

IN THE  
**FOOTSTEPS OF GIANTS**  
Forge D.C.



**Summer 2021**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

ADAM JOSEFCZYK

*Together.*

It's a word many of us have not said much this past year.

But here at Forge, we've been able to continue our mission of connecting people and raising up leaders, and we were blessed to be together with our Forge Mentorship Academy students in D.C. this May.

Our 2021 Academy first met at our July Summit and since then have made consistent effort to connect with each other virtually. Nearly nine months later, their efforts paid off as they met again, not as acquaintances, but as friends.

Forge D.C. is designed to introduce students to the networks in our Nation's Capitol and help them gain a better understanding of national policy while building relationships with key leaders. Some of the highlights from the trip included:

Hearing from elected officials including former Senator Jim DeMint, Congressman Jim Jordan, Congressman Jim Banks, and Congressman Warren Davidson

Sharing character and leadership reflections at the monuments at night and spending time at George Washington's Mount Vernon



Being hosted by the ambassador of Hungary at their embassy for a chance to see firsthand how American alliances and international policy plays out on the world stage.

In this newsletter, you'll hear from students about how their experiences in D.C. impacted them during their trip. Whether walking in Washington's footsteps at Mount Vernon or chasing down scavenger hunt clues around the city, our students interacted with national policy, the "movers and shakers" of the conservative movement, and the foundations of America on a new level.

We are deeply grateful for a year together with our 2021 Mentorship Academy class. As we look forward to selecting our 2021-2022 Academy class, we are grateful for our alumni who continue to encourage us through their friendship and accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam'.

ADAM JOSEFCZYK  
PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER

# OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



Public Policy. Engagement. Education.



# RACE AROUND D.C.

MARY GREGG



One of my favorite activities during Forge D.C. was the Scavenger Hunt. On the evening of our last full day, just after our tour of the Museum of the Bible, we divided into our small student groups to embark on a self-guided journey around the city.

Right before my group of seven departed, we learned that our tour guide from the Museum of the Bible, Ryan Smith, would be joining us. Among other

things, Mr. Smith has conducted hundreds of tours during the past few years, including one hosted for a Forge group when the building was under construction. Needless to say, we were thrilled to



let him tag along!

As I reflect on this unique opportunity to speak with Mr. Smith in a more relaxed setting, I am more appreciative of the Forge experience as a whole. At both the Forge Summit and our Nation's Capitol, the Forge staff intentionally cultivated environments in which I could ask candid questions of prominent leaders in the conservative movement. These leaders are eager to assist the next generation, and Forge provides an avenue for them to give real advice about how to develop professionally and personally.

One common message from Forge speakers (Ryan Smith included) is that the most important thing in life is your relationship with the Lord. As a Christian, it was especially encouraging to hear that there is a small yet strong community of fellow believers in the D.C. area.

On a more practical note, the scavenger hunt also gave me the skills necessary to navigate the city. Without the

large group of Forge students and staff to follow, we needed to decide for ourselves which mode of transportation was best to reach our next stop. Now that I have mastered the metro system and have heard the personal testimonies of congressmen, lobbyists, pastors, and other community leaders during Forge D.C, I plan to give more consideration to working in Washington D.C. in the future.

In short, I am so, so grateful for Forge, and I look forward to putting into practice what I have learned and maintaining the deep friendships I have made along the way, regardless of where I end up.

*Do you think you could solve our scavenger hunt? Take a shot on pages 7-8*

**Left Across:** Mary with her scavenger hunt team

**Bottom:** A cohort team poses with a special item in the race





While in Washington D.C., my fellow cohort members and I learned of the great acts of our founding fathers. Going to Mount Vernon near the end of our week brought us closer to the daily life of our first President, George Washington, as we walked through his home.

A guide recounted stories of the various guests who came to visit during George and Martha Washington's residence at the estate. I found it fascinating to hear details about George Washington's relationship with the Marquis de Lafayette, how the young man would spend time in the home with his mentor. In his writings, George would later refer

to the Marquis as "his son" to reflect the closeness of their relationship.

Our guide told us stories of the other guests Martha hosted, including Thomas Jefferson who had spoken poorly of her late husband. Martha entertained guests of varying relationships—both those of friendship and those of necessity. Throughout their lives and after George's death, the Washington family hosted



many government officials at their grand home.

As I think of the magnificent view of the Potomac and woodlands from the rear end of the home, I can imagine George Washington rising for the day, observing the awe-inspiring view, before sitting down in his study to write letters to heads of state. Walking around the various rooms in silence, there was an atmosphere of awe and respect in each room. The very objects which were used by those of the household remind guests of the youth of our nation. Our Academy class spent time learning about the grand events that established the country, but Mount Vernon made our founding more personal to me.



**Left Across:** Becca looking out at the Potomac

**Bottom:** Forge Academy students by Washington's house

**Across:** The view from Mount Vernon



# AROUND THE TABLE

BESS BLACKBURN

A group of us from Forge braved the humid night air and walked quietly to the campus of Capitol Hill Baptist, walking up a flight of stairs lined with an eclectic array of pictures and posters.

The stairs led to a brightly lit, music-filled room which was warm and inviting. A large fireplace anchored the study while books lined every wall, floor to ceiling, and were strewn about the table where Mark Dever sat writing. He invited our group to find a seat in his study. Once we settled in, Pastor Dever opened up the floor for questions about anything -- his ministry, his views on doctrine, or his favorite books. With each student, Pastor Dever took time to



ask where he or she was from, and engage in dialogue with what happened to be on the student's mind -- not simply answer the question. However, the most impactful aspect of that evening was not listening to Pastor Dever's answers, though they were thoughtful. It was also not being piled into a study with some of my friends, though that was memorable.

The most impactful aspect of that eve-







ning was seeing Mark Dever's desk.

The study as I have described it may lead many to believe Pastor Dever has a huge roll top desk with scores of books and accolades adorning it. He does not. He sits at a large table in the middle of his study so that those he has chosen to disciple can come and go as they please; reading, writing, and talking with him.

A desk may not seem like an impactful thing -- it is simply a piece of furniture. However, a desk tangibly displays how one does his or her work. Pastor Dever discipled while he works, and works while he discipled. For him, the two are one in the same -- and this is a leadership style worth emulating. A good leader is not simply born. A good leader is not simply trained. A good leader is not

simply qualified. A good leader must lead by example. Mark Dever is an example of true leadership.

Walking out of that study in that still dark and humid Washington evening, I was reminded of how true leadership is rooted in relationship, matured by excellence, and propelled forward by example. Two thousand years ago, the Divine Rabbi walked among us, in communion with us, and showed us The Way. His leadership was by example first. It is my hope that I, along with my other Forge Academy students, will harness this model of leadership as we are led and as we lead.

**Left Across:** Bess and other Academy students had dinner with Bridgett Wagner during their Forge D.C. trip

**Above:** Bess and others sit in Dever's office while they discuss theology and leadership

# 1

What location is associated with the 6 key words in this puzzle

### Across

- 2. Roman symbol of power and unity
- 4. The smallest number with five divisors
- 6. After the tree and before lumber

### Down

- 1. Small, round glass toy
- 3. 6th century Greek architectural design and the language of a Greek people group
- 5. A chair associated with rulers



# Forge Leadership Scavenger Hunt

# 4

What building is associated with the person and location mentioned? Hint:

One of the photos in Mary Gregg's article contains a clue

The founding father with no father  
Started with no financial fodder  
And wrote four score and five defenses  
For a client that could pay no pences.  
Memorialized in green  
The portrait that is seen  
Rests below the title name  
Of the target that's your aim.

Decode all four riddles and enter your answers for each of them at [ForgeLeadership.org/ScavengerHunt](http://ForgeLeadership.org/ScavengerHunt) to be entered to win a prize.



30 min

# 2

What location is associated with the 7 key words in this puzzle

B L A Q U M P V C Q W J N Q E D S P  
C Q G R K L I N I T H E V T I G G U  
Q T I U G G H S P R O O B Z A J B J  
R K C S B Y O N O X G M N B M G S C  
W C F P B U R I A L T I B O O G P S  
F P I N Y G R I K O D U N P R G G T  
Y Y H O A F H Q R Y M I O I C U T O  
M U W V R Z E U B Z T R E T A O G N  
L X C M K E R S P A K R U R O R N E  
S P Z G Z T O A I R L L P G J W O E  
G W H Y E G H U J G P W D B J U K U  
D Y Q Y Y O D W I B B B R G J U V Y

## D.C. r Hunt

Submit  
clue at  
engerHunt  
prize!

# 3

What building is associated with the person mentioned in the last line?

The bull moose  
And That Man In the White House  
Had this the same,  
With more than just the name.  
W also and his patriarch,  
Along with two and six's family mark.

All above were family bound,  
But these two no relation found.  
Herbert was ridiculed for tent town rubble  
The other faced oversight trouble.

ute brisk walk/Two miles between

EAST  
POTOMAC PARK

Botanic Garden  
WASHINGTON  
CHANNEL

# WELCOME TO D.C.

GRAYCE McALLISTER

Government and history have always interested me which is what led me to Forge and the training and community that they provide.

When my Academy class came to D.C, it felt like the history I'd read about was coming to life -- not to mention making national news feel less like news and instead turning it into the faces, policies, ideas, and goals behind the headlines.

After studying international business and exploring my passion for foreign policy and national security at college, I found myself in DC upon graduation. Because of Forge D.C, I knew a little bit about the city and how to navigate it, but it was still a very new environment and not at all like the community I had back



at college.

Thankfully, Forge builds friendships just like it builds up skills, so one of the first people I met here had also gone to Forge. This created an instant bond that helped make the city feel much less overwhelming and made exploring the city and networking events so much more fun.

Through the skills I honed at Forge, I already knew how to network through





the city, understood how the government functions, and the way this city runs which made the transition from Kansas to the big city much smoother.

This is what stands out to me the most about being a Forge alumna in D.C: Forge equips us not only for navigating the political world, but also gives us friendships and connections that last and make life so much more enjoyable and meaningful. It has been absolutely delightful to see the many different Forge D.C. classes come to the Nation's Capitol and get similar experiences building their skills and adding to this ever growing group of leaders.

**Left Across:** Grayce at the White House during Christmas  
**Above:** Grayce places wreaths with a friend at Arlington National Cemetery  
**Right:** Grayce with fellow Forge Alumna Naomi del Guidice



*The*  
***Rule & Role***  
*of* ***Law***



*Elliot Gaiser is a graduate of Hillsdale College and the University of Chicago, where he received his juris doctorate. A native of northeast Ohio who works in Washington, D.C., Mr. Gaiser is an annual speaker to our Forge D.C. students on the role and rule of law. We hope you enjoy this excerpt from his talk to our Academy in Washington, D.C. delivered on May 21, 2021.*



What is the rule of law? To answer that question, let's start where our founders did—with some first principles. First, God created the world and He created it perfect. God Himself is perfect, meaning His character is perfect. And you can find from studying His character this right way of being: everything that is created has a purpose, and when it acts in accord with that purpose it is good.

In Genesis 1 and 2, God describes His creation as good, when the sun and moon and the birds and fish and human beings operate in accordance with their purpose. You might say that they are operating in accord with their natural law, a way of being that is perfect, ineffable, unchanging, beautifully diverse and yet the same in all times in all places.

The same principle undergirds the Declaration of Independence, which begins by referencing the laws of nature and of nature's God and natural rights:

that we have certain inalienable rights, endowed to us in our equal creation, and their inalienability is related to the fact of the unchangeability of the laws of nature and nature's God.

But there's a second premise: human beings are fallen, fallible, marred by sin, and incapable of living up to the perfection of creation. You see this in Genesis 3, and you experience it in your own day to day life—as the Apostle Paul says in Romans, you want to do something right and then you don't, you fall short.

The founding of our country also recognized human fallenness. In Federalist 51, James Madison argues that if men were angels, then no government would be necessary. Conversely, if angels were to govern men, then you would need neither internal nor external restraints on a government. He says, at the beginning of that passage, "What is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections of hu-

man nature?"

So, these two premises—that God is perfect and that man is fallen—lead to a third premise: the unquenchable need for a bridge between the perfection of natural law and the imperfection of human life.

That is the need for grace, a grace that comes in multiple forms. Among the first forms you actually see is law. The positive law is a means of grace for a broken world. It's a way of ordering affairs for human beings who are incapable of living up to the perfect law on their own, and also incapable of perfectly governing others, because they are not angels.

We see law is a gift from God on Mount Sinai to Moses. Now, of course, we can't live up even to human laws. Those positive laws and the enforcement of them are imperfect and you ultimately need the propitiation of grace that comes from Christ. But the common grace that comes from the law is an underappreciated fact—and that initial form of grace is where you get the rule of law.

I think it is important that we linger here at the base of Sinai for a moment to think about the benefits of the rule of law—the positive case for why we want a society governed by the rule of law. I say that there are three benefits: the rule of law will create a society that is prosperous, that is strong, and that is virtuous.

Why does the rule of law create economic prosperity? Well, the thing about the economy is that it's a response to the insatiability of human needs, and the scarcity of human resources. Everybody

wants more stuff than is out there. John Locke talks about how human beings mix their labor with the material of nature, whether that's lumber or farmland, and then eventually they build factories, and it sort of builds from there, right? So, in order to economize, you need to be able to plan and know that if you sacrifice today, then you'll have more for the future. In order to do that, you need the rule of law. You need to have a framework for stability that shines like a beacon out over the stormy, uncertain waters of the future.

The law says, if you follow this rightly ordered conduct, the rules aren't going to change on you—you will generally keep what you earn and own, and the contracts you make will be enforced. The government will protect you from theft and burglary and your tax burden isn't going to change dramatically and you know how much you need to set aside for tomorrow versus how much you can spend today. In this way, the rule of law allows you to almost peer out into the future. And this creates a society that will be economically prosperous.

Now, a prosperous society isn't just strong because it'll be better able to purchase the bullets and ballistic missiles needed for national security, which are not free, but because, in fact, a society that is governed by the rule of law changes the character of the people in that society. You see, the people in a society ruled by laws, as opposed to the arbitrary whims of men, have something to live for, and thereby, something to die for. And that's why we outlast the ene-



my in a cold war, defeat the enemy in a world war, or bring overwhelming force to bear in an asymmetric war—because we have the kind of people who are ruled by law.

I think of the inscription laid on a stone at the hot gates of the Battle of Thermopylae. According to legend, it said, “Go tell to Sparta, passer by, that here, obedient to her laws, we lie.” It was the rule of law in their society that they fought to the very end for their homeland, and for their city-state. The law strengthened a little group of 300 Spartans and a few other Greek city-states’ soldiers with the fortitude to face off against a Persian army that modern historians think might have been about 250,000. Think about that—250,000 versus, at most, maybe a few thousand! It was the rule of law that gave the Spartans that courage and strength.

The rule of law also creates a virtuous people. The reason it creates a virtuous citizenry is twofold. First, the law, when it corresponds with higher law, is in accord with human nature. And you learn this from the law code of Hammurabi, an ancient Near Eastern King. That’s likely the oldest written law that we have. It’s inscribed on a big pillar. I’ve seen a replica of it at the law school that I went to, where they inscribe things that are pretty similar to the Ten Commandments – not totally – but pretty similar. The pillar prohibits things such as taking your neighbor’s cow or killing someone. So, the principles of law from 1790 B.C.

are still mostly part of the law today: don’t steal someone’s cow in 1790 B.C. and don’t steal someone’s data on their app that allows them to play Farmville in 2021 A.D.

When the law is in accord with natural law, the law becomes a moral teacher. If you have behind you, backed by force of government, the rule that you can’t break your word, you can’t break your contracts, you can’t convert or steal your neighbor’s goods or wages, it starts to shape the character of the people to be more virtuous.

Second, as I’ve mentioned, the rule of law prevents the arbitrary rule of men over men, where there’s unbridled discretion. That means there is space and certainty to be free. And in that freedom, comes human flourishing, born first of freedom of religion, and then freedom of speech, and then the freedom to understand for yourself and to share with others your vision of what is good and right and just. Therefore, out of the rule of law comes the form of education that is necessary for a moral and religious people. John Adams observed that our Constitution is designed for a religious and moral people, and is inadequate to any other. And so by teaching enduring moral truth, and then by freeing the people to speak and teach each other, the rule of law creates a more virtuous people.

**Want to hear from more Forge speakers? Check out the Forge Leadership Podcast at [ForgeLeadership.org/Podcasts](https://ForgeLeadership.org/Podcasts)**



Scan here for more Forge D.C. photos!

**Top Left:** Senator Jim DeMint addresses students

**Top Right:** Academy student Mark Mikityuk listens intently

**Bottom:** The 2021 Forge Academy with Congressman Jim Jordan of Ohio

**Across Top:** The 2021 Forge Academy at the Lincoln Memorial during the moonlight monument tour

**Across Bottom:** One of the scavenger hunt teams take a photo during their race across the city





**forgeleadership.org**  
*info@forgeleadership.org*



@ForgeLeadership

*707 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd.*  
*Dayton, OH 45459*  
**800.481.5024**