I would like to thank the **Charles G. Koch Foundation** for sponsoring our SWEET scholars program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). I truly believe that my involvement in this program was one of the capstones of my college career. It has helped me refine my analytical skills, as well as learn a great deal more about economics and political philosophy than I would have learned otherwise. Next year, I will be attending the London School of Economics to further my study of economics. I believe that not only did my involvement in SWEET help me get in to this prestigious institution, but I also feel that the knowledge I have gained through the active learning experience provided by SWEET scholars has further prepared me to make the most of this opportunity by giving me training for excelling in an environment of greater academic difficulty, than which that is provided through merely general study at UAF.

Since I have been in the program I have also seen fellow students grow and develop as they participate in the discussion group. These students have considerably improved their communication skills, knowledge of economics, and ability to think outside of the box and solve problems. I feel that it is of both great social and economic value for this program to continue and expand, so future students can have the opportunity to grow and develop important skills, which in return they can contribute back towards society and make the world a better place.

**Thank you for your support!**

See the SWEET Scholars in action, read their blog at [uafsweet.blogspot.com](http://uafsweet.blogspot.com). Over 130,000 words and counting!

UAF photos by Andrew Cassel, Rebecca Hurbi, and Maureen McCombs.

UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.
This year, 15 members volunteered 1,736 hours, and directly impacted 974 people.

That’s an average of over 116 hours volunteered and 65 people impacted per member.

We’re a small group making a big difference.
Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking

Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking, affectionately known as SWEET, is a forum created for students, staff, faculty, and community members to share their passion for economics. SWEET has branched into a discussion group, a scholarship program, and a lecture series.

This past year, SWEET started a summer book club. Meeting throughout the summer, students engaged in lively conversation and kept their analytical skills sharp for the start of classes in the fall.

Each week, SWEET hosts topical discussions. This year's topics ranged from the scarcity paradox to immigration and education reform.

The lecture series is one of the most wide-reaching branches of SWEET. Since it was begun, SWEET has hosted 28 speakers, from U.S. senators to economists, who have addressed economic issues facing Alaska and the nation. This year, SWEET hosted Larry Persily, who manages development of the Alaska natural gas pipeline; Joe Miller, who ran for U.S. senator; Dr. Alexandre Padilla, an economist; and University of Alaska Fairbanks Chancellor Brian Rogers.

I wanted to thank you for inviting me to present, “Immigration: Myths & Realities,” at your campus and to have the opportunity to meet the students from Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET) during one of their weekly meetings.

I was impressed by the seriousness with which SWEET students take their reading assignments and how insightful and analytical they are when reading Hayek’s Constitution of Liberty. For undergraduate students, it’s very rare to be able to read a book which was written for well-trained scholars and deals with complex issues the average student might not easily grasp.

In total, there were probably 150 students who attended lectures I gave on immigration. Insightful questions were asked and showed how seriously they take these issues. I was impressed by how actively involved your students were in the conversation.

Overall, I believe the work you are doing with the students is outstanding and demonstrates great mentorship on your part. I hope I will be back to discuss another topic in the future. I know many of my colleagues who have lectured on other campuses on issues of liberty, entrepreneurship, and prosperity would like to meet with your students as well.

I also hope the Koch Foundation will keep supporting your work as I know many of the students who are going to the University of Alaska Fairbanks have greatly benefited from your mentorship and from the lectures you have organized through the grant.

Dr. Alexandre Padilla
Associate Professor of Economics & Interim Director
Metropolitan State College of Denver

SWEET Guest Speaker, Spring 2011

Dr. Nikolai G. Wenzel
Professor of Economics at Hillsdale College
Wallace and Marion Reemelin Chair in Free-Market Economics

SWEET Guest Speaker, Fall 2009
The SWEET Scholars program at UAF is the most enjoyable and enlightening student group I have been a part of. Through thoughtful discussion of economic issues, my knowledge and understanding has greatly increased. The dialogue is structured enough to allow everyone a chance to speak but encourages those involved to ask questions and step outside of their comprehension. The students involved come from varied backgrounds and majors, which allow for different perspectives to be entertained at our discussions. This year we also had Nikolai Wenzel from Hillsdale College guest blogging, which added valuable insights into our topics.

In the first semester we covered issues such as education, globalization and the Invisible Hand. During the second semester we read F.A. Hayek’s influential book *The Constitution of Liberty*. I look forward to next year’s discussions and am thankful for the funding that has made SWEET Scholars possible.

—Garrett Evridge

SWEET Scholars is an academic scholarship program that provides students with a medium to investigate economic theories and concepts. SWEET Scholars maintain a blog and meet weekly to discuss and explore economic literature written by experts such as Jagdish Bhagwati, F.A. Hayek, Ellenor Ostrom, and Murray Rothbard.

Fall Semester:

Week 2: Lawrence W. Read, FEE Podcast: FDR’s Depression Policies: Good Deal or Raw Deal?
Week 3: Matthew Mitchell, FEE Podcast: Public Choice Theory
Week 5: Bryan Caplan, “Why I am Not an Austrian Economist”
Week 6: Robert Murphy, “The Stock Market” & Anthony de Jasay, "Bank Debt, Sovereign Debt and the Dogs That Did Not Bark"
Week 8: Edna Ullmann-Margalit, “Invisible-Hand Explanations”
Week 9: Jagdish Bhagwati, “In Defense of Globalization: It Has a Human Face”
Week 10: Murray Rothbard, “Education: Free & Compulsory”

Spring Semester:

“In my opinion the ideas captured in *The Constitution of Liberty* by Friedrich Hayek are, to a large degree, a strong line of thought that helped shape the founding of our country”
—Aaron Lojewski, SWEET Scholar

A few words from our SWEET Scholars:

“If I had to name one of the best extracurricular activities at UAF, SWEET Scholars would instantly come to mind.”
—Caleb Brower

“SWEET Scholars has been a wonderful growing experience, the economic literature provided insightful, the debate enlightening. I am grateful to have been able to be a part of it.”
—Lacey Brewster

“The SWEET Scholars program at UAF is the most enjoyable and enlightening student group I have been a part of. Through thoughtful discussion of economic issues, my knowledge and understanding has greatly increased. The dialogue is structured enough to allow everyone a chance to speak but encourages those involved to ask questions and step outside of their comprehension. The students involved come from varied backgrounds and majors, which allow for different perspectives to be entertained at our discussions. This year we also had Nikolai Wenzel from Hillsdale College guest blogging, which added valuable insights into our topics.

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