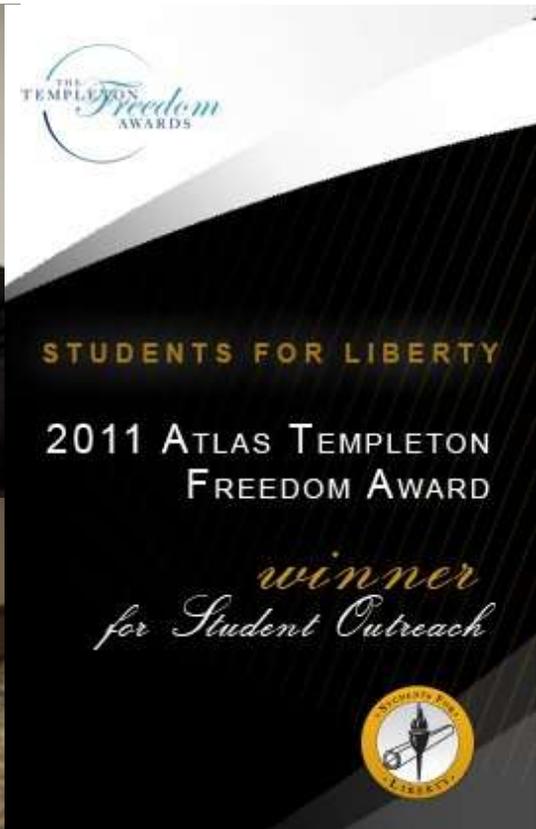




STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY

2011-2012 Midyear Report

Students For Liberty





STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY

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Students For Liberty group members in Africa.



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§ 1. Letter from the President

Thanks to SFL's many students, alumni, donors, and supporters, we have started our 4th school year by yet again breaking all previous organizational records. This past fall, we had more SFL leaders, ran more events, and offered more resources to more students and student organizations than ever before, including over 1,500 attendees at 12 Regional Conferences in the United States! By any measure, SFL is setting the standards for success in student organizing for youth organizations of all stripes.

As Europe goes through its worst financial crisis in recent history, a beam of light has shown through the turmoil with the success of European Students For Liberty. Over the summer, SFL formally expanded across the Atlantic by selecting, training, and resourcing a highly qualified team of European students to implement SFL's model of student organizing. While there were many risks associated with SFL's expansion to Europe, I am pleased to report that ESFL has succeeded beyond all expectations. The reason why is the same one as why SFL has succeeded in the US: there is a demand for the message of liberty amongst European youth that has been ignored for too many years, and SFL's model of empowerment is giving them the training and resources to change the landscapes of their campuses and Europe as whole.

Last month, I went to Belgium for the first European Students For Liberty Conference at the University of Leuven just outside Brussels. While we had set a goal of 80 attendees back in June, the final total included over 200 students from 25 different countries. In so many ways, that weekend reminded me of the first SFL Conference we held in 2008 and filled me with the same excitement about the future of the student movement for liberty I had 4 years ago.

I want to end by encouraging everyone reading this letter to attend the 5th Annual International SFL Conference. It is incredible to think that the one-time conference we organized in 2008 has become the truly international movement it is today. At this milestone in SFL's existence, we intend to showcase the movement with the largest gathering of pro-liberty students, alumni, nonprofits, and supporters that we have ever put together. Come join us in Washington, DC from February 17-19, 2012, for an experience that will show the strength of the future of liberty.



Sincerely & For Liberty,

Alexander J. McCobin
Co-Founder & President, Students For Liberty
amccobin@studentsforliberty.org



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§ 2. Highlights

SFL's Student Group Network grew to 699 student organizations.

SFL launched European Students For Liberty with an 8-member European Executive Board that has grown to over 90 student organizations in its first semester.

Ran the first European SFL Conference at the University of Leuven with over 200 attendees from 25 countries.

Ran 12 Regional Conferences in the US with over 1,500 attendees!

Printed 100,000 copies of *The Morality of Capitalism*, SFL's 2nd book, with contributions from figures like Mario Vargas Llosa, Nobel Laureate in Literature; Vernon Smith, Nobel Laureate in Economics; and John Mackey, Co-Founder of Whole Foods.

Hosted 13 webinars with 790 total attendees.

Sent free books to 62 student groups to form reading clubs on topics related to liberty.

Distributed 49 tabling kits to student groups.

SFL's Facebook Page more than doubled in number of fans since June. Growing from 18,800 to over 40,000 fans!

And, of course...

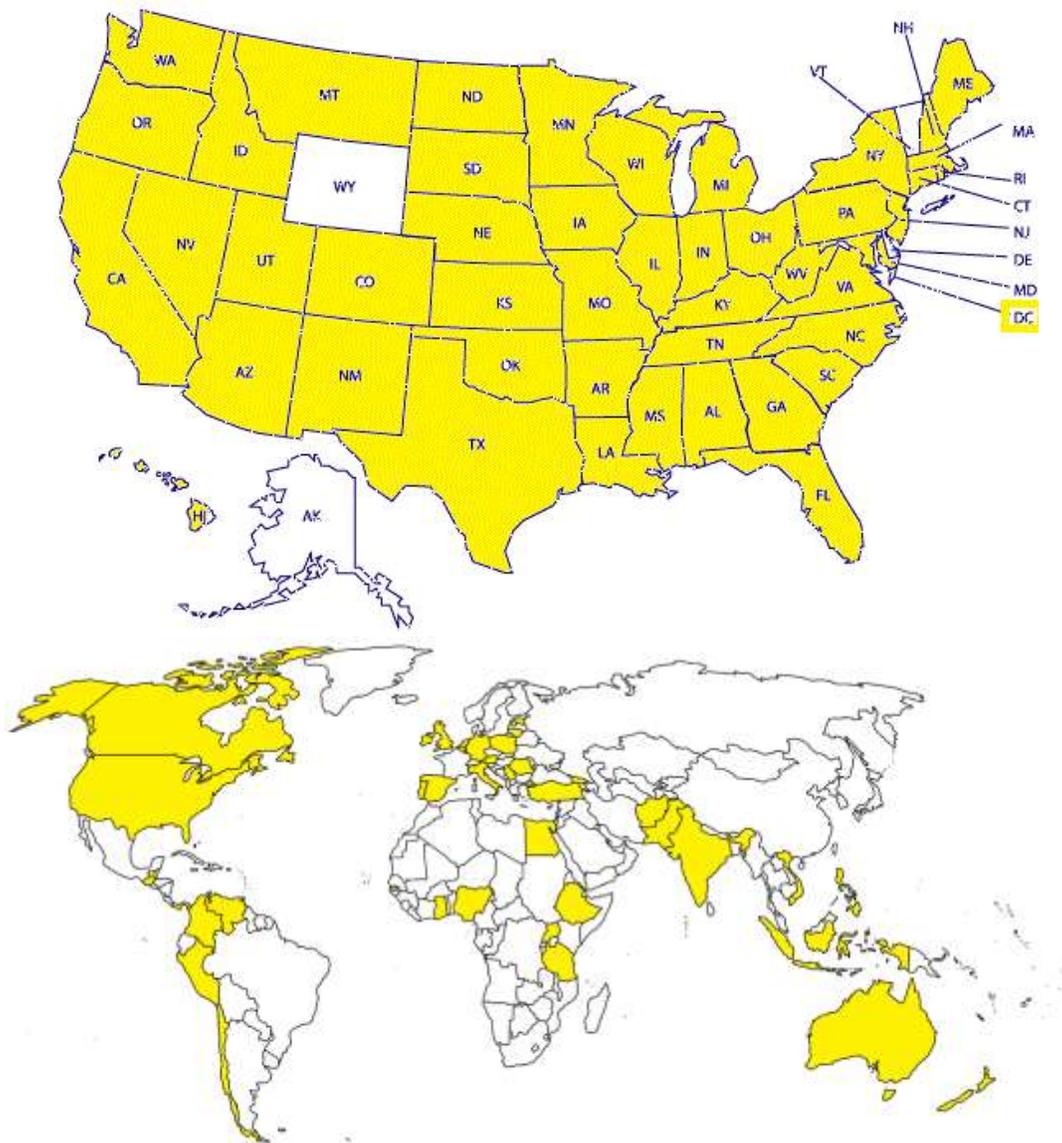
**Students For Liberty won the 2011 Templeton Freedom Award
for Student Outreach!**



§ 3. SFL's Global Network: 699 Groups

Prior to SFL, there was no organization connecting pro-liberty student organizations to one another or providing the resources to help student organizations get started or grow. At the end of Fall 2011, SFL's network includes 699 pro-liberty student organizations in 47 US states and 40 countries. SFL's model is to support activities in which students want to engage, providing personalized support for the rapidly growing student movement for liberty.

The maps below indicate the states and countries where SFL has active student groups:





§ 4. Regional Conferences

In the fall of 2008, Students For Liberty hosted 3 Regional Conferences in Philadelphia, Boston, and Ann Arbor (MI) with a total of approximately 120 students in attendance. The 2009 Regional Conferences blew those numbers out of the water with over 700 students at 7 Regional Conferences. 2010 saw even greater growth as SFL expanded into California with two new Regional Conferences and a total of 1133 attendees (1041 unique attendees). In 2011, we expanded to 12 Regional Conferences, reaching new areas like Florida and Pittsburgh while also investing in areas with large numbers of students interested in the ideas by creating a second Texas Regional Conference in Dallas. Once again broke all previous records set by SFL Conferences.

Total Attendees:	1,508 Attendees
Total Unique Attendees:	1,355 Attendees
Total Schools:	307 Unique Schools
Total Conferences:	12 Conferences
Average Conference Attendance:	126 Attendees
Largest Conference:	Columbia University, 188 Attendees

Conferences:

1. Chicago Conference @ University of Chicago, Oct. 1 st	138 Attendees
2. Philadelphia Conference @ Drexel University, Oct. 8 th	132 Attendees
3. North Carolina Conference @ Salem College, Oct. 15 th	87 Attendees
4. New York Conference @ Columbia University, Oct. 22 nd	188 Attendees
5. Austin, TX Conference @ University of Texas-Austin, Oct. 22 nd	145 Attendees
6. Arizona Conference @ University of Arizona, Oct. 22 nd	135 Attendees
7. Boston Conference @ Harvard University, Nov. 5 th	102 Attendees
8. Northern California Conference @ UC-Berkeley, Nov. 5 th	128 Attendees
9. Pittsburgh Conference @ University of Pittsburgh, Nov. 5 th	94 Attendees
10. Florida Conference @ University of Florida, Nov. 12 th	92 Attendees
11. Dallas Conference @ University of North Texas, Nov. 12 th	133 Attendees
12. Southern California Conference @ Pepperdine University, Nov. 12 th	133 Attendees



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§ 5. European Students For Liberty



European Students For Liberty (ESFL) was launched this summer with a 3 day Leadership Retreat at the historic Institute for Economic Affairs in London, England. Since then, ESFL has grown rapidly to include 96 pro-liberty student organizations in 18 countries.

The most important event of the semester was the First Annual European Students For Liberty Conference at the University of Leuven outside of Brussels, Belgium from February 18-20th. The conference brought 220 students from 25 countries together to hear from speakers like Lars Seier Christensen, founder of Saxo Bank; Prince Michael von Liechtenstein; Pierre Garello of IES-Europe; and Dr. Tom Palmer of the Atlas Network. Watch a video of the conference highlights here:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVx3hxsDxVI>

However, this report isn't long enough to detail all of the successes of ESFL in its first 6 months of existence. To read the full story of ESFL's growth, check out ESFL's own Midyear Report at <http://studentsforliberty.org/news/esfl-midyear-report-released/>.



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§ 6. Webinar Series

Previously called the SFL E-Leadership Program, SFL's Webinar Series continued to provide top-notch educational lectures on the meaning of liberty and strategies for promoting liberty on campus to students' dorm rooms around the world. And with 612 unique attendees in Fall 2011, the SFL Webinar Series saw a 65% increase in attendance over last year's Fall semester (398 unique attendees), illustrating the growing interest in virtual education programs that SFL is at the forefront of utilizing. Recordings of Fall 2011 webinars are available on SFL's website at: <http://studentsforliberty.org/college/webinar-program/list/>.

612 Unique Attendees

790 Total Attendees



Fall 2011 SFL Webinar Series Schedule

September 7th – “Starting a Campus Organization”

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

Total Attendees: 18

September 14th – “You’re Going to Jail: The Criminalization of Everything”

Speaker: Radley Balko, Huffington Post

Total Attendees: 99

September 21st – “Austrian Economics, Institutional Economics, and the Science of Liberty”

Speaker: Dr. Peter Boettke, George Mason University

Total Attendees: 140



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September 27th – “No Sweat: How Sweatshops Improve Lives and Economic Growth”

Panelists: Dr. Benjamin Powell, Suffolk University

Total Attendees: 39

October 5th – “How to Run a Successful Student Organization”

Speakers: Alexander Falkenstein, Karina Zannat, Kelly Jemison, & Liya Palagashvili, SFL Leaders

Total Attendees: 32

October 12th – “Black Belt Ninja Liberty Moves!”

Speaker: Stefan Molyneux

Total Attendees: 69

October 19th – “How to Talk to your Friends about Economics”

Speaker: Isaac Morehouse, Institute for Humane Studies

Total Attendees: 51

October 26th – “Money Under Laissez Faire”

Speaker: Dr. George Selgin, University of Georgia

Total Attendees: 70

November 2nd – “Democracy in Deficit: A Public Choice Perspective on Keynesian Policy”

Speaker: Dr. Adam Martin, Liberty Fund

Total Attendees: 53

November 9th – “You Have No Power Over Me: The Legal Battle Against ObamaCare in Theory and Practice”

Speaker: Trevor Burrus, Cato Institute

Total Attendees: 29

November 16th – “Libertarianism and the Left”

Speaker: Dr. Matt Zwolinski, University of San Diego

Total Attendees: 68

November 30th – “Comparative Political Economy when Anarchism is on the Table”

Speaker: Dr. Daniel D’Amico, Loyola University

Total Attendees: 75

December 7th – “Capitalism and the Family”

Speaker: Dr. Steve Horwitz, St. Lawrence University

Total Attendees: 53



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§ 7. The Morality of Capitalism Project

Joined by the Atlas Economic Research Foundation and the Pierre F. Goodrich Foundation, Students For Liberty published its second book this year, entitled *The Morality of Capitalism*. Compiling articles from authors as diverse as Nobel Laureates, entrepreneurs, and professors, the book makes an ethical case for the free market as a driver of prosperity and peace around the world.

100,000 Copies Printed

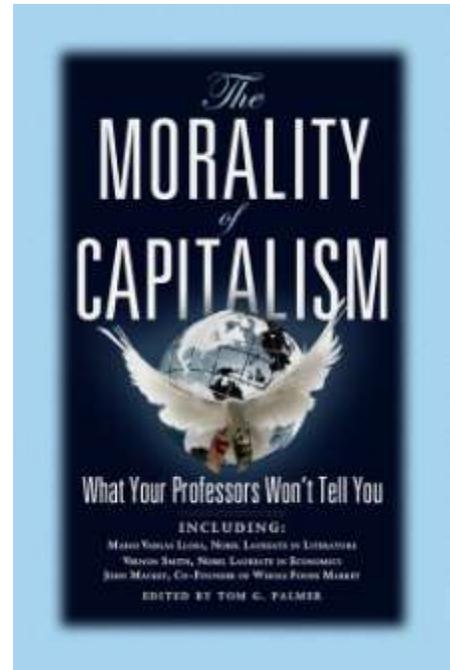
Featuring:

Mario Vargas Llosa, *Nobel Laureate in Literature*

Vernon Smith, *Nobel Laureate in Economics*

John Mackey, *Co-Founder of Whole Foods*

16 Languages Planned



SFL has already distributed almost all of the 100,000 printed copies via student groups, conferences, and individual requests from students around the world. The demand for this book was so great in Europe, but shipping costs so prohibitively expensive, that SFL leaders packed 2,200 copies of the book into 8 suitcases and 4 carry-ons to transport to the European SFL Conference in Belgium. Over the course of the weekend, all 2,200 books were taken by attendees to distribute in their home countries.

The Morality of Capitalism will be translated into 16 different languages over the course of the next year. Already completed: the Azerbaijani edition, pictured in the center below.

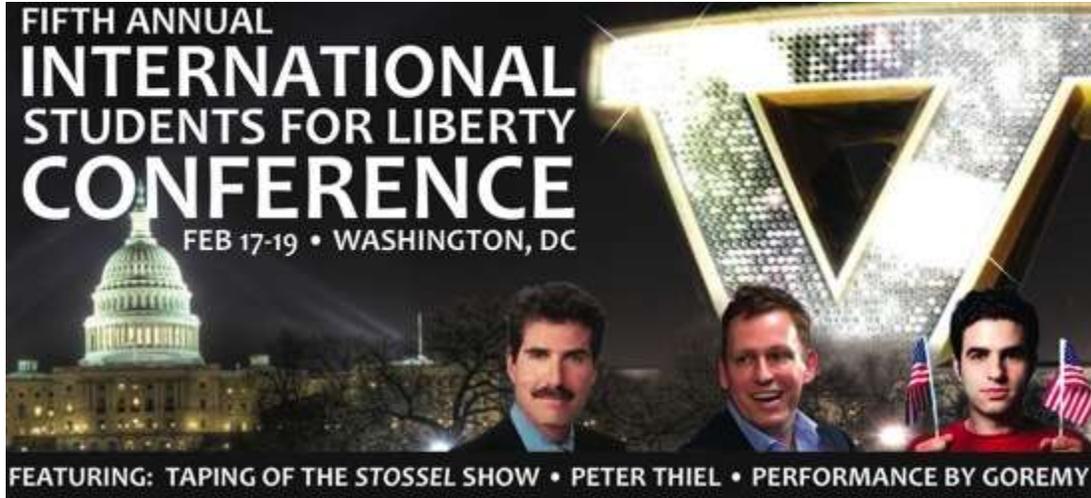
The Morality of Capitalism can be downloaded from SFL's website for free at: <http://studentsforliberty.org/college/the-morality-of-capitalism/>.





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§ 8. 5th Annual International SFL Conference



From February 17-19, 2012, SFL will host the 5th Annual International Students For Liberty Conference (ISFLC). In preparing for the 5th ISFLC, it is incredible to think that we only expected 30 students to attend the first conference in 2008. For 2012, we are taking the ISFLC to new heights with more performances, more speakers, more students, and more opportunities for alumni than ever before. Register today at www.PoliticalConferences.org.

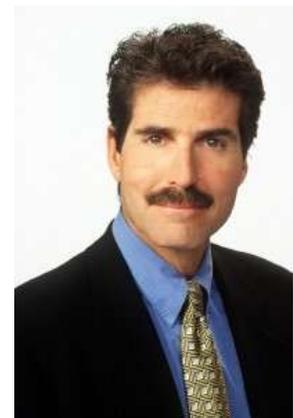
The 2012 International Students For Liberty Conference will open with a bang with a special guest performance by **GoRemy**, the creator and star of such videos as the Raise the Debt Ceiling Rap, The Arlington Rap, TurboTax: The Rap, and many more.



The first recipient of the SFL Alumnus of the Year Award and our Friday Night Keynote will be libertarian entrepreneur, PayPal founder, Facebook investor, and venture capitalist **Peter Thiel**!

John Stossel is the most recognized libertarian spokesman alive today. We made history in 2011 by recording an episode of the *STOSSEL* Show at the ISFLC, which was later broadcast worldwide on the Fox Business Network. Featuring John Stossel, Cato Vice President David Boaz, and the hundreds of

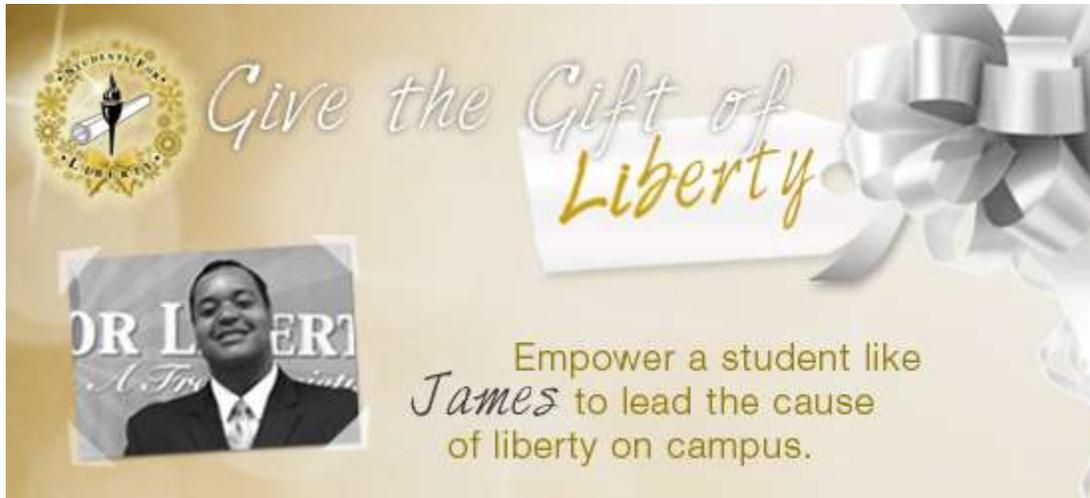
student attendees, **that show was such a success that Stossel is coming back for a repeat performance in 2012!**





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§ 9. Give the Gift of Liberty



James Padilioni is a senior at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, founder of the West Chester Students for Liberty, and an SFL Campus Coordinator. You can support a student like James by making a tax-deductible donation to Students For Liberty at www.givethegiftofliberty.org. This is James' story:

I discovered Students For Liberty late one night during the summer of 2010 while searching Facebook for student libertarian organizations. All around me I was watching what seemed to be the demise of liberty in my time and none of my peers seemed to care, but I felt that something must be done. Surely there had to be others who shared my passion for liberty and my concern over its present state.

When I came across the SFL page, I immediately knew that this was the organization for which I had been looking.

Students For Liberty has completely transformed my life in unimaginable ways. The programs and resources made available to me through the SFL network have enabled me to spread the philosophy of liberty and champion its cause much more effectively than I ever could have done alone; both on my local campus as a student group leader, and throughout the Philadelphia region as a Campus Coordinator. Additionally, my personal conception of liberty has grown as I've learned immensely from my colleagues and others within the network. I am incredibly grateful to SFL for the person I am today. I no longer feel isolated as a libertarian, and I no longer feel the same fear for the future of liberty. SFL encourages me that the prospects for liberty amongst my generation are strong and growing, provided that we continue to strive at building a free academy and a free society.

SFL has done so much for me, and could be doing more for other students like me. Please help us do so by making a donation to SFL at www.givethegiftofliberty.org this holiday season.



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Chelsea is a student at Pepperdine University in California, president of the Pepperdine Libertarians, and an SFL Campus Coordinator. This is her story:

I was first introduced to the ideas of liberty during my sophomore year of high school. My father came home from a business trip raving about a book he had been reading during his travel. After hearing him speak so highly about Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, I decided to pick it up and read it for myself. Two weeks later, I was completely fascinated by the philosophy of liberty and individualism that Ayn Rand advocated. I spent the rest of my high school career dedicated to learning about economic philosophy and the morality of a free-market economy. Shortly after I enrolled at Pepperdine University in 2008, I found the Pepperdine Libertarians, but for a long time, the Pepperdine Libertarians went unnoticed in our region because we didn't know of events to hold and couldn't access any resources to raise awareness on campus. However, once we became involved with Students For Liberty, Pepperdine became known as one of the most active pro-liberty campuses in the country.

In February 2011, I decided to attend the International SFL Conference, and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. The conference was an eventful weekend of speakers, panels, Q&A sessions and more. I made contacts with their representatives that eventually helped me get into the fellowship program I participated in during Summer of 2011. However, the thing that really stood out to me was the camaraderie and excitement that all of the SFL leaders felt. I had never been surrounded by so many articulate and optimistic college students. This was especially demonstrated at the student leadership panel and the evening socials that gave me the motivation to do more.

This past November, I went from being a conference participant to a conference organizer. I organized SFL's Southern California Regional Conference, which drew over 130 students to Pepperdine to have the same experience I had at the ISFLC. I have gone from being the bright-eyed novice looking for any resource or lesson I could get to the one doling out the lessons and resources to new students.

You can help other students have the same experience I have by making a donation this holiday season at www.givethegiftofliberty.org.