innovating and generating higher profit margins.

When asked about Winsupply's goals, Schwartz speaks as passionately as he does about the Wright brothers and aviation. The company's two overarching objectives, as he states them, are serving customers and growing within the industry, as well as promoting free enterprise capitalism and helping people achieve success in their lives.

With regard to free enterprise, Schwartz counts among his intellectual influences Arthur Brooks, Friedrich Hayek, Mitch Daniels, Dr. Walter Williams, Dr. Milton Friedman, and Dr. Burt Folsom; the latter three have served on Young America's Foundation's faculty and lectured to our student audiences on countless occasions. Schwartz often distributes *Uncle Sam Can't Count*—Dr. Folsom's popular book about

Under Rick Schwartz's leadership—eventually as president, CEO, and chairman of the board of directors—Winsupply was structured into a company whose headquarters now considers itself an entrepreneurial support center for each of the 600 local companies.

the history of failed government investments—at Winsupply's leadership training programs.

These thinkers and their writings, along with Schwartz's own early educational and professional experiences, helped to shape his leadership and decision-making at Winsupply.

In Winsupply's business model, the president of each local company and his or her team can own up to a 40 percent stake in their local organization. This substantial equity naturally fosters an environment in which local

owners and their employees take pride in their operations.

Additionally, the local teams have the independence to grow their businesses as they see fit and to respond to market forces within their regions, whether this means building relationships with new customers or diversifying their product offerings.



The Schwartzes prepare to fly their Daher TBM 900 jet prop aircraft out of Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport.

Winsupply is very much a bottom-up company. It is this business model and the freedom it provides that Schwartz refers to as the “Spirit of Opportunity.” In essence, this motto is the soul of Winsupply, as it is not only a set of words on paper, but also a deep conviction lived out by the leaders and employees in the organization.

Schwartz likes to tell the story of Greg Jackson, the president of Dayton Windustrial, a local Winsupply company. Jackson’s organization has played a critical role in some of Dayton’s most significant construction projects in recent years, including Dayton Children’s Hospital, Dayton Metro Library, and a General Electric Aviation research facility at the University of Dayton.

But this would have been difficult to fathom almost 40 years ago. Jackson was then working in new home construction, pouring and finishing concrete. He was, self-admittedly, a “directionless kid.” The then-president of Dayton Windustrial, which had all of two employees at the time, was looking for help to grow the business. So Jackson took a job as a truck driver with the company. Once he joined the organization, he increasingly began to take

For Schwartz, Winsupply is not just a company. It is a higher calling that has allowed him to put into practice his deep appreciation of the free enterprise system and provide to hundreds of Americans an opportunity to earn their success.

interest in the ins and outs of the wholesaling business. Jackson eventually gained the experience and confidence to become the president of Dayton Windustrial, which, under his leadership, today employs 30 people.

This story is not uncommon at Winsupply. Many of the organization’s leaders started out as truck drivers or warehouse employees.

“It’s these success stories that drive me,” says Schwartz. One

of his most cherished assignments when he was more closely involved with the business was handing out bonus checks to employees at the end of the year.

Schwartz is proud that through their work at Winsupply, hardworking and entrepreneurial Americans have been able to provide for their families and improve their lives.

Winsupply has thrived through thick and thin because of its structure and the ingenuity and spirit of its leaders and employees. In 62 consecutive years—even during the 2008 financial crisis—the company has not had a single year in the red.

For Schwartz, Winsupply is not just a company. It is a higher calling that has allowed him to put into practice his



Rick and Jane Schwartz enjoy an excursion during Young America’s Foundation’s 2016 South American cruise.



The Schwartzes, who have served on the Reagan Ranch Board of Governors since 2011, host their daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren for a memorable day at the Reagan Ranch in 2010. (From left: Amy and Brady Kress with children, Sarah and Katie; Jane and Rick Schwartz; Jenny and Jon Schmidt with children, Hayley and Ryan.)

deep appreciation of the free enterprise system and provide to hundreds of Americans an opportunity to earn their success.

As for what more he would like to accomplish, Schwartz states, “I want to see our 30- to 40-year-olds at Winsupply be empowered to take over and grow the organization to six or seven billion dollars in revenues.” Helping to fill this pipeline are dozens of junior military officers, millennials who left active duty to become entrepreneurs. They are benefiting from a program Winsupply launched in 2009 to recruit and train leaders to one day own and operate their own Winsupply locations.

The spirit of opportunity is alive and well at Winsupply. This unwavering belief in, and personal experience with, free enterprise is what brought Rick and Jane Schwartz to Young America’s Foundation 20 years ago.

The Young America’s Foundation team has been

privileged to see firsthand the results of the Schwartzes’ investment in our students, and we are proud to share this story with you.

Many of you reading this piece will see your reflection in this story of Rick and Jane Schwartz because of the values you hold closely to your heart and the principled way in which you have lived your own lives. This is, after all, a quintessentially American story of entrepreneurship, hard work, and self-reliance. It is a story of two people who made the decision to commit themselves to making their community more prosperous and giving the gifts of education and inspiration to those who would most benefit from them.

Young America’s Foundation and our students are fortunate to have supporters like Rick and Jane Schwartz and you. We are honored to advance our shared cause together.



YAF Student Leaders Visit the White House During Activism Training Seminar

By Jolie Ballantyne, Conference Director

Young America's Foundation began 2018 by hosting a record number of students for our Young Americans for Freedom Chapter Training Seminar at our national headquarters in Reston, Virginia.

This two-day seminar brought together more than 120 participants from 21 states to learn YAF's time-tested activism model. Through hands-on training sessions and interactive presentations, YAF leaders learned valuable skills to effectively advance their beliefs and introduce their peers to conservative ideas.

Popular Foundation speaker and 37th Treasurer of the United States Bay Buchanan kicked off the program by encouraging students to follow President Reagan's model of leadership. "We define

ourselves by how we handle the mistakes we've made and the challenges we face," Buchanan told the students.

The young audience then learned how to fundraise for campus events during a special session featuring Foundation team members and YAF alumnae Haley Jones and Clare Hinshaw.

The highlight of the weekend included a visit to the White House Office Complex for a special briefing in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building's Indian Treaty Room. The memorable visit continued the tradition—started by President Reagan—of our nation's conservative leaders hosting YAF students at the White House. Members of the National Journalism Center's spring class also joined the group for this briefing.

While at the White House, students heard from Tony Dolan, a prominent YAF alumnus who served as a speechwriter for President Reagan. Dolan, currently a special assistant to the President and advisor for planning, shared stories from his time in the Reagan administration. He reflected on William F. Buckley's role in shaping the Conservative Movement, stating, "Buckley made it acceptable to be a conservative." Dolan also drew parallels to President Trump and recounted his time as a journalist covering past YAF conventions.

Brian Jack, President Trump's deputy director of legislative affairs, discussed his experiences working in the public policy arena. Jack emphasized the White House's focus on grassroots activism

(Continued on page 32)



Activist and author Bay Buchanan encourages the young leaders to stand up for and defend their beliefs.



Leading campus activists enjoy an evening at the White House where they heard from key Trump administration officials during the Young Americans for Freedom Chapter Training Seminar.



(From left) Matthew Mastroberti, Gillian Hand, Thomas Van Dean, Alejandro Alvarez, Kara Zupkus, and David Quintero visit the historic Indian Treaty Room in the White House's Eisenhower Executive Office Building.



Students Gillian Hand and Emma Shindell from The George Washington University display the YAF gear they received during the seminar at the Foundation's headquarters.



(Continued from page 31)

and acknowledged the significance of Young America's Foundation, stating, "It is important to have a relationship with this organization."

White House Regional Political Director Clayton Henson—a Foundation alumnus and former YAF intern—coordinated the briefing and reflected on his experience with Young America's Foundation and the impact it has had on his career.

Seminar participant Benjamin Keene from Orange Coast College agreed with Henson's sentiment, noting, "YAF has fully equipped me with the connections, experience, and funding I need to make a difference on campus."

The second day of the seminar featured Ken Stiles, professor at Virginia Tech—where he also serves as YAF chapter advisor—and retired CIA officer. During his engaging presentation, Stiles discussed foreign affairs, including the Middle East, information operations, and counterterrorism. A popular presenter, Stiles continued his

conversations with the students during small group discussions.

In addition to outside speakers, Young America's Foundation's experienced team members delivered hands-on training throughout the seminar. Vice President Patrick Coyle shared his insights on how to host a conservative speaker on campus. Next, Young Americans for Freedom National Chairman Grant Strobl instructed the students on the best methods to grow and brand their YAF chapters.

Foundation Spokesman Spencer Brown taught effective public relations practices and media strategies, and Kyle Ferrebee, program officer for YAF chapter services, explained the necessary steps to recruiting and strengthening Young Americans for Freedom chapters.

Students also heard from Associate General Counsel Mark Trammell on how universities attempt to infringe upon their free speech rights. Complementing Trammell's speech, all participants received a copy of the Foundation's booklet, "How Universities Violate Your Free Speech and How to Fight Back!"

The program concluded with several interactive sessions. In small group settings, students learned how to file requests for public information from their schools—a vital part of the Foundation's *Censorship Exposed!* project. They also participated in a mock campus funding board meeting, learned how to host a successful recruitment table, practiced their public relations skills, and learned how to design attractive promotional materials for their events.

Following the seminar, Gillian Hand from The George Washington University expressed gratitude for her YAF training seminar experience:

My school is extremely liberal, and as a freshman, I was scared I would never fit in. But then I discovered YAF. This organization has truly changed my life and has allowed me to fight the good fight, keeping conservative values alive and strong. From being a part of YAF, I have been so inspired to make a difference in our country. Because of you, this is possible.



More than 120 participants travel to our nation's capital for the two-day YAF Activism Training Seminar where they gained inspiration to advance their conservative ideas at their schools.

Chris Garcia

National Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency

By Ashley Weaver, Director of Alumni Relations



YAF alumnus Chris Garcia serves as deputy director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency.

Young America's Foundation alumnus Chris Garcia is the national deputy director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). As the head of the \$36-million-dollar agency, Garcia leads the sole federal entity responsible for supporting minority entrepreneurs across the United States. Prior to joining the Trump administration, he founded multiple businesses and served in leadership roles across the financial services and technology sectors.

Garcia attended numerous Young America's Foundation programs, including the 2009 National Conservative Student Conference in Washington, D.C., multiple Reagan Ranch conferences, and the annual Club 100 Reagan Ranch

retreat, which rewards the Foundation's top student activists. He led his campus conservative club as an undergraduate economics student at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree as a Bill Gates Millennium Scholar.

An active YAF alumnus, Garcia has returned to the Foundation to address student audiences at the Reagan Ranch Center and our national headquarters.

Libertas: What first brought you to Young America's Foundation?

CG: As a sophomore at Pepperdine University, I first heard about YAF through a friend who invited me to the 2009 West Coast Leadership Conference.

Libertas: Which YAF activities did you find most impactful at Pepperdine?

CG: One of my favorite projects, which continues today at Pepperdine, is the 9/11: Never Forget Project. We launched this project with the university and YAF in 2009, honoring victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks by erecting 2,977 flags dedicated to the memory of the lives lost that day.

Libertas: How did you overcome obstacles and successfully advance your conservative ideas at Pepperdine?

CG: I've never been one to dwell on criticism. I can respect those who disagree with my beliefs without sacrificing my core principles. Ultimately, as a student activist, I was focused on showing how conservative values are perfectly aligned with a pro-business, pro-free market mindset.

Libertas: After graduation, you founded a technology startup and a mobile shipping, delivery, and logistics firm. What was the most valuable lesson you learned from these experiences?

CG: One of the most valuable lessons I learned as an entrepreneur is that your level of input directly correlates with results. What you put in is what you get out. Persistence is one of the most underrated qualities in young professionals. More than a great idea, there is no substitute for the focus and grit it takes to convince others of your idea—be it in business, public policy, or nonprofits.

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Garcia speaks to students at the June 2016 High School Conference at the Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, California.

(Continued from page 33)

Libertas: How did growing up as the son of an immigrant influence your path to entrepreneurship?

CG: When my father immigrated here in the 1960s, there was a very different social climate in America. Just like many other first and second-generation Americans, we came here for a better life. My parents sacrificed everything to afford us opportunities to do better for ourselves. We learned at a very young age that we should never expect anything to be given to us; we had to work for what we had. I attribute my ability to create something out of nothing to my parents.

Libertas: What advice would you give to a conservative student considering a career in business?

CG: Follow your passion and don't shy away from wholeheartedly pursuing your career goals. In business, I've learned that you can't be so risk-averse that you miss out on a great opportunity.



Representing the Department of Commerce, Garcia (third from left) delivers keynote remarks to active duty Air Force and Army personnel at an Air National Guard Hispanic Heritage Month event at Joint Base Andrews.

Libertas: What are your responsibilities as the national deputy director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)?

CG: In my role at MBDA, I'm the chief advocate on minority business policy and a principal advisor to Wilbur Ross, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. We are the only federal agency entirely dedicated to developing and growing minority-

owned businesses in this country. We do this through our national network of business centers, where we position minority-owned companies to perform in high-growth industries, emerging markets, and corporate supply chains.

It's my job to ensure that America's more than eight million minority-owned firms are positioned for growth and global competitiveness.



Garcia (sixth from right) attends Young America's Foundation's 2010 Club 100 Reagan Ranch retreat—an annual Foundation program recognizing YAF's top student activists nationwide.



Chris Garcia meets with President Donald Trump and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross in the Oval Office.

Libertas: What do you find most rewarding about your role?

CG: As a Presidential appointee, I have the unique privilege of bringing my business background to the federal government. My goal is not just to improve the efficiency of the federal government but also to execute and fulfill the President's vision of bringing America back to the robust economic engine that has catapulted us to the top of the world economy. My business acumen is coupled with policy directives from the Secretary and the President, ultimately helping us grow minority businesses and the overall American economy.

Being brand new to Washington, D.C., I can't say I was quite prepared for the slow bureaucracy of the federal government. Even with many uphill battles, I can easily say that the most rewarding part of my job is serving my country, alongside a cadre of very talented and passionate civil servants.

Libertas: Most Americans don't get to engage with President Trump. What's been your experience with him?

CG: The President is a funny, charming, and extremely charismatic man. I am blown away by how open and welcoming he is to inviting folks into the Oval Office. For example, in October 2017, the President hosted the Secretary of Commerce, award-winning minority business owners, and me for a ceremony in the Oval Office. Not only was he the first President to do this in the history of MBDA, but he also moved his schedule around to have extra time with the award winners to talk to them and take individual photos.

The President is also one of the most high-energy people I've ever met. For a man that has the weight of the free world on his shoulders, he radiates contagious energy to his staff and those around him.

Libertas: Why should a college student graduating today pursue a business career?

CG: Our country is the greatest in the world because of its commitment to capitalism and its entrepreneurial spirit. The American economy is growing, and graduating students should want to play a vital role in that growth. We depend on their initiative and their ingenuity.

Libertas: How did your experiences with YAF prepare you for your business career and your leadership role in the Trump administration?

CG: YAF provided me the foundation to understand why nations thrive and prosper in a free market system. In an age when many millennials believe that socialism is a better economic system than a free market system, having a solid understanding of the fundamentals of economics is important not just for a successful business career but also for shaping policies that affect the overall American economy.



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Young America's Foundation team members gather near the portrait of President Reagan while visiting the White House in late December. (Pictured from left: Development Relations Coordinator Clare Hinshaw, Development Officer Haley Jones, Development Officer Tom Robinson, Chief of Staff Jessica Jensen, and Foundation Director Emily Jashinsky.)