As the end of this academic year approaches, I am happy to report that the Center has had one of its most successful years ever. As many of you know, the conference we hosted in honor of Nobel Laureate Douglass C. North had over 300 attendees and brought in the best and the brightest disciples of Professor North from around the globe who shared their research and thoughts on the influence he has had on their research today. The North Research Fund, launched in conjunction with the conference, continues to bring in support for young scholars and junior faculty so the important research of Professor North can be continued. We want to thank Scott and Joanne Simowitz for playing a leadership role in promoting and supporting the Fund.

We continue our research efforts on the examination of renewable energy technologies and policies, and the redefinition of the middle class. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the students and scholars involved in this effort, as well as those who have provided us funding.

This issue is dedicated to our two educational programs that have reached new heights of excellence. We highlight the way that two of our former graduate certificate program students, William Elliott III and Dino Falaschetti, have significantly influenced public policy at the highest national level. We then dedicate the second part of the newsletter to celebrate the remarkable success of the Hirsch Undergraduate Fellow program that have sent our students to top positions in the legal, public, private sectors and in academia.

We encourage you to visit our CNISS website at http://cniss.wustl.edu for information on confirmed dates for all of our Fall 2011/Spring 2012 speakers, as well as all of our CNISS research efforts and educational activities. We wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Itai Sened
CNISS Director
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

May, 2011


William Elliott III, Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh and a Faculty Associate at the Center for Social Development at Washington University’s Brown School of Social Work, presented his research at Washington University in April 2011 on children’s savings accounts and educational outcomes.

Willie, a former CNISS Certificate Program Fellow in Social Work, researches the effect of ISAs (Individual Savings Accounts) on college success and his research is gaining traction nationwide. Last month, the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan cited research by Elliott and co-authors that connects ISAs to higher college attendance numbers, in a message announcing a new partnership to improve financial education, savings, and college access for low- and moderate-income students. The study, forthcoming in the Journal of Children and Poverty, found that among youth who expected to graduate from a four-year college, those with savings accounts in their names were approximately seven times more likely to attend college than those with no accounts. This finding was also cited on the Department of Education’s blog and in a recent article on college savings published in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

This is precisely the way CNISS aspires to make real contributions to the improvement of policymaking in the U.S. and in so many other spots around the globe. We are so proud to have supported and guided this research during Willie’s tenure as a CNISS Certificate Fellow.

Highlighted CNISS Spring 2011 Lecturers

Money and Politics: an Insider’s Perspective on How the Game is Played — a Lecture by Robert Kallen

Robert Kallen is a visiting professor of economics at DePaul University, where he was the recipient of the 2007 Daniel Seiden-Teaching Award. He is also the recipient of the 2002 Distinguished Faculty Award and the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Teaching Excellence Award. He developed two new courses on business ethics which concentrate on the critical divides of race, class and gender issues as well as a course on business, government and democracy.

Unemployment, Underemployment, and Policy Responses — A Panel Discussion with Christina Romer

Co-sponsored by the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work & Social Capital at the Anheuser Busch Law School, The Center for Social Development at the GWB School of Social Work, the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, and CNISS

Christina Romer served as the Keynote Speaker of this panel discussion. Romer is considered an expert in economic history and macroeconomics and is a leading scholar of monetary and fiscal policy. She is the Garff B. Wilson Professor of Economics at the University of California-Berkeley, co-director of the Program in Monetary Economics at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and Former Chair of President Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers (CEA).

CNISS has had a long history of impacting the work of the CEA. Our own Professor Murray Weidenbaum was the Chair of the CEA under President Reagan between 1981-2, and our former graduate student, Dino

William Elliott


Robert Kallen

Christina Romer

CNISS SUPPORT

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Falaschetti served as a Senior Economist at the CEA between 2005-6. The conversation that took place between Professors Weidenbaum and Romer during her visit clearly reflected this history and mutual appreciation across administrations, academic schools and political persuasions.

We concluded this day of reflection on the current state of unemployment in the U.S. and different policies that may be considered to alleviate this situation.

Panelists for this discussion included:
- Steven Fazzari, Professor of Economics, Associate Director of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, and a member of the Academic Board of CNISS, Washington University in St. Louis
- Michael Sherraden, Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development and Director of the Center for Social Development at the GWB School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis
- Marion Crain, Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Work & Social Capital, Washington University School of Law
- William Emmons, Research Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Adjunct Professor of Finance at Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis.

The Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on the Development of African Economies since 1450
— A Lecture by Warren Whatley

Co-sponsored by the Program in African and African-American Studies

Professor Warren Whatley is Professor of Economics and Faculty Member of the Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan. He is also the Honorary Visiting Professor of Economics at Washington University in St. Louis.

Professor Whatley has been on the economics faculty at the University of Michigan since 1981. In 1992 he also joined the faculty of the Center for Afro-American and African Studies. He received his PhD in economics from Stanford University in 1982 and he is known primarily for his research on the economic history of African Americans in the 20th century United States.

We would like to thank the Levinson family for their continued support of our speaker series.
CNISS Hirsch Family Undergraduate Program:

It’s All in the Family

With many of our Hirsch Family Undergraduate Program students about to graduate and the continued great success of this program, we thought this would be a good time to provide a brief history of the program and to highlight some of our past and present Fellows and their achievements.

The program started with the initiative and support of Gary and Diane Hirsch, who were interested in providing students an outlet to embark on original research in the social sciences. This initiative provided CNISS with the means to establish an Institutional Social Analysis Minor in 2002, which combined coursework with independent research under outstanding Washington University faculty, allowing undergraduate students the unique opportunity to study the new institutional social sciences both inside and outside the classroom.

Initially, we had four students enrolled:

Barry Cynamon received his MBA from the University of Chicago and partnered with our own Professor Steve Fazzari of Economics, on a highly-cited and praised article on “Household Debt in the Consumer Age.” This work is often cited as one of the best on the fundamental flaws in the U.S. economy of the last two or three decades that led to the financial crisis of 2008 in the U.S. and around the globe.

Ari Blaut, now a lawyer at the internationally recognized Sullivan and Cromwell LLP, sits on our CNISS Advisory Council.

Robert Holahan recently accepted an Adjunct Professor position here at Washington University with our Political Science department after receiving his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Indiana. The Chair of his dissertation committee is Elinor Ostrom, the recent recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2009 and the only woman to ever receive the prize.

Priya Mathew, another of our past and outstanding graduates of the program, now works at Google as a legal and strategy consultant.

The program has now expanded by leaps and bounds and generally houses around 10 or more students at any given time. We have also incorporated a weekly CNISS seminar class as part of the requirement for the Fellows. This seminar gives students the opportunity to present their independent research efforts throughout the academic year. As the seminar is also a requirement for our CNISS Ph.D. Certificate Program Fellows, the undergraduates gain valuable feedback, critique, and support from those pursuing their doctorate in a very intimate setting.

Below we provide a sampling of a few of the outstanding fellows who have gone through the Hirsch Family Undergraduate Program in the past and a few that are currently enrolled:

Guillaume Auffret and his mother Sylviane Auffret during May 2010 graduation

Guillaume Auffret, Bachelors in Political Science, 2010. Guillaume, a transfer student from Sciences-Po Paris University in France, was one of our first undergraduate energy researchers, and explored alternative energy policy in Brittany, France, specifically examining wind and tidal industries there. He is now back at Sciences-Po Paris University pursuing a graduate degree in the Corporate Law program.
Michael Craig, Bachelors in Political Science, 2010. Michael’s research focused on institutional designs that affect renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. Michael was instrumental in starting our efforts to put together a major national energy database. Michael won a 2009 Undergraduate Research Award to travel to Montreal, with CNISS Director Itai Sened, and present his research efforts on institutional policy and implementation of new renewable energy technologies at a major conference there. Michael is a co-author of the forthcoming chapter “Institutions Matter: The Role of Institutions in Wind Energy,” part of a larger book on “Cross-Sector Leadership for the Green Economy” to be published by Palgrave-MacMillan Publishers.

Laura Kelly, Bachelors in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, 2010. Laura won a 2009 Undergraduate Research Award for her work on how the word “recession” affects economic decision making. Laura was invited to participate in the 2009 Mellon Summer School in Logic and Formal Epistemology at Carnegie Mellon University, and is currently working at a prestigious graduate psychology research lab at the University of California-Berkeley.

Chike Croslin will receive a Bachelors degree in Political Science in May 2011. Chike’s research focused on racial bias in the U.S. incarcerated population. He will be enrolling in The Master's of Science in Anthropology and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the Fall of 2011. Devoted to the social sciences in the UK, the program has a strong international character and a solid empirical background, positioning students for further research in Anthropology, Development Studies, and other related fields.

Renee Kramer will receive a Bachelors in Political Science, May 2011. Renee conducted research about the economy in Israel and the factors that have allowed the small country to attract large amounts of foreign investment. She won a 2010 Undergraduate Research Award to travel to Tel Aviv where she had the opportunity to interview Israeli entrepreneurs, investors, and government officials to gain insight about the unique institutional behavior that has contributed to the success of the Israeli economy. Renee received the Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman Prize which recognizes a student at Washington University who has made a significant contribution in leadership and service to ecumenical or interfaith activities on campus. She is planning to continue her education by attending the University of Miami law school this coming Fall with the intention of becoming an active part of globalization and engaging in international business affairs.

Alex Christensen will receive a Bachelors in Economics and Political Science in May 2011. He is currently conducting research on comparative energy policy for CNISS, examining different types of alternative energy technologies and policies associated with the use of these technologies in the U.S. and abroad. Alex is a contributor to the online article on “The Importance of Extending the 1603 Treasury Grant Program,” published on the Americans for Energy Leadership site.

Daniel Guenther, Sophomore CNISS Hirsch Undergraduate Fellow, received a 2011 Undergraduate Research Award through Washington University. His research project examines the difference between states that elect their judges versus those that appoint them. His award will allow him to create an original dataset to test his hypothesis that elected judges are more ideologically consistent with the citizens of their state than those that are appointed.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Hirsches for both their support and their vision, and to wish our graduating seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors.