

Professional Development Grant Report
Grant date: October 2010

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July 20th, 2011

Professional Enhancement Activity: Speaker Series

A professional development grant for the institution of and partial funding of the Guest Lecture Series on Economics & Liberty under the direction of Dr. Donald M. Gooch, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Arkansas Tech University for the fall 2010 academic semester was awarded in the amount of \$3,330. This portion of the series (which concluded in the 2011 Spring semester with three additional speakers) included two distinguished and well-recognized speakers on economics and liberty. The first speaker was Jonah Goldberg, Visiting Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and contributing editor of National Review. He gave a talk entitled "No Time for a New Deal" on Monday, October 18th, 2010 in the East Dining Room of Chambers Hall to an audience of students, faculty, and the general public. The second speaker was Lawrence W. Reed, President of the Foundation for Economic Education. He gave his talk on the "Seven Principles of Sound Public Policy" on Wednesday, December 1st, 2010 in the Doc Bryan Lecture Hall to, again, a mix of students, faculty, and the general public. Both speakers are well-known public intellectuals with established records of participation in university lecture series and speaking opportunities.

Review of Professional Enhancement Activity: Speaker Series

The purpose of the guest lecture series was to foster debate, discussion, and intellectual enlightenment for the student body, the faculty, and the Russellville community. The focus of the guest lecture series was to provide ATU faculty and students with exposure to nationally renowned scholars and public intellectuals who have expertise in the study of economics, politics, and philosophy and who have specialized in the areas of public choice theory, market economics, political economy and political liberty. The first half of the speaker series was implemented in the fall semester of 2010 and involved the invitation of two nationally renowned speakers on economics, markets, and liberty to the Arkansas Tech University main campus in Russellville. Attendance at both events was strong (estimated to be around 100 to 120 attending at each event) and the audience

consisted of students currently enrolled in History and Political Science courses, majors in both disciplines, other students from across the broad spectrum of disciplines taught at ATU, faculty from the History & Political Science department, interested members of the public, and a journalist for the *Courier*, the Russellville newspaper. The speaking events were advertised using a number of different mediums: campus flyers, newspaper articles in the *Courier*, press releases to student organizations at universities and colleges across the state of Arkansas, word-of-mouth, and e-mail notices. Video recordings of the speaking events were made in order to preserve a record of the events as well as provide materials for teaching and learning in the classroom.

Summary of Outcomes and Experiences

Both speakers in the fall of 2010 presented a “main talk” which covered a topic relevant to current debates on political economy as well as touching on issues related to free markets, enterprise, and the balance between government control and liberty. Jonah Goldberg’s talk focused on why he believed the current economic recession and resulting financial crisis did not present a prima facie case for Keynesian counter-cyclical spending or for greater regulation in the financial markets. He furthermore discussed topics that touched on his NY Times best-selling book and current political debates. Lawrence Reed’s talk centered on seven principles of what he argues are sound public policy punctuated by a number of illustrative anecdotes from the Cold War and other moments in history relevant to issues of liberty and market economics.

While comprehensive metrics are unavailable, both talks in the fall of 2010 were well-received by the attendees, as evidenced by student comments posted in the wake of the events. In regards to the Goldberg talk, some representative student comments include:

- “I really enjoyed it. I agreed with his views on NOT looking to China as a kind of "role model" for the US. I actually understood what he was talking about when he mentioned the New Deal and people wanting a "New New Deal" when Obama was elected. He was also pretty funny which kept the audience alive!”
- “I didn’t know what to expect going into the lecture but I found it to be rather engaging. Jonah Goldberg was well spoken, witty, and quick on his toes during the Q&A session. The

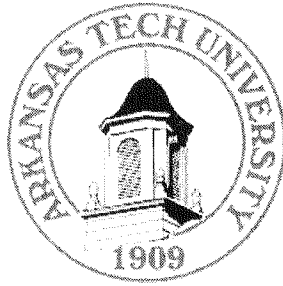
arguments Mr. Goldberg presented were well thought out and surprisingly not one-sided. When it comes to counter arguments or additional arguments, I don't really have any!"

- "Although I did not agree with a lot of his views, I still found the discussion to be interesting. He stated his point in a respectable way. I agree with the point you made in your blog about the most interesting part of the discussion being about the Lockian vision of man, the state of nature, society, etc. I think it's great that Tech can get such a well-known person to come speak at Tech, whether I agree with his views or not."
- "Great speaker! He had a lot of info, but was able to relate most of it back to our class in some ways such as the Federalist papers and John Locke's theory of government. I agree with him 100% on the no time for a new new deal."

And here are some student comments in reaction to the talk given by Lawrence Reed:

- "I thought Mr. Reed's talk made a lot of sense. At first I thought that the 7 principles that he was going to speak of were going to be over my head but I like the way that he explained them and in most cases gave real life applications of how the principles can/were applied. If the government could implement some if not all of those principles then things may run a bit smoother. I especially liked the point he made about no one can spend their money better than the one who owns it. Also I really saw the truth behind his other principle that a government that is able to give you everything can also take away everything. It seems like a character/moral point as well for our government to live by."
- "Reed is my favorite speaker so far. He made it easy to comprehend the message he was giving. I liked his 7 principles because they are simple, and yet the government still hasn't conquered them. Excellent speech!"
- "I much enjoyed Reed's talk, I agreed strongly with his hierarchy of spending and how it ranks with people and their tendencies of spending depending on where the money is from and what it is for. I'm glad he turned me on to I, pencil. as a whole i agree with his views of capitalism."

In addition to their talks, both speakers held on-campus meetings where they were able to interact with faculty and students on a one-on-one basis. Interesting discussions of current politics, policy, and political issues were born out of each of those engagements, with a number of students expressing interest in further study and research in these topical areas. Faculty members in the department who attended the talks and/or the meet and greets also benefited from interactions with the speakers as evidenced by subsequent discussions of the issues raised and even potential platforms for scholarly research into these areas of politics and economics. Attached are the campus flyers distributed for each of the events.



GUEST LECTURE

Monday 18th October 2010

7:00 p.m.

**East Dinning Room
Chambers Hall
Arkansas Tech University**

“No Time for a New Deal”

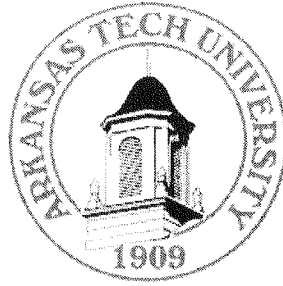


Jonah Goldberg

**New York Times Bestselling Author of *Liberal Fascism*,
syndicated columnist, contributing editor to *National Review*,
and Visiting Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute**

2010-2011 Guest Lecture Series on
Liberty, Freedom, and Political Economy
ATU History & Political Science Department
Partially funded by a grant from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation

Queries to: dgooch@atu.edu



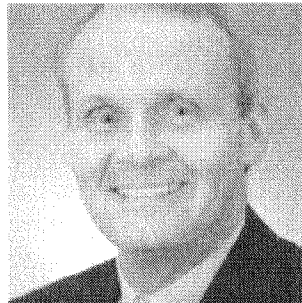
GUEST LECTURE

Wednesday, December 1st 2010

7:00 p.m.

**Doc Bryan
Lecture Hall
Arkansas Tech University**

“Seven Principles of Sound Public Policy”



Lawrence W. Reed, M.A. History

Author of *Striking the Root: Essays on Liberty*, nationally syndicated columnist, current president of the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), & former president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy

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