

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Jodi Beggs is best described as a freelance economist. She has taught economics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, is an editor for an online learning company, and writes about economics on her web site “Economists Do It with Models” and for various other publications. Jodi has a Master’s degree in economics from Harvard University, and she will finish her Ph.D. dissertation as soon as people stop allowing her to count watching cartoons as work. Like Homer Simpson, Jodi thinks that *The Economist* is the real type of “adult” magazine, and this project has given her a compelling urge to purchase a saxophone.

Peter J. Boettke is the BB&T Professor for the Study of Capitalism at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and also University Professor of economics at GMU. Professor Boettke is the author of several books on the history of, collapse of, and transition from socialism in the former Soviet Union as well as books and articles on the history of economic thought and methodology. With David Prychitko and the late Paul Heyne, he is coauthor of the widely used textbook *The Economic Way of Thinking*, now in its thirteenth edition. In addition to GMU, Boettke has held faculty positions at the London School of Economics, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and New York University.

Per Bylund is a research professor in the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship in Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business and the John F. Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise. He is also an associate fellow of the Ratio Institute in Sweden and a research fellow at the McQuinn Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the University of Missouri.

Art Carden is an assistant professor of economics and business at Samford University and a regular contributor to Mises.org and Forbes.com. His research interests include

economic development; the economic history of the South; and the economic, political, and social impact of big box retailers such as Walmart.

Anthony M. Carilli is a professor of economics and director of the Center for Study of Political Economy at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. He earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Northeastern University. Dr. Carilli's research interests are varied; he has published papers on rural firefighting, NASCAR, social capital, Austrian business cycle theory, monetary regimes, and so on. Outside of academics, Dr. Carilli serves as a volunteer firefighter and baseball umpire. He umpired professionally for four years in the independent Northern League, where he worked the championship series in his final season. He also has worked many Virginia State high school playoff games.

John Considine is an economist. You might remember him from articles such as "The Simpsons: Public Choice in the Tradition of Swift and Orwell" and "Yes Minister: Invaluable Material for Teaching the Public Choice for Bureaucracy" or from teaching economics to students at University College Cork, Ireland.

Stewart Dompe is an adjunct professor at Johnson & Wales University. When not watching *The Simpsons* he researches Austrian economics and political economy. He enjoys the occasional Duff Beer and Krusty Burger. He dreams of one day releasing the hounds.

Robert J. Gitter is a professor of economics at Ohio Wesleyan University. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.A. degree in economics from the University of Michigan. In the past several years his primary research focus has been on Mexican migration issues, and he has published an article along with his son, Seth, and another coauthor. He has published on a wide range of issues in labor economics in *The American Economic Review*, *The Monthly Labor Review*, and *Economics Letters* as well as in German and Mexican journals. He was awarded Ohio Wesleyan's Herbert Welch Meritorious Teaching Award. The university provost made the award at graduation, citing, among other reasons, Gitter's ability to relate to the students through the use of *The Simpsons*. Like Homer, Gitter has three children and a very loving and understanding wife.

Seth R. Gitter is an associate professor of economics at Towson University. He holds a Ph.D. degree from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.A. degree in economics from Grinnell College. His main area of research focuses on human capital accumulation in Latin America. He has received research grants from the Inter-American Development Bank and the British Government (DFID) to study the effects of conditional cash transfers on early childhood development. His work has been published in *World Development*, *World Bank Economic Review*, and *The Journal of Development Studies*. He has enjoyed watching *The Simpsons* with his father and coauthor, Robert Gitter, since he was Bart's age. With his wife, Marie, he has a daughter, Sylvia, who is Maggie's age.

Joshua Hall is an associate professor of economics at West Virginia University. He earned his bachelor and master degrees in economics from Ohio University and his

Ph.D. degree from West Virginia University in 2007. Prior to returning to his alma mater, he was the Elbert H. Neese, Jr. Professor of Economics at Beloit College. Formerly an economist for the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, he is a coauthor of the widely cited *Economic Freedom of the World* annual reports. In addition, he is author of over fifty articles in journals such as *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Economic Education*, *Journal of Labor Research*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Public Finance Review*, and *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*.

Lauren Heller is an assistant professor of economics at Berry College in Rome, Georgia. A Ph.D. graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she earned her B.A. degree in economics from Capital University. Her research interests focus primarily on issues pertaining to international health and applied econometrics.

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Steven Horwitz is Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, and an Affiliated Senior Scholar at the Mercatus Center in Arlington, Virginia. He is the author of two books, *Microfoundations and Macroeconomics: An Austrian Perspective* (2000) and *Monetary Evolution, Free Banking, and Economic Order* (1992), and he has written extensively on Austrian economics, Hayekian political economy, monetary theory and history, and the economics and social theory of gender and the family. His work has been published in professional journals such as *History of Political Economy*, *Southern Economic Journal*, and *The Cambridge Journal of Economics*. He has also done public policy research for the Mercatus Center, Heartland Institute, Citizens for a Sound Economy, and the Cato Institute, with his most recent work being on the role of Walmart and other big box stores in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He is currently working on a book on classical liberalism and the family.

Shannon M. Kelly is an economics major at the College of Charleston. Originally from Canada (like Homer Simpson), she was raised in Watertown, New York. Besides dual citizenship, she shares much in common with Homer Simpson, as she is also a lover of beer and donuts. However, she has greater ambition than Homer and would like to attend graduate school to further her studies in economics.

Peter G. Klein is an associate professor of applied social sciences and associate professor of public affairs at the University of Missouri, adjunct professor at the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, and director of the McQuinn Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. His research focuses on the economics of organization, entrepreneurship, and corporate strategy, with applications to diversification, innovation, food and agriculture, economic growth, and vertical coordination. He taught previously at the Olin School of Business; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of Georgia; and the Copenhagen Business School. During the 2000–2001 academic year, Klein was a senior economist with the Council of Economic Advisers.

David T. Mitchell is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Central Arkansas. He took his Ph.D. degree in economics from George Mason University and his undergraduate degree from Clemson University. His notable publication outlets include the *Southern Journal of Economics*, the *Cato Journal*, and Forbes.com. His favorite classes to teach are microeconomics, public economics, and experimental economics. He is currently researching post-Katrina rebuilding on the Gulf Coast.

Gregory M. Randolph is an associate professor of economics in the School of Business, Southern New Hampshire University. He received his B.A. degree from Grove City College and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from West Virginia University.

Douglas Rogers was an H. B. Earhart Dissertation Fellow in the department of Economics, George Mason University. Tragically, he passed away in a car accident in 2011. He was awarded his Ph.D. degree in economics posthumously in 2011, when he was awarded the Israel M. Kirzner Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Austrian Economics for “Organizing Crime: Towards a Theory of the Criminal Firm.” He graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. degree in economics in 2007 from West Virginia University.

Justin M. Ross is an assistant professor of public finance at Indiana University in the Bloomington School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He earned his Ph.D. degree in economics from West Virginia University, and his research interests lie in state and local public finance, especially property-tax-related issues. His interest in the benefit-view of property taxation also leads him to study zoning and other institutional features of local government.

Diana W. Thomas is an assistant professor of economics at Utah State University. Her research is in the areas of public choice, where she mostly explores entrepreneurship in the political sphere, and development economics. Diana teaches international economics and microeconomic principles. In an earlier life, Diana was a portfolio manager for a German investment management company. Working in finance, she learned rather quickly that “If something’s hard to do, then it’s not worth doing.” So she chose a life of the mind, and “Who would have guessed reading and writing would pay off?!”

Mark Thornton is a senior fellow at the Ludwig von Mises Institute. He serves as the book review editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics*. He served as the editor of the *Austrian Economics Newsletter* and as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Libertarian Studies*. He has served as a member of the graduate faculties of Auburn University and Columbus State University. He has also taught economics at Auburn University at Montgomery and Trinity University in Texas. Mark served as assistant superintendent of banking and economic adviser to Governor Fob James of Alabama (1997–1999), and he was awarded the University Research Award at Columbus State University in 2002. His publications include *The Economics of Prohibition* (1991), *Tariffs, Blockades, and Inflation: The Economics of the Civil War* (2004), *The Quotable Mises* (2005), *The Bastiat Collection* (2007), and *An Essay on Economic Theory* (2010). He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University and received his Ph.D. degree in economics from Auburn University.

Douglas M. Walker is a professor of economics at the College of Charleston. His research on gambling has been published in journals such as *Journal of Health Economics*, *Public Choice*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, and *Public Finance Review*. His book *The Economics of Casino Gambling* was published in 2007. His lifelong dream, which he achieved in June 2010, was completing the requirements to join the Beer Club at the Charleston Mellow Mushroom.

Andrew T. Young is an associate professor of economics at the College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University. His research is in macroeconomics, including the study of business cycles, economic growth, and monetary policy. His work is published in such journals as the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*, the *Southern Economic Journal*, and the *Review of Austrian Economics*.