

College Donor

QUARTERLY

a publication of the **Fund for Academic Renewal**

FAR Appoints New Leadership



This January, as FAR expands its role as the leader in targeted higher education giving, we have welcomed two new experts to our leadership team. **Dr. Ali Eskandarian** has come on board as FAR's new executive director, and **Ms. Emily Koons Jae** will soon join us as the new associate director.

Dr. Eskandarian has a lifetime of experience initiating, overseeing, and expanding high-quality academic programs. Before joining FAR, he held positions at George Washington University as Dean of the Virginia Science and Technology Campus, Dean of the College of Professional Studies, and co-director of the University's Center for Quantum Computing, Information, Logic,

and Topology, where he implemented the design and development of several innovative degree programs and certificates. He is an accomplished professor, teaching graduate and undergraduate level courses in physics as well as cross-disciplinary courses in science and technology.

During his career, Dr. Eskandarian has held technical and management positions in the aerospace and telecommunications industries, served at the National Research Council, and held the Distinguished Oliver Professorship and Virginia Eminent Scholar position at James Madison University. Dr. Eskandarian's research interests focus on the foundations of quantum theory,

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INTELLIGENT COLLEGE GIVING. The Fund for Academic Renewal serves alumni and college donors who aim to support a renewal of the highest standards on college campuses through targeted philanthropy.

Is Just Giving Achievable?

A Review of Rob Reich's New Philanthropy Exposé

JUST GIVING WHY PHILANTHROPY IS FAILING DEMOCRACY AND HOW IT CAN DO BETTER ROB REICH

Review by Joe DeGraff
Program Manager, FAR

Americans are losing confidence in the fundamental institutions that serve our civil society. Last year, Gallup reported that, for the first time since it started polling, confidence in higher

education has dropped below 50%. It is in this culture of waning trust that Rob Reich's critical take on philanthropy, *Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How It Can Do Better*, debuted last November.

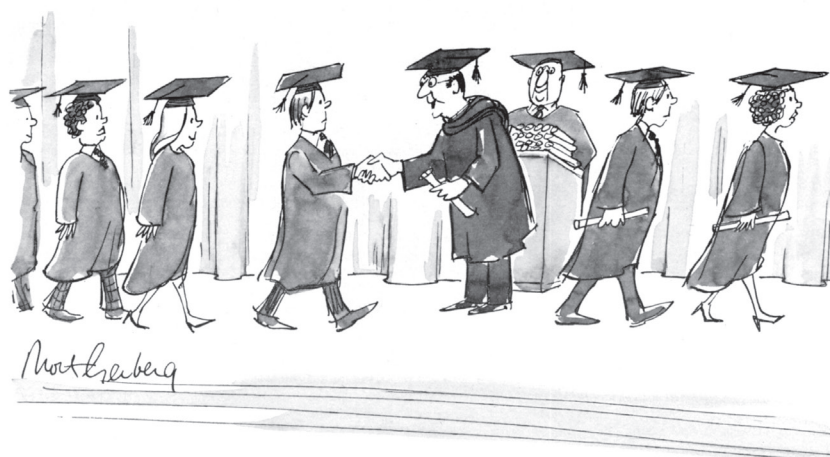
Despite the title, Dr. Reich is hardly an enemy of philanthropy. In fact, he celebrates the many different forms philanthropy has taken throughout human history. His historical vignettes on the liturgical system in ancient Rome and religious tithing through the Middle Ages reveal how charity has always played an essential societal role by supporting national defense, infrastructure projects, and social services to the poor. However, he argues that the same institutions may have undermined democratic principles. For example, Dr. Reich raises the question of the compatibility of foundations with democratic societies, citing, for example, the criticism, albeit controversial, of some Islamic Waqfs—entities similar to contemporary foundations that were central to Islamic civilization. He

references arguments concerning the rigidity of foundations such as Waqfs that helped to maintain autocracy. Generosity appears in all civilizations, but depending on the laws and social customs, this generosity can be tuned to either promote or punish society's crucial institutional values—including justice, equality, and education.

Dr. Reich notes that philanthropic entities are uniquely situated to fund long-term projects that the market and the state may avoid because they lack long-term will. Such long-term projects in the arts, sciences, or education may not immediately bear fruit, but are critical for a strong civil society. That is why he does not advocate for a philanthropic revolution (see *Winners Take All* by Anand Giridharadas or *Decolonizing Wealth* by Edgar Villanueva), and instead stands squarely in the reform category.

Some of his reforms aim to make giving more egalitarian by replacing the charitable tax deduction with a tax credit. A tax credit benefits

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"Congratulations. Please remember the college's financial plight. Congratulations. Please remember the college's financial plight. Congratulations. Please remember..."

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From *The College Donor Digest*
(FAR's blog at www.AcademicRenewal.blog)

Year-End Tax Tips for the Higher Ed Donor (2018 Edition)

By making minor changes to your giving strategy, you can master the tax changes and have an even larger impact on the future of America's students.

Philanthropy Chooses Philosophy

A record-breaking number of gifts to the liberal arts, and more specifically to philosophy departments, is an encouraging trend that emerged in 2018.

FAR Requests Proposals for Inaugural Special Purpose Funds Grants

FAR will make the inaugural grants from its Special Purpose Funds in early 2019. Over the last two years, generous donors have made gifts to our five Special Purpose Funds that span essential areas in the liberal arts, including: American History, Government, & Statesmanship; the Western Tradition; Science & Mathematics; and Economic Literacy—as well as a Free to Teach, Free to Learn Fund, which focuses on the cultivation of intellectual diversity and free expression. These funds were created to help donors maximize the impact of their gifts by pooling them with like-minded peers.

We are currently seeking high-quality liberal arts programs that meet all of these criteria:

- Must have an academic mission that serves undergraduate students enrolled at a college.
- Must be primarily funded independently of the university through donors and/or foundations.
- Must be led by professors, who serve as a guide and help direct or organize students.

If you know of or lead an initiative that meets these requirements, please contact Joe DeGraff at jdegraff@AcademicRenewal.org by **March 29** so it may be considered to receive support from FAR's Special Purpose Funds. 🌱



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quantum computing/information, and astrophysics. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and also a Fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences. He holds a B.S. in physics and a Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear

Emily Koons Jae comes to ACTA from the Commonwealth Foundation in Pennsylvania where she was the Director of Entrepreneur Engagement for southeast Pennsylvania. Before that, she was the Major Gifts Officer at the Jack Miller Center where she

“I am excited to use my experience working with individual, corporate, and foundation funders to help higher education donors identify programs that align with their highest standards for learning, and can make a real difference in students’ lives.”

—**Dr. Ali Eskandarian**, Executive Director, FAR

physics from George Washington University.

“I am excited to use my experience working with individual, corporate, and foundation funders to help higher education donors identify programs that align with their highest standards for learning, and can make a real difference in students’ lives,” Dr. Eskandarian noted on his first day.

managed a portfolio of major accounts and cultivated plans with annual goals for donors and prospects. She also held the position of Manager of Development and Communications at the Center. In this role, she worked as an editor, planned events, and coordinated with donors.

Ms. Jae holds a B.A. in history from Davidson College. 🌱

Book Review *from page 2*

everyone who donates, instead of only subsidizing those who itemize. Another reform originates from John Stuart Mill’s criticism of charitable institutions that exist in perpetuity as undemocratic bodies that reinforce plutocratic power. His proposed reforms would impose lifetime limits and new transparency laws on foundations, nudging them into taking bigger risks instead of fortifying the status quo.

It is important we recognize that philanthropy, like every other institution, always has room for improvement. *Just Giving* is a highly informative, critical analysis for anyone working in the nonprofit or development field—and for donors interested in the interplay between philanthropy and the individual’s role in shaping civil society. 🌱

Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How It Can Do Better
Rob Reich, Princeton University Press
(November 2018)



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Donor TIPS

Planning a college gift usually involves a few members of the university fundraising department, campus administration, and maybe the provost or president (if you're lucky). Including campus leadership in some way is usually a fruitful strategy, but frequently this list of administrative leaders leaves out a critical part of a successful gift: professors.

After all, it will be faculty members who transform gifts into the intellectual content required for new classes, exciting events, and service to the broader student community. That is why you should make a faculty friend your ally in the gift-making process.

Your faculty friend may already reside in your rolodex:

- If there is a center or initiative on campus that aligns with your values, try speaking with its

Find a Faculty Guarantor

leadership about how you can help expand the program.

- Is there a book you read, event you attended, or lecture you enjoyed that was produced by an active professor? With your support, these professors may be able to take their unique academic talent to the next level.
- FAR maintains a network of high-quality, faculty-led programs that are committed to teaching the fundamental liberal arts. We would be happy to make an introduction.

By creating a partnership with a faculty friend, you can maintain academic integrity while still preserving your wishes and values. 