



LEHRMAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER SECOND ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE

JUNE 19-JULY 1, 2006

Princeton, NJ—ISI's Lehrman American Studies Center, in partnership with Princeton University's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, hosted the second annual Lehrman Summer Institute. The two-week Institute from June 19 to July 1 hosted over 40 of the nation's leading scholars, younger faculty, and advanced graduate students. The program included an intensive array of seminars, workshops and lectures with the immediate practical aim of developing and adopting intellectually serious, compelling, and philosophically engaging courses that deal with the foundational principles of the American Republic.



More than ten sets of seminars and lectures encouraged thoughtful discussion that often persisted late into the night. Allen Guelzo of Gettysburg

College launched discussion with a lecture on "Lincoln and Natural Law." Robert George of Princeton University discussed "The Concept of Public Morality," and Mr. Lewis Lehrman spoke on "The Restoration of American history" and "Abraham Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Inalienable Right to Life and Liberty." The Institute concluded with a lecture on "Manliness" by Professor



Harvey Mansfield of Harvard University, engaging the issues of human nature and natural law with which the participants had grappled throughout.

Other senior faculty included host faculty member James Ceaser of the University of Virginia as well as Lieutenant General Josiah Bunting, Charles Kesler, Hadley Arkes, Alan Charles Kors, Paul Rahe, Jack Nowlin, and Christopher Wolfe.



To revive the teaching of America's heritage, participants met for seven focused workshops. David Bobb of Hillsdale College's Hoogland Center for Teacher Excellence helped identify the place of learning America's heritage in a



liberal education. James Engell of Harvard University guided participants to become more effective teachers of writing and speaking through the use of American political documents. Thomas Lindsay, Director of the *We the People* initiative at the National Endowment for the Humanities, offered advice on winning NEH competitions for

faculty and program development in the American heritage.

For the most ambitious participants, Steve Balch of the National Association of Scholars and Robert George offered strategies for establishing and growing university centers. To conclude the workshop series, James Pontuso of Hampden-Sydney College led a workshop that focused on making an effective case for the liberal arts and curriculum reform to various university constituencies, such as faculty, alumni, trustees and administrators.



Participants and Institute faculty alike left with a renewed excitement for scholarship and teaching in their fields. One participant said, "This was a very impressive conference ... the quality of the participants – from senior faculty to graduate students – really made the institute fly."

Another said, "The memory of the Institute and the friends I made



there will sustain me through the darker patches of my career here on the left coast." Participants agreed that while they might be lone voices on their campuses, they now have seen palpable evidence of the movement to revitalize higher education nationwide.

Among the Institute faculty, Professor Charles Kesler wrote that the Institute "went as smoothly as any I've ever had the pleasure of experiencing. I continue to marvel at the quality of the attendees. You deserve warm congratulations for assembling them and for insisting on high intellectual standards for the program as a whole."