

THE ATLAS ECONOMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Atlas

FALL 2008

YEAR-IN-REVIEW



The Atlas Economic Research Foundation works with think tanks and individuals around the world to advance a vision of a society of free and responsible individuals, based upon private property rights, limited government under the rule of law and the market order. Atlas is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is supported solely by donations from individuals, foundations and corporations.

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A Year at Atlas

The Atlas Network Touches 100 Countries

The core of Atlas's work involves assisting an ever-growing family of think tanks and intellectual entrepreneurs that share an appreciation for the principles of a free society. It is an incredibly diverse network of organizations – some are relied upon by government leaders for advice, some endure government harassment as the price of acting on their own beliefs. In 2008, Atlas reached a milestone of having think tank allies and promising intellectual entrepreneurs in 100 different countries around the globe.

Bill Sumner Closes 20 Years as Atlas Chairman

In November 2008, Bill Sumner stepped down from his post of Chairman of the Atlas Board of Directors. He became Chairman after the death of Atlas's founding President and Chairman, Sir Antony Fisher, in 1988. In the intervening 20 years, the Atlas network has expanded worldwide, and the breadth and depth of Atlas's programs has increased with it.

Linda Fisher Whetstone remarked, "Bill Sumner gave great support and encouragement to my father as he founded and developed Atlas, and it is a tribute to Bill that, throughout his years as chairman, Atlas has grown and prospered. You only have to look at the number of think tanks that were on the Atlas radar screen when Bill became chairman, and the number now, to see how much has been achieved under his chairmanship. A charming and unequivocal proponent of freedom, Bill has missed no opportunity to make the case for Atlas and its mission in his inimitable, thoughtful, and witty way."

She continued, "The point when a founder gives up leadership of an organization is a dangerous moment, at which many fail to maintain their momentum, so all of us at Atlas owe Bill a debt of gratitude. During his watch, Atlas made that change and has continued to identify, encourage and develop brave and dedicated people across the world, who promote our vision of a free and responsible society."

Newly-elected chairman Dan Grossman also thanked Bill for his strong leadership over the years: "Atlas has an incredibly important mission, and it certainly has been well-served during the chairmanship of Bill Sumner. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue building on this record of success, and look forward to Bill's continued counsel as a member of our Board going forward."



Bill Sumner (right) with Atlas President Alex Chafuen.



The Atlas Staff of 2008 (left to right): Rómulo Lopez, Whitney Garrison, Luke Seidl, Allegra Hewell, Joseph Humire, Jo Kwong, William Arnold, Yiqiao Xu, Alex Chafuen, Eva Andraskova, Brad Lips, Cindy Cerquitella, Leonard Liggio, Priscilla Tacujan, Bill Dennis, Colleen Dyble, Ziba Ayeen.

A Message to Supporters of Atlas

In July, one of our key benefactors, Sir John Templeton, passed away at the age of 94. You probably are aware of Sir John's remarkable careers as an investor and philanthropist, but it is most important to know the spirit with which he engaged each day of his life. When we asked a few years ago for his assistance in a fundraising campaign, he generously wrote a message on our behalf, concluding: *"If you permit Atlas to enlist you as a sponsor, this can be a blessing for all humanity for future centuries!"*

In this effusive declaration, you can get a sense of Sir John's love of freedom and his ceaseless optimism.

And indeed – even during a year when advocates of limited government, individual liberty, and free enterprise have seemed on the defensive, here in the U.S. and in too many countries around the world – there are very good reasons for optimism. They radiate from the pages of this Year-in-Review report.

You see optimism in the eyes of the young "intellectual entrepreneurs" that derive so much value from Atlas's networking and training programs. At our Liberty Forum, they discover a worldwide network of people who are devoting their lives to spreading freedom. At our Think Tank MBA program, they hone the skills that will move their ideas to implementation.

You see it in the pride of think tank leaders that have had an impact in the lives of citizens. Because of the National Center for Policy Analysis, 12 million families

in the U.S. are managing personal health savings accounts. Because of the work of Instituto de Libertad y Democracia, countries all over the world are focusing on simplifying regulations for "doing business." In India, the Centre for Civil Society has campaigned to create school voucher programs at the state government level that are helping 40,000 children attend better schools.

You see it in the defiance of many Atlas partners that take risks each day to advance the ideas of liberty. Atilla Yayla, from Turkey, confronted the threat of jail time for exercising his right of free expression: "No matter how much they try to suppress



From Alejandro A. Chafuen and Bradley A. Lips



A Message to Supporters of Atlas (continued)

me, I will defend my ideas. Because I love Turkey, and I want it to be a civilized country. If there is a price on my part to pay for that, I am ready.” Natasha Srdoc-Samy in Croatia, faces death threats for her institute’s work in uncovering corruption in the EU accession process. And even here in the U.S., allies at universities are putting their careers at risk by developing programs that challenge the left-leaning orthodoxy.

It is our great privilege to work with such inspiring people. We always remember that this privilege is enabled by our supporters who share the love of liberty that is at the heart of Atlas.

As a supporter, you will be gratified to see how Atlas itself has grown over the past 12 months. While the value that Atlas creates is best viewed over the long-term, this year has been a blur of exciting successes.

We launched our biggest-ever grant program, the **Fisher Venture Grants**, which gives a \$100,000 grant opportunity to some of the most promising young think tanks in the world.

We crafted a two-week **Think Tank MBA program** to provide a diverse group of intellectual entrepreneurs with a thorough education in the fundamentals of think tank management.

We have enhanced our **Templeton Freedom Awards** program, which remains the biggest prize program cele-

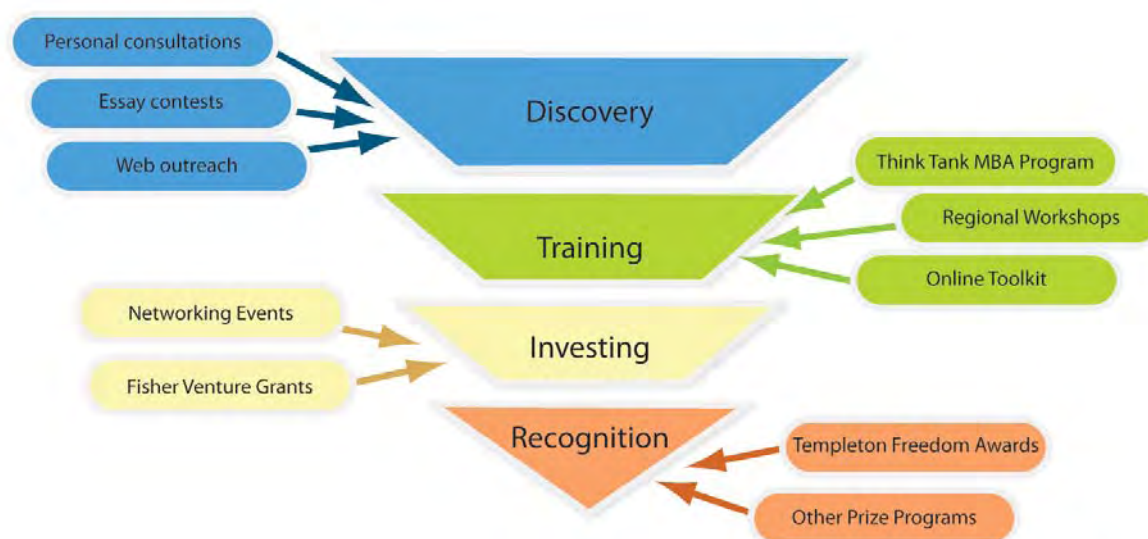


Atlas takes inspiration from partners like the New Economic School of the Republic of Georgia, which remained steadfast in its promotion of liberty despite the turmoil of the Russian invasion this summer. In this photo, Atlas’s Cindy Cerquitella visits with NES President Paata Sheshelidze during the recent European Resource Bank in Tbilisi. NES received a Fisher Venture Grant from Atlas in 2008 in recognition of its achievements in promoting free-market ideas.

brating the accomplishments of the free-market think tank community.

We have complemented our major events in the U.S. (profiled in this report), by sponsoring workshops in other parts of the world to reach greater audiences in a more cost-effective manner.

We are expanding our efforts in the U.S. – working with new startups like the Center for the Study of Carbon and Energy Markets (focusing on the key policy issue of



energy), the Pelican Institute (focusing on the climate of liberty in the state of Louisiana), and the Adam Smith Center at the University of Richmond (exposing students to classical liberal ideas often neglected on American campuses).

We developed new ways for you to stay in touch and involved with Atlas, such as our **AtlasNetwork.org** blog, our **AtlasNetwork.TV** media site, our Atlas Updates emails and weekly audio podcast.

We restructured how we manage our core work of advising intellectual entrepreneurs and strengthening young institutes, so that regional managers work in concert with Atlas senior staff to nurture our ever-expanding network.

What are the sources of all this positive momentum at Atlas?

Well, part of it is the energy and enthusiasm of the people that make up Atlas. We are proud of the talented team that we have on staff and on our board, as well as all the friends and collaborators that make up our informal global network. And we are thankful to all the supporters who give so generously to this cause. Your gifts are enabling the good work you see in this report.

But we should mention a third ingredient as well. That is the Atlas mission. Even with all the innovations that we have mentioned, Atlas remains faithful to its founding principles—principles that remain incredibly well-suited for the challenges of the 21st century.

Atlas's founder, Antony Fisher, had the insight to apply *sound business practices* to the task of developing and disseminating *sound public policies*. He recognized that some individuals – like Milton Friedman or Ronald Reagan – could have a dramatic impact on the world by the force of their intellect, and their powers of persuasion. But he also knew that these are the exceptions. Lasting victories for liberty will require *institutions* that

work in a business-like manner to educate the public and persuade opinion leaders. That is why we work as a catalyst for the development of successful think tanks that will remain faithful to our vision of a society of free and responsible individuals.

Fisher also recognized the value of having a *multiplicity* of independent organizations doing this work at the local level. Institutes are most successful when they are lead by entrepreneurs who belong to the local culture, craft programs accordingly, and build connections with the rest of civil society. For this reason, Atlas's approach – playing a behind-the-scenes, nurturing role to an informal network of like-minded organizations – is very strategic and very cost-effective.

Thanks to you and other supporters of Atlas, we have built a portfolio of programs that add value to all types of participants in our network. From early-stage “discovery” efforts, to programs that train young organizations and prudently give seed grants to the most promising groups, to prize programs that celebrate the success stories that come out of the network – Atlas is making a difference for those who love liberty.

What's more, there is a virtuous cycle to our work. The people who we have helped tend to reciprocate by referring new people to Atlas, or by volunteering to help new contacts that we introduce to them.

We hope you take pride in all the activity that your donations to Atlas put in motion. Each day we are planting seeds to grow a freer, healthier, more peaceful and prosperous future to benefit generations to come. We sincerely thank you for your involvement in this crucial work.



The late Sir John Templeton (1912–2008) partnered with Atlas to teach the world the benefits of free competition.

Think Tank MBA Program

Throughout its history, Atlas has worked to give management training to aspiring intellectual entrepreneurs. We have hosted resident fellows that worked at Atlas to develop knowledge of how think tanks work. We have sponsored hundreds of workshops that have involved sessions related to marketing, fundraising and strategic planning. And of course, Atlas has helped thousands of visitors, callers and e-mailers who sought our advice on aspects of non-profit management.

In 2008, we introduced the new Think Tank MBA, an intensive two-week program that provided in-depth training on management essentials to think tank leaders.

During the program, the twenty-six members of the inaugural TTMBA class worked on group projects, engaged in classroom instruction, heard lectures from outside speakers, completed a TV-training and public speaking workshop at Leadership Institute, visited successful think tanks, and networked with the Washington D.C., policy community. They shared resources over an ongoing “Think Tank MBA wiki” and developed business plans for their own organizations. They also became a tight-knit group of friends –coming from different countries and backgrounds, but sharing a love of liberty and, now, the intense experience of an Atlas Think Tank MBA.

“The past two weeks will be memorable ones for me. Not only for the quality and intensity of the courses and for the fantastic hospitality but also for the talented and motivated people from all over the world that I got to know. I am eager to put into practice all that I have learned and to pursue the exchanges with my fellow classmates. I have the distinct feeling that the MBA Class of 2008 will be a productive one in the battle of ideas that we are all waging. I am grateful to Atlas for having included me in this incredible intellectual feast and to you all for the hard work that made this Think Tank MBA course such a success.”

— **Alphonse Crespo**
(Medicine & Liberty, Switzerland)

Graduates of the 2008 Atlas MBA for Think Tanks

Kwadwo Afari (Citizens Network for Democracy and Economic Development, Ghana)
Khalil Ahmad (Alternate Solutions Institute, Pakistan)
Judith Auma (Inter Region Economic Network, Uganda)
Matt Bufton (Institute for Liberal Studies, Canada)
Brad Bergh (Caesar Rodney Institute, U.S.A.)
Rosamaria Bitetti (Istituto Bruno Leoni, Italy)
Amit Chandra (Centre for Civil Society, India)
Alphonse Crespo (Medicine & Liberty, Switzerland)
D. Dhanuraj (Centre for Public Policy Research, India)
Rand Getlin (Prometheus Institute, U.S.A.)
Matt Harrison (Prometheus Institute, U.S.A.)
Tabriz Jabbarov (Free Minds Association, Azerbaijan)
Biljana Janeva (OHRID Institute, Macedonia)
Thomas David Maqway (Center for Prosperity and Economic Liberty, Tanzania)
Arpita Nepal Samriddhi (The Prosperity Foundation, Nepal)
Mpumelelo (Lelo) Nxumalo (Committee for the Economic Development of Zimbabwe)
Javier Paz (Fundación Nueva Democracia, Bolivia)
Omar Shaban Ismail (PalThink for Strategic Studies, Palestine)
Jim Shaffer (Public Policy Foundation of West Virginia, U.S.A.)
Fernando Staffieri (Fundación Libertad, Argentina)
David Seymour (Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Canada)
Corin Taylor (TaxPayers Alliance, U.K.)
Sugey Tola (Ecuadorian Institute of Political Economy, Ecuador)
Marcin Wegierski (Project Lodz Foundation, Poland)
Randolph Williams (Centre for Policy Initiatives, Guyana)
Batbold Zagdragchaa (New Policy Institute, Mongolia)



Rainer Heufers (left) developed the TTMBA program with Atlas and served as its facilitator. He is pictured here with Amit Chandra (Centre for Civil Society, India).

*For more information about the Atlas MBA for Think Tanks, visit
atlasnetwork.org/TTMBA*



Atlas's Ziba Ayeen provides input on a group project involving Marcin Wegierski (The Projekt Lodz Foundation, Poland), Kwadwo Afari (Citizens Network for Democracy and Economic Development, Ghana), and David Seymour (Frontier Center for Public Policy, Canada).



Atlas trustee, Ambassador Curtin Winsor, greets intellectual entrepreneurs Biljana Janeva (OHRID, Macedonia), Judith Auma (Inter Region Economic Network, Uganda), Sugey Tola (Ecuadorian Institute of Political Economy, Ecuador), Amit Chandra (Centre for Civil Society, India), and Brad Bergh (Caesar Rodney Institute, Delaware). Ambassador Winsor and his wife Ann hosted a dinner for program participants at their lovely home in McLean, Virginia.



As an extension of a group project, David Seymour (Frontier Center for Public Policy, Canada), Biljana Janeva (OHRID Institute, Macedonia), Rosamaria Bitetti (Istituto Bruno Leoni, Italy), and Arpita Nepal Samriddhi (The Prosperity Foundation, Nepal) composed a song about school choice to celebrate Milton Friedman Legacy Day. They enlisted help from Atlas's Brad Lips (guitar) and Stephanie Giovanetti (backing vocals).



Left to Right: Fernando Staffieri (Fundación Libertad, Argentina), Matt Bufton (Institute for Liberal Studies, Canada), Batbold Zagdragchaa (New Policy Institute, Mongolia), and Javier Paz (Fundación Nueva Democracia, Bolivia)



Tabriz Jabbarov (Free Minds Association, Azerbaijan) takes his group's grassroots campaign right outside the White House.



The inaugural class of the Atlas Think Tank MBA hailed from 21 different countries.



Fisher Venture Grants

for Investments in the Future of Liberty

More than 180 think tanks competed to be among the first class of recipients of Dorian & Antony Fisher Venture Grants. The nine institutes listed on the adjacent page were selected because they represent “great investments” for the future of liberty.

Grantees are younger institutes (no more than eight years old) with a track record that suggests a strong potential for improving the climate of ideas among their target audience. This program honors the memory of Atlas’s founders, Sir Antony Fisher and his wife Dorian, who together believed that independent think tanks could produce enormous leverage for changing the climate of

ideas in a country. They saw that investments in emerging think tanks could be extremely cost-effective, especially when complemented with mentoring to further improve those think tanks’ prospects for long-term success.

Atlas structured the Dorian and Antony Fisher Venture Grants program to provide funding to think tanks over a three-year period, during which time Atlas will be in frequent contact to help develop plans and to monitor performance. Half of each grant is structured as a “matching program,” to provide strong incentive for think tanks to attract new local supporters for their important work.

“I have just seen details of The Dorian and Antony Fisher Venture Grants on the website and wanted to congratulate Atlas on such an appropriate, inspirational and well thought out program. I know that both Dorian and Dad would approve 110% and I very much look forward to seeing the results from it over the next few years.”

—Linda Whetstone
Daughter of Antony Fisher



Recipients of 2008 Fisher Venture Grants

- ▶ **ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS INSTITUTE** (Pakistan) – www.asinstintute.org
- ▶ **BLUEGRASS INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY SOLUTIONS** (Kentucky, USA) – www.bipps.org
- ▶ **CANADIAN CONSTITUTION FOUNDATION** (Canada) – www.CanadianConstitutionFoundation.ca
- ▶ **CATHAY INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS** (China) – www.jiuding.org
- ▶ **FUNDACIÓN ECUADOR LIBRE** (Ecuador) – www.ecuadorlibre.org
- ▶ **FUNDACIÓN F. A. VON HAYEK** (Argentina) – www.hayek.org.ar
- ▶ **IMANI: CENTER FOR POLICY AND EDUCATION** (Ghana) – www.imanighana.com
- ▶ **ISTITUTO BRUNO LEONI** (Italy) – www.brunoeleoni.it
- ▶ **NEW ECONOMIC SCHOOL** (Republic of Georgia) – www.nesgeorgia.org



Six of our 2008 Fisher Venture Grant Winners were represented at the Atlas Liberty Forum. From left to right, Alex Chafuen, Gia Jiandieri of New Economic School (Republic of Georgia); Franklin Cudjoe of IMANI (Ghana); Alberto Mingardi of Istituto Bruno Leoni (Italy); Eliana Santanatoglia of Fundación F. A. von Hayek (Argentina); Junning Liu of CIPA (China); daughter of Antony Fisher, Linda Whetstone; Christopher Derry of BIPPS (Kentucky, USA).

*For more information about the Dorian
and Antony Fisher Venture Grants
visit **www.atlasUSA.org***

North America

While many know Atlas for its promotion of liberty abroad, there are more than 90 think tanks in the U.S. that received support and assistance from Atlas during their critical early stages. One of those is the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas, a pioneer in the discussions of health savings accounts and Social Security reform. Atlas held a timely conference on the topic of “Risk in a Free Society” in September 2008 in partnership with NCPA, as it celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Atlas continues to play a role in cultivating new start-ups in the U.S., hopeful that they also will grow to achieve the impact of the NCPA. Atlas provides seed grants to new think tanks and university-based centers, hosts networking conferences, fosters collaboration among U.S. and Canadian think tanks, has a Web-Media Program catering to U.S. institutes, and opens its Think Tank MBA program to U.S. intellectual entrepreneurs as well as those from abroad.

In 2008 Atlas provided assistance and resources for start-up think tanks in 8 states: California, Delaware, Indiana, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island and West Virginia. Three of these groups, Caesar Rodney Institute (DE), Prometheus Institute (CA) and The Public Policy Foundation of West Virginia (WV) attended our inaugural Think Tank MBA program. Several of them, such as the Bluegrass Institute (KY), Maine Heritage Policy Council (ME), North Dakota Policy Council (ND), Ocean State Policy Research Institute (RI), Pelican Institute (LA), Rio Grande Foundation (NM), and Show Me Institute (MO) have joined the nationwide trend among state-based think tanks to push for greater transparency in government at all levels. Atlas’s long-time partner, State Policy Network, is nurturing this effort by providing resources, tips and training for state-based think tanks.



Atlas senior fellow Deroy Murdock makes the case for limiting government during an interview after his luncheon talk at Atlas’s event in Dallas.



Fisher Venture Grantee, Bluegrass Institute is launching a “wiki” platform for identifying government corruption and gaps in performance. Bluegrass founder Chris Derry (pictured) describes it as “a web-integrated, collaborative process in which we organize relevant intellectual ammunition that citizens can use to restore freedoms they know they have lost.” Bluegrass is hoping the wiki will become a model for other think tanks.





Intellectual Entrepreneur

Brett Narloch (North Dakota Policy Council)



Established in 2003, Brett Narloch's North Dakota Policy Council became operational in 2007, working to promote policies that are based on individual liberty, responsibility, and limited government. NDPC focuses on four areas—government transparency, property rights, economic development spurred by low taxes and low regulation, and K-12 education. This year, NDPC created *Sunshine on Schools*, an easily searchable website containing North Dakota K-12 school budget data. This website also includes historical data as well as teacher and administrative salaries. The site is helping school board members, administrators, policymakers and taxpayers gain more transparency into how their tax dollars are being spent.

Introducing...

Prometheus Institute (California)

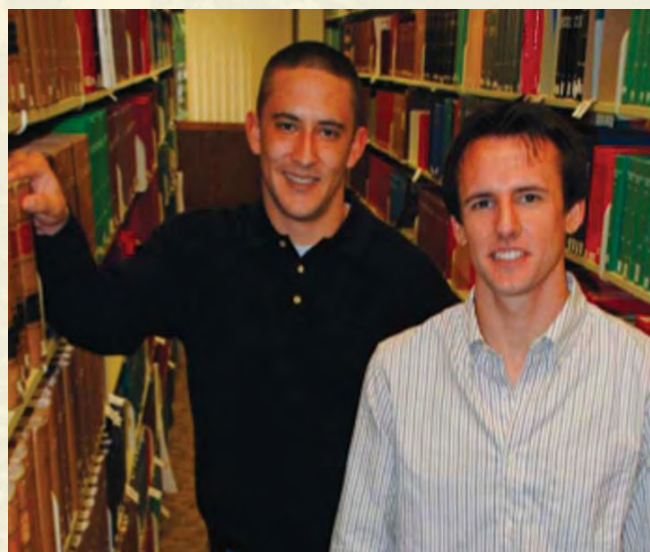
Matt Harrison and Rand Getlin of Los Angeles launched the Prometheus Institute in 2007. Their goal —promote practical policy solutions guided by classical liberal ideas while reaching younger generations through innovative marketing and stylish branding. They seek to find a fresh, free market perspective on everything from climate change to education to popular culture. Along with conventional policy proposals and articles, Prometheus produces parody advertisements poking fun at the burden of big government. They encourage direct online activism with e-cards, widgets, and other Web 2.0 features.

Online pieces entitled, “The Apathetic’s Guide to Politics”, “The Politician’s Guide to Intelligent Policy”, and “The Layman’s Guide to Economics”, help Prometheus target Generation Y. Both Rand and Matt were able to attend Atlas’s Think Tank MBA program this summer and will be accepting a 2008 Templeton Freedom Award for Special Achievement by a Young Institute.

“Everyone at Atlas has been amazing. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate all of your efforts. It’s been incredible to have friends like you as we navigate this often difficult path.” —Rand Getlin



Rand Getlin (top right) interacts with fellow TTMBAs in a group project.



Rand Getlin and Matt Harrison of Prometheus Institute

Latin America

In 2008, the challenge to free market ideas in Latin America has increased as aggressive and well-funded populist governments have gone on the offensive. These governments have focused on building international coalitions so they can regionally coordinate against those who support freedom and prosperity. Think tanks in Latin America have played an instrumental role in combating these oppressive governments. This year Atlas continued its work with some of our longstanding partners, such as Fundación Libertad (Argentina), which celebrated its 20th anniversary in March. To commemorate the innovative work of this institute, Fundación Internacional para la Libertad (Spain) and Fundación Libertad co-hosted a three day international conference in Rosario, Argentina. Atlas was a proud supporter of this prestigious celebration, which attracted over 800 participants, including six former Latin American presidents. The event addressed the challenges facing Latin America and highlighted the culmination of coordinated efforts to partner across the region.

Embracing the continued growth of private universities in the region, Atlas has significantly increased its involvement with



The joint conference of Fundación Libertad and Fundación Internacional para la Libertad in Rosario, Argentina coincided with nationwide unrest over the spike in agricultural export taxes. This photo captures Chavista protesters blaming "neo-liberals" for the crisis. They hurled objects at a bus carrying featured speaker, Mario Vargas Llosa.

University-based centers in Latin America. During the past year, Atlas worked closely with Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (Peru), Universidad de los Andes (Chile) and Universidad Francisco Marroquin (Guatemala). Collaborating on several events and book translations, we introduced our network to many young and promising students at these academic institutions. Including more university-based centers in our Latin American program, and encouraging them to work closer with think tanks, can help expand our effectiveness in the region.

Universities provide increased credibility, resources, and access to students and think tanks. In return, think tanks offer the universities a more dynamic style of work, increased connections with policymakers, more media coverage, and international exposure.

Atlas President Alex Chafuen, Otto Guevara (Instituto Libertad y Progreso), Luciana Binaghi (Fundación Libertad), and former president of El Salvador, Francisco Flores.



In Lima, Peru, students gather for the annual "Universidad de la Libertad", an event organized by Instituto Político para la Libertad.



Intellectual Entrepreneur

Javier Paz (Bolivia)

The son of an entrepreneur, Javier credits his father for teaching him about free enterprise and business. He read Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' *Communist Manifesto* and was turned off by their description of entrepreneurs as "thieves of worker's wages". He couldn't understand the concept of socialism in which entrepreneurs don't take risks and workers are guaranteed wages. While studying economics at the University of Arkansas, he was introduced to market-oriented thinkers such as Adam Smith and John Locke. He quickly embraced the importance of freedom and property rights. This year, Javier completed Atlas's inaugural Think Tank MBA program, designed to teach the fundamental components for starting a think tank. He has returned to Bolivia to launch Fundación Nueva Democracia. The institute will focus on poverty alleviation through market economics and will educate Bolivia's youth about classical liberalism. Its mission is to promote respect for fundamental human rights, public and individual liberties, and to develop leadership in order to strengthen participation in democracy. Javier's vision for Bolivia is "a country where individual freedom is valued and protected, a country with progress where all citizens have the opportunity to advance in life." Javier



Javier fields questions from Beverly Hallberg of the Leadership Institute as part of the Think Tank MBA public speaking and broadcasting training.

was introduced to us by Oscar Ortiz, current president of the Bolivian Senate. Ortiz is the former Executive Director of FULIDE, a Bolivian think tank which has received ongoing support from Atlas, and is also the Founder and President of Fundación Nueva Democracia.

Introducing...

Instituto Político para la Libertad (Peru)

Instituto Político para la Libertad of Peru was founded in 2006 by Yesenia Alvarez. This young think tank has focused on creating youth based programs and seminars that promote free markets and limited government.

"We hope that Peru will one day become a country where property rights, rule of law, and personal liberty is upheld".

—Yesenia Alvarez

The vision of the institute is to achieve this type of society through youth education programs. IPL has

been actively working with young individuals to train them in the areas of leadership and management. The most recognized program, "Universidad de la Libertad," attracts over 60 young students from eighteen different cities in Peru. The main theme of this Atlas-backed program is assessing poverty and development through classical liberal ideals. It is always impressive to see young institutes collaborate with existing partners in the Atlas network. IPL has done just that. They have been working with Red Liberal de America Latina (RELIAL) in Mexico (a network of institutes supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation), Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas and various other think tanks in Peru.



Peruvians pack the room for a panel lead by Yesenia Alvarez of Instituto Político para la Libertad.

Africa

A decade ago, the Atlas network barely touched Africa. The Free Market Foundation of Southern Africa and the IEA Ghana were our only partners. We are delighted that this number has grown in recent years and that there is increasing interest in free-market ideas and the role of think tanks. But sometimes, we face reminders of just how deep the challenges are on this continent.

Even in Kenya, which had a reputation as one of the more stable countries in East Africa, election disputes exploded into violence in the first months of 2008. In Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe used violence to undo election results that would have removed him from power. The costs to the country have been grave. Human rights violations haunt Zimbabweans and hyperinflation has destroyed their savings.

These troubles only underscore the fragile nature of democracy in Africa, and the need for institutions that create and sustain peace and prosperity – institutions like the rule of law, property rights, and a free media. Atlas is working with the Inter Region Economic Network in Kenya and various individuals in Zimbabwe who are advancing these ideas, along with many others across the continent.



"I will keep you updated but just wanted to request that you send my personal thanks and those of my team members to all that have assisted us in the greatest time of distress and need. You have played a key role in making people in Kenya and Africa realize the importance of think tanks – seeking to present a rational view of things. At IREN we are doing our best to do just that, be rational, balanced and offer ideas on the way forward."- James Shikwati (pictured here at right with Colleen Dyble and Rejoice Ngwenya of Zimbabwe).

While Nairobi was at the height of turmoil, Atlas donors provided financial assistance to the Inter Region Economic Network to help provide security for their families.



Judith Auma, who runs IREN's operations in Uganda is applying what she learned at the Think Tank MBA program to her work teaching university students about strategic planning.



Intellectual Entrepreneur

Mpumelelo (Lelo) Nxumalo, (Zimbabwe)

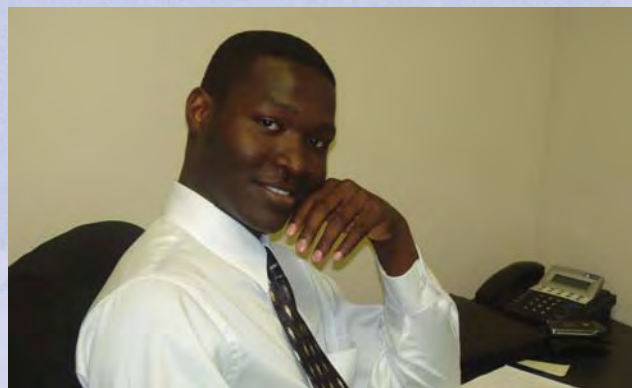
Growing up in Zimbabwe, Lelo observed the ruination caused by the Mugabe regime on a daily basis. His mother was forced to travel to neighboring Botswana to buy soap for the family and had to bribe border officials upon returning to her hometown of Harare. Lelo witnessed Operation Murambatsvina, or “Drive Out Trash,” a campaign by the government to demolish informal homes and businesses. Reckless monetary policy has caused record inflation and made staple commodities like cooking oil and bread hard to come by. The situation is dire and has motivated Lelo to establish the Committee for the Economic Development of Zimbabwe (CEDZ) for the promotion of free-markets, individual liberty, and the rule of law. Lelo spent the summer of 2008 as an intern at Atlas, as well as a Think Tank MBA student, where he developed many skills to help him build a successful think tank.

“Given the rising universal hunger for liberty, the work done [at Atlas] is phenomenal and to be connected to the Atlas family as an intern for these three months is certainly a blessing, one that I intend to capitalize on.”

—Lelo Nxumalo



People in some sections of Harare have gone without a constant supply of running water, food or electricity for months.



Lelo Nxumalo in his office as an Atlas intern.

Atlas brought two Zimbabweans to its Liberty Forum to provide them with contacts, ideas and encouragement in their work bringing freedom to Zimbabwe. Lelo Nxumalo is pictured here with Denford Madenyika (Dzidzai Foundation, Zimbabwe).



Introducing...

IMANI (Ghana)

“A huge and worrisome deficit of capitalism.” That is the problem afflicting Ghana, according to Franklin Cudjoe, founder of the IMANI Center for Policy and Education. He continues, “But Africa has the same great resource that produced the rise of the West: the human mind.”

A previous winner within Atlas’s Templeton Freedom Awards program, IMANI received a major boost from Atlas in 2008 as a recipient of one of our first-ever Fisher Venture Grants. One of IMANI’s novel experiments



Elle Speicher and Franklin Cudjoe pictured together at the Atlas Liberty Forum. Elle is currently an Associate with the Charles G. Koch Foundation, where she is training in its Market-Based Management® program for non-profit leadership.

that helped advance its mission involved working with Atlas last year to bring Elle Speicher, a recent graduate of Grove City College and former volunteer at GCC’s Center for Vision and Values,

from the U.S. for an internship. Elle remains active as an IMANI volunteer, helping with its outreach via the Web and electronic newsletter. The institute is determined to develop a cadre of young people who advocate self-reliance within a free economy, and turn against the deceptive populism of so-called benevolent dictators and sham democratic regimes .



Sinte Mahamadou receives a book from Franklin Cudjoe during an IMANI summer seminar.

Asia and the Pacific

Atlas is encouraged by the continued growth of the think tank network in Asia and the Pacific. In China, Atlas teamed up with the Cathay Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA) to promote and distribute Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, as a vehicle for teaching about entrepreneurship and capitalism. CIPA is using the grant to develop a Tax Watch Program,



Atlas's Alex Chafuen and Yiqiao Xu with former MPS president, Chiaki Nishiyama, and Hiroshi Yoshida (Japanese for Tax Reform) in Tokyo for the 60th Anniversary meeting of the Mont Pelerin Society.

which it intends to launch by year's end. In Vietnam, Nguyen Manh Cuong has established the Institute for Social Studies as the first market liberal think tank in the formerly communist country. In Sri Lanka, Anne Dedigama is authoring the 2009 International Property Rights Index while serving as the De Soto Fellow at the Property Rights Alliance. Another exciting intellectual entrepreneur introduced to Atlas in 2008, is Kevin Donnelly, an outspoken critic of education policies in Australia. He connected with like-minded classical liberals at the Atlas Liberty Forum, and intends to start a virtual think tank.



A special highlight of 2008 was the Economic Freedom in Asia conference that Atlas co-sponsored in Seoul, South Korea, in partnership with the Center for Free Enterprise (Korea) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. The conference attracted many distinguished economists from east and west, and complemented the academic discussions with a fascinating outing to Korea's Demilitarized Zone.



While at the Mont Pelerin Society in Tokyo, Alex Chafuen congratulates newly-elected MPS President Deepak Lal.



(From Left) Atlas's Alex Chafuen, Byeong-Ho Gong (Center for Free Enterprise, South Korea), and Barbara Kolm (Hayek Institut, Vienna).

Intellectual Entrepreneur

Robin Sitoula (Nepal)



Robin Sitoula of Samriddhi, The Prosperity Foundation.

As a child of a farming family in Nepal, Robin witnessed firsthand the destructive nature of government's *eminent domain* powers. Nepal's Land Reform Act of 1964 created a ceiling on landholdings and subsequently Robin's family had to forfeit a large share of their property. Raised in a family of entrepreneurs, Robin began developing business skills as an alternative to farming. However, each time he felt

as though he was making progress, Robin would encounter a new roadblock set up by the Nepali government. The Democracy Movement of 2006 brought sweeping changes in the political structure of the country but Robin felt that no one was addressing economic freedom. This motivated Robin and his fellow market-liberal friends to establish Samriddhi, The Prosperity Foundation, which became operational this year. Through advocacy and lobbying, backed by intensive research, Samriddhi aims to challenge the established beliefs in socialism and fight for economic freedom in Nepal.

In 2006, Robin served as Atlas Fellow, an opportunity he says "has been instrumental in keeping me motivated even when there are times when everything seems bleak in Nepal and especially with the rising involvement of the left in influencing government policies."



Robin Sitoula was a featured speaker at the 2008 Atlas Experience in Canada.

Introducing...

Center for Free Enterprise (South Korea)

In 1996, Byeong-Ho Gong became aware of the Mont Pelerin Society by surfing the web and boldly decided to attend the annual MPS conference uninvited! Going into the meeting Gong knew few other classical liberals, but he quickly befriended Atlas's Alex Chafuen, Jo Kwong, and Leonard Liggio. Extending his trip, Byeong followed his new friends from Atlas to their 28th International Workshop in Istanbul, marking the start of more than a decade-long friendship. Inspired by the MPS meeting and the Atlas workshop, Gong returned to Seoul and founded the Center for Free Enterprise (CFE) with an aim "to show that securing the liberties of citizens and businesses is a better path to prosperity than government intervention". In addition to establishing a network of libertarians who are active within Korea, CFE disseminates a weekly e-mail giving the libertarian interpretation of current events to over 55,000 Koreans comprised of members of the National Assembly, media, professors, and government workers. Taking a unique tack to diffusing classical liberalism, CFE also invites some one hundred middle and high school teachers to join them twice annually for market economics training, equipping them to educate young Koreans about economic freedom. Add to this their role as a medium for market economists in Korea to perform research and publish, as well as their collaboration with other institutes to publish the Economic Freedom Index, and CFE has employed a multi-faceted approach for promoting liberty on the peninsula.

Gong served as the President of CFE until 2000, when he handed over the institute to a very capable team under the leadership of Chung-Ho Kim. He continues to be involved with the institute. Last year marked the 10th anniversary of CFE, at which Atlas received an award for its decade of support to the group. Atlas is thrilled to have co-hosted a successful workshop in Seoul with CFE in late-September of this year and looks forward to helping Gong and Kim fight the good fight in 2009.



CFE's Sung-No Choi (left) and Chung-Ho Kim display the institute's Korean translation of F.A. Hayek's *Road to Serfdom*.

Europe

■ At least one think tank
■ No think tank in the A

Atlas has had the opportunity to watch many groups from the “Old Country” grow and flourish this past year. Over 130 European institutes applied for a Fisher Venture Grant this year, a significant testament to the growth of the think tank movement since Atlas’s founding. Of the 130, we awarded two European institutes with our first Fisher Venture Grant Awards, Istituto Bruno Leoni (Italy) and New Economic School (Republic of Georgia). These awards speak to the strides the young institutes have made, and show faith in their potential for even greater impact in the years to come.

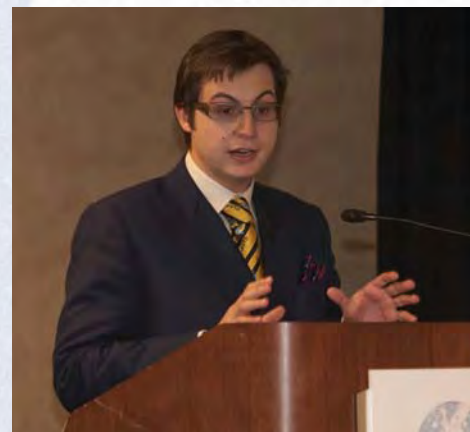
In addition to new institutes working to promote free market ideas in their home countries, we also are seeing more institutes aiming to influence policy at the level of the European Union as well. The European Centre for International Political Economy (Brussels) focuses on the issue of trade within the EU, the Centrum för rättvisa (Stockholm) works to reverse unjust laws in the EU in addition to their work in Sweden, and the Lithuanian Free Market Institute is working to form a coalition of think tanks across Europe who will work to ensure that laws passed within the EU will not roll back the progress many nations have made towards liberalization. In the coming year, Atlas will encourage existing groups, and continue searching for new partners in areas of the continent where the hope of freedom is still a distant goal.



Introducing...

Projekt Lodz Foundation (Poland)

Founded in 2003, Projekt Lodz has proven to be an interesting model for young think tanks. Uniquely, their work focuses solely on the city of Lodz. Their aim is to have an impact on a small scale, and to encourage the growth of similar think tanks in cities across Poland. Projekt Lodz attempts to build civil society in the city by holding cultural events and innovative education programs like “The Marketing Challenge”, which teaches participants business skills, entrepreneurship, and innovative thinking. Similarly, they host regular meetings to raise issues faced by citizens of Lodz, and provide economic discussions, offering ways to address problems. This grassroots effort has the potential to drastically affect change in the city of Lodz, making it a thriving example of the efficacy of free market principles.



Atlas's Allegra Hewell and Cindy Cerquitella join Blazej Moder and Marcin Nowacki (Projekt Lodz Foundation, Poland).



think tank in the Atlas network
in the Atlas network



Gia Jandieri accepted the Atlas Fisher Venture Grant on behalf of the New Economic School (Georgia) at the 2008 Liberty Forum.

Alberto Mingardi of Istituto Bruno Leoni (Italy) speaks during a panel discussion on "High Impact Strategies for Think Tanks" at the 2008 Liberty Forum.

Rosamaria Bitetti of Istituto Bruno Leoni in Italy (Left) and Atlas's Whitney Garrison. Rosamaria joined Atlas as a summer intern this year, helping to streamline the Atlas Toolkit, an online reference guide for intellectual entrepreneurs. You can access the Toolkit by going to the Atlas resources on our homepage.

Intellectual Entrepreneur

Alphonse Crespo (Medicine & Liberty, Switzerland)

The issue of healthcare is on everyone's mind lately. From private versus public health insurance, prescription drug counterfeits, and property rights battles, the free market perspective is often drowned out by more emotional arguments. Dr. Alphonse Crespo is working to voice the ideas of freedom in medical circles. Crespo has been involved with advancing liberty for quite some time, speaking at Summer Universities in Aix-en-Provence, France, working with Libertarian International, and collaborating with both the Liberales Institute and Institut Constant de Rebecque in Switzerland. He has long sought to influence the healthcare climate by publishing in medical journals, but this year, he has focused his full attention on educating healthcare professionals about the negative impacts of public healthcare reforms, and the optimal results achieved through greater privatization. Under the auspices of Medicine & Liberty (MedLib), Alphonse has traveled to medical seminars and conferences in the United States and Europe spreading his message. In addition, he intends to begin an educational program entitled MedECON which will provide economic education to doctors, nurses and healthcare agents. This exciting work has been extended with a branch of MedLib in Spain, and will hopefully continue to work in concert with the New Economic School in Georgia, where they will highlight the recently privatized hospitals.



Pawel Tobola (Polish-American Foundation for Economic Research and Education, Poland) and Leonard Liggio. Leonard has been instrumental in promoting free market ideas in Europe for decades.



Alphonse speaking at the 2008 Think Tank MBA.



The Middle East

From Morocco to Indonesia, Azerbaijan to Yemen, the Middle East and broader Muslim world are experiencing a period of volatility and change. Some regions are enjoying astonishing growth, record foreign investment, and freer trade. However, this tends to be the exception, not the rule. Most countries in the region still suffer from unemployment, corruption, and a lack of security. This climate provides the tragic backdrop for stories we see on the daily news all too often.

Atlas has been expanding its reach in the region, believing that long-term improvement will only come from home-grown efforts to educate the public about, and steer policymakers toward, the institutions of a free society. Our oldest partner in the region, the Association for Liberal Thinking has collaborated with Atlas on four regional workshops over the past two years, which have trained young people from 15 different countries in the region in classical liberal ideas and exposed them to how think tanks can affect the climate of ideas over the long term.

Atlas is encouraged by the early progress of younger think tanks, such as the Free Minds Association (Azerbaijan), the 3-H Movement (Turkey), the Egyptian Union of Liberal Youth and the Malaysia Think Tank London, among others. Each is determined to create opportunities for prosperity and peace.

The limiting factor in all this work is finding the “intellectual entrepreneurs” that can create institutions to explain how the ideas of free markets are compatible with traditional Islamic practices, and can improve the lives of ordinary citizens. Among our activities to help identify young people with such potential, Atlas is currently promoting its third annual Ibn Khaldun Essay Contest, awarding cash prizes of up to \$2,000 to five essayists from Muslim regions. The contest examines the relationship between Islam and classical liberalism. With your help and support Atlas plans to expand and broaden our network of intellectual freedom fighters in the Middle East and the broader Islamic community.



Ibn Khaldun was a 14th c. Islamic scholar, economist, and social scientist whose writings continue to inspire free-marketeers to this day, stressing the necessity of responsible government to promote economic prosperity and civilized nations. Atlas launched the Ibn Khaldun Essay Contest in 2006. In 2007, Atlas awarded 21-year old Nouh El Harmouzi from Morocco the top prize. Nouh's aim was to “analyze, from a classical-liberal perspective, the causes of the Arab-Muslim societies' state of lethargy...and sketch out bottom-up solutions suited to the socio-political context of these countries.”



Atilla Yayla (Association for Liberal Thinking) lectures on the principles of classical liberalism at an Atlas-sponsored workshop in Turkey.



Intellectual Entrepreneur

Omar Shaban Ismail (PalThink, Gaza)

Omar Shaban Ismail, Executive Director of PalThink for Strategic Studies (Gaza) is working hard to bring hope and opportunity to his community. This past summer, Omar attended the Atlas Think Tank MBA program and returned home with a new found vision.

"My official involvement with the liberty movement started a few months ago when I was searching the internet and found the Atlas Economic Research Foundation and other sites which are promoting a liberal and a free society. I was lucky to participate in Atlas's Think Tank MBA program during which I learned that the liberal movement has a rich network of supporters worldwide. I also learned how to make PalThink work more effectively. During the event, and after returning, I received a lot of support and encouragement from the people at Atlas." —Omar Shaban Ismail

With a fiery passion for classical liberalism and the rule of law, PalThink's mission is to promote peace, freedom, and prosperity. High unemployment among the youth in Gaza has prompted Omar and his colleagues to help college graduates find employment by providing them with the tools they need to succeed in a global market. PalThink also is co-publisher, with the Fraser Institute, of the *Economic Freedom of the World* report and has been honored twice with grants from the Swiss Embassy in Palestine for their work in advancing liberty.



Omar Shaban Ismail outlines the vision for PalThink at Atlas's Think Tank MBA.



Introducing...

Alternative Solutions Institute (Pakistan)

Five years ago, the first free-market think tank in Pakistan was created on Khalil Ahmad's personal home computer.

"It was in that hour of nothingness that the Atlas Economic Research Foundation helped us take off."

Now, after proving itself in the think tank community, the Alternative Solutions Institute has received significant investment as one of the first recipients of Atlas's Fisher Venture Grant program. Khalil Ahmad has conducted seminars and published articles in leading Pakistani newspapers on market economics, limited government, privatization and the rule of law. It was these articles on the rule of law that were shared with the late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who met with Atlas officers during her last visit to the U.S. Members of Bhutto's staff complimented the work of ASI, but noted the fragile nature and limited impact of independent think tanks in the country. However, in four short years ASI had gone from a nascent desktop operation to producing articles in major newspapers and policy papers considered by the prime minister. Weeks later, Ms. Bhutto was assassinated, setting into motion a series of events that keep Pakistan as one of the most hostile environments in the world. ASI remains unshaken in its vision and continues to focus on bringing long-term improvements.

"The role of a think tank, especially in a country like Pakistan where classical liberalism is poorly understood, is to develop a critical mass of people who are conversant in the principles of market economy and ideas of a free society. This is the first step in a long-term process to change the climate of ideas." —Khalil Ahmad



ASI founder, Khalil Ahmad, with Atlas's Ziba Ayeen.

A Community

A Community of Freedom Champions! I love how that description of the Atlas network sounds. But even more, I love how it plays out. If you've ever participated in an Atlas event, you'll likely understand why the words "community" and "family" come up so often when people talk about Atlas.

There's something positively infectious and dynamic about Atlas gatherings. It's a challenge to capture the experience in words, but let me try and do so on these pages. If I'm successful, you'll have a better understanding of why the Atlas network is such a powerful and invigorating community. And hopefully, if you haven't been to one of our events, you'll be moved to join us in the coming year.

As I reflect on the year, one thing is readily apparent. When people come to an Atlas event, they are drawn into the stories, the people, and the commitment to freedom that dominates all. You see, Atlas differs from many other free-market organizations because we *serve* others. As you've heard me say repeatedly, I see Atlas as a "catalyst" and "connector." We link people to the ideas, resources, and people they need to effectively help craft a freer society.

Consequently, our events are different. We don't gather to hear the leading "experts" address us from the stage. Instead, we gather to share stories, and, at the same time, meet people who *are* the local experts. We talk about the challenges – here in the US and abroad – to freedom. And we offer prospects for hope. People meeting people, in pursuit of a common purpose. That's what Atlas is all about.

Let me share some highlights from this year's events and programs in terms of "people helping people" and how that ends up leading to positive outcomes for freedom. The "family" connections are many...

When I reflect on this year's Liberty Forum, one of Atlas's signature annual events, several highlights come to mind. While we offered many formal awards at the forum, my favorite was the informal "Atlas Dad" award, presented to Tom Dyble, the "biological" father of Atlas's Colleen Dyble. Tom first came to a Liberty Forum in 2006 and has since become familiar with many of Atlas's ideas entrepreneurs, particularly those in Africa and Eastern Europe. In fact, he regularly visits with Atlas ideas entrepreneurs now when he's on international travel. (By the way, the official Atlas Dad certificate was created by my own daughter, Asia, another of Tom's fans.)

We typically receive lovely notes after the Liberty Forum, but let me pick out two that I'd like to share:

Bob Russell of Illinois wrote, "Jo — Thank you, my friend. I truly enjoy being with you and all the Atlas family. It is a privilege to know you all."



Jo Kwong with Curtin and Ann Winsor

Why is this so special? Bob first came to us as a speaker at the 2007 Liberty Forum. But he was so moved by the Atlas network, and the uniqueness of the event, that he returned in 2008. And he's become an Atlas contributor! In seeing our network in action, he wanted to be a part of it all. What a gift all around.

Lastly, let me share a quote from another Atlas friend and supporter – and you'll see why it's an honor to receive her words. Becky Norton-Dunlop, VP at the Heritage Foundation, wrote to me:

George and I enjoyed our time at the Liberty Forum. No one will say 30 years from now that you did not invest enough in human capital... that is your signature and much appreciated. Warmest Regards. Becky Dunlop

Coming from someone I so admire, these are words – and an experience – that I'll always treasure. Most importantly, it is

of Freedom Champions

By Jo Kwong, Vice President of Institute Relations



wonderful to see Becky's support for Atlas's core focus – investing in human capital.

Speaking of experiences, let me turn to The Atlas Experience. This is a newer Atlas program, now in its second year, held at the lovely Queens Landing Inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada. We were absolutely delighted when several people

who attended last year invited friends and family to this year's gathering. Our good friend Pamela Hoiles, who I interviewed in the last issue of *Highlights*, invited local Canadian friends, as did Matt Bufton, Atlas's summer fellow. Atlas Dad, Tom Dyble, brought his daughter, Kara (after having her watch *Commanding Heights* as an introduction to the movement!).

One by one, the family is growing. These personal invitations go a long way in sharing and introducing free market ideas to others.

You've read Brad's introduction to Atlas's newest program, the Think Tank MBA. Here, too, friends and supporter participation made a welcome difference in this program – not only as you would expect by funding the program, but through their direct involvement and assistance.

What could be more personal than opening up your home to Atlas participants? With participants from over twenty countries, you can imagine the appreciation they had for visits to "real people's homes". What better way to foster cultural exchange than through this generosity?

Atlas trustee, Curtin Winsor, and his wife, Ann, hosted a dinner at their home that offered a much needed break from the intensity of the MBA program. Believe it or not,

the ideas entrepreneurs enjoyed familiar summer rituals such as catching "lightning bugs" and taking a dip in the Winsor pool. I hear it was a true highlight of the program!

Dan Grossman, another Atlas trustee, hosted a lovely BBQ on his rooftop terrace. There, other Atlas supporters joined us and had the chance to meet the ideas entrepreneurs. Again, this "people to people" opportunity led to wonderful gifts – one donor, who was so impressed by the caliber of the participants, offered to help sponsor TTMBAs next year, recognizing the keystone importance of this program to Atlas's mission.

There's so much to share and so little time. Won't you please mark your calendars for Atlas's 2009 signature events – the Liberty Forum (Los Angeles in April); The Atlas Experience (Niagara-on-the-Lake in August) and Freedom Dinner (November in DC)? Truly, these offer a wonderful way to experience, first hand, the uniqueness of the Atlas network.



Jan Taylor with Becky Norton-Dunlop



"Atlas Dad" Tom Dyble with his daughter Colleen.

Atlanta, Georgia ~ April 25-27, 2008

2008



Bill Sumner, Pamela Hoiles, John Blundell, Alex Chafuen and Barry Conner mingle at a special reception held at the Victorian mansion, Rhodes Hall, in Atlanta.



Helen Kriebler (center) and Shari Williams (Vernon K. Kriebler Foundation) visit with Sidney Gunst (Ayn Rand Institute) during a poolside reception at the Liberty Forum.



Kevin Donnelly of Australia, Atlas's Luke Seidl, Lee Wishing (Grove City College, Pennsylvania), Chris Berg (Institute for Public Analysis, Australia), and Scott Harris (Recursionist Fund, Florida)

Friends of Atlas from 50 countries assembled in Atlanta from April 25-27, 2008, for the Liberty Forum, Atlas's largest annual networking event. The meeting featured keynote speeches from entrepreneur and philanthropist, Frank Hanna, and Chile's former Minister of Finance Hernán Büchi, and sessions that profiled successful think tanks in various parts of the world and presented strategies for think tanks' fundraising efforts and use of new media.

The program closed with a unique two-hour "Time Capsule" conversation among panelists, audience members, and video contributors from around the world, addressing the question: "What will those who love freedom in the year 2033 wish we had done more to address in 2008?"

Visit <http://timecapsule.atlasnetwork.org> to participate in the conversation started at the Liberty Forum.

You can also mark your calendars for the 2009 Liberty Forum, which will be held in Los Angeles, April 24-26, just following the conclusion of the Heritage Foundation's Resource Bank meeting (April 23-24).

"Once again, thank you for inviting me to such stimulating and rewarding conferences. Meeting so many freedom fighters from around the world has been inspirational and I have learned a good deal about the issues that are being addressed."

—Kevin Donnelly, Australia



Alex Chafuen with Frank Hanna, keynote speaker at the annual Fisher Memorial Awards Dinner.

Liberty Forum



Patti and Jerry Hume at Rhodes Hall mansion.



Atlas trustees Linda Whetstone and Andrea Rich are joined by Edita Maslauskaitė (Lithuanian Free Market Institute).

"I am still trying to recover from the information onslaught over the last few days. To me, this was Atlas' finest Liberty Forum. It just worked. Thanks for all you do!"

—Chris Derry (Bluegrass Institute, Kentucky)



Atlas Club members Tom Dyble and Robert Dinsmore greet Natasha Srdoc-Samy (Adriatic Institute for Public Policy, Croatia).



At the Time Capsule session, Hernán Büchi suggests that the question of whether technology will support or erode individual liberties will depend upon the culture in which policy leaders operate, underscoring the importance of the Atlas network's efforts to foster a love of freedom.



Jargal Dambadarjaa (New Policy Institute, Mongolia), Beverly Danielson, Nicole Kurokawa (Cato Institute), and Richard Rahn.



Atlas's Alexis Serote, Jargal Dambadarjaa (New Policy Institute, Mongolia), Diogo Costa (Cato Institute), Tanja Stumberger (Cato Institute), and Hamid Dalgilji (Free Minds Association, Azerbaijan), enjoy a field trip visit to Atlanta's World of Coca-Cola®.



Web 2.0 consultant, David All, explains how to be effective using blogs.

The Atlas



Atlas donor Gerry Ohrstrom distinguished himself among TAE participants by braving the Maid of the Mist tour with no raincoat. He is pictured here with Jo Kwong in front of the Falls.



George Gilder delivered a rousing keynote address.



Program speakers Rainer Heufers at left (Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Indonesia) and Aleksandr Shkolnikov at right (Center for International Private Enterprise, USA) are joined by Pierre Desrochers (University of Toronto), Hiroko Shimizu, and Jo Kwong.

Luncheon speaker Terrence Kealey engages in some friendly debate, over his book *Sex, Science and Politics: How People Evolved to Make Money*.



As Atlas's Liberty Forum has grown, we decided to balance the energy of the Forum with a more intimate gathering of key allies. At The Atlas Experience, friends of liberty enjoy enlightening lectures, discussion salons, and most of all, one another's company and conversation in a beautiful setting – The Queens Landing at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Our 2008 Atlas Experience featured George Gilder as keynote speaker, with panels such as "Freedom Movement 2.0" and "Democracy and Its Discontents" and discussion salons by

“Once again, Atlas manages to bring together interesting people and great speakers at a beautiful, luxurious venue. I was very impressed.

—David Pontoppidan
(Denmark)

THE
ATL
EXPERI

Experience

Brian Lee Crowley (Atlantic Institute for Market Studies), Atlas's Leonard Liggio and Biljana Janeva (OHRID Institute, Macedonia).



Brian Lee Crowley reads from *Rationalism in Politics* during his economic salon.

Atlas will be back in Niagara-on-the-Lake on August 6-8, 2009, for its third Atlas Experience. Please work it into your summer plans for 2009!



Peter Jaworski and Gerry Nichols (both of Institute for Liberal Studies, Canada), Nicole Alpert (Lion Rock Institute, Hong Kong) and Chris Oliver (University of Winsor) with Leonard Liggio.

“Excellent balance between 1) intellectual foundations and aspects of economic freedom and 2) inspiring stories and perspectives from intellectual entrepreneurs..

—Chuck Albers
(United States)



On the Maid of the Mist boat ride beside the Falls, Eva Andraskova, Yesenia Alvarez (Instituto Político para la Libertad, Peru), Marcin Wegierski (Projekt Lodz, Poland), and Javier Paz (Fundación Nueva Democracia, Bolivia)



Rosamaria Bitetti (Istituto Bruno Leoni) with Atlas staffers: Stephanie Giovanetti, Eva Andraskova, Whitney Garrison, Alexis Serote and Jo Kwong.

THE
LAS
RIENCE



One of Atlas's annual traditions is to celebrate the political and moral victory over communism at its Freedom Dinner. The 2008 Freedom Dinner will be held on November 12th at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC, with Michael Reagan as the keynote speaker.

The week of the Freedom Dinner will mark the 19th anniversary of the day the Berlin Wall began to come down. It seems very appropriate for us to celebrate with the son of the man who did so much to bring down that symbol of communist tyranny.



During Francisco Flores' tenure as President of El Salvador, the country experienced the highest rates of economic growth and poverty reduction in Latin America. His story is one of courageous, principled leadership, and his speech at the 2007 Freedom Dinner was full of insights. Atlas recently published the speech as the first in a new "Atlas Moments" series. Contact our office (703-934-6969) for a copy.

Atlas Freedom Dinner



Alex Chafuen and Joe Morris, Master of Ceremonies for the November 2007 Freedom Dinner, are pictured with the evening's keynote speaker, Francisco Flores, former president of El Salvador.

Atlas supporter, George Hesse, celebrated his 80th birthday at the Freedom Dinner. George is joined by Atlas's Jo Kwong and Whitney Garrison.



Atilla Yayla (Association for Liberal Thinking, Turkey) gives a Toast to Freedom. At the time, Yayla faced possible jail time for questioning the reverence with which Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, is held. In February 2007, he received a suspended sentence. Atilla's battle is part of an ongoing struggle in Turkey for freedom of expression.



At a special salon for Atlas Club members, Elena Leontejeva (Lithuanian Free Market Institute) discusses her childhood under communism. In this photo, she holds up two pieces of chewing gum, explaining that as a girl, she never had chewing gum. But she did get a hold of a few gum wrappers and, from the smell, tried to imagine how it must taste. Similarly, when she was older, she tried to imagine what a free economic system would be like, by imagining the removal of the problems imposed by the Soviet system.

International Thursdays

Each month, Atlas hosts a local “International Thursday” meeting, as a way to bring together friends in the DC area who work on international policy issues, so they can share perspectives on current events, discover opportunities for collaboration, and meet Atlas’s visitors from abroad.



Edwar Escalante briefs the International Thursday audience about the role of his think tank, Andes Libre, in Peru.



Karol Boudreaux reports on the Mercatus Center’s “Enterprise Africa!” program, which studies entrepreneurial success stories in Africa, to learn how to engender African solutions to Africa’s problems.



In the run-up to the Olympic Games in Beijing, Christopher Lingle discusses China’s human rights record in the context of his own travels to Tibet and other rural sections of the country.



Standing room only in the Atlas conference room.



Join the Atlas Club!

Become an Atlas Club member today and join the people who share your support for the free society. Your annual pledge of \$1000 or more allows Atlas to budget its resources and plan effectively as we share the freedom message across the globe. This unbridled commitment to Atlas helps make our common vision a reality.

Atlas Club sponsors receive quarterly mailings, which feature personal perspectives and on-the-ground free-market insights and stories about ongoing political, economic, and social events, as well as information of general interest to free-market philanthropists.



At our events, members of The Atlas Club enjoy intimate briefings from “freedom champions” on the state of liberty, both in the US and abroad.

Travelling with Atlas

In addition to its flagship events – the Liberty Forum, Freedom Dinner, and Atlas Experience – Atlas sponsors and participates in events with its partners in the U.S. and abroad. It's always a pleasure when Atlas's supporters travel with us for such

occasions. We also welcome inquiries regarding think tank leaders and other champions of free-market ideas that you might visit when your travel plans take you abroad!



Alex Chafuen, Jim Roberts (Heritage Foundation), Atlas trustee Dan Grossman, and Bruce Moran (Strategic Planning Initiative) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Atlas supporters Ron and Jenny Manners stand firm with a guard at Korea's Demilitarized Zone. Atlas co-sponsored the "Economic Freedom in Asia" conference with the Center for Free Enterprise and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.



Former Governor of Delaware and Chairman of the Board at the National Center for Policy Analysis, Pete du Pont, with Ziba Ayeen and Alex Chafuen at Eddie Deen Ranch in Dallas for the Atlas/NCPA joint conference that examined "Risk in a Free Society".



Leonard Liggio speaks on the nature of rights and religious freedom in Lisbon, Portugal in June.

Teaching Freedom

For decades, universities have frequently been hostile to free market ideas. Scholars wanting to further the ideas of liberty have often found more opportunities in the think tank world than on campus.

This has been one of the factors driving the growth of Atlas's network of free market think tanks. But of course, the larger vision of Atlas would be better served if the ideas of liberty had more friends within universities. This is why Atlas runs the Teach Freedom Initiative, directed by Leonard Liggio.

Within the Teach Freedom Initiative, Atlas has been able to:

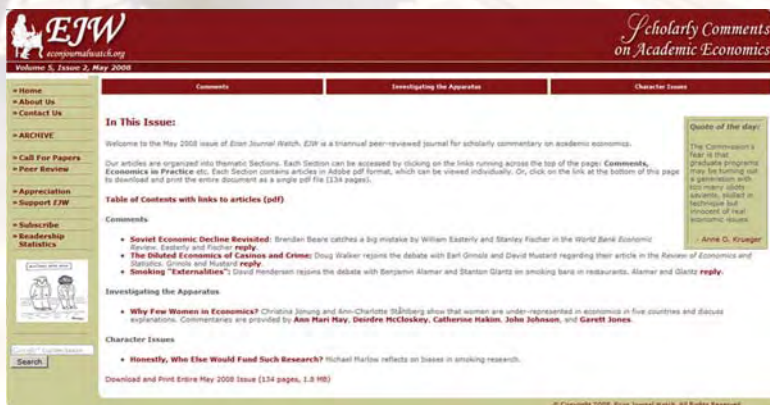
- Provide advisory support and seed-grants to university-based centers that operate on campuses in the manner of think tanks, ensuring that students are exposed to the ideas of limited government and economic freedom.
- Run conferences to introduce more academics to models of university-based centers that they can replicate on their own campuses.
- Provide awards for outstanding scholarship in innovative fields relating to "the study of spontaneous orders" and for special achievements by university centers.
- Attract support for scholarly projects and for the graduate studies of young people showing great talent and enthusiasm for liberty-oriented scholarship.
- Fund translations and seminars that increase public exposure to important books on liberty.

John Tomasi of Brown University's Political Theory Project gave a talk at The Atlas Experience on his efforts to widen the horizons of debate on campus.



The Center for Vision and Values, established in 2005 at Grove City College, holds conferences and issues publications to enrich students' experience on campus, and also to better place the scholarship of the Center's faculty into the larger marketplace of ideas. Examples of the CVV's work include an annual Ronald Reagan Lecture, which this year featured Ed Meese, and a paper by Dr. Mark Ritenour, "What Does the Bible Say? The Scriptural Case for Private Property and a Free Economy," which was presented at the CVV's Church and State Conference.





Atlas has been incubating *Econ Journal Watch*, a tri-annual peer-reviewed journal for scholarly commentary on academic economics, edited by Daniel Klein.

Leonard Liggio speaking at a Teach Freedom Initiative conference titled, "Why Academic Centers Matter in Promoting Economic and Civil Liberties".



CIPA held a book launch of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* at the All Sages Bookstore in Beijing, a leading academic bookstore in China. Not even the publishing company would promote the book for political reasons, but Atlas's brave partner CIPA rose to the challenge to promote entrepreneurship and free markets!

Atlas attracted support for Anca Russo's graduate studies at Georgetown University, after her internship with Atlas in 2007.



Fund for the Study of Spontaneous Orders

The Fund for the Study of Spontaneous Orders (FSSO), at the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, was established through the generosity of an anonymous donor to support scholarship in the Austrian School of Economics and its practice of methodological individualism. Methodological individualism explains economics and social science by showing that all actions taken in society are the result of decisions made by individuals. It is human nature that we as individuals act in our self-interest. So as the world is made up of individuals acting in their self-interest – a spontaneous order emerges, driven by the incentives of the invisible hand. FSSO promotes the study of methodological individualism in areas outside the realm of traditional academics through prizes and conferences. Below are some examples of this scholarship.

In Human Action, Ludwig von Mises writes, “That there are nations, states, and churches, that there is social cooperation under the division of labor, becomes discernible only in the actions of certain individuals. Nobody ever perceived a nation without perceiving its members. In this sense one may say that a social collective comes into being through the actions of individuals.”

Atlas’s FSSO helped organize and fund the conference, “Why Academic Centers Matter in Promoting Economic and Political Liberties,” which took place on April 11th, 2008. One panel examined “Current Work on Economic and Non-Economic Issues from the Perspective of Austrian Economics.” Three FSSO prize winners were featured: Daniel Klein of George Mason University (*Adam Smith’s Libertarian Distributive Justice*), Christopher Coyne of West Virginia University (*Austrian Insights on Institutional Change and Development*), and James R. Otteson of Yeshiva University (*Spontaneous Order in Theory and Practice*). FSSO presented Emily Chamlee-Wright of Beloit College, \$10,000 for her work studying female entrepreneurs in Zimbabwe and Ghana and on voluntary disaster relief and reconstruction. The Fund plans to present its fifteenth prize before the end of 2008.

In November, FSSO returned to Portsmouth, New Hampshire for its second academic conference under the direction of Gus diZerega (also a past prize winner) organized on the theme “Orders and Borders”. The Fund invited nineteen scholars and discussants from the United States, Canada, Belgium, Ireland, and Taiwan for this international conference. A similar meeting will be held at Hilton Head Island,

South Carolina in February 2009 under the direction of John W. Sommer (Political Economy Research Institute). FSSO also plans to present its fourth Lifetime Achievement Award at a related conference in the autumn of 2009.

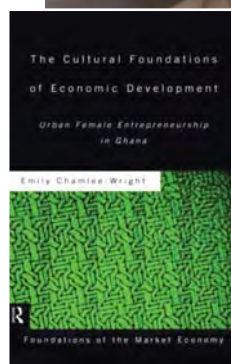
Look for the FSSO website, replete with conference highlights, scholarly papers, announcements and more! Coming this winter.

“Good order results spontaneously when things are let alone”

—Zhuangzi (369 – c. 286 BC)



Lenore Ealy (Project for New Philanthropy Studies) and John Sommer (Political Economy Research Institute)



Emily Chamlee-Wright, Elbert H. Neese Professor of Economics at Beloit College, was awarded the 2008 FSSO Prize for her work on entrepreneurship in Africa and voluntary disaster relief.

Honoring Excellence Through Prize Programs

By Yiqiao Xu



One important role of Atlas is to bring recognition to the best works done by think tanks. For this purpose, 19 years ago, Atlas established its first award program, the Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Awards, to recognize outstanding publications done by institutes.

Realizing that awards are a very cost-effective way to increase the prestige of well-run institutes, Atlas launched the Templeton Freedom Awards for Excellence in Promoting Liberty five years ago. The Templeton Freedom Awards remain the largest international prize program for free market institutes.

Also, to recognize the important work that institutes do in disseminating free-market ideas to new audiences in difficult countries, Atlas created the Freda Utley Prize for Advancing Liberty in 2005.

Atlas's international prizes typically attract over one hundred applications from 50 or more countries. They play a crucial role in helping Atlas discover new partners and stay informed on existing allies. Winners of Atlas prizes are selected by a panel of outside judges, after Atlas conducts its own due diligence and assessment against established performance measures.

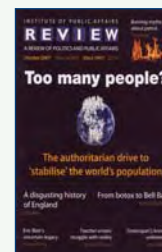
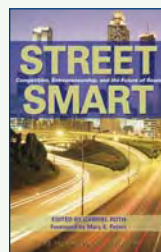


Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award

Established in 1990 to commemorate the ideals and achievements of Atlas's founder Sir Antony Fisher, the Fisher Awards recognize outstanding publications produced by independent public policy research institutes. The winners of the 2008 Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Awards came from Copenhagen, Melbourne, West Virginia, California, and Michigan to receive their award at the Atlas Liberty Forum in April. In the opinion of the judges and Atlas, the Center for Politiske Studier, Institute of Public Affairs, Public Policy Foundation of West Virginia, Independent Institute, and Mackinac Center for Public Policy have made the greatest contributions to the

public understanding of a free society with the following publications:

- ***Origins of Wealth*** by David Gress and published by the Center for Politiske Studier in Copenhagen, Denmark shares this top recognition in the Young Institutes category of \$5,000.
- ***Unleashing Capitalism*** by Russell S. Sobel published by the Public Policy Foundation of West Virginia in West Virginia, USA shares first prize in the Young Institutes category of \$5,000.
- ***Street Smart*** by Gabriel Roth and published by the Independent Institute in California is the winner in the Established Institutes category of \$5,000.
- ***IPA Review*** published by the Institute of Public Affairs in Melbourne, Australia is the winner in the "Best Magazines" Category of \$2,000.
- ***Students for a Free Economy*** of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Michigan is the Winner in the "Innovative Projects" Category of \$2,000.



Honoring Excellence Through Prize

2008 Templeton Freedom Awards for Excellence in Promoting Liberty

As the largest international award program for think tanks, more than \$1.25 million in prizes and grants have been distributed to outstanding institutes working to improve the public understanding of freedom. Think tanks from nine countries received recognition as winners in the 2008 Templeton Freedom Awards program, the Atlas Economic Research Foundation announced on



October 20, 2008. Representing four continents, the 16 recipients were chosen from over 170 applicants from 58 countries, by a panel of independent expert judges. Named for the late investor and philanthropist, Sir John Templeton, the awards program was established in 2003 with funding from the John Templeton Foundation to recognize the contributions of independent think tanks to the understanding of freedom. Two prizes of \$10,000 will be awarded for each of the eight categories at the Atlas Freedom Dinner in November, 2008. As

one of the several ways that Atlas prizes help to raise the profile of the winners, a special conference featuring selected TFA winners will be held the following morning.

2008 Templeton Freedom Award Winners

FREE MARKET SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

- *Unirule Institute of Economics (China)*
- *Fundación Ecuador Libre (Ecuador)*

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- *Japanese for Tax Reform (Japan)*
- *Deep Spring International (USA)*

ETHICS & VALUES

- *American Center for Civil Character (USA)*
- *Polish-American Foundation for Economic Research and Education, PAFERE (Poland)*

STUDENT OUTREACH

- *Center for the Dissemination of Economic Knowledge (Venezuela)*
- *Institut de Formation Politique (France)*

INITIATIVE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

- *Goldwater Institute (USA)*
- *Institución Futuro (Spain)*

INNOVATIVE MEDIA AWARD

- *Reason Foundation (USA)*
- *Institute of Economic and Social Studies (Slovakia)*

AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT BY A UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTER

- *Mercatus Center at George Mason University (USA)*
- *Brown University (USA)*

AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT BY A YOUNG INSTITUTE

- *Prometheus Institute (USA)*
- *Instituto Juan de Mariana (Spain)*



Robert Gwiazdowski (Polish-American Foundation for Economic Research and Education) unveils PAFERE's Magister program, designed to encourage graduate students to become free-market scholars.



"Water collectors" helping Deep Spring International with their initiative to make water safer in Haiti.

Programs *(continued)*

2008 Freda Utley Prize for Advancing Liberty

Named for the late Freda Utley, an outspoken writer and commentator against totalitarian regimes like the Soviet Union and China, this \$10,000



**Freda
Utley
Prize
For Advancing
Liberty**

prize rewards the efforts of think tanks in difficult parts of the world that are most effective in disseminating the ideas of freedom. This year, The Center for the Dissemination of Economic Knowledge (Venezuela) was selected by a panel of judges based upon its demonstration of excel-



lence in reaching and educating new audiences about the importance of liberty. For a decade CEDICE has battled socialist populism and widespread government corruption in Venezuela by building a solid student movement around the ideas of free speech, free markets and entrepreneurship. Its flagship program, Students for Liberty, has galvanized young Venezuelans and helped build a network throughout Latin American campuses with the goal of introducing classical liberal ideas and demonstrating the benefits of a free society.

The formal presentation of the Utley Prize will occur at Atlas's Freedom Dinner on November 12th in Washington D.C. Past winners of the prize are the Economic Social Policy Institute (Serbia), New Economic School (Republic of Georgia) and Association for Liberal Thinking (Ankara, Turkey).



Thomas Chacon of CEDICE brings the message of liberty to this school in Mexico, and many like it throughout Latin America.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

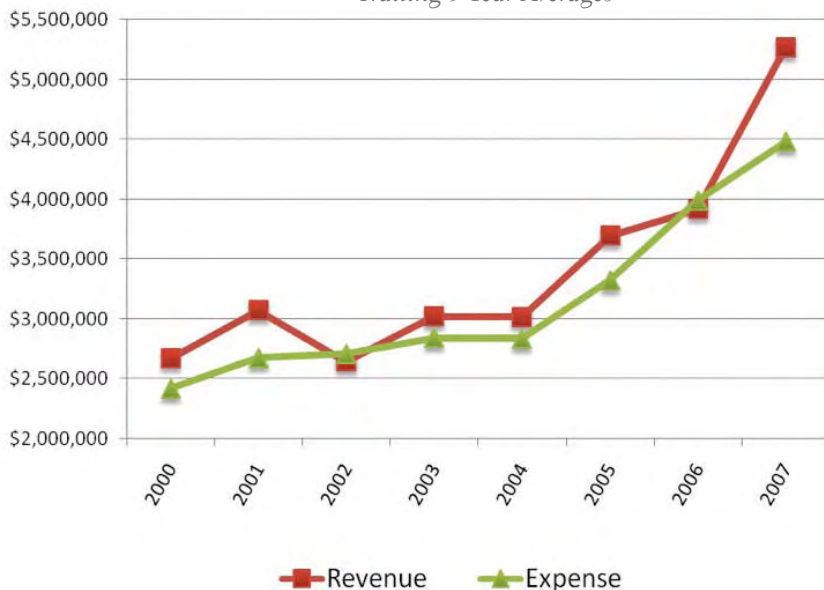
As you have seen in the preceding pages, the Atlas Economic Research Foundation is facing an important challenge – expanding the appreciation for liberty at home and abroad.

We operate as a “catalyst” and “connector” to think tanks that cherish the principles of a free society. We have the pleasure of supporting people who are doing heroic work, often at great personal risk. These “intellectual entrepreneurs” often feel alone and outnumbered in their local communities, so the affirmation they receive from being part of the “Atlas family” can be priceless.

It’s amazing to look back at how this informal network has grown from about a dozen institutes in 1981 to about 300 spread over 100 countries in 2008. In just the last 12 months, Atlas has welcomed scores of newcomers to our ranks. We have also taken strides as an organization, making us confident we can play an even bigger role in the preservation and promotion of liberty in the future. You can rest assured that we will continue working to earn your trust – as good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, as good friends to the network we serve, and as loyal adherents to the Atlas mission. Please plan on attending one of Atlas’s major events in the upcoming year and witness the exciting freedom network in action!

Atlas Revenue and Expense Trends

Trailing 3-Year Averages



Financial Summary

This year, Atlas again received the highest ranking from Charity Navigator, the premier independent charity evaluator.

As the accompanying chart shows, our budget has grown steadily in recent years. 85%

of Atlas’s budget goes to our programs and direct grants to the organizations described in this report.

Our audited financial statements and Form 990 tax returns for 2007 and prior years are posted under the “Learn More About Atlas” link at AtlasUSA.org.



SAVE THESE DATES IN 2009

Liberty Forum (Los Angeles, April 24-26)
Atlas Experience (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, August 6-8)
Freedom Dinner (Washington DC, November 9)

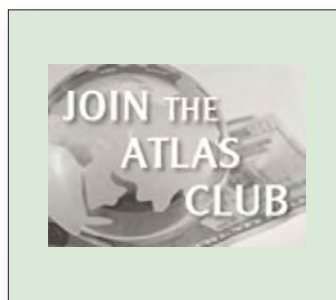
Sign up for bi-weekly Atlas Updates emails for announcements relating to these and other events that Atlas will be hosting in 2009! Subscribe today at AtlasNetwork.org or by contacting Whitney Garrison at: whitney.garrison@atlasusa.org

A Request for Your Support

You share Atlas's understanding that the best recipe for peace and prosperity is individual liberty. But the ideas of limited government have been notably absent from much of the 2008 election season. Coupled with the continued expansion of destructive statist policies in countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Russia, and Zimbabwe, the poisonous ideas of dictatorial governments threaten to destroy our future as free individuals. With your help, Atlas continues to expand its reach in the U.S. and abroad, fighting for liberty and prosperity.

Your continued support of Atlas is crucial in this fight for freer societies. Please consider donating to Atlas through one of our giving programs:

- **Atlas Club** – Join the Club by donating \$1,000 or more annually. Enjoy “members only” opportunities such as the Atlas Club Briefings, and other private gatherings.
- **Fisher Society** – Create your own legacy of liberty by including Atlas in your estate planning.
- **Vigilance Society** – Help provide sustained support by joining this group of Atlas's most loyal donors and making automatic monthly donations.



You can be confident that Atlas remains dedicated to its mission and to the standards of professionalism that you have come to expect. We look forward to seeing you in 2009!

“I’ve been attending Atlas events for years now and always enjoy the opportunity to be part of the “Atlas family” of free-market enthusiasts. The Atlas network is unrivaled in terms of its global reach, as well as the passion and commitment of its many free-market partners. Seeing them in action gives me confidence that the ideas of liberty will prevail well into the future.”

—Jerry Fullinwider



Jerry and Leah Fullinwider relax with Jo Kwong at The Atlas Experience.

*To discover, develop and support 'intellectual
entrepreneurs' worldwide who can advance the Atlas vision
of a society of free and responsible individuals.*



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www.atlasUSA.org