

Affirmations of Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization

“I have been an enthusiastic supporter of AHI since its inception because the Institute provides a forceful independent forum for informed scholarship and debate. It has become too easy to take America's political and economic freedoms for granted and to assume that we are simply entitled to prosperity. AHI, through its many efforts, reminds us that the ideals, the institutions, and the policies that built America are unique and must be continually retaught, and defended.”

Scott Sipprelle, Hamilton College, Class of 1985, Phi Beta Kappa

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization provides valuable insights into many educational opportunities that should be available to all serious students. The value of a good liberal arts education should be to provide us with the knowledge to look at subjects fairly and intelligently. The Institute encourages us to look at various problems in our society and view a range of possible solutions, exposing students to competing points of view along the way. Only through looking at the problems that exist and studying them with a diversity of opinions can one hope to find the truth. Otherwise misguided opinions and policy will continue to go on unchallenged.”

Tom Murphy, Coordinator of Basketball Advancement, Northeastern University

"It is no exaggeration to say that my time spent at Alexander Hamilton Institute events and with the persons who made all the events possible composed the most meaningful experiences of my college career and among the most meaningful of my life so far. The Alexander Hamilton Institute was not just a *universitas*, in the best sense of the word, but a home. Professors Paquette, Bradfield, Ambrose, and Hill were not just teachers, but mentors. What I learned there was not merely interesting or useful, but changed the way I looked at the world. As the higher education bubble collapses and elite universities are unmasked as mere tools for legitimizing a certain set of prejudices, the Alexander Hamilton Institute contains the seeds for rebirth, a hope for the liberal arts, and, most importantly, a chance to join the conversation of mankind."

Thomas Cheeseman, Hamilton College, Class of 2012; J. D., Vanderbilt Law School

"Before taking your class and attending events at the AHI, modern politics and current events, along with their philosophical underpinnings, were things I rarely thought about or valued. Thanks to a push from my father, I enrolled in your Conservative Thought class and my life was changed. Simple "truths" that I was taught in my other classes and had taken as given were challenged. I really appreciated your willingness to present an alternative view to the mainstream on campus in as unbiased a manner as possible. I felt like I could finally evaluate both sides of pertinent issues, such as political tensions on campus or the conflict in the middle east, and independently form my own conclusions. But the lessons didn't stop there. You pushed me to get involved with the topics I valued, such as Israel and antisemitism, and supported my pursuit of these with both your encouraging words and AHI resources. You also served as a role model, exemplifying these ideals on campus, sticking up for what you thought was right.

These lessons in refining my own beliefs and sticking up for them, whether or not they are deemed 'popular,' has been a critical value I've aimed to emulate in both my personal and

professional life. Working in a relatively high-stakes business environment, I have found myself surprisingly comfortable challenging the beliefs of executives working for my company and our clients. These leaders don't always agree (it's great when they do), but even if I'm wrong, they almost always seem appreciative that a young analyst is willing to engage with the topic at hand and challenge the status quo. Especially as a young woman, I have cherished this lesson in having the confidence to speak my mind. These experiences recently paid off when I found out that I was awarded a fellowship to attend the Fuqua School of Business at Duke starting this summer through the Forte Foundation, which aims to further female representation in leadership roles. I truly believe the intellectual curiosity, confidence, and bravery you inspired in me was critical to get to this point, so, thank you.

I sincerely hope that young adults from Hamilton will continue to benefit from your mentorship in your new role at AHI. If you believe there is any interest in a career in business among students involved in AHI, I would be more than happy to help in any way I can, whether via a networking call or coming to campus to talk about my experience. I hope to give back to the organization that continues to give so much to me through its lasting lessons!"

Sarah Izzo, Hamilton College, Class of 2015

"The Alexander Hamilton Institute has proven to be an invaluable resource, both during my time as an undergraduate fellow and beyond. Through AHI, I have had the opportunity to engage in thoughtful discourse on a variety of topics with peers, professors, and leaders from across the political, ideological, and religious spectrum. These conversations taught me how to listen, ask probing questions, synthesize information, and formulate my own opinions – all skills that have served me well both in the professional arena and as a global citizen. My involvement with the AHI also led me to discover great books, such as Friedrich Hayek's *Constitution of Liberty*, which have introduced me to ideas and principles that I would not have otherwise been exposed to. What's more, AHI provides a platform – including reading clusters and colloquiums – to discuss these works that undergraduate fellows like myself have continued to leverage long after graduation. Additionally, engaging with AHI has afforded me the opportunity to drastically improve my writing. Where Professors Paquette and Ambrose worked tirelessly to critique my work in the classroom, Dr. Frisk provided instrumental guidance during my tenure as editor-in-chief of *Enquiry*. Without their dedication to teaching undergraduates like myself, I would not have been nearly as successful communicating complex concepts in my professional life.

For me, however, the true value of AHI cannot be understood independently of the relationships I built as an undergraduate fellow. The connections made and friendships formed during those four short years on the Hill have withstood the test of both time and distance. I still exchange emails with my AHI mentors and call on them whenever I make the trek back to Clinton; I still meet fellow undergraduate fellows to chat about the latest new cycle over coffee; I still join my AHI friends at their homes for the holidays. I have the AHI to thank for that and so much more."

Elizabeth Barry, Hamilton College, Class of 2017

"The Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization is much more than an educational organization; it is a cradle of intellectual diversity, a caring fold of academic nurturing, and a guiding light for the future. AHI's remarkable coordinators have not only

supported and guided Hamilton undergraduate students like me but also created a framework for the development of both students and citizens in the Clinton, NY area and beyond.

College can be an exciting and formative experience, but it can also be a daunting and frustrating one without a sense of rootedness. I often stop and think about how most people, unfortunately, live and die in the same corner of the earth where they were born. It is ironic that the lucky lot in our case (Hamilton College students) elevate their vantage point by moving to a small, remote liberal arts college. Great thinkers, from Friedrich Nietzsche to Henry David Thoreau, demonstrated that isolation doesn't necessarily expunge open-mindedness, but it's still far too easy to get stuck in the corner you moved to in the escape from the one you left. AHI has provided students a sense of direction to intellectually navigate turbulent waters.

It's easy to take notice of the institute's programming: from events like the Monticello Colloquium to speaker-series at the historic headquarters, we have enjoyed some unforgettable experiences. But the true greatness of AHI lies beyond the surface. Behind every incredible event and learning opportunity, there is the effort of outstanding people. I want to personally thank Co-founder, President, and Executive Director of AHI Professor Robert Paquette. He is a man who truly cares for his students, mentees, colleagues, and the pursuit of knowledge. He labors tirelessly to uphold academic excellence and puts his heart and soul into the people around him in addition to every fiber of AHI's elegant cloth. I want to also convey my admiration for Co-founder and Charter Fellow of AHI, Professor Douglas Ambrose. He too is a legendary instructor and spreads his intense passion for history and learning to his students. Although I have yet to take a course with him, from the classes and presentations I have visited to the conversations we have had, I can tell that he is a teacher of the highest caliber and a person of enormous compassion. I also enjoyed a presentation by AHI Co-founder and Charter Fellow James Bradfield at the organization's headquarters. His engaging, informative, and nuanced discussion on the Coase Theorem shed light on the underpinnings of economic systems, addressed the limitations of economic theory, and provided insight on how we can galvanize our knowledge for the betterment of humankind. It would be an understatement to say that the three professorial founders of the AHI are individuals of erudition.

Academic excellence and integrity shine throughout AHI's structure and membership. I have met and worked with extraordinary individuals as a Staff writer on the AHI backed, student-run publication of *Enquiry*. It was a pleasure to assist *Enquiry* Editor-in-Chief Claire Anastasia Kitz and Managing Editor Andrew Juchno. They are smart and hardworking and have taught me a great deal. I also want to thank AHI Resident Fellow Dr. David Frisk for providing support and helpful feedback in the article creation process. AHI Resident Fellow Dr. Mary Grabar has extensively written and published intellectually stimulating works and supported the institute as well. From its founders, fellows, directors, and trustees to its undergraduate students and community members, AHI is grand.

The Institute's support has not only developed my intellectual capability and advanced my professional skillset, but also strengthened my personal fortitude and invigorated my spirit. As a first-generation American, the son of Russian-Jewish immigrants who fled the Soviet Union, it is a great blessing to have been born in the United States, and a great joy to have the opportunity of higher education. For me (and for many others), education has been liberation. I am very appreciative that AHI has supported me in my journey and that I have the chance to be part of

something that strives to uplift the human spirit. Above any academic and professional opportunity that my experience with AHI has endowed, I am most grateful for its help in conditioning my character towards living a more meaningful life, pursuing knowledge and wisdom alike, and loving humanity. The Alexander Hamilton Institute transcends the boundaries of any classroom, building, or city. It has the potential to touch the hearts and better the lives of countless people, just like it did mine.”

Edward Shvets, Hamilton College, Class of 2021

“When I walk into the Alexander Hamilton Institute, I am greeted by a sense of belonging and a sense of respect. There exist few places where I can sit down beside two individuals, both of whom I disagree with, and have not only a civil, but also a productive discussion. From Professor Ambrose's lively orations deconstructing the psychology of early sermons to our weekly reading groups in the library, the AHI engages with students on a unique level and teaches them how to approach the world around them. Professor Paquette is committed to bringing the best and the brightest intellectuals to engage in Oakeshottian conversations. I will never forget sitting in Montalto, listening to fourteen of the world’s leading scholars debate the founding principles behind a republican government. The Alexander Hamilton Institute is a home for ideas, a forum for discourse, and a stage to learn about civil society.”

Sajan Palanki, Hamilton College, Class of 2021

“I have taken the liberty of placing your name [Robert Paquette] on a plaque we have dedicated here to the memory of [AHI academic advisers] Betsey and Gene [Genovese]. . . . [W]e thoroughly enjoyed having [AHI Undergraduate Fellow] Kayla Safran with us a few weeks ago. And we hope you will be disposed to steer more of your associates and students to our precincts.”

Reid Buckley, Buckley School of Thought, Reflection & Communications, to Robert Paquette, 19 November 2012.

“I have taken a few classes and attended speaker programs at the Alexander Hamilton Institute or AHI, as it is also known. All the programs I have taken have been excellent, informative and well attended. Most are open to the public and free for those who attend. The class is once weekly in the evening and textbooks are provided. Assignments consist of 25-30 pages of readings and class includes a lecture and discussion; participation is voluntary. Best of all there are no exams, and snacks and beverages are provided.

Guest speakers and educators with memorable presentations included Andrew McCarthy, discussing his role as a Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York after the first World Trade Center bombing which occurred in the early 1990s and Dr David Frisk’s lecture on the Gettysburg Address during the class on Abraham Lincoln.

The people who attend are from all walks of life, business owners, teachers, lawyers, doctors, students, blue-and white-collar workers and people who are retired. A variety of points of view are shared and all have an opportunity to speak or listen. The class discussions are lively, open, honest, intelligent, thought provoking, and respectful. Most attending have one thing in common, to learn something that they did not know before the walked in that evening. The AHI is a treasure, located in Clinton NY, check it out.”

Alan P., New Hartford, New York

“AHI became a big part of my life while I was a student at Hamilton, and I have a hard time imagining my time at school without it. The programming - a wide-ranging array of reading groups and lectures, as well as the annual colloquium - provided the opportunity to study and discuss a thought-provoking mix of modern commentary and classic texts with AHI Fellows, visiting scholars, and a group of students interested enough in subjects such as history, political theory, economics, and literature to spend their extracurricular time thinking and talking about them. Coming into college with little knowledge of these outside of what I’d learned in high school, I was pleasantly surprised by how welcoming the Fellows were to newcomers, as well as how encouraging they were towards students’ more advanced studies. I am grateful to AHI for pushing me to thinking with more depth and humility, encouraging me to communicate more clearly, and for laying the foundation for continued engagement with subjects and texts that I might otherwise have left behind in college.”

Marta Johnson, Hamilton College, Class of 2013

“AHI was a central part of my intellectual life while attending Hamilton College, and I have many fond memories of times spent down the Hill at AHI Headquarters and at various AHI events. In many ways AHI provided the ultimate liberal arts environment for an undergraduate student, as the programming exposed me to many new and challenging ideas and provided a forum that welcomed animated discussion and debate. The topics covered at AHI club meetings were often cross-disciplinary and encouraged critical thinking beyond the confines of any particular subject or field, and I'm grateful for the many conversations I had, as they sharpened my intellect and introduced to me ideas that I was able to apply to my on-campus academic work and in my own life.

AHI was also deeply generous to me and my fellow undergraduate fellows, not just in the dozens of delicious meals we were treated to at the Headquarters over the years, but also in the opportunities for growth it offered to us. In 2012, AHI made it possible for me to attend a executive seminar in public speaking at the Buckley School in South Carolina, an experience that has benefited me tremendously in my professional career to this day. While my politics and values may not always align with those who are most active at AHI, I will always be thankful for the experiences and opportunities I gained through my participation and hope that many more students - of all stripes - will have the same privilege for years to come.”

Kayla (Safran) Coe, Hamilton College, Class of 2013

“The doors to the AHI are always open. To students, townspeople, or alums trudging over to the Clinton Arena from The Village Tavern on a chilly winter evening. An impromptu conversation with Professor Paquette back in Feb ‘18 reignited my interest in the Institute and helped me gain a true appreciation for its mission. At a moment when students are being shouted down (if not worse) for espousing their personal beliefs, AHI strives to ensure a healthy discussion. I am so grateful that AHI exists for current students who may feel like they need to censure themselves in the classroom – or worse, cater to the beliefs of the professor. For any student seeking to challenge his or her way of thinking, instead of being told what to think, AHI is an invaluable resource.”

Samuel Bowlby, Hamilton College, Class of 2004

“I want to thank you and The Alexander Hamilton Institute for sponsoring an amazing educational experience this past weekend. This was my first time to attend this colloquium and I am a better educator because of the experience. . . .Please pass along my gratitude to everyone involved that contributed to this educational experience. The generosity from the sponsors made it possible for this Texas teacher to attend. I am always seeking opportunities to grow and share that knowledge with my students and this colloquium gave me the opportunity to do that.”

A. G., Boerne, Texas, 13 November 2019

“For a dozen years now, the Alexander Hamilton Institute has been a beacon of light in the general darkness that has descended on the academic study of the foundations of our common culture. Cutting through the mystagogic ideological swoon gripping the humanities and social sciences, AHI has given countless students a joyful home for engaging cant-free the complex and profound riches of Western civilization. As someone who has participated in many AHI programs, I am grateful to the Institute’s leadership for their inspiring devotion to the cause of humane learning. To thoughtful citizens looking for an intellectual road map for perpetuating the best in our civilizational inheritance, I commend the work of the AHI. It is a model of excellence and integrity, which learners young and old will desire to emulate.”

Bradford P. Wilson, Executive Director, James Madison Program, Princeton University

“I write to express my deeply felt appreciation, in the main, for the student programs that AHI has sponsored over the years and your reaching out to include students from Colgate University. Any number of them have greatly profited from their inclusion, among them Anna Pluff who came back this past summer abuzz with what she had learned from a program you ran in DC. She, though, was far from the first nor, I hope, the last Colgate student who will be able to take advantage of the the intensive programs you organize. In each and every instance, they've had a chance to meet with like-minded students, feel less isolated and even in some cases accepted in a way often not found on college campuses, and to learn from accomplished scholars. I, too, though have profited from the opportunities you've provided me to take part in various programs you've run that have allowed me to share my late-eighteenth century scholarly work with a wider community than I would have otherwise. In sum, AHI provides a rare conservative and early-American scholarly outpost in upstate-New York for both students and faculty which without your doing so, would leave this area intellectually in need of the same. Bravo for filling a much needed lacuna and for a job well done.”

Barry Alan Shain, Professor of Political Science, Colgate University

“AHI provides Hamilton College students and the broader community an enormous benefit by engaging important topics about our nation’s founding and current policy choices. The Institute’s willingness to involve people across the political spectrum is particularly important, and I have enjoyed the opportunity which AHI has provided to present my research to a broader audience. I hope the Institute continues to encourage students to understand our history, to engage topics in civil discourse, and to challenge the status quo when necessary to promote progress.”

John Ragosta, Ph.D, J.D., Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello

“It is an honor to be endorsing the Alexander Hamilton Institute as a center of open intellectual and political discussion. Under the bold leadership of Professor Robert Paquette, this institution

has been a beacon of light in an increasingly bigoted academic world that rages against any politically unacceptable dissent. The staff and students whom I have encountered during my visits to the AHI are clearly dedicated to the academic and intellectual freedom that is vanishing from our universities and from what was once 'higher education.' Further, the stately institute building in which meetings and seminars take place houses massive collections of Western classics and multiple works by American scholars. Visiting students are encouraged to become familiar with these texts and to spend time poring over them. In short, the AHI has become a needed substitute for the kind of teaching and learning that the onetime distinguished college where Professor Paquette taught for many decades, has progressively abandoned.

It would be remiss to close this endorsement without underlining the courage and character of the person who runs the AHI. Although a brilliant scholar in his own field, Bob Paquette has sacrificed an endowed chair at Hamilton College and risked financial insecurity to carry on his solitary battle for academic freedom. He is anything but the conservative movement time-server whom I have pilloried in my writings. Would that all self-described American conservatives were made of his mettle!"

Paul Gottfried, Raffensperger Professor of Humanities Emeritus, Elizabethtown College

"As a senior student at Hamilton College, AHI and its members have been a significant part of my undergraduate education. I became involved with the organization towards the end of my sophomore year when I was looking for internship opportunities for the summer of 2017. I met Professor Paquette, and he introduced me to the second annual Washington Program on National Security (or WaPoNS). With all expenses paid, I was thrilled to visit Washington, D.C. for the first time in my life and visit a variety of institutions engaged with the American federal government. The program's coordinator, Dr. Juliana Pilon, is well-connected in Washington, and she provided me with friendly guidance and potential networking opportunities during the two-week program. I was privileged to be a part of Professors Ambrose and Paquette's 'The Old South' class during the fall of senior year. Both professors were knowledgeable and passionate for teaching students and inspiring intellectual curiosity. Participating in the 2018 Monticello conference as a student of the course and a photographer of the event was a rewarding experience, especially as I was among the leading scholars on Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. I subsequently wrote an article on the conference for the intellectually stimulating student-run publication, Enquiry. Dr. Frisk is a kind, generous man who has provided me with additional support at the organization, and he has encouraged me to write more for Enquiry. I have participated in a variety of unique events at the AHI's Clinton, NY headquarters since I began my involvement with the organization, all of which provided me with worthwhile experiences, such as meeting great authors, enjoying great food, and learning new perspectives. I believe AHI has been very generous in all aspects whenever they've engaged with me. Professor Paquette has provided me with excellent mentoring now as I write my senior thesis in history at Hamilton.

AHI and its members have provided me with a wonderful, worthwhile, rigorous, and inspiring intellectual experience during my time at Hamilton. They welcome members of diverse political affiliations, they are generous, and most importantly, they all have a passion for nurturing its esteemed members as citizens engaged in intellectual curiosity and civic engagement. Principal members of the organization, like Drs. Ambrose, Paquette, Frisk, and Pilon have all been

supremely generous and kind mentors, while the undergraduate fellows are thoughtful and friendly. I strongly recommend AHI to anyone interested in growing his or her mind in all forms."

Juan Hernandez, Hamilton College, Class of 2019

"I am thrilled to have found at last a community where conflicting political ideas can be discussed in a large group reasonably, intelligently, by well-informed adults and, most important, with total civility! Since the very beginning of AHI more than ten years ago, professors, teachers, high-school and college students, lawyers, farmers, engineers, an artist (myself), and others from this general area have learned about a wonderful selection of subjects relating to the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution and exchanged ideas and thoughts with great mutual respect. Dr. David Frisk lectures just enough. Each 'student' brings his or her own expertise to bear on the subject. It is fascinating always. The readings (free!) are of a grand variety. The topics of each course are various as well; no repetition and all political points of view shared and explained. Also, how privileged we are to share the professional expertise of each participant when it becomes relevant to the topic. I have taken all of the courses. Each session continues to add a rich dimension to my life. I feel that these courses represent American education at its best."

Catharine Westlake, artist, Forestport, New York, Smith College, Class of 1958

"Today happens to be the Anniversary of my Wedding and the Feast Day of St. Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, and another man of principle as are you, As you know, he was beheaded in the Tower of London on this day in 1535 for resigning as Chancellor of England rather than approve King Henry VIII's divorce to marry his second of several wives and his split with Rome. I am pleased that today we don't behead those who resign as a matter of principle, at least on the Top of College Hill. . . . You are doing great work down there [at AHI]"

Francis H. Musselman (1926-2013), Lawyer, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy; Hamilton College Life Trustee; to Robert Paquette, 22 June 2011

"Between the two of us, we have participated regularly in AHI activities: courses, lectures, conventions. Jill greatly enjoyed a number of classes offered by AHI scholars, and Frank used his position as director of Utica College's ethnic heritage studies center to help organize an AHI-sponsored lecture by Upstate advocate Bill Kauffman. We have met like-minded people, not in our age group only but also area students, chiefly from Hamilton College; for all of us, these have been times of spiritual renewal and recharging of our faith in this country at a time when "conservative" has become a red flag for the politically correct (so-called).

A particular highlight has been the Menges Colloquium, named for the venerable Hamilton College trustee without whose support AHI could not have been established. It has been Central New York's premier conservative event, and we have always left it invigorated and encouraged. We feel blessed and are deeply grateful to the three faculty founders of AHI, especially to the indefatigable Bob Paquette. AHI is a sane island in an increasingly insane sea."

Jill Ziemann Bergmann, MLS; Dr. phil. Frank Bergmann, Walter D. Edmonds Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and German, Utica College

“I have actually been on AHI's website previously and meant to congratulate you as it certainly appears that the project has been a great success. I wish the opportunities it affords were available when I was on the Hill. I continue to read books by authors that you and Prof. Ambrose exposed me to, and I think about both of you often.”

R. M., Hamilton College, Class of 2003

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute seeks to deepen our understanding of and our respect for the intellectual and moral foundations of our civilization. I have followed its work with admiration since it was founded. More recently, I have had the honor to be included in some of its events. Based on this personal experience, I have learned that what makes the AHI truly extraordinary is the way it involves students directly in its programs. It was a real pleasure, and a great source of encouragement, to see the intellectual seriousness and the joy in learning that the AHI fosters in the young. The AHI contributes directly to the depth and richness of these students' lives, and thus indirectly to the preservation and transmission of our civilization. May its work prosper as long as our republic lasts!”

Carson Holloway, Professor of Political Science, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“If it is true that the people make the place, then it is no wonder that AHI has touched so many lives since it opened its doors in 2007. It was at about that time -- a year later, actually -- that I moved to Clinton, New York to begin my freshman year at Hamilton College. I arrived on the Hill with a passion for American history, so it wasn't long before I found Doug Ambrose and Bob Paquette, Hamilton professors who were, in this former student's opinion, the college's two finest historians and certainly its best teachers. Professors Ambrose and Paquette would not only introduce me to AHI, an organization they co-founded, but would become my closest mentors and biggest advocates. Now, many years later, I am proud to also call them friends. No two educators did more to make me the writer, the thinker, the professional, and the man that I am today. I owe them so much. Thank you.

Now a husband, a father, and a lawyer, I look back on my college years with at least as much nostalgia for AHI, and the people who make it great, as I do for Hamilton. But my relationship with AHI did not end when I left central New York. AHI maintains a lively Facebook group, where members can post articles, debate ideas, and connect with old friends. We are a passionate and intellectually diverse bunch. Our discussions are exciting, frustrating, and rewarding in all the same ways that democracy and citizenship are exciting, frustrating, and rewarding. A special thanks to my friend and former professor Ted Eismeier, who manages (in every sense of the word) the AHI Facebook group. He, more than anyone I know, embodies AHI's commitment to the free marketplace of ideas and to lifelong learning. Students, alumni, and everyone else -- come join us!”

Steve Pet, Hamilton College, Class of 2012, J. D., University of Virginia School of Law

“I've attended 6 of the recent AHI continuing education courses taught by Dr. Frisk: Science and Government, FDR & Reagan, Culture and Politics of the 1960s, Presidential elections, Liberty: History of an Idea, and Roots of the Red/Blue Divide. I wish that I had been able to attend more of them. Every one has been extremely worthwhile and a valuable educational experience for a scientist who has had little exposure to real political science. I appreciate that the readings that

Dr. Frisk chooses mix original documents with balanced analysis. He brings a breadth of perspectives to his lectures and to his answers to students' questions.

A number of years ago, I mentioned that I thought science was an important component of Western Civilization and might make a good topic for a course. Last summer, David remembered it and commented that science was a bit outside his background, but he would like to expand his knowledge of the role of science in US history and government. He asked me if I would help out. I was happy to do so and worked with him through summer and fall to select topics and readings. He was an excellent colleague, giving and receiving suggestions and feedback dispassionately and objectively. I rate him one of the best and most flexible collaborators I've ever worked with. I learned a tremendous amount about the role of science in US government policy formation and politics."

Frank Price, Ph.D. Biology, Clinton, New York

"We applaud the fine work you are doing and are happy . . .to support your many important projects. We thank you for taking time to keep us abreast of your ongoing work and wish you every success as you forge ahead."

The Malcolm Fraser Foundation, 26 August 2019

"For years my colleagues Mary and David Nichols have been worthy partners of Bob Paquette in conceiving, organizing, and participating in the annual conference co-sponsored by AHI and the Baylor University Political Science Department in which great issues in the history and present condition of Western civilization have been discussed and elucidated. These three scholars have offered enlightenment on a wide range of serious and foundational topics. It is entirely appropriate that, thanks to Professor Paquette's generosity, the series should henceforth bear the name of Professors David and Mary Nichols. The prestige of their scholarship will ensure the success of the series for years to come."

Dr. David Clinton, Chairman, Department of Political Science, Baylor University

I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my views as to the importance of AHI for the Clinton community as well as the students at Hamilton College. One of the things I have found greatly enriching are the speakers AHI Director Robert Paquette has invited to the campus as well as to AHI. They introduce important perspectives on current topics not offered at the College. I am always impressed by the number of members of the general community that attend these talks, who otherwise would never come to the campus.

However, where I personally have benefited most is from the classes I attend regularly on Monday evenings, offered by Dr. David Frisk, an AHI Resident Fellow. He has a remarkable ability to treat fairly all sides of the issues discussed each week. The themes range from "Abraham Lincoln," to "Statesmanship," to "American Democracy." I always look forward to coming each week not only to benefit from David's most informative and stimulating presentations on current and historical topics, but especially to engage in discussions with people from the wider community. This, to my mind, is the true value of AHI. It provides a venue where ordinary people from across the political spectrum can come each week and engage in conversations that will enable them to become a better informed citizenry concerning the social and political issues that matter most in our world today. The weekly sessions also provide an

opportunity for members of the community to voice their diverse views and be respectfully heard. I am always reminded of a famous illustration by Norman Rockwell, Freedom of Speech, for *The Saturday Evening Post*, February 20, 1943.

Stephen J. Goldberg, Associate Professor of Asian Art History, Hamilton College

“I never got the chance to say a proper goodbye, but I want to thank you for such an outstanding semester. Early Republic was my most intensive and rewarding class at Hamilton. Your meticulous feedback was incredible and demonstrates how incredibly dedicated you are to the intellectual development of your students. Keep up all the good work with AHI. I have enjoyed many AHI events throughout the year and have grown intellectually from them. Thank you for all your hard work.”

A. G., Hamilton College, Class of 2011

“I want to thank you [Paquette] for writing my recommendation and for all of your help, particularly during this past Fall semester; it has meant a lot to me to have teachers and mentors who have taken an interest in my future as well as in my academic pursuits. More than any other faculty member I really feel that you have challenged me to improve my writing and to take pride in my work.”

J.S., Hamilton College, Class of 2012

"My visit to AHI was the highlight of my year. As a Hamilton biographer, I was thrilled when Professor Paquette invited me to lead a discussion at an AHI Leadership Dinner. For the event, AHI brought together an eclectic mix of students, faculty, and community members. The evening focused on Washington's famed Farewell Address of 1796. The Address was largely ghostwritten by Hamilton and endures as one of the classics of American political history. In the course of our conversation about the Farewell Address during dinner, the undergraduates simply blew me away. These students were sharp in intellect, eloquent in speech, and passionate about ideas. At AHI, they had found a home where they could freely engage with our country's founding principles--and over a sumptuous meal in a historic mansion no less! What Mount Vernon is to Washington, and Monticello is to Jefferson, AHI is to the legacy of Alexander Hamilton."

Andrew Porwancher, Wick Cary Associate Professor, University of Oklahoma

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization has played a large role in my experience as an undergraduate at Hamilton College. During my sophomore year at Hamilton College, I became a member of the Psi Chapter of Psi Upsilon. The Psi Chapter holds events throughout the year at the Alexander Hamilton Institute, including our annual banquet, formal initiation, and alumni events. Our chapter could not ask for a better place to hold these events. While the Psi Chapter of Psi Upsilon was forced to sell the Skenandoa House on Hamilton's campus to the college in the 1990's, our presence as a chapter remains strong. Because of its commitment to the study of freedom, democracy, and capitalism in addition to its emphasis on conservatism, the Alexander Hamilton Institute conjures thoughts of the history of the Psi Chapter for many of our brothers. For this reason I will always value the Alexander Hamilton Institute as a meaningful place during my experience at Hamilton College.

Robert Paquette, the co-founder and current executive director of the Alexander Hamilton Institute, served as a teacher and advisor to me during my freshman and sophomore years at Hamilton College. During the first semester of my freshman fall, I took Paquette's course, Atlantic World Slave Trade. An engaging lecturer, Paquette asked a lot out of the students enrolled in his course. While I learned extensively about the history of the slave trade, I have mainly remembered how Paquette pushed me as a student to improve my writing skills and enhance my analytical skills. As an advisor, Paquette encouraged me to challenge myself as much as possible during my time at Hamilton. While I did not understand the importance of doing so as a freshman at Hamilton, I have come to appreciate this piece of advice that Professor Paquette has given me. I recognize the importance of learning and developing skills over any grade that I may receive on my transcript. For this reason, I am glad that I chose to take challenging courses and believe that I will leave Hamilton more prepared to live a fulfilling life than I otherwise would have been had I not taken Paquette's advice. While Paquette no longer serves as my advisor, we remain in touch as I near the end of my time at Hamilton. I will always value my relationship with Paquette, and I admire his commitment to conservatism and the Alexander Hamilton Institute.”

Sam Rowley, Hamilton College, Class of 2020

“It's been a few years since some friends and family filled me in on this phenomenon that's happening on Park Row in Clinton. I just couldn't resist the intrigue any longer, I had to find out for myself what was going on in this "think tank" of sorts. It was there that I met resident fellows: Mary Grabar and David Frisk- both PhD's.

I joined a diverse group of men and women that gradually filtered in to enjoy hospitality and polite conversation, food and refreshments first. Then, we all made our way to our seats in two adjoining rooms to get down to the business of the evening. David presided over lessons on political philosophy, and political/religious/scientific history using the text of the session we were in. I really enjoyed learning from provided texts on Franklin D. Roosevelt and then Ronald Reagan, along with discussion from 50+ community residents (full house) who thought it important enough to come and learn from each other in this environment. At 52, I was junior to the majority of participants, but always appreciated their discussions, memories, and input. Thank you AHI for all the stimulating experiences...all the best to you as you move forward!

Chris Hullar, Chadwicks, New York

“Thank you so much for your warm hospitality! My mother and I had a wonderful time! We are now in New York. I was wondering if you could please provide me with the information on how I can make a small donation online to the AHI. Countless times I felt fortunate and humble to be in the company of so many passionate, knowledgeable scholars and bright Hamilton students. I leave the Hill feeling proud and privileged not only to be a Hamilton alumna, but also an AHI undergraduate fellow. Thank you and the other co-founders for everything that you did/do for the AHI fellows!”

B. D., Hamilton College, Class of 2010

“It gives me great pleasure to inform you that I will be attending Columbia College for the next three years. My family and I are absolutely joyful with this news. I must thank you once more for your recommendation. I am positive that your words were a key component to my acceptance,

and I can never thank you enough. In fact, my acceptance letter specifically asked that I inform and thank the faculty who recommended me and made my transfer possible. Once again, I cannot thank you enough.

I know that Columbia's great books program is one both of a long proud tradition . . . I plan to speak with the professors of the core with whom I am friendly and familiar, and I hope that we can begin a sort of AHI at Columbia for those who support the core and its mission. Once again, thank you for a fabulous year, and I look forward to our future correspondence.”

M. K., Columbia University, Class of 2013

“I truly enjoyed the course I had with you this semester. I learned a tremendous amount of information, and think I made some important progress in my writing. This was definitely the best course in History that I've had over my three years of undergraduate studies . . . thank you once again for all the help and opportunities you've provided me.”

Hugo Naulot, L'Institut d'études politiques

“In the upstate New York college town of Clinton, NY, a group of alumni, faculty, and former Hamilton College trustees have created a center for classical education undiluted by the agenda-driven propaganda that has hijacked today's liberal arts colleges. The Alexander Hamilton Inn, transformed from a rundown eyesore to its original beauty and comfort as a Federalist landmark, provides a haven of learning for a select group of college students. In the classrooms and library of the Inn, headquarters for the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization, they become well-educated men and women as they acquire knowledge of the foundations of our society and skills that will help them achieve success in life and become productive members of society.

At the annual three-day Carl G. Menges Colloquium, the September 17 Constitution Day Celebration, and other AHI events, I've been privileged to attend presentations by outstanding, internationally-renowned experts such as AHI President Robert L. Paquette, author and professor of American history and economics; Andrew C. McCarthy, contributing editor at *National Review* and chief prosecutor of the “Blind Sheikh” Omar Abdel-Rahman; Jay Sekulow, counsel to President Donald J. Trump and chief council at American Center for Law and Justice; attorney Carla T. Main, author of *Bulldozed* and expert on eminent domain, property law, and the First Amendment; Judge David Aldrich Nelson of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and others. Sid Wertimer would be pleased as punch.

Jan Mahood, Nonprofit Consultant, Portsmouth, NH. Hamilton College Associations: Parent of Grant D. Mahood, '92; Aunt of Bruce L. Mahood, '82; Spouse of Gary D. Mahood, '62; Cousin of Harvey M. Bricker, Valedictorian, '62; Sister-in-Law of R. Wayne Mahood, '56”

“Professors Ambrose, Bradfield, and Paquette made my Hamilton College academic experience. The three wise men opened my eyes and my mind through the free exchange of ideas backed by scholarship. I'm grateful that they each pushed me to better myself in the classroom and as a citizen. The AHI is a natural extension of the multi-disciplined scholarly legacy of its namesake, Alexander Hamilton, and I'm proud to support AHI and to call Professors Ambrose, Bradfield, and Paquette my friends.”

Alex Kaufman, Hamilton College, Class of 2006, J. D. Emory University School of Law

“As a student at Hamilton College I understand the unequivocal importance of sound intellectual practice and effective communication. The Alexander Hamilton Institute offers students the opportunity to pursue these scholastic talents at a high level. By promoting passionate research, cogent analysis and persuasive public speaking the AHI can contribute greatly to a complete education.”

Reid Snyder, Hamilton College, Class of 2008

“Absolutely fearless, Paquette is a source of immense discomfort to his adversaries. . . .In 2007, they [Ambrose, Bradfield, and Paquette] opened the newly rechristened Alexander Hamilton *Institute* (after the school [Hamilton College] attempted to copyright the original name behind their back) as a privately-run enterprise, based in a mansion about a mile from campus. . . .AHI’s budget is tiny and almost all work is done by volunteers. But its inaugural year far exceeded expectations; its scholarly meetings and events attract a wide range of locals (including many home schoolers, as well as members of the Hamilton community.”

Harry Stein, Contributing Editor, City Journal, 2009

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute provides a much-needed haven for the communion of ideas here at the College. It fosters intellectual diversity and tolerance, giving students of all backgrounds and persuasions a voice. The Publius Society, Edmund Burke Association, and Christopher Dawson Society each have unique missions and engage a diverse group of individuals, offering opportunities for education and expression on pertinent issues. The AHI has already become an integral part of this institution and the wider community, and we look forward to its further development with great anticipation.”

Elizabeth (Farrington)Harrison, Hamilton College, Class of 2010; J. D. The Law School, University of Notre Dame

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute is the only entity in which students, professors, and the general public can come together to discuss ideas and develop a broad base of knowledge on history, politics, and modern civilization. AHI has provided many students, myself included, with the opportunity to learn more about key political issues affecting our society outside of the classroom. I have personally seen the hard work that goes into making AHI possible. The variety of organizations that choose to meet at the Institute have seen substantial growth in both membership and student interest. AHI has been a vital part in strengthening intellect, understanding, and promoting diverse discussion between Hamilton students, faculty, and the local community.”

Edward Ajaeb, Hamilton College, Class of 2011

“. . . I wanted to tell you I cannot thank you enough for having me in this amazing program. I've never participated in a summer program like WaPoNS, or any summer program, for that matter; the access you were able to provide me and the rest of the group was absolutely incredible. We got to meet some truly amazing people.

I also want to thank you for creating a program that is suited for people who think about national security from a variety of different angles, whether economics, intelligence, lobbying, or international affairs. While I came into the program with the intention about learning about jobs

in the intelligence field and meeting those involved with making national security decisions, it was such a delight to explore other facets of a very complex issue. I was particularly surprised by how much I enjoyed the various think tanks we visited. This program has made me seriously consider a program at a think tank or in some form of academia, mainly because I love to research and write, and because I plan to earn my PhD in Political Science at some point in the future. If I can make a career out of these passions, I feel as though there could be no better way to be a professional. . . . Again, thank you for making the last two weeks incredibly meaningful and worthwhile. You're an incredibly gifted and modest human, with all of your exhilarating life experiences and careers, and it has been an absolute honor to spend this program with you leading it."

Alex Neave, Loyola University Maryland, 27 June 2019

"One summer, a few years ago, some fellow graduate students and I made the drive from South Bend, Indiana to Hatch Lake, New York. There, graduate students and faculty from the University of Notre Dame and Baylor University were meeting up for a collaborative conference on Shakespeare and Machiavelli hosted by a place called the Alexander Hamilton Institute in a tiny town called Clinton. I was expecting a typical academic conference. Instead, AHI delivered an engaging, challenging, and truly collegial academic experience that was nothing short of inspiring. AHI facilitated an experience that should be the model for the purpose of scholarship: to allow lovers of learning and truth the freedom to speak their minds, delve deeply into ideas, and present diverse viewpoints in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

AHI has imbued the spirit of that conference with all the reading clusters and conferences I have organized for them since. The opportunity to lead students and members of the community in discussions of the classic texts of political philosophy through cover-to-cover readings has led me to understand these texts more deeply and has made me a better teacher. Participants in AHI events consistently remark that their appreciation of the history of ideas and the value of the intellectual life has been vastly increased. AHI has set the standard for those promoting a free marketplace of ideas, and models the highest of educational standards, and it is a gem not just for upstate New York, but for the country as a whole."

Elizabeth L'Arrivee, Ph.D., Political Science, University of Notre Dame

"The remarkable value of the Alexander Hamilton Institute hit home when the parents of a student thanked me for organizing the AHI undergraduate conference on American politics. They had the good fortune of watching their son deliver a paper in the company of students from Princeton, RIT, and other prestigious academic institutions. Their pride—and their son's openness to his parents attending the panel!—truly demonstrated the profound impact the AHI has on the lives of students and people in the community.

Three consecutive times AHI has placed confidence in me to co-manage the conference, and each time students have come away with an experience I am sure will last the rest of their lives. Most undergraduates do not have the opportunity to share their thoughts on the most pressing issues facing the American republic with their peers and be exposed to a diversity of ideas and intellectually robust criticisms. Conferences such as those offered by AHI are indispensable for undergraduate education, especially at a time when rational discussion in a tolerant space are hard to come by. The students speak for themselves. One student wrote, 'It was such a wonderful conference and the whole experience was something that I will never forget.' Another said, 'I am so grateful for the opportunity to go and be with such intelligent students and just want to show

my overall gratitude to you.’ She added that American history is a topic she wants to study further. Yet another student said that a presentation he had seen was ‘amazingly insightful and truly changed my perspective.’

I also have had the privilege of leading two reading groups at Skidmore College sponsored by AHI. The reading groups are composed of students who have volunteered to study classic texts in the history of thought. Over the course of a year we read texts on American politics and Islamic philosophy. Often our conversations about these texts would continue beyond the allotted time of the reading group. Several students would frequent my office to discuss the ideas of Tocqueville and St. Augustine, as well as contemporary political issues. One such student went on to be the youngest person ever to be elected to his town’s school board. As with the undergraduate conference, the reading clusters offer students the opportunity to explore ideas in an intellectually dynamic environment that is all-too rare today.

The students’ experiences at the undergraduate conferences and reading clusters show the indispensable need for educational institutions like AHI. AHI has helped shape students who have embarked on a wide range of paths such as the Marine corps, graduate school, and politics. Without question, AHI offers an educational experience students can get nowhere else. I cannot thank Bob Paquette and AHI enough for inviting me to be part of an educational experience students deeply desire and truly deserve.”

Dr. Rob L’Arrivee, Ph.D., Political Science, University of Notre Dame

“In the spring of 2016 I saw a poster advertising a class at the Alexander Hamilton Institute about the 60’s. I had grown up in Clinton but graduated from high school in Sacramento California in 1968. I’d visited Haight Ashbury in San Francisco grown up on the creative wave of rock-n-roll and grown to detest the situation in Viet Nam. I let my hair grow long and attended protests in the East. I’d participated in the march on Washington in 1971. I was damned if I was going to let any conservative group inform others what the 60’s were all about.

What I discovered was a thoughtful well-informed educator with a skill for placing the emphasis on history, learning and respect for divergent experiences. The classes were taught in a manner I had recalled from a Philosophy course that reflected the teachings of Plato, Socrates and Aristotle. A short thoughtful lecture was followed by a very challenging discussion. As polarized as the 60’s were, we are again entrenched in polarized opinions backed with rumor instead of facts today. But something unexpected happened. The class progressed with a respect for the outlook of others and there were no personal attacks though the discussion did get spirited. Dr. Frisk made an effort to include the reticent as well as the eager. He drew out thought from awkward phrasing. I learned as well as got a chance to share.

Since that class I’ve taken AHI classes on Lincoln, FDR and Reagan, Science in Government and the Concept of Liberty. The quality has remained at a graduate level in my experience. The articles we have been given to read have been well researched. In themselves they have been eye openers of thought from impressive sources. The students are an educated group of teachers and well-read professionals along with those intellectually curious. I have differed in opinion but not in respect for the material and the running of the class, down to making sure the room temperature is comfortable.

Outstanding, I will attend again. I minored in Education so I observe with some knowledge. I am an Independent but with a liberal lean but in this class thought became the predominant

dominant.”

Donald Scagel, Saquoit, New York

“I found AHI classes to be educational and thought provoking, really pushing me to reach out and grasp so many foreign concepts and ideas. The readings for the classes were thorough and well put together, as well as intriguing because so much of it was brand new information for me. Mr. Frisk was careful to explain some of the harder parts of the readings, which I appreciated, and was excellent at leading and directing the discussions. I learned a great deal from the classes and I'm excited to learn more from them!”

Shawlame Gorman, Oneida, New York

I have loved taking classes at AHI. Coming together as a community of learners to freely discuss interesting topics is always a highlight of the week for me. The classes are convenient and low-stress, which encourage participation. The topics and themes are wide-ranging and allow for excellent learning opportunities from the diverse members of the class. The professor does his thorough research in order to present a fascinating lecture on the topic. And the interesting readings stimulate class members to share points of interests, experiences, and expertise. I always walk away from a Monday night class with much to think about. As a teacher, it has helped me grow and continue my learning. I often try to incorporate relevant material from the classes into my classroom. It is for this reason that in-service credit is accepted by taking these free classes. I cannot recommend that classes at AHI highly enough. It is a wonderful thing, especially in today's political climate, for a group to come together, share different viewpoints, discuss interesting topics, value listening, and learn from one another.

Sean Dwyer, New Hartford, NY, 2019

“Thank you so much for showing us the hospitality of your historic downtown headquarters, and for the bonhomie with which you and your associates (including the young man who kindly helped me unload my car upon arrival) graced our stay Those who visited us there—a reasonably sober and sedate group, I trust—were all impressed with the accommodations.”

Hamilton College alumnus, Class of 1969

“As a graduate of Hamilton College when it was a respected institution, I wish to express gratitude for the Alexander Hamilton Institute. Professors Ambrose, Bradfield, and Paquette are to be commended for their dedication to preserving Western Civilization. Having attended various meetings, lectures, and colloquiums, it was a privilege and delight to see the interaction between these professors and their students. Mutual respect and encouragement were evident in their interactions.

Having programs in other institutions (Princeton, Rochester, etc.) is a welcome sign that more and more students will have a firm grounding in what sustains our country. My wife and I are proud supporters of AHI.”

Shirley Niebanck and Richard J. Niebanck, Hamilton College, Class of 1954

“I started with AHI a few years ago, during “Lincoln, The Leader, The Legend.” The depth of the research for the classes is impressive. The readings correspond with the discussions beautifully. The group discussions are impressive from a perspective that perhaps hadn't occurred to me prior to the class. The wealth of the education in the class is tremendous. A wonderful group of

people that are warm and friendly.

PS: Prior to my retirement I worked a short distance from Clinton. I never would have been able to attend the classes as I worked a 3-11pm shift. In February of 2006 I worked across the street from the Byrne dairy on Rt 5. A New Hartford policeman was murdered behind the Byrne dairy chasing after jewelry store robbers. Prior to this, I would stop on my way home from work. After the murder, I never went out at night. This class gets me out of the house at night.”

Nancy G., New Hartford, New York

“It has been a wonderful experience for me to become acquainted with some of the Fellows, Hamilton College students, and other great folks at AHI I believe your work is part of a broad academic movement in America that aims at ‘reawakening’ people to the truths and freedoms upon which this nation was built. At times it seems we are in danger of losing our sense of what it really means to be free in a free society. I pray your work helps people find the true center of freedom again.”

Frank Dooley, Whitesboro, NY

“AHI represented and acted as a support system for individuals and organizations that wanted to forge their own intellectual path. It provided an opportunity for intellectual exploration and discourse that became a healthy supplement to Hamilton College's academic curriculum and culture. We were fortunate to have AHI during our time at Hamilton.”

William F. Preston, Hamilton College, Class of 2011

“In the beginning there were three Professors – Paquette, Ambrose and Bradfield – who deplored the slide into mediocrity of Hamilton College. Their vision led to the founding of AHI. The early years required dedication and determination. One result was the annual colloquium which offered programs on significant issues with diverse views from distinguished presenters. Other programs followed including the *Enquiry* publication

All of the AHI initiatives foster intellectual curiosity, thoughtful review and respectful discussion. The ever-broadening reach of the AHI gives me hope that we may eventually come to a turning point in the dysfunctional political philosophy overwhelming the country today.”

Mary Lou Huff, Rochester, New York

“When my husband and I drove to a lecture at AHI in the early spring of 2008, we did not know what to expect. What we discovered was a marvelous presentation, a warm welcome, especially from Bob Paquette, and an unparalleled effort to help foster good citizenship. We were immediately hooked and became strong supporters of the Institute.

Since that first year, we are so very proud of AHI’s growth and influence to those of all ages and political stripes through the many courses, lectures and events held by AHI. We are better people and a better community thanks to this remarkable group!”

Christine Potocki, New Hartford, New York

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute is a precious gift to students, the greater Utica community and to me personally. It offers a continuing contribution to the understanding of our country’s

ideals and institutions, particularly those advanced under our unique Constitution. Since its inception and through its wonderful programs, it has brought to all it has served a breath of intellectual fresh air in the expression and discussion of ideas and issues under the banner of free speech and openness to all.

It has given me cherished friendships and the inspiration to write and publish two local history books. Those of the area and I are better citizens thanks to AHI!”

Rodger Potocki, New Hartford, New York

“AHI and the people associated with the organization have played a crucial role in my intellectual and professional development. It would be impossible to name every benefit that the AHI has provided to me. As an undergraduate at Hamilton College, participating in the reading groups and conferences organized by Professors Bob Paquette, Douglas Ambrose, Ted Eismeier, and James Bradfield deepened my education in ways that exceeded the classroom experience on Hamilton's campus. My association with the AHI inspired me to pursue a Ph.D. in History at the University of South Carolina. While completing my doctoral dissertation, the AHI provided funding to support my research in the form of the Bakwin Fellowship. During the term of this fellowship, I resided at the AHI's headquarters, and I also had the opportunity to participate in the AHI-Baylor Annual Summer Conference organized by Mary and David Nichols. Currently, I am serving as a faculty member at the Lewis Honors College of the University of Kentucky. AHI has generously provided funds to support a reading group for Kentucky students interested in texts of enduring value and significance in world history.

“AHI serves as a shining beacon of hope that is working to promote and defend the value of free inquiry, robust debate, and civic responsibility. I cannot think of an organization that I support with greater enthusiasm than the AHI.”

Timothy Minella, Hamilton College, Class of 2009, Phi Beta Kappa, Ph. D., University of South Carolina

“[M]y sincere gratitude for allowing me to host an event [at AHI] for the current rowers and the Friends (alumni & parents) of Hamilton Rowing on Saturday evening. The space lent itself well and I consider the gathering to be a success as all enjoyed it and there was much comradery. . . . I will gladly make a donation to the AHI for that amount and then some.

Please let me know if I can be of service to you or AHI.

Jason Andris, Hamilton College, Class of 1996

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute embodies the best qualities of elite liberal arts campuses: intellectual excellence, dedicated, world-class faculty, and individual attention for students. Fortunately, the Institute is also a lot of things these campuses are not: intellectually diverse, open-minded, and a safe environment for students of any political persuasion to voice their opinions. The Institute has been a necessity for anyone seeking to study a balanced curriculum in Central New York. Personally, it has been a blessing; as an opportunity for learning, to attend informative lectures, meet incredible lecturers, and as an outlet for an oppressed Conservative student. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Professors Ambrose, Bradfield, and Paquette for their creation of the Alexander Hamilton Institute.”

John McRae, Hamilton College, Class of 2009

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute provides a unique opportunity for Hamilton students and faculty to study Western Civilization by examining and discussing freedom, democracy, and capitalism. While Hamilton College spends a large sum of money inviting guest speakers onto campus, the guests almost always invoke a left-wing activist message. The lack of a conservative or traditional voice makes the campus hostile to a diversity of thought. This year, the Alexander Hamilton Institute has served as a meeting place for both the Publius Society, in which members studied and discussed the Federalist Papers, and the Edmund Burke Association, a new organization based around the work of British writer Edmund Burke. In the Edmund Burke Association’s inaugural meeting, the Alexander Hamilton Institute invited Colgate University Professor and Western Civilization scholar Robert Kraynak. Kraynak lectured on the conservative thought of Edmund Burke, and applied it to the conservative movement in America today. This engaging lecture was attended by students and faculty of both Hamilton College and Colgate University, as well as many residents of the local area. The Alexander Hamilton Institute provides an intellectual experience that would otherwise be ignored by a faculty and student body hostile to traditional and conservative thought.”

Joe Bock, Hamilton College, Class of 2009; J. D. Rutgers University School of Law-Newark

” I only recently discovered the Alexander Hamilton Institute, and just became a member this semester, but I already think it is a great Hamilton asset. While the lectures are interesting, as many Hamilton special events are, the particularly unique feature of the Institute is the open intellectual debate amongst students and professors. The open conversations, where people are taken out of their established roles on the Hill and thrown into discussion, has generated very thought provoking experiences. I’ve heard really interesting perspectives from professors and students I otherwise would have missed.

Thanks!”

Laura Mattison, Hamilton College, Class of 2009

"My experience with the Alexander Hamilton Institute was an essential complement to my Hamilton education. My time in AHI’s various societies and events transformed philosophy, religion and history from academic abstractions to guiding lights in my own search to understand how a good life ought to be lived. AHI made me a better listener, a more passionate learner, and a more grounded, directed and open person, this was personal growth that has proved essential to me in what success I have since cultivated in my career, and as a person. I am forever grateful for having had the opportunity to study and grow in AHI’s rigorous programming."

Jack Dunn, Hamilton College, Class of 2010.

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute provides students with a place off-campus for open discussion on a variety of different topics. I am part of two student organizations that hold meetings there. At AHI, I have felt very free to express my views without any fear of peer pressure that can exist in the classroom. Often, I have learned more in my discussions at AHI than I have in some of my classes at Hamilton College.”

Tim Eismeier, Hamilton College, Class of 2010

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute is the perfect complement to the liberal arts education at Hamilton College. AHI provides an opportunity to apply ideas learned in coursework to scholarly and real world discussions with leaders in their fields. I was encouraged to express my point of view and always felt that all persons and ideas were treated thoughtfully and as equals. Professor Paquette challenged me in every history class I took at Hamilton, but what was apparent at AHI was how much he invests in all of his students.

Beyond the academic opportunities, the professors who founded AHI aspire to give students a complete college experience. Some of the most important things I learned during my time at Hamilton had nothing to do with my coursework. The life lessons I learned from Professor Bradfield I carried with me after graduation and have become mantras that I repeat to every intern and recent college graduate in my office. The lunch and dinner events at AHI were the best preparation for the networking events I attend as a professional. The fact the catering was some of the best food in upstate New York was also a nice perk. I have many fond memories and lifelong friendships from my time at Hamilton, and I count those with Professors Paquette, Bradfield, and Ambrose among them.”

Anthony (Mark) Garcia, Hamilton College, Class of 2010; J. D. Vanderbilt Law School

“AHI exposed me to the lifelong endeavor of a liberal education. Through its variety of speakers, colloquia, panels, and reading groups, I was able to learn to become a young intellectual. Well after my graduation from Hamilton College, I found my ability to converse with academics from various disciplines to be invaluable in my career. I remember Professor Paquette invested considerable time elevating my prose. Often I will help my classmates writing their doctoral dissertations by trying to emulate his efforts.”

Will Eagan, Hamilton College, Class of 2011; Department of Statistics, Purdue University

"Since its inception, the Alexander Hamilton Institute has been a haven for those interested in studying and preserving the features of Western civilization that have made it economically prosperous, bolstered by a vibrant civil society, and predominantly based on consent rather than coercion. In an academic environment that often promotes faddish dross, AHI remains a place where individuals are invited to cultivate their critical thinking skills and pursue the truth. An inquiring mind and voracious consumption of scholarship are not merely encouraged but required.

Under the tutelage of Professors Ambrose, Bradfield, Hill, and Paquette, I tackled ideas and topics that expanded my intellectual horizons in ways I could never have imagined. I learned – as Professor Paquette always says – not what to think, but HOW to think. Through AHI’s many colloquiums and lecture series’ I was able to not just listen to, but engage directly with world-renowned scholars and prominent intellectuals. My experiences at AHI were among the most valuable of my undergraduate career and ones that I will never forget. Most of all, however, AHI was my home away from home and the place where I forged some of my most cherished lifelong friendships."

Landry Frei, Hamilton College, Class of 2012; M. A. Accounting, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

“We appreciate the excellent work that the Alexander Hamilton Institute does to prepare students for both career and informed citizenship.”

Ali Eskandarian, Executive Director, Fund for Academic Renewal

“I stumbled across AHI by way of a history course on the American South while in college. Professor Robert Paquette and I connected almost immediately (after he ripped my first paper apart with red ink, of course). Professor Paquette recognized my viewpoint and outlook on life, particularly the fact that I had been raised to value above all else family, community, and hard work. I found my somewhat traditional notions constantly downplayed, or even worse, I encountered classrooms and professors that made the unilateral assumption that no students held conservative beliefs.

Professor Paquette and AHI allowed me to express and expand on these beliefs, and even gave entrusted me with tools and backing of AHI in order to launch an entrepreneurship club. I truly appreciated this opportunity, as my interests and passions always pointed towards a career in entrepreneurship with a stress on self-reliance. AHI has continued to support me over the years, as I have taken on business challenges and continued my higher education. I will honestly and sincerely always hold the highest level of gratitude to AHI and its leaders.

Anthony Balbo, Hamilton College, Class of 2013; J. D., Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University

“The Alexander Hamilton Institute changed not just my career trajectory, but my outlook on the world. I received a superb, wide-ranging education during my undergraduate years, and I attribute as much--if not more--to the AHI than I do to my alma mater. Professor Chris Hill drew me in with his insightful and inspiring lectures in the first few weeks of my freshman year. I quickly met Professors Ambrose and Paquette, both of whom would become profoundly important mentors. The discussions I had with them and other AHI members and faculty still stick with me to this day. At the AHI I was taught not just to express a gut opinion but how to construct--and defend--an argument. The students I met there had an equally crucial effect on my life; some remain my closest friends today. The AHI was and is an educational institution of the highest order--but even more, it is a community and a family.”

Dean Ball, Hamilton College, Class of 2014; Director, Adam Smith Society at Manhattan Institute for Policy Research

“I have attended all of the AHI [continuing education] classes since the autumn of 2010. They are currently taught by David Frisk, an organized and remarkable political science academic. My collegiate training had been in the sciences. Political science was a subject I and fellow biology majors sometimes regarded dismissively. Politics. Government. Nixon. It was the 70s. We were young and clearly poorly informed. Now, with some familiarity with the positive initiatives emerging from the AHI, an opportunity to be exposed to new subject matter in a casual way was enthusiastically embraced. Regular attendance at a class, of course, creates new and unexpected friendships. Classmates become familiar friends and there is pleasure each semester in seeing them again. At the end of a Monday we have something to look forward to, a class which feels as comfortable as a club.

The class structure includes a timely break after lecture and discussion. One can tell from the noise volume during breaks that multiple lively conversation on all manner of thing occur. It would be an incorrect assumption to think the courses or the general mission of the AHI was anything other than being a place where alternative ideas are welcome and openly discussed. Indeed, thanks to the visionary founders of AHI, this community, local and surrounding, has much for which to be thankful."

Kit Blackmore, Veterinarian, Clinton, New York

"I have since completed my active duty service in the Marine Corps, and I will be attending law Georgetown University Law Center this coming August. I wanted to thank you again for your letter and your support. I fondly think back to your courses on the Early Republic and Slavery and the Civil War, and I hope to bring what I learned about eloquence and objectivity in those classes to my legal studies."

William Boudreau, Hamilton College, Class of 2014

"As is typical of new AHI Undergraduate Fellows, I came to my first AHI event during my Sophomore year at Hamilton with open eyes and ambiguous expectations. I had no idea that I was about to embark on a transformational growth experience that would arm me with knowledge, intellectual tools, and an ability to manage myself and others transcendent of what I believe to be typical for the undergraduate environment. The ideas, people and themes to which the AHI exposed me have prepared me to evaluate new ideas, both informative and artistic, in ways that I otherwise would never have approached. While college is a period of growth for everyone, I believe that AHI's challenges made me a more courageous and intellectually honest person than I otherwise would have been. At an on-the-ground level, leadership positions within AHI student organization prepared me for the interpersonal dynamics and pressures of the workplace in ways that facilitated my transition out of college. I continue to root for the AHI from afar as post-collegiate life twists and turns."

P. C., Hamilton College, Class of 2014

"AHI stands out as a highlight of my time at Hamilton. What a singular place, and what luck I had wandering into its fold early in my college career. One appreciates things best in hindsight - I couldn't fully know then how special it was being surrounded by the ferocious intellects of Professors Ambrose, Hill, and Paquette, to name a few. The environment was intellectually stimulating and nurturing. The point was to learn, not lecture; to prove, not pose. I learned to find my voice on topics I hadn't previously considered, and learned so much simply by watching deeply intellectual people debate civilly about topics that meant the world to them.

AHI's programming stood out for its intellectual depth and political diversity. The speakers, audiences, and ideas that AHI hosted were more diverse (really!) than most events I encountered up the Hill. To current students, I'd say attend at least one event, especially if you don't think you'll like it. Hamilton's campus environment isn't always conducive to new ideas or stimulating discussion - AHI is that place.

AHI means a lot to me and still shapes my memory of Hamilton. I'll always be grateful for having been a part."

Scott Milne, Hamilton College, Class of 2014

“My time spent at the Alexander Hamilton Institute was easily the most eye-opening and enriching experience in my four years at Hamilton College. In fact, it was the probably the most valuable component of my liberal arts education. The people surrounding me at AHI, including professors, students and other patrons, exposed me to new ideas, influential thinkers and great books but at a much higher level of discourse than I was getting on the Hamilton campus.

“I especially appreciated my time with Professor Ambrose and Professor Paquette, both in the classroom and at AHI. Their meticulous critique and analysis of my papers strengthened my writing, for which I will always be grateful.”

Ben Swett, Hamilton College, Class of 2014

“AHI programming was a great supplement to my Hamilton education. AHI encouraged me to think seriously and with conviction. Conversations at the AHI often went straight to the fundamentals, which made them all the more interesting and worthwhile. While off the Hill, you have a great opportunity to engage with people in the community, not for a grade or recognition by your peers, but for conversation's sake alone.”

Sarah Larson, Hamilton College, Class of 2015

“I first involved myself with the Alexander Hamilton Institute during my junior year of school. I had just resigned from a daily humor publication after harassment from college administrators and activist students and felt lost, both socially and intellectually. What happened going forward would define my time as an undergraduate. Immediately I was welcomed into a community of intellectually curious students from across the political spectrum as well as a group of professors who offered all the resources imaginable to nurture our academic interests.

Thanks to the Alexander Hamilton Institute, I began my first formal foray into journalism through “*Enquiry*,” which I co-founded with other fellows. Through “*Enquiry*,” we commissioned columns from students of all political persuasions. Like the Alexander Hamilton Institute, our policy was simple, yet clear: We will accept all work, regardless of ideology or belief, as long as it was of high quality. I’m proud to say “*Enquiry*” remains on Hamilton’s campus today.

Since graduating, I’ve worked at a number of news outlets including the *New York Post*, the *Daily Caller*, and now I’m a campaign reporter for the *Washington Examiner*. My work has also been featured in publications like *National Review* and the *American Conservative*. It’s safe to say none of this would have been possible without the Alexander Hamilton Institute. I owe my career, and my sanity, to the distinguished individuals involved in the organization. I can’t thank them enough.”

Joe Simonson, Hamilton College, Class of 2015; Political Reporter, Washington Examiner

“When I think back on my 4 years at Hamilton, what has become abundantly clear to me in the time since is just how big of an inflection point it was to enroll in a class with Professor Paquette and thus get exposed and welcomed into AHI. I didn't fully realize it at the time, but up until then I would describe myself as a student who was just going through the motions, accepting middling results in classes and grades. I’m not sure what it was the professor Paquette saw in me, but thank God he did recognize it and took it upon himself to snap my head around and strive to do better. That reality check was what I most credit for my in-class success the following 3

years. Past just our relationship in the classroom, being welcomed by Professor Paquette, Professor Ambrose and so many others at AHI opened my eyes to so many ideas, and histories which I didn't even realize I had a passion for. It challenged my intellectual curiosity and intellectual rigor being surrounded by so many bright people, people I respected and considered brighter than myself. The lectures, conversations, and conventions hosted by AHI were consistently among the most intellectually engaging and stimulating as any other forum I experienced while a student. Finally, as I was preparing to make my transition into the professional world, Professor Paquette was probably the first person who I who sensed I would be a passion for entrepreneurship and helped set my career on its course working in the Venture Capital and technology startup world. I can safely say the skills, mindset, and composition required of me in my career was developed during my time at Hamilton overall, but most especially through my experience with the AHI.”

Brian Warager, Hamilton College, Class of 2015

“The conference [at Monticello] was absolutely phenomenal. I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to join you all.”

Sarah Contant, Graduate Student, Rochester Institute of Technology

“It would be hard to catalog the extent of the opportunities AHI offers. Looking back through a whirlwind of reading groups, dinners, lectures and film screenings, a summer internship and an editorship at the AHI Undergraduates' flagship publication, what I remember best is the people I met, many of whom have become lifelong friends and mentors. I'm grateful to have close friends who I first met during late nights with AHI Undergraduates, gathering in dorm rooms for hours-long conversations. I'm also tremendously grateful to Professors Paquette and Ambrose, who carry their commitment to their students beyond the classroom, and who shared with us so much energy, so many meals, and so much of their time, and who continue to do so well after graduation.”

Mike Adamo, Hamilton College, Class of 2016

“Dr. Pilon, thank you so much for having me for the WAPONS program this summer. It was quite an excellent experience and definitely has me looking forward to moving to Washington for my career. Speaking of which, I will be back in Washington at least twice over the upcoming academic year, perhaps more if I am requested for job interviews. It would be great to catch up then if at all possible, and I could collect my certificate at the time as well. As to the program, I cannot think of much that would make it any better. If the majority of students chosen are those whose majors are on the fringes of national security, and as such may have little experience in national security, such as economics or American history, it may have been more beneficial for them to have more experts speak to these roles in their organizations. For example, it would be interesting to hear how a history major might be of value to the FBI or an economist in the Treasury Department working with the CIA to hunt terrorists. For me, however, I thought the program was highly informative, as I learned about the workings of the TSA and Think Tanks, which are areas that are of interest to me and ones I have not considered looking in to in so much detail. I got to hear from several extremely informed and credentialed people as to these roles and it was quite an interesting experience. I will certainly be taking back what I have learned for our student organization and department heads, as they are topics that are often passed over. Next year, if the speakers are different enough and my schedule permits I would love to come

back. I really appreciate your efforts in organizing it all, and please pass my gratitude along to the other fellows of AHI. I hope to see you again in a few months, and thank you again!”

Mason Goad, University of North Georgia

“While I like to think that Hamilton College stood out against the myriad of small liberal arts schools that I visited as a teenager, there is little doubt in my mind that the Alexander Hamilton Institute played a central role in drawing me to Clinton, NY. Although I was interested in politics, government, and history as a high school student, I had yet to contemplate the issue of discourse and diversity of thought on college campuses prior to my matriculation on the Hill. Today, I see this as one of the defining issues shaping the next generation of our country’s leaders, but, as a high school student wandering the idyllic campuses of Northeastern liberal arts colleges, I only knew that something felt ‘off.’

I was accustomed, of course, to racial diversity in the classroom, having attended a working-class high school in suburban Massachusetts, and I did see this reflected in the students and faculty that I encountered on my campus visits. But something more subtle was missing. I was used to a high school where the children – and therefore the ideas – of middle-class Republicans, working-class Democrats, progressive professionals, and every other combination thereof all mixed and mingled. But here, on these grassy knolls and tree-lined quads of America’s finest liberal arts institutions, the ideas all seemed to be the same.

The bulletin boards in the pillared academic halls and Brutalist cement libraries seemed to universally advertise events featuring the likes of feminist and post-Marxist thinkers like Angela Davis and Cornell West, but academic talks by anyone who could be even mildly construed as having a conservative or free market agenda were few and far between. As someone who spent my high school days reading *National Review* and watching online recordings of Milton Friedman lectures, I was rather disappointed that my vision of collegiate academic exploration was apparently so inaccurate.

Hamilton College stood out as an exception amongst these monolithic campuses thanks, in large part, to the work of a dedicated group of men and women down in the yellow Federalist building at the bottom of the hill. At the time of my matriculation to the college, I was not aware of the rather disconcerting history that led to AHI’s picturesque off-campus location. Fortunately, the one-and-a-half rather steep miles in between the college and the Clinton town green had little effect in limiting the academic reach of AHI, and the Institute succeeded in bringing intellectual diversity to events both on and off the Hill. It was, as one AHI student alumnus rather famously put it, not a ‘safe space’ where ideas and perspectives were immune from challenge, but a place of rigorous discourse where dialogue was treated as an intellectual tool rather than a cliché.

While it took me far too many of my undergraduate years realize the physical space of AHI for the unique resource that it truly was, the people of AHI had a profound impact on my time at Hamilton from my very first days on campus. Professor Alfred Kelly taught me during my freshman fall semester just how much my writing could (and should) be improved, while Professor Maurice Isserman reminded me during the subsequent spring semester that I still had a long way to go. Both men, I am certain, had a far greater impact on my development as a student than they will ever know. The beauty of AHI, of course, was that thought-provoking discussion

wasn't limited to the classroom – Professor Doug Ambrose and AHI Resident Fellow David Frisk both excelled in creating an atmosphere at AHI that facilitated these moments of extracurricular profundity.

Few Hamilton professors, though, had as substantial an impact on my experience in college as Robert Paquette. Although I never had occasion to sit in one of his classes (not majoring in history is one of my few regrets from college), Professor Paquette's influence on my intellectual experience was apparent during just about every semester that I was at Hamilton. By bringing speakers to campus who could engage with provocative ideas and elicit discourse to a degree that unsettled the campus thought-bubble, Professor Paquette's work had the effect of spurring discussion in the classrooms of the very faculty members who had fought so hard to push the AHI off the Hill. I eagerly anticipated the challenge of driving classroom discussions beyond the ad hominem and into the deeper issues that these visiting speakers raised. While sensibilities on college campuses today seem to be more fragile than ever, for my four year at Hamilton, AHI was perhaps my greatest asset in finding discussion that could transcend the ubiquitous echo chamber of academic groupthink.

As an alumnus of AHI and Hamilton College, I have enjoyed the continued opportunity to engage with the ideas and the people – from alumni to current students to faculty and fellows – that make the Institute the special place that it is. It has truly been a pleasure to reconnect with classmates through our shared affinity for the distinct model of education that AHI continues to advocate. While the news of higher education is too often littered with incidents of disinvited speakers and restrictions on speech and language, I am always heartened to read of the restorative work of AHI and the peer institutions whose creation it has spurred. More so than any Broadway play (no matter how catchy the refrain), the Alexander Hamilton Institute has helped to cement into the current academic ethos the relevance of the man whose name it bears.

Patrick Bedard, Hamilton College, Class of 2016

"At AHI, I found a safe place to explore my intellectual curiosity. AHI challenged me to learn by reading great works followed by provocative conversation. I turned to AHI to find the diverse views that fostered a stimulating learning environment. Studying Western thought had a profound impact on my developing values and enhanced my college experience."

Andrew Mandelbaum, Hamilton College, Class of 2016

"Your class had everything to do with my submission— I remembered the name Carl Menges from our class and colloquium and recognized it when I was looking through the award submissions. Your very patient teaching led me to write clearly and effectively, as well as look at ways to problem solve both in my writing and in my ideas. The subject of the Carl Menges Prize was a subject near and dear to me . . . I figured I had nothing to lose by submitting an essay about what I believe the school does well and what it should re-evaluate, and I will admit I was very surprised at the outcome! Thank you so much for teaching me more than I could have ever hoped— I still think your class was one of the most rewarding (and yes, difficult!) classes I have had the pleasure to take. . . ."

K. M., Hamilton College, Class of 2016

“I would be happy to write a few words on my experience at the WAPONS conference this summer because it was truly invaluable. The connections made, with peers and “higher ups,” the information learned, the resources (i.e. News sources and articles to read for further knowledge on National Security), and the ability to put what I’ve learned and already knew into an intelligent discussion with others was extremely beneficial in helping my career in government. Further, it was great to hear from different political views on issues because that allowed me to strengthen my stance and learn new perspectives on ideas and issues—which I think is key to being a well-rounded individual. For instance, the discussions in the morning were very useful because I found that the definitions we discussed, like the definitions of human rights and rights (in general), helped with context and for especially for my internship this summer, since the organization that I’m interning with advises the UN on human rights. Also, Jack Dziaks “history lesson” of the KGB will come in handy when I study Russia, since Russia (and the Middle East) are my focus; and when Roger Pilon talked about aspects of the Constitution, like different powers of government, because that will be useful when I study constitutional law. And thank you again, Juliana, for all your efforts with AHI—it is truly a remarkable program, and I am not saying that lightly.”

Jordan Hayley, Liberty University

“The time I spent with the Alexander Hamilton Institute was integral to my time at Hamilton. The guidance I received from AHI's fellows, including Dr. Paquette, Dr. Ambrose, Dr. Hill, Dr. Frisk, and Dr. Grabar greatly assisted me as I progressed through my studies and beyond. Moreover, they provided me with the intellectual stimulation and academic rigor that I could not always find on the hill. AHI's programming exposed me to an incredible variety of thought that is hard to come by on any college campus, thanks to countless discussions with scholars. Most importantly, AHI expanded my horizons by successfully bringing students and academics from all parts of the political spectrum together on many occasions and facilitating fruitful, insightful debate. AHI led me to challenge what I believe and formulate strong justifications for my thoughts, while also giving me an acute understanding of those who disagree with me. AHI's guidance allowed me to blossom into a strong debater with a deep respect for those who hold differing beliefs than I.

The most valuable experience I had with AHI was undoubtedly the WaPONS program, led by Dr. Juliana Pilon. In the two weeks of the program, Dr. Pilon introduced me to professionals and scholars in the field of national security and provided invaluable guidance for how to succeed in the field. Most importantly, she introduced me to scholars from the Georgetown University Security Studies Program, where I chose to continue my studies after graduating from Hamilton. During the WaPONS Program, I learned what I needed to do to succeed in the Security Studies Program and beyond in my career. I am incredibly thankful for everything AHI has given me that has allowed me to grow as both a person and a scholar. I would recommend participating in AHI's programming whenever the chance exists. AHI provided me with my fondest memories in my undergraduate experience, and I am thankful for every moment I had.”

Amy Elinski, Hamilton College, Class of 2017; Georgetown University Security Studies Program

“My officemate has given me some great tips over the past week, and much of it overlaps with what you taught in your classes. He, too, reads court briefs and memos out loud to proofread

them, and places enormous emphasis on concise language. I definitely want to thank you for helping me refine those skills - they really have been crucial to my job so far.

I came across the phrase "*expressio unius est exclusio alterius*" in one of my briefs recently, and it reminded me of a debate in one of your classes over whether the specific enumeration of liberties in the Bill of Rights necessarily limited the amount of natural rights. My officemate didn't seem nearly as excited as I was when I came across the term."

G. W., Hamilton College, Class of 2017

"In the past 24 hours, I have reflected on how many events, both large and small, led up to this, leaving me incredibly thankful for the relationships and experiences I cultivated along the way. It is safe to say I never would be in this position without professors like you and classes like The Old South. The impact you had on my writing and general intellect was enormous and if there is one thing I regret during my time at Hamilton, it's that I didn't take one of your courses sooner."

Hamilton College undergraduate, Class of 2017

"During my four years at Hamilton College, I had the good fortune to take several American History courses with Professors Ambrose and Paquette. Their constant support and extensive, evenhanded criticism allowed me to significantly improve my academic prose -- without their help, it is unlikely that I would have qualified for a position at the college's Writing Center. The same can be said for my completion and enjoyment of the daunting History major.

Professor Ambrose served as my general advisor during my Freshman year and became my concentration advisor the following fall. In the former position, he helped me navigate the new college environment; in the latter, he guided me through the History concentration's requirements and suggested a broad range of challenging courses. Finally, serving as my thesis advisor in fall 2016, Professor Ambrose acted as a patient mentor and thoughtful reader. When I finished the thesis, he went out of his way to mail my family a bound copy.

Professor Paquette also supported my academic efforts throughout my college career. His office door was always open to me, his bearing welcoming, encouraging, and frank. In my senior year he pushed me to attend an AHI conference at Colgate (and, not incidentally, drove me to and from the event), which proved a singular learning experience. While there, he introduced me to a number of historians working in fields in which I have an abiding interest. In all of our interactions, he evinced a sincere interest in my intellectual growth, for which I remain grateful."

William Ardery, Hamilton College, Class of 2017

"I am writing to tell you about what a privilege it is that AHI is offering these Monday evening courses to the public. I began taking them a couple of years ago starting with the class profiling the 1960s. The subject matter is always informative and interesting. We have covered a number of diverse topics and the combination of lecture and discussion leads to learning the interests and opinions of others in the class. Not having a background in Political Science, I personally find this very educational and enlightening. The text and course materials are graciously provided free of charge which is an added benefit. I would also like to thank Dr. David Frisk for providing the lectures and compiling the readings. I'm sure he gives them a great deal of thought and

effort.”

Greg D’Agostino, New Hartford, New York

“From guest speakers to reading groups, my involvement with the AHI has broadened my knowledge of the world and its history. Particularly, I learned to admire the contributions of Western Civilization to the overall progress of humanity. Without the AHI, I would have had no exposure to the works of Edmund Burke, Friedrich Hayek, John Stuart Mill, and Alexis De Tocqueville.”

Alex Klosner, Hamilton College, Class of 2017

“I’ve been exposed to ideas and subjects I would not have experienced otherwise.”

Taylor Elicegui, Hamilton College, Class of 2017

“It’s hard to convey how much of my own personal and professional success I owe to the Alexander Hamilton Institute, and specifically Professors Paquette and Ambrose, but looking back, I know that no other organization at Hamilton College could or did influence my own personal and intellectual development more than AHI. By supporting my academic interests, while always daring me to think differently, AHI helped me develop an intellectual grounding, which has proven invaluable in my post-grad life. With fellows of every ideological background, every student and professor who contributed their time to AHI found intellectual enrichment, as they came to learn and have their ideas scrutinized and challenged. I consider my time with AHI as a privilege and remain tremendously grateful to Professors Ambrose and Paquette for the irreplaceable mentorship they provided me while I was an undergraduate fellow of AHI.”

William Swett, Hamilton College, Class of 2018

“Your colloquium [Thomas Jefferson v. Alexander Hamilton at Monticello] was one of the best organized events I have ever attended. You . . . deserve congratulations for your vision, your skills in getting such a great, complex enterprise organized, and for its flawless execution. . . . All the panelists were first rate and made interesting points, but the ones who stood out for me were the ones who focused, for example, on the circumstances in which correspondences were written and memorable statements were made.”

Member, The Thomas Jefferson Heritage Society, 19 November 2018

“I have taken four courses in history/political science at the Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) and found them all enjoyable, informative, well organized, and taught in a very understandable manner. The instructor, always a PhD, was well read on the subject being covered, as he was able to select short, pertinent sections from a wide array of much longer articles and books, so as to present a wide variety of viewpoints, without causing excessive reading. Thus, I think that each topic was covered in a well-balanced manner. Also, many of the attendees to these classes made significant contributions to our discussions, based upon their personal experiences, outside readings, or personal beliefs. Additionally, I have found several situations in current events for which material covered in these classes helped explain, by giving some historical perspective. Thus, I consider these courses very worthwhile.”

James W. Fesko, Metallurgical Engineer (Retired), Clinton, New York

“Not all college students have the privilege of connecting with a professor that is able to cultivate within them a lasting appreciation for higher learning and academic achievement. Lucky for me,

I was blessed with two of these mentor-figures at Hamilton College, and not coincidentally, they are both co-founders of AHI: Douglas Ambrose, and Robert Paquette.

After leaving the sheltered world of a suburban, Long Island high school, Hamilton's rigorous academic environment presented a challenge that was unlike anything I had previously experienced. Yet, with their instruction and wisdom, Professors Ambrose and Paquette helped me navigate this journey and—ironically—fulfill the College's mission statement: to "Know Thyself." It was Professor Ambrose who first caught my attention with his fiery lectures on colonial American history, but it was Professor Paquette's passionate discourse on conservative thought in America that inspired me to shift my academic focus. Through their friendship, and the culture of free-expression and intellectual diversity that their leadership has fostered, I found a home at AHI. As I prepare for the next phase of my life, in search of a law degree and beyond, I find myself deeply indebted to this organization, and even more convinced as to the merits of its mission."

Mike Russo, Hamilton College, Class of 2018

"I can say with full confidence that you and the AHI gave me a strong academic foundation that I feel would have been incomplete had I missed the classes, reading groups, and other activities offered by the AHI and its members. One of my few regrets at Hamilton is not finding and learning with the AHI earlier in my college career. I believe I gained a much stronger understanding of our political and intellectual history as well as some of the nuances and complexities that are too often lost on today's students (and citizens!). The work with the AHI also helped me to recognize and differentiate between serious intellectual rigor and the shallow, simplistic thought frequently disguised in academic jargon. Without this education, I would not have been as prepared or as confident to be a boarding school faculty member, especially at a time like the '16 election cycle.

I also believe you had a strong influence on my teaching and grading style. I will never forget the first paper I wrote for your Conservative Thought class. I thought (at the time) it was reasonably well written, perhaps nothing groundbreaking in academia, but somewhat respectable. I remember my jaw almost hit the table when I saw that you had rewritten the entire introductory paragraph, corrected every grammar and punctuation error, and pointedly noted where various pieces of evidence or analysis did not completely support conclusions. While the prose was "passive and pedestrian," I was thrilled that it at least "showed promise." I had never seen that level of rigorous grading, and it forced me to reevaluate what I considered acceptable writing."

Ryan Glenn, Hamilton College, Class of 2016

"Hope all you've been well and enjoying life on the Hill! I thought of you and AHI recently, as I had dinner with a retired Lieutenant General who served as the CIO of the Army (and now works with Deloitte) – her reminded me a bit of General Bunting. I so enjoyed the [Veterans Day] lecture he gave about service back in 2013...can't believe it was almost two years ago!"
H. C., Hamilton College, Class of 2014

"Thank you again for hosting such a wonderful and thought-provoking conference. My mind is still whirring from the many scintillating conversations across the weekend. I'm sure we'll see each other again soon -- perhaps at a joint Buckley/AHI event? Wherever it is, I look forward our next meeting and the exhilarating exchange of ideas that will inevitably follow."

L. S., Yale University undergraduate, April 2018

“To other students, I would say that the AHI, at its core, is about adding to the Hamilton educational experience. In its best form, the AHI can truly be a resource for everyone. At the end of the day,” he adds, “while I am really grateful to the AHI for all of the specific programming they offered, for the networking opportunities and for the chance to hone writing skills, what I am really going to take away is the love of learning. Because who doesn’t love learning more than people who keep it going outside of the regular classroom? That’s what brought me to the AHI, and I think that’s what makes me continue to appreciate it.”

Phil Parkes, Hamilton College, Class of 2017.

"I have had the pleasure of taking several AHI classes and have enjoyed the breadth of the topics examined. The participants have been a cross section of the community; doctors, lawyers, academics, farmers, students, artists, builders, and retirees with varied life experiences.

Topics are presented in depth with thoughtfully assigned readings and guided discussions without bias or rancor. The friendly conversational tone is engaging and invigorating and leaves me looking forward to the next weekly meeting".

Duffy Burdick, Clinton, New York

“Thank you for your hospitality and for all the work you did this past weekend to make the conference the great success it was. You are clearly a devoted and talented man, and it was a pleasure meeting you. I learned a lot, met some great folks, and enjoyed the opportunity to present my work. I hope our paths cross again soon, especially if you make it down to Princeton in the future.”

W. C., Princeton University Undergraduate, 2019.

“My experiences with AHI truly helped shape my undergraduate experience. Even though I went to Colgate, not Hamilton, I always felt welcomed by the organization and its members. I am so thankful that I found AHI, or rather, that Professor Paquette found me. Many liberal arts colleges are quite stifling to intellectual freedom and discussion. At AHI I was able to express myself and my ideas openly, without fear of repercussion. By creating a place where intellectual freedom can be expressed, Professor Paquette genuinely helped me grow as an individual. AHI events I attended were some of the highlights of my college career-- I learned more at one AHI discussion or panel than I did in some entire classes I took in college.

Encouraging college students to explore diverse ideas and engage in open discourse is crucial to their education. Luckily for me, I was able to do this with the help of Professor Paquette, and I can only hope that others have this great fortune. AHI is a safe place for those denied safe spaces elsewhere and I will be forever grateful for the influence it had on my life.”

Caitlin Gilligan, Colgate University, Class of 2019; Manager, External Communications, The Empire Center

“The conference at Colgate was a fantastic way to cap off my undergraduate experience. This past weekend widened my perspective, allowed me to make some great friends whose paths I hope I will cross again, and stimulated a great deal of reflection on the many topics presented. More than anything it left me excited for the years to come following my graduation.

Many thanks to you and everyone else at the AHI and Colgate University who worked to provide such a wonderful opportunity.”

Shane Leary, Rochester Institute of Technology, Class of 2019

“I have participated in several of AHI’s adult classes and have enjoyed and benefited from each one. Professor David Frisk is thoroughly prepared and provides a wide selection of short readings for background information.

The topics and discussions deal with American history and current issues. Different points of view are presented in the material and welcomed in the discussions.

I have particularly enjoyed “The Constitution in the 20th Century and Today: Key Decisions and Controversies” (Fall 2015) and “Abraham Lincoln: Leader and Legend” (Fall 2017).

I highly recommend this AHI program.”

David B. Goldenson, New Hartford, New York

“The luncheon was a great success & your talk was perfect. Just what everyone needed to hear . . . Thanks so much for helping make this celebration happen.”

Mary Rogers, The Questers: Preservation, Restoration, and Education, 2019

“My experience during the WAPONS [national security]program, made possible by the AHI, has been instrumental in my educational and professional development during my time at Hamilton College. The carefully cultivated curriculum at the WAPONS program included readings on a wide area of topics concerning national security. Under the tutelage of Dr. Juliana Pilon, all participants came prepared to learn and engage with some of the top experts in the various fields of study. Every day was spent meeting with esteemed experts. The immense respect each expert had for Dr. Pilon created a more interactive and effective learning environment as each student was able to ask questions. The many qualified speakers were not only extremely knowledgeable but also engaging and invested in our experience. Students from all over the country engaged in thoughtful debates over various policies and issues, providing an environment difficult to replicate in the average classroom.

My experience at the WAPONS program allowed me to bring forth lessons learned and knowledge gained into my future classes as a government major and to my internships with the Army ROTC program I am a member of. I have found myself referring back to the sources and notes taken while at the program for current projects. I feel very fortunate to have experienced the WAPONS program only possible through the work of AHI!”

Katie Tenefrancia, Hamilton College, Class of 2019

“My time with AHI instilled in me a lifelong love of learning and appreciating the Western Canon: Tocqueville, Blackstone, Lord Acton, Cotton Mather, Hayek, the Putney Debates, and others. Second, professors forced me to write with brevity. Lucid writing reflects clear thought. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Professors such as Paquette, Hill, Bradfield, and Ambrose taught me to engage in the honest pursuit of truth—to be a scholar and not a passive ideologue. All of these are the hallmark of a liberal education. This is priceless.”

Hamilton Undergraduate, Class of 2019

“It was a true delight to get to know your student Andrew Juchno, and we are looking forward to welcoming him to DC this summer. The Hertog Foundation relies on the care and insight of professors like yourself to build the best cohort of students for our courses—so thank you for recommending Andrew!

We hope you continue to nominate such exceptional students for our programs.”

Hertog Foundation, 2019

“A standing room only class on Abraham Lincoln! Lively, intense discussions and debates in classes on the ‘60’s and Charles Murray’s *Coming Apart*. All these and many more such classes are regularly taught by Dr. David Frisk, an AHI Resident Fellow. He always prepares robust syllabi and readings, and offers insightful lectures that draw a wide range of Mohawk Valley community members who bring their own interesting observations and enthusiasm for learning to each session. Dr. Mary Grabar, also an AHI Resident Fellow, frequently participates in classes and has contributed several short lectures on George S. Schuyler, prominent African-American journalist and novelist (1895-1977). She has written his soon-to-be published biography. Dr. Christopher Hill has offered a well-attended class on the Crusades and a notable lecture on the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

AHI Director Dr. Robert Paquette has fruitfully collaborated with AHI associates, as well as colleagues at universities and colleges nationwide, to present notable lectures, conferences, and symposia on a rich variety of topics related to the historical, textual, and political roots of the American polity and Western civilization. These include a truly invigorating week-long seminar on Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America* and a thoughtful and timely “Tolerance, the Constitution, and the Limits of an Open Society,” the topic of the Ninth Annual Carl B. Menges Colloquium. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to write some words of praise for the AHI-- its productive and vital people and programs. “

Dr. Susan Goldberg, Clinton, New York

“The undergraduate conference at Colgate was a fantastic way to cap off my undergraduate experience. This past weekend widened my perspective, allowed me to make some great friends whose paths I hope I will cross again, and stimulated a great deal of reflection on the many topics presented. More than anything it left me excited for the years to come following my graduation. Many thanks to you and everyone else at AHI and Colgate University who worked to provide such a wonderful opportunity.”

Undergraduate, Rochester Institute of Technology, Class of 2019

“Since the end of the most recent adult education class, I have been thinking about the benefits I have personally derived from the programs provided by the Alexander Hamilton Institute. Over the last several years I have attended some of the Spring and Summer seminars. These are designed for college students and feature panel members from both university faculties and professional organizations, but they have been free and open to the public. The discussion and debates among these brilliant and well-educated people have provided a wealth of information, knowledge and insight about the topic involved. And it is a real joy to hear truly articulate people speak about any subject. I have also been privileged to attend individual lectures. One that comes to mind was presented by Heather Mac Donald on the topic of "Are Cops Racist?". Again, the information and clarity she provided were remarkable.

For me (and many others like me), however, the single most important program the institute provides is the adult or continuing education classes. I have been attending these for several years now, and I continue to attend because they offer knowledge and stimulating discussion on a variety of topics. The participants come from a wide range of political persuasions and appear to feel free to express their opinions -I certainly feel that way. The most recent course was "Science and Government" and considered not just how government programs are influenced by science and new discoveries, but also how political conflict affects the integration of scientific knowledge with government policy. Other courses throughout the last several years have featured topics such as "The Concept of Law", "Abraham Lincoln", and "Statesmanship". I can think of few things in my life that bring as much value and joy as these Alexander Hamilton Institute programs.”

Fred Diddle, Sherrill, NY, June 3, 2019

“I made a visit to AHI in the spring of 2014 when David Frisk was offering the course on Statesmanship and Leadership. I've been attending every class every semester ever since. I have been a history and literature buff for as long as I can remember. AHI's commitment to the principles of Liberty, Democracy and open discourse through the study of History, Government and Politics, Economics and Statesmanship have provided me with the opportunity to further my personal studies, broaden and deepen its scope, and open new areas of interest. Some classes, such as Statesmanship and Leadership, The Constitution, and Liberty: The History of an Idea were by far my favorite courses.

The semester spent studying F.A. Hayek's works (*The Constitution of Liberty* and *The Road to Serfdom*) were both extremely challenging and second only to the study of the Bible, study of our history, our founding, and how they relate to events is paramount to understanding and functioning in these modern times. It is imperative, in my humble opinion, that we as a nation not only study and discuss these foundational principles, but teach them diligently to our children. It has been my great pleasure to sit next to my young daughters during these classes to hear foundational principles from wise instructors and to experience the many facets of public discourse.

To AHI board of directors, keep up the good work the various Colloquium's and meetings hosted by AHI. It has been a rewarding joy to be included in these very rich and dynamic academic experiences.”

Bob Gorman, Oneida, New York

“Thank you for organizing the AHI conference, and facilitating the travel, food, documents, and panels. The panels and discussions over meals enhanced my understanding of the founding of our nation, especially how Hamilton and Jefferson's vision shaped the rest of American history. Interacting with such prestigious scholars last week was an experience of a lifetime, and the conference will shine as a highlight of my time at Hamilton.”

Nick Jickling, Hamilton College, Class of 2019

“As I have done for many years past, it was once again my treat to host the college students from the Hamilton Institute . . . and their instructor, my good friend Dr. Juliana Pilon, to the Voice of America last week.

The students had a guided tour of our facilities to include watching two live radio shows in English and Indonesian. Over dinner provided by the Hamilton Institute, they also received from me a brief lecture and discussion on international broadcasting and public diplomacy. Their instructor, Dr. Pilon, is one of the luminaries of Washington, DC. She has been a professor at the National War College at Fort McNair where she has helped train many general officers in the military and at the Institute of World Politics where I first met her. She is also the author of several books. These young people in her class will be the future leaders of our nation. I’m glad I had the opportunity to host Dr. Pilon and the Hamilton Institute students by showing these young people what we do at the Voice of America in support of our country’s national security interests.”

Rick Barnes, Supervisor, Voice of America, 2019

"AHI’s Science and Government class ... was intellectually stimulating and the AHI environment was a welcoming place to share an evening with others committed to expanding their body of knowledge. Class discussions were always interesting and thought provoking. Attendees at AHI represent a wide range of knowledge gained from extensive reading/studying/academia, occupation, and life experience. We enjoyed listening to all of it. ... The information shared enhanced our understanding of larger issues outside the classroom."

Trudy and Eric Kennedy, Utica, New York

"To the Alexander Hamilton Institute I owe a large debt of gratitude. In particular, Professors Paquette and Ambrose were a vital part of my undergraduate education, offering a much needed supplement to Hamilton. Their guidance and support shaped me into the scholar that I am today. Both are generous with their time and advice, demonstrating a commitment to students that very few professors of their caliber can match. I consider them both mentors and friends, and am incredibly proud of all that they have accomplished in founding and sustaining our Institute."

Andrew Juchno, Hamilton College, Class of 2019

“Thank you so much for making it possible for me to come to the colloquium on Hamilton and Jefferson, and for letting me stay at the AHI. It was a wonderful, eye-opening weekend. I learned so much about the two that I never knew before, and it was good to hear so many different perspectives from such knowledgeable scholars. Monticello was absolutely beautiful, and we look forward to hearing what is next and experiencing your vision. And to Bob Paquette, thank you for allowing us to participate in the food was spectacular, and I so enjoyed getting to know so many new people over the course of the trip! Thank you for such a great opportunity!”

Elizabeth Niebanck, SUNY-Oneonta, Class of 2021

“When the Alexander Hamilton Institute came to Clinton and took over the old restaurant on the green and I spoke to Jim Bradfield and Bob Paquette about the organization and its goals and objectives, I knew I had to get involved. As a founding member of the Conservative Party of New York State and at the time a Regional Vice Chairman for upstate New York, I understood

the problem with many of the liberal arts colleges moving to the extreme liberal position on most current topics. Also the move to the 'political correct nonsense' that permeates many of the college administrations today.

My involvement with AHI has been an interesting and rewarding experience. As a retired teacher at a local college, I can appreciate the value of having an alternative program that provides the students with a conservative point of view on subjects in which they are involved in their studies. Also AHI returns to the philosophy of teaching students to think for themselves and do research to arrive at solutions to topics of interest. It is a great concern of mine that universities and colleges today are more concerned with forcing their students to fit into the liberal mode of the university administration than fostering an environment that provides students with the ability to think and reason for themselves."

Daniel Fitzgerald, Clinton, New York

"Dr. Pilon, Words cannot express how thankful I am for the experience I had these last two weeks. I feel so privileged that I not only got to know and learn from you, but also get to know and learn from my fellow participants. It is also true that some of the individuals we met, I may never have gotten the wonderful privilege to meet otherwise. I am so excited to reach out to some of those individuals and learn more about their work. This program made me realize the multitude of options available to me, and I cannot wait to pursue some of them. I meant it when I said you helped me realize that there could be more options out there than a professorship. While I still want to be a professor more than anything (I nearly gasped when our speaker at VOC said he left a tenured professorship), I realize that I can use a History degree in other ways. There are so many possibilities when it comes to using the foundation of history to try to better society. Thank you again for the tremendous amount of work you put into this. I hope to stay in touch and see you soon!"

A. P., Colgate University, Class of 2020

"I have attended the last four semesters of classes at AHI with Prof. David Frisk. These classes provide an opportunity to engage in in-depth study of a person or subject of historic or political interest. The suggested weekly readings, Prof. Frisk's comments and the class discussions have been engaging and informative. Controversial issues have been presented in a fair and evenhanded manner. I have enjoyed this opportunity to keep learning."

Harris Samuels, attorney, Saquoit, New York

"We have attended and immensely enjoyed four courses at the Alexander Hamilton Institute. Dr. Frisk provides a very stimulating lecture followed by a vigorous discussion. Class participation provides many different viewpoints from attendees coming from various professions and life experiences. Overall, these courses have provided a very positive experience for all attendees. We both are looking forward to Dr. Frisk's upcoming course in September."

Pat and Ben Trojnar, Whitesboro, New York

"Nothing is ever perfect. Cicero conveyed to us that the pursuit of knowledge and excellence should be made in "calm and tranquility." I missed that lesson. These last four years I struggled with, and attempted to master and plumb: the tomes of the philosophers, renowned literary works, art historians' critical essays, dramatists' plays, artists' paintings and sculptures, poets'

verse, historians' panegyrics, and social thinkers' admonitions – not in “calm and tranquility,” but at an often-frenetic pace. Of the ancient philosophers, the Italian Renaissance artists, the modernists, and a myriad of recommendable characters and thinkers, I fell asleep each night hearing other people's voices, reading other people's words, and considering other people's images and ideas – learning all the while what it meant to think for myself. I found words for the sublime and the difficult. I tried to discover new words for the ordinary and the ineffable. Hamilton professors and Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) mentors taught me how to write more cogently and speak more persuasively.”

Claire Kitz, Editor of Enquiry, Hamilton College, Class of 2019

“[T]he [WAPONS] program was incredible. Thank you for all the work you put into making the program what it was.”

S. G. Hamilton College, Class of 2019

“I really learned a lot from this program [WAPONS], and I appreciate the time you spent putting it together and the time the speakers took out of their day to talk to us! It was a lot of fun.”

A. N., Texas Tech University

“When I reflect on my time spent in Washington DC with the Alexander Hamilton Institute's Program on National Security I can only think about what a wonderful growing experience it was for me. During my time there I truly enjoyed hearing from many different experts about different aspects of our nation's national security. I have several favorite moments from the program, one being visiting the Afghanistan Embassy and learning about the culture and history of the country. I also loved visiting the Holocaust museum and speaking with Anatol Steck. “I came back to Georgia with a multitude of knowledge on subjects I hadn't previously had the chance to study. I will always be grateful for the connections I made during my time and the many chances I had to spend with Miss Juliana Pilon and the many experts she brought together for us. I truly enjoyed every moment!”

Caitlan Coleman, East Georgia State University

“The [WAPONS] program was amazing in my opinion. You did such a wonderful job with planning and coordinating. We all were very privileged to meet the people that we did and hear their knowledge on a wide range of topics. I feel much more confident about my understanding of national security topics and the importance of national security in general, such as how it connects to so many relevant issues today. Thank you so much for helping the next generation to share in knowledge about our world and for letting us be your guinea pigs!”

I look forward to keeping in touch.”

K. L., Liberty University

“My time at D.C. and with the WAPONS Program was unforgettable. I really learned a lot about current pressing issues and about opportunities within my field of study! All the speakers and lectures were great, even though a few could have been more dynamic and engaging. You, as our mentor, were wonderful! I am really glad we got the chance to get to know both you and Roger [Pilon], and will always be grateful for everything you did and opening your home to us (also for the delicious meals we shared). As for improvements that could be done to the program, I would

just say maybe have a more central location for future students to stay in. It would also have been nice to do some sightseeing as a group and maybe even tour some of the "three-lettered" agencies. I really can't think of anything else that could be changed, as this program was really great."

M. F., Mercyhurst University

"I had such a wonderful time with the WAPONS program and with you as our guide and leader. . . . The group couldn't have gotten along better and our friendships are connections that will last a lifetime. I learned so much and I was inspired to look into many areas of national security that I never would have thought of otherwise. . . . I will be recommending the Alexander Hamilton Institute and the WAPONS program to my friends. You were such a great hostess and I will be keeping in touch with you Juliana. Thank you for this opportunity and for allowing me to see your home, a new city, and what my future in national security could look like. I was so blessed to have been part of AHI's program and I think that I will forever look back on the experience fondly."

J. C., Hamilton College, Class of 2018

"Thank you for everything! I really enjoyed the program and feel like I was able to learn some valuable lessons that will help me in the future. I really enjoyed the speakers and topics that focused on national security from a military or law enforcement perspective. Obviously, I am biased because it is the career field I want to go into, but I really feel that I got the most out of those conversations."

Overall, I had a great experience and I am happy I got to be a part of WAPONS 2016!

J. T., Christopher Newport University

"First off, I just want to thank you for an amazing two weeks. It was an honor to be accepted into the program and to have the opportunity to engage in such an enriching experience. On a professional basis, I took some valuable lessons away from the program, but the two weeks also left a big impact on me on a personal basis. Experiencing DC for the first time and enjoying it with the 20 great students I had the pleasure of meeting is something I will never forget. . . . We certainly had great discussions with each other at the dorm, dinner, etc."

Again, thank you so much for an awesome and unforgettable two weeks!"

K. M., Mercyhurst University

"I thought that WAPONS was a phenomenal experience. I was especially impressed by the quality of the speakers and the in-depth discussions we had with them. I also really enjoyed the company of all of the other participants. Their diverse backgrounds made for some really interesting and productive conversations. I will definitely recommend this program to other students at Mercyhurst."

D. E., Mercyhurst University

"Celebrating the founding of our nation meant more to me this year than ever before after spending time in DC and meeting the men and women working so hard to keep us safe. This program has been very impactful, and I cannot thank you enough for the amazing experience. . . . I particularly enjoyed speaking with experts on conflict resolution, such as Eric

Brown and Dr. Gregorian, because I often did not directly link conflict resolution and national security, and learned it is a field I am very interested in going into. Cols. Maxwell and Eastman and Dr. Berman were also very engaging experts because of their candor and conversational style.”

T. B., College of Charleston

“Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to engage with such great people and thought provoking ideas. I have gained some great friends and I am now more inspired to protect the classical liberal ideals we often take for granted here in the U.S. I enjoyed hearing from Dr. Spalding, Roger Pilon, Ilan Berman, Greg Scarlatoiu, Andrew Wilson, and of course, Hedieh Mirahmadi. Spalding’s erudition on the role of history and explanation of how, without hindsight, we cannot hope to learn from past error or properly analyze history was phenomenal. I appreciated his interpretation of “prudence” as it used by the Founders. It was great to be able to hear from someone like Dr. Roger Pilon, who is so well versed in Constitutional law and articulated its evolution so thoroughly. His talk of the bifurcation of rights into fundamental and non-fundamental was particularly interesting and still has me pondering over the notions. It helped me better understand the why lawmakers and judges have come to view the law in the way that they do. Berman impressed me thoroughly because he was able to explain the complexity of the Middle East in such precise terms, leaving little out. As someone who was not as well versed in the intricacy of the Middle East as some of the other students, this was very helpful. Our time with Greg Scarlatoiu was very informative. I learned so much about why North Korea acts in the ways it does. It dispelled some myths about North Korea, which was quite helpful. I previously viewed North Korea as a regime that ruled arbitrarily but now I understand that the government has clear goals for their country even if their methods are questionable. Even though it was the end of the day, Andrew Wilson, from CIPE, was very enjoyable. CIPE seems to do some great work to help private businesses tear down the chains established by the government.”

M. P., Christopher Newport University

“This experience was so eye-opening in that we absolutely need more individuals, especially in this generation and the generations to come, that are passionate about national security. The field is ever growing and the experts are contributing so much, however if we can get more people excited about national security and to realize the threats we have ongoing daily, America will be a safer place. I am hoping I can contribute to that one day! Thank you for attaching the pictures- I miss the program, D.C., the participants, and you of course and these pictures are a great way to reflect on my experience! I most enjoyed Mr. Dziak, Ms. Mirahmadi, Mr. Berman and Mr. Salman - while I enjoyed the other speakers, I felt that they were the most engaging and spoke about what I was most interested in. The discussion that we had with them were meaningful and I very much enjoyed them!”

H. C., Christopher Newport University

“I really enjoyed most all of the speakers. A couple that stuck out to me were Colonel Maxwell, particularly due to his connections with Georgetown University, and Omran Salman and Saghar Erica Kasraie’s due to their personal background. I particularly found Salman’s presentation to be very interesting and informative due to all his knowledge he had on Arab countries and their customs. I also loved our trip to Voice of America and that we got to walk around everywhere

and see the studios. Finally, I thought Ilan Berman from the American Foreign Policy Council and Hedieh Mirahmadi were absolutely amazing speakers and incredibly knowledgeable. I enjoyed them so much due to their vast knowledge and the fact that they seemed so capable to answer the wide array of questions thrown at them with such precision. I think the program is brilliant the way it is. With such a variety of speakers, every student participating has the chance to really connect with someone who meets their interest. Some of the days were very long and tiring; however, that was something I knew would happen going into the program.”

I. L., Christopher Newport University

“I just wanted to reach out and personally thank you again for hosting the WaPoNS program this summer. It was truly a truly first-rate and outstanding program and it had a profound impact on me. Furthermore, the WAPONS program was vastly beneficial to complete prior to starting graduate school. I use the knowledge that I acquired during those weeks in DC (knowledge that I do believe would have taken years to gain otherwise) daily. By speaking with so many who have devoted their lives to the safety and security of our nation, I do feel as though I have the absolute closest thing possible to my own real life experience to be the root of my graduate study. In fact, I do believe my roommates are sick of hearing of my stories about the amazing people and things that I learned ‘during my program in DC this summer.’ Furthermore, while I have not yet written any papers I do hope to cite the materials that I was able to obtain this summer, especially *The Art of Peace*.

So, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you. I know that you work very, very hard to make the program a reality and I want you to know what a profound impact that it had on me. I am blessed to have been able to attend the program and even mores to have had you as an instructor.

Nik S. Fisher, Master of International Affairs Candidate, The Bush School of Government and Public Service

“It would be very hard for me to pick a few favorites from the all the amazing speakers we had this week. They were all incredible and clearly were very passionate about the work that they are doing and have done in the past. I would say the speakers that I enjoyed listening to the most would be Dakota Wood, Col. Maxwell, and Ilan Berman. Dakota was great. He was able to answer such a wide range of questions and give us insight on so many different topics. He was also a very nice guy and had a good sense of humor which made the session not only informative, but also very fun. Col. Maxwell was also very fun to interact with. He was able to shed light on one of the most mysterious places in our world today, North Korea, while also making it fun and interactive. Similarly, Ilan was able to do the same with the greater middle east, mainly Iran. His ability to communicate his knowledge of the subject was very impressive. Although I probably could've described just about every speaker here in that manner, those three stood out to me and will surely be some of my most memorable experiences in the program.

A. P., Princeton University, 2018

“I must say I have learned and from every speaker we had and am very grateful to all that have taken the time to meet with us. I enjoyed listening to Dakota Wood because he was forthright, very knowledgeable (as everyone has been), and made complex concepts accessible. I also was grateful to have the opportunity to ask him about the situation in Afghanistan because it has been a small pet project of mine to follow developments there.

I enjoyed hearing from Eric Brown and Eric Hannis because they both were widely traveled and had a great breadth of experience to draw from as they answered questions. I am also interested, at a personal level, in Mr. Brown's study into ideologies. Mr. Hannis' insight into work on the Hill was excellent and very relevant for where I am now trying to go.

I think I speak for everyone when I say Jack Dziak's stories were of great interest, at times amusing and at times sobering. Dr. R[oger]. Pilon and Dr. Spadling were wonderful as well.”

J. W., Villanova University

“I would like to just start off by stating how thankful I am to be a part of this program. . . .

One of the most compelling storytellers was Dr. Jack Dziak. He told some of the most fascinating stories about the KGB--even more impressive was the fact that many of them were personal experiences. Never before have I heard such an up-close and personal, first-hand account of the activities of the KGB. I especially enjoyed hearing the museum story; it is amusing how paradoxical the KGB--or Kremlin--can be. I found it interesting how intricately the Russians and former KGB agents integrated themselves into foreign societies. I wish I could take a glimpse of that magnificent library you praised so highly.

On one last note, I would like to mention how insightful not only the speakers are but also how insightful the other students here are. I have learned so much from them--events and names and places that I never even knew. For that alone, I am grateful to be a part of this program. It is not often that you find such studious people your own age who manage to push you to learn more and think harder. I have enjoyed getting to know them--and you, Dr. Pilon-- throughout this program. Thank you for sharing your story with us. It truly means a lot to me for you to speak so openly about your experiences and to share family photos with us. I admire how brave and resilient your family was during such an uncertain time. I wish I could have met your parents; they sound wonderful.”

B. C., University of West Georgia

“My favorite has to be the lecture by Dr. Tom Merrill on Free Speech. This topic has been increasingly touchy recently but Dr. Merrill approached it with the intent to try to understand why it has become a difficult subject. His talk was organized into three main points, seeking to get a better handle of the subject. 1)The need to have a community standard in communication, 2) the Conservative responses to political correctness is often as corrupt and counter-productive as the political correctness, 3) if Free Speech isn't the problem, what is? Through the first point Dr. Merrill emphasized the fact that there has been a deterioration in communication between peoples within the same country (let alone internationally) to the point that the United States has fallen back on political correctness as a sort of defense. Dr. Merrill pointed out that political correctness was not always either bad nor good, it is a tool that often gets corrupted and misused. His second point showed that neither the Right nor Left were free of blame in making Free Speech a controversial subject. Both sides overreact to each other and need to come to the realization that a rational conversation is the only way to reach a productive outcome. Finally Dr. Merrill's third point is especially important because it brings to a head the other two points. It shows that there is some other, deeper problem in the United States, one that. He proposed a number of different possibilities: the fact that we think of Free Speech as a rights issue rather than an ethos issue, that we are culturally cowards, and that we define ourselves by those around us. He posed each of these as questions, but I think the important underlying theme is that

Americans have departed from many of the Founding Principles. It seems that Dr. Merrill was hinting at a deterioration (or at least partial deterioration) of American culture that came with the departure from the American Founding Principles. This begs the question: how can the United States hope to maintain its National Security, and further its interests abroad, if it is unable to maintain its principles at home?"

D. W., Hillsdale College

"Thanks for all that you have done so far, this has truly been a great experience for me. I think that the first day was one of my favorites, particularly the sessions with Roger [Pilon] and Dr. Spalding. I have just recently gotten my feet wet in the world of political philosophy, and am seeing its importance more and more in how the foundations of thinking, and of our institutions, can help us to make prudent decisions. Perhaps blame for not fully understanding these key concepts rests fully with me, though I do wish my education incorporated more of a base for which to build on, as opposed to trying to drink from a firehose with no intellectual grounding. While I came to this conference looking for many answers, I ended the first week with even more questions than I started with. I do see the value in that because I, on one hand, now know of a lot of material that I wish to read up on. On the other hand, having unanswered questions is more comforting now that I've heard the experts say time and time again that they also do not know, which provides a weird feeling of both comfort and ambition.

Those are some of my general thoughts so far, but in terms of individual sessions, apart from the two mentioned above, I really enjoyed Jack Dziak for his insight into intelligence competition with the Soviet Union, and the still present Russian operations, which are not entirely dissimilar from the KGB's. Another session that stuck with me is Ilan Berman. He came across as incredibly knowledgeable on not just on his issues, but also on issues around the world. The lesson that I learned from him is the difference that travel can make on one's understanding of critical issues, which seems related to, as you discussed in your book, the human and cultural aspects of intelligence. I also greatly enjoyed listening to Eric Hannis, possibly because I have put a lot of thought into a with career in the Air Force as an officer as well as working on the hill, both of which he has done. The last session I would like to mention is Dorothy Taft's. I think it was clear that she truly cares about the world and believes in what she is doing, which is very refreshing. Her approach to some of the world's biggest issues was rational and results-driven, while still being deeply devoted to the cause. Her business is the first I have seen of that model, and from what I could tell, it is very effective and I wish there were more like it."

K. N., American University

"I wanted to thank you again for allowing me to participate in the WAPONS program. I thoroughly enjoyed being surrounded by fellow students with the same interests and learning about national security issues from experts in the field. My peers and I had many lively discussions on the topics in the dorm in the evenings, which I really appreciated. I will confess: I did not realize how ignorant I was on some of the topics discussed, prior to enrolling in the program. There were many issues, such as cyber security and terrorist propaganda, which I only studied briefly in classes that I have taken. The opportunity which I was given, to have information presented in an unbiased, factual manner by experts, was incredibly enlightening. I wish you the best in finishing your next novel, and in all of your pursuits! Thank you so much again for this incredible experience. I am already missing our subway adventures!"

M. S., Colgate University

“I want to thank you again for a wonderful two weeks. I learned so much in such a short amount of time and the speakers have definitely helped to shape my plans for the future. I feel so fortunate to have been able to be a part of such a wonderful [WAPONS] program.”

C. Z., Hamilton College, Class of 2019

“I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity of being selected for the Alexander Hamilton Institute National Security Program. Not only was it insightful but it offered me the opportunity to obtain a greater understanding of the issues, policies, and inner workings of national security. I thank you for the time and effort you have put into this program. I also enjoyed working and exchanging ideas with the diverse students that attended the program as it allowed me to widen my views on policy issues. If there are any similar summer programs you come across, I would be interested in being a part of it as it would give me a better insight and perspective on a possible diplomatic career.”

J. B., The State University of New York at Stony Brook

“I just wanted to send you an email saying that I really enjoyed the last two weeks and appreciate all of the efforts you put into the program and getting to know each of us. The amount of knowledge and inspiration I gained from this program was truly remarkable. I can't even properly describe how amazing it was to be part of it and become friends with such fantastic people. You really made the whole program a wonderful experience and brought us all together, so I wanted to thank you. Hopefully, you have a wonderful rest of the summer!”

D. D., University of North Texas

“Dr. Pilon, Thank you for all the work that you did to make the WAPONS program a rewarding summer class. Your knowledge and experience are breathtaking. Your personal contacts you shared with us were fantastic connections that I don't think we could have formed any other way. I enjoyed especially the foreign service discussions that this program opened up for me. Thank you for feeding and housing us and thank you for the metro rides. Thank you for all the classes and for organizing this program for us students. . . . I was floored by the knowledge base that we encountered over our time in DC. It was overwhelming, but in a very good way. I especially enjoyed the public diplomacy discussions with both diplomats and VOA operators and think tank specialists. It was well worth the trip. The discussions in the metro with you and other students were very rewarding also. Thank you so much again for all the work you put into the program! “

S. W., Oklahoma Wesleyan University

“You [Juliana Pilon] are the mastermind and the motor of a wonderful experience you voluntarily give to others. My time here [at WAPONS] could not have been as enjoyable if anyone else was in your position. You have done great things to get to where you are, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know you. I'm looking forward to our reunion!”

S. S., East Georgia State College

“Thank you so much for the amazing dialogue this past weekend. . . . I very much hope I have the ability to work with you again in the future!!”

T. D., Florida, November 2019

“It was a pleasure to listen to the dialogue between the panelist and the participants. Teachers truly do appreciate the opportunity to feed our own love of learning. Thank you for giving your time up over the weekend to spend it with us. I look forward to next year.”

K. P., M. Ed., Anthem, Arizona, November 2019