



FOUNDATION *for* THE COLLEGE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Welcome new readers who have joined us over the summer! Have you visited our [website](#) yet? Some of the things you'll find there: previous newsletters with project progress reports, articles on the nature of education and commentary on news relevant to our goals.



I'd like to know what you would like to see in the newsletter. Please write or call with any comments, questions or suggestions you may have.

Regards,  
Marsha Familiaro Enright

## John Tomasi Joins RIFI Advisors

We would like to welcome Professor [John Tomasi](#) of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, to our Advisory Board.

Professor Tomasi, Ph.D. Oxford University, specializes in political theory and ethics and public policy. He is the author of *Liberalism Beyond Justice: Citizens, Society and the Boundaries of Political Theory*, as well as numerous articles. After teaching at Stanford and Princeton, Dr. Tomasi founded and directs the [Political Theory Project](#), a high-powered, Great Books program for a dedicated group of students at Brown. The program seeks to develop a research cluster to "bring the conceptual rigor of political theory to bear on normative questions."



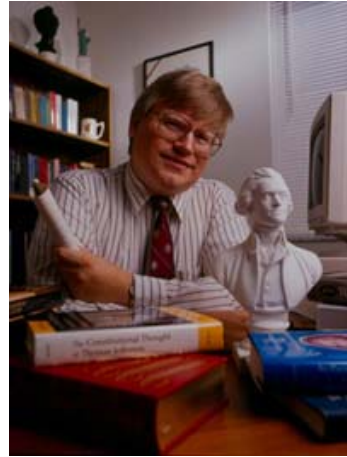
We appreciate the deep knowledge of politics and ethics Dr. Tomasi brings to the Board, as well as his extensive experience in teaching the Great Books.

## David Mayer Joins RIFI Advisors

Please welcome [David N. Mayer](#) to our Advisory Board. He is Professor of Law and History at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, where he teaches courses in American constitutional history, English and American legal history, and intellectual property, as well as a seminar in Libertarianism and the Law.

With a Ph.D. in History from the University of Virginia and a J.D. from the University of Michigan, Dr. Mayer has worked as a practicing attorney as well as professor. He is also author of *The Constitutional Thought of Thomas Jefferson*, as well as numerous articles.

His wide-ranging knowledge in history and law will be a great asset to our board.



## Freedomfest July 2007



Marsha Familiaro Enright and Patrick Peterson manned our booth at Freedomfest in Las Vegas. Over 700 people attended a multitude of wonderful lectures and presentations by such luminaries as Charles Murray, Art Laffer and John Mackey.

Marsha presented a talk about the College Project to a lively audience, some of whom offered to volunteer for us. She also participated in a panel discussion on liberal education. Marsha is pictured with Pat Heller of [Liberty Coin Service](#) at left.

## Introducing Goran Paunovic

When RIFI needed its website built, Team Member Don Baldino researched designers through Elance.com (mentioned in an early RIFI newsletter article). After reviewing over twenty proposals from designers around the world, Marsha and Don were most drawn to [Art Version](#) for its beautiful, skillfully used graphics and easy to use websites.

Ironically, where was ArtVersion located? Chicagoland! Serbian immigrant [Goran Paunovic](#) (pictured above) is a classic example of the ambitious, successful entrepreneur. Goran built the RIFI website in three weeks to meet our deadline while working on multiple other projects.



## National Survey of Student Engagement and USA Today

*The Chronicles of Higher Education* reported July 31st that the [National Survey of Student Engagement](#) (NSSE) will partner with *USA Today* on college information. The NSSE aims to offer an alternative source of information to *USNews & World Reports'* college rankings. "College rankings are based primarily on measures of resources and reputation which research studies indicate are not related to desired student learning and personal development outcomes." NSSE seeks to provide more meaningful, in-depth data for students and parents about the qualities and characteristics of colleges around the nation.

## Interview with Tal Ben-Shahar




Listen to a free digital recording of team member Tal Ben-Shahar's interview on his book *Happier* at [Coaching Towards Happiness](#). Currently Tal will be returning to teach at Harvard in January. Currently, he is running a leadership development workshop in China.

## Presentations at the Atlas Society Conference July, 2007

Marsha updated attendees of the Atlas Society conference at Towson College near Baltimore on the progress of the college and, once again, entertained inquiries from parents and students interested in the program.

She also gave two classes. In one, she discussed the nature of social skills and their relationship to individualism; in the other she led a seminar comparing the story and ideas of Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* with Tom Wolfe's book on modern architecture, *From Bauhaus to Our*

House.



The August 3, 2007 issue of *The Chronicles of Higher Education* includes "[The Tough Road to Better Science Teaching](#)." Dropping enrollment in college science programs has fuelled concern and research into better practices. Traditional lecture and test methods used to wash 'low performing' students out of science without concern for engaging them seem to contribute to this problem. The article lauds science programs which now use inquiry-based classes instead, resulting in higher performance, knowledge and retention in science.

Regular readers to this newsletter won't be surprised to hear me say: I'm glad to see the adoption of more inquiry-based methods similar to the ones we will be using in our program. Shared inquiry methods are well known for fuelling motivation, the key to learning.

Sincerely,  
Marsha Familiaro Enright  
*President*  
[www.rifinst.org](http://www.rifinst.org)