



**GWARTNEY INSTITUTE**  
FREEDOM • JUSTICE • FLOURISHING

**2019-20 Annual Report**

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Prepared by

Dr. Russ McCullough, Director

## **Personnel Changes**

### Professor of Ethics and Philosophy

Dr. Justin Clarke was hired with funding provided by the Menard Family.

### Professor of Economic Education and Research\*

Dr. Levi Russell resigned in December 2019

\*next year's report will include the July hire of Peter Jacobsen for this position

### Graduate Assistants

Jacob Maichel -graduated

Jacyn Dawes -graduated

Nate Johnson -accepted for 2-year MBA program as new GA

Other GA position -still vacant, seeking applicants

### Undergraduate Scholar

Jacob Caudill – started his freshman year in Fall 2019

## **Undergraduate Student Engagement**

### Liberty-Fund-Style Discussion

Fall 2019 -- Drs. Russell and McCullough had 17 students met for a day-long discussion that was on Hayek's 'Road to Serfdom' and it also included a contrast with Marx' 'Communist Manifesto' and some other authors.

Spring 2020 – Drs. Clarke and McCullough had 17 students joined our Zoom colloquium on the "Militarization of the Police" due to the COVID crisis. We met for two half-day sessions.

### Book Club

Fall 19 – Road to Serfdom Reader's Digest Edition by Friedrich Hayek -11 students

Spring 20 – 12 students -A Conflict of Visions by Thomas Sowell (done in conjunction with Black history month). Our multi-cultural student programming coordinator joined us for this event and helped us promote it.

### Guatemala Student Trip Presentation

Joint presentation with Kansas State University program offering student trips to Guatemala. Dr. McCullough developed relationship with professors at University Francisco Maroquin

(UFM). Offered students a number options from 1 week to 8 weeks that included options of classes at UFM, non-profit work, living with sponsor families –a diverse set of customizations allowed. We are planning to keep this program an ongoing opportunity for students.

### Debates

A debate was held on September 19, 2019. Drs. Clarke and Russell debated the topic “All Drugs Should be Legal.” 110 students were in attendance.

A debate was held in March 2020 in which three teams of two were formed to debate “What is the problem with the National Debt?”. Our communications professor, Dr. Ryan Lewis was on a team with one of his undergraduate students. The other two teams were our two graduate assistants and Dr. McCullough with one of his econ majors. 120 students were in attendance.

### Transportation to Other nearby Events

September 19, 2019 – K-State Beef Stocker Field Day – Kansas State University

February 10, 2020 – "The Myth of Primitive Socialism" with Dr. Crystal Dozier – Koch Center for Leadership and Ethics, Emporia State University

We will continue to take advantage of events like this in the coming year that are sponsored by other organizations.

### **High School Student Engagement**

We are working with local outside organizations to create engaging events to get students thinking about Ottawa University as a great place for economic education.

“Everyday Economics” is a high school student event that we planned for a half day in the Fall 2019. It is based on content from “Common Sense Economics” by Jim Gwartney, et.al. We have struggled to get students signed up for these events, it has been difficult to find a good channel to get the word out on. We have tried Facebook and other email channels but need to explore other options next year.

### Teacher Engagement

“The Founders’ Philosophy of Education” is a Liberty-Fund-style event for high school teachers in the area. Participants come to campus for a day long discussion and can earn continuing education credits.

A leader of the Kansas Youth Entrepreneurs agreed to help us spread the message about future colloquiums for high school teachers affiliated with their group. The COVID crisis caused us to cancel an event we had planned for June 2019. We have struggled to get the message out to high school teachers about this event and hope the new connection will help with generating interest in this event along with other advertising we are doing.

## **Community Engagement**

### Local Newspaper Column

Dr. Russell continued writing a column on local economic and policy issues for the local newspaper in 2019.

### Financial Peace University

Dr. McCullough taught a 9-week Financial Peace class at Faith Lutheran Church in Ottawa that started January 2020.

## **Institute Development and Outreach**

### South Africa

In August 2019, Dr. McCullough was an invited speaker for a session at a Pastor conference sponsored by Ottawa University. "Leadership Social Styles and Faith Applications" was the name of the talk given to about 200 people.

We also explored potential Institute development for joint doctoral programs with University of South Africa.

### Guatemala

In July 2019, Dr. McCullough was an invited speaker at University Francisco Maroquin. "Economic Freedom in Guatemala –Why is it so high?". One lecture was to about 120 undergraduate students and the other was a lunch discussion with about 25 faculty members. Explored opportunities for student exchanges.

### 'Reacting to the Past' workshop at Lindenwood University

Dr. McCullough participated in a workshop in September 2019 that was an active training session on how to use role playing to bring to life historical events in the classroom.

### Free Market Forum, Philadelphia, PA

Dr. McCullough attended the conference in October 2019 which included a special session on teaching tools for undergraduate economics classes.

### University of North Carolina -Pembroke

In November 2019, Dr. McCullough was an invited speaker and gave a talk, “Economic Freedom in North Carolina”. There was about 200 undergraduate students in attendance along with some faculty and community members.

### Liberty Fund IHS event

Graduate Assistant, Jacob Maichel attended an IHS colloquium event at the Mercatus Center.

### Teaching Economics Workshop

In February 2020, Dr. McCullough attended Stavros Center’s “Teaching Economics” workshop led by Jim Gwartney at Florida State University. Russ spoke during luncheon along with others to honor Jim’s 50 years at FSU.

### Podcast

Since October of 2018, the Faith and Economics podcast has grown rapidly. 88 episodes have been recorded through June 2030 and distributed to all podcast platforms. The podcast has over 4,500 total downloads.

### Social Media

The Institute maintains posts regularly on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The posts are related to the mission of the institute. Some of the posts are original writing adapted from our blog posts and others are recycled and repurposed from other work.

### **Research**

#### Much More than Peanuts: Corporate Welfare in the Peanut Industry

Dr. Russell has published work on a policy paper addressing agricultural policy and the peanut industry.