

the Messenger

The Battle for Liberty

When the 108th Regular Session of the Florida Legislature opened in Tallahassee on March 7, The James Madison Institute was geared up and ready to provide legislators and staffers with facts, figures, and analyses on a number of crucial issues awaiting debate and decision. From white papers to committee testimony, JMI staff, scholars and supporters strived to provide free market solutions for shrinking bureaucracy and expanding liberty.

By land, JMI staff and interns walked the halls of the House and Senate office buildings delivering Backgrounders, DVDs, and Pocket Policy cards and attending committee meetings. Drop-off topics included education spending, paycheck protection for labor union members, taxpayers' bill of rights (TABOR) and eminent domain, and committees of interest included healthcare, taxation, property rights, and education. JMI Senior

Fellows and Research Advisory Council members Dr. Barry Poulson and Dr. Randy Holcombe spoke on tax policy at a number of legislative and electoral venues.

By air, Policy Director Bob Sanchez surfed the radio waves in a series of Tuesday night debates with the Florida Education Association spokesman on Florida Public Radio's legislative recap *Capital Report*. The two opponents tackled a variety of education topics from E-comp to FCAT and Sunshine State Standards to 65% Solution. At the request of legislators and other policymakers, JMI provided research and background information for press conferences and interviews on breaking legislation.

By sea, President Bob McClure provided testimony at a Mineral Management Services' U.S. Dept. of Interior Public Hearing regarding proposals to open up new coastal waters around Florida to oil
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Dr. Randy Holcombe



Dr. Barry Poulson

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"The James Madison Institute is a re-energized organization, diving into public policy discussions and exercising influence in Tallahassee with impressive vigor and credibility."

Dr. Jay P. Greene, University of Arkansas

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Dear Friend,

Someone once said that **“Effort is admirable while achievement is valuable.”** We hope you will see in this edition of *The Messenger* just how much effort we have expended in protecting and promoting freedom and personal responsibility. Perhaps more importantly, you will see what we have achieved, many times working in concert with other effective groups, in the name of liberty.

There are many ways to define achievement for a think tank. Sometimes it is revealed in the

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

passing of good, strong legislation, though you will never hear us say that more legislation necessarily equates to success for the cause of freedom. Occasionally, achievement occurs when we must play defense to prevent dangerous legislation. Sometimes success occurs simply by taking on an issue and advancing the cause knowing that we will be in a long battle that may take years to play out...and sometimes it may be playing the role of gatekeeper as we identify national trends for good or ill that affect our beloved state and that have yet to merit the needed attention by the public. Because we are a results-driven organization, our staff focuses on process only to the extent that it will genuinely advance our cause.

Yet we never, for a moment, take for granted

that we would be able to serve as the voice for freedom in Florida without your tax-deductible support. Thank you. I believe this edition of *The Messenger* demonstrates how we have been using your gifts.

Finally, thank you also for reaching out to our staff. We regularly hear from many of you around the state. Those are some of our favorite times when we have opportunity to interact with our members. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,



J. Robert McClure III
President and CEO

Beyond our Borders

Concomitant with The James Madison Institute’s pursuit of sound public policy in the State of Florida is collaboration on mutual issues that affect the larger United States and her neighbors. During late spring and early summer, JMI had a number of opportunities to give and receive.

President Bob McClure participated in the **Heritage Foundation Resource Bank Meeting** held in Colorado

Springs, Colorado, April 19 -21 where over 500 think tank executives, public interest lawyers, policy experts, elected officials, and activists from around the world gathered to discuss issues, strategies, and methods for advancing free market, limited government public policies. June

26 - 27 found Communications Director Tanja Clendinen in Atlanta attending **State Policy Network’s** Telecom Immersion Workshop for presentations and discussions on the latest array of telecommunications technology and the current outmoded regulatory and tax structures governing them. JMI continues to fight alongside the **Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation** for education reform and



JMI President Bob McClure discusses policy strategies at the Heritage Foundation Resource Bank Meeting.

school choice as well as the **Castle Coalition, Institute for Justice** and **FreedomWorks** for protection of property rights. Sharing knowledge and resources gained from our survey on the public’s perception of education spending, JMI lent a hand to the **Evergreen Freedom Foundation’s** battle for education reform in Washington State.

However, nurturing existing relationships is not enough—the Institute must continue to grow and establish new partnerships. In mid June, President McClure was tapped to serve on



During an evening gathering of the Nassau Institute, JMI President Bob McClure and wife Julie relax with Ambassador John Rood.

the **Florida State Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights**. Additionally, earlier in the month, JMI had a prime opportunity to promote liberty and good government beyond our national boundaries. At the invitation of the American Ambassador to the Bahamas, John Rood, President McClure participated in the **Nassau Institute’s Taking Small Nations to Greatness: Free Trade, Security and Education** from June 8 - 11.

As JMI’s partnerships with these and others who promote the message of freedom grow and spread, so does its name and message as evidenced by our growth in membership, increased requests for information and assistance, citations in national publications, and successful legislation. Onward and upward!

“Although based in Florida, [The James Madison Institute] has focused on policy issues that have emerged in other states as well as Florida, hence it rightly deserves to be regarded as an invaluable national resource.”
—Myron Lieberman, Chairman of the Educational Policy Institute

Best-Selling Author Peter Schweizer Featured at JMI Tallahassee Luncheon

JMI members and guests gathered at the Governors Club in Tallahassee on May 2 to hear author Peter Schweizer discuss his most recent work, *Do As I Say (Not As I Do): Profiles in Liberal Hypocrisy*, which spent eight weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Mr. Schweizer is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and a former consultant to NBC News.



Peter Schweizer personalizes copies of his book for luncheon attendees.

ideology doesn't work for the very individuals who promote it, how can it work for the rest of us?

Membership luncheons are a great way for us to get around the state and meet our members, and given the enthusiastic response to this Tallahassee luncheon and the March Pensacola luncheon with House Speaker Designate Marco Rubio, we are busy planning a fall event in Tampa and future events in Jacksonville and southeast Florida. For more information on upcoming events in your area, or if you are interested in hosting a luncheon, please contact JMI Membership Director Becky Liner at membership@jamesmadison.org or 866.340.3131.*



Peter Schweizer (left) greets former Florida Supreme Court Justice Major Harding (right).

Over sixty guests, including former Florida Supreme Court Justice Major Harding, Florida Republican Party Chairwoman Carole Jean Jordan, JMI Board Vice Chair Stanley Marshall and former JMI Board member Tom Sylte, enjoyed hearing Mr. Schweizer's revelations regarding celebrities and elected officials whose public claims of liberalism are often contradicted by more conservative practices in their private lives.

In his remarks, Mr. Schweizer profiled well-known liberal figures such as Hillary Clinton, Al Franken, Ted Kennedy, Michael Moore, Ralph Nader, Nancy Pelosi and Barbra Streisand. He concluded that if core liberal

The Battle for Liberty

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and natural gas exploration. His testimony was also aired on The Florida News Channel.

Sixty days later, at the close of Session, the score stood Liberty 4 and Bureaucracy 1. Despite the paucity of successes at the national level, The James Madison Institute and other proponents of limited government and economic freedom scored four notable policy victories in Florida—limitations on the use of eminent domain, passage of Governor Bush's A++ Plan, repeal of the Intangibles Tax, and repeal of joint and several liability.

The battle continues and faces new leaders and arenas with the upcoming elections. Whatever the landscape when the dust settles, JMI will "never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man" (Winston Churchill).*

Backgrounders to Explore Energy, Housing, and Taxation & Budget

Florida's economic future will be greatly affected by energy costs, the housing market, and fiscal policies; therefore, JMI's scholars are working on policy papers to inform the coming public debate on these important issues.

Nationally known energy expert Dr. Milton Copulos is examining the potential of alternative energy sources as well as the issues related to the controversy over tapping abundant reserves of oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico and in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. His policy paper is due out in September.

With the term "affordable housing" rapidly

becoming the rationale for additional government interference in the housing market, a policy paper due out in the fall will explore the complex issues driving the rising cost of housing in Florida and will suggest free-market solutions to the problem.

Early in 2007, the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker respectively will appoint the members of Florida's Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. First formed in 1991, the Commission was disbanded after completing its inaugural activities from which several proposals were approved by Florida

voters in 1992. The Commission has the authority to place proposed Constitutional amendments on the November 2008 ballot thus its work is extremely important—though inadequately covered by the news media. Given the Commission's importance and the limited exposure of its work, a policy paper outlining taxation and budget issues that merit the group's attention will be published late this year.*

Policy Forecast

Part from the November election, which will be the first gubernatorial race since 1990 without Jeb Bush's name on the ballot, Floridians tell us they're concerned about several interrelated issues that could profoundly affect the state's economic future. Those issues include energy, taxes and the housing market.

With regard to energy, for instance, the soaring price of gasoline (and heating oil) could harm tourism as would-be visitors to Florida cancel or cut short their vacations because higher energy prices are gnawing away at their disposable income. Not only could a dip in tourism cost thousands of Floridians their jobs, but it would also diminish the revenue that state and local governments derive from tourists, who pay various taxes but make relatively fewer demands on government services than residents.

Therefore, the effect on revenue caused by a dip in tourism could increase the pressure to raise the taxes paid by Florida residents, many of whom are already struggling with higher property-insurance costs atop higher local property taxes. That "double whammy" of higher insurance premiums and property taxes, together with excessive restrictions on builders and developers, has driven up the cost of housing in Florida. Although low interest rates on mortgages buoyed housing prices nationwide, the inflation was substantially higher in Florida than in most other markets.*

Decision 2006

Charlie Crist – Republican

www.CharlieCrist.com

Top Priorities:

- ★ Safety and security of all Floridians
- ★ Quality education for every child
- ★ Keep Florida's economy booming and taxes low



Tom Gallagher – Republican

www.tg2006.com

Top Priorities:

- ★ Reduce property taxes for all Floridians
- ★ Re-invent Florida's high-schools to prepare our students for life, work, and college
- ★ Keep families strong by defending traditional marriage



Most years, summertime is a slow season when little of consequence happens in public affairs. Not this year. As soon as the Legislature adjourned in early May, Floridians who take a serious interest in the state's political future turned their attention to the races and issues to be decided in the September 5th primary and November 7th general election.

As a nonpartisan 501c3 organization dedicated to policy research and education, JMI does not endorse political candidates or lobby for or against particular pieces of legislation. However, JMI does have a keen interest in the candidates' positions on the issues. That's why

a recent quarterly meeting of JMI's Board of Directors set aside time to meet separately with representatives of each of the four gubernatorial candidates.

Through these interviews, board members confirmed what had been evident from the candidates' own statements: that there are many substantial policy differences among the four with regard to a number of key issues, notably education, taxes, and spending.

It is important for Floridians to know where the candidates stand on all of the issues. Sadly, media coverage of statewide races too often neglects the issues in order to focus on "horse race" aspects such as who's ahead



Jim Davis – Democrat

www.JimDavis2006.com

Top Priorities:

- ★ Open the doors of Tallahassee to all Floridians and bring independent leadership to the Governor's office
- ★ Invest in a world-class education system and build a world-class economy
- ★ Protect the rights of Florida's hurricane insurance policyholders and homeowners and hold insurance companies accountable



Rod Smith – Democrat

www.rodsmith2006.com

Top Priorities:

- ★ Education: Raising teacher salaries and public education to the top of the nation
- ★ Hurricane Insurance: Straight talk and real solutions for Florida's insurance market
- ★ Healthcare: Forging a new consensus on state healthcare policy to benefit all Floridians



in the public opinion polls and who's ahead in raising campaign money.

Worse, coverage of other important races – for Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and the Legislature, for instance – is skimpy at best in the state's newspapers and almost totally missing from TV, the medium that most people say is their primary source of news and information. Nor will voters glean much useful information from the proliferation of 30-second ads on the same TV stations that fail to provide in-depth coverage of the election campaigns but still manage to turn a tidy profit from them.

What this means is that Floridians must

rely on their own resources in order to cast an informed vote – not only when choosing among the candidates but also when voting on several proposed amendments to the state Constitution.

To assist JMI's members, we will be offering information prior to the November general election to help voters learn more about those proposed amendments and the candidates' positions on the key issues. Meanwhile, voters also may be able to gain some impressions of the candidates' policy views by watching the televised debates and visiting their campaign websites.*

THE FACES OF JMI: DICK MANDT OF TAMPA

Dick Mandt, a Tampa resident for seventeen years, joined JMI in March 2004. Dick is a media investor and entrepreneur with interests in daily and weekly newspapers, electronic prepress computer graphics, printing, publishing software and media support systems.



Dick Mandt

Dick has served two terms as President of CPF, the Florida trade group for community papers and two terms as President of AFPC, the national trade group. He also serves on boards of directors for a number of media, software and outsource companies and is currently the Chairman of the Saturation Mailers Council, a Washington, D.C. trade group.

Prior to moving to Tampa, Mandt was Group President/Publishing for Harte-Hanks Communications, a San Antonio, Texas, based NYSE company, and President of ADVO, a Hartford, Connecticut, based NYSE advertising concern.

Mr. Mandt, an Army veteran, and his wife Judith are native Kentuckians. Dick's personal interests include sport fishing, thoroughbred racing, European travel and reading.

We are grateful for the support of business men and women like Dick Mandt who embrace the values of a free enterprise economy and who believe JMI is making a difference in protecting those values. Thanks, Dick!*



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www.jamesmadison.org

Weekly features on the web:

Marquee

- Preview of events, publications, and priorities

Illuminating Links

- Featured link to an informative research, educational, or policy website

Madison Policy Digest

- E-newsletter covering the top stories

Sightings – Citings

- Track at a glance where JMI is being seen and heard

Classics on the web:

Continuing on line source for current and past JMI documents including:

- *The Journal*
- *Backgrounder* white papers
- *Points of View* guest editorials

Staff Directory

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James Madison Institute **RESOURCES** James Madison Institute

Speakers Bureau

Do you need a speaker for your civic club or organization? JMI can help!

JMI staff, Senior Fellows and Adjunct Scholars are available to speak on a variety of public policy topics. For more information, contact JMI Public Affairs Director Thomas Perrin at 850.386.3131 or thomas@jamesmadison.org.

Recent talks include:

- Democratic Club of North Florida – Immigration Reform Panel Discussion
- Tallahassee 100 – Post-legislative Analysis & Upcoming Public Policy Issues
- Freedom Works – Eminent Domain & Tax Payers’ Bill of Rights

For a more complete list of speaking appearances, check out “Sightings – JMI – Citings” on our homepage at www.jamesmadison.org.

Members

Give the gift of liberty:

Giving to the Institute is now easier than ever! Use any of the ways listed below to join or renew your membership today. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Your greatest benefit will be a freer and more prosperous Florida!

- **Enclosed business reply envelope:**
Simply fill out the form on the envelope, insert your personal check or money order, and return to us.
- **Credit card:**
Use the form on the business reply envelope to provide card information, call our toll free number 1.866.340.3131 or e-mail us at membership@jamesmadison.org. We accept MasterCard and Visa.
- **Internet:**
Visit our website at www.jamesmadison.org and click on “Contribute.” ✱

Throw Away Your Textbooks: Reflections of a Two Term Intern

You read that correctly-throw away your textbooks. You don't need them. They're not helping you "prepare for the real world." Every college student has fought to stay awake in some large lecture hall as their professor droned on about this and that, and every college student has wondered how learning where Thomas Jefferson's mother-in-law's uncle was born is going to help them in the future. The answer is, as we all know, it probably won't. The only way to truly familiarize yourself with your future field is to participate in hands-on experiences. One option is internships-and what better place to intern than at The James Madison Institute? You don't have to be a political science major to work for JMI. There are plenty of opportunities for a variety of majors to get involved.

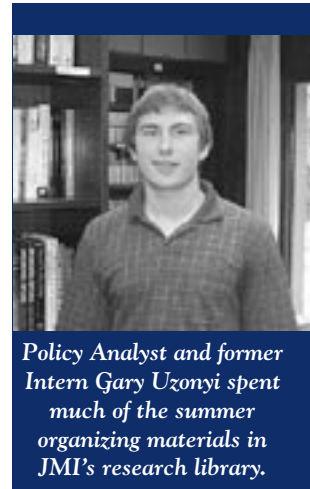
Internships help you see if your desired field is a good fit. What a horrible experience it would be to go through med school or law school then enter the field and realize that you hate it! When I came to JMI, I thought working in government was what I wanted to do; however, after three semesters of working more closely with those in gov-

ernment, I learned that it was not the field for me. Rather, I found that I enjoy working in politics but remaining on the outside of government itself. My internship with JMI also gave me many opportunities that I would never have had such as meeting congressmen and senators, publishing articles, working on JMI's weekly e-newsletter, and getting an up-close view of the workings along Adam's Street.

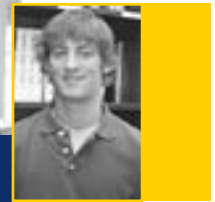
In addition to these experiences, interning for JMI, or any other organization, has the potential to set you up for a job in the future. Several past JMI interns have moved on to professional positions at the Institute and/or other public policy positions obtained through contacts made while interning at JMI. It's never too early to start networking, and earning college credit while doing so makes the deal even sweeter.

Two term intern and summer Policy Analyst **Gary Uzonyi** is a Florida State University junior majoring in International Affairs. In addition to Gary's continuing responsibility for compiling and

distributing JMI's e-publications, Madison Policy Digest (weekly) and Florida Education Monthly (monthly), his summer projects included culling, organizing and archiving materials in the Institute library. Joining Gary on this and other tasks, **Frank Gruber** interned at JMI this summer in order to gain experience in a professional, journalism-type environment. A rising sophomore at the University of Florida, Frank is majoring in Telecommunications/Journalism and spends his spare time pursuing anything of an athletic nature.



Policy Analyst and former Intern Gary Uzonyi spent much of the summer organizing materials in JMI's research library.



Summer Intern Frank Gruber

Internships at the James Madison Institute allow college students to gain practical experience in the arena of Florida public policy. Students of all majors are encouraged to apply. JMI internships are unpaid; however, we do encourage prospective interns to contact their college or university to see if this internship may qualify for academic credit. The Institute is currently accepting applications for Fall 2006. Applications are available on-line at www.jamesmadison.org or by contacting Tanja Clendinen at Tanja@jamesmadison.org or 850.383.4633.*

Help Us Protect Freedom For Future Generations Of Floridians

At the request of our members, JMI has initiated a planned giving program. For further information, please contact Membership Director Becky Liner at our toll-free number 866.340.3131, by e-mail at membership@jamesmadison.org or by returning the form below to our mailing address at P.O. Box 37460, Tallahassee, FL 32315-7460.

YES! I am interested in the JMI Planned Giving Program. Please contact me with more information.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please consider including JMI in your estate planning so we can continue to advance the cause of liberty for our children and grandchildren.

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. . . *State & National?*

Building Florida
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The Journal on the Judiciary

What is the proper role of the judicial branch of government? That issue re-emerged into the spotlight during the contentious Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on recent U.S. Supreme Court nominees John Roberts and Samuel Alito. However, the debate over the judiciary's proper role is not new. It has stirred time and again in recent years--ever since the U.S. Senate's partisan rejection of nominee Robert Bork polarized the lawmakers along ideological lines and emboldened agenda-driven special interest groups to target judicial nominees for attacks. Justice Clarence Thomas aptly characterized such attacks as "high-tech lynching."

The topic of the judiciary's proper role also has grabbed the public's attention in the wake of several recent controversial decisions by federal and state courts regarding issues such

as property rights, school vouchers, and same-sex marriage. Are "activist judges" venturing into policy matters more properly left to the elected members of the legislative and executive branches of government? Or is "judicial activism" a matter of whose ox is being gored? In the summer issue of *The Journal*, several articles reflecting different points of view explore these questions and discuss the courts' proper role.

In addition, this issue includes articles on education, energy, history, and the news media, plus a review of Dr. J. Stanley Marshall's new book, *The Tumultuous Sixties: Campus Unrest and Student Life at a Southern University*. The Summer 2006 *Journal* is available on-line at www.jamesmadison.org.*



Try our weekly e-mail newsletter, *Madison Policy Digest*. Sign up at www.jamesmadison.org.