

Host Reception for our Friends Pursuing the Truth Outside the Academy
Bill Campbell
Secretary, The Philadelphia Society
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As Secretary of The Philadelphia Society, it is my pleasure to host the Reception for our Friends Pursuing the Truth Outside the Academy. When I was exploring the topic of the pursuit of truth, I began to realize all the organizations that are reflected by the membership of our Society. Over 30 different groups are concerned in one way or the other with promoting the pursuit of truth. You can find a descriptive list and links on our website, <http://www.phillysoc.org>.

On Christopher Wren's tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral, there is the famous, "Lector, Si Monumentum Requiris, Circumspice." which translates as "Reader, if you seek his memorial – look around you." The same applies here. We have allowed all our organizations to display their materials on the tables scattered around here. Feel free to discuss with them their missions and the part they play in this incredible mosaic.

Some, like the Earhart Foundation, represented here by its President, Ingrid Gregg, work both within and without the walls of the academy. Their steadfast support of scholars, scholarships, and groups like The Philadelphia Society brings to mind the working of the "invisible hand" of Adam Smith. The only difference is that the changes they have wrought have been part of their intention!

Working both directly and indirectly through its many programs, scholarships, and publications, The Intercollegiate Studies Institute has been on the forefront of the pursuit of truth in the modern academy. Mark Henrie has personally been a source of scholarship recommendations of the highest quality; he seems to know everyone in the conservative movement, and more important to me, has heard them speak. Thank you, Mark.

One of the other unique organizations promoting solid alternatives is The Teaching Company. Marcy McDonald not only works for The Teaching Company, but is the daughter of Forrest and Ellen McDonald who have personally given so much to support our scholarship program.

At this point, I would like to introduce to you Dick Bishirjian who is the President of one of the more interesting alternatives to the radically expensive bricks-and-mortar colleges and universities, Yorktown University. He will be awarding an honorary degree to one of our closest friends, and a member of the Philadelphia Society Board of Trustees, Morton Blackwell. Morton mentors his employees by having them read the classic books of conservatism that Dick Bishirjian has been outlining in his recent articles.