

# THE CANON

SPRING 2015

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
INTERCOLLEGIATE STUDIES INSTITUTE



## BUILDING FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE



Peter Thiel's  
ISI Roots

Rising Media  
Stars

The 300 Campaign's  
Exciting First Year

# EDUCATING FOR LIBERTY

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Inspiring college students to discover,  
embrace, and advance the principles  
and virtues that make America  
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- 2 LETTER FROM CHRIS LONG
- 4 ISI IN ACTION
- 8 PETER THIEL  
From ISI Student Leader to  
World-Renowned Innovator
- 12 LAUNCHING 30 ISI SOCIETIES  
A Student Leader Recounts  
a Successful First Year
- 16 HOW WE GET TO 300  
The Key to Tripling ISI's Leadership  
Development Impact
- 20 PIPELINE TO THE MEDIA  
ISI's Collegiate Network Fellows and Interns

- 24 VISION 2020  
Building ISI's and America's Future
- 29 HANDS-ON LEARNING  
Up Close and Personal  
with the Great Books
- 30 REMEMBERING M. STANTON EVANS
- 31 A LEGACY OF LIBERTY  
Mimi Prentice and the  
Prentice Honors Scholarship Fund
- 32 THE LAST WORD  
Stephen Herreid, ISI Regional Director

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# CARRYING ON LIBERTY'S LEGACY

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided;  
and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no  
way of judging of the future but by the past.

—Patrick Henry

**T**he American experiment in ordered liberty is unique in history—unprecedented at the time of its inception and unparalleled since.

The brilliance of James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and the rest of our Founding Fathers is a result of their having studied Aristotle, Plato, Cicero, Euclid, Tacitus, the Scriptures, and the rest of the Western canon up to and including the Scottish Enlightenment thinkers. Our Founders studied these men under the tutelage of John Witherspoon and others, and brought their ideas to bear in a way that changed the course of history.

Similarly, a more recent generation of patriots, armed with the principles and values of the great men who came before them, profoundly shaped America. Our nation, conceived in liberty, has endured thanks to the founders of the modern conservative movement.

Just like our Founding Fathers, the men who established the conservative movement—Frank Chodorov, Leonard Read, Russell Kirk, Frank Meyer, William F. Buckley Jr., M. Stanton Evans,

and many others—drew on the great ideas and achievements of those who came before them and presented those ideas anew to a country that desperately yearned for them.

With the recent passing of Stan Evans (*see page 30*), we have lost one of the last links to the founding of the conservative movement. And now it falls to us to pick up the torch of liberty that he and others carried for so many years. We must ensure that the flame burns as brightly tomorrow, and until the time comes for us to pass it to the next generation of leaders.

It is a privilege to help carry on the legacy of conservatism's great leaders. Last year, thanks to your enthusiastic support and encouragement, we launched The 300 Campaign, aimed at tripling from 100 to 300 the number of students graduating from ISI's leadership development programs in just five years. I am pleased to announce as we wrap up the first year of the campaign that your team is on pace to meet—and possibly even exceed—this ambitious goal. The exciting prospect of having growing numbers of ISI alumni filling



crucial roles as policymakers, business leaders, professors, and journalists continues to resonate powerfully with ISI's friends and supporters.

The lasting success of The 300 Campaign will be measured not only in the number of students graduating from ISI's programs but also in the impact that each of these alumni has on America's culture. Peter Thiel (*see page 8*) is just one of many ISI alumni to have achieved incredible success and influence. I first met Peter through his work as an ISI student leader at Stanford, where he cofounded the *Stanford Review*—today one of the longest-running and most prominent newspapers in ISI's Collegiate Network. Since his time as an ISI student, Peter has become one of America's leading technology entrepreneurs; he founded PayPal and Palantir Technologies, and was the first outside investor in Facebook. But he is also one of our country's foremost public intellectuals, equally comfortable in discussing Aristotle as he is the future of technology.

Through The 300 Campaign, ISI seeks to develop future leaders who will be as influential in their chosen fields as Peter is in his. One of the key strategic goals of the campaign is to develop a new generation of reporters and opinion writers dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and restoring integrity to the mass media. To this end, the Collegiate Network student journalism

## Growing numbers of ISI alumni are filling crucial roles as policymakers, business leaders, professors, and journalists.

program (*see page 20*) places promising student journalists at *The Hill*, *National Review*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and other leading media outlets. The vast majority of these students go on to full-time positions in the media and influence countless thousands through their work.

And finally, I am excited to announce ISI's Vision 2020 master plan (*see page 24*), which will create an enduring home for the growing numbers of student leaders who participate in ISI's programs. As ISI has begun using its beautiful twenty-three-acre campus for more and more seminars, students have responded enthusiastically and deepened their connections to ISI through the experience. Under Vision 2020, ISI's campus will become an ideal space for leadership development conferences and student mentoring.

Just as our Founding Fathers and the fathers of the modern conservative

movement stood on the shoulders of the great thinkers who preceded them, ISI's work is possible only because of all that you do to help us "educate for liberty."

I hope that as you read this issue of *The Canon*, you will be inspired at the thought of what this new generation of leaders will do to preserve our republic. In the meantime, please know how grateful I am for your continued support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Long", written over a white background.

Christopher Long  
ISI President



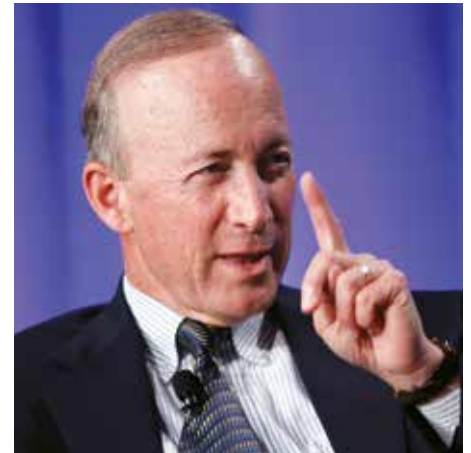
# ISI IN ACTION

**T**ake a look at just some of what ISI has been up to as the ISI team crisscrosses the country to bring the principles of liberty to future leaders.

## Mitch Daniels Headlines Indiana Leadership Summit

**I**n late March more than sixty handpicked students traveled to Indianapolis for ISI's weekend leadership summit *How Markets Work*, sponsored by the Lilly Endowment. At a time when colleges barely conceal their hostility to free markets, ISI students heard from leading scholars and statesmen about the importance of entrepreneurship and the market economy.

Students delighted in the presentations by F. A. Hayek biographer Lanny Ebenstein, economist Jayme Lemke, and public policy entrepreneur Ryan Streeter, a former top aide to Indiana governor Mike Pence. But the highlight was the address by Mitch Daniels. The Purdue University president drew on his experiences as Indiana governor and director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to offer an insightful talk on how to present core conservative principles convincingly.



*Mitch Daniels discusses the importance of free markets and limited government*

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## Daniel Hannan Wins ISI's Paolucci Book Award



*British politician Daniel Hannan accepts ISI's Paolucci Book Award*

**O**n October 8, ISI presented British politician and journalist Daniel Hannan with the Henry and Anne Paolucci Book Award, which recognizes the best book that advances conservative principles. Hannan won the award for *Inventing Freedom: How the English-Speaking Peoples Made the Modern World*, his masterful account of the origin and spread of the rule of law and other key principles that have made America great.

A member of the European Parliament, Hannan wowed a private audience of ISI supporters in an afternoon discussion that touched on everything from the Magna Carta to Franklin Roosevelt to the European Union. That evening, he gave an inspiring speech on the Anglosphere's patrimony of freedom. Delivered to a packed room, Hannan's talk was rebroadcast repeatedly on C-SPAN and drew thousands of readers when it appeared as an essay in ISI's *Intercollegiate Review*.

## Marc Thiessen Inspires ISI's Student Journalists

In November more than a hundred top college journalists gathered in Fort Worth, Texas, for ISI's Collegiate Network Editors Conference. During this intensive weekend of training and mentoring, ISI's exceptional young reporters received advice from professionals at the *Weekly Standard*, the *Daily Caller*, the *Washington Examiner*, and other leading publications.

ISI trustee Marc Thiessen put the capstone on the weekend when he delivered the Saturday dinner speech. Thiessen served as chief speechwriter to President George W. Bush and is



ISI Collegiate Network alumnus Marc Thiessen inspires the next generation of journalists

now a *Washington Post* columnist, Fox News contributor, and *New York Times* bestselling author. Recalling his days as a Collegiate Network editor at Vassar, Thiessen told the students, "I've had amazing experiences—and it all began with ISI and the CN."

University of Florida student Katherine Burns spoke for many of the attendees when she said, "My favorite speaker was Marc Thiessen because he started off in our shoes and has accomplished so much of what I dream about."

## Shaping Leaders in the First State

ISI has brought its special brand of leadership development to its home state. The Delaware Leaders Program, supported by a grant from the Longwood Foundation, provides a unique mix of education, leadership training, and professional advancement for ten or more carefully selected Delaware college students each year.

Meeting monthly, the 2014–15 Delaware Leaders have benefited from a career development session led by Daniel Barr, a major figure in the field of executive search; a legal panel featuring some of the state's top attorneys; and dinners with WSFS Bank CEO Mark Turner, former Delaware Senate minority leader Charles Copeland, and Delaware State University president Dr. Harry Lee Williams. They have also received private tours of the Delaware Art Museum and the historic du Pont estate Winterthur.

To acquire a grounding in principles, the Delaware Leaders attended an ISI leadership conference in Pittsburgh and other enriching seminars on the foundations of liberty.



Entrepreneur and ISI trustee Charles Copeland, former Delaware Senate minority leader, offers advice to ISI's Delaware Leaders

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# PETER THIEL



From ISI Student Leader to World-Renowned Innovator



When Peter Thiel took the stage at ISI's Dinner for Western Civilization this past October, it was a homecoming. He became the first ISI alumnus to deliver the keynote speech at the Institute's annual dinner.

A quarter century after his time as an active ISI student at Stanford University, Thiel has made the most of the intellectual courage and leadership skills he displayed as an undergraduate.

Today he is best known as one of America's leading entrepreneurs and investors. His track record is stunning: Cofounder and CEO of PayPal, a company he sold to eBay for \$1.5 billion. The first outside investor in Facebook, where he still serves on the board. Cofounder and chairman of Palantir Technologies, a data analytics company that makes tools for national security, law enforcement, and global finance. Cofounder of Founders Fund, which has invested in some of the world's leading tech companies, including SpaceX, LinkedIn, Airbnb, Yelp, and Spotify.

But Peter Thiel is not only an entrepreneur. Far from it. He is a generous and innovative philanthropist. He is the author of two books, including the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future*. And he is, in the words of *Fortune* magazine, "perhaps America's leading public intellectual today."

Indeed, Thiel is the rare thinker followed not only in Silicon Valley and on Wall Street but also at elite universities and think tanks. (He even taught a course at Stanford.) He is a polymath who at any given time might cite James Madison, René Girard, Abraham Lincoln, Leo Strauss, Hegel, Shakespeare, John Locke, Ray Kurzweil, Tolstoy, Aristotle, Nassim Taleb, Sophocles, or J. R. R. Tolkien.

But perhaps his most distinctive characteristics are his contrarian thinking and his fearlessness in confronting political correctness—both on full display during his Dinner for Western Civilization speech as well as his days as an ISI student leader.

### **Stanford Review Days**

Before there was a PayPal mafia, there was a *Stanford Review* mafia.

Thiel surrounded himself with so



much talent at PayPal that the media dubbed alumni of the company the "PayPal mafia" for the way they have revolutionized the technology industry. YouTube, Tesla Motors, LinkedIn, Yammer, Yelp—these are just some of the trailblazing companies to emerge from the small group of PayPal founders and early employees.



Thiel had already shown his eye for talent back at Stanford. In 1987, as a sophomore, he cofounded the *Stanford Review*, an independent student newspaper that joined ISI's Collegiate Network. Thiel and his friend Norman Book saw that the university desperately needed an alternative to its stifling liberal orthodoxy.

That January, Jesse Jackson had led hundreds of students and faculty in protesting Stanford's required Western Culture course. "Hey hey, ho ho, Western Culture's got to go!" the protesters chanted. Stanford soon gutted its core curriculum and caved to the ceaseless demands for "diversity," but Thiel and the *Stanford Review* were there to push back. The paper provided well-reasoned opposing views and exposed the intolerance of so many multiculturalists.

After graduating in 1989, Thiel stayed on at Stanford for law school and remained active with the *Review*. He assembled an incredible roster of contributors for the Collegiate Network publication. In fact, several key members of the *Stanford Review* editorial team went on to join Thiel at PayPal, including Reid Hoffman, Ken Howery, David O. Sacks, and Keith Rabois. As the *New York Times* recently reported, Thiel and the others "transformed themselves into a close-knit network of technology entrepreneurs—innovators who created billion-dollar business after billion-dollar business, using the ideas, ethos, and group bonds they had honed at the *Stanford Review*."

Thiel has written that the Collegiate Network paper "was my first entrepreneurial venture," adding that he received invaluable preparation for his future career by "managing a group of talented (and strong-minded) people."

To this day the *Stanford Review* is a leading member of ISI's Collegiate Network and a vital conservative voice on the Stanford campus. Year after year the publication that Peter Thiel founded continues to produce top ISI student leaders. (See sidebar on page 10.)

# The “Stanford Review Mafia”

Cofounded by Peter Thiel in 1987, the *Stanford Review* has produced a steady stream of leaders. Here are just a few examples:

**Ken Howery:** PayPal cofounder and CFO, Founders Fund cofounder and partner

**Reid Hoffman:** Marshall scholar, PayPal executive vice president, LinkedIn cofounder

**David O. Sacks:** Editor in chief of ISI’s *Campus* magazine, PayPal COO, Yammer cofounder

**Keith Rabois:** PayPal executive vice president, LinkedIn vice president, Square COO

**Eric Jackson:** PayPal vice president, CapLinked cofounder

**Adam Ross:** Goldcrest Investments CEO

**Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD:** Stanford medical professor

**Stephen Cohen:** Palantir Technologies cofounder

**Steve Russell:** Prism Skylabs cofounder

**Aman Verjee:** PayPal vice president, Sonos CFO, CAN Capital CFO

**Gideon Yu:** San Francisco 49ers co-owner

**Autumn Carter:** 2011 winner of ISI’s Preston A. Wells Jr. Leadership Award, California Common Sense executive director



Norman Book and Peter Thiel, cofounders of the Stanford Review, at the twenty-fifth-anniversary celebration



## Contrarian

At Stanford and in the decades since, Thiel has consistently demonstrated his contrarian streak.

After law school he landed what he thought was the perfect job, at a big Manhattan law firm. He left “after seven months and three days,” he told the audience at ISI’s Dinner for Western Civilization.

Thiel told that story to illustrate one of his contrarian ideas: *competition is for losers*. Competition, he said, is supposed to be healthy, and “we always think of the losers as the people who are not good at competing—the ones who can’t make the high school varsity or who don’t have the grades or test scores to get into the right college.” The problem with competition

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Thiel displayed his contrarian thinking and his fearlessness in confronting political correctness during his days as an ISI student leader.

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is that “it focuses us on the people around us, and while we get better at the things we’re competing on, we lose sight of anything that’s important, or transcendent, or truly meaningful in our world.” Competition breeds conformity, a fear of stepping outside the bounds. Thiel added, “This is the issue I had to confront in myself when, after years of competing, I achieved my goal of working at a major law firm—and realized it was the last thing I wanted.”

The Dinner for Western Civilization wasn’t the first ISI event where Thiel revealed his contrarian thinking. In 2012

ISI sponsored a debate at Stanford between Thiel and another leading technology thinker, *Microcosm* author George Gilder. Here Thiel challenged Silicon Valley optimism, arguing that technological innovation is slowing down. Although we have seen enormous progress “in computers, Internet, mobile technology, information technology, and so on,” progress has stalled in most other areas. A manifesto published by Thiel’s Founders Fund neatly encapsulated this view: “We wanted flying cars; instead we got 140 characters.”

With his philanthropy, Thiel has backed up his outspoken criticism of the university system and the higher education bubble. His 20 Under 20 Thiel Fellowships nurture the visionaries of tomorrow by funding them *not* to go to college. The program has ignited a national debate on differences between schooling and education.

### Continuing the Fight

During his Dinner for Western Civilization speech, Thiel recalled the importance of the support he received from ISI’s Collegiate Network. “It’s really tough to be contrarian just by yourself,” he said. “It’s always good to know that you’re not completely isolated.” Joining the Collegiate Network showed him exactly that. “When I started the *Stanford Review* back in 1987, we received this invitation to go to D.C. [for the



*Peter Thiel and Microcosm author George Gilder at an ISI-sponsored discussion at Stanford University on the prospects for technological progress*

Collegiate Network Editors Conference]. We met with all the other editors of these college newspapers, and we realized that we were not totally on our own.” Belonging to a national network of independent student newspapers “gave us a lot of stamina in the years to come as we went through the debates over Western culture and political correctness and campus speech codes.”

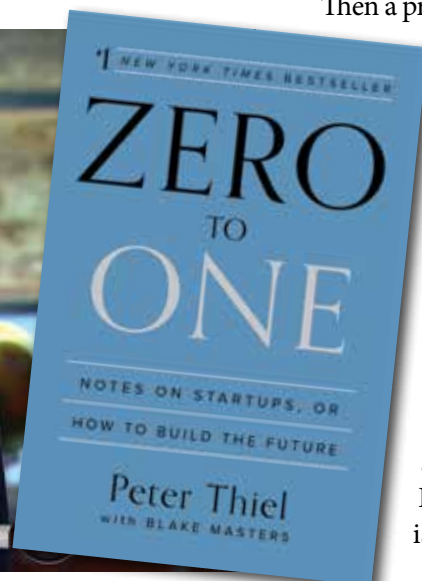
Grateful for the Collegiate Network’s influence on his life, Thiel is excited to address ISI’s best young journalists at

this summer’s Collegiate Network Editors Conference.

Sadly, the liberal intolerance that Thiel exposed during his Stanford days is still alive and well on college campuses. But he continues the fight. In December angry protesters repeatedly interrupted a speech Thiel was giving at Berkeley. The protesters loudly banged on doors, and, as a news account put it, “a sense of panic seemed to be overtaking the surprised audience.” Undeterred, Thiel continued with the Q&A.

Then a protester rose up and shouted an obscenity at Thiel before charging out of the hall.

The crowd turned silent. But Peter Thiel, a veteran of many such battles dating back to his days as an ISI student leader, would not be easily cowed. He looked out over the room for a few seconds and then calmly said, “This is really a classic Berkeley event today—this is so cool!”



# LAUNCHING 30 ISI SOCIETIES

A Student Leader Recounts a Successful First Year



by ELIZABETH RIDGEWAY

**W**hen I arrived at the University of Georgia as a freshman in the fall of 2012, I discovered that there was no forum for center-right thought on campus.

Today, UGA boasts two signature programs that together provide a strong voice for liberty and tradition. Neither program would have been possible without ISI.

When a handful of undergraduates gathered in May 2013 to give voice to intellectual conservatism on campus, we decided to found a campus publication modeled after magazines like *National Review* and *The Weekly Standard*. ISI became a guiding light when we were accepted into ISI's Collegiate Network of independent student publications. From ISI we secured grants, training, and contacts with both professional journalists and sister publications.

Our publication, the *Arch Conservative*, quickly flourished as we exposed the shenanigans of the campus Left. We always saw journalism as a tool to foster a strong community of liberty-minded students and professors, and to bring true intellectual diversity to UGA by introducing our left-leaning peers to conservative ideas and hosting prominent conservative speakers. And ISI stepped in to provide the critical support we needed to make that happen.

In the fall of 2014 the *Arch Conservative* became a member of the inaugural class of **ISI Societies**. ISI's mentoring, logistical support, and financial grants have made all the difference in achieving our vision of creating an intellectually diverse environment at UGA.

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The flexible ISI structure allows  
Society leaders to determine  
the particular needs of  
students on their campus.

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### Bringing a Conservative Voice to Campus

ISI Societies are springing up on campuses across the country. From my conversations with other ISI student leaders and from my own experience, I know that the Societies initiative has worked so well because it puts into practice principles that ISI champions: local involvement, personal responsibility, and the free exchange of ideas.

The flexible ISI structure allows Society leaders to determine the particular needs of students on their campus and then form a group specifically to fill that niche. For student leaders, knowledge of campus climate is key: every college, from Ivy League schools to large public universities to small liberal arts academies, has a different way of grappling with the great ideas of the West. This, of course, leads to wonderful variation among Societies, even as they stand for the principles of liberty and challenge the creeping intolerance of the modern academy.

## ISI Society Leaders Making a Difference

### Joseph Doherty

Joseph Doherty, an ISI Honors Scholar, has worked tirelessly to bring the ISI experience to Ave Maria University. Most notably, he founded an ISI Society, which during its inaugural year has hosted campus speakers including the Acton Institute's Dr. Samuel Gregg, who discussed the economic and cultural trends that are sending Europe toward economic disaster—and that threaten the United States as well. An excellent ambassador for ISI, Joseph recruited ten Ave Maria students to attend ISI's Indianapolis leadership conference in March.



### Alyssa Barnes

After attending an ISI conference, Alyssa Barnes was inspired to found an ISI Society at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. She has spread the ISI message far beyond her campus, recruiting student members from the University of Houston, Rice University, and Houston Baptist University as well. Alyssa led her Society in a three-month discussion of the ISI book *How the West Won* by Rodney Stark and has hosted lectures by renowned scholars like the University of Tulsa's Russell Hittinger. When it comes to educating for liberty, Alyssa is one of ISI's top student leaders.



### Nihal Singh

Nihal Singh, a junior at Berkeley, has already attended three ISI conferences and leads a growing ISI Society on campus. Members discuss canonical works of the Western tradition, starting with Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. In March, Nihal's Society hosted ISI alumnus Marc Thiessen, former chief speechwriter to President George W. Bush, for a debate on U.S. actions in the Middle East. Committed to intellectual diversity, Nihal published an op-ed in the Berkeley student paper questioning whether free speech has become a "dead dogma" at his university.





## Professor in the Spotlight: Joshua Dunn

Joshua Dunn, professor of political science at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), serves as academic adviser to the ISI Society at UCCS. This group of exceptional students seeks to promote the tradition of liberal learning that is necessary for building and maintaining free societies. The students give Professor Dunn all the credit for their grasp of American ideals.

Dunn's work with the UCCS ISI Society is just the latest example of his long involvement with ISI. Josh is an ISI alumnus, having been active in ISI's campus programming as an undergraduate twenty years ago. He discovered ISI through his father, Charles W. Dunn, an ISI author (*The Future of Conservatism*) and longtime ISI professor who serves as dean of Regent University's Robertson School of Government. Josh has shown himself to be one of ISI's most insightful and charismatic speakers. At ISI's Colorado Leadership Summit last year, he discussed what ISI has meant to him. He encouraged students to think ahead to where they would like to be in two decades, adding that, as a speaker at ISI events, he was doing exactly what he had always wanted.

At the University of Georgia, conservative thought finds a wider audience than at many peer institutions. After all, we're the chief public university in a red state. Students may not profess political conservatism, but their personal values often align with the ideas our ISI Society is interested in reviving. Even the surrounding town of Athens, though undeniably left-leaning, celebrates community and intellectual inquiry in music, art, and entrepreneurship.

So when my classmates and I decided to bring a serious conservative voice to campus, we knew UGA had a ready audience. The *Arch Conservative* was structured to be an effective tool for communication at our particular school: local journalism with a brash energy, a college publication that stood on convictions yet didn't take itself overly seriously. ISI's Collegiate Network provided design and layout resources, grants for printing magazines, and an Editors Conference that connected us to sister publications and kindred spirits across the country.

Following our first print issues and regular online content, students at UGA began to look to the *Arch Conservative* for a thoughtful interpretation of campus events, rooted in enduring principles. My colleagues and I covered campus "hate speech" crimes, vandalism of Students for Life posters, gubernatorial gaffes, the Athens mayoral race, local tech entrepreneurship, and more. Several stories were picked up by national news outlets, including our objections to the Georgia Board of Regents' decision to ban tobacco at state schools and a university-sponsored field trip to Planned Parenthood.

For all the successes during our first year of publication, we made less headway in forming the enduring community we had envisioned. One challenge we confronted was a general lack of familiarity with the intellectual tenets of the Western tradition—an area of growth for us student leaders also. We realized we needed to start a debate and discussion group to complement the print and online publication.





## Empowering Student Groups

Here again, ISI provided the support we needed. For starters, ISI introduced us to groups that were already succeeding, such as Columbia University's John Jay Society.

But most important, in early 2014 we discovered that we could apply for a grant to become an officially recognized ISI Society. ISI had always worked with student groups, supplying them with books and helping them host outside speakers. But the Societies initiative empowered groups to make an even greater mark on their campuses.

We learned that the ISI Societies would be modeled on

transportation policy, and Atlanta charter schools. We have held film screenings, laughing along with the moral clarity of *Groundhog Day* and puzzling over the more arcane scenes in Whit Stillman's *Metropolitan*. These events have achieved one of our Society's key goals: to attract participants from beyond the *Arch Conservative's* editorial team. We have discovered that many of our fellow students enjoy the stimulating discussion and like-minded community even if they are not interested in journalism.

Perhaps nothing better demonstrates the impact an ISI Society can have on campus discourse than the debate we hosted in March between two nationally known journalists, Zach Carter of the *Huffington Post* and Tim Carney of the *Washington Examiner*. Generously sponsored by ISI and the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation, the debate asked, "Which better serves the poor: Uncle Sam or free enterprise?" The event attracted more than fifty attendees from outside our membership. For most it was their first exposure to a serious discussion of humane economics: Carter provided a philosophical defense of governmental regulation of markets, while Carney showed the human flourishing possible under a laissez-faire economy. One student told me she discussed the arguments with a friend for an hour afterward, and several others took ISI books to read.




The Huffington Post's Zach Carter (left) debates the Washington Examiner's Tim Carney

the Collegiate Network program from which the *Arch Conservative* had already benefited. Student groups nationwide would compete for ISI's funding and mentoring through an application process. To be considered as an ISI Society, my UGA colleagues and I had to develop a business plan and projected budget for the following school year, including plans for guest speakers and group discussions. We needed to have a faculty adviser, leadership structure, and succession plan in place, and we needed to have recruited enough members to sustain regular meetings. In other words, ISI was looking for groups that could be permanent presences at their schools, not fizzle after a couple of meetings (something that happens all too often amid the hectic pace and many distractions of college life).

In the late spring of 2014 the *Arch Conservative* was among the thirty Societies whose grant applications ISI accepted. Since then, the *Arch Conservative* Society has been thriving. Our group gathers regularly over pizza and sweet tea for discussions of conservative ideas and campus events. We have hosted supportive UGA faculty and local journalists, enjoying lively conversation about state politics, energy and

## A Bright Future

Every student leader I've talked to could tell a different story about the value of ISI programming on his or her campus. For some, the Collegiate Network has equipped students to write well and respond with thoughtful conviction to illiberal progressivism. For others, ISI conferences and seminars have introduced them to the intellectual tradition behind their beliefs. Now, for a new generation of undergraduate scholars, the ISI Societies program offers the friendship of local communities with the training of the mind that endures beyond college.

At the University of Georgia, the future is bright for campus conservatives. We have the ISI Societies initiative to thank. 



*Elizabeth Ridgeway is a junior at the University of Georgia. She is publisher of the Arch Conservative and secretary of the Arch Conservative Society, both sponsored by ISI.*

# HOW WE GET TO 300

The Key to Tripling ISI's Leadership Development Impact



It is late July 2014. The ISI team has just wrapped up another successful leadership conference—one of six weeklong sessions held during a busy summer. The fifty-three college students who attended the Principles of Liberty seminar, held at Villanova University, have left energized by the experience. One University of Florida student says, “I now have the tools to be a light for liberty on my campus.” A Boston College undergraduate writes, “I’ve kind of fallen in love with ISI because of the conference!”

But for ISI, the work is just beginning.



On Monday morning, the ISI programs team gathers to evaluate each attendee and develop mentoring plans for the most talented student leaders.

Welcome to ISI's **300 Campaign**, an ambitious effort to triple the number of student leaders the Institute produces annually.

The 300 Campaign reflects ISI's conviction that the Institute can have the greatest impact on American society by focusing on identifying, educating, and mentoring future leaders. That is what ISI has done for sixty years, and it is why ISI alumni include luminaries of the conservative movement, college presidents, opinion makers, business leaders, Ivy League professors, and bestselling authors.

To triple the output of student leaders requires building on the techniques that have proven themselves time and again. Most notably, ISI has enhanced its **talent identification**, **one-on-one mentoring**, and **career development**.

## Talent Identification

ISI's review session after the Principles of Liberty conference displays the focused approach to talent identification.

The immersive environment of an ISI conference allows the ISI team to get to know students well. In the subsequent evaluations, ISI scores each student in five areas: (1) sympathy for conservative ideas, (2) intelligence, (3) knowledge of the conservative canon, (4) the ability to express ideas orally and in writing, and (5) "values," or character.

The point of this exercise is to determine which students ISI should invest in. Thousands of students every year get involved with ISI, but only a small percentage will participate in ISI's elite leadership programs. Talent identification ensures that the ISI team focuses its attention and resources on the most promising young leaders.

It also ensures that ISI doesn't overlook strong candidates. For example, the review after the Villanova conference produced new insights about Mariana Barillas of the University of

# Student Leaders Making a Difference

## Rich Lizardo

As student president of Yale's William F. Buckley Jr. Program, Rich Lizardo has advanced the cause of intellectual diversity. In September the Muslim Students Association and other campus groups denounced the Buckley Program for inviting the "hateful" Ayaan Hirsi Ali to speak. But Rich refused to give in to the intimidation tactics, and the lecture by the women's rights activist and critic of radical Islam drew more than three hundred attendees. Rich, an ISI Honors Scholar and an editor with the ISI Collegiate Network's *Light and Truth*, appeared on Fox News to discuss this victory for free speech.



## Mary Franks

Mary Franks is the latest in a long line of impressive ISI student leaders from Eastern University's Templeton Honors College, which fosters intellectual discourse around a Great Books curriculum. The Georgia native was selected for ISI's highly competitive Honors Program and also earned a yearlong fellowship with the Agora Institute for Civic Virtue and the Common Good. In that role she has helped bring prominent speakers to campus, including ISI scholars Peter Augustine Lawler and Philip Bess and bestselling author Rod Dreher.



## Eddie Love

After high school, Eddie Love left California for the U.S. Air Force Academy with dreams of becoming a pilot. He spent two years there before deciding to take time off from college to volunteer at an orphanage in South Africa. He then transferred to Harvard, where he quickly made his mark as an ISI student leader. An ISI Honors Scholar, Eddie became a leading ambassador for ISI on his Ivy League campus. In 2014 he was awarded the Preston A. Wells Jr. Leadership Award for his exceptional dedication to sharing the ISI mission with others.



Michigan–Flint. At the conference, ISI discovered that Mariana has drive, talent, and a commitment to conservative ideas. She has supplemented her education by taking Great Books courses outside her university, and she writes for the *College Fix* and a local newspaper.

When the ISI team compared notes, everyone agreed that this was a young leader who deserved support. With ISI’s encouragement, Mariana applied for both a Collegiate Network internship and the ISI Honors Program.

### Mentoring

ISI team members and professors have always provided students with intellectual and career guidance. With The 300 Campaign, ISI’s mentoring is more intentional than ever.

Once the team has evaluated the top students, ISI develops a detailed mentoring plan for each young leader. Through this plan, ISI team members stay in regular contact with the student leaders. They point the students to books to read and

professors to know. They also highlight the most appropriate ISI conferences and essay contests.

A key element of this mentoring plan is career development. Based on the student’s ambitions and interests, ISI places each young leader in one of five talent pipelines.

### Career Development

The first two career pipelines, journalism and higher education, are well established.

The Collegiate Network student journalism program is a respected feeder to the media.

The ISI team gets to know and

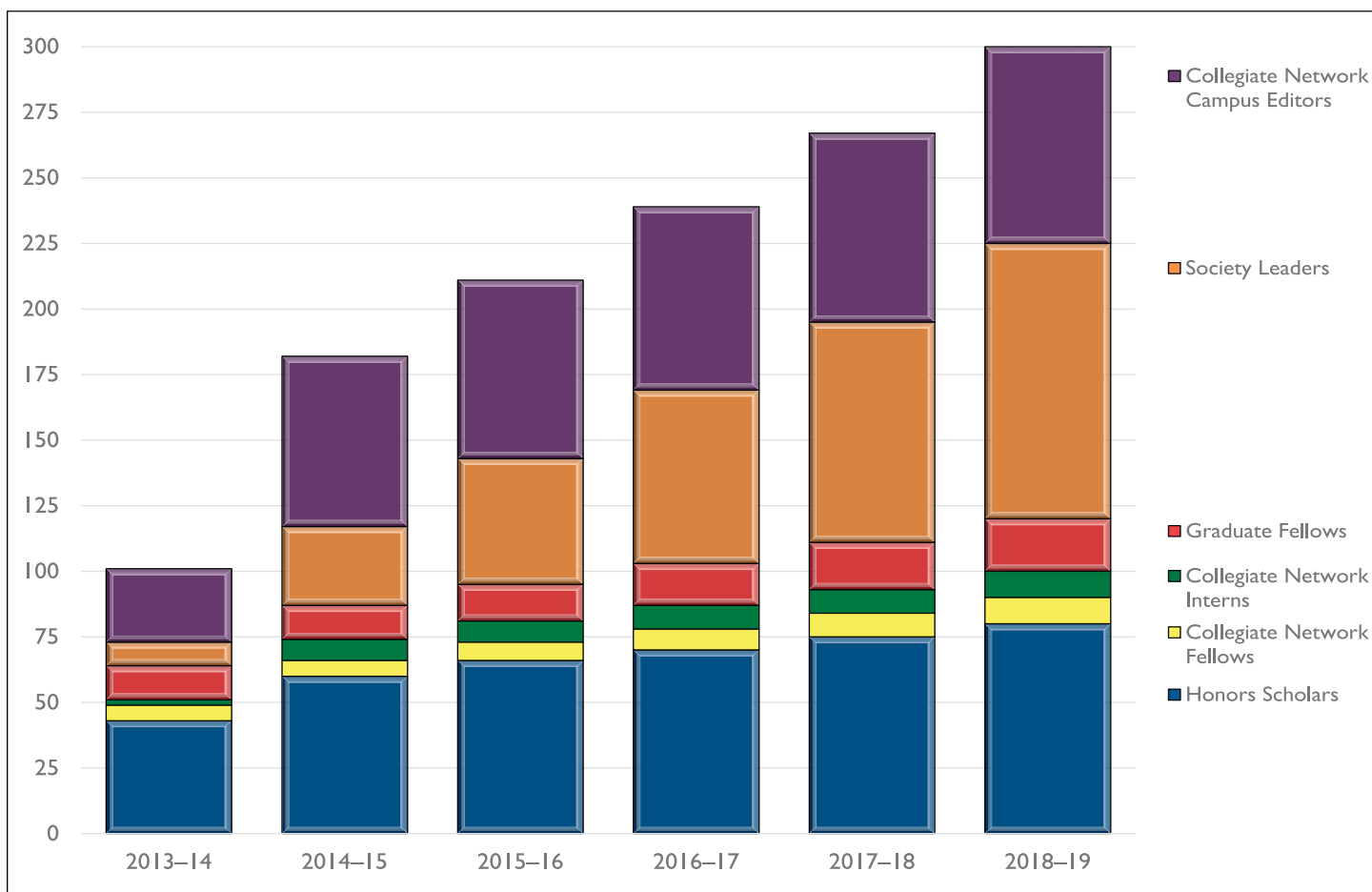
evaluate young journalists through the annual CN Editors Conference as well as campus visits. The best are selected for ISI-sponsored summer internships with the likes of *National Review* and the *Daily Caller*. From there the most motivated apply for yearlong fellowships, which provide a first job at a major publication. (See story on page 20.)

Meanwhile, ISI’s graduate fellowship program has

## ISI can have the greatest impact on American society by focusing on identifying, educating, and mentoring future leaders.



## EXPANDING ISI’S INFLUENCE THROUGH THE 300 CAMPAIGN



produced professors at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Notre Dame, and many other schools. Other alumni serve as presidents, provosts, and deans. ISI is thus well prepared to mentor student leaders with clearly defined academic career goals.

The plan involves finding the right academic mentor from among ISI's many professors as well as connecting the student to allied organizations with academic programs. ISI encourages the best students to apply for graduate fellowships.

ISI has modeled its other programs on its successes in the first two. The third pipeline is public policy. ISI is well positioned to point top students to internship opportunities in the conservative world. Allied organizations like the American Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation, and the Fund for American Studies have already expressed interest in working with ISI's handpicked talent.


The fourth pipeline is entrepreneurship. Many ISI alumni have excelled in business, including PayPal cofounder Peter Thiel, Yammer founder David O. Sacks, and private equity guru Thomas E. Lynch. Study after study shows that employers are looking for the smarts and skills developed through a true liberal education. Nine out of ten employers rate written communication, critical thinking, and problem solving as "very important" for success—but they report that only a *quarter* of recent college graduates are well prepared in these areas, according to the Association of American Colleges and Universities. A recent report by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences begins by saying that America's future leaders will be "citizens who are educated in the broadest possible sense, so that they can participate in their own governance and engage with the world." A broad, coherent education is precisely what ISI provides.

Liberty-minded businesses are turning to ISI for well-rounded, entrepreneurial students who have come through ISI's mentorship and career development program. Some ISI supporters are interested in setting up internships and eventual employment for ISI's top business-minded young leaders.

The fifth pipeline is law. ISI team members and professors engage students to find out whether they are passionate about the law, and then ISI connects committed students with alumni in the field. Most important, ISI introduces them to friends at the Federalist Society, the conservative organization dedicated to reforming the current legal order.

If you are interested in helping outstanding ISI students advance in any of these pipelines, please contact executive vice president Nick Reid at 302-524-6140 or nreid@isi.org.

## The Road to 300

Leadership development has been at ISI's core from the beginning. The 300 Campaign represents a natural extension of ISI's time-tested program. By identifying, educating, and mentoring future leaders, and putting them on the path to career success, ISI will triple its impact on the future of our country. 

# Meet Johnny Burtka



*Hillsdale College president and ISI alumnus  
Larry Arnn with Johnny Burtka*

**A**s an undergraduate at Hillsdale College, Johnny Burtka was immersed in an intellectual environment dominated by ISI alumni and faculty associates. Alumni of ISI's graduate fellowship program, Paul Rahe and Hillsdale president Larry Arnn, taught two of Johnny's most formative courses. During his freshman year, Johnny learned the foundations of Western civilization from Dr. Rahe, and as a senior he picked up from Dr. Arnn the tools he needed to finish the noble project.

Johnny worked closely with Dr. Arnn in various leadership roles on campus, but their friendship blossomed during Johnny's senior year, when he spent Friday afternoons with a small group of students poring over the works of Aristotle and C. S. Lewis in Dr. Arnn's living room. Johnny credits Dr. Arnn with helping him to see how every academic discipline, and the entire world, fit into a coherent whole.

After taking two additional years to study in Aix-en-Provence, France, and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with the Trinity Forum Academy, Johnny realized that his passion was for sharing this holistic view of education. That passion brought him to work at ISI. In his role as a development associate, Johnny builds relationships with ISI supporters across the country who want to invest in educating the next generation of principled leaders.

Johnny and his wife, Amanda, reside in West Chester, Pennsylvania.



# PIPELINE TO THE MEDIA

## ISI's Collegiate Network Fellows and Interns

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“The Collegiate Network changed my life.”

—*Elise Viebeck, The Hill*

There is perhaps no better example of how ISI produces leaders than its student journalism program, the Collegiate Network. CN alumni include some of the country's most influential reporters and opinion makers: ABC News White House correspondent Jonathan Karl, *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat, radio host Laura Ingraham, *National Review* editor Rich Lowry, *Wall Street Journal* Pulitzer Prize winner Joseph Rago, and columnist and former chief presidential speechwriter Marc Thiessen, to name just a few.

ISI identifies and mentors conservative student journalists through a network of some sixty independent student-run publications and a series of intensive training seminars. Even more important, ISI places the top young writers and editors in their first professional jobs.

Every year, outstanding Collegiate Network journalists earn ISI-sponsored yearlong fellowships and summer internships with prominent publications including *USA Today*, *National Review*, the *Weekly Standard*, the *Daily Caller*, *The Hill*, the *Dallas Morning News*, the *American Conservative*, *First Things*, and the *Raleigh News and Observer*. The fellowships and internships have proven to be a sure path to journalistic success.

A close look at the recent crop of fellows at just one of these publications, *The Hill*, shows how ISI is seeding the media with talented journalists committed to the principles of liberty.

### The Fab Five

*The Hill*, a nonpartisan newspaper covering Congress, has become the most influential publication on Capitol Hill through its dogged reporting and in-depth coverage. The editors have extremely high standards: they expect even reporters fresh out of college to come armed with professional journalism experience. That is why *The Hill* turns to ISI to supply talent.

Thanks to the generous contributions of ISI supporters, the Collegiate Network each year places and fully funds a young reporter in a postgraduate fellowship at



Elise Viebeck, *The Hill*

*The Hill*. These ISI-sponsored journalists invariably excel during their initial yearlong fellowship and go on to even greater success.

Take **Elise Viebeck**, a 2010 graduate of Claremont McKenna College. While studying political science at Claremont McKenna, she started writing for the Collegiate Network newspaper there, the *Claremont Independent*. Elise quickly rose to editor in chief, and in 2008 she won the Eric Breindel Collegiate Journalism Award, earning a \$10,000 prize and an internship at the *New York Post*. She also received an ISI-sponsored internship with *National Review*.

On the strength of that experience, Elise was awarded ISI's yearlong fellowship at *The Hill* after she graduated in 2010. Both ISI and *The Hill* had high expectations for her, and she exceeded them.

Elise performed so well, in fact, that *The Hill* hired her as a full-time reporter when her ISI fellowship ended in 2011. Her tireless reporting on the implementation of ObamaCare became must-reading not only on Capitol Hill but across the country.

Prominent publications are clamoring for ISI's Collegiate Network talent.

## Alumni Making a Difference

The Hill is just one of many prominent publications at which ISI gives young journalists their professional start. Here are two other recent alumni of the ISI Collegiate Network fellowship and internship program.

### J. Arthur Bloom

At the College of William and Mary, Jordan Bloom edited the ISI Collegiate Network's *Virginia Informer*, which was twice named the CN's best newspaper. Jordan earned the CN's national reporting award as well as an ISI-sponsored internship with the *Washington Times*. After graduating in 2011, he became associate editor at the *American Conservative*. He worked there a year and a half before joining the *Daily Caller*, where he has risen to opinion editor. Jordan is having a national impact, with his work cited in *The Atlantic*, the *Huffington Post*, *Slate*, *Arts & Letters Daily*, and many other outlets.



### Gracy Olmstead

As a political journalism major at Patrick Henry College, Gracy Olmstead interned for her home state's *Idaho Press Tribune* and wrote for the *Washington Times* and *World* magazine. Upon graduating in 2013, she began an ISI-sponsored summer internship with the *American Conservative*. She hasn't left. Indeed, she has emerged as one of the magazine's most popular and prolific writers. Gracy has written about everything from the Arab Spring to Wendell Berry to pop culture to urban living. She also writes for *The Federalist* and *Acculturated*.



Today, still only five years removed from college, Elise is one of *The Hill's* top reporters and a go-to source for Fox News, CNN, NPR, and other television and radio outlets. She is a regular guest on MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, for example.



Alicia Cohn,  
digital media expert

Elise's successors in ISI's *Hill* fellowship program have matched the high standards she set. As an undergraduate at Wheaton College in Illinois, 2011 fellow **Alicia Cohn** was active with her campus newspaper and had interned at *Christianity Today*, *Human Events*, and *The Hill*. Alicia demonstrated her proficiency in digital media by enhancing *The Hill's* Twitter Room blog, to which she contributed well over a thousand posts.

Editors at *The Hill* offered Alicia her choice of full-time positions once her ISI fellowship ended. She continued to expand not only the publication's *use* but also its *coverage* of social media—that is, how Twitter, Facebook,

Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, and other digital media were reshaping campaigns and governance.

After spending another year as a staff writer at *The Hill*, Alicia seized an opportunity at the *Washington Examiner*. Her growing interest and expertise in social media led to a position planning digital media strategy for the Heritage Foundation. In the summer of 2014, the Midwest native relocated to Colorado. Alicia is now a much-in-demand freelance writer. She has written for *The Atlantic*, the *Denver Post*, the *Colorado Statesman*, *World* magazine, and *Christianity Today*, among other publications. She also applies her experience in content creation, media relations, and digital strategy in the world of marketing.

When Alicia was hired full-time at *The Hill*, **Sterling Beard** succeeded her as the ISI fellow. Sterling was fresh off his stint as editor in chief of the *Dartmouth Review*, the flagship publication



Sterling Beard, Campus Reform



WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Washington Post

The American Conservative



THE DAILY CALLER

CBS NEWS

Commentary

The New York Times



the weekly Standard

The San Diego Union-Tribune.



abc NEWS

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

NATIONAL REVIEW

The Dallas Morning News

CNN

COLLEGIATE NETWORK

reason



ISI's Center for Independent Student Journalism

The New Criterion





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# “ISI influenced not only where I went to college but also what I did when I got there and what I would do when I graduated.”

—Sterling Beard, *Campus Reform*

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of the Collegiate Network. At *The Hill*, the Texas native wrote more than a hundred print and online pieces—including one picked up by the *Drudge Report*. Sterling also became *The Hill*’s regular correspondent on Fox News Radio and a favorite guest on other radio programs.

After completing his *Hill* fellowship, Sterling took a full-time position at *National Review*. Soon he was offered the position of news editor at *Campus Reform*. Driving the coverage of this hard-hitting conservative news outlet, Sterling is applying his Collegiate Network experience to expose bias and misconduct at colleges across the country.

**Blake Neff** succeeded Sterling twice: first as editor in chief of the *Dartmouth Review* and then as the ISI fellow at *The*

*Hill*. Like his predecessor, Blake performed exceptionally well in both roles. At the *Dartmouth Review* he wrote prolifically, and numerous blogs picked up his reporting on the Dartmouth administration’s spending and tuition hikes. Blake’s 2013–14 stint at *The Hill* led to a full-time position at the *Daily Caller*, where he is



Blake Neff, *the Daily Caller*

reporting on the Common Core Standards and broader issues in education.

The current fellow at *The Hill* is **Jesse Byrnes**. As ISI’s Lyn Nofziger Fellow, Jesse is performing as ably as the talented journalists who came before him. He has already published dozens of articles and often serves as a political analyst on radio programs.


ISI first spotted Jesse’s talent when he turned around the Collegiate Network newspaper at the University of Colorado

Colorado Springs, *The Scribe*. He gained professional experience by interning at the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. Jesse advanced his journalism career while working up to four jobs at once and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. He was an easy choice to be ISI’s *Hill* fellow. He has a long and fruitful career ahead of him.

## Top Talent

Similar stories could be told about the ISI fellows and interns coming out of any of the other publications to which ISI sends young journalists. Many editors are clamoring for Collegiate Network talent. In fact, this winter the *Raleigh News and Observer* made a full-time offer to ISI fellow Kara Bettis months before her fellowship was set to end. Knowing that ISI identifies top student journalists and prepares them for professional success, the *News and Observer* asked ISI not only to support another fellow this summer but also to find the right young reporter to fill out Kara’s term.

As part of The 300 Campaign, ISI is committed to sharpening its talent identification and mentoring of young journalists to send the very best into the media world. (*For more on ISI’s talent ID and one-on-one mentoring, see story on page 16.*) Just recently ISI alumnus Sterling Beard began advising CN newspapers on a host of practical issues, from reporting to editing to layout to advertising. He has been in the CN trenches and now works every day in the professional media. Always willing to share what he has learned from his experiences, he has become a mentor to many CN editors.

This is how the next generation of principled journalists is made. 



Jesse Byrnes, ISI’s Lyn Nofziger Fellow at *The Hill*



# VISION 2020

## Building ISI's and America's Future

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Situated on a bucolic twenty-three-acre property overlooking a reservoir, ISI's F. M. Kirby Campus in Greenville, Delaware, provides the perfect environment for thoughtful discussion of great books and thinkers. That is why this past September's retreat for thirty student leaders of on-campus ISI Societies was so special: it introduced them to ISI's historic Colonial Revival estate, creating an indelible experience that deepened their connection to ISI.

The Society Leaders Retreat reflected ISI's decision to begin featuring the Kirby Campus to create memorable experiences for students and supporters. Earlier in 2014 ISI hosted fifty students for a barbecue during its Principles of Liberty conference and held several seminars for the Delaware Leaders Program (*see page 5*). ISI donors also

enjoyed special receptions at ISI, including a luncheon during the William F. Buckley Jr. Society Leadership Retreat and a roundtable discussion with British politician and author Daniel Hannan.

Formerly the estate of a Delaware steel family, the property became ISI's headquarters in 1996. Generous contributions from longtime supporters Fred

Kirby of the F. M. Kirby Foundation and Richard and Helen DeVos made it possible for ISI to acquire the estate. A committee chaired by Ambassador Holland H. Coors oversaw the conversion of the main building into a modern, efficient office space—a renovation for which ISI received a Historic Preservation Award.

Students and donors alike have responded enthusiastically to the opportunities to spend time at ISI's beautiful headquarters. They already had an intellectual bond with ISI, but many remarked that being able to connect physically with ISI has guaranteed that they will be lifelong "ISlers."

The Kirby Campus made such an impression on the leaders of Georgetown University's ISI Society that they asked permission to use the headquarters for their group's fall retreat. In November the entire Society drove up from Washington, D.C., for a weekend of intellectual discovery.

This is precisely the experience ISI aims to make possible for its growing



(Left) The ISI team removes antique bricks in preparation for the new patio; (above) the completed, expanded patio outside Kirby Hall

number of student leaders. When The 300

Campaign concludes in five years, *three times* as many students will graduate every year from ISI's leadership development programs.

To serve these student leaders better and deepen their connection with

ISI, the Institute has also launched **Vision 2020**, a comprehensive plan to upgrade ISI's headquarters. By the year 2020, when ISI will have achieved its goal of producing 300 outstanding student leaders annually, ISI also aims to have a campus that can accommodate the burgeoning ranks of students for years to come.

### A Destination for ISI Students

Vision 2020 kicked off in October 2014 with the improvement and expansion of the south patio off ISI's main building, F. M. Kirby Hall. The ISI team

came together to remove, clean, and store the antique red bricks from the old patio, and a generous grant made possible a new patio that can accommodate as many as two hundred guests, complete with new outdoor lighting and brick





*Rendering of the proposed Liberty Pavilion (prepared by the architectural firm Bernardon Haber Holloway)*

# The Liberty Pavilion: A Vision for the Future

**T**he Liberty Pavilion, pictured above, is the centerpiece of the Vision 2020 master plan.

To be built adjacent to ISI's F. M. Kirby Hall, the Liberty Pavilion will provide the conference space that ISI currently lacks. Key to the new building will be a special room modeled after the Goodrich Seminar Room at Wabash College, which was designed according to the specifications of Liberty Fund founder Pierre F. Goodrich. With this seminar room, ISI will be able to bring students from across the country to the Kirby Campus for the small-group discussions and leadership development conferences that are hallmarks of the ISI student experience.

The Liberty Pavilion will also feature a large hall that can be used to host prominent speakers, debates, and more. A

full catering kitchen will also allow ISI to host major dinners. In short, the pavilion will enable ISI to create even more special experiences for its students, supporters, and alumni.

ISI's goal is to secure sufficient capital contributions to break ground on the Liberty Pavilion in 2017. When the building is completed, it will do more than make ISI's Kirby Campus an essential asset in the Institute's educational mission. It will also save ISI substantial amounts of time and money, because scouting and renting conference space around the country makes up a significant part of planning the many seminars and conferences ISI holds each year.

The Liberty Pavilion, and the broader Vision 2020 master plan, will allow ISI to carry out its crucial mission more effectively than ever.

pathways. The finished product incorporates the original patio's bricks with handsome accents of slate and cobblestone, paying tribute to the Institute's past while creating a new space that will help ISI generate even more memorable experiences years into the future. ISI is already putting the patio to work, with lots of exciting plans for the spring and summer.

Looking forward, ISI will continue enhancing the Kirby Campus to create the home for conservative students that many of them never find at their schools. As more pieces of the Vision 2020 master plan are realized, the ISI campus will be transformed into a premier destination for leadership development conferences and student mentoring. If coming to ISI's headquarters for an evening reception has such a positive impact on students, imagine what a difference a full ISI conference at the Kirby Campus will make.

The centerpiece of the expansion will be the Liberty Pavilion (*see opposite page*), which will feature a special seminar room and a large hall for hosting prominent speakers and dinners. The other components of the Vision 2020

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## The ISI campus will be transformed into a premier destination for leadership development conferences and student mentoring.

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master plan include an overlook affording spectacular views of the reservoir; a fire pit for outdoor events; new walking trails around the campus and the surrounding forest; the planting of new trees, including several of the scarlet

oaks that are the estate's original namesake; a remodeled rose garden; and an overflow parking area on the lawn.

As these improvements fall into place, the Kirby Campus will be transformed into something far more than a beautiful and efficient office space for the ISI team. It will become one of the Institute's most valuable assets in its mission to "educate for liberty." ISI is at its best when bringing students and professors together in an environment conducive to thoughtful reflection, wide-ranging discussion, and bonding with like-minded friends and mentors. Through Vision 2020, the ISI headquarters is becoming an ideal environment for these unique experiences.

With The 300 Campaign and Vision 2020 off to a strong start, ISI's impact on America's future will only grow in the years ahead. 

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# Your ISI President's Club

## *Experience the benefits of membership!*



*U.S. Senator Mike Lee, Reagan national security adviser Richard V. Allen, and Reagan navy secretary John F. Lehman Jr. at an ISI President's Reception*

### *Join today and receive:*

- Invitations to the President's Reception at the annual Dinner for Western Civilization and to special President's Receptions at regional ISI events
- A special annual gift from the President
- Exclusive Presidential Updates
- A complimentary signed copy of a new ISI book
- A specially crafted President's Club lapel rosette



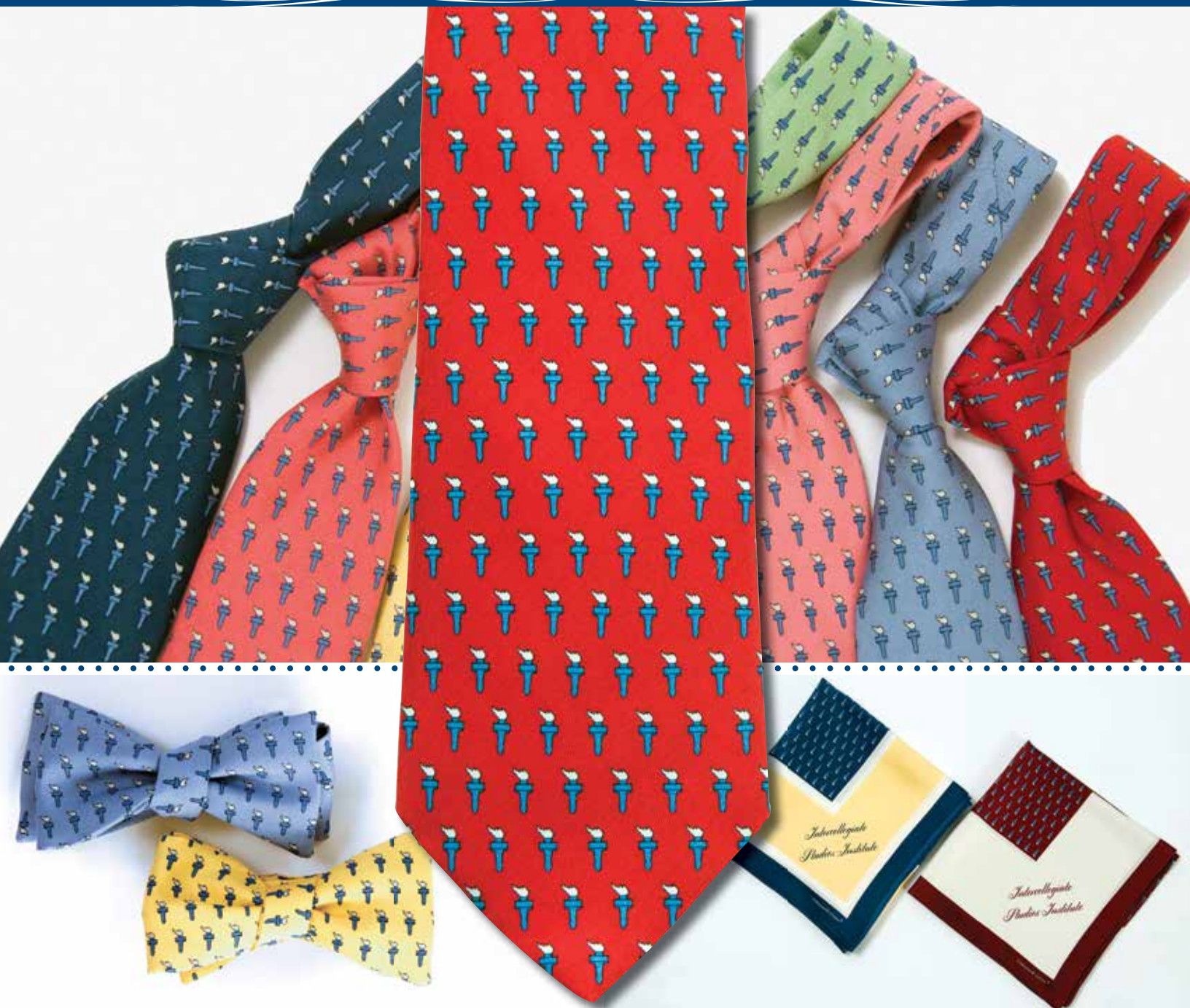
## RENEW OR JOIN TODAY!

Visit [pc.isi.org](http://pc.isi.org) or contact:

**Joseph Corey** at 302-524-6127 or [jcorey@isi.org](mailto:jcorey@isi.org) or

**Tom Cusmano** at 302-524-6147 or [tcusmano@isi.org](mailto:tcusmano@isi.org)

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The new ISI neckties, bowties, and scarves

Order today at

**TIES.ISI.ORG**



# HANDS-ON LEARNING

## Up Close and Personal with the Great Books



One of the keys to ISI's leadership development is to create unique and memorable experiences for students. Even decades after the fact, ISI alumni cite the influence of the mentors, friends, and ideas central to an ISI conference.

Now ISI has introduced another pivotal element to its leadership conferences: the opportunity to see, hold, and read the earliest known editions of the great books of the Western and American traditions.


In 2014 ISI arranged with the non-profit organization the Remnant Trust a private display of first editions of some of the most important works that ISI students read during summer leadership conferences. This specially curated collection included early printed editions



of the Constitution and the *Federalist Papers*; first editions of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, John Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*, and Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*; and Revolution-era editions of Aristotle's *Politics* and Plato's *Republic*.

The Remnant Trust's mission is to "elevate educational standards and the public's understanding of individual liberty and human dignity through the precedent-setting, hands-on availability

of the world's great ideas in original form." The term *hands-on* is apt. ISI students did not merely gaze at books kept behind glass; they held these priceless works in their hands, reading the very words that so profoundly influenced our forebears. The experience brings the principles of liberty to life.

ISI students will benefit from this unique opportunity again in 2015. The Remnant Trust's special ISI collection will be on display at the Principles of Liberty conference in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and the Arguing Conservatism conference in Mecosta, Michigan, both in July, and at the Honors Program Summer Conference in Richmond, Virginia, in August. And a special event on July 30 in Washington, D.C., will allow ISI friends to see the books. 

# REMEMBERING M. STANTON EVANS

(1934–2015)



## “The Sharon Statement”

Adopted in conference at Sharon, Connecticut, September 11, 1960

In this time of moral and political crises, it is the responsibility of the youth of America to affirm certain eternal truths.

We, as young conservatives, believe:

That foremost among the transcendent values is the individual's use of his God-given free will, whence derives his right to be free from the restrictions of arbitrary force;

That liberty is indivisible, and that political free-

dom is the only system of government compatible with the requirements of personal freedom and constitutional government, and that it is at the same time the most productive supplier of human needs;

That when government interferes with the work of the market economy, it tends to reduce the moral and physical strength of the nation, thereby to impoverish

On March 3 the conservative movement lost one of its giants—and ISI lost a dear friend and guiding light—when M. Stanton Evans passed away at the age of eighty.

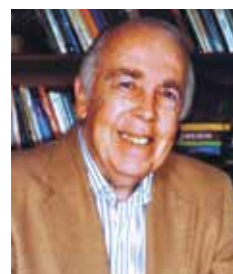
At just twenty-six, Stan Evans penned a credo that remains (as one observer aptly puts it) “the most concise and accurate description of American conservative principles ever written”: the Sharon Statement, adopted at the founding of Young Americans for Freedom at William F. Buckley Jr.’s Great Elm estate in Sharon, Connecticut, on September 11, 1960. Stan would go on to write some of conservatism’s seminal books and articles.


A close associate of ISI founders Frank Chodorov and Bill Buckley, Stan played an active role in ISI nearly from the beginning. He never wavered in his dedication to mentoring rising generations of ISI students. He wrote frequently for ISI’s *Intercollegiate Review* and *Modern Age*, and he traveled all over the country to speak at ISI conferences and on college campuses. Stan was never content simply to give his prepared remarks. He would stay up late into the night engaged

in conversation with students. “No one had a more enduring impact on countless thousands of ISI students than did Stan,” says ISI president Chris Long.

Stan joined the ISI board in 1960 and served faithfully until becoming an emeritus trustee in 2013. Fellow ISI trustee Edwin J. Feulner calls Stan “a man whose very being was wrapped up in promoting the ideas that ISI stood for.” ISI chairman Alfred S. Regnery says, “Of all the people who have been involved in ISI over sixty years, Stan is at the top of the heap.” For these reasons and more, ISI in 2008 awarded Stan Evans its highest honor, the Charles H. Hoeflich Lifetime Achievement Award, and gave him a special video tribute this past October at the Dinner for Western Civilization.

In his Lyceum Address of 1838, twenty-eight-year-old Abraham Lincoln lamented the passing of America’s Founding Fathers. Lincoln called these men “pillars of the temple of



liberty.” Today we are indebted to Stan Evans, Bill Buckley, Frank Chodorov, and so many others who came before us. We are their descendants, and it is up to us, as Mr. Lincoln advised, to “supply their places with other pillars, hewn from the solid quarry of sober reason.” That we intend to do. 



# A LEGACY OF LIBERTY

## Mimi Prentice and the Prentice Honors Scholarship Fund



*Mimi Prentice with ISI president  
Chris Long on October 23, 2014*

On November 16, 2014, ISI lost a close friend in Mimi Prentice. For years she provided ISI with invaluable advice and enthusiastic support. The whole ISI team misses Mimi and her wise counsel, but the Institute is proud to carry on the work she so valued: educating future leaders in the principles of liberty. By establishing the Prentice Honors Scholarship Fund with ISI, she ensured that her legacy and that of her beloved husband, Spelman, will live on.


Endowed with a \$1 million gift, the Prentice legacy fund supports Mimi's pride and joy: the Honors Program, ISI's premier leadership development program for undergraduates. This yearlong program puts the best students together with top professors for an immersive education in the Western tradition and the foundations of American liberty.

Mimi began supporting ISI in 2000, after the death of Spelman, a successful businessman and the grandson of John D. Rockefeller. Cleaning out her husband's study, she came across ISI journals, books, and other materials she remembered him enjoying. She encouraged Spelman's friends and family members to make donations to ISI in his memory and learned much more about ISI's work herself. That is when she discovered the Honors Program.

Over the next decade and a half Mimi sponsored dozens of outstanding Honors Scholars. In fact, she became the program's number-one supporter, sponsoring twenty Prentice Scholars annually.

Mimi loved spending time with those she always called "my students." She traveled to Virginia to attend an Honors Program Summer Conference and meet the Prentice Scholars (*see photo at right*). At ISI's 2014 Dinner for Western Civilization, held just three weeks before her

death, she beamed with excitement as she chatted with three Honors Program alumni whom she had supported.

Mimi's warm smile and ebullient spirit will be missed, but her generous bequest ensures that her philanthropic vision will endure. ISI is privileged to carry on the Prentice legacy by instilling in the most promising young leaders the values of hard work, individual responsibility, and belief in America's entrepreneurial spirit. 



*Mimi Prentice (second row, center) with her Honors Scholars*

# THE LAST WORD



by STEPHEN HERREID

ISI regional director of student programs and outreach

University campuses are more ideological than ever, with administrations acting as thought police, shutting down free speech, and banning conservative and libertarian speakers.

But I have news for you: while universities crack down on freedom, America is also witnessing a groundswell of liberty-loving students. As ISI's regional director for the Central West, I am fortunate to work with many of them.

Consider just a few examples. On my most recent travels I flew to Minneapolis, where I met with Allison Maass of the University of Minnesota. When Allison arrived at the university three years ago, she wondered what she had gotten herself into. The administration was shamelessly biased, and students seemed apathetic. Looking for conservatives, she could find only a small student newspaper called the *Minnesota Republic*, whose staff had withered under the constant barrage of liberalism.


Allison took charge. One of her first steps was to call ISI and secure the paper's admission into the Institute's Collegiate Network of independent student publications. "We started reporting about liberal bias here on campus," she recalls, "including double standards on free speech and abuses by the university administration." Now the *Minnesota Republic* has to turn writers away, and the campus has come alive with conservative and libertarian students. When I met with Allison, we discussed ways to accommodate the wave of liberty. She is working on founding an ISI Society.

From Minnesota, I went to visit Katherine Sodeika and her team at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Katherine's father is a first-generation American whose parents

fled their homeland to escape Communism. Needless to say, Katherine was raised with a special love of freedom. So when she started out at UW, one of the most liberal campuses in the country, she knew what to do.

Katherine formed her own club, and it quickly became the most active conservative student group on campus. This semester the group hosted an ISI-sponsored debate between the *Wall Street Journal's* Jason Riley and Harvard law professor Randall Kennedy on whether liberal policies help African Americans succeed. ISI recently approved the application of Katherine's student group to become an ISI Society.

I flew from Wisconsin to Texas, where I met with ISI student leaders on several campuses. The ISI Society at Baylor University, founded by alumni of ISI's prestigious Honors Program, has built a strong infrastructure in its first year and is planning to bring in a series of speakers starting in the fall. Farther south at Texas A&M, the Collegiate Network publication the *Good Bull* is in contact with staffers at the *Weekly Standard* and meets regularly with *Campus Reform* reporters for guidance. And over in Houston, the ISI Society at the University of St. Thomas now spans the whole city: thanks to networking at ISI conferences, the student group includes members from the University of Houston, Rice University, and Houston Baptist University.

I could go on. Likewise, my colleagues working in other regions of the country could tell you all about how ISI students are transforming their campuses. These outstanding young people are graduating with a firm grasp of America's founding ideals, a strong work ethic, and a talent for leadership. I am excited to see where they lead us. 

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Contact ISI executive vice president **Nick Reid** at **302-524-6140** or **nreid@isi.org**



# LEAVE A LEGACY TO LIBERTY

*Use a planned gift to ensure that the next generation of leaders embraces the principles and virtues that make America free and prosperous*

**T**he ISI Legacy Society is a select group of dedicated patriots who have included ISI in their estate plans. Members are honored on the “Wall of Freedom” at ISI’s F. M. Kirby Campus, and they also receive quarterly updates from ISI president Chris Long and invitations to special events throughout the year.

Planned gifts can allow you to enjoy the benefits of providing for ISI in your estate plans, and they can also:

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THE ISI  
LEGACY  
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For more information, contact ISI executive vice president Nick Reid at 302-524-6140 or [nreid@isi.org](mailto:nreid@isi.org)