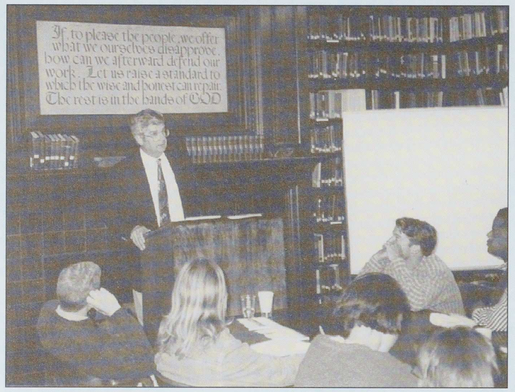
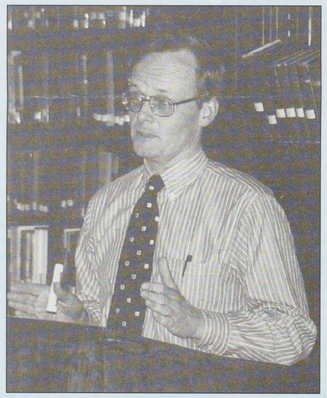
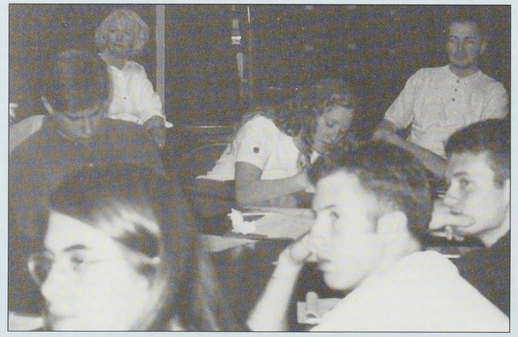
Where Learning & Liberty Meet... ...To Bring Freedom to Life



Dr. Roger Garrison of Auburn University, lecturing at the June seminar



FEE Board Chairman Larry Reed, lecturing at the June seminar



Students at the August seminar

Education is key to self-improvement. One of the most important ways in which FEE fosters a deeper understanding of the principles of individual liberty and free markets is through its seminar programs. The objective of these seminars is to provide people, particularly young people, with the intellectual tools necessary to skillfully and passionately promote and defend freedom and free markets.

Lecture topics at these seminars include the history of individual rights, the history of limited government, international trade, what makes markets competitive, money and banking, the problems of antitrust regulation, free markets and the environment, the downfall of socialism, and education and markets.

This year we held four seminars at our Irvington-on-Hudson headquarters. We began the year with our Undergraduate Seminar in March. Dr. Israel Kirzner of New York University (NYU) was our keynote speaker, and the first lecturer in our new John Anthony Krogdahl Memorial Lecture Series. Twenty-three students from various universities around the U.S. and Latin America attended.

David Martinez Amador of Guatemala came away very much impressed: "If there's something that I have learned thanks to this seminar it is that as defenders of liberty our goal is to demonstrate that the economic system which includes economic freedom is also the best system for a good society."

In June, we held a five-day Introductory Seminar in Economics, Politics, and History. Thirty students joined us to explore issues such as international trade, money and banking, the role of property rights, and government regulation. In addition, we explored myths of the Great Depression and reinterpretations of the Robber-Baron era. Speakers included Dr. Lawrence Reed and Dr. Burton Folsom of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Dr. Peter Boettke of George Mason University, and Cato Institute Senior Fellow Doug Bandow.

Heidi Klubberud, a student at the University of Washington, enjoyed the seminar immensely and declared, "Overall, I learned more in that few days than I did all last school year."

In July FEE hosted the 1998 Austrian Economics Seminar, in conjunction with NYU's Austrian Economics Program. This intensive five-day seminar is designed for graduate students and professors who are interested in exploring issues of central importance to the Austrian School of Economics. A stellar group of lecturers included Dr. Israel Kirzner, Dr. Mario Rizzo, and Dr. David Harper, all of NYU, Dr. Roger Garrison of Auburn University, Dr. Peter Boettke of George Mason University, and Dr. Lawrence White of the University of Georgia. Participants for this seminar came from many countries: England, France, Sweden, Denmark, Venezuela, Guatemala, and throughout the United States.

In August, FEE held its first Advanced Seminar in Economics, Politics, and History with the theme of "Is the State Necessary for...?" Thirty students and professionals attended. Several participants came from outside the United States. Topics of discussion included whether or not the state was necessary to supply money, to prevent market fluctuations, to prevent discrimination, to protect the environment, to supply education, and to keep markets competitive. Dr. George Selgin of the University of Georgia, Dr. Andrew Morriss of Case Western Reserve Law School, Clint Bolick of the Institute for Justice, and Dr. Sanford Ikeda of SUNY Purchase were part of an outstanding roster of speakers. We look forward to holding another advanced seminar in 1999.

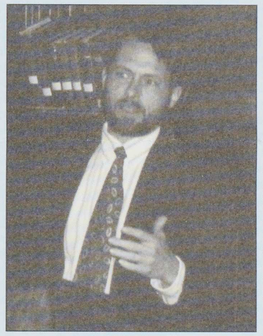
"I would recommend this seminar to any college student interested in [the freedom philosophy]," Sarah Garfunkel of Tacoma, Washington, an attendee at this seminar, advised.

On September 12, FEE revived its regional seminar program with a conference in Houston, Texas. Forty-five people joined us to discuss "Disappearing Property Rights?" Speakers included FEE President Don Boudreaux, Tom Palmer of the Cato Institute, Roger Meiners of the University of Texas at Arlington, and David Lucas, real-estate developer and plaintiff in the landmark 1992 Supreme Court case, *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council*. FEE plans to hold regular regional seminars in the months ahead.

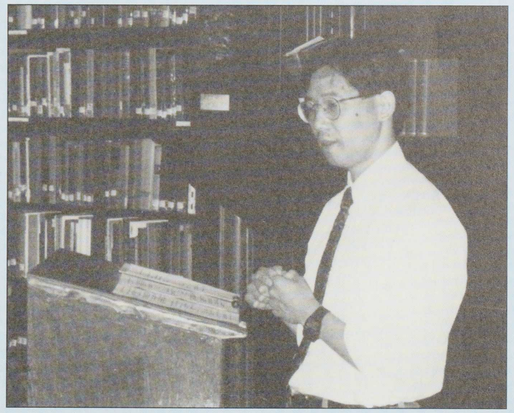
In addition to its seminars, FEE maintains a nationwide network of 20 Freeman Society Discussion Clubs. Members of these clubs improve their understanding of the basic principles of a free and prosperous society. FEE encourages the formation of groups of any size and supports discussion leaders with speakers, publications, discounts on books, and other assistance. Beginning in January, FEE will provide Discussion Clubs with topics and questions for enhancing their discourse on liberty.

We invite anyone who is interested in joining or starting a Freeman Society Discussion Club to contact Karol Boudreaux at kboudreaux@fee.org.

Participants, lecturers, and interns at the August 1998 Advanced Seminar in Economics, Politics, and History



Freeman *columnist and Cato Institute Senior Fellow Doug Bandow at the June seminar*



Dr. Sanford Ikeda, lecturing at the August seminar