



# Making The Difference!

THE FUND FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

professor



**Kurt Rotthoff**

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In 2007, Dr. Kurt Rotthoff took a summer position as a teaching assistant for the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems (AIPES) in Prague with The Fund for American Studies. After a full summer of exploring the political, economic and cultural issues of the world as a teaching assistant, Rotthoff was asked to return in the summer of 2008 as a member of The Fund's faculty.

While studying the effects of free markets as a graduate student at Clemson University, Rotthoff was introduced to The Fund by a mentor of his. After getting in touch with the AIPES economics professor Dr. Bruce Yandle, Rotthoff was given the opportunity to teach students from around the world. "It was an experience where I felt I learned as much as I taught."

The goal of AIPES is to study the economics that tomorrow's leaders will need to understand if they are to solve tomorrow's economic problems. With this in mind, Rotthoff is constantly looking for ways to give students the tools to help them debate, challenge, and work with issues effecting the market. "My goal is to get them to think through problems, not just memorize what I say."

Rotthoff recognizes that economics has been a growing major on college campuses as well as news outlets that reference the subject on a daily basis to report and cover stories in government and financial topics.

"There is an increased knowledge base [in students], but also a growth in perception of knowing the answers to advanced economic problems, without knowing all the underlying issues. In the classes I teach, I apply the basics to the advanced situations so that students have the ability to fully understand the issues that face us today."

With more than 100 students from more than 25 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the United States, students attending AIPES come from various backgrounds with diverse perspectives, economic knowledge and cultural environments.

"When students come from different backgrounds they have different information about how things work. I think this helps a lot in the classroom, because it forces people, including myself, to think about problems in different ways. It is the act of bringing these ideas together that makes the educational experience great."

Rotthoff does not see cultural barriers in class discussions; he sees diverse standpoints that create a jumping off platform for debate. "The different backgrounds give students the ability to

analyze problems in different ways, which helps us all learn how to think about problems from many perspectives.”

AIPES was designed to bring students from a wide range of nationalities, religions and ethnicities together to have a chance to interact, learn and share their experiences in ways that can benefit their educational and professional development. Rotthoff agrees.

“I believe it [AIPES] provides the opportunity to learn, not only from the faculty and guest speakers, but also from the other students, about different ways to analyze problems and learn about the free market systems. In addition, students make friends and create connections that will impact the rest of their lives; it’s exciting to be a part of that.”

Currently, Rotthoff is an assistant professor at Seton Hall and is working on a project looking at the efficiency in the hybrid stock markets as well as sport finance research: Bankruptcy Behavior in the NFL, Time on Camera- the Tournament Structure in NASCAR, and Rent Dissipation in Open and Closed Leagues. He recently returned from a short trip to Ireland where he was an external examiner for the Dublin Institute of Technology’s postgraduate program in financial securitization.