

AFF

AMERICA'S FUTURE FOUNDATION

2018
ANNUAL
REPORT

Celebrating Heroes Past and Present

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHTS **DALLAS & COLUMBUS**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT **TIMOTHY CARNEY**

POST-GRAD ADVICE **TYLER BONIN**

Mary Kate
Dockery

AMERICA'S FUTURE FOUNDATION CHAPTERS

Empowering Young Heroes for Liberty



27

AFF chapters are active in 27 cities and counting.

Through hosting regular events, chapters provide social support, learning opportunities, and skills training to empower the next generation of ambassadors for liberty.

What Chapter Leaders Are Saying



AFF-INDIANAPOLIS

"The presence of AFF is imperative to our community. It works to showcase the power of free markets and liberty in everyday life and the ways we can take part in preserving it"

– CHLOE ANAGNOS



AFF-PHILADELPHIA

"AFF has the ability to make the ideas of economic and personal freedom real. Instead of simply talking about these issues, AFF allows us to relate the issues to everyday situations and real people."

– BRIAN NICHOLS



AFF-MILWAUKEE

"In Wisconsin, AFF augments a passionate grassroots movement of entrepreneurship, personal responsibility and fiscal discipline. It provides us with a link to liberty-minded people in other communities."

– MARY BETH GAHN



AFF-RHODE ISLAND

"My generation is hungry for bold new ideas of freedom. AFF is the only organization positioned to build young vibrant communities based on individual liberty. "

– LARRY GILLHEENEY



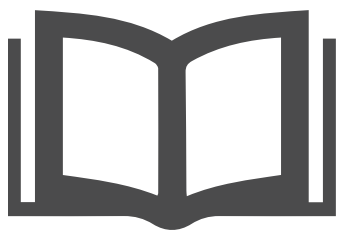
AFF-SAN FRANCISCO

"San Francisco is a place that runs on entrepreneurship, freedom, and innovation. AFF plays a critical role here by providing a place for likeminded young people to network, explore ideas, and grow as professionals"

– KATIE MODESITT

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

2,767



Publications by
Writing Fellows Alumni

154



AFF Events

58

Writing
Fellow
Graduates



6,255

Attendees





DEAR FRIEND OF AMERICA'S FUTURE FOUNDATION,

Probably not unlike you, throughout my career and life, heroes have been so important to my journey. For me, it all started with Felicity, the American Girl character who supported the patriots in the War for Independence. It continued with the Founding Fathers, who at such young ages had the courage and principle to start a new nation that would be a model for the world. At Hillsdale College, I learned from reformers like Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan to Maurice McTeague, who privatized much of New Zealand's industries. When I entered the workforce, my new heroes included Jo Kwong at Philanthropy Roundtable and Bridgett Wagner at The Heritage Foundation, who illustrated for me how to work your way up and to lead with quiet grace.

Each of these heroes had things in common: they shared my values, they communicated them well, and they were bold in their defense of freedom. And, in the case of Jo and Bridgett, they were close; I had the chance to interact with them on many occasions. These role models helped shape the way I see the world and provided a pathway toward achieving great things.

In 2018, I gained an entirely new set of heroes. By joining AFF, I've gotten to meet and support exceptional young people across the country who are on the front lines of spreading the ideas of freedom in their communities. In cities and towns across the country, there are countless young people dissatisfied with the status quo. These young people are looking for answers. Everywhere they look, they hear calls for more government. But they know that government can't fix the problems facing their communities.

For these young people, your investment in AFF serves as a call to action. It tells them: "You can spark new conversations," "You can offer new solutions," "You can guide others to make things better." Those who answer our call are heroes, and so are you.

Through your investment in AFF's work at the local and national level, we provide role models for young AFF members whose footsteps they can follow, whether it be celebrating Christina Sandefur, one of this year's Buckley Award winners, or meeting Larry Gillheeney, who faces off against government encroachment in Rhode Island each day. Through this work, you are equipping the next generation of heroes for freedom and leaving a legacy for others to follow.

In this report, we will introduce you to a few of our heroes, the young people standing up for freedom across the country. They are just a small sample of the incredible ambassadors for freedom that you supported last year. I hope their stories will inspire you. They are so grateful for your partnership and support. I would love to hear what you think – and who your heroes are! Drop a note in the mail in the enclosed envelope or send me an email any time at

cindy@americasfuture.org.

Cindy Cerquitella
Executive Director

YOUNG HEROES: THE FOUNDING FATHERS

2018 AFF intern Sarah Scherer writes about finding inspiration in the Founding Fathers.

Something that struck me while studying U.S. history was how young the Founders and key figures in the Revolution were when they founded a new nation. Their world-changing accomplishments at ages close to my own encouraged me and fueled my interest in politics and pro-liberty organizations. My time at AFF reminded me that, like the Founding Fathers, we all need brothers in arms and heroes to look up to. Together, these young Revolutionary War figures accomplished the seemingly impossible - and I believe my generation can do the same.

The ages displayed in parentheses indicate how old, or rather how young, these Revolutionary War figures were on July 4, 1776.



Thomas Jefferson (33)

Jefferson established our earliest alliance with the French, was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence, and was the third president of The United States.



Abigail Adams (31)

Wife, advisor, and correspondent to John Adams, Abigail and her husband exchanged over 1,100 letters regarding government and politics. She opposed slavery and advocated for property rights for women.



Betsy Ross (24)

Ross repaired Continental uniforms and sewed tents and blankets in the Revolutionary War. After a visit from Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army George Washington, Ross designed and sewed the first American flag.



Alexander Hamilton (21)

Orphaned in his youth, Hamilton was a senior aide to General Washington during the Revolutionary War. He worked to criminalize the international slave trade and was the financial mastermind of the Founders, advocating for the establishment of a national bank to jumpstart America's budding economy.

RECOGNIZING HEROES FOR LIBERTY

2018 Annual Buckley Awards

The 2018 Buckley Awards were hosted in Washington, DC, to honor outstanding young advocates for liberty and to inspire more than 200 young professionals in attendance to follow in their footsteps. The awards are named after William F. Buckley, Jr. who, before the age of 30, became the leader of the early movement championing conservative fusionism – a philosophy that brought together various strands of conservatism and libertarianism to work together to conserve America’s founding principles.



Buckley Winner Spotlight:

Christina Sandefur

Christina Sandefur had the audacious idea that people should have the right to try to save their own lives, without government standing in the way.

That’s why she co-drafted and spearheaded the “Right to Try” initiative. This initiative protects the rights of terminally ill patients to try safe investigational treatments that have been prescribed by their physician but are not yet FDA approved for market. And she succeeded – Right to Try is now federal law.

Christina was nominated by her peers and selected to receive one of AFF’s 2018 Buckley Awards for her impact on the lives of thousands of terminally ill

Americans, empowering them to make decisions about their own health treatment.

Christina is the executive vice president at the Goldwater Institute in Arizona. She’s also the co-author of *Cornerstone of Liberty: Private Property Rights in 21st Century America* (2016), is a frequent guest on national television and radio programs and has provided expert legal testimony to various legislative committees.

“Thanks to the tireless work of AFF, young professionals like myself have the mentorship, encouragement, and foundation they need to fulfill lifelong careers advancing and defending freedom and empowering people to live freer, happier, more hopeful lives.”

“I believe that freedom is mankind’s most precious gift and is essential for human flourishing. The right to live our lives as we see fit – to shape our own destinies – is what makes life more than mere existence.”

OTHER 2018 BUCKLEY AWARD WINNERS

The 2018 Buckley Awards were hosted in Washington, DC, to honor outstanding young advocates for liberty and to inspire 217 other young professionals in attendance to strive for this prestigious award in the future.



Ericka Andersen

for her impact on the national debate on the opioid crisis by focusing on empathetic free-market, private solutions through her book *Leaving Cloud 9: The True Story of a Life*

Resurrected from the Ashes of Poverty, Trauma, and Mental Illness.



Rob Bluey

for his work spreading the ideas of liberty and free markets across the nation, reaching new and wider audiences through his work at The Heritage

Foundation and the founding of its multimedia arm, The Daily Signal.



Carrie Sheffield

for bringing together diverse audiences and exposing them to conservative ideas through her innovative multimedia outlet BOLD.

multimedia outlet BOLD.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

A Conversation with Timothy Carney



How did you become involved with AFF, and what is the most significant way it has impacted your life?

In my first job, at Human Events, my friend Joe D'Agostino passed along an invitation to an AFF Roundtable. This was April 2001. I don't remember the topic, I just remember being thrilled to meet new

people with similar interests and beliefs.

So I attended the Roundtable the next month, on drug legalization—a topic on which I was very undecided. Somehow I was roped in as an emergency speaker against legalization. Soon I joined the committee to plan these Roundtable debates, and over the years I organized and spoke on quite a few.

This was training in public speaking, in debate, and in organizing panels, all of which I now do professionally. AFF thrust me into those roles at a far younger age than any other organization would have. It was an invaluable experience.

What advice do you have for young adults who believe in liberty and personal responsibility, but aren't sure how to shift the culture of their peers to embracing these values?

Always think of empathy and fairness. One way to define fairness is to ask what we owe others. If you begin from the fact that we

all have debts to others, then your philosophy of liberty won't be grounded in selfishness but in love. Love, empathy, and fairness are indelible human emotions. If you act and argue out of love for others and a fervor for fairness, you will be able to persuade people.

In your new book *Alienated America* you talk about the erosion of social connection and how it's killing the American Dream. What role do you see for AFF to play in addressing this problem?

I always used to call AFF a “training ground, meeting ground, and debating ground.” In my experiences in the 20-aughts, AFF provided the three key elements that institutions of civil society provide:

- 1.) It supported me by being a freelance outlet for my articles, providing editing, and introducing me to folks who could help me.
- 2.) It also provided me with a sense of purpose by giving me real responsibilities and eventually putting me in the position of being a mentor, not only a mentee.



A younger Timothy Carney participates in an AFF event



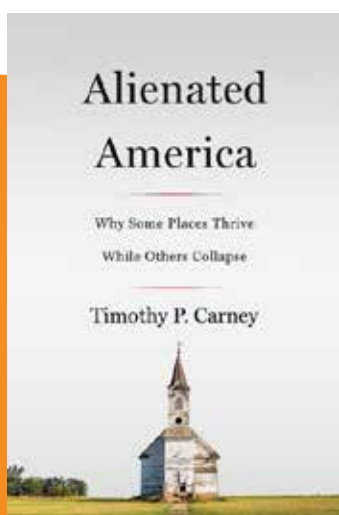
Timothy Carney leads an AFF Writing Fellows session

And 3.) AFF provided good modeling, by exposing me to good role models, not only Washington eminences but also incredibly impressive peers. If it keeps doing those things, it is serving as the sort of crucial community institution I write about in *Alienated America*.

At AFF we talk a lot about the importance of “heroes” as signals of a culture as well as a way to change culture. We want AFF to be a place to develop heroes who influence others with their example and the work they produce. Who is one relatively well-known hero that has changed your life, and one personal hero that most profoundly affected your life?

Bob Novak was my boss and mentor, and he was also famous. He was the hardest working man I knew. His style, his hustle, and the way he blended a love for the work and his country with a hard-headed skepticism and reporter’s detachment was a model for me. America was better off thanks to Novak’s work, and we’d be better off today if we still had him.

My pastor, Fr. Dan Leary, at our local parish is another hero. He’s the hardest-working guy I know today. He’s also the greatest role model I’ve seen on the score of living for others and for God.



Timothy P. Carney

is an AFF alumnus and formerly served on AFF’s national board of directors. In his most recent book, *Alienated America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse*, he explores why the American Dream now seems to be out of reach for so many and what can be done about it. He is the commentary editor at the *Washington Examiner* and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

THE AFF MARKET

The Importance of Connection



After an \$800 limo ride one night in 2009, Garrett Camp started dreaming of a way to make luxury transportation more affordable for the average person. He also discovered that most for-hire luxury vehicles were sitting idle most of the time. Garrett decided this was a perfect opportunity to test a new business model using resources that were currently going to waste. He contracted out the luxury vehicles and drivers during off hours and developed a phone app for pedestrians to hail a ride at the click of a button – a service we now know as the \$120 billion-dollar company Uber.

Similar to those valuable limos that were sitting unused in a parking lot for multiple hours a day, there are tens of thousands of freedom-friendly young adults who are not being tapped into as a valuable resource for achieving our mission – a culture that values personal responsibility, free enterprise, and limited government. Each year hundreds of thousands of students and young professionals complete programs like Students

for Liberty, Young Americans for Liberty, and the Koch Associate Program. After they graduate, thousands of them spread out across the country, take jobs in the private sector, and lose touch with the world of policy and activism. Not because they care less but because there is no obvious outlet for using their talents in this way. Others take on full-time jobs for local policy organizations but still need sources of continuous leadership development and a platform for sharing their views with the community.

AFF chapters and programs answer this problem. At AFF we continually hear from our leaders and

“The more connected the person in question, the more people he or she will influence, even without knowing it.”

members that their local chapter is the only place where they can discuss their beliefs in a non-hostile environment, hone their arguments for a free society, and gain the support and skills they need to be ambassadors for these ideas. AFF chapters are the training ground for the next generation of heroes who will turn the tide for liberty.

In the book *Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives -- How Your Friends' Friends' Friends Affect Everything You Feel, Think, and Do*, Dr. Nicholas Christakis and Dr. James Fowler unpack the ripple effect one individual has on multiple layers of social circles. For example, one study they conducted showed that if one of your close friend becomes obese, you are 57% more likely to become obese. They found in another instance that if you vote, not only is your spouse more likely to vote, but your friends' friends' friends are more likely to vote. The more connected the person in question, the more people he or she will influence, even without knowing it.

It is almost impossible to overestimate the societal impact of connecting like-minded young people together – especially those who believe in the power of hard work and the human spirit. As believers in the free market, we know that human beings are the most valuable economic resource on earth. Human beings are creative, renewable, and immeasurable resources. Not to mention they inspire other humans to action. Without humans, man-made resources will not be produced, and other natural resources will remain idle. Any world-shifting technology or advancement begins with one person or a small group of people.

That is why we think it is a great tragedy to have so many of our “best players” sitting on the sidelines because there is no concrete way for them to stay engaged. With your continued support, we intend to change that. Our commitment to you is to open at least 10 new city-based chapters this year and to keep growing after that. Together we can grow deep and powerful roots in communities across the country so that every freedom-loving young adult will stay in the game, regardless of where he or she lives and works.



IN THE MARKET FOR CHANGE

Chapter Spotlight: AFF-Dallas



"Upon relocating to Dallas, I was overjoyed to find that there was a vibrant liberty crowd in the area. AFF has an important role to play here in connecting like-minded individuals to both one another and to opportunities in

the area." Meg Tuszynski, AFF-Dallas chapter leader.

Meg Tuszynski spent nine years in Washington, DC, surrounded by endless opportunities to connect with liberty-friendly peers and policy discussions. When she moved to Dallas to work for the State and Local Policy Project at the O'Neil Center for Global Markets and Freedom she worried about finding similar opportunities and social networks. She was delighted to come across the chance to lead the AFF-Dallas chapter and to connect with dozens of like-minded young adults who needed a place to share their ideas and influence their community. She finds that many of her regular members are former Koch Associates or policy interns who now work in the private sector but still want to promote freedom in their city.

AFF-Dallas not only hosts educational policy events but strives to understand the economic fabric of the local community and help members to get involved. Meg says, "We make it a point to highlight the work of local entrepreneurs, most recently the president and CEO of a group called 2S Industries, an organization that works to employ ex-cons in the landscaping and construction industries,

"AFF-Dallas doesn't stop with educational policy events, but strives to understand the economic fabric of local community and help its members continually get involved."

using market principles to solve a serious social problem. The Dallas chapter not only hosts its own events, but also works to connect members to other events and opportunities hosted by liberty-friendly organizations in the area, thereby serving as a valuable middleman for the greater Dallas-Fort Worth liberty community."



Chapter Spotlight: AFF-Columbus



AFF-Columbus leader Esther Bardo focuses her chapter's efforts on combining the forces of pro-liberty young professionals, policy experts, and policy influencers to fight for freedom in the Buckeye State.

"Looking back, I consider 2018

AFF-Columbus' year of 'rooting.' Meaning, the year was spent deepening our presence in Columbus—my second year as chapter leader. In my first year as chapter leader, I found it difficult to attract legislative aides, the gatekeepers to Ohio's elected representatives, to my early AFF events. However, as I began to feature my colleagues from The Buckeye Institute and build events around the issues with the most legislative consideration, several aides began to attend more regularly.

The AFF-Columbus board is now made up of two Ohio House of Representative legislative aides and a software developer who formerly worked for Americans for Prosperity. Their commitment, knowledge, and connections allow Esther to plan bigger and more impactful events.

Esther says, "Knowing early on the issues which are likely to get the most legislative attention helps me to not only secure appropriate speakers (many times it is one of my Buckeye colleagues!), but also create an opportunity for attendees - especially legislative aides - to hear free-market solutions to policy issues and share those solutions with their bosses, Ohio's elected representatives."





"It [AFF] helped me realize that other people share my opinions, as well as helping me see that this is a national movement."

— Andrew Houser, AFF-Midland





"Thank you for making me feel sane. I work with radical leftists and it's so uncomfortable every day. Keep up the excellent work."

– Amy Mastrine, AFF-San Francisco





"Through America's Future Foundation, I got to develop new skills, and push myself to grow... and it renewed my desire to stay current on national and local policy developments and helped me develop ties to my community."

– Beth Bailey, AFF-Detroit





"AFF has allowed me to grow professionally while also developing great friendships that I know will last a lifetime. This organization has the ability to bring a variety of people together to learn and network."

– Grace Morgan, AFF-DC



AFF CHAPTER EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

Promoting Freedom in America's Most Progressive State



AFF chapter leaders excel at planning creative and informative events that can draw a crowd and inspire individuals.

Inspiring Young Californians with the Story of Frederick Douglass

A prolific author and catalyst for social change, his public orations inspired thousands to embrace the ideas of freedom. His travels catapulted him to international stardom, and his willingness to engage opposing points of view awarded him an audience with two American presidents. How did a man who was born into slavery accomplish so much?

A champion of personal responsibility, Frederick Douglass revered those who relied on grit and determination to prosper. His life and teachings serve as powerful reminders for politically active millennials, that immutable characteristics, such

as race, cannot predetermine societal outcomes. In an era plagued by identity politics, Douglass' example proves that self-governance is the most effective way to flourish.

That is why, in March, your support allowed AFF to host Timothy Sandefur of the Goldwater Institute in Sacramento and San Francisco, where he discussed his newest book, *Frederick Douglass: Self-Made Man*. Eighty young professionals gathered for two intimate discussions on the important role of personal responsibility in society.

At a time when conservatives and libertarians feel isolated because of their beliefs, events like



AFF-San Francisco's Kate Modesitt interviews Timothy Sandefur about his book *Frederick Douglass: Self-Made Man*

these provide a community where ideas can be shared without fear of retribution. Through your generous support, attendees are empowered to become ambassadors for liberty, to take what they learn at AFF events and bring it out into the world. One former critic of AFF saw the Frederick Douglass event and admitted, "With events like this, what's not to like?"

That's why AFF members, like Matt in Sacramento, are grateful for your support. Matt reports:

"In a heavily bureaucratic and government-centric city like Sacramento, it's not very easy to meet people who care about liberty. That's why I'm happy to have found [AFF]. It's a breath of fresh air, to mingle with people and hear from amazing speakers like Tim, who can understand what I see firsthand — government is incompetent, and there is virtually no accountability or oversight in many cases."

Thank you for giving young people, like Matt, the inspiration they so desperately need. Because of you, the essence of personal responsibility is alive and well among liberty-minded millennials.



2018 AFF LEADERS OF THE YEAR



Nic Lott
Jackson, MS

Nic Lott is the type of young advocate for freedom you want on your side. He has been involved in politics and community-building since he was a teenager, and his unstoppable spirit

earned him a place as the first black student body president at the University of Mississippi. He has been involved with AFF for more than five years and leads AFF-Jackson because he takes seriously the words of Ronald Reagan, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Nic has cultivated a flourishing and unique chapter in the city of Jackson, with a diverse board and membership base. Nic says that the members don't always agree, but "the discussions are very informative and fun. Being in the capital city, we have access to many people from different backgrounds and careers." Legislators often attend AFF-Jackson events throughout the year and city council members have attended event panels to discuss issues like sales tax, marijuana regulations, and economic development within the city.

Being in Mississippi's capital, Nic focuses chapter events mostly on local issues, including the brain drain from the state capital, quality of life issues, and

criminal justice reform, to name just a few. He and the other members are committed not only to discussing these issues but to being a solution to the problem. Members volunteer with people who are most affected by the issues they discuss and annually volunteer at a homeless shelter to feed citizens around Thanksgiving or host a toy drive during the Christmas season.

Nic's personal hero is the matriarch of his family, his grandmother. He said, "She's a beautiful, wonderful example of all that's right in this world. She showered upon us unconditional love... [and] her wisdom, grace, and strength inspire us to reach within ourselves to be the best we can be." Nic strives to live out the values his grandmother instilled in him in combination with his passion for freedom, including AFF leadership.

Nic said of his experience, "It's important to spread the ideals of freedom as often as we can and in every corner of the world... AFF has given me an opportunity to be a liberty advocate right here at home."





Hannah Niles

Raleigh, NC

One of AFF's newest chapter leaders, Hannah Niles of AFF-Raleigh, decided to take ownership of the chapter "because [she] appreciated the focus on professional

development which [she] believes is especially relevant to Raleigh's audience since there are so many young professionals in the area."

As the public affairs director of Sinclair Public Affairs, Hannah derives the majority of her experience from state-level politics, previously being involved with the Civitas Institute, the Governor's Highway Safety Program, the Office of U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, the North Carolina General Assembly, and an independent news organization. At the ripe old age of 23, Hannah has already volunteered for numerous political organizations, non-profits, and campaigns.

Hannah is committed to using the AFF-Raleigh chapter to "bridge gaps" through events and topics that attract activists from throughout the community and across the political spectrum. She uses creative formats and fascinating speakers to shed new light on topics like criminal justice reform, transforming the education industry through technology, or deregulation for Raleigh brewery owners.

Due to the attention-grabbing nature of AFF-Raleigh's events, on multiple occasions servers at the event venues have come up to Hannah and expressed appreciation for what she and

the chapter are doing and said that they would like to attend events in the future. As Hannah states, "This is critical because this means that we are appealing to a much broader audience than most civic groups are able to. In general, I have realized there is so much more potential with AFF than I even initially realized, and I am excited to explore that and to continue to build our chapter base and community presence."

Hannah says her main hero in life is her mom. She taught Hannah to never accept things at face value, but to always research and formulate her own opinions and to ask questions. One thing her mom always expressed to her was, "The worst thing anyone can say to you is 'no'." This optimistic approach to life influences the way Hannah communicates and builds relationships. Hannah claims, "It laid the foundation for my 'the sky is the limit' attitude."



WRITING OUR WAY TO A FREER WORLD

Thanks to your support of developing young heroes, the AFF Writing Fellows Program launched another 58 promising young writers into the world this past year. The Writing Fellows Program is the preeminent training ground for freedom-loving young writers. Over the course of six weeks, fellows receive small-group and individualized training from prominent editors, journalists, and policy leaders while gaining hands-on writing experience and feedback from faculty. Last year program alumni published more than 2,700 pieces in media outlets, think tanks, and government offices – more than double the number of pieces published the year before.

These are just two of the 58 impressive rising stars from 2018 determined to break the Left's stronghold on media messaging.



Erin Dunne

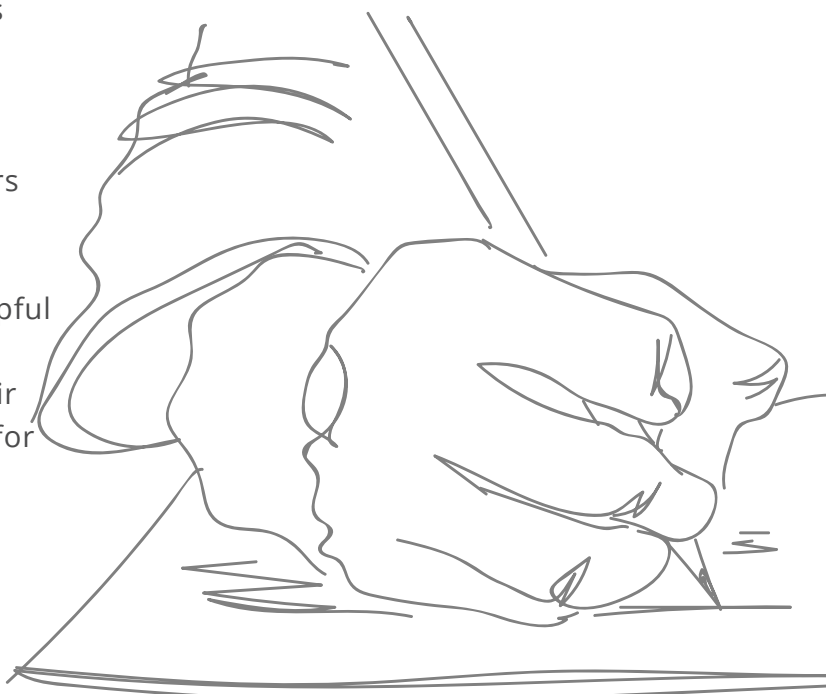
Erin Dunne is an AFF 2018 writing fellow and commentary writer at the *Washington Examiner*. Drawing from her unique perspective gained from time as a Yenching Scholar at Peking University in China, she writes about foreign policy with an emphasis

on the unique challenges America faces in its relations with China.

"The AFF writing program was a great opportunity to learn from experienced writers who pushed me to further develop my own writing, editing, and op-ed pitching, among other skills," she said. "It was particularly helpful to talk to writers working in different fields and for different publications about how their careers progressed and to hear their advice for those of us just starting out."

For Erin, inspiration comes from writers who can inform while still telling an engaging story.

"My favorite writer is probably Tom Wolff," she said. "It was his work that inspired me to engage with writing and storytelling as a journalistic craft in the first place. The other writer who has shaped my work recently is Henrietta Harrison. I read *The Man Awakened from Dreams* as well as some of her other works while I was in China last year, and she does an exceptional job of weaving narrative and thoroughly researched history that is a model for captivating and informative writing."





Brad Polumbo

Shortly after completing the 2018 summer term of the Writing Fellows Program, Brad Polumbo brought the skills he learned to his new role as assistant editor at Young Voices, where he works to help other young

liberty-minded writers get published. Brad also continues producing his own writing which has appeared in *National Review*, the *Washington Examiner*, the *Federalist*, and more. Last year Brad was also chosen for The Red Alert Politics "30 Under 30" list, which "highlights young, right-of-center leaders who are making an exceptional impact in their communities."

I am still connected with today," Brad said. "Additionally, it helped me learn the fundamentals of opinion writing that I use in my commentary regularly." Brad covers a range of topics including civil liberties, higher education, and gun control but has been an especially outspoken critic of the growing preference for socialism among young adults.

"My writing is motivated by my deeply-held belief that my generation is making a grave mistake with its increasing support for socialism and big government," Brad said. "As a result, I feel compelled to try to make the case against this shift to as large an audience as I possibly can in my writing, to play my part in warding off the destruction of individual liberty and national prosperity that would no doubt come with a shift toward socialism in the U.S."

"The AFF Writing Fellows Program introduced me to friends and mentors



AFF gives special thanks to the heroes at the Rising Tide Foundation and Mr. Ronald Krieger for their generous support of the AFF Writing Fellows Program.

MY ADVICE TO GRADS: START MOPPING

Doing work that feels beneath you always pays off in the end.



By Tyler Bonin

Every commencement season, thousands of graduates are treated to something I call “standard keynote language.” Everyone can recognize these tiny, easily digestible

nuggets of wisdom: “Don’t be afraid to take risks,” or “Be courageous.” And the classic: “Follow your passion.” This is sound, albeit clichéd, advice. What would I recommend? “Mop your way to success.”

A mop, used for cleaning floors, isn’t a magical tool for success. Rather, it is a reminder that there should be no task considered beneath you.

When I was a student at Duke, I worked in a retail store. Many of my co-workers were also college students, some in graduate school, and one was on her way to dental school. Many of my colleagues hated mopping, which required going into the haven of filth that was the public bathroom. I had plenty of practice in this area as a former Marine Corps private, so I always volunteered for the job.

My managers noticed. They named me employee of the month and promoted me to management

for the holiday rush—a small success at a small store. I learned that a sense of entitlement is a burden. People who believe themselves above something, or entitled to something more because of past achievements, will find that new opportunities slip away.

I volunteered for the necessary task, signaling my work ethic and dedication to the organization. I simply wanted to do my job as best as possible. Perhaps I didn’t realize it at the time, but I was emulating senior Marines who would roll up their sleeves and get dirty when the job required it.

I have met countless others who tell similar stories. A successful consultant told me that after graduating from a top-tier university, he spent a year piecing together tedious part-time jobs while volunteering at startups—only to prove himself. As competitive as the U.S. economy is, efforts like this are only becoming more common.

This may seem unfair considering the hurdles young graduates face today. Older generations didn’t have to deal with the dehumanization of the hiring process through automated résumé-parsing software. And the levels of experience required for entry-level jobs seem only to increase. The generations that pushed for college education for all never struggled with these obstacles. It’s an unfair but natural product of the evolving economy.

Certainly there is a time to be bold, but there is also a time for humility. A task once considered beneath you could actually be the key to your

success. Do the job nobody wants, because, believe it or not, somebody appreciates it. Volunteer to learn and to provide value to others. Find a dream job by first doing the rote tasks in that field, without complaint. Pick up a mop.

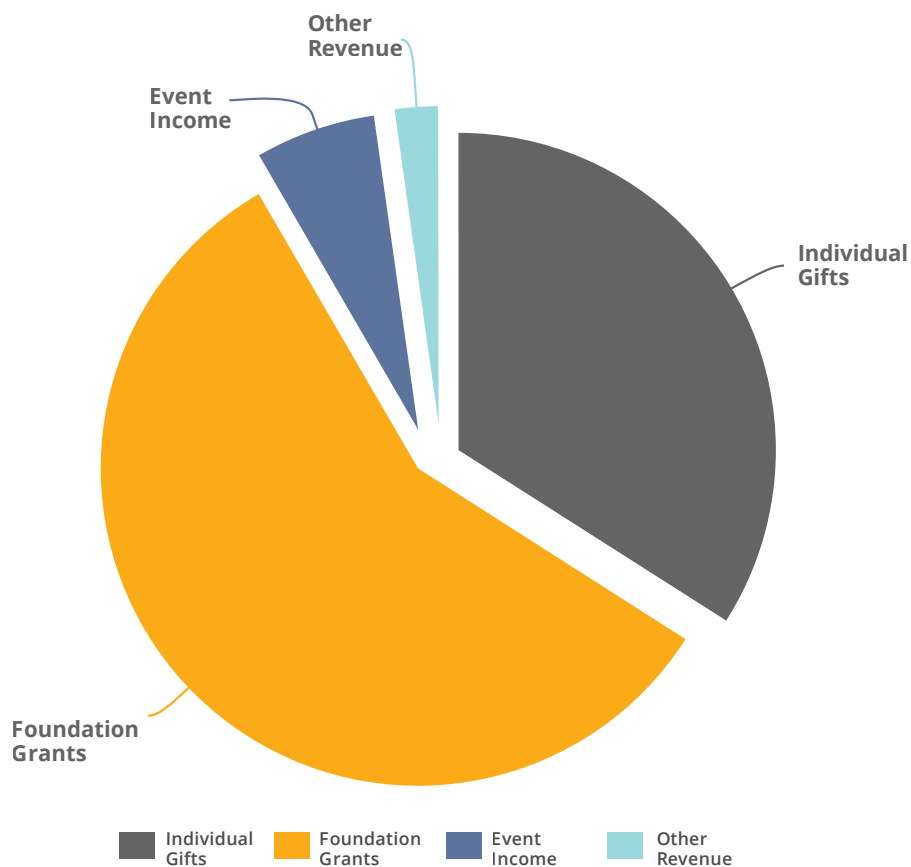
"Certainly there is a time to be bold, but there is also a time for humility."



Tyler Bonin

is an economics and history instructor in North Carolina. Prior to moving into education, Tyler worked in social science research. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. His work has appeared in *The Federalist*, the Foundation for Economic Education, and the Acton Institute's *Religion & Liberty Transatlantic*. He is also a contributor to the *Civitas Institute*, where he writes on school choice and other issues.

FINANCIAL REPORTING



Income

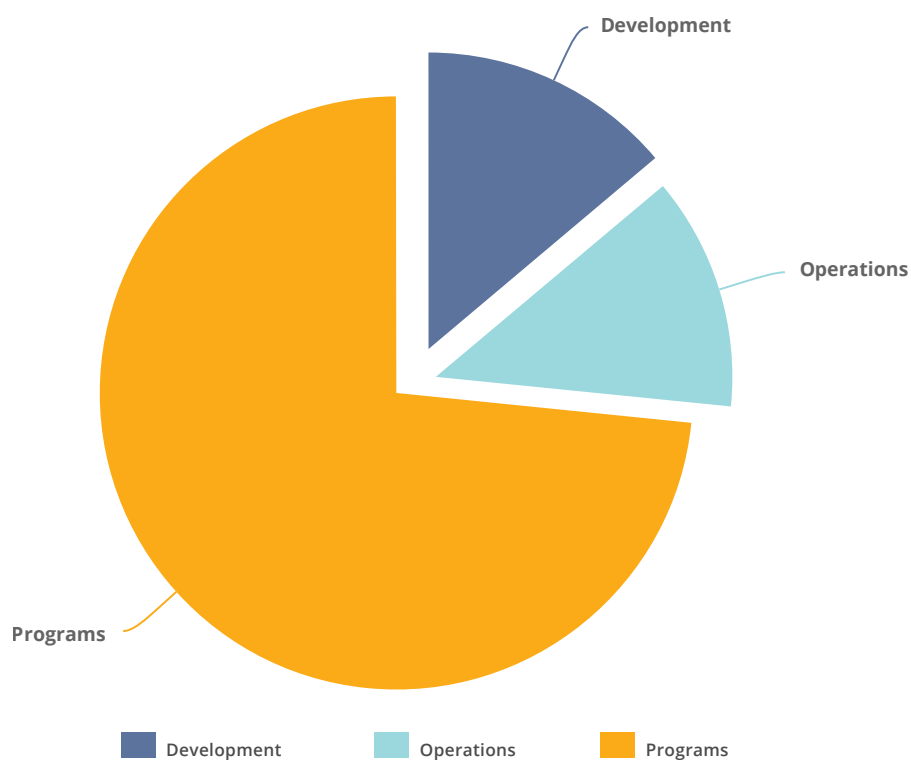
Individual Gifts: \$364,677

Foundation Grants: \$599,525

Event Income: \$54,336

Other Revenue: \$2,570

Total Income: \$1,021,108



Expenses

Development: \$111,829

Operations: \$153,040

Programs: \$697,414

Total Expenses: \$962,283

AMERICA'S FUTURE FOUNDATION

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