

Babes in Kochland: Koch brothers training up the next generation of Scott Walkers

March 14, 2011 · Posted in [People](#)

So I was responding to an email today when I came across this intriguing Google advert...

Make a difference. - Be the next great economist.
Join the Koch Associate Program.
www.CGKFoundation.Org

So what's it all about?

If you toddle on over to the [link](#) associated with that ad, you'll find the following enticing pitch, aimed at the young plutocrat just starting out, looking to make his or her mark in the world:

The Koch Associate Program is a challenging job opportunity in DC for professionals who are passionate about free-market ideas, and want to become more effective at advancing liberty throughout their careers. The Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation's aim is to develop the capabilities of the Associates through the program by providing management training, professional development, and the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their career potential.

Associates come from a wide range of backgrounds from recent college graduates to PhDs, former employees of the public and private sectors, and students of subjects from economics to communications. What distinguishes the Associates is the drive to effectively advance the ideas of liberty throughout their careers.

The 2010-11 program began on June 14, 2010 and ends in May 2011. While in the program, each Associate works four days a week in a full-time position at a [reputable non-profit organization](#) in DC. Job opportunities are as diverse as Associates, and range from policy research to communication and public relations. Each position gives Associates valuable professional experience pursuing their talents and interests, with the opportunity to earn greater responsibility and expand their roles by performing well.

So who are these "[reputable non-profits](#)"? Hmmmm....

- [American Council of Trustees and Alumni](#)
- [American Legislative Exchange Council](#)
- [Americans for Prosperity Foundation](#)
- [Atlas Economic Research Foundation](#)
- [Bill of Rights Institute](#)

- *Center for Excellence in Education*
- [Fund for American Studies](#)
- [Heritage Foundation](#)
- [Institute for Energy Research](#)
- [Institute for Humane Studies](#)
- [Mercatus Center at George Mason University](#)
- [National Center for Policy Analysis](#)
- [National Federation of Independent Business Legal Foundation](#)
- [National Taxpayers Union Foundation](#)
- [Reason Foundation](#)
- [Students for Liberty](#)

And that's just the D.C. list, consisting of lots and lots of Koch-funded 501c3s. There are also non-D.C. organizations, plus old timey conservative organizations like the Hudson Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, the American Spectator, the CATO Institute and the Federalist Society. Just how far do the Koch tentacles spread? Far, baby. Far.

So what do our little associates do during their sojourn in Kochland?

To develop the capabilities of each Associate, one day a week is spent immersed in a curriculum learning and applying [Market-Based Management](#)[®] (MBM[®]), a framework for understanding how an organization survives, prospers, and grows in the long term. They listen to speakers, engage in workshops, and discuss readings from a variety of disciplines with aims to better understand why free markets foster prosperous societies and how such principles can inspire the development of a prosperous organization. The expectation is that Associates gain knowledge and skills to effectively apply MBM tools and concepts in their full-time roles, getting better results by doing so.

To supplement the curriculum, the Foundation provides mentors who work one-on-one with Associates to help bridge the gap between the educational and professional aspects of the program. As the program nears completion, the mentors work with Associates and program staff to identify opportunities for engagement and employment [after the program](#).

There's even a nifty video, in which you'll see some of the recent alumni:

And the Kochs are [spreading their alumni around the conservative universe](#), like so many little Ayn Rand seeds. But they're not limited to non-profits. Team Koch is also pollinating the media. As a major donor to something called the Fund for American Studies, they're helping train up the next generation of Fox News anchors. Or as TFAS [puts it](#):

SHARING TALENT – TFAS ALUMNI AS KOCH ASSOCIATES

The month of May starts a marathon of commencements across the nation as many students prepare to transition to another phase of their adult lives. May also begins the final month of the Koch Associate Program (KAP), a year-long nonprofit management training program for over 80 budding nonprofit leaders around Washington, D.C. KAP is sponsored by The Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, a major TFAS supporter.

Both TFAS and the Koch Foundation share commitments to promoting free market economics and limited government and preparing young people for leadership. They also share talent pools. This year, the presence of TFAS alumni at the Koch Foundation is more notable than any other year.

Throughout 2008-2009, TFAS has hosted a Koch Associate, Patrice J. Lee, to manage media relations. Four other Koch Associates are part of the TFAS alumni network:

***David Arnold (B 00)** is a development associate for the Koch Foundation. Arnold has had a long-standing relationship with TFAS; he started as a program assistant for IBGA in 2001, later became the chapter president of the Austin, Texas alumni chapter member, has served as a member of the Alumni Council for almost five years and is a 2009 TFAS Leadership Fellow.*

***Amanda Berg (E 07)** serves as a legislative assistant for the National Center for Policy Analysis.*

***Mike Horn (CSS 07)** works at Americans for Prosperity as a development associate. Horn transitioned to the Associate program after spending last summer in the Koch Internship Program.*

***Dan Wityk (E 05)** is a research assistant at the National Center for Policy Analysis.*

*Other previous Koch Associates include **Christie Fogarty (B 03)** who was a 2007 Freedom Scholar and now manages membership programs at the Heritage Foundation. **Wes Siler (CSS 06)** was also a Koch Associate. There is also a strong TFAS representation among Koch staff.*

Other [TFAS alumni](#) include:

- *10/5/10 - **Jean Schindler (HK 06)** was published in Crossbow, the magazine of the Bow Group (UK). Her article, "[Human Rights and the Coalition Government's Foreign Policy](#)" can be found on page 24.*
- *8/26/10 - **Jessica Corry (J 99)** reports on changes in collegiate journalism programs in "[J-Schools Get Schooled in 2010.](#)" In the article, she addresses the importance of internship and mentorship programs.*
- *8/18/10 - **Suzanne Kianpour (J 09)** scored big with her first story to air on NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams. An NBC "Making a Difference" piece tells the story of Street Soccer USA. Suzie pitched, reported, produced, and wrote the*

- entire story which can be viewed here: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/vp/38584806#38584806>
- **8/18/10** – With campaign season ramping up, **Jessica Taylor (J 05)** a reporter for Politico has been covering races around the country. Read Taylor's latest piece about the primary in Wyoming, "[Rita Meyer concedes to Matthew Mead in Wyo.](#)"
 - **8/17/10** – Hearst Television's National Correspondent **Nikole Killion (J 99)** reports the news from DC to Hearst affiliate stations around the country. Follow her on twitter [@NickolenDC](#).
 - **8/17/10** – **Tricia Miller** has been promoted to the Politics Team at Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill. Read Tricia's latest piece, "[Minnesota: Boehner Schedules Visit to Boost Walz Challenger](#)".
 - **7/20/10** – After a two year stint at the Gazette newspaper in Montgomery County, Md., **Amber Parcher (J 07)** is moving to Taiwan. In two short years Amber published hundreds of articles. [Click Here](#) to read Amber's stories
 - **3/10/10** – Radio Free Europe published an article by IPJ alumna **Ladan Nekomaram (J 09)** on [the persecution of Baha'is in Iran](#).
 - **2/1/09** - IPJ alumna **Kristin English (J 03)** blogs about her experiences at the Inauguration in her blog posting "[One moment in history – Final Recap of My Adventure.](#)"
 - **11/1/2008** - Discussing the impact of the global financial crisis on her country EMJI student **Alexandra Lodge** discusses Great Britain's financial situation in "[The Dark Clouds of Recession](#)".

 - **10/2008** -Oxford International Review invited participants of the Euro-Med Journalism Institute to guest blog on a variety of topics ranging from the 2008 US presidential election to misconceptions about life in Middle East countries. The students added dynamic insights available on the OIR website here: <http://oxfordir.org.uk/events/emji2008/>
 - **10/3/2008** – WAMU 88.5 FM aired **David Smith's (J 08)** segment "[Barack Obama and 'Race' in the Race](#)" Smith put together the piece as part of his IPJ internship with WAMU.
 - **9/10/2008** - Two TFAS alumni were featured in a NY Daily News piece, "Dave fears Mac Camp 'race codes.'" IPJ alumnus **Saul Loeb (J 03)** took the photo of Sen. Barack Obama that accompanies the article while **Peter Feldman (P 04, LSI 07)** is quoted.

And of course we all know of the Koch brothers' political alumni, including several in [Wisconsin](#):

Koch Industries executives and employees also donated \$10,000 to help [former "Real World" cast member Sean] Duffy win retiring Democrat Dave Obey's seat and \$5,000 to De Pere Republican Reid Ribble's campaign to defeat Democrat Steve Kagen of Appleton. The PAC gave \$25,400 to Oshkosh businessman Ron Johnson's campaign to

oust Democrat Russ Feingold from the Senate and has contributed \$60,000 to Republican Rep. Paul Ryan since 1989.

This of course is nothing new, and there's nothing secret about it. The religious right has been doing much the same thing with fundamentalist-steeped law students from fourth-tier Regent University, whose alumni [populated the Bush administration](#).

But it is, I think, helpful to know what they're up to.