DIRECTOR’S NOTE
I am pleased to announce the inauguration of the CNISS electronic newsletter. We plan to distribute the e-letter on a monthly basis to our CNISS community to provide brief updates on Center research and activities.

As the Center continues its significant research projects, conferences, and initiatives, we will use this vehicle to keep all of you abreast of our current work and activities, as well as to update you on our important events and announcements.

We thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to updating all of you on our future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Itai Sened
Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences

Conference Recognizes Legacy and Work of Professor Douglass C. North

CNISS is honored to be hosting a very special conference November 4-6, 2010, which will bring the top social scientists in the U.S. to come and share their innovative and independent research related to the work of Douglass North, honoring the legacy of his writings and research. Elinor Ostrom, the 2009 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, will be giving the keynote address at this event. More information on this event will be posted in the near future at http://cniss.wustl.edu

CNISS Welcomes Blaut and Mendelson To Advisory Council

We are very pleased to welcome Andrew C. Mendelson, Vice President, Fixed Income Banking at RBC Capital Markets, and Ari Blaut, Associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, as the newest members of our CNISS Advisory Council. The Advisory Council integrates non-academic viewpoints into the activities of CNISS to help build the CNISS community.

The Center for New Institutional Social Sciences (CNISS) originated with the work of Douglass C. North, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics in 1993. Central to Professor North’s work is applying economics more effectively in enhancing the growth and development of individual nations.

The Center’s mission is to promote new institutional designs to help foster the political stability and economic growth of developing and transition economies, by drawing on the various social sciences in an interdisciplinary effort.
Improving Household Well-Being Through Dairy Goat Promotion in Samburu District, Kenya
Carolyn Lesorogol, Associate Professor at the GWB School of Social Work and CNISS Academic Board Member
Funds given to support a small-scale intervention to incorporate highly productive dairy goats in a community of Samburu pastoralists in Kenya.

Monitoring Confidence: Impact of Electoral Monitoring on Citizen’s Behavior
Dawn Brancati, Assistant Professor in Political Science
Funds given for travel to Kosova to conduct post-experiment and post-survey field research to examine the effect of electoral monitors on voter confidence and electoral turnout.

Early vs. Late Cessation in Pregnancy: What is the Deadline for Smoking Mothers to Quit?
Ji Yan, Former CNISS Ph.D. Certificate Program Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Funds given to present paper on this topic at the Biennial Conference of the American Society of Health Economists

Donna-Mae Knights, Former CNISS Ph.D. Certificate Program Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate in the GWB School of Social Work
Funds given to purchase statistical software and travel to Trinidad and Tobago, to conduct qualitative research in four local communities on how the government’s community-based response program reduces crime.

Institutional and Development Policy Change and Impact on Subsistence Communities in India
Dolly Daftary, Former CNISS Ph.D. Certificate Program Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate in the GWB School of Social Work
Funds given to present papers accepted to be published in top research journals on multisite ethnographic fieldwork in India which explores the impact of watershed development on household well-being, social relations and community-level inequality.

UPCOMING SPRING 2010 CNISS LECTURES
All the lectures listed below are on Mondays and start at 12 noon. They are preceded by a buffet lunch at 11:30 a.m. They are held in Seigle Hall 170, the Weidenbaum Center Conference room, at Washington University in St. Louis. For more information on these lectures and to RSVP, please email us at cniss@artsci.wustl.edu. Examples of our past lectures can be found at http://cniss.wustl.edu

March 22
“Institutional Leadership in Renewable Energy Development: Filling the Institutional Void”
Alfred Marcus, Spencer Endowed Chair in Strategy and Technological Leadership at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota and the founder of the Minnesota Environmental Initiative

March 29
David Camp, Attorney at Law, Access Disability, LLC

April 5
“From Brussels to Beijing: Can the European Model be Exported to East Asia?”
Simon Hix, Professor of European and Comparative Politics at the Department of Government in the London School of Economics and Political Science

April 19
“The Significance of Institutions in Curbing Violence”
Douglass North, Spencer T. Olin Professor in Arts and Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis and 1993 recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics

April 26
“Why What is Wrong with Wall Street is No Different than What is Wrong with Main Street”
Sarit Smila, Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis

FACULTY AND STUDENT PROPOSALS ACCEPTED FOR CNISS FUNDING

CNISS SUPPORT
Expansion of our current programs, the creation of new programs, and our research efforts all require funding on a continual basis. For more information on how you can support CNISS initiatives, please contact Mike Worley, Executive Director of Development for Regional Projects, Arts & Sciences, 314-935-9871, Mike_Worley@wustl.edu