

THE CANON

SPRING 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
INTERCOLLEGIATE STUDIES INSTITUTE



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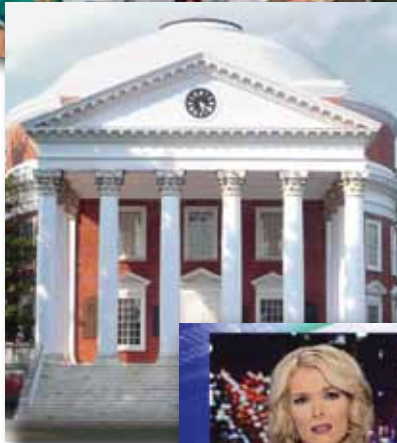
Inspiring college students to discover,
embrace, and advance the principles
and virtues that make America
free and prosperous



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Please direct comments, questions, or suggestions to canon@isi.org. Founded in 1953, ISI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational institution. The Institute receives no funding or other form of aid from any level of government. Gifts to ISI are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



“NURSERY OF STATESMEN”

The College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University, has been called the “nursery of statesmen.” It sent more delegates to the Constitutional Convention than any other college, which is no doubt because its students—including James Madison—were inspired by the school’s commitment to a rigorous education in the time-tested Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian ideas that advanced civilization and human freedom. These were the principles and virtues that shaped the Founders’ vision of the new republic and gave birth to the American experiment.

Since America’s once-great institutions of higher learning no longer ground students in Western civilization’s first principles as the College of New Jersey once did so marvelously, it falls on organizations outside academia to pass along the core ideas that are the free world’s greatest patrimony. Thanks to supporters like you, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute is better positioned than at any other time in its sixty-year history to carry on the mission of preserving and advancing human liberty—a mission that the modern-day university has abandoned.

The fifty-five delegates to the Constitutional Convention, wise beyond their average age of forty-two, came to Philadelphia with a wealth of knowledge and experience. They gained insight from

key texts of the Western tradition, from Plato and Aristotle to Shakespeare and Milton and on to the important thinkers of their time, such as Adam Smith and John Locke.

As George H. Nash writes in *Books and the Founding Fathers*, John Dickinson, during his years at Middle Temple in London, would “read for nearly eight hours a day, dine at four o’clock, and then retire early in the evening, all the while mingling his scrutiny of legal texts with such authors as Tacitus and Bacon.”

The rigorous liberal education of the Founders is exactly the experience that ISI’s Honors Program (see page 12) seeks to replicate. The Honors Program is the pinnacle of ISI’s undergraduate offerings, providing students with a firm grounding in the principles of liberty through an intensive weeklong summer conference followed by a year of independent study under a mentoring ISI professor. Everything that the Honors Scholars learn during this year—along with the professors and fellow students they meet—prepares them to take up the mantle of principled leadership.

This summer ISI will welcome its twentieth class of Honors Scholars. Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, ISI has been able to expand the number of Honors Scholars from fifty-five to sixty, making the 2014–15 class the largest and most accomplished



yet. To accommodate record numbers of worthy applicants while maintaining the intimate, small-group setting of past programs, this summer will feature two Honors Conferences—one in Richmond, Virginia, and the other in Seattle, Washington. As ISI's impact

I am excited to announce the 300 Campaign, an ambitious effort to triple ISI's annual graduating class of student leaders by 2020.

continues to grow, future classes could have as many as one hundred Honors Scholars.

I am extremely encouraged by the impact that ISI has had through its alumni over the years. Ronald Reagan called ISI alumni "the backbone of the Reagan Revolution." Just imagine the difference that an even larger and more robust group of ISI leaders can have in the future.

To meet the urgent need to produce a new generation of leaders who will transform the culture, I am excited to announce that 2014 marks the debut of

the 300 Campaign (see page 9), an ambitious effort to triple ISI's annual graduating class of student leaders by 2020.

As you learn more about ISI's achievements and its exciting future in this issue of *The Canon*, please remember that it is only because of your support and encouragement that ISI's work with new generations of American leaders is possible. I am thrilled at the positive response to the inaugural year of the William F. Buckley Jr. Society (see page 26); in fact, the enthusiasm of our Buckley Society members was a driving force in our

decision to focus on increasing ISI's impact through the 300 Campaign.

I am also humbled by the story of ISI supporter Fred Simoons (see page 30), who has followed ISI's work closely since the Institute's founding in 1953. A celebrated professor of cultural geography, Dr. Simoons has seen from his extensive travels the fruits that Western civilization brings to people of all cultures. Many professors decide to bequeath large portions of their estate to the schools at which they taught or to their alma maters. But to ensure that America's top college

students are given the opportunity to discover and embrace the benefits that Western civilization offers, Professor Simoons decided to leave the bulk of his estate to ISI. While the Institute has been blessed over the decades by many generous donations from titans of industry and leading entrepreneurs, this significant gift from a longtime ISI professor could not bring us more joy. We are honored by the confidence that Professor Simoons places in us and will ensure that it is well placed.

The Intercollegiate Studies Institute has no better friends than all of you who partner with us to make ISI's leadership-development programs such a success. I am grateful for your generosity, and I hope the updates in this issue of *The Canon* fill you with optimism for America's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Chris Long', is written over a white background.

Christopher Long
ISI President



ISI IN ACTION

How does ISI reach promising young Americans? Through a robust program that brings prominent speakers to college campuses, attracts ambitious students to regional and national conferences, and draws hundreds of thousands of readers to ISI's print and online publications.

Following is a sampling of ISI in action.

Educating for Liberty at CPAC

Thousands of students descend on the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) to get a close-up of national politicians and pundits. Thanks to ISI, they walk away with a foundation in first principles.

At the conference this March, ISI authors Paul Kengor and Matthew Spalding joined other panelists at "Conservatism 101" to teach a standing-room-only crowd the principles of liberty. And ISI took to the main stage to discuss the legacy of ISI's first president, William F. Buckley Jr., and the prospects for conservative unity. The panel included ISI president Chris Long, Kengor, and two ISI alumni: *National Review's* Rich Lowry and *Reason* magazine's Katherine Mangu-Ward.



(L to R) ISI president Chris Long, National Review's Rich Lowry, Reason's Katherine Mangu-Ward, and ISI author Paul Kengor

"I Am So Inspired": ISI's Regional Leadership Summits

Students travel far and wide to attend ISI's regional conferences. There they learn from leading scholars and connect with like-minded students and professors.

Consider ISI's three-day Leadership Summit in Utah last November, sponsored by the Daniels Fund. More than sixty students were treated to stimulating presentations on the Constitution and the family by scholars like LSU's James Stoner and Peter Augustine Lawler of Berry College. Students then participated in panel discussions, where they were forced to respond to questions and challenges on the spot.

Said one student attendee: "I am so inspired by the ideas I've heard and the debates between my fellow students, all of whom are highly intelligent, well-read people. Thanks, ISI!"



An Exciting First Year for the New *Intercollegiate Review*

Central to ISI's student outreach are the redesigned *Intercollegiate Review* and IntercollegiateReview.com, which celebrated their first anniversary in February. In just a year, the *IR* has attracted contributions from Princeton's Robert P. George, economist Walter Williams, AEI scholar Leon Kass, bestselling author Rodney Stark, Senator Rand Paul, filmmaker Jason Jones, and many other influential figures. Just as important, ISI's student contributing editors are regularly addressing issues that concern undergraduates.

Everyone from George F. Will to *First Things* to *National Review* to Glenn Beck's *Blaze* have discussed and debated exciting new arguments first made in the *IR*. The magazine reaches more than 20,000 college students every issue, and the website attracts up to 65,000 readers per month.



The Paolucci Book Award

C-SPAN came to Wilmington in November to broadcast ISI's presentation of the Henry and Anne Paolucci Book Award. The recipient, historian Brad S. Gregory, gave a powerful presentation on his book *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society*.

An annual honor, the Paolucci Book Award was for many years known as the Paolucci/Bagehot Book Award. ISI renamed the award in memory of Anne Paolucci, who passed away in 2012. Henry and Anne Paolucci, long-time ISI supporters, were a dynamic husband-and-wife team, both distinguished scholars, teachers, and writers. By establishing the Henry and Anne Paolucci Fund with ISI, they ensured that the best works of conservative scholarship will receive proper recognition each year.

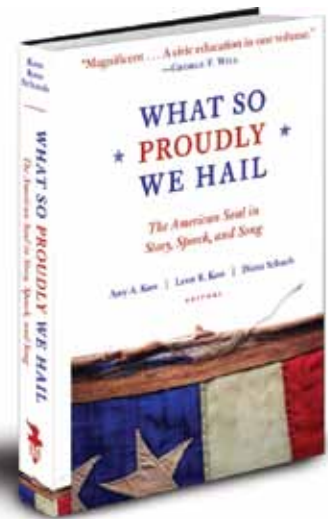


Teaching the Teachers

College students know little about America. But ISI is equipping professors to impart a high-quality civic education.

In November, ISI brought together sixteen professors from Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Wellesley, and other top New England colleges for a three-day seminar sponsored by the Filene Foundation. Professor Diana Schaub, coeditor (along with Leon and Amy Kass) of the acclaimed ISI anthology *What So Proudly We Hail*, led six intensive sessions on using literature to teach students the American tradition.

Many of the attendees have incorporated the material into their courses. Khalil Habib, director of the Honors Program at Salve Regina University, is creating an entire new course based on *What So Proudly We Hail*.



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- Robert and Ambassador Patricia Herbold
- The Grover Hermann Foundation

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



How ISI Is Tripling Its Leadership-Development Impact over the Next Five Years



by NICK REID

When you speak with an ISI student, you'll hear a unique story about how that student first heard of ISI and came to understand and embrace the principles of liberty that have been inspiring ISI student leaders since 1953. ISI publishes books and magazines, funds more than sixty independent student newspapers, hosts well over a hundred on-campus lectures and debates annually, and interacts with thousands of students each year both in person and through

social media. As I travel the country and speak with ISI supporters, students, and professors, I hear incredible stories of the impact these efforts have.

The point of casting such a wide net is not to make a splash in the news or undertake a quixotic mission to reform college campuses. Rather, it is part of ISI's focused plan to identify elite student leaders, come alongside them, and invest in them through scholarships and fellowships that will prepare them to shape the culture for years to come.

ISI Produces Principled Leaders

This unique approach has produced tangible results for many years. Consider Larry Arnn, president of Hillsdale College and a trailblazer in online education. He received an ISI Weaver Fellowship as a graduate student at Claremont Graduate School—support that proved pivotal to his life and career. “While I had the Weaver Fellowship,” he says, “I was taking classes that remain the dominant fact in my understanding.”

ISI alumni are also entrepreneurs and innovators without whom the world would be a different place. You might know Peter Thiel as the cofounder of PayPal and the first outside investor in Facebook. He has been instrumental in bringing the benefits of free markets to the world through online commerce and mass communication. But before any of that, Peter was an ISI student leader at Stanford University. As an undergraduate in the late 1980s, he cofounded the ISI Collegiate Network newspaper the *Stanford Review*. To this day, the *Review* is one of ISI's most dynamic student newspapers.

Peter continues to be involved with ISI, and I am happy to report that he has agreed to share his experiences with us at this year's Dinner for Western

Civilization. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting event, to be held on October 23, 2014, in New York City.

Shaping the Future

Today ISI produces around 100 such leaders every year—100 exceptional students who have climbed to the top of ISI's leadership pyramid. Consider the cumulative effect of this leadership development through ISI's more than sixty years of work. The graduates of the Institute's top-level leadership programs have had tremendous influence on the culture through the decades. They shape every corner of American life—and the rising young leaders will do so for decades to come.

Yet over the past couple of years the ISI team has planned carefully to

increase our impact. We challenged ourselves and set an aggressive goal: tripling the number of student leaders ISI produces.

Think for a moment about what tripling ISI's influence will look like:

Three times as many ISI alumni like Supreme Court justice Samuel Alito and Heritage Foundation founder Edwin J. Feulner. *Three times* as many alumni serving as high-profile journalists like ABC News White House correspondent Jonathan Karl, *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat, talk radio host Laura Ingraham, and *National Review* editor Rich Lowry, as well as members of Congress and CEOs of leading corporations. *Three times* as many alumni achieving positions of influence in law, public policy, and philanthropy,



ISI: PRODUCING PRINCIPLED LEADERS FOR SIXTY YEARS



Supreme Court justice
Samuel Alito



Heritage Foundation founder
Edward J. Feulner



ABC News White House correspondent
Jonathan Karl



New York Times columnist
Ross Douthat



Weekly Standard editor
William Kristol



Reagan national security adviser
Richard V. Allen



Talk radio host
Laura Ingraham



National Review editor
Rich Lowry



Hillsdale College president
Larry Arnn



PayPal cofounder
Peter Thiel

like Milbank law firm partner Austin Bramwell, Cato Institute senior fellow Ilya Shapiro, and Tikvah Fund executive director Eric Cohen. *Three times* as many entrepreneurs and innovators like Yammer CEO David Sacks, as well as bestselling authors and influential professors.

Developing 300 elite leaders each year is no small task. But ISI's techniques for identifying the most talented students and preparing them for principled leadership have proved themselves time and again. Just as important, generous and loyal supporters like you have told us how excited they are to ensure that this goal becomes a reality.

A year ago, when ISI launched the William F. Buckley Jr. Society (see page 26), the purpose was clear: to establish


ISI has set an aggressive goal: to *triple* the number of student leaders the Institute produces.



a society of like-minded individuals to fund, grow, and enhance the annual leadership class of ISI graduates.

In the first year, ISI set a goal of recruiting 100 Buckley Society members who would contribute at least \$10,000 annually to fund 100 student leaders. We passed that mark in less than twelve months. That is why we have been encouraged to increase the goal over the next five years: to grow the Buckley Society to 300 members—one

for every graduating student leader.

I wrote in this publication last spring that I was excited to join the ISI team for one reason: impact. As ISI is set to triple its impact over the next five years, I am even more excited to have a part in writing the next chapter of ISI's influence—and I'm excited to have your support as we shape the future of our nation, one leader at a time. 



Nick Reid is ISI's executive vice president. You can contact him at nreid@isi.org or (302) 524-6140.

“A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE”



Twenty Years of the ISI Honors Program

This summer ISI will welcome its twentieth class of Honors Scholars. The ISI Honors Program began in 1995 with a summer conference held outside Seattle with funding from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Two decades after its founding, the Honors Program has made good on its promise to identify and nurture rising American leaders.

Honors Scholars participate in ISI's most elite leadership-development program for undergraduates. The yearlong program begins in the summer with a rigorous one-week intellectual retreat. Summer programs have been central to ISI's work ever since the Institute held its first summer school in 1960 (William F. Buckley Jr. and Russell Kirk participated). The conferences bring bright students together with top professors for an immersive education in the foundations of liberty.

“[The ISI Honors Program] was definitely one of the most formational intellectual experiences I've ever had.”

—Aurora Griffin, Rhodes Scholar

A highly selective national competition ensures that the students receiving Honors Scholarships are truly exceptional. When these young leaders come together, they quickly recognize

that they are among kindred spirits—serious, intellectually curious students committed to conservatism's first principles. Just as important, they encounter dedicated ISI professors who challenge them, advise them, and inspire them.

Such intimate instruction and mentorship is sadly lacking at today's colleges—even the elite institutions from which many Honors Scholars come. Year after year, Honors Scholars summon the same superlatives to describe their experience:

“Amazing.”

“Truly unbelievable.”

“A truly ineffable experience.”

“Definitely the highlight of my life.”

“The best experience of my life.”

“A life-changing experience.”

Where Leaders Are Made

As those comments suggest, the ISI Honors Program has an enduring impact on participants. It provides them, for starters, with a network of like-minded friends and mentors. During the summer conference, the days begin early in the morning and the conversations continue until well after midnight. Little wonder, then, that over the past two decades the Honors Program has spawned countless friendships—and even some marriages.

The program prepares young leaders for a lifetime of defending the principles of liberty. The Socratic style of the summer retreat, followed by a year of close study with an ISI faculty mentor and attendance at heady weekend seminars, represents education in the best sense of the word. The grounding in the West's traditions of liberty stays with Honors Scholars no matter the career path they pursue. Alumni of the Honors Program have gone on to teach at Ivy League universities; work in the White House, on Capitol Hill, in governors' offices and state capitols; write acclaimed books; and become leaders in business, law, media, and many other fields. (See the sidebar on page 14 for some examples of Honors alumni making their mark.)

To ensure that more capable young leaders can take advantage of this program, ISI is expanding the number of Honors Scholars. The generous support of ISI contributors has already enabled the program to grow from fifty students in 2012 to sixty this year. And within the next several years, ISI will increase the annual class of Honors Scholars to as many as one hundred.

How can ISI ensure that the Honors Program does not lose what makes it so effective while growing the number of scholars? How, that is, can we preserve the intimate forum that leads to a “life-changing experience” for student leaders?



ISI Honors Scholars gather in Richmond, Virginia, for an intensive, weeklong summer conference

Honors Scholars Making a Difference

ISI's 2013–14 Honors Scholars are an impressive group. Here are just three of the current class's exceptional student leaders:

Zach Horton

Princeton's Zach Horton has quickly scaled ISI's leadership pyramid. As a sophomore he became editor in chief of the *Princeton Tory*, an ISI Collegiate Network student publication that confronts the progressive consensus on campus. He has also helped bring in prominent speakers like the fearless social critic Charles Murray. Now a contributing editor to ISI's *Intercollegiate Review*, Zach represented ISI on a Fox News *Hannity* special devoted to the concerns of millennials. He was the youngest member of the panel.



Luciana Milano

Harvard senior Luciana Milano has established herself as a campus leader, active in everything from the Harvard Republican Club to Harvard Right to Life. She is president of the Harvard Anscombe Society, a student group affiliated with the national Love and Fidelity Network. In that capacity she appeared on Fox News's *O'Reilly Factor* to discuss Harvard's decision to recognize a bondage sex club as a student organization. Luciana has also interned at the Heritage Foundation and the Harvard Institute of Politics.



Ian Tuttle

A senior at St. John's College in Annapolis, Ian Tuttle is making an impact well beyond his Great Books school. Last summer he interned for *National Review*, where he wrote dozens of stories—including one picked up by the *Drudge Report*. He has also written for *First Things*, the *Washington Examiner*, and the *Imaginative Conservative*. A contributing editor to the *Intercollegiate Review*, Ian is a model for countless other ISI student journalists.



Honors Alumni Making a Difference

Alumni of ISI's Honors Program are leaders in all walks of life. Here are some examples:

Heath Tarbert: former clerk for Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas, former associate counsel to President George W. Bush, partner at Allen & Overy

Eric Cohen: former Fulbright Scholar, founder of the *New Atlantis* journal, director of the Tikvah Fund

Claire Murray: former clerk for Supreme Court justice Samuel Alito, attorney at Kirkland & Ellis

Justin Stover: fellow at Oxford's All Souls College, one of the world's most prestigious academic appointments

Ilya Shapiro: senior fellow in constitutional studies at the Cato Institute

Hans Zeiger: member of the Washington State House of Representatives (elected at age twenty-five)

James O'Keefe: founder of Project Veritas, *New York Times* bestselling author

Steven Skultety: chair of philosophy at Ole Miss

Aurora Griffin: Rhodes Scholar (see page 15)

Captain James Baehr: judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps

Kyle Harper: senior vice provost at the University of Oklahoma

Edward Newton: president of Gravity Strategic Communications

Alan Hurst: legal fellow at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

Richard Reinsch: fellow at Liberty Fund

Benjamin Mitchell: assistant professor of American politics at the U.S. Military Academy

Cindy Searcy: Federalist Society development director

Michael Toth: former White House fellow, clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Bill English: research fellow at Harvard University

Berin Szoka: president of the think tank TechFreedom

Sean Vinck: chief information officer for the state of Illinois



Assumption College professor Molly Flynn—an alumna of the ISI Honors Program—mentors the next generation of Honors Scholars

The answer is simple: by expanding to multiple summer conferences.


We know this approach works because we have used it before. For several years the Honors Program was built around two summer retreats, and the smaller communities led to tight bonds—among the students, between students and professors, and between students and ISI team members.

ISI is thrilled to reinstitute this approach for the class of 2014–15. This summer ISI will hold a weeklong retreat for thirty Honors Scholars in Richmond, Virginia, and another for thirty more Honors Scholars outside Seattle, Washington.

Think of what this means: a community of thirty students who can truly get to know one another over the course of an intensive week; increased opportunities for one-on-one mentorship, as the student-to-faculty ratio drops from about 3:1 (already a rate any college would envy) to 2:1; and a greater chance for an ISI team member to learn each Honors Scholar's passions and career ambitions and become a close friend and adviser.

The Next Twenty Years

The twentieth class of ISI Honors Scholars promises to be as accomplished as any that came before it. The sixty students selected for 2014–15 hail from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines—there are political science majors, Classics majors, and premed students; future teachers, lawyers, and engineers. But they are united in embracing the principles of liberty. They are also uniformly outstanding student leaders, hailing from schools including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Georgetown, UPenn, Notre Dame, and the University of Chicago.

And thanks to the faithful supporters who enabled ISI to add a second summer conference, the Honors Scholars will benefit from the very best experience. These extraordinary young people will be the leaders of tomorrow. 



From ISI Honors Scholar To Rhodes Scholar

When the new class of Rhodes Scholars was announced in November, ISI was not surprised to see Aurora Griffin among the recipients of the world's most prestigious academic scholarship. An ISI Honors Scholar in 2012–13, the Harvard student has consistently displayed exceptional intelligence, character, and leadership.

The ISI experience has been transformative, Aurora

says. After the Honors Program, she wrote, “I have never been exposed to such high-quality professors and students for such an extended period, and in so intense a program. It was definitely one of the most formational intellectual experiences I’ve ever had!”

ISI recently spoke with Aurora as she completes her senior year at Harvard and prepares for studies at Oxford.

How did you get involved with ISI?

Through the conservative underground at Harvard. Gladden Pappin, a former ISI Honors Scholar who was then a Harvard graduate student, told me, “I think ISI is probably the closest group you’ll find to yourself intellectually.” I was drawn to ISI by the promise of intellectual solidarity and have been happily surprised to see that the commonalities extend to morals and sensibilities.

What have you valued most about your ISI experience?

Before the Honors Program, I had never met a group of people my own age who were so deeply impressive. My peers were articulate, insightful, and amazingly accomplished. We had fascinating debates, and the mental agility I observed in them was astounding. Additionally, I was struck by their moral caliber—the principles they believed in were consistently lived out in their personal lives. I cannot speak highly enough of the people ISI attracts and educates.

What are your future plans?

For the next two years I will be pursuing a degree in philosophy and theology at Trinity College, Oxford. I aspire to help create a society that is more conscious about the ways it is developing and using biotechnologies. Whether this is through a career in law, business, medicine, or politics, we’ll have to see!

ISI ON THE CAMPUS

Discovering Leaders for a Principled Future



For many students who want to carry on the traditions of liberty, college life can be an uphill battle. They arrive on campus only to discover that their teachers and classmates ignore or attack the principles they stand for.

That's where ISI makes all the difference. ISI's outreach team identifies the most talented undergraduates and introduces them to others who share their commitment to first principles. The students then realize that they are not alone—that plenty of other smart, accomplished people embrace the same principles their left-leaning peers and professors so often vilify.

ISI is building communities of liberty-loving students on campuses all over the country—from Harvard to Stanford, from Georgetown to Gonzaga, from NYU to BYU. To understand what such communities look like and the impact they have, take a look at a representative school: the University of Virginia.

A Hive of ISI Activity

The ISI presence at the University of Virginia is robust, including dynamic ISI student societies, an award-winning Collegiate Network newspaper, respected faculty mentors, and a growing roster of young leaders.

The Edmund Burke Society is a model ISI student group. Founded several years ago as a book club, the Burke Society made a name for itself by securing university approval for a course on modern conservatism—a breakthrough that has inspired similar successes at colleges around the country.

That was not the first battle the Burke Society had to fight. As the UVa newspaper the *Cavalier Daily* reported, the Student Council initially denied the Burke Society's application to be recognized as an independent student organization. The reason? The society's constitution said the group was for "conservative-minded students." But the Burke Society fought back, defending its members' right to freedom of association, and the university backed down.

Kyle Moodhe, a senior, recalls that when he arrived at UVa four years ago, not many students "really knew of the Burke Society." But the group has grown into an influential presence. The members' regular debates are lively and substantive, and the group attracts people from throughout the UVa community by hosting influential speakers. In November, Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute and Robert



ISI student leaders interact with Robert Reilly and Doug Bandow after a debate at UVa on America's role in the world

Student Leaders Making a Difference

UVa isn't the only school where ISI leaders are making their mark. Here are three ISI students changing their campus cultures.

David Ortiz

David Ortiz is exposing liberal corruption as editor in chief of the *Carolina Review*, the ISI Collegiate Network publication at the University of North Carolina. When UNC's Student Congress denied funds to College Republicans, the junior devoted an entire issue of the *Review* to exploring the community's bias against conservatives and "appalling record on freedom of speech." David is also passionate about introducing UNC students to the principles of liberty: last fall he hosted three ISI campus events, including a presentation by the *Weekly Standard's* Jonathan Last.



Elizabeth Ridgeway

Elizabeth Ridgeway, a sophomore at the University of Georgia, is already a veteran of three ISI conferences. Emboldened by her ISI experiences, she began battling campus leftism last fall by founding the ISI Collegiate Network publication the *Arch Conservative*. The journal quickly garnered national attention: *National Review Online* republished the *Arch Conservative's* Winter 2014 cover story about a series of offensive Facebook posts directed at University of Georgia student groups.



Connor Gerstley

ISI is increasing its impact in its own backyard with the Delaware Leaders Program, which provides a unique fellowship opportunity for ten of the state's most promising college students. A standout member of the first class of Delaware Leaders is Connor Gerstley, a senior at the University of Delaware. He has demonstrated a sharp mind and leadership skills throughout the program. Connor was recently chosen as an ISI student ambassador to help recruit the next generation of principled Delaware leaders.

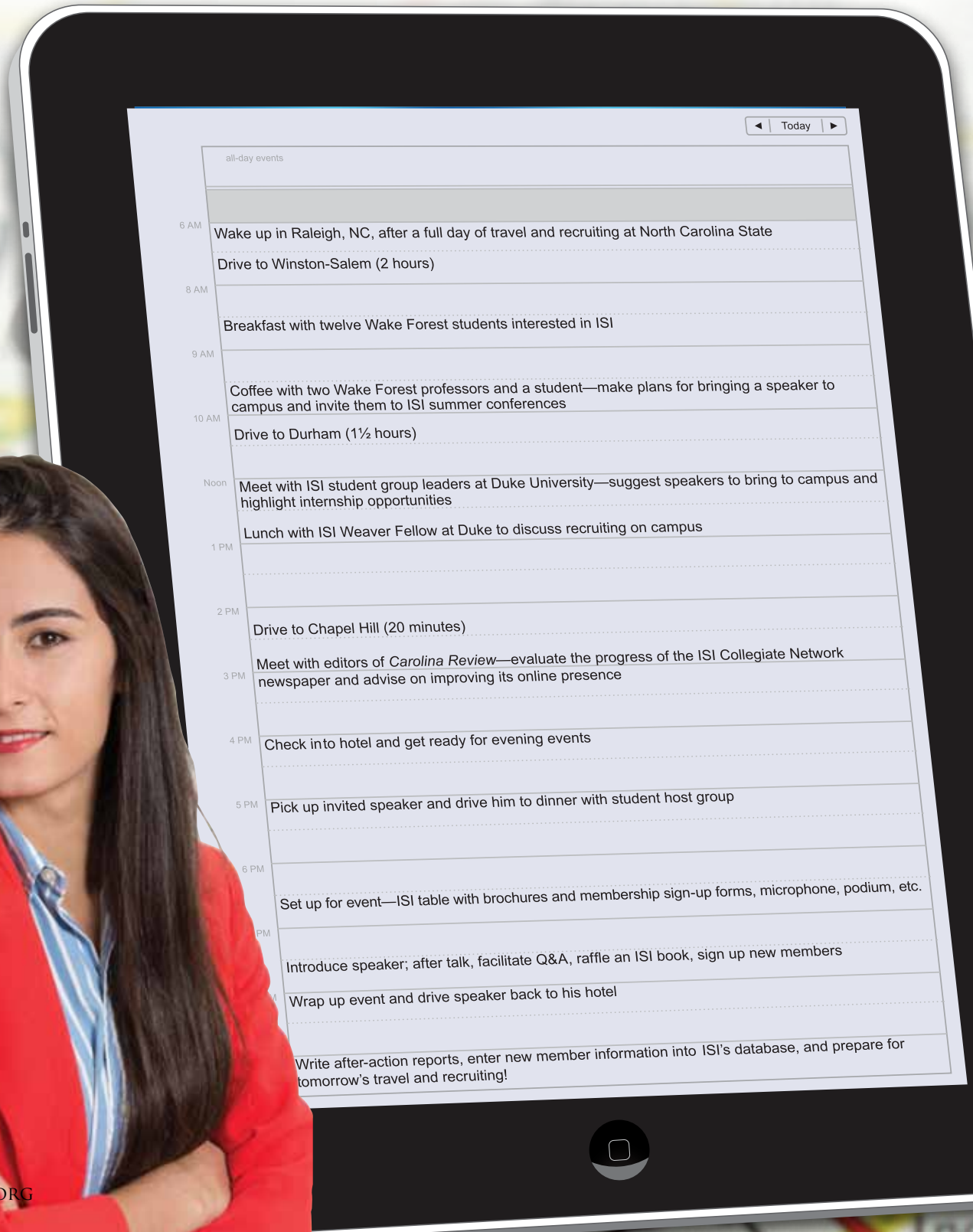
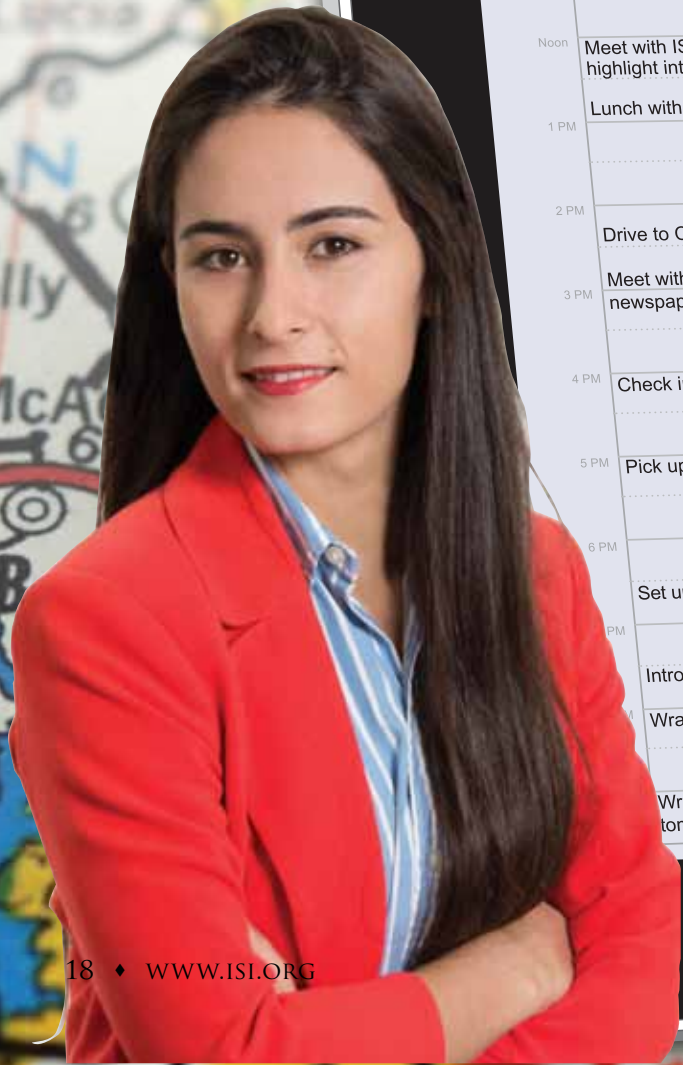


A Day in the Life of Regional Director Maca Pallares

Vibrant ISI communities like the one at the University of Virginia don't materialize by accident. ISI's team travels to colleges all over the country to reach liberty-loving students and professors, encouraging them to form groups, start newspapers, host speakers and debates, and join a national network of scholars and friends.

This is how movements are made. Last year ISI's regional directors visited 172 colleges, organizing more than a dozen conferences and well over a hundred campus events.

Consider a recent day in the life of Macarena Pallares, the leader of ISI's student programs and outreach team.



The ISI society at UVa achieved a breakthrough by securing university approval for a course on conservatism.

Reilly of the American Foreign Policy Council engaged in a spirited debate about America's role in world affairs. After ISI and the Burke Society brought *Who Stole Feminism?* author Christina Hoff Sommers to campus in the fall of 2012, a young feminist approached Burke Society officer Wendy Morrison with a confession: her "whole perception had changed" as a result of Sommers's presentation.

ISI's mentorship and support have proved crucial to the Burke Society's success. "ISI has been very generous and extremely helpful," Kyle says. He points out that although the student body includes a fair number of conservative students, "it can be hard for them to know where to go." ISI addresses what Kyle calls "the biggest problem conservatives face" on university campuses: "they really have no outlet for their voice to be heard."

ISI provides another outlet for conservative-minded students by sponsoring the Chesterton Society. This energetic group devotes itself to exploring

literary, theological, and philosophical questions. In September the Chesterton Society partnered with the Burke Society to bring Professor Ralph Wood of Baylor University to campus. More than seventy-five students attended Dr. Wood's talk, entitled "Christopher Hitchens and G. K. Chesterton: New Atheist vs. Old Convert."

"To Have Our Voice Heard"

Liberty-minded students at UVa find still another outlet through the school's ISI Collegiate Network newspaper, the *Virginia Advocate*. Peter Finocchio, an *Advocate* staff writer, recently wrote that the paper "has given me and many other nonprogressives the opportunity to have our voice heard where we would otherwise have few or no alternatives."

The *Advocate* is a force on campus and one of the top papers in the Collegiate Network. Just a few years ago, however, it was nearly defunct.

The remarkable turnaround speaks to the power of building communities of talented, like-minded students and



Virginia Advocate editor Arrienne Talma, an award-winning ISI student leader

professors. The student editor who revitalized the *Advocate*, Nicole Bailey, learned about ISI and the Collegiate Network when she joined the Burke Society as a freshman. Soon she had assembled the team that transformed the *Advocate* into a powerful counterpoint to UVa's liberal orthodoxy.

While the Burke and Chesterton societies bring much-needed intellectual diversity to UVa, the *Advocate* exposes how one-sided the campus "debate" can still be. In September the university hosted a panel discussion on same-sex marriage. The *Advocate* pointed out that the panel did not represent the true range of views on the controversial subject. Instead it was "skewed toward the liberal position in a manner inconsistent with the democratic tradition of UVa." *Advocate* writer Elisabeth McIntosh concluded that "conservatives must stand up and voice their beliefs even in the face of a movement that seems largely uninterested in dialogue, and committed instead to the vilification of its opposition."

According to Peter Finocchio, the ISI presence is so important in Charlottesville because "the UVa faculty and student body lean leftward in most departments." Of course, not all professors fit that description. UVa students are fortunate to have access to ISI faculty associates like Brad Wilcox, James Ceaser, and Vigen Guroian (an ISI author and ISI Weaver Fellow).



ISI student groups at UVa partnered to bring Baylor scholar Ralph Wood to campus

These and other teachers are mentoring the school's rising leaders.

Emerging Leaders

Not surprisingly, the University of Virginia has become a feeder for ISI's leadership programs.

Year after year, UVa students excel in the Honors Program, the apex of ISI's programming for undergraduates (see page 12). ISI's Leadership Class of 2013 featured two Honors Scholars from the University of Virginia; the 2012 class included three.

Last summer two UVa students attended ISI's American Freedom Institute, an intensive week devoted to constitutional government, free markets, individual liberty, the rule of law, and traditional values. Sophomore Patrick MacDonnell, the Burke Society's events chairman, said of the experience, "I now know a lot more about the conservative tradition and got exposed to opinions I never had considered before."

Junior Arrienne Talma, editor in chief of the *Virginia Advocate*, attended the American Freedom Institute and also completed an ISI-sponsored journalism internship at *Red Alert Politics*. Arrienne has participated in two of the Collegiate Network's premier professional-development programs, Start the Presses and the Editors Conference (see page 22). She has made such an impact as a campus leader that last fall ISI honored her with its Preston A. Wells Jr. Leadership Award.

Arrienne says she was drawn to ISI "because I loved its mission to educate the next generation of liberty-minded leaders." She has thrown herself into ISI's programming because many of her teachers and classmates don't embrace that mission: "I really want to utilize ISI's resources to further my education and learn the important principles and ideas that I am not being taught in college."

She adds: "ISI provided me with

"ISI provided me with the intellectual grounding to question mainstream ideas that are so prevalent in my generation."

—Arrienne Talma, UVa junior




the resources to learn new ideas and question the status quo. I now have the intellectual grounding to question mainstream ideas that are so prevalent in my generation . . . [and to] debate ideas that are otherwise overlooked in my college education."

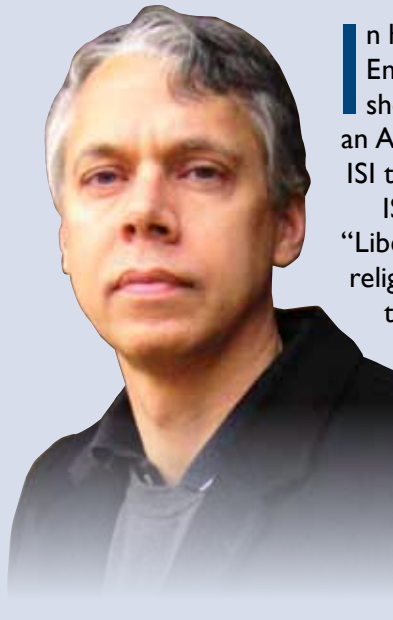
Beyond UVa

What works at the University of Virginia is working at many other colleges. Strengthening these communities—and building more on other campuses—is a major element of ISI's strategic plan to produce 300 leaders each year (see page 9).

Great things happen when bright students meet like-minded peers

and professors, get the resources they need to fill the holes in their education, and have outlets for defending the principles of liberty. That is how ideas are honed and lifelong relationships formed. That is how leaders are made. 

Mark Bauerlein Teams with ISI to Launch "Liberty Curriculum"



In his bestselling book *The Dumbest Generation*, Emory University professor Mark Bauerlein showed that the Information Age has spawned an Age of Ignorance. Now he has partnered with ISI to combat this ignorance.

ISI and Professor Bauerlein are developing the "Liberty Curriculum"—a three-course study of religious liberty, economic liberty, and civil liberties. Most college students today learn little about these freedoms—and what they do learn is often dismissive.

Significantly, the Liberty Curriculum focuses on including the three courses as part of colleges' *required* freshman courses. ISI and Professor Bauerlein are working with teachers and administrators to encourage as many as fifty colleges to adopt these courses over five years.

Mark Bauerlein has long helped mentor ISI students and young teachers. ISI is excited to team with him to teach the rising generation the principles of freedom.

For more information, contact ISI executive vice president **Jeff Nelson** at (302) 524-6111 or jnelson@isi.org.

The Liberty Curriculum will introduce college courses on religious liberty, economic liberty, and civil liberties.



Meet Blair Kelly

While studying at Gonzaga University, Blair Kelly found an intellectual home at ISI. So when she graduated last year, she was excited to join ISI's team and mentor other young leaders.

Growing up in a family of farmers and small-business owners, Blair saw firsthand the importance of personal responsibility and the damage government regulations can do. She was dismayed to discover how little support the principles of liberty received at her college. A professor encouraged Blair to get involved with ISI, which became an oasis for her. She excelled as a photographer for the ISI Collegiate Network magazine at Gonzaga, *The Witness*.

Blair is now thriving as director of ISI's student programs and outreach in the western United States. Knowing how isolated liberty-loving students can feel on college campuses, she is connecting principled students with the best professors and ISI student groups. Crisscrossing the region, she has visited Stanford, Berkeley, Gonzaga, the University of Idaho, and many other schools beyond. This academic year ISI sponsored a series of six speakers at the University of Washington, along with successful conferences at Pomona and Pepperdine. And in November, ISI's weekend-long leadership conference in Salt Lake City attracted more than sixty students. One attendee said of the experience, "In a few days I learned more, was challenged further, and made closer friendships than I had ever expected."

Feedback like that makes Blair all the more excited to be bringing the ISI experience to young leaders.



FILLING THE VOID

ISI's Student Journalism Program Challenges Liberal Orthodoxy on Campus



ISI's influence spans generations. Nowhere is that clearer than at Washington and Lee University.

As a freshman at W&L, Paul Lagarde chafed at the administration's attacks on student freedoms. He realized his school needed an independent student publication to serve as watchdog. That's when he heard about ISI's student journalism program, the Collegiate Network.

The person who pointed Paul to ISI was his father, Paul Lagarde Sr. As a W&L student in the late 1980s, Paul Sr. had cofounded *The Spectator*, a Collegiate Network newspaper that challenged political correctness on campus. The paper

flourished for a number of years. Eventually, however, it ceased printing after several classes of editors graduated.

Paul Jr. and classmate Catherine Roach, whose father, John Roach, was also an editor of the original *Spectator*, decided to restart the paper. How would this second generation of *Spectator* editors get the publication off the ground and maximize its influence? By turning to ISI for support.

So it was that Paul and Catherine were among forty aspiring journalists in Washington, D.C., last summer for the

Collegiate Network's Start the Presses training seminar. Students traveled from as far away as North Dakota and Utah to attend ISI's weekend crash course on how to start an independent publication. They received guidance from ISI's team and professional journalists at the *Weekly Standard*, the *American Spectator*, the *National Interest*, and other publications.

"Start the Presses was a great opportunity to learn from our peers and ISI's experts," said one attendee, Nicholas Zarra of the University of Pennsylvania. "I will always treasure the opportunity and look forward to righting America!" Another student added that ISI "is filling a void in terms of sponsoring conservative discourse on campus."

Hitting the Ground Running

Start the Presses has already produced a wave of new publications.

In its first issue, Paul Lagarde and Catherine Roach's *Spectator* received encouragement from the paper's founders. Noting that "much of the same politically correct nonsense that existed 20–25 years ago continues in new forms today," the original editors passed on advice they had received from



longtime ISI faculty mentor Jeffrey Hart: "Publicize their deeds. . . . The academic Left welcomes publicity as much as Dracula welcomes the dawn." The new editors have taken up the charge, exposing the W&L administration's heavy-handed policies, troubling changes to the university's tenure practices, and the school's undignified "Sex Week."

At UPenn, Nicholas Zarra and several classmates launched *The Statesman*. After getting advice from peers at ISI Collegiate Network publications

like the *Princeton Tory* and the *Harvard Salient*, Nick and his colleagues had an introductory issue ready to go when Penn students returned to campus in August.

The editors have made good on their vow to enrich the political dialogue at Penn by outlining proposals for

"It's all thanks to ISI!"

says **Eugene Craig** of the impact he has made



ISI Collegiate Network editor Eugene Craig appears on Fox News to discuss his headline-making Obamacare story

Fellows Making a Difference

ISI gives the most talented young journalists their start in the media by sponsoring yearlong fellowships with major publications. Here are two current fellows making their mark.

Katie McHugh

After excelling as an ISI summer intern at *National Review*, Katie McHugh was a natural choice for ISI's Lyn Nofziger Fellowship when she graduated from Allegheny College last spring. Named for the journalist and Ronald Reagan adviser, the Nofziger Fellowship provides Katie with a full-time position at the *Daily Caller*. She has made the most of it. The *Drudge Report* has featured three of her stories, and one of her articles drew more than a million readers and earned the *Daily Caller's* Story of the Year award. "I'm having the time of my life!" Katie says.



Blake Neff

Blake Neff has been making a splash at *The Hill*, the influential congressional newspaper. With experience honed as an editor for the Collegiate Network's flagship student paper, the *Dartmouth Review*, Blake has seen his work featured no less than five times on the *Drudge Report*. He recently interviewed Newt Gingrich and regularly represents *The Hill* to radio audiences as far away as Iowa and Colorado to discuss hot issues including immigration reform and gun control.



market-driven health-care reform and examining racial-preference policies.

Another Start the Presses attendee, Eugene Craig of Bowie State University, made national news when he published a story revealing that because of Obamacare, his university had canceled its low-cost health plan for students. The

result, he reported, was that the price of insurance for uninsured students would jump from \$54 to \$900 per semester. The *Drudge Report* and many other media outlets picked up Eugene's story. The piece sparked fury at Bowie State. One alumnus of the historically black college condemned Eugene as "the wannabe

grandson of Clarence Thomas." An administrator told the young ISI leader that his news story had "hurt the university," especially because First Lady Michelle Obama had delivered Bowie State's commencement address just months earlier. Interviewed on Megyn Kelly's primetime Fox News program, Eugene said, "Apparently commencement addresses supersede free speech at Bowie State University right now."

Eugene has ignored the naysayers and continues to publish hard-hitting news in his paper, the *Bulldog Collegian*. "It's all thanks to ISI!" he says.

The Start the Presses attendees from Texas A&M and the University of Georgia have been hard at work as well, putting into practice the lessons they learned last summer. Texas A&M's *Good Bull* has tackled national issues like Obamacare and gun control as well as campus controversies including tuition increases. Georgia's *Arch Conservative* attracted nationwide attention when *National Review Online* republished its article taking a critical look at a racially charged controversy on campus.



National Review editor Rich Lowry, an ISI Collegiate Network alumnus, advises ISI student journalists

ISI's Editors Conference: "An Unforgettable Experience"

This past November, 104 top student journalists gathered in Fort Worth, Texas, for ISI's Collegiate Network Editors Conference, the capstone of ISI's training for student journalists. These exceptional young writers and editors received counsel from professionals at the *Weekly Standard*, the *Daily Caller*, *First Things*, the *Washington Examiner*, *The Hill*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and other publications. *National Review* editor Rich Lowry, a Collegiate Network alumnus, delivered the closing talk.

The students left the weekend conference ready to take their publications to the next level. Brian Lagoda of Yale said, "This conference was a well of energy that our paper will be drawing on for the year to come." Claire Hsieh of the University of California, San Diego, praised the Editors Conference for providing "invaluable advice and an unforgettable experience." And Rob Mogni of the University of Virginia said simply, "Today, my life changed."



Mentors

ISI's mentoring of student journalists only begins with Start the Presses. In addition to conducting top-flight training programs like the Editors Conference (see sidebar at left), ISI works with Collegiate Network journalists throughout the year, advising on everything from story ideas to editing to layout to attracting advertisers.



At an ISI Collegiate Network conference, the Weekly Standard's Philip Chalk mentors rising journalists on elements of good design

TRANSFORM THE NEWS MEDIA




Sponsor an ISI Collegiate Network Fellow or Intern

ISI boosted its mentoring in December by welcoming Dr. John Elliott as director of leadership development. John was a professional journalist for two decades and for the past six years ran the student journalism program at the Institute for Humane Studies. John and the rest of the ISI team are nurturing the brightest talents and giving them their start in the professional media through the Collegiate Network fellowship and internship program.

Alumni of ISI's student journalism program are also helping shape the next generation of journalists. *National Review* editor Rich Lowry, *Wall Street Journal* Pulitzer Prize winner Joseph Rago, *Daily Caller* opinion editor Jordan Bloom, *Washington Free Beacon* editor in chief Matthew Continetti, *Reason* managing editor Katherine Mangu-Ward, and *Campus Reform* news editor Sterling Beard are some of the ISI alumni to appear at recent Collegiate Network conferences.

“Raising the Standard”

Like many other ISI student leaders, ISI Collegiate Network journalists are bravely confronting the liberal orthodoxy on their campuses. In their inaugural issue, the editors of the University of Georgia's *Arch Conservative* declared that their paper was founded in response “to the fact, everywhere apparent, that the unexamined consensus is liberalism.” They recalled that Harvard professor Harvey Mansfield once counseled a conservative colleague “to sit on his beliefs until he was tenured, and only then to ‘hoist the Jolly Roger.’” But the ISI student editors didn't feel they could wait: “We're hoisting the Jolly Roger—and raising the standard.”

They and their peers are indeed raising a high standard of excellence on campuses across America. ISI is proud to support them. 

Where are the rising journalists who will combat media bias?

ISI has the answer. ISI's Collegiate Network trains the country's most talented student journalists and gives them their professional start.

You can help by sponsoring a top student's summer internship (\$10,000) or yearlong fellowship (\$50,000) at a major publication like *USA Today* or the *Weekly Standard*.

These bright young journalists are ready to follow in the footsteps of Collegiate Network alumni including:

- Ross Douthat, *New York Times* columnist
- Jonathan Karl, chief White House correspondent for ABC News
- Joseph Rago (pictured above), Pulitzer Prize winner for the *Wall Street Journal*
- Marc Thiessen, *Washington Post* columnist
- Rich Lowry, *National Review* editor

For more information, contact ISI executive vice president **Nick Reid** at (302) 524-6140 or nreid@isi.org.

A GRAND BEGINNING

The First Year of the William F. Buckley Jr. Society



What an auspicious start for ISI's William F. Buckley Jr. Society! The society's inaugural year saw it reach impressive milestones, and the support of generous Buckley Society members spurred ISI to one of the most successful years in its history.



Yale's Donald Kagan leads a Buckley Society roundtable discussion. Looking on are former Delaware governor Pete du Pont (right) and ISI executive vice president Nick Reid (center).

Named in honor of ISI's first president, the Buckley Society is a select group of ISI's close friends who support the Institute's work with an annual gift of \$10,000 or more. Buckley Society members hail from all over the United States and boast a wide range of accomplishments, but they share the same unwavering dedication to advancing ISI's mission and preserving America's founding principles.

In its first year the Buckley Society grew to more than 130 members. These generous supporters are not only helping ISI pass the torch of liberty to future generations; they are also getting an up-close look at how (and why) ISI's leadership development works.

Experiencing the ISI Magic

Membership in the Buckley Society comes with many benefits. These include signed copies of new titles from ISI Books, a specially crafted Buckley Society lapel rosette, exclusive presidential updates, and a unique Buckley Society gift.

But the greatest benefit, many society members have said, is the opportunity to attend exclusive events such as regional Buckley Society roundtable discussions and the Buckley Society Leadership Retreat.

At ISI's annual Dinner for Western Civilization in New York City last October, celebrated Yale professor Donald

Kagan delivered a powerful keynote speech about the importance of teaching the lessons of Western civilization. But only Buckley Society members were able to attend the lively roundtable discussion with Professor Kagan that afternoon. The seminar afforded the rare privilege to discuss issues timely and timeless with one of America's top scholars and teachers.

In December, ISI hosted a roundtable for Buckley Society members in Naples, Florida. Emory University professor Mark Bauerlein, bestselling author of *The Dumbest Generation*, led a spirited discussion on the topic of "Educating for Liberty in the Age of Google."

Seminars like this replicate the ISI student experience, allowing supporters to understand exactly how ISI inspires future leaders and prepares them to defend the principles of liberty.

More Buckley Society roundtables are planned for 2014, so keep an eye out for details in future ISI communications.

The Buckley Society Leadership Retreat

Roundtable discussions were also a highlight of the first Buckley Society Leadership Retreat, held in May 2013. More than eighty attendees came to ISI's hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, to enjoy the weekend's events. Highlights included a luncheon discussion on the future of capitalism with the *Wall Street Journal's* Stephen Moore; guided tours of Winterthur, the famous du Pont family estate and museum; a dinner at ISI's beautiful F. M. Kirby Campus with a keynote speech by Lee Edwards, a leading historian of the conservative movement; and a tented reception at the Point-to-Point steeplechase races, one of the high points of the region's social calendar. Throughout the weekend, Buckley Society members spent time with exceptional ISI student leaders, like-minded ISI supporters, dedicated



The Wall Street Journal's Stephen Moore addresses the first annual Buckley Society Leadership Retreat at Winterthur Museum

ISI teachers and scholars, and ISI team members.

Buckley Society member Alfred Regnery said of the weekend, “The Buckley Retreat illustrated the ISI experience better than any ISI program I have attended in my decades of involvement.”

Excitement has been building for the second annual Buckley Society Leadership Retreat, which will be held May 2–4 in Wilmington. Once again members will be treated to stimulating roundtable discussions and talks from opinion leaders and scholars. Guests will also enjoy a tour of Longwood Gardens, one of America’s premier botanical gardens. The final day of the retreat will again center on Winterthur’s Point-to-Point, with members enjoying the races from ISI’s catered tent right in front of the grass track.

If you are interested in attending and have not yet registered, please contact

“The Buckley Retreat illustrated the ISI experience better than any ISI program I have attended in my decades of involvement.”

—Alfred Regnery




Tara Gallardy at (302) 524-6143 or tgallardy@isi.org as soon as possible.

A Bright Future

While Buckley Society members enjoy their membership benefits, they often cite the impact their contributions have on deserving students—and on America’s future—as the best part of being members. Longtime ISI supporter Anne Burleigh remarked that it was a “very hopeful sign” that ISI events continue to draw so many truth-seeking students.

In only a single year, Buckley Society members have already made a tremendous difference. Through their contributions, they are sponsoring ISI Honors Scholars, Collegiate Network fellows, and graduate fellows; bringing high-quality speakers to campuses across the country; sponsoring ISI’s leadership-development seminars; enabling the Institute to expand its slate of summer programs; and more. As ISI and the Buckley Society continue to grow together, their collective impact on new generations of leaders will lead America onward and upward.

ISI’s work with future leaders would not be possible without the generous support of the Buckley Society. To take advantage of your opportunity to shape the education of a promising young leader, contact Nick Reid and your ISI development team. 



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BUCKLEY SOCIETY’S INAUGURAL MEMBERS!

ISI is grateful to the more than 130 supporters who joined the William F. Buckley Jr. Society in its first year. By making an annual gift of at least \$10,000 or an estate gift of \$200,000 or more, these loyal friends have enabled ISI to educate more future leaders than ever.

If you are interested in becoming a Buckley Society member, please contact ISI executive vice president Nick Reid at (302) 524-6140 or nreid@isi.org.

SAVE THE DATE

~ NINTH ANNUAL ~

Dinner for Western Civilization

Benefiting the Intercollegiate Studies Institute

Thursday, October 23, 2014
New York City



Keynote Speaker: **Peter Thiel**

Peter Thiel is one of America's most prominent entrepreneurs and investors. In 1998 he cofounded PayPal, serving as CEO and chairman before selling the company to eBay for \$1.5 billion. He is perhaps best known as the first outside investor in Facebook, where he still serves on the board. As an ISI student leader at Stanford University in the late 1980s, Thiel cofounded the *Stanford Review*, which remains a leading ISI student publication.



**DON'T LEAVE
THE ACADEMY
TO THE LEFT**

Sponsor an
**ISI
Graduate Fellow!**

ISI is seeding the academy with teachers committed to the principles of liberty. Alumni of ISI's graduate fellowship program are teaching at top colleges like Harvard, Princeton, and Stanford, reaching thousands of students every year. Many others are making an impact well beyond campus—including *Weekly Standard* editor **William Kristol**, Heritage Foundation founder **Ed Feulner**, and Reagan secretary of the navy **John F. Lehman Jr.**

Sponsor an ISI graduate fellow today. For more information, contact ISI executive vice president **Nick Reid** at (302) 524-6140 or nreid@isi.org.

“THIS IS OUR HERITAGE”

ISI Supporter Frederick J. Simoons on Preserving the Western Tradition



Frederick J. Simoons with Helen Issel at their home in northern California

Frederick J. Simoons was a graduate student when William F. Buckley Jr.'s *God and Man at Yale* rocked the academic establishment in 1951. Simoons admired the young author's fierce critique of higher education. "I followed Buckley's career subsequently," he recalls.

So he took notice when Buckley became president of a new organization fighting the leftward drift on campus: ISI.

Bill Buckley, of course, would go on to found *National Review* and build a movement. Fred Simoons would enjoy a remarkable career of his own, becoming a leading scholar in his field.

For both men, the ISI connection endured. Buckley spent a half century advancing the work of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. Meanwhile, Simoons followed ISI as a loyal reader of the *Intercollegiate Review*. He welcomed this alternative to higher education's growing hostility toward Western civilization—hostility he saw firsthand as a professor.

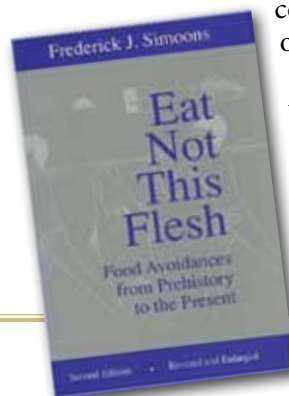
Dr. Simoons holds ISI in high esteem to this day. He so values the Institute's work, in fact, that he has established a living trust of \$5 million to ensure that ISI will shape principled leaders for generations.

A Horatio Alger Story

Born in Philadelphia in 1922, Fred Simoons was raised in a poor section of Newark, New Jersey. During the Great Depression his mother, a Belgian immigrant, supported the family by cleaning houses. Simoons put himself through Rutgers by working for Prudential Insurance and taking night courses. World War II interrupted his studies, but he returned after Army service to graduate in 1949, earning Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Fascinated by how cultures work, Simoons entered the field of cultural geography. He earned his PhD from Berkeley and landed a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin, where he rose to full professor in only seven years.

Early on, he displayed a talent for field work. For his dissertation, he and his wife, Elizabeth, spent a year in Ethiopia, often traveling by mule and sleeping under the stars. His work later took him to India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, and Southeast Asia. Simoons's



1961 book, *Eat Not This Flesh*, which examined food taboos across cultures, was immediately hailed as a classic and is still in print. His wide-ranging and innovative work led to collaborations with experts in other fields, including the National Institutes of Health, the Stanford School of Medicine, and the University of California Medical School, San Francisco.

In 1969 Dr. Simoons took up a position at the University of California, Davis, where he spent the rest of his career. The university honored him with its prestigious Faculty Research Lecture Award in 1981. He remains the only University of California geographer to receive the honor.

Reflecting Dr. Simoons's prominence in his field, the *Journal of Cultural Geography* devoted an entire issue to his work. One scholar called Dr. Simoons's contributions "treasures" that would shape the work of "geographers, anthropologists, culture historians, and others" for years to come.

Fighting Ignorance

"Travel," Mark Twain wrote, "is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." As Dr. Simoons traveled the world, he saw that prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness too often characterized his fellow teachers back home. As extensive fieldwork in the non-Western world strengthened his appreciation for the West's unique advances—in science, democracy, and capitalism, for example—American universities nevertheless turned their backs on the West.

The "bias against studies in Western civilization," Dr. Simoons says, has done real damage. "If you talk to most Americans about Western history, if they know anything about it, they can pull out only the bad aspects—the Spanish Inquisition, the treatment of colonial peoples, and so on."

This is utterly misguided, he adds. He has seen the West's positive influences on the rest of the world, whether



Dr. Simoons and his wife studying food in China, 1987

it is the roads, airports, schools, and banks the Italians built in Ethiopia or the democratic institutions and habits the British introduced in India.

Referring to Western civilization, Dr. Simoons says simply: "This is our heritage. We have to know it."

He is alarmed that so many young Americans are ignorant of our country's foundations. Citing ISI's Civic Literacy surveys and other studies, he says, "There are all sorts of common things—about the Constitution, American government, American history, and so forth—that young people don't know. They're just ignorant. How can we run a democracy without understanding a little bit about how it works?"

ISI "chooses the best students and educates them about the Western tradition," Simoons says.

The ISI Solution

Such concerns were on Dr. Simoons's mind as he and his wife began looking to the future. Having lived frugally and invested wisely, they had saved enough money to make a difference in the life of the culture. But how could they maximize the impact of their philanthropy?

"Ordinarily a faculty member would contribute to his own college or university," Dr. Simoons says. But he had seen a former colleague endow a chair at UC Davis, only to have the university redirect the money to a different field. Doing more research, Dr. Simoons


discovered how other universities misused donations. One infamous case involved Yale's handling of a \$20 million donation from philanthropist Lee Bass. The Ivy League institution had solicited Bass for funds to start a Western civilization program for sophomores, but—as an ISI student publication at Yale revealed—the left-leaning faculty senate refused to allow the program to proceed.

In response to the Bass affair, ISI launched its Honors Program, an elite leadership-development program to teach promising undergraduates the foundations of Western civilization (see profile on page 12).

In 2005 Fred Simoons and his wife established their multimillion-dollar living trust to endow the Honors Program. They determined that ISI was the "best alternative" to the higher-education establishment—an organization committed to "choosing the best students and educating them about the Western tradition," as Dr. Simoons puts it. Dr. Simoons chose the Honors Program because he believes in investing in the very best students, the ones who are "going to go places." This philosophy—that a small number of exceptional, principled leaders can have outsized influence on the culture—shapes ISI's entire approach.

Winning the Future

Now ninety-one, Fred Simoons lives a quiet life in northern California. Sadly, Elizabeth Simoons passed away in 2009, a month before their sixtieth anniversary. Although the trends of recent decades disturb him, ISI's work gives him hope for the future. Educating future leaders in the traditions of Western liberty is "essential to the foundation of the country—and to the country surviving in a decent form."

Thanks to the Frederick J. and Elizabeth F. Simoons Fellowship Endowment, young leaders will receive such an education for decades to come. These happy few will ensure that this country will not just survive but thrive. 

THE LAST WORD



by CHRISTOPHER FISHER

I first learned about ISI when my mentor at Salve Regina University, an ISI faculty associate, handed me a copy of the *Intercollegiate Review*. I was entranced. Undergraduates like me were hungry for serious content that taught the principles of liberty and Western civilization. I loved how ISI kept lit the lamps of civilization, and I knew it was my duty to share that light with other students.

Shortly after graduation, I was lucky enough to join the ISI team. I started as a regional director for student programs and outreach, and over the next two years I traveled to dozens of campuses, connecting with bright students eager to study the best ideas of Western civilization. We served these student leaders by offering top-notch campus events, supporting ISI student groups and Collegiate Network publications, and hosting rigorous summer seminars.

But I knew that with a robust online presence, ISI could increase its impact and introduce even more students to the ISI experience.


In my new role as digital media editor, I am helping drive ISI forward with projects that engage the millennial generation. These efforts are already advancing ISI's leadership-development program.

The *Intercollegiate Review*, redesigned last year into a full-color, student-focused magazine, now has a permanent home online at IntercollegiateReview.com, where fresh content reaches thousands of students every week. The site has featured articles by scholars such as Robert P. George of Princeton University, Paul Kengor of Grove City College,

J. Budziszewski of the University of Texas, Ryan Anderson of the Heritage Foundation, and Samuel Gregg of the Acton Institute. Just as important, IntercollegiateReview.com hosts almost twenty student bloggers. For some of these contributors, such as Amelia Sims of Emory University, writing for IntercollegiateReview.com marked the beginning of their ISI journeys; they are now attending ISI conferences, hosting campus events, and establishing themselves as student leaders.

ISI is attracting thousands of new followers via social media. Through Facebook and Twitter, ISI has ramped up submissions to its annual essay contest, led hundreds of thousands of readers to IntercollegiateReview.com, and increased applications to its summer conferences. The impact is clear: more students are learning about ISI, sharing our content, and getting deeper into the ISI experience.

In our overstimulated, sensationalist age, cutting through the Internet clutter is not easy. Luckily, ISI has in its archives stellar content from some of the most accomplished scholars of the past sixty years. The task is to deliver that content in new ways that will have a big impact. To that end, ISI is repackaging archived material as catchy infographics that can be easily shared on social media. To make a splash in the YouTube universe, ISI will soon be introducing students to top thinkers and important principles through high-quality short videos.

By delivering smart and innovative content, ISI can continue to grow its roster of talented young leaders. And as ISI grows, so too does the chance that our free and vital republic will be preserved. 

Christopher Fisher is ISI's digital media editor.

THE WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR. SOCIETY

For Our Children's Children

The William F. Buckley Jr. Society is a group of ISI's top investors dedicated to furthering the mission and vision embodied by ISI's first president, William F. Buckley Jr.: to produce principled leaders by inspiring college students



to discover, embrace, and advance the principles and virtues that make America free and prosperous. Buckley Society memberships are available with an annual gift of \$10,000 or more or an estate gift of \$200,000 or more.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- ❖ Invitations to:
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 - All ISI President's Receptions at regional ISI events
- ❖ A special Buckley Society gift
- ❖ Exclusive Presidential Updates
- ❖ Complimentary signed copies of all newly released ISI Books
- ❖ A specially crafted William F. Buckley Jr. Society lapel rosette



*ISI's development team is here to answer your questions:
(left to right) Joseph Corey, Nick Reid, and Tom Cusmano*

BECOME A BUCKLEY SOCIETY MEMBER TODAY

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

LEAVE A LEGACY TO LIBERTY



ISI's 2013-14 Honors Scholars

*“ISI gave me an education
that even Harvard couldn’t.”*

—Christopher Lacaria, Harvard alumnus

Freedom, Ronald Reagan reminded us, is never more than one generation away from extinction. Make sure the next generation of leaders embraces the principles and virtues that make America free and prosperous.

Contact ISI to learn how you can help preserve the foundations of America's liberty. These gift plans can also:

- ★ **Increase** your current income
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**For more information, contact
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Nick Reid at (302) 524-6140
or nreid@isi.org**

