

# Highlights



## Challenges to the Rule of Law in the Era of Globalization

In May, as part of Atlas' "Litigation in the Americas" project, the foundation conducted several programs and workshops in conjunction with leading Latin American institutes. The events held in Peru, Argentina, and Uruguay involved 16 institutes from over a dozen countries around the world.

The project, which originally began in September 1999, focuses on issues related to litigation—specifically litigation that is being pursued by Latin American governments. Taking their cue from similar lawsuits initiated by the U.S. government, these lawsuits target manufacturers of goods that are widely perceived to create health risks or purportedly violate antitrust regulations. The legal actions are initiated by bureaucrats and agency officials, rather than consumers.

The institutes participating in the project have adopted aggressive strategies to publish opinion-editorials and conduct conferences and other programs on the litigation topic. In addition, each institute will produce an extensive policy paper that discusses the ways the rule of law is being violated in current litigation efforts in their country. The papers will be published in a single volume that introduces the overall problem and highlights the institutes' country-by-country findings.

The first event, the 37<sup>th</sup> Atlas International Workshop, was held in Lima, Peru, from May 19-21, 2000, in conjunction with the **Centro de Estudios Económicos y Legales** (CITEL). The focus of this workshop—"Challenges of the Rule of Law in the Era of Globalization"—has its roots in a research paper that was the joint product of Enrique Ghersi, director of CITEL, and Julieta Moreno, Atlas Visiting Fellow for Legal Studies. The event, which started out as a small workshop to encourage more institutes to participate in the study, expanded into a major public policy event in Peru.

Drawing upon Ghersi's extensive local ties, the event attracted over 200 participants, including prominent entrepreneurs, economists, lawyers, scholars, journalists, and

politicians. Fifty of the participants were foreign, traveling from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Spain, the U.S., Uruguay, and Venezuela. As Moreno remarked, "Atlas didn't realize that CITEL, under the direction of Enrique Ghersi, plays such an important role in Peru and the broader Latin America."

The event was an intensive three days of speakers and programs. Its list of distinguished speakers included José Piñera, former Chilean Secretary of Labor and Mining and co-chairman of the **Cato Institute's** (Washington, DC) Social Security Privatization Project; Carlos Boloña, Peru's Minister of Economics; Federico Salazar, an economist and well known Peruvian television anchorman; and Spanish economist Lorenzo Bernaldo de Quiros.

Michael Krauss (George Mason University Law School, Arlington, VA), Bob Levy (CATO Institute, Washington, DC) and Enrique Ghersi described the global litigation trend against companies—the heart of the "Litigation in the Americas" project. Integrating regional concerns, Ricardo Rojas, project leader for Argentina, described the dangers and consequences associated with lawsuits started specifically by Latin American governments in the US.

The workshop received round-the-clock coverage by the local cable channel, which directly transmitted the events, as well as by local radio stations and newspapers.

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Alejandro Chafuen, Ramón Díaz and Enrique Ghersi at the Hayek bust dedication.

### Rule of Law

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The grand finale took place when a statue of economist F.A. Hayek was unveiled in Olivar de San Isidro, a beautiful park located in an upscale Lima neighborhood. At the celebration, Mont Pelerin Society president Ramón Díaz offered comments about "Freedom in Our Times."

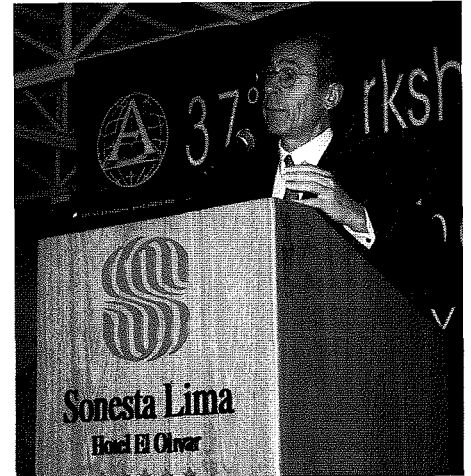
### Argentina and Uruguay

To leverage the pool of talent gathered at the program in Lima, Atlas assisted with additional events in Argentina and Uruguay. "The Rule of Law: Its Importance in the Era of Globalization," was organized and hosted by IDEA, a Buenos Aires association of corporate

executives, entrepreneurs, attorneys, and other business associates of leading Argentine companies, on May 23, 2000.

Following opening remarks by Juan Pardo, director of IDEA's legal department, the panel, "The Consequences of International Litigation," featured several of the speakers who were present in Lima, including Atlas executive vice president Leonard Liggio, Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen, and Ricardo Rojas. Next, Enrique Ghersi, Lorenzo Bernaldo de Quiros, and Ian Vásquez (Cato Institute, Washington, DC) discussed the "Globalization of Responsibility."

Later that same day, two other Atlas network institutes, **Fundación Libertad** (Rosario, Argentina) and **Atlas del Sud** (Buenos Aires), hosted a second program.



Jose Pinera at the Lima Workshop.



Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen (left) with panelists Marcela Bastera (Argentina), Pedro Cateriano (Peru) and Ricardo Rojas (Argentina) at the 37th International Workshop in Lima, Peru.



(left to right) Maria and Enrique Ghersi (CITEL, Peru) with their children and former Atlas fellows Dora de Ampuero (Ecuador) and Rocio Guijarro (Venezuela).



Eduardo Mayora of Guatemala (center) with fellow participants at the CERES event in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Participants at the program "Economic Freedom and Corruption" in Buenos Aires.

## New State-Based Efforts in the American Midwest: The Niobrara Institute

As Atlas board member George Pearson recently recounted, many freedom fighters from the Midwestern United States have made important contributions to the development of classical liberal and market-oriented ideas. Chet Anderson, Harry Hoiles, Harry Langenberg, Jay and Ethel Mae Humphries, Bill Law, and Charles Koch are just a few names that come to mind, particularly for their contributions to the **Institute for Humane Studies** (Arlington, VA) and **Foundation for Economic Education** (Irvington-on-Hudson, NY). Given that tradition, it is particularly encouraging to see new developments in the Midwest at the **Niobrara Institute** of Omaha, Nebraska.

Niobrara's roots date back to 1993 with the founding of the **Constitutional Heritage Institute**. Thanks to the vision and dedication of Richard Thayer, who served as its president until this year, free-market ideas are no stranger to policy debates in Nebraska. Under his direction, for example, the institute co-hosted a regional meeting of the **State Policy Network** in Omaha earlier this year, bringing state think tank leaders from over a dozen states together to discuss issues, particularly those with regional relevance.

In recent months, the Constitutional Heritage Institute has undergone a major restructuring, positioning itself for greater public policy influence. It now operates as the Niobrara Institute, named after the river which flows through eastern Wyoming and northern Nebraska into the Missouri River.

Ed Rauchut, who has been a senior research fellow at the institute for six years, is the new president of the

institute. Rauchut also serves as a professor and executive assistant to the president at Bellevue University and as president of the Nebraska Association of Scholars. Richard Thayer now dedicates his full-time energy to Niobrara as the director of development.

Atlas friends who attended the workshop in Mont Pelerin, Switzerland, last April will likely remember fellow participant Kevin Avram. Avram has been appointed executive vice president of Niobrara. A long-time colleague of fellow Canadian think tank leader Peter Holle (**Frontier Centre for Public Policy**, Manitoba, Canada), Avram has worked in the area of organization development for nearly two decades and is also an experienced editorial writer and columnist.

Niobrara immediately put Avram's talents to work by launching an editorial program that distributes weekly commentaries to newspapers and opinion leaders throughout the state. The program is just one of the ways Niobrara is addressing its core mission: to promote greater freedom for the individual and to carry out an educational role with respect to wealth creation and responsible public policy. Contact Kevin Avram at [info@theniobrara.org](mailto:info@theniobrara.org) to receive Niobrara's commentaries via e-mail. ■



(left to right): Ed Rauchut, Kevin Avram and Richard Thayer of the Niobrara Institute.

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**Institute  
News**

The Center for Economic Personalism (CEP) at the **Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty** (Grand Rapids, MI) is developing materials, curriculum, and a resource guide for both Catholic and Protestant schools. This curriculum project is intended as an aid to assist professors in developing their own curriculum, especially with respect to economic issues. If you have any suggestions that might help increase the usefulness of this project, contact Gregory Gronbacher (ggbacher@acton.org) at the CEP.

The **Adam Smith Institute** (London) recently launched the fourth in its series of polls to discover how people approach life and what they expect from government. The aim is to provide a snapshot of people's values and aspirations. This survey looks at attitudes towards the future—What do people think will happen over the course of the new century? Will government continue to be active in the four key public services areas of education, health, pensions and welfare? How will technological developments affect our lives? Stay tuned for survey results.

**CEDICE** (Caracas, Venezuela), **Centro de Estudios en Economía y Educación**, (Monterrey, Mexico), **CITEL** (Lima, Peru), **Fundación Libertad** (Rosario, Argentina), **Fundación Libertad y Desarrollo** (Santiago, Chile) and **Instituto Ecuatoriano de Economía Política** (Guayaquil, Ecuador) have been chosen by **The Heritage Foundation** (Washington, DC) and the *Wall Street Journal* to translate the *Index of*

*Economic Freedom 2001* into Spanish. The index measures economic freedom in more than 150 countries around the world and establishes a benchmark by which global economic progress can be tracked.

**Fundación Libertad** (Rosario, Argentina) and the **Manhattan Institute** (Manhattan, NY) have recently formed an alliance to work together in areas such as crime, education, and local government. The institutes hope to create both economic and social change by building long-lasting working relationships to foster a better understanding between the hemispheres.

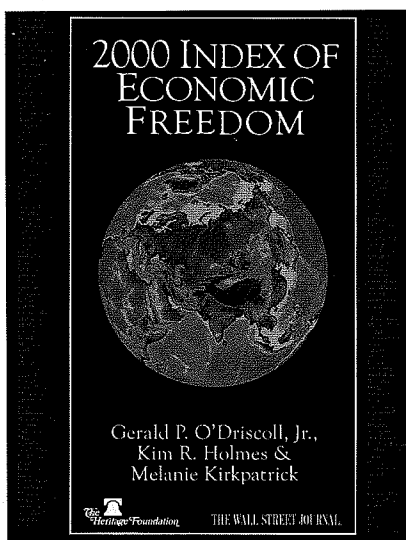
The **Mackinac Center for Public Policy** (Midland, MI) announced the return of Joe Lehman, former vice president for communications. Lehman assumed the same post at the Cato Institute (Washington, DC) and is now returning to Mackinac as executive vice president.

The **National Foundation for Family Research and Education** (Calgary, Canada) has become increasingly influential in the provincial government. In May, its publications were used by the Government of Alberta in passing a bill that reduced taxes for Albertans. In August, the institute was invited to present its research findings to the House of Commons Subcommittee on Children and Youth at Risk.

The Center for Restructuring Government at the **Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research** (Boston, MA) sponsored its annual Better Government Competition, drawing a record-breaking 220 entries. The preliminary winner, Chris J. Allred of the New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development, nominated a program that has been launched by his department. It transfers titles of distressed properties directly to pre-qualified owners. The program breaks the cycle of property abandonment, reduces city costs (eliminating the costs to the city of taking ownership and managing the properties), expedites rehabilitation of dilapidated buildings, and creates new affordable housing units.

Exciting news from the newly established **Rio Grande Foundation** (Albuquerque, NM): executive director Hal Stratton writes that the foundation has received approval for its 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Stratton said, "We are making progress pretty much according to the schedule set forth in the business plan..." Congratulations!

**The Sutherland Institute** (Murray, UT) bids farewell to president David Salisbury, who guided the institute during its first five years. James Jenkins, a Sutherland trustee, is serving as interim president until a permanent replacement is secured. Atlas, which has great respect for Sutherland and its fine team, wishes everyone the best of luck during this transition. ■



**New Publications**

**Allegheny Institute for Public Policy** (Pittsburgh, PA) looks at the practice of “caging” on the part of utility providers in *A Cautionary Tale on Consumer Caging: Lessons for Pennsylvania*. Caging occurs when a consumer asks to change utility providers, but the utility fails to make the switch. It examines arguments that caging is a deliberate attempt on the part of monopolists to retain market shares when their industry is deregulated.

**The Centre for Independent Studies** (St. Leonards, Australia) examines environmental lobbying by Christian leaders in *Beyond Romanticism: Questioning the Green Gospel* by resident scholar Samuel Gregg. Gregg raises questions about the adequacy of many Christian pronouncements and commentaries on environmental issues. Too often, he contends, “They are characterized by questionable theological premises as well as a tendency to accept arguments articulated by the green lobby.”

*Competition in Hong Kong’s Gas Industry*, published by the **Hong Kong Centre for Economic Research** (Hong Kong) reviews the liberalization of the gas industries in Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, United Kingdom and the United States. The monograph examines alternatives to enhance competition in the development of fuel supplies in Hong Kong.

The **Institute of Economic Affairs** (London) published *Overfishing: The Icelandic Solution* by long-time Atlas colleague Hannes H. Gissurarson. The monograph examines alternative governmental policies that address declining fisheries in the 1960s and 70s, including its introduction of individual transferable share quotas (ITQs) in 1979.

In its continuing efforts to educate Ghanaian parliamentarians and policymakers, the **Institute of Economic Affairs—Ghana** (Accra, Ghana) published “The Export Development and Investment Fund Bill: The Need for a Review” and “The Ghana Education Trust Fund Bill: Suggestions for Improvement.”

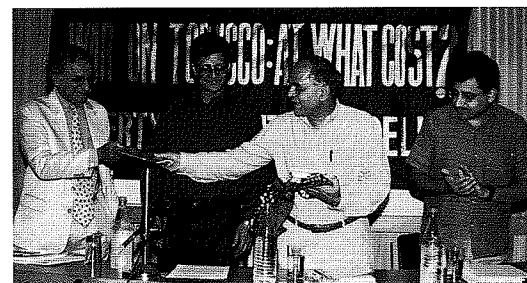
The newly incorporated **Institute for the Study of Civil Society** (London) sets out its course for the next year in the publication, *Civil Society: The Guiding Philosophy and Research Agenda of the Institute for the Study of Civil Society*. Maintaining an impressive publication schedule, the institute also produced *Marriage Lite: The Rise of Cohabitation and its Consequences* in which author Patricia Morgan examines the differences between marriage and cohabitation, and points out that one does not necessarily lead to the other. In *Regulating*

*Doctors*, a collection of articles considers the history of the regulation of the medical profession and asks whether the British practice of self-regulation should be allowed to continue.

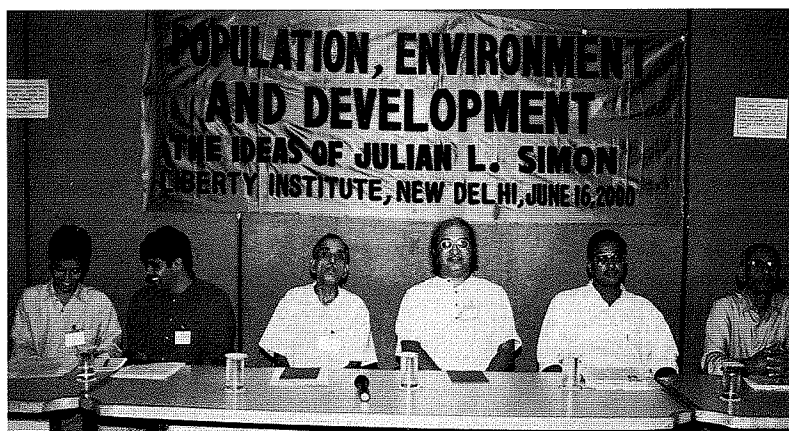
In *War on Tobacco: At What Cost?* published by **The Liberty Institute** (New Delhi), authors Deepak Lal and Roger Scruton offer two essays on the “orchestrated assault on tobacco by national and international agencies.” Lal examines the economic welfare effects of the World Bank and the World Health Organization’s crusade against the tobacco industry. Scuton considers how these organizations, which are unaccountable to national electorates, are able to promote their political agendas.

In another Liberty Institute publication, *Population: The Ultimate Resource*, an international group of scholars argues that people are the most valuable resource, and “the growing human population illustrates man’s unprecedented victory over death in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” The volume, edited by Barun Mitra, is dedicated to the memory of the late Julian L. Simon, the economist and demographer, who exposed the hollowness of the Malthusian claim that population growth represents a drain on resources, instead of an asset.

**Mackinac Center for Public Policy** (Midland, MI) published *The Impact of Limited School Choice on Public School District*. The report documents case studies of Michigan school districts and how they are responding to competition from charter schools and public “schools-of-choice.”



Deepak Lal receiving a copy of *War on Tobacco: At What Cost?* from Gur Charn Das (management consultant and former CEO of Procter and Gamble, India) while Shreekant Gupta (right) and Bibek Debroy (second from left) look on.



Participants at the Liberty Institute population conference in New Delhi in July 2000.

## New Talent at Atlas!

As Atlas expands its operations, it has been fortunate to find talented, dedicated people to help develop and carry out its programs.

Tara Karpinski, a graduate of the University of Dallas, is the new assistant to the president, Alejandro Chafuen. In addition to her duties in that capacity, Tara is focusing her efforts on honing Atlas's fund raising operations.

Leonard Liggio, executive vice president of Atlas, also has a new assistant, Teresa Brown. She is helping with the many aspects of Atlas with which Leonard is involved, including its collaborative work with the Earhart Foundation and Liberty Fund. Teresa is also putting her experience in writing and editing to use by helping with several publication projects at Atlas.

As described in the Spring 2000 *Highlights*, Atlas now conducts the John Templeton Foundation's Freedom Project. The project provides grants to college professors around the world to fund courses that teach about aspects of freedom. Nikolai Wenzel was recently hired to serve as academic programs

administrator for the project. Nikolai is a graduate of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. As he tells the story, "Atlas rescued me from the U.S. embassy in Mexico City, where I was working as a Foreign Service Officer."

In other staff news, Brad Lips, formerly vice president of operations, has been named Atlas's chief operating officer. He has been busily flooding the office with new ideas that streamline and enhance our operations.

Lastly, Atlas is pleased to announce that it has extended its fellowship for Julieta Moreno, a visiting fellow for legal studies. Julieta, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is currently working on Atlas's Rule of Law programs for the Americas. ■



Back row (left to right): Atlas staff members Alejandro Chafuen, Brad Lips, Jo Kwong, Joyce Schroeder, Nikolai Wenzel, Tara Karpinski and Teresa Brown. Seated: Summer 2000 fellow Bhuvana Anand and Leonard P. Liggio.

## Atlas Trustee Wins National Award

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, John Blundell, Atlas trustee and general director of the **Institute of Economic Affairs** (London), received the prestigious national Free Enterprise Award from the British group, Aims of Industry. The presentation was made in front of an impressive array of guests at the IEA headquarters at 2 Lord North Street.

Aims Chairman Sir Nigel Mobbs paid tribute to Blundell's long commitment to supporting free-market ideas. The Rt. Hon. Lord Forsyth of Drumlean and Mike Fisher (IEA and Aims of Industry trustee) made additional comments on the recipient's life and career.

Blundell said he was honored to accept the award, not so much on his

own behalf, but on behalf of the whole IEA team, all of whom were present. He paid tribute to the work of Aims of Industry and outlined the coming battles for the IEA. Lastly, he singled out people from different stages in his career who had been important to him, including "my great mentor Leonard Liggio" and "my two great co-workers at IHS and Atlas, namely Walter Grinder and Alex Chafuen." Atlas and IEA founder Sir Antony Fisher was also singled out by several of those present for his enormous contribution.

Past recipients of the award include F.A. Hayek, Lady Thatcher and entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson. ■



John Blundell receiving the Free Enterprise Award.

## International Freedom Project Generates 14 New Courses Worldwide

Sir John Templeton, a friend of Atlas founder Sir Antony Fisher and an active member of the Mont Pelerin Society, has been a renowned name in financial investing and in philanthropy for half a century. The Templeton Prize in Religion receives annual press coverage with winners such as Michael Novak (**American Enterprise Institute**, Washington, DC).

Last year, the John Templeton Foundation selected Leonard P. Liggio and the Atlas Economic Research Foundation to direct the International Freedom Project. (See the Spring issue of Highlights for additional details.) The International Freedom Project had its first course competition during 2000. Professors around the world were invited to submit proposals for a course on freedom to be offered at their universities. A panel of international judges evaluated the courses. Grants were made to the winning universities to cover professors' salaries, as well as the costs associated with bringing in visiting lecturers.

The Atlas Economic Research Foundation has taken advantage of its international network of contacts to solicit proposals from a wide range of universities. Over the past year, Atlas has reached out to the many academics and institute researchers on its international mailing lists. Information and advice about the International Freedom Project has been highlighted at Atlas Workshops and other Atlas events. In addition, Alex Chafuen, Jo Kwong, and Nikolai Wenzel have been ambassadors of the International Freedom Project. Many of the faculty of the proposed courses are associated with institutes in the Atlas network, thus enhancing both the academic and institutional aspects of Atlas's mission.

In this first year, the International Freedom Project funded three pilot courses and fourteen grants for winners of the competition. The Atlas staff is ready to advise professors who wish to propose a course on Freedom at the beginning of 2001. Please check the web site of Atlas ([www.atlasUSA.org](http://www.atlasUSA.org)) for additional information. ■

**"The IFP Seminar is going splendidly. We have had incredibly good fortune regarding outside speakers, including Dinesh D'Souza, well known conservative author and Olin scholar at AEI. He spoke on the New Economy in August ...The need for freer markets worldwide became more evident to the students from his lecture."**

*Lcda. Carroll Ríos de Rodríguez, Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala, on the International Freedom Project course.*

Grants were made to the following professors and universities to conduct pilot programs:

Professor Carroll Rios Rodriguez (Universidad Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala City)  
Father Angelo Roncero Marcos (Quetzaltenango-UFM) and Professor William Marina (Quetzaltenango, Guatemala)  
Professor Pierre Garello and Jean-Yves Naudet (University of Aix-en-Provence, France)

The 14 universities whose course proposals were winners of the judges' rankings were:

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia  
University of Asia and the Pacific, Manila, The Philippines  
The National Missionary Seminary of Saint Paul and the University of Abuja, Nigeria  
Universidad Francisco Marroquin Humanities Program, Guatemala City  
Vilnius University, Lithuania  
University of Podgorica, Montenegro  
University of Belgrade, Serbia  
American University in Moscow, Russia  
Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey  
Université Paris II - Pantheon/Assas, Paris, France  
University of Pisa, Italy  
University of Milan, Italy  
LUISS, Rome, Italy  
University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain.

## Argentine Institutes Expand Environmental Programs

In July, **Fundación Libertad** (Rosario, Argentina), one of the leading free-market public policy institutes in Argentina, launched an environmental unit to educate policy analysts and opinion leaders about free-market environmentalism. Atlas' Jo Kwong visited the institute to deliver the keynote address at the inaugural ceremonies.

The ceremony was held at Fundación Libertad's new headquarters, a modern, luxurious former home that several people have dubbed the "Latin American Cato building" because of its similarity to the impressive Cato Institute headquarters in Washington, DC. Rich with marble, chrome, and an imported elevator from Switzerland, the building offers an impressive presence for the increasingly influential institute and its new management school, Centro de Estudios y Capacitación Empresaria (Center for Business Studies and Training).

Kwong's message came as a surprise to many of the Latins. Unlike traditional environmentalists who advocate stronger roles for multinational governing bodies, Kwong urged the Argentines to utilize local knowledge about their resources, conditions and cultures to devise their own solutions to pressing problems. Her statements about problems at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its regulatory failures prompted remarks from the audience including "I never heard of an alternative to the regulatory state nor to the U.S. EPA."

Kwong traveled to Mar del Plata, a lovely coastal city in Argentina, and



Fernando Alvarez (president, Fundación Global) and Jo Kwong (Atlas) with program participants in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

addressed an audience of environmentalists, business leaders, and policy analysts at the **Fundación Global** (FG). FG is also planning to launch an environment unit to complement the research of Fundación Libertad. With this project in mind, Kwong met with several staff members to discuss free-market environmentalism in depth. As in Rosario, the free-market ideas were quite new to the environmental research team. Yet, they were intrigued to see how the ideas could evolve into workable solutions for their country.

For fellow travelers to Latin America, please add these cities to your travel list. You will not be disappointed by the intellectual exchange, nor by the traditional warm Latin reception. ■

### About Atlas

The Atlas Economic Research Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is supported solely by donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. It works with think tanks and individuals in the United States and across the world who share a vision of the free society based on certain common beliefs: that a good society cannot be effectively "planned" by government (or any other central body); that prosperity and happiness are achieved through the voluntary actions of free individuals; and that the market order and civil society depend upon the institutions of private property, the rule of law, and limited constitutional government.