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## Report of 2006 Summer Seminar

This Summer Seminar in Gaming I had the opportunity to develop in various human skills, as I got involved in many different kinds of activities that took place in a most appropriate environment.

In regard to the academic issue, I must say that the courses were very helpful to understand the problems of the topics we studied. The course about Natural Law, showed me the development of Natural Law concept through human history, its importance, and the problems that we face because of ignoring it and it also showed me the importance of the Christian view of human person and the urge to find the way to make it clear to non Christians that it is something that needs to be respected because, although we know it can be only completely understood under the light of Christianity, it is universal and can be justified by mere reason. The course about Romano Guardini was specially interesting for me, because it had a philosophical ground and that allowed us to understand the moral and intellectual consequences that the development of human history has had in our society; which is the first step to find the way to solve our problems.

In regard to the Phoenix Institute mission, I found the seminar most enriching in many ways. We were introduced to the discussion about the problem of human nature in the study of Natural Law and the thinking of Romano Guardini. Above all, I found enrichment in the attitude of the professors, who were at all times willing to help us and giving an example of humility, and leadership participating in all our activities and finding the way to share their knowledge in every possible way. What was most important was their example, as I could say they lived by their beliefs and that could also be seen in the attitude of the group toward the topics. This was particularly important to me, because I am a teacher myself and this helped me to learn how one must relate and be near the students and how to do it without losing one's place. I also learned from them how love for the truth helps other to want to find it, and all this together talked to me about the power of testimony.

About my classmates, it was also very interesting to meet them all. I had a great opportunity to meet people from very different places and it was very refreshing to know that there is other people fighting to change things and make the world better in many other places. I also had the opportunity of learning the value of respect and tolerance from them, because we were all different and we all had different cultures and that could sometimes bother or affect others, but we found the way to emphasize the similarities and we built a very beautiful friendship that helped us to understand and accept each other and to realize that there is no person from whom one cannot learn anything. Every individual was important to the group and, after an experience we had going hiking to Lunz am See, where we were divided and selfish, our group grew stronger because of the understanding, humility and forgiveness we found in each other and that was, for me, the

most important experience of all, as it talked about the real meaning of friendship and human relationships.

Finally, I want to say that this summer seminar gave me much time to think and to remember that my life doesn't belong to me, but to all the people around me, and that I can make a real change being just one if I find the way to be coherent and good. It also gave me many ideas to start changing my environment and helped me to decide to start several plans I had for that and that I had abandoned because of excessive work.

I thank my sponsors and the Phoenix Institute for this experience that was a completely human and, because of that, completely nourishing in every aspect of my life.