

THE FREE MARKET

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MISES INSTITUTE

A Message From the President: Looking Back on 2014

JEFF DEIST

As I approach the end of my first year as president of the Mises Institute, I wanted to take a few minutes just to note some of the great things that happened this year, and a few of the things that are still to come. It was a packed year of events for us, with our Southwest Regional Mises Circle in Houston in January, the Austrian Economics Research Conference in March, and a summer filled with events and programs from our summer fellowship program to the Rothbard Graduate Seminar, and Mises University. The quality of the students and faculty, and the sheer scale of what we're doing in terms of new students and new scholarship is something that would stun Ludwig von Mises were he alive today.

This year, we've greatly expanded the number of new, exclusive articles coming out daily on mises.org, and our new series of audio interviews, Mises Weekends, brings us together with many scholars, investors, and journalists from across the world.

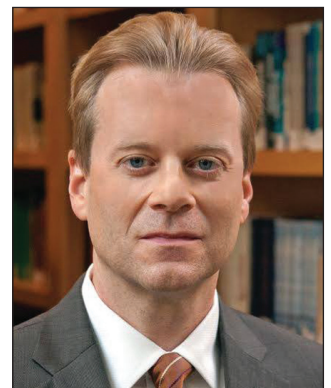
We're in the process of updating our website to make it an even better resource for scholars and laymen alike, and to make it easier to access our vast library of free books, videos, and articles. We published new books this year, including Walter Block's *Toward a Libertarian Society* and Butler Shaffer's *A Libertarian Critique of Intellectual Property*. In a few months, we'll also release a new book by the always intellectually provocative Hans-Hermann Hoppe.

Meanwhile, our friends around the world continue to translate our books and articles into other languages including Portuguese, Spanish, Polish, and Chinese.

The Austrian movement is a worldwide phenomenon, and it keeps growing.

In this issue, we've looked back at 2014, but you'll also find some new interviews with young scholars and fellows who have been influenced by our programs and our Austrian scholars and who will be making a big difference in the future.

As always, it is our supporters who make all of this possible, and I thank you on behalf of our staff, our faculty, and of course, our students.



IN THIS ISSUE

VOL. 32, NO. 11 / NOVEMBER 2014

2 Summer Student Programs / 3 The Summer Fellowship Program / 4 A Conversation with Mises University Alumnus Ray Walter / 5 A Summer Fellow Discusses Her Academic Future / 7 Coming Events

THE FREE MARKET

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF THE MISES INSTITUTE

Published 2014 by the Mises Institute under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Editor:
Ryan McMaken

Managing Editor:
Judith F. Thommesen

Contributing Editors:
Thomas J. DiLorenzo
Jeffrey M. Herbener
Robert Higgs
Mark Thornton

Publisher:
Jeff Deist

Note: the views expressed in *The Free Market* are not necessarily those of the Mises Institute.

Mises Institute
518 West Magnolia Avenue
Auburn, Ala. 36832-4501
Phone: 334.321.2100
Fax: 334.321.2119
Email: contact@mises.org
Web: mises.org

Mises Institute is a nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Summer Student Programs

AT THE MISES INSTITUTE



Central to the mission of the Mises Institute is providing financial and intellectual support for talented students working in the Austrian School, as well as offering students access to top scholars in the field. Our summer student programs, including the fellows program and the Rothbard Graduate Seminar, provide opportunities for students to work directly with our faculty on advanced research topics.

Mises University, meanwhile, offers students an intense week-long introduction to the Austrian School, and gives both graduate students and undergraduates an opportunity to gain a more complete understanding of Austrian economics.

This year's Mises University, as always, included a full week of seminars, lectures, and many opportunities to work with Mises faculty and fellow students to discuss, learn, and plan for the future.

The schedule for students was intense, beginning with breakfast, and extending well beyond dinner time. Judge Andrew P. Napolitano's series on constitutional law was available throughout the week, as were numerous



lectures on the basics of Austrian economics given by our top faculty including Walter Block, Thomas DiLorenzo, Lucas Engelhardt, Roger Garrison, David Gordon, Jeffrey Herbener, Robert Higgs, Guido Hülsmann, Peter Klein, Bob Murphy, Joe Salerno, Timothy Terrell, and Mark Thornton.



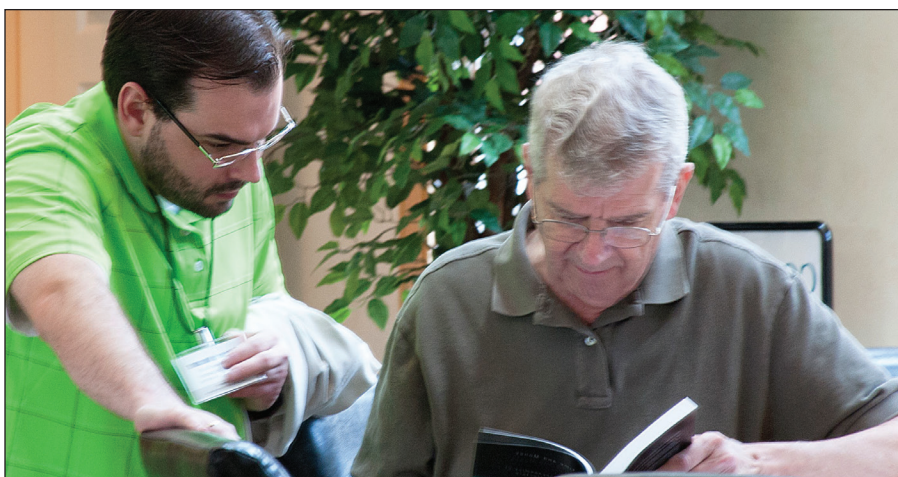
(Left) Students meeting after class with faculty members Tom Woods, Robert Murphy, and Timothy Terrell.

When not giving lectures, faculty members held office hours to give students individualized attention throughout the week. And then students were able to enjoy less formal meetings such as chess with Tom Woods, lunch with Judge Napolitano, and daily work with some of the world's greatest scholars in the field of Austrian economics and libertarian scholarship. It was an amazing week of activity.

Summer Fellowship Program

The Mises Institute hosted an international group of Summer Fellows, who were chosen from a highly competitive application process. Fellowships offer a unique opportunity for graduate, post-doctoral, and exceptional undergraduate students to

research and write in a particular area of specialization, under the direction of Dr. Joseph Salerno, with assistance from Dr. Mark Thornton and visiting faculty. ■



“ *The Mises Institute gave me
a strong moral sense as a scholar.* ”



A Conversation with Mises University Alumnus Ray Walter

Raymond Walter graduated at age 18 from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics, physics, and economics. He has continued his education with doctoral studies in mathematics and physics at the University of Arkansas. He is an alumnus of Mises University, which he attended when he was 15 years old. He spoke with us recently about how his work with the Mises Institute has influenced his career.

Mises Institute: What convinced you to apply for Mises U?

Raymond Walter: I did most of my reading in the Austrian School tradition and in libertarian thought while in high school. Besides plowing through most of *Human Action* and *Man, Economy, and State*, I spent countless hours reading and listening to book excerpts, essays, and lectures. Jörg Guido Hülsmann was (is) my favorite modern Austrian to read for the clarity of his analysis, which I read extensively in high school. Realizing the seriousness of my interest in the Austrian School and after consulting with my father, I then applied for Mises U 2009. Acceptance soon followed, and I had a most successful sojourn in Auburn before starting my undergraduate studies in math, physics, and economics at the University of Arkansas at age 15. I was particularly fortunate to meet Ralph Raico and David Gordon that year. The experience encouraged me to attend the Austrian Scholars Conference and Mises U in 2010, and even to apply for and attend the Rothbard Graduate Seminar and Mises U again in 2011. There I would see such luminaries as Armando De La Torre (Francisco Marroquin), Bettina Bien Greaves (FEE), and the late great Ronald Hamowy (University of Alberta).

MI: What have you been doing since your time at Mises University?

RW: I completed considerable graduate coursework in economics as an undergraduate at the U of A, and even encountered prominent Austrian School fellow travelers there: University Professor David Gay and at various times his guests, including Enrico Colombatto and Svetozar Pejovich. Alas, I made the difficult decision to pursue my first loves in mathematics and physics for my eventual graduate study. I earned my BS degree in three subjects at age 18, for which I received extensive recognition. But more importantly I am now Distinguished Doctoral Fellow in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Arkansas, where I study Clifford analysis in math and computational condensed matter physics. Moreover I hold a rather competitive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. I already have an MS degree in mathematics, and as my second year of graduate study proceeds things are heating up!

MI: How did your experiences with the Mises Institute affect or influence your later academic work?

RW: Hayek warned the hard sciences can imbibe us with scientism, but the intellectual tradition of the Austrian School can imbibe us with humanism. My experiences with the Mises Institute gave me a philosophical and historical turn of mind in the

natural sciences. This has included the history of economic thought and even archival research concerning the 1919 eclipse expedition of Dyson and Eddington to test Einstein's general theory of relativity. The Mises Institute also gave me a strong moral sense as a scholar. I discussed this in my presentation at the 2014 Austrian Economics Research Conference wherein I condemned the opportunism of Hans Mayer and Theodor Vahlen in contrast to the strong characters of the brothers von Mises.

At the Mises Institute, I became part of an international community of faculty, staff, and research fellows specializing in economics, history, law, philosophy, and other fields. My experience with the Institute taught me the informal and professional aspects of intellectual interaction with international scholars of varying experience; how to integrate oneself into a global network of scholars, including collaborating with individuals in different hemispheres; and how scholarly colleagues can be a source of support or encouragement, regardless of how one's intellectual interests evolve. Indeed, my MI colleagues encourage me even as I have chosen to pursue physics instead of economics (mathematics was always a given). The informal and professional aspects of working with international scholars and global scholarly networking I learned about at the MI help me as a member of the U of A Computational Condensed Matter Physics Group.

MI: You continue to be very young compared to others working in your field, and you were also young when you attended Mises U. Obviously, your experience is atypical, but I'm going to ask you to speak for your generation anyway: how do you think young people view the philosophy of freedom and free markets?

RW: Let me preface by noting my extensive background in network theory, which has made me wary of ideological and intellectual homophily: the tendency of individuals to associate and bond with those sharing the same or similar



views. Libertarians on social media especially should look at how many mutual connections they have with their fellow libertarians. So my sample of young people is likely biased.

Nonetheless, I think young people have an increasingly positive view of the philosophy of freedom, though I think the appreciation for free markets still lags behind. Often they have a particular aspect of freedom very important to them and a dislike for whatever aspect of the state limits that freedom. What they need to realize is that freedom in all of its manifestations can be threatened by the state and thereby the overreach of the state should be thwarted in all of its manifestations — from war to intellectual property to extensive regulation and monetary controls. Now some young people dislike the free market because they have different preferences from others in the marketplace, and others mistake prevailing interventionism for a free market. Their social tolerance must encompass an economic dimension and they need greater economic understanding. At the same time, remember that freedom is only the highest political ideal. There are things more important than politics. ■





A Summer Fellow Discusses Her Academic Future

*This fall, we talked briefly with **Audrey Redford**, who was a Summer Fellow at the Mises Institute this year. Ms. Redford is a third-year PhD student in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech and is a graduate instructor of Applied Business Economics in the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration, also at Texas Tech.*

Mises Institute: How did you first become familiar with the Mises Institute?

Audrey Redford: I had heard of the Mises Institute in passing a couple of times while I was an undergraduate student and through reading some of Dr. Mark Thornton's work, but it was not until my first year as a PhD student (2012–13) that I really became familiar with what the Mises Institute had to offer. In order to get a solid foundation in Austrian price theory, my advisor suggested that I attend Mises University. I attended Mises University in 2013, and it was there that I first met the Mises Institute faculty, including Dr. Thornton, and learned about the summer fellowship program.

MI: Why did you decide to pursue an academic career?

AR: It was a combination of several things during my junior and senior year of college that led me to pursue an academic career. I think the biggest push was realizing, primarily through conversations with friends and professors at an economics book club, that I enjoyed talking about economics. I left classes and book club sessions wanting to learn more and to research topics brought up in the conversations and debates. It also gave me a path to study the War on Drugs, which has consistently been an interest of mine since middle school, and will hopefully give me an outlet to disseminate a lot of the knowledge and information that I have acquired about the harmful outcomes of drug prohibition.

MI: What convinced you to apply to become a Mises Fellow?

AR: The ability to work closely with Dr. Thornton was the main reason why I applied to be a Mises Fellow. My dissertation research is on the dynamics of intervention in the War on Drugs, so when the opportunity arose to work down the hall from someone whose research I closely followed and built on, I had to jump on it.

MI: What was the nature of your academic work while at the Mises Institute?

AR: I was working on a dissertation chapter that looks at the origins of narcotics control and prohibition in the United States. More specifically, I was writing about the unintended consequences of federal intervention into the smoking opium markets in the late nineteenth century. Specifically, I looked at how those unintended consequences created many of the problems later, and which interventions like the Harrison Narcotics Tax Act of 1914 sought to correct. This was a direct application of many of the points made in Mises's *Interventionism: An Economic Analysis* on how intervention begets future interventions.

MI: What was your favorite part of being a Fellow?

AR: As I mentioned, working with Dr. Thornton was a great and very helpful experience. It really was a fantastic luxury to be able to interact with an eminent scholar in my line of research on such a frequent basis. Working and engaging with the other Fellows was incredibly productive and fun. We bounced ideas off one another in an environment that was constructive and rigorous, but also pleasant and approachable.

MI: How have your experiences with the Mises Institute affected your plans for the future and future academic work?

AR: Being a Summer Fellow reaffirmed my desire to be an academic. It reminded me why I got into this line of work in the first place, and that was to research subjects that I enjoy and to interact with other scholars while we learn from one another. During my time as a Fellow, I was introduced to new articles and books that will help me with future research projects. I also got a lot of feedback about writing styles and presentation methods that will definitely help me in my future, particularly on the road to applying for my first academic position. ■

COMING EVENTS

Register online at mises.org or by phone at 800.636.4737.

- WEST COAST REGIONAL MISES CIRCLE IN COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA | November 8, 2014
- SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MISES CIRCLE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS | January 24, 2015
- AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS RESEARCH CONFERENCE | March 12–14, 2015 | Mises Institute
- SEMINAR FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS | April 10, 2015 | Mises Institute
- NORTHEAST REGIONAL MISES CIRCLE IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT | May 14, 2015
- ROTHBARD GRADUATE SEMINAR | June 7–12, 2015 | Mises Institute
- MISES UNIVERSITY | July 19–25, 2015 | Mises Institute

Student scholarships available for all events. See mises.org/events for details.

Chart the Future in 2015!

Your \$60 or greater gift is US tax-deductible, and will renew your Membership for 2015. See mises.org/donate.

Membership benefits include:

- *The Free Market* newsletter
- 10% off your entire purchase at the Mises Store (mises.org/store)
- Discounted registration fees at events
- Invitations to regional and online special events

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution:

☐ \$60 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Check/money order



Card # _____ Name on card _____

Exp. _____ Security Code _____ Day phone _____
(required for credit card transactions)

Email (required for participation in online events) _____

Send Membership renewal and address corrections on reverse side to:

Mises Institute • 518 West Magnolia Avenue • Auburn, Ala. 36832-4501 USA

Phone or write Kristy Holmes for more information (kristy@mises.org • 800.636.4737).

THE FREE MARKET

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF THE MISES INSTITUTE

Ludwig von Mises Institute
518 West Magnolia Avenue
Auburn, Alabama 36832-4501

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Please consider transferring appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares that you have owned for more than one year to the Mises Institute.

You will receive an immediate income tax deduction for the value of the securities on the date of transfer, no matter what you originally paid for them, and you will pay no federal capital gains tax.

You will help the Institute and deny money to the feds.

Please write or phone Kristy Holmes if we can help you!

kristy@mises.org • 334.321.2101

For more information see Mises.org/Legacy



The Government Doesn't Want You to Know About This!