

The 2012–13 ISI Honors Program



AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM



Summer Conference
The Jefferson Hotel
Richmond, Virginia
July 15–21, 2012

Application Postmark
Deadline:
January 17, 2012

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AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

Time and again, Ronald Reagan invoked John Winthrop’s biblical characterization of America as a “shining city on a hill.” That image captures a powerful dimension of America’s self-understanding: the conviction that our regime of ordered liberty—which may be the greatest political achievement since Rome—does not exist for the sake of Americans only, but is meant to serve as an exemplar for all the world. From the “*novus ordo seclorum*” at our founding, through the “manifest destiny” which conquered a continent, and on to the “American Century” with its global responsibilities, Americans have typically sensed that they possess a Providential mission of universal importance. America is a country set apart, perhaps even chosen. America is not merely the best among the nations; rather, she is different in kind from all other nations. By virtue of her enlightened political principles, America is the first “universal nation.” America is exceptional.

Some wholeheartedly embrace these strong claims as the soul of any true American patriotism; others reject American exceptionalism as a dangerous ideological and nationalist myth. What, then, is the meaning of the American Experiment? What is it about America that merits our devotion? How can we distinguish true and false patriotism? To what extent is it really true that America’s founding principles are universals, and so America is a nation unlike any other? To what extent has America’s extraordinary history been the fruit of its specifically Anglo-Protestant heritage? Could the American regime be improved in any way? Finally, if America’s political experience really is an exception, in what way—if any—can American political principles serve as a model for other nations?

This summer, join ISI as we explore some of the deepest questions of American identity—and American destiny.

WHAT IS THE ISI HONORS PROGRAM?

The ISI Honors Program is a highly selective yearlong mentoring fellowship for fifty of the nation's most promising undergraduates. Honors Fellows are assigned an Academic Mentor who guides them through reading projects and advises on intellectual questions and career options. Fellows explore the West's intellectual tradition at a weeklong, all-expenses paid summer conference, at weekend colloquia, and through online correspondence. Fellows receive an array of ISI publications, including *American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia* and *Modern Age*, and are notified of employment, fellowship, and internship opportunities.



"I take heart in knowing that there is a broad community that shares questions which concern me and am, vitally, compelled to continue my own studies with greater tenacity and thoughtfulness."

—ISI Honors Fellow,
Louisiana State University



"The Honors Program has helped me to better understand the complexity of the debates that constitute our contemporary political discourse, as well as to see new ways of approaching the problems that we each face separately as individuals and that we face together as citizens of our nation."

—ISI Honors Fellow,
University of Texas

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APPLICATION DETAILS

Outstanding students who will be undergraduates during the 2012–13 academic year are invited to apply for this unique mentoring fellowship.

Applicants must be U.S. or Canadian citizens or permanent residents, and be able to attend a weeklong summer conference at the Jefferson Hotel in historic **Richmond, Virginia.**



We strongly encourage all applicants to apply via our new

online application portal at **www.isihonorsprogram.org**.

If you need to mail your application, the postmark deadline is January 17, 2012.

Please consult the application guidelines at **www.isihonorsprogram.org**. Incomplete applications or those that do not meet these criteria will not be considered.

To apply for admission to the ISI Honors program, please assemble the following:

- An application form and headshot
- One-page résumé
- Three-page personal philosophical statement
- Five- to ten-page academic writing sample
- Two academic letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts of undergraduate work

The 2012–13 ISI Honors Fellows will be announced in **April 2012**. All applicants will be notified by email.

For more information, please call (302) 524-6121, visit **www.isihonorsprogram.org**, or email **honors@isi.org**.



MAIL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:
Honors Program
Intercollegiate Studies Institute
3901 Centerville Road
Wilmington, DE 19807-1938

ISI HONORS PROGRAM

ACADEMIC MENTORS

A Sampling

ALLAN C. CARLSON is the founder-president of the Howard Center for Family, Religion, and Society and a history professor at Hillsdale College. He has written extensively on the subject of the family, and is author of *The “American Way”* and *Third Ways* for ISI Books. Dr. Carlson was also appointed by President Reagan to the National Commission on Children and was a consultant to the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

PATRICK DENEEN is professor of government at Georgetown University. His interests include ancient political thought, American political thought, democratic theory, religion and politics, and literature and politics. He has been published in such journals as *First Things*, the *Weekly Standard*, *Perspectives on Political Science*, *Society*, the *Hedgehog Review*, and *Commonweal*. He is a leading editor of *Front Porch Republic* and the founder of the Tocqueville Forum at Georgetown.



RICHARD GAMBLE teaches history at Hillsdale College. His book *The War for Righteousness: Progressive Christianity, the Great War, and the Rise of the Messianic Nation* was published by ISI Books in 2003. More recently, Professor Gamble edited *The Great Tradition*, an anthology that reconstructs a centuries-long conversation about the goals, conditions, and ultimate value of true education.

THOMAS HIBBS is currently distinguished professor of ethics and culture and dean of the Honors College at Baylor University. He teaches and researches in the fields of medieval philosophy, contemporary virtue ethics, and philosophy and popular culture. Hibbs has written two scholarly books on Aquinas and a book on popular culture entitled *Shows about Nothing*. He also has written on film, culture, books, and higher education in *Christianity Today*, *First Things*, *National Review*, the *Weekly Standard*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

RUSSELL HITTINGER is professor of philosophy at the University of Tulsa. He specializes in issues of theology and law. He is the author of *The First Grace* for ISI Books. His essays and articles have appeared in the *Review of Metaphysics*, the *Review of Politics*, and the *International Philosophical Quarterly*, as well as in several law journals. He is on the editorial boards of *First Things* and the *American Journal of Jurisprudence*.

E. CHRISTIAN KOPFF teaches classics at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His *The Devil Knows Latin*, published by ISI Books in 1999, has been widely cited in the new classical education movement. Professor Kopff's research interests include the modern fascination with the Greek and Latin cultures of the ancient Mediterranean.

PETER AUGUSTINE LAWLER is Dana Professor of Government at Berry College. He is also executive editor of the acclaimed scholarly quarterly *Perspectives on Political Science* and was a member of President Bush's Council on Bioethics. He is author or editor of fourteen books and well over two hundred articles and chapters. Among his recent books are *Homeless and at Home in America*, *Stuck with Virtue*, *Aliens in America*, *Postmodernism Rightly Understood*, and *Modern and American Dignity*.

DANIEL J. MAHONEY is chairman and professor of political science at Assumption College. His areas of scholarly expertise include statesmanship, religion and politics, French political philosophy, and antitotalitarian thought. He is the author of *The Conservative Foundations of the Liberal Order* and books on Raymond Aron, Charles de Gaulle, Bertrand de Jouvenel, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Mahoney has also edited or co-edited many books, including *The Solzhenitsyn Reader: New and Essential Writings, 1947–2005*. His essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in a wide range of public and scholarly journals here and abroad.

TED McALLISTER currently holds the Edward L. Gaylord Chair and is associate professor of public policy at Pepperdine University. His works include *Revolt Against Modernity* and a textbook on American history entitled *The Promise of Freedom*. McAllister is also an editor of the book series American Intellectual Culture, which publishes books concerning culture and politics in American history.

BRADLEY WATSON teaches political theory at Saint Vincent College. His teaching and research areas include Progressive jurisprudence, Western political thought and the American regime, liberalism and communitarianism, same-sex marriage, and immigration law and policy. His most recent book is *Living Constitution, Dying Faith: Progressivism and the New Science of Jurisprudence*, published by ISI Books.



WHAT IS THE INTERCOLLEGIATE STUDIES INSTITUTE?

The **Intercollegiate Studies Institute** was founded in 1953 to inspire college students to discover and embrace the principles and virtues that make America free and prosperous. ISI directs thousands of young people each year to a wide array of educational programs, publications, fellowships, and online resources. These programs work at different levels and in different ways to nurture in the rising generation an appreciation of our nation's founding principles—limited government, individual liberty, the rule of law, a free-market economy, personal responsibility, and moral standards.

ISI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, tax-exempt educational organization. The Institute receives no funding or any other aid from any level of the government.



F. M. Kirby Campus
ISI's National Headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware