

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

2004

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

For the 2004 calendar year, or tax year beginning SEP 1, 2004 and ending AUG 31, 2005

Part I: Name of organization (MERCATUS CENTER, INC.), Employer identification number (54-1436224), Telephone number ((703) 993-4930), and Address (3401 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE, ARLINGTON, VA 22201).

Part II: Website (WWW.MERCATUS.ORG), Organization type (501(c)(3)), and Gross receipts (6,417,898).

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances

Table with 21 rows detailing Revenue (lines 1-12), Expenses (lines 13-17), and Net Assets (lines 18-21). Includes a 'RECEIVED' stamp from OGden, UT dated JAN 06 2006.

SCANNED JAN 23 2006

Part II Statement of Functional Expenses All organizations must complete column (A) Columns (B), (C), and (D) are required for section 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts but optional for others Page 2

Do not include amounts reported on line 6b, 8b, 9b, 10b, or 16 of Part I		(A) Total	(B) Program services	(C) Management and general	(D) Fundraising
22	Grants and allocations (attach schedule) (cash \$261,026, noncash \$)	261,026.	261,026.	STATEMENT 5	
23	Specific assistance to individuals (attach schedule)				
24	Benefits paid to or for members (attach schedule)				
25	Compensation of officers, directors, etc	234,551.	136,681.	72,992.	24,878.
26	Other salaries and wages	2,082,048.	1,869,557.	53,244.	159,247.
27	Pension plan contributions				
28	Other employee benefits	113,696.	98,464.	6,195.	9,037.
29	Payroll taxes	155,616.	134,768.	8,480.	12,368.
30	Professional fundraising fees				
31	Accounting fees	21,612.	0.	21,612.	0.
32	Legal fees	14,453.	5,400.	927.	8,126.
33	Supplies	221,475.	199,928.	10,247.	11,300.
34	Telephone	31,397.	25,848.	3,447.	2,102.
35	Postage and shipping	247,416.	40,284.	614.	206,518.
36	Occupancy				
37	Equipment rental and maintenance				
38	Printing and publications	335,774.	92,012.	37.	243,725.
39	Travel	166,085.	159,292.	661.	6,132.
40	Conferences, conventions, and meetings	543,198.	535,914.	4,055.	3,229.
41	Interest				
42	Depreciation, depletion, etc (attach schedule)	36,041.	31,355.	2,162.	2,524.
43	Other expenses not covered above (itemize)				
a					
b					
c					
d					
e	SEE STATEMENT 3	907,961.	709,197.	12,642.	186,122.
44	Total functional expenses (add lines 22 through 43) Organizations completing columns (B)-(D), carry these totals to lines 13-15	5,372,349.	4,299,726.	197,315.	875,308.

Joint Costs. Check if you are following SOP 98-2
 Are any joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation reported in (B) Program services? Yes No
 If "Yes," enter (i) the aggregate amount of these joint costs \$ _____, (ii) the amount allocated to Program services \$ _____,
 (iii) the amount allocated to Management and general \$ _____, and (iv) the amount allocated to Fundraising \$ _____

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? SEE STATEMENT 4		Program Service Expenses (Required for 501(c)(3) and (4) orgs., and 4947(a)(1) trusts, but optional for others)
a	PUBLIC AFFAIRS: THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM SEEKS TO INFORM ALUMNI, FACULTY, SUPPORTERS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF IMPORTANT ISSUES OF SCHOLARSHIP AND POLICY AND THE EFFORTS OF THE CENTER. (Grants and allocations \$ _____)	775,698.
b	CAPITOL HILL CAMPUS: BRINGS EDUCATION IN ECONOMIC IDEAS TO KEY DECISION-MAKERS IN THE PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS. A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM IS THE CHIEF OF STAFF RETREAT. (Grants and allocations \$ _____)	1,099,888.
c	RESEARCH AND APPLICATION: THE CENTER'S RESEARCH EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD GENERATING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONS THAT AFFECT THE FREEDOM TO PROSPER. (Grants and allocations \$ 70,083.)	826,492.
d	REGULATORY STUDIES PROGRAM: GENERATES ACADEMIC AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF DISCUSSION AND DEBATE REGARDING REGULATORY POLICY. (Grants and allocations \$ _____)	621,944.
e	Other program services (attach schedule) STATEMENT 6 (Grants and allocations \$ 190,943.)	975,704.
f	Total of Program Service Expenses (should equal line 44, column (B), Program services)	4,299,726.

Part IV Balance Sheets

				(A)		(B)	
				Beginning of year		End of year	
Assets	45	Cash - non-interest-bearing		15.	45	19.	
	46	Savings and temporary cash investments		287,456.	46	54,135.	
	47 a	Accounts receivable	47a	50,156.			
	b	Less allowance for doubtful accounts	47b		83,176.	47c	50,156.
	48 a	Pledges receivable	48a				
	b	Less allowance for doubtful accounts	48b			48c	
	49	Grants receivable			876,922.	49	1,992,025.
	50	Receivables from officers, directors, trustees, and key employees				50	
	51 a	Other notes and loans receivable	51a				
	b	Less allowance for doubtful accounts	51b			51c	
	52	Inventories for sale or use				52	
	53	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges			18,075.	53	43,258.
	54	Investments - securities STMT 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FMV			1,794,828.	54	615,687.
	55 a	Investments - land, buildings, and equipment basis	55a				
	b	Less accumulated depreciation	55b			55c	
56	Investments - other				56		
57 a	Land, buildings, and equipment basis	57a	321,142.				
b	Less accumulated depreciation	57b	281,823.	59,324.	57c	39,319.	
58	Other assets (describe <input type="checkbox"/>)				58		
59	Total assets (add lines 45 through 58) (must equal line 74)			3,119,796.	59	2,794,599.	
Liabilities	60	Accounts payable and accrued expenses		255,092.	60	542,781.	
	61	Grants payable		870,301.	61	737,621.	
	62	Deferred revenue			62		
	63	Loans from officers, directors, trustees, and key employees			63		
	64 a	Tax-exempt bond liabilities			64a		
	b	Mortgages and other notes payable			64b		
	65	Other liabilities (describe <input type="checkbox"/> GIFT ANNUITY)			145,238.	65	142,790.
66	Total liabilities (add lines 60 through 65)			1,270,631.	66	1,423,192.	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 67 through 69 and lines 73 and 74						
	67	Unrestricted		1,238,662.	67	617,586.	
	68	Temporarily restricted		610,503.	68	753,821.	
	69	Permanently restricted			69		
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 70 through 74						
	70	Capital stock, trust principal, or current funds			70		
	71	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, and equipment fund			71		
	72	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds			72		
73	Total net assets or fund balances (add lines 67 through 69 or lines 70 through 72, column (A) must equal line 19, column (B) must equal line 21)			1,849,165.	73	1,371,407.	
74	Total liabilities and net assets / fund balances (add lines 66 and 73)			3,119,796.	74	2,794,599.	

Form 990 is available for public inspection and, for some people, serves as the primary or sole source of information about a particular organization. How the public perceives an organization in such cases may be determined by the information presented on its return. Therefore, please make sure the return is complete and accurate and fully describes, in Part III the organization's programs and accomplishments.

Part VI Other Information

76 Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a detailed description of each activity
77 Were any changes made in the organizing or governing documents but not reported to the IRS?
78 a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year covered by this return?
78 b If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?
79 Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year?
80 a Is the organization related (other than by association with a statewide or nationwide organization) through common membership, governing bodies, trustees, officers, etc., to any other exempt or nonexempt organization?
80 b If "Yes," enter the name of the organization and check whether it is exempt or nonexempt
81 a Enter direct or indirect political expenditures See line 81 instructions
81 b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?
82 a Did the organization receive donated services or the use of materials, equipment, or facilities at no charge or at substantially less than fair rental value?
82 b If "Yes," you may indicate the value of these items here Do not include this amount as revenue in Part I or as an expense in Part II (See instructions in Part III)
83 a Did the organization comply with the public inspection requirements for returns and exemption applications?
83 b Did the organization comply with the disclosure requirements relating to quid pro quo contributions?
84 a Did the organization solicit any contributions or gifts that were not tax deductible?
84 b If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?
85 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations a Were substantially all dues nondeductible by members?
85 b Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?
85 c Dues, assessments, and similar amounts from members
85 d Section 162(e) lobbying and political expenditures
85 e Aggregate nondeductible amount of section 6033(e)(1)(A) dues notices
85 f Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (line 85d less 85e)
85 g Does the organization elect to pay the section 6033(e) tax on the amount on line 85f?
85 h If section 6033(e)(1)(A) dues notices were sent, does the organization agree to add the amount on line 85f to its reasonable estimate of dues allocable to nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures for the following tax year?
86 501(c)(7) organizations Enter a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 12
86 b Gross receipts, included on line 12, for public use of club facilities
87 501(c)(12) organizations Enter a Gross income from members or shareholders
87 b Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them)
88 At any time during the year, did the organization own a 50% or greater interest in a taxable corporation or partnership, or an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3?
89 a 501(c)(3) organizations Enter Amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under section 4911, section 4912, and section 4955
89 b 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or did it become aware of an excess benefit transaction from a prior year?
89 c Enter Amount of tax imposed on the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958
89 d Enter Amount of tax on line 89c, above, reimbursed by the organization
90 a List the states with which a copy of this return is filed
90 b Number of employees employed in the pay period that includes March 12, 2004
91 The books are in care of Telephone no

Located at 3301 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE. #450 ARLINGTON, VA ZIP + 4 22201

92 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041- Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year

Part VII Analysis of Income-Producing Activities (See page 33 of the instructions)

	Unrelated business income		Excluded by section 512, 513, or 514		(E) Related or exempt function income
	(A) Business code	(B) Amount	(C) Exclu- sion code	(D) Amount	
Note Enter gross amounts unless otherwise indicated					
93 Program service revenue					
a PUBLICATIONS					110.
b					
c					
d					
e					
f Medicare/Medicaid payments					
g Fees and contracts from government agencies					
94 Membership dues and assessments					
95 Interest on savings and temporary cash investments			14	18,752.	
96 Dividends and interest from securities			14	35,216.	
97 Net rental income or (loss) from real estate					
a debt-financed property					
b not debt-financed property					
98 Net rental income or (loss) from personal property					
99 Other investment income					
100 Gain or (loss) from sales of assets other than inventory			18	<16,546.>	
101 Net income or (loss) from special events					
102 Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory					
103 Other revenue					
a MISCELLANEOUS					8,421.
b					
c					
d					
e					
104 Subtotal (add columns (B), (D), and (E))		0.		37,422.	8,531.
105 Total (add line 104, columns (B), (D), and (E))					45,953.

Note. Line 105 plus line 1d, Part I, should equal the amount on line 12, Part I

Part VIII Relationship of Activities to the Accomplishment of Exempt Purposes (See page 34 of the instructions)

Line No.	Explain how each activity for which income is reported in column (E) of Part VII contributed importantly to the accomplishment of the organization's exempt purposes (other than by providing funds for such purposes)
▼	SEE STATEMENT 9

Part IX Information Regarding Taxable Subsidiaries and Disregarded Entities (See page 34 of the instructions)

(A) Name, address, and EIN of corporation, partnership, or disregarded entity	(B) Percentage of ownership interest	(C) Nature of activities	(D) Total income	(E) End-of-year assets
N/A	%			
	%			
	%			
	%			

Part X Information Regarding Transfers Associated with Personal Benefit Contracts (See page 34 of the instructions)

(a) Did the organization, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract? Yes No

(b) Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? Yes No

Note. If "Yes" to (b), file Form 8870 and Form 4720 (see instructions)

Please Sign Here Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Signature of officer: GARY LEFT Date: 12-30-05 Type or print name and title: Treasurer

Paid Preparer's Use Only Preparer's signature: Michael D. Hoeh Date: 12/30/2005 Check if self-employed: Preparer's SSN or PTIN: _____

Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4: RAFFA, P.C.
1899 L STREET, NW, SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EIN: _____ Phone no: (202) 822-5000

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Organization Exempt Under Section 501(c)(3)

(Except Private Foundation) and Section 501(e), 501(f), 501(k),
501(n), or Section 4947(a)(1) Nonexempt Charitable Trust

Supplementary Information-(See separate instructions.)
▶ **MUST be completed by the above organizations and attached to their Form 990 or 990-EZ**

OMB No 1545-0047

2004

Name of the organization: **MERCATUS CENTER, INC.** Employer identification number: **54 1436224**

Part I Compensation of the Five Highest Paid Employees Other Than Officers, Directors, and Trustees

(See page 1 of the instructions List each one If there are none, enter "None")

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$50,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans & deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
HON. MAURICE P. MCTIGUE, Q.S.O. 3301 N FAIRFAX DR ARLINGTON, VA 22201	DIR. GOV. ACC 40 HRS/WEEK	145,019.	3,330.	0.
SUSAN DUDLEY 3301 N FAIRFAX DR ARLINGTON, VA 22201	ASSOC. DIR. 40 HRS/WEEK	115,000.	3,655.	0.
LAWSON BADER 3301 N FAIRFAX DR ARLINGTON, VA 22201	DIR. EC. EDUC 40 HRS/WEEK	111,657.	3,420.	0.
DR. JEROME ELLIG 3301 N FAIRFAX DR ARLINGTON, VA 22201	SR. RES. FEL. 40 HRS/WEEK	124,000.	3,925.	0.
HON. TIMOTHY ROEMER 3301 N FAIRFAX DR ARLINGTON, VA 22201	DIST. SCHOLAR 40 HRS/WEEK	132,257.	3,260.	0.
Total number of other employees paid over \$50,000 ▶	9			

Part II Compensation of the Five Highest Paid Independent Contractors for Professional Services

(See page 2 of the instructions List each one (whether individuals or firms) If there are none, enter "None")

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$50,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
STEPHEN CLOUSE & ASSOCIATES 43538 GOLDEN MEADOW CIRCLE, ASHBURN, VA 20147	VIDEO PRODUCTION SERVICES	181,436.
J.C. WATTS COMPANIES, LLC 600 13TH ST. NW SUITE 790, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005	CONSULTING	75,000.
KUDLOW AND COMPANY, LLC ONE DAG HAMMERSKJOLD PLAZA, 885 2ND AVENUE AT 48TH ST. 26TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10017	CONSULTING	70,000.
Total number of others receiving over \$50,000 for professional services ▶	0	

Part III Statements About Activities (See page 2 of the instructions)

	Yes	No
1 During the year, has the organization attempted to influence national, state, or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum? If "Yes," enter the total expenses paid or incurred in connection with the lobbying activities \$ _____ \$ _____ (Must equal amounts on line 38, Part VI-A, or line i of Part VI-B) Organizations that made an election under section 501(h) by filing Form 5768 must complete Part VI-A Other organizations checking "Yes," must complete Part VI-B AND attach a statement giving a detailed description of the lobbying activities		X
2 During the year, has the organization, either directly or indirectly, engaged in any of the following acts with any substantial contributors, trustees, directors, officers, creators, key employees, or members of their families, or with any taxable organization with which any such person is affiliated as an officer, director, trustee, majority owner, or principal beneficiary? (If the answer to any question is "Yes," attach a detailed statement explaining the transactions)		
a Sale, exchange, or leasing of property?		X
b Lending of money or other extension of credit?		X
c Furnishing of goods, services, or facilities?		X
d Payment of compensation (or payment or reimbursement of expenses if more than \$1,000)? SEE PART V, FORM 990	X	
e Transfer of any part of its income or assets?		X
3 a Do you make grants for scholarships, fellowships, student loans, etc ? (If "Yes," attach an explanation of how you determine that recipients qualify to receive payments) SEE STATEMENT 10	X	
b Do you have a section 403(b) annuity plan for your employees?	X	
4 a Did you maintain any separate account for participating donors where donors have the right to provide advice on the use or distribution of funds?		X
b Do you provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services?		X

Part IV Reason for Non-Private Foundation Status (See pages 3 through 6 of the instructions)

The organization is not a private foundation because it is (Please check only ONE applicable box)

- 5 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches Section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)
- 6 A school Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) (Also complete Part V)
- 7 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)
- 8 A Federal, state, or local government or governmental unit Section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)
- 9 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii) Enter the hospital's name, city, and state **▶ _____**
- 10 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) (Also complete the **Support Schedule** in Part IV-A)
- 11a An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) (Also complete the **Support Schedule** in Part IV-A)
- 11b A community trust Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) (Also complete the **Support Schedule** in Part IV-A)
- 12 An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its charitable, etc , functions - subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975 See section 509(a)(2) (Also complete the **Support Schedule** in Part IV-A)
- 13 An organization that is not controlled by any disqualified persons (other than foundation managers) and supports organizations described in (1) lines 5 through 12 above, or (2) section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6), if they meet the test of section 509(a)(2) (See section 509(a)(3))

Provide the following information about the supported organizations (See page 5 of the instructions)

(a) Name(s) of supported organization(s)	(b) Line number from above

- 14 An organization organized and operated to test for public safety Section 509(a)(4) (See page 5 of the instructions)

Part IV-A Support Schedule (Complete only if you checked a box on line 10, 11, or 12) **Use cash method of accounting.**
Note: You may use the worksheet in the instructions for converting from the accrual to the cash method of accounting.

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2003	(b) 2002	(c) 2001	(d) 2000	(e) Total
15 Gifts, grants, and contributions received (Do not include unusual grants. See line 28.)	3,678,594.	4,489,323.	2,656,093.	4,769,635.	15,593,645.
16 Membership fees received					
17 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or furnishing of facilities in any activity that is related to the organization's charitable, etc., purpose	89,491.	178,029.	43,698.	128,188.	439,406.
18 Gross income from interest, dividends, amounts received from payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), rents, royalties, and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975	178,191.	148,234.	24,542.	71,822.	422,789.
19 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 18					
20 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to it or expended on its behalf					
21 The value of services or facilities furnished to the organization by a governmental unit without charge. Do not include the value of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge.					
22 Other income. Attach a schedule. Do not include gain or (loss) from sale of capital assets.	4,249.	4,437.	SEE STATEMENT 11 3,302.	4,163.	16,151.
23 Total of lines 15 through 22	3,950,525.	4,820,023.	2,727,635.	4,973,808.	16,471,991.
24 Line 23 minus line 17	3,861,034.	4,641,994.	2,683,937.	4,845,620.	16,032,585.
25 Enter 1% of line 23	39,505.	48,200.	27,276.	49,738.	
26 Organizations described on lines 10 or 11	a Enter 2% of amount in column (e), line 24				26a 320,652.
	b Prepare a list for your records to show the name of and amount contributed by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) whose total gifts for 2000 through 2003 exceeded the amount shown in line 26a. Do not file this list with your return. Enter the total of all these excess amounts.				26b 218,696.
	c Total support for section 509(a)(1) test. Enter line 24, column (e).				26c 16,032,585.
	d Add: Amounts from column (e) for lines 18 <u>422,789.</u> 19 _____ 22 <u>16,151.</u> 26b <u>218,696.</u>				26d 657,636.
	e Public support (line 26c minus line 26d total)				26e 15,374,949.
	f Public support percentage (line 26e (numerator) divided by line 26c (denominator))				26f 95.8981%
27 Organizations described on line 12	a For amounts included in lines 15, 16, and 17 that were received from a "disqualified person," prepare a list for your records to show the name of, and total amounts received in each year from, each "disqualified person." Do not file this list with your return. Enter the sum of such amounts for each year: (2003) N/A (2002) (2001) (2000)				
	b For any amount included in line 17 that was received from each person (other than "disqualified persons"), prepare a list for your records to show the name of, and amount received for each year, that was more than the larger of (1) the amount on line 25 for the year or (2) \$5,000. (Include in the list organizations described in lines 5 through 11, as well as individuals.) Do not file this list with your return. After computing the difference between the amount received and the larger amount described in (1) or (2), enter the sum of these differences (the excess amounts) for each year: (2003) (2002) (2001) (2000)				
	c Add: Amounts from column (e) for lines 15 _____ 16 _____ 17 _____ 20 _____ 21 _____				27c N/A
	d Add: Line 27a total _____ and line 27b total _____				27d N/A
	e Public support (line 27c total minus line 27d total)				27e N/A
	f Total support for section 509(a)(2) test. Enter amount on line 23, column (e)				27f N/A
	g Public support percentage (line 27e (numerator) divided by line 27f (denominator))				27g N/A %
	h Investment income percentage (line 18, column (e) (numerator) divided by line 27f (denominator))				27h N/A %

28 Unusual Grants: For an organization described in line 10, 11, or 12 that received any unusual grants during 2000 through 2003, prepare a list for your records to show, for each year, the name of the contributor, the date and amount of the grant, and a brief description of the nature of the grant. Do not file this list with your return. Do not include these grants in line 15

Part V Private School Questionnaire (See page 7 of the instructions.)

N/A

(To be completed ONLY by schools that checked the box on line 6 in Part IV)

		Yes	No
29	Does the organization have a racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students by statement in its charter, bylaws, other governing instrument, or in a resolution of its governing body?		
30	Does the organization include a statement of its racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students in all its brochures, catalogues, and other written communications with the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?		
31	Has the organization publicized its racially nondiscriminatory policy through newspaper or broadcast media during the period of solicitation for students, or during the registration period if it has no solicitation program, in a way that makes the policy known to all parts of the general community it serves? If "Yes," please describe, if "No," please explain (If you need more space, attach a separate statement)		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>			
32	Does the organization maintain the following		
a	Records indicating the racial composition of the student body, faculty, and administrative staff?	32a	
b	Records documenting that scholarships and other financial assistance are awarded on a racially nondiscriminatory basis?	32b	
c	Copies of all catalogues, brochures, announcements, and other written communications to the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?	32c	
d	Copies of all material used by the organization or on its behalf to solicit contributions? If you answered "No" to any of the above, please explain (If you need more space, attach a separate statement)	32d	
<hr/> <hr/>			
33	Does the organization discriminate by race in any way with respect to		
a	Students' rights or privileges?	33a	
b	Admissions policies?	33b	
c	Employment of faculty or administrative staff?	33c	
d	Scholarships or other financial assistance?	33d	
e	Educational policies?	33e	
f	Use of facilities?	33f	
g	Athletic programs?	33g	
h	Other extracurricular activities? If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please explain (If you need more space, attach a separate statement)	33h	
<hr/> <hr/>			
34 a	Does the organization receive any financial aid or assistance from a governmental agency?	34a	
b	Has the organization's right to such aid ever been revoked or suspended? If you answered "Yes" to either 34a or b, please explain using an attached statement	34b	
35	Does the organization certify that it has complied with the applicable requirements of sections 4 01 through 4 05 of Rev Proc 75-50, 1975-2 C B 587, covering racial nondiscrimination? If "No," attach an explanation	35	

Part VI-A Lobbying Expenditures by Electing Public Charities (See page 9 of the instructions)
 (To be completed ONLY by an eligible organization that filed Form 5768)

N/A

Check **a** if the organization belongs to an affiliated group Check **b** if you checked "a" and "limited control" provisions apply

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred)		(a) Affiliated group totals	(b) To be completed for ALL electing organizations												
		N/A													
36	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grassroots lobbying)	36													
37	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)	37													
38	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 36 and 37)	38													
39	Other exempt purpose expenditures	39													
40	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 38 and 39)	40													
41	Lobbying nontaxable amount Enter the amount from the following table -														
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>If the amount on line 40 is -</td> <td>The lobbying nontaxable amount is -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not over \$500,000</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$1,000,000</td> </tr> </table>	If the amount on line 40 is -	The lobbying nontaxable amount is -	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 40	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000	41	
If the amount on line 40 is -	The lobbying nontaxable amount is -														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 40														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000														
42	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 41)	42													
43	Subtract line 42 from line 36 Enter -0- if line 42 is more than line 36	43													
44	Subtract line 41 from line 38 Enter -0- if line 41 is more than line 38	44													

Caution: If there is an amount on either line 43 or line 44, you must file Form 4720

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)

(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below See the instructions for lines 45 through 50 on page 11 of the instructions)

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period				N/A
	(a) 2004	(b) 2003	(c) 2002	(d) 2001	(e) Total
45	Lobbying nontaxable amount				0.
46	Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 45(e))				0.
47	Total lobbying expenditures				0.
48	Grassroots nontaxable amount				0.
49	Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 48(e))				0.
50	Grassroots lobbying expenditures				0.

Part VI-B Lobbying Activity by Nonelecting Public Charities

(For reporting only by organizations that did not complete Part VI-A) (See page 11 of the instructions)

During the year, did the organization attempt to influence national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of	Yes	No	Amount
a Volunteers		X	
b Paid staff or management (Include compensation in expenses reported on lines c through h.)		X	
c Media advertisements		X	
d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public		X	
e Publications, or published or broadcast statements		X	
f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes		X	
g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body		X	
h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any other means		X	
i Total lobbying expenditures (Add lines c through h)			0.

If "Yes" to any of the above, also attach a statement giving a detailed description of the lobbying activities

FORM 990	GAIN (LOSS) FROM PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES			STATEMENT	1
DESCRIPTION	GROSS SALES PRICE	COST OR OTHER BASIS	EXPENSE OF SALE	NET GAIN OR (LOSS)	
INVESTMENTS	1,509,835.	1,526,381.	0.	<16,546.>	
TOTAL TO FORM 990, PART I, LINE 8	1,509,835.	1,526,381.	0.	<16,546.>	

FORM 990	OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES		STATEMENT	2
DESCRIPTION				AMOUNT
UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS				3,074.
TOTAL TO FORM 990, PART I, LINE 20				3,074.

FORM 990	OTHER EXPENSES				STATEMENT	3
DESCRIPTION	(A) TOTAL	(B) PROGRAM SERVICES	(C) MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	(D) FUNDRAISING		
INSURANCE	8,547.	7,436.	513.	598.		
PROPERTY TAX	2,730.	2,375.	164.	191.		
AUDIO VISUAL	12,828.	12,828.	0.	0.		
MISCELLANEOUS	25,318.	14,504.	10,187.	627.		
SPACE ADVERTISING	1,530.	1,530.	0.	0.		
BOOKS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	16,415.	16,234.	147.	34.		
PROFESSIONAL FEES	489,415.	303,136.	1,607.	184,672.		
HONORARIA	351,178.	351,154.	24.	0.		
TOTAL TO FM 990, LN 43	907,961.	709,197.	12,642.	186,122.		

FORM 990 STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION'S PRIMARY EXEMPT PURPOSE STATEMENT 4
PART III

EXPLANATION

THE CENTER'S PRIMARY EXEMPT PURPOSE IS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS AND IS AN ORGANIZATION WHICH USES SOUND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND APPLICATION IN THE HUMANE SCIENCES THAT INTEGRATES THEORY AND PRACTICE TO DEVELOP INSIGHTS AND TOOLS THAT CAN SUSTAINABLY ADVANCE A FREE, PROSPEROUS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

FORM 990 CASH GRANTS AND ALLOCATIONS STATEMENT 5

CLASSIFICATION	DONEE'S NAME	DONEE'S ADDRESS	DONEE'S RELATIONSHIP	AMOUNT
GMU ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION	4400 UNIVERSITY DR. FAIRFAX, VA 22030	NONE	40,000.
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY	4400 UNIVERSITY DR. FAIRFAX, VA 22030	NONE	29,276.
STUDENT SUPPORT	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY	4400 UNIVERSITY DR. FAIRFAX, VA 22030	NONE	162,959.
CENTER FOR STUDY OF PUBLIC CHOICE	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY	4400 UNIVERSITY DR. FAIRFAX, VA 22030	NONE	2,300.
FELLOWSHIPS	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY	4400 UNIVERSITY DR. FAIRFAX, VA 22030	NONE	26,491.
TOTAL INCLUDED ON FORM 990, PART II, LINE 22				261,026.

FORM 990 OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES STATEMENT 6

DESCRIPTION	GRANTS AND ALLOCATIONS	EXPENSES
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH & TEACHING	190,943.	496,817.
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY		363,042.
OTHER		115,845.
TOTAL TO FORM 990, PART III, LINE E	190,943.	975,704.

FORM 990 NON-GOVERNMENT SECURITIES STATEMENT 7

SECURITY DESCRIPTION	COST/FMV	CORPORATE STOCKS	CORPORATE BONDS	OTHER PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES	TOTAL NON-GOV'T SECURITIES
CORPORATE BONDS	FMV		132,580.		132,580.
MUTUAL FUNDS	FMV			483,107.	483,107.
TO FORM 990, LINE 54, COL B			132,580.	483,107.	615,687.

FORM 990 PART V - LIST OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES AND KEY EMPLOYEES STATEMENT 8

NAME AND ADDRESS	TITLE AND AVRG HRS/WK	COMPEN-SATION	EMPLOYEE BEN PLAN CONTRIB	EXPENSE ACCOUNT
PROF. TYLER COWEN 3301 N. FAIRFAX DR. STE. 450 ARLINGTON, VA 22201	CHAIRMAN <1 HR/WK	0.	0.	0.
DR. ANTHONY WOODLIEF 3301 N. FAIRFAX DR. STE. 450 ARLINGTON, VA 22201	PRESIDENT 40 HRS/WK	125,000.	13,351.	0.
COLLEEN MORRETTA 3301 N. FAIRFAX DR. STE. 450 ARLINGTON, VA 22201	SECRETARY 40 HRS/WK	58,000.	301.	0.
GARY D. LEFF 3301 N. FAIRFAX DR. STE. 450 ARLINGTON, VA 22201	TREASURER 20 HRS/WK	51,551.	3,528.	0.
FRANK B. ATKINSON 3301 N. FAIRFAX DR. STE. 450 ARLINGTON, VA 22201	DIRECTOR <1 HR/WK	0.	0.	0.
DR. VERNON L. SMITH 3301 N. FAIRFAX DR. STE. 450 ARLINGTON, VA 22201	DIRECTOR <1 HR/WK	0.	0.	0.
DWIGHT C. SCHAR 3301 N. FAIRFAX DR. STE. 450 ARLINGTON, VA 22201	DIRECTOR <1 HR/WK	0.	0.	0.

FACULTY AWARDS ARE GIVEN TO THOSE CENTER FACULTY MEMBERS WHO ARE IN GOOD STANDING AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AND WHO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN ORIGINAL RESEARCH. AWARDS ARE USUALLY RESTRICTED TO THOSE PROJECTS AND FACULTY FOR WHICH RESEARCH SUPPORT CAN BE OBTAINED. RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES, BOOK MANUSCRIPTS, MONOGRAPHS, OR OTHER QUALITY PRODUCTS.

SCHEDULE A	OTHER INCOME			STATEMENT 11
DESCRIPTION	2003 AMOUNT	2002 AMOUNT	2001 AMOUNT	2000 AMOUNT
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	4,249.	4,437.	3,302.	4,163.
TOTAL TO SCHEDULE A, LINE 22	<u>4,249.</u>	<u>4,437.</u>	<u>3,302.</u>	<u>4,163.</u>

Mercatus Center, Inc.
 Form 990, Part II, Line 42 - Depreciation
 Form 990, Part IV, Line 57 - Land, Buildings, and Equipment
 Year Ended August 31, 2005

54-1436224

ASSETS

	Beginning of Year	Additions	Disposals	End of Year
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	\$ 318,954	\$ 16,036	\$ (16,751)	\$ 318,239
Leasehold Improvements	2,903	-	-	2,903
Total	\$ 321,857	\$ 16,036	\$ (16,751)	\$ 321,142

ACCUMULATED
DEPRECIATION

	Beginning of Year	Current Year Depreciation	Disposals	End of Year
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	\$ 260,480	\$ 36,041	\$ (16,751)	\$ 279,770
Leasehold Improvements	2,053	-	-	2,053
Total	\$ 262,533	\$ 36,041	\$ (16,751)	\$ 281,823

Note: Property and equipment are stated at cost and are depreciated over estimated useful lives of five to seven years using the straight-line method, with no salvage value. Leasehold improvements are stated at cost and are amortized over the remaining term of the lease or their useful life, whichever is shorter.