STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY

“After spending time with those students [at SFL], I feel better about the future of America.”

- John Stossel

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT
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**HIGHLIGHTS**

529 attendees at the 4th annual International SFL Conference
The 2010-2011 school year was SFL’s most successful year ever. This is the third Letter from the Executive Director & President I have written, and while I seem to start every letter like that, it is always true. This past year, the SFL student group network grew to over 500 groups! We drew over 500 attendees to the 4th annual International SFL Conference! And we ran 9 Regional Conferences in the US with over 1,100 participants, plus a European Liberty Conference in Italy with over 100 attendees. Not only has this been our best year yet, but it has been a defining year that has illustrated two important points about SFL.

First, there has never been an organization like SFL. There have been meaningful libertarian student groups in the past like Students for a Libertarian Society and Students for Individual Liberty, but none have reached the size or scope that SFL is at right now. In a Townhall.com article after the International Students For Liberty Conference (ISFLC), John Stossel wrote: “After spending time with those students [at SFL], I feel better about the future of America.” Stossel even enjoyed his experience so much that he has already confirmed he will be filming another episode of the STOSSEL show at next year’s ISFLC. David Boaz proclaimed in front of the ISFLC crowd and on national television: “This is just amazing. I’ve never seen a student libertarian gathering this big. This is tremendous.” David Boaz, a libertarian activist since he was a member of Young Americans for Freedom at Vanderbilt, said that this year’s ISFLC was the largest student libertarian gathering that he’s ever seen.

While there have been large groups that accepted libertarians into their fold in the past, such as Young Americans for Freedom in its heyday of the 1960s, libertarian students were a faction rather than the driving force. SFL is a libertarian organization run by libertarian students. But even in our support for students we are unique; we are rejecting the typical top-down model of student organizing where groups are expected to take directives from the national office. Instead we empower students to advance liberty through whatever strategies they think will be effective on their own campuses.

“We are rejection the typical top-down model of student organizing where groups are expected to take directives from the national office. Instead, we empower students to advance liberty through whatever strategies they think will be effective on their own campuses.”

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Second, SFL is not a flash in the pan. When any new organization springs up, there is a high likelihood that it will fail simply because most organizations do. When SFL began, there were many people who expected the same to happen to us. However, after 3 years of continued growth and record-breaking activity, people are beginning to recognize that we are in this for the long haul. Our many training programs, ranging from conference workshops to the Campus Coordinator (CC) Program, provide unparalleled leadership development experiences for students to ensure that SFL leaders are of the highest caliber. With more student groups and more students entering SFL’s network each year, there is a larger pool of candidates for us to choose from. Even though campus leadership turns over every few years, Alumni For Liberty will provide an outlet for individuals to stay involved and maintain institutional knowledge.

As we look toward the future of SFL, I am incredibly excited. We are launching European Students For Liberty with a dynamic team of European students that will organize conferences, distribute books, arrange webinars, and grow the student movement for liberty from within Europe. We have more than doubled the CC Program for the coming year from 24 to 58 CCs. We have expanded our staff to 5 full time employees to accommodate the additional work required. And to compensate for the fact that we had to turn away 100 students from this past year’s ISFLC due to lack of space, we have already reserved space at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Washington, DC to accommodate 700+ attendees for SFL’s largest ISFLC yet.

We have come a long way in 3 years. What was initially just a fanciful dream of a few college students has become a driving force on campuses across the US, and soon it will be across the world. I want to thank everyone who has made this possible, from the students who give up many hours each week for the cause of liberty, to SFL’s donors that provide the resources those students need to spread the message of liberty on campus, and the students’ families and friends that provide the moral support for them to keep going. While we have come a long way, there is much further to go, and so all of your support is still necessary. Just remember, others are starting to notice because we are starting to win.

Sincerely & For Liberty,

Alexander J. McCobin
Executive Director & President
The 2010-2011 school year was SFL’s most successful year to date with new milestones reached and more students involved in SFL’s work than ever before.

Here is a recap of some of the most important achievements from the past year.
• Grew the SFL network from 290 to 511 student groups

• Hosted 9 Regional Conferences around the US with 1,100+ unique participants

• Hosted the 4th annual International SFL Conference with 529 attendees, and a filming of the STOSSEL Show that aired on the Fox Business Network on March 31st

• Completed the first year of the Campus Coordinator Program with 24 students serving as CCs to start 143 new pro-liberty student groups throughout the year

• Grew SFL’s Facebook page 153% to over 18,800 fans

• Published SFL’s first book, *The Economics of Freedom*, and distributed 30,000 copies to student groups around the world to educate students about the importance of economics in public policy debates

• Held 29 E-Leadership webinars for over 1,000 unique participants

• Co-sponsored the European Libertarian Student Summit, and SFL’s European Director organized the first European Liberty Conference with over 100 attendees

• Provided 1,112 free books to 73 groups around the world

• Funded 16 student protests against liberty-reducing policies on campuses across the country

• Grew the Alumni For Liberty Board to 12 members and held the first Alumni For Liberty Social at the ISFLC to bring graduating seniors into the alumni network

• Increased full-time staff from 3 to 5

• Published the 3rd Volume of the *Journal of Liberty & Society*
SFL’s philosophy for working with student groups is simple: support as many pro-liberty student groups as possible. This means that whatever name they go by, whatever issues they are particularly passionate about, whatever means of promoting liberty interest them most, we support them. The SFL network is broad-based to promote “Team Liberty.”

In 2008, the inaugural SFL Conference drew a total of 42 pro-liberty student groups. At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, SFL’s network included 109 pro-liberty student groups. The end of the 2009-2010 school year saw SFL reach 290 pro-liberty student groups. At the end of the 2010-2011 school year, SFL’s student group network has grown to 511 student groups.
I went to Princeton in 1969, where they taught me that government could solve the world’s problems. Put the smartest people in a room, give them enough taxpayer money, and they will fix most everything. During those years, I heard nothing about an alternative.

How things have changed!

I recently spent time with several hundred college-aged people at a Students for Liberty conference in Washington, D.C. Here were hundreds of students who actually understand that government creates many of the problems, and freedom – personal and economic liberty – makes things better.

I appeared at the conference along with David Boaz of the Cato Institute. Here are some highlights.

Karina Zannut, a student at American University in Washington, D.C., said, “A lot of my professors seem to think that even when politicians spend money in seemingly wasteful ways, we should be OK with it because every dollar spent is one dollar that goes toward income for an American citizen.”

This is a common canard known as the “broken window” fallacy. The 19th-century French free-market writer Frederic Bastiat exposed it with the story of a boy who breaks a shop window, prompting some townspeople to look at the bright side: fixing the window will stimulate economic activity in the town. The fallacy, of course, is that had the window not been broken, the shopkeeper would have spent the money in more productive ways.

People often commit this fallacy – have a look at what’s being written in the wake of Japan’s tsunami.

Meg Patrick of George Mason University asked about the Austrian business cycle theory. How delightful to meet a student interested in that! This is Ludwig von Mises and F.A. Hayek’s argument that when government inflates the money supply and holds down interest rates to create an economic boom, a bust, or recession, must follow because the prosperity is built on an artificial foundation.

Meg wanted to know if “the injection of fiscal stimulus into the economy (after the bust) disrupts the signals necessary to fix the current problem.”

To which I replied: Sure does. The market is signaling that certain changes are needed, but stimulus spending interferes with those signals. If businesses are not allowed to fail, we don’t get the market feedback we need.

David Boaz added: “If you get drunk, you have a hangover. I’m sure some of you have tried the theory: just keep drinking. But you can’t keep drinking forever.”

Ian Downie from the University of Virginia had a good question about spending: “Our congressional representatives have huge incentives to steal the wealth from the vast majority of the country and funnel it down to their constituents. What kind of systematic changes can we make to stop this perverse incentive machine?”

“The special interests are always there,” Boaz said. “The challenge is to get the public interest -- the taxpayers -- to stick around after the election, to keep putting pressure on. And that is very difficult.”

He went on to say we need constitutional limits on what government can do. We tried that, of course, but too many insiders have an incentive to interpret the limits so broadly that they are hardly limits at all. So government grows.

Grant Babcock, from the University of Pittsburgh, raised a good point: “If government grows in response to crises, what do we do? It seems like there is always another crisis on the horizon. It used to be international communism. Nowadays ... it’s the threat of Islamist fundamentalism. ... Are we trapped?”


Crisis is a friend of the state.

As Boaz pointed out, however, “sometimes there are crises that cause countries to go ... toward less government. New Zealand hit a crisis like that, and they actually reformed their economy. So there’s at least the hope that the next crisis in the United States or Europe will cause people to say: ‘This hasn’t been working. We have to cut back.’”

After spending time with those students, I feel better about the future of America.

March 30, 2011
Townhall.com
By John Stossel

Students on The STOSSEL Show filmed at the 2011 International Students For Liberty Conference

Alexander McCobin and Blayne Bennett

Michelle Fields on America’s Nightly Scoreboard with David Asman

Alexander McCobin and Blayne Bennett on reason.tv: The Growing Libertarian Youth Movement: Q&A with SFL’s Alexander McCobin and Blayne Bennett

John Stossel is host of “Stossel” on the Fox Business Network. He’s the author of “Give Me a Break!” and of “Myth, Lies, and Downright Stupidity.” To find out more about John Stossel, visit his site at johnstossel.com.

Alexander McCobin and Blayne Bennett on reason.tv: The Growing Libertarian Youth Movement: Q&A with SFL’s Alexander McCobin and Blayne Bennett

Michelle Fields on America’s Nightly Scoreboard with David Asman
Young Libertarian Activists Point Way to Freedom’s Future

By: Gene Healy | Examiner Columnist | 02/21/11 9:05 PM

Two weeks ago, trend-spotting journalists descended on the Conservative Political Action Conference to cover the controversy over the inclusion of a homosexual group, GOProud, and speculate about what it all meant for the future of the American Right.

Last weekend, there was another important gathering here in D.C. that most of them missed: the 2011 Students for Liberty conference. Founded in 2008, SFL is a nationwide network of student groups dedicated to reducing state power and promoting freedom.

This year’s conference brought over 500 college-age libertarian activists to George Washington University, and SFL had to turn away scores more for lack of space.

I attended both CPAC and the SFL conference, and what I saw suggests that the future of the limited government movement will be libertarian, not conservative.

The rap on this year’s CPAC, according to social conservatives -- many of whom stayed home for fear of catching gay cooties -- is that Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, spoiled the party by crashing it with nearly 1,000 freedom-loving young people.

“They should have their own conference and let all the pot smokers and gay marriage supporters come and crash it with nearly 1,000 freedom-loving young people,” conservative talk-radio host Kevin McCullough wailed in an unintentionally hilarious FoxNews.com column, “Disrespectful Libertarians Hijack CPAC.”

Yet there was plenty of Old Guard ideology on display, as evidenced by CPAC’s decision to give former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld the “Defender of the Constitution” award.

Kids today tend to forget that back in 2003, Saddam Hussein had the U.S. Constitution completely surrounded before Rummy sent in 150,000 American troops to break the siege. That’s probably why the brats booed when Dick Cheney took the stage to introduce Rumsfeld, and, why, ignoring the advice of their elders, they gave Paul his second CPAC straw-poll victory in a row.

Examiner Columnist Gene Healy is a vice president at the Cato Institute and the author of “The Cult of the Presidency.”

Conservatives complained that the Paul camp subsidized student attendance at the conference -- but since when has getting organized counted as cheating in politics? (Is there something stopping theocons from funding the Huckabee Youth?)

“I’m not a Ron Paul supporter, but he energized kids,” CPAC organizer David Keene observed.

Energized kids turned out en masse for last weekend’s SFL conference as well, where they heard from former New Mexico governor and likely presidential candidate Gary Johnson, among others, and got to participate in a taping of John Stossel’s Fox Business show.

During that show, my colleague David Boaz noted that “This is the largest libertarian student conference I have ever seen in my 30-plus years of activism.” (Full disclosure: my employer, the Cato Institute, sponsored a reception at the conference, and we allow SFL the use of a small office, where you can usually find three eager tykes crammed in among stacks of pizza boxes and subversive literature.)

F’m not as old as David Boaz, but I started my own campus libertarian group in the early ’90s, before Al Gore’s “information superhighway” had come online. Back then, we considered ourselves lucky when we could get a couple of dozen socially awkward malcontents together to grumble about the government.

Maybe that’s why I found the crowd at GW so impressive. The students at the SFL conference were extraordinarily well-read, highly motivated--and shockingly normal.

Like most in their generation, they had little use for bloody foreign entanglements or the culture-war battles of the past. They’re focused instead on the bloated entitlement state that threatens to consume their future. It’s a challenge they greet with a spirit of optimism, determined not to let the crisis go to waste.

As SFL founder Alexander McCobin put it in his speech: “It’s a great time to be young libertarian.”
Outside of conferences, SFL’s primary means of communicating with student leaders are via our website and Facebook. With the addition of a full-time Communications Manager, SFL increased engagement with our audience by ramping up the content on SFL’s blog and advertising on Facebook.

**Website**

SFL’s website traffic rose an astounding 136% since last year. June 2011 drew the most traffic with over 36,000 views of the site, and not a single month dipped below 18,000 views within the last year.

In addition to posting about pro-liberty opportunities available to students, the SFL blog featured more original thought pieces from our leaders and the students in our network than in years past. One mini-series was called “Lessons in Liberty” and featured a new term each week in order to demystify the rhetoric used in the liberty movement.

Another mini-series called “Little Guides to Big Ideas” summarized the writings and contributions of some of the liberty movement’s forefathers. The combination of event and resource posts mixed in with original opinion pieces has helped cultivate a strong blog following.
The majority of college students are on Facebook, so it is important for SFL to have a large presence to reach new pro-liberty students and to develop our relationships with students already in our network. A Facebook advertising campaign beginning in May 2010 and running through September was critical to increasing the number of students exposed to SFL resources and conferences. Due to the success of last year’s campaign, SFL started running Facebook advertisements again in early June 2011.

SFL is not increasing fans just to have numbers to brag about; the fans of SFL on Facebook engage in discussion and debate, learn about additional opportunities available to pro-liberty students, and strengthen relationships amongst each other. The internet has been an incredible tool to minimize the isolation so often felt by libertarian students on progressive college campuses. Students are sharing strategies and encouraging each other in their fight for liberty.

In the coming year, SFL will also develop a stronger presence on alternative social media sites such as Twitter and Tumblr.
**Alexander McCobin**  
*President & Executive Director*  
Alexander recognized the formal principles of his beliefs after reading Atlas Shrugged in ninth grade. During college at the University of Pennsylvania, Alexander began the University of Pennsylvania Libertarian Association to promote discussion and education of libertarian ideas on campus and expand his horizons regarding the power of the message of liberty. In May 2008, Alexander graduated from Penn with a B.A. in philosophy and economics and an A.M. in philosophy. He spent the following year working as a Koch Associate at the Cato Institute focused on marketing and development. He is currently pursuing his PhD in philosophy at Georgetown. After 3 years of pro bono work for SFL, Alexander became a full-time staff member in his role as SFL’s Executive Director.

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**Sloane Frost**  
Sloane graduated from the University of Chicago in June with a Masters in Public Policy and certificate in Health Administration and Policy. She became interested in liberty after studying the relationship between economics and government in high school and particularly while studying health care during her undergraduate career at Cornell University. Before entering graduate school, Sloane served with City Year, an AmeriCorps program, where she saw first-hand the need for many policy reforms. As Alexander becomes a full-time employee of SFL, Sloane is deeply honored to assume chairmanship of SFL’s Board of Directors.

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**Samuel Eckman**  
Samuel graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008 with a B.S. in Economics and a B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science. In the summer of 2007, he worked in Washington, DC as a Koch Summer Fellow and spent the next two years working as a Legal Research Aide for Senator Arlen Specter. Samuel will begin his 2L year at the University of Chicago Law School this fall, where he is a member of the Federalist Society and Edmund Burke Society, and a Research Assistant to Professor Richard Epstein.

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LEADERSHIP

Ankur Chawla
Ankur is a senior at the University of California San Diego studying Political Theory and History. Ankur became interested in the ideas of liberty in high school and then became passionate about the ideas in college. After realizing that liberty was a powerful message among students, Ankur established a pro-liberty group on his campus in his second year at university. Ankur joined the Executive Board of Students For Liberty in June 2010 after being blown away by the quality and the success of the 2010 International Students For Liberty Conference in DC.

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Carlo Cordasco
Carlo began studying classical liberalism at the age of 16 after reading Human Action by Mises. Carlo founded the Italian Students for Individual Liberty and the Italian Hayek Association. He was the editor-in-chief of the 2010 and 2011 Journal of Liberty and Society, and he is a research fellow at the Tocqueville-Acton Institute.

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Dennis Craig
Dennis is an undergraduate at The George Washington University where he is pursuing a degree in International Affairs. Dennis was a leader in the Temple Libertarians at Temple University before transferring to The George Washington University where he founded the Liberty Society; an academic organization dedicated to promoting individual, economic, civil, and political liberties.

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Alexander Falkenstein
Alexander was first introduced to the Austrian School of Economics after reading The Road to Serfdom. Experiences both inside and outside the classroom have strengthened his desire to fight for liberty. Alexander joined the SFL Executive Board for the 2009-2010 school year after starting the ASU Students For Liberty and is excited to return. Alexander has been a critical figure in promoting liberty in the West and is looking forward to strengthening the liberty movement even more this year.

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Anton Howes
Anton studies War Studies and History at King’s College London. He is a research associate for the Adam Smith Institute, member of the Adam Smith Institute’s The Next Generation committee, and founder and director of SFL’s British equivalent, the Liberty League. Anton’s work as an advocate for liberty has led to his appearance in a number of prominent media outlets, including the BBC, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, The Independent, The Vibe, The Australian, Liberal Conspiracy, Liberal Vision, and ConservativHome.

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Jennifer Jones
Jennifer is an undergraduate student studying International Relations and History at Salem College. She is the co-founder and President of Salem College Young Americans for Liberty, member of LOLA, and volunteer for Campaign for Liberty. She was also a Students For Liberty Campus Coordinator before joining the Executive Board.

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Andrew Kaluza
Andrew is the founder and former president of Young Americans for Liberty at University of Texas at San Antonio. He is the Student Liaison to College Campuses in the Republican Freedom Coalition of Bexar County (formerly known as the Republican Liberty Caucus of Bexar County). Andrew was a Students For Liberty Campus Coordinator before joining the Executive Board and is looking forward to continuing to further the philosophy of liberty.

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Pericles Niarchos
Pericles is currently a senior at Drexel University studying History and Politics. In an attempt to help develop his own beliefs and awaken others to the underlying issues of society, Pericles joined the Student Liberty Front at Drexel. Through his efforts, Pericles refined his knowledge of the free market and voluntary human action and went to work spreading the message of freedom in the Philadelphia area. Pericles is currently working on multiple unique projects to help bring about the ideas of individual liberty in addition to his work for Students For Liberty.

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Liya Palagashvili

Liya became interested in the principles of liberty and free markets through the writings of F.A. Hayek and Henry Hazlitt during her first economics class in high school. Liya recently graduated with a B.S. in Economics and is currently pursuing a Masters in Economics at George Mason University. During her undergraduate career, Liya was the President of the GMU Economics Society and member of the GMU Students for Liberty. She was a Koch Summer Fellow in 2009 and has previously interned at the Institute for Justice, Foundation for Economic Education, the Institute for Humane Studies, and Citizens Against Government Waste.

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Frederik Roeder

Fred loves pro-liberty activism and is also an advocate for free-market health care reform. He is a junior-scholar of the Hayek Foundation in Germany, which provides an academic forum for young Austrian Economists and Classical Liberals. Fred loves to combine his two major passions: liberty and traveling. You will most likely see him somewhere in Europe, North America or Asia working with libertarian friends there, planning new activism groups, and brainstorming about business ideas in emerging markets.

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Clint Townsend

Clint is a rising senior at the University of North Texas studying economics and political science. Since the 2008 banking crisis, his interests have been in monetary and banking policy. As a community organizer for liberty, his passions are student organizing and advocacy of the Hayekian model of social change. After graduation, Clint hopes to perform graduate work in economics at George Mason University. In the long term, Clint plans to join in the battle of ideas by working in public policy.

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Brandon Wasicsko

Brandon is a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University majoring in Economics. His involvement in the liberty movement stems from a course taken during his second year of college, “The Moral Foundations of Capitalism,” in which he was exposed to the writings of Ayn Rand, Ludwig von Mises, and F.A. Hayek. For SFL, he organizes regional conferences, assists in the planning and execution of various other projects, and is the Editor-in-Chief for our undergraduate academic journal, the Journal of Liberty & Society. Since his course on the morality of capitalism, Brandon has pursued the study of Objectivism, including interning at the Ayn Rand Institute.

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Karina Zannat
Karina is an undergraduate pursuing a double major in Economics and International Politics at The American University. Karina was a staunch supporter of socialism, but became interested in the ideas of liberty after reading the works of Bill Easterly & Hernando de Soto on how free markets can allow the disadvantaged in developing societies obtain better standards of living. Karina aims to spread the ideas of liberty by making the case for libertarianism as humanism and hopes to someday be a second hand dealer in ideas on a global scale.
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Clark Ruper
Vice President
Clark is a University of Michigan alumnus where he took campus leadership roles with the UM Young Americans for Freedom, College Libertarians, and Students of Objectivism. Before SFL, he worked for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, The Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, and FreedomWorks. Clark joined SFL in June 2009 as Program Manager and has played a pivotal role in SFL’s growth since then, leading to his current position as Vice President.

Peter Neiger
Internal Operations Manager
Peter is an alumnus of The College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, where he held several leadership positions in the Student Government Association, Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, and Phi Gamma Delta. Prior to college Peter served for four years in the United States Army as an Infantry Paratrooper where he was deployed to two combat environments. After college, Peter participated in the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation Associate Program where he worked for the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.
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Kelly Jemison
Program Manager
Kelly graduated from James Madison University in May 2010 with a double major in Economics and International Affairs and an area focus in the Middle East. After reading Atlas Shrugged in high school, she attended an IHS seminar that inspired her to take on the cause of liberty. Kelly teamed up with fellow students to co-found Madison Liberty. Before joining SFL’s staff as Program Manager, Kelly was on the SFL Executive Board.

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Molly Fratianne
Communications Manager

Molly graduated from Ashland University in May 2010 with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy as well as a minor in Electronic Media Productions. After attending an IHS seminar and the 3rd annual International Students For Liberty Conference, she decided to head up the chartering process for a pro-liberty group at her school. She was a member of the inaugural class of SFL Campus Coordinators and the Master of Ceremonies for the 4th annual ISFLC, which she describes as the “highlight of her life”. Molly interned at IHS during the summer of 2010 and is currently involved in the Koch Associate Program while working for SFL.

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LEADERSHIP

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

Dr. Nigel Ashford, Institute for Humane Studies

David Boaz, Cato Institute

Dr. Tyler Cowen, George Mason University

Matt Harrison, Prometheus Institute

Gary Johnson, Our America Initiative

Dr. Alan Charles Kors, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Jo Kwong, Philanthropy Roundtable

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

Michelle Muccio

Dr. Tom Palmer, Atlas Economic Research Foundation

Lawrence W. Reed, Foundation for Economic Education

Dr. C. Bradley Thompson, Clemson University

Professor Eugene Volokh, University of California, Los Angeles
In the 2010-2011 school year, SFL piloted the Campus Coordinator (CC) Program. The purpose of this program is to train already proven student leaders to start new pro-liberty student groups in their areas and help grow existing groups. While much of SFL’s support has historically relied upon virtual interactions (such as our website, Facebook, email, teleconferences, webinars, etc.), the CC Program provides on-the-ground support for students that virtual communication cannot replicate. CCs serve as libertarian community organizers, building the student movement for liberty in their areas by starting and growing liberty groups and activities. 24 CCs completed the program in its first year, collectively beginning 143 new student groups for SFL’s network and helping sustain many more student groups already in SFL’s network.

Due to the success of the CC Program’s first year, SFL has selected 58 CCs for the 2011-2012 school year. Since May, these CCs have participated in a rigorous training curriculum with monthly readings and weekly webinars on topics ranging from “The History of SFL” and “How to Run a Regional Conference” to “How to Hold a Successful Event on Campus.” The training will culminate in a weekend retreat in Washington, DC where CCs will meet one another in person for the first time and complete their training. For the 2011-2012 school year, each CC will be responsible for approximately 10 campuses in their surrounding areas where they will identify pro-liberty students, support the founding of new pro-liberty student groups, and generally help spread the message of liberty on campus.
Carlos Alfaro, Arizona State University
Judith Ayers, York College of Pennsylvania
Aaron Baca, University of North Texas
Preston Bates, University of Louisville
Mark Benfield, Mercer College
Joseph Berger, College of Charleston
Gregory Burr, Rutgers University
Javonni Butler, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
Justin Clements, University of Washington, Seattle
Alexander Cooper, Pepperdine University
Moriah Costa, Arizona State University
Jason Cowen, Oklahoma City Community College
David Deerson, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Christine-Marie Dixon, Madonna University (Michigan)
Christopher Eager, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Erin Ferraris, McGill University
Adam Fletcher, Texas State University
James Forbes, University of Lethbridge
Morgan Freeman, San Houston State University
Casey Given, University of California - Berkeley
Kelli Gulite, George Washington University
Alexander Habighorst, Mississippi State University
Taylor Harris, Pepperdine University
Kara Henderson, University of California - San Diego
Anthony Hennen, Ohio University
Jason Hensley, University of Texas, San Antonio
KJ Herr, Texas Lutheran University
Justin Hinh, Utah State University

Todd Hollenbeck, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
Stuart Hughes, University of South Dakota
Riley Inks, Texas State University
Bryant Jackson-Green, University of Chicago
Kolin Karchon, Michigan State University
Brad Kells, Michigan State University
Chelsea Krafve, Pepperdine University
Stacy Litz, Drexel University
Alex McHugh, American University
James McKibbin, University of Pittsburgh
Dana Modzelewski, Harvard University
Natasha Montague, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Simeon Morris, University of California - San Diego
Matt Needham, Michigan State University
Jose Nino, University of Texas-Austin
Jeremy Orbach, Northern Illinois University
Dan Osborne, Queens University (Ontario)
James Padilioni Jr., West Chester University
Brad Peterson, Temple University
Hoa Phan, San Jose State University
Luke Ripp, Marquette University School of Law
Megan Roberts, University of Missouri
Amanda Scales, University of California - Davis
Matt Schmitto, Texas State University
Brodie Sharp, University of Missouri - Kansas City
Luis Silva-Bell, Universidad Metropolitana (Venezuela)
Abhi Sivasailam, University of Missouri
Dan Suraci, Boston University
William Tew, University of Florida
Kaitlin Williams, Salem College
In Fall 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. Even locations where SFL had previously held Regional Conferences saw incredible growth, both in the number of attendees and the number of schools represented at each conference, proving that SFL’s reach is broadening.

David Simpson, a freshman legislator in the Texas House of Representatives, attended the SFL Texas Regional Conference to learn from speakers and meet students. Inspired by what he saw, Mr. Simpson introduced legislation to allow individuals who possess a concealed handgun license to carry handguns on university campuses just two days after the conference concluded. In a note to SFL after the event, Mr. Simpson had this to say: “Thank you for making this available to “students”, including a freshman Texas legislator. Much appreciated.”

Regional Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>2010</td>
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Conference Attendees

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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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Schools Represented

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<td>2010</td>
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Average Conference Attendance

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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Largest Conference:

- Columbia University (2010: 1133 Attendees)

Smallest Conference:

- University of California-Berkeley (2010: 101 Attendees)
**MID-ATLANTIC SFL CONFERENCE**
162 Attendees
50 Schools

**MIDWEST SFL CONFERENCE**
165 Attendees
57 Schools

**SOUTHWEST SFL CONFERENCE**
103 Attendees
17 Schools
NEW YORK SFL CONFERENCE
183 Attendees
25 Schools

SOUTHEAST SFL CONFERENCE
118 Attendees
35 Schools

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SFL CONFERENCE
103 Attendees
24 Schools
TEXAS SFL CONFERENCE
111 Attendees
22 Schools

NORTHEAST SFL CONFERENCE
113 Attendees
42 Schools

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
SFL CONFERENCE
101 Attendees
24 Schools
2011
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY
CONFERENCE

(GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
FEBRUARY 18-20)
The International Students For Liberty Conference (ISFLC) is the largest gathering of pro-liberty students in the world and the premiere event of the year for all students dedicated to liberty. The first ISFLC was held at Columbia University in February, 2008, with a total of 100 students in attendance. This year, at the 4th Annual ISFLC, we brought over 500 students to George Washington University in Washington DC to learn about the meaning of liberty and effective practices at advancing liberty.

**ISFLC Attendees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>153</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>529</td>
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**Partial List of Speakers:**

- **John Stossel**, The STOSSEL Show
- **David Boaz**, The Cato Institute
- **Dr. Tyler Cowen**, George Mason University, *Keynote*
- **Megan McArdle**, The Atlantic, *Keynote*
- **Dr. Bryan Caplan**, George Mason University
- **Gary Johnson**, Former Governor of New Mexico
- **Shikha Dalmia**, Reason Foundation
- **Chandler Galt**, Independent Institute
- **Brian Aitken**, *New Jersey v. Brian Aitken* (2nd Amendment Rights)
- **Adam Kissel**, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
- **Dr. James W. Lark, III**, University of Virginia
- **Sharon Presley**, Association of Libertarian Feminists

**Also Featuring:**

- **Cato Policy Track** on Liberty and Public Policy
- **Foundation for Economic Education Track** on Austrian Economics
- **Institute for Humane Studies Track** on Ideas and Liberty
- **Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation Track** on Professional Development

**Sneak Preview of the Atlas Shrugged Movie**

**Feature Video on reason.tv**

**123 Schools and 11 Countries Represented**
2011 SFL Awards

The Students For Liberty Awards are an annual tradition that SFL uses to highlight the best work students do to promote liberty throughout the year, both in recognition of their tremendous success and to serve as an inspiration for students everywhere in future endeavors for liberty.

Student Event of the Year

*University of Nevada Reno Students For Liberty – Abolish ASUN Festival*

The UNR Students for Liberty grew tired of the wasteful status quo of their student government, the ASUN. So, they came up with a simple idea to fight back: show other students just how wasteful the student government is. The UNR SFL members mastered the bureaucracy so they could obtain as much funding as possible. Then in deciding what to spend it on, they asked themselves, in the words of UNR SFL member John Russell, “What are the most ridiculous things we can buy with other students’ money?” The answer: a festival. Not just any festival, but an Abolish the ASUN festival. It would have pizza. It would have a bounce house. It would have a mechanical bull. And it would have ponies. Yes, ponies. By truthfully wasting funds, and sharing that waste with as many people as they could, the UNR SFL was able to show the nature and reality of governmental systems to the thousands of students at UNR.

Student of the Year

*Michelle Fields, Pepperdine University*

Michelle is the president of the Pepperdine College Libertarians. The Pepperdine Libertarians witnessed huge growth this past year, due largely to Michelle’s dedication. Her group’s most noted accomplishment was the creation of a Free Speech Wall on campus where students could freely express their views at a school often hostile to open expression. A rogue student tore down the wall, which galvanized the campus community and brought groups like the College Republicans and College Democrats together to help re-build the wall.

Michelle is an SFL Campus Coordinator and was a primary organizer for the 2010 Southern California Students For Liberty Regional Conference, the first of its kind. Michelle’s work as a Campus Coordinator has led to her being interviewed by reason.tv, Fox Business Network’s *America’s Nightly Scoreboard* and *FreedomWatch*.

Student Group of the Year

*University of California, Berkeley Students For Liberty*

The Cal Berkeley SFL thrives on one of the most statist campuses in the country. They take on the left by hosting events, such as a debate with the College Democrats over gun rights, but are just as willing to take on other issues. They hold many provocative events to stand out and appeal to a liberal community. Last spring they hosted libertarian activist Starchild on the struggle to decriminalize sex work, organized a 4/20 event with the SSDP chapter, hosted a 4-Loko prohibition party to protest against a potential ban on the drink, and hosted the 1st annual Northern California Students For Liberty Conference, the first of its kind and a milestone for the region.
Participating Organizations

One of the ISFLC’s best features is the opportunity for students and organizations dedicated to liberty to be in the same place at the same time and network with one another. This year, 32 pro-liberty organizations sponsored or tabled at the ISFLC, more than any ISFLC before.

Gold Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

Bronze Sponsors

Liberty Fair Exhibitors

* A Generation Awakes
* Americans for Tax Reform
* Antiwar.com
* Ayn Rand Institute
* Bureaucrash
* Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation
* Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

Language of Liberty Institute
* Lampoon the System
* Moving Picture Institute
* National Taxpayers Union
* Libertarian Party
* Liberty on the Rocks
* Reason Foundation
* Reason, Individualism, Freedom Institute

State Policy Network
* Students for a Free Economy
* Students for Sensible Drug Policy
* Tax Foundation
* The Atlas Society
* Young Americans for Liberty
One of the problems the student movement for liberty has always faced is the physical distance between the many students and groups dedicated to liberty. The often vast geographic separation between colleges makes it difficult for students to communicate with each other and enhances the feeling of isolation that pro-liberty students feel on their home campuses.

The SFL E-Leadership Series addresses this problem by utilizing innovative communication technology to connect students to each other and to the leaders of the liberty movement. We utilize a “webinar”, or web-based seminar, format that allows students all over the country to hear from leading figures of liberty and interact with them in a question and answer session at the end of the speaker’s presentation.

With weekly webinars, SFL reached an unprecedented number of students. In total, there were 29 webinars this school year and 1,516 individual students who attended our webinars this year from schools as far apart as the University of Idaho and Free University of Brussels. The average number of attendees per webinar was 52 students.

Top 10 Webinars of 2010-11

- May 11th: “Lest We Forget: Lessons of Soviet Socialism for Our Own Times”
  Speaker: Richard Ebeling - Northwood University
  Total Attendees: 52

- April 6th: “Political Economy and Economic Imperialism: Why Economics is Necessary for Understanding the World”
  Speaker: Nikolai Wenzai - Hillsdale College
  Total Attendees: 53

- September 6th: “Poverty, Prosperity, and Economic Freedom”
  Speaker: Dr. Matt Mitchell - Harvard University
  Total Attendees: 56

- April 27th: “Privatize the Roads”
  Speaker: Walter Block and Dan D’amico
  Total Attendees: 71

- May 4th: “The Structure of Libertarian Argument and Liberty as a World-Wide Phenomenon”
  Speaker: Tom Palmer - Atlas Economic Research Foundation
  Total Attendees: 72

- September 20th: “The Language of Liberty: Improving the Rhetorical Skills of Liberty Activists”
  Speaker: Dr. James W. Lark, III - University of Virginia
  Total Attendees: 80

- November 8th: “The Failure of the ‘Market Failure’ Argument”
  Speaker: Dr. John Hasnas - Georgetown University
  Total Attendees: 84

  Speaker: Steve Horwitz - St. Lawrence University
  Total Attendees: 88

- October 18th: “Substantive Criticisms of the Libertarian Perspective”
  Speaker: Dr. James W. Lark, III - University of Virginia
  Total Attendees: 100

- May 18th: “Anarchy and Efficient Law”
  Speaker: David Friedman - Santa Clara University
  Total Attendees: 161

Location of Participants

- Algeria
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- China
- Columbia
- Czech Republic
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Ghana
- India
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Italy
- Liberia
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Panama
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- The Gambia
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Venezuela
This fall SFL embarked on a bold, new initiative in conjunction with the Atlas Economic Research Foundation – The Bastiat Project. The goal was to confront the myriad of economic fallacies popular on college campuses, from cash for clunkers to the value of trade restrictions, by re-introducing the works of the famous 19th century political economist Frederic Bastiat. The project consisted of two phases: a book and an essay contest.

SFL and Atlas published a new book, *The Economics of Freedom: What Your Professors Won’t Tell You*. The book featured a collection of Bastiat’s best essays, including such classics as “What is Seen and What is Not Seen” and “A Petition”, along with contemporary essays by Nobel Laureate F.A. Hayek and Atlas Foundation Vice President Tom G. Palmer. We distributed 30,000 of these books to 116 student groups across the world, who in turn distributed them to their fellow students.

The Contest

The second phase was the Bastiat’s Legacy Essay Contest. The purpose of the contest was for students who read the book to internalize the lessons of Bastiat and then synthesize their own arguments applied to current public policy issues.

We received many quality entries, but the following individuals wrote essays that really stood out from the rest.

**Grand Prize**

Kelly Tian, University of Chicago

**2nd Place**

Evan Soltas, Phillips Exeter Academy

**Runners Up**

George Edwards, Indiana University Kokomo
Stephen Palubinski, American University
Theodore Phalan, George Mason University
Jasmine Whiting, American University
Ian Hosking, George Mason University
Meg Patrick, George Mason University
Michael Booher, East Tennessee State University
Matthew McKillip, Georgetown University
The Free Books Project provides pro-liberty student groups with books written by some of the most eloquent advocates of liberty so that students themselves can provide a forum for the discussion of these ideas. In 2010-2011, we brought the following 9 titles to student groups all over the world:

Frederic Bastiat, Economic Harmonies
Frederic Bastiat, Economic Sophisms
Frederic Bastiat, Selected Essays on Political Economy
Henry Hazlitt, The Foundations of Morality
James Doti and Dwight Lee, Market Economy: A Reader
Leonard E. Read, Anything That’s Peaceful
Ludwig von Mises, Marxism Unmasked
Ludwig von Mises, The Free Market and its Enemies
Louis Carabini, Inclined to Liberty

SFL distributed 1,112 books to 73 pro-liberty groups across the country and around the world. Student groups reported that they utilized the books in three different ways:

- A point of focus for group discussions in club meetings
- Incorporation into the curriculum of regular reading groups
- Building up club libraries

Free Books Project Growth

Number of Student Groups Participating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009-10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
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Number of Books Distributed

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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>1112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student protests are some of the most important forms of student activism since they are extremely visible, have high rewards for minimal costs, and are extremely fun. What’s more, student protests archetypically represent the collegiate experience. Unfortunately, most people automatically associate student protests with statism. To challenge such statist voices on campus, SFL’s Student Protest resources empower students in a decentralized manner to hold protests for liberty. For groups that want to take the fight against government growth to the streets, this is the program for them.

This year SFL received 22 requests and provided 16 grants. The Protest Grant project includes a number of resources available for students interested in hosting protests on campus.

### Protest Grants Growth

**Number of Grants Requested**

<table>
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**Number of Grants Provided**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>16</td>
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</table>

### American University Students For Liberty Freedom Fair Free Speech Wall

AUSFL hosted an end-of-the-semester Freedom Fair event complete with a moon bounce, cotton candy, snow cones, a giant Nolan Chart to track the results of students taking the World’s Smallest Political Quiz, and a target game where students aimed water balloons at the faces of five historical dictators. There was also a 14-foot wide Free Speech Wall where students on campus could express themselves freely and anonymously.

By focusing on the themes of freedom, individual rights, and freedom of speech, they were able to obtain co-sponsorship from six other organizations on campus and attract a large variety of students AUSFL would typically not reach.
In June 2010 the second volume of the *Journal of Liberty and Society* was published. This peer and professor reviewed academic journal accepts papers from all disciplines and all perspectives related to liberty. The *Journal* has continued the tradition developed during its inaugural year of providing papers that cover a diverse range of topics from the government’s distortion of scientific research to a Kantian outline of liberty. The *Journal of Liberty and Society* is an unparalleled tool to support student development of the intellectual underpinnings of liberty.

The Prometheus Institute Prizes are special awards given by the Prometheus Institute that recognize authors who demonstrate the most innovative approaches to promoting the ideas of liberty. These prizes are intended to discover and reward the most creative young thinkers and writers in the movement. The Top Paper in the *Journal of Liberty and Society* received $500. The Honorable Mentions received $100. All three winners were invited to join the Prometheus Institute staff for the Fall 2010 semester.

**Top Paper**

*Freedom and Free Will in the Early Thought of Karl Rahner SI (1904-1984)*  
Luca Gili, Scuola Normale Superiore

**Honorable Mentions**

*Liberty and Right, A Kantian Outline*  
Osvaldo Ottaviani, Scuola Normale Superiore

*Inventing “Truth”: A Defense of John Locke in Light of Garry Wills' Inventing America*  
Richard Tracy, Seton Hall University

**Other Published Papers**

*Man’s Mind: Malthus’ Missing Mark*  
Daniel Rigby, Florida Gulf Coast University

*Science and the Free Market: How Government Distorts Scientific Research through Public Funding*  
Norman Horn, University of Texas

*The Role of Government in the Black Power Movement*  
Stacy Litz, Drexel University

*Withholding Tax: An Italian Case*  
Antonio Usai, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies

*What Libertarians Should Learn From Radical Socialists*  
Ross Kenyon, Arizona State University
In the 2008-2009 year, SFL raised approximately $50,000 and had approximately $30,000 in expenses. In the 2009-2010 year, SFL raised approximately $200,000 and had approximately $150,000 in expenses. As the unaudited financial information detailed below illustrates, SFL more than doubled our budget from the previous year. The continual growth of SFL in all areas has laid the foundations for us to continue growing our budget, and so our impact on students, in the forthcoming 2011-2012 year. SFL’s fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30.

On principle, SFL does not solicit or accept any government contributions. We are primarily funded by individuals and foundations that support the cause of liberty. The information below does not include in-kind support.

Thank you to all of SFL’s supporters who make the work depicted in this report possible.

### Income

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### Expenses

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Students For Liberty is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a unified, student-driven forum of support for students and student organizations dedicated to liberty.