Updates on CNISS Projects

Goat Project

The purpose of this project was to begin a community-based initiative introducing improved dairy goats in a Kenyan community (Samburu, in northern Kenya) where Professor Carolyn Lesorogol, School of Social Work, has done research for about 10 years. Professor Lesorogol worked with 30 households who have formed small groups that will care for the improved goats, which produce about 8 times as much milk as the local variety of goats and have a much higher market value. The idea is that the groups will manage a breeding program in which local residents will bring their own goats to cross breed with the improved goats, thereby gradually improving the productivity of goats in the whole community.

This summer, Professor Lesorogol conducted several follow-up visits to households where goats were kept and conducted interviews on peoples’ expectations regarding the project, expected benefits, and challenges. A video record was started which will document the progress of the project, and a research assistant began his training in Kenya to conduct monthly follow-up and reporting on the project over the next year.

Collective Efficacy and Community-based Crime Prevention Project in Trinidad and Tobago

Donna-Mae Knights, CNISS Ph.D. Fellow in Social Work, commenced data collection in Trinidad and Tobago during the third week in October 2010. She began by conducting interviews with key staff of the Citizen Security Program (CSP) — the government’s community-based response program in the region — including the officer assigned to the first community. She also conducted archival research on this community which had the highest per capita murder rate in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009.

Thus far the main finding is that this community is one where cohesion and informal social control are highly dependent on the quality and functioning of local leaders and local organizations.

Over the next five months, Knights proposes to collect data in the remaining three communities. She plans to concentrate on conducting interviews and focus groups in communities in the region.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Kirk Ogrosky for his financial support for this project.
**Grant application for project on Redefining the Middle Class**

The Center has applied for a grant from the Institute for New Economic Thinking to support our research on redefining the middle class. The Center is examining the institutional determinants of the strength and weaknesses of the middle class and the way in which these affect the well-being of our societies.

The Institute for New Economic Thinking provides grants for “high-impact proposals from the next generation of economic thinkers who can help INET revitalize economics and change the economics profession for the better.” An obvious good fit with CNISS mission and expertise.

**CNISS Advisory Council Meeting in February 2011**

The CNISS Advisory Council met in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to discuss the speaker series, educational programs, and the Center's research. CNISS director Itai Sened presented information and updates on the work of our undergraduate and graduate students, as well as our ongoing research on alternative energy resources and the middle class.

There were also updates on our other current research endeavors and speakers, including a viewing of the first draft of the video produced by Professor Lesorogol on her community-based goat project. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Advisory Council members who were able to attend for providing their useful suggestions and comments regarding all aspects of the Center.

Additionally, we want to give special thanks to Scott Simowitz for hosting the meeting at his law firm and for Morrie Brown for providing planning and logistical assistance.

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**Recent and Upcoming CNISS Publications**


**Carlos Costa**

"The Importance of Extending the 1603 Treasury Grant Program." by Lon Huber and **Alex Christensen**, a Hirsch Undergraduate Fellow at CNISS, published online on the Americans for Energy Leadership site.

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**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
New Interdisciplinary Course offered through CNISS & WU School of Engineering

The course, *Energy and the Environment*, instructed students on how to understand decision making regarding energy and the environment, and provided a unique educational experience, wherein the challenges and potential solutions to meeting future energy needs were clearly elucidated via lectures and experiential learning. The contributors to this course were: Lead Instructors: Rich Axelbaum (Engineering) and Itai Sened (Political Science and CNISS) and Co-Instructors: Pratim Biswas (Engineering), Bill Darby (Engineering), David Peters (Engineering), Jay Turner (Engineering), Bill Lowry (Political Science), and Sebastian Galiani (Economics).

**Major topics covered in the course included:**
- Overview of Energy and the Environment and associated challenges
- Description of power generation from coal, natural gas, biomass, wind, solar, geothermal, and nuclear
- Political, environmental, and social considerations
- Regulations, Economics, Decision-making

Those enrolled in the course gained experience with software capable of analyzing renewable energy projects worldwide, from backyard to power plant scale systems. The course also included an experiential learning component, where those enrolled broke into groups to analyze and assess different alternative energies and their applicability in certain regions of the world. Ex post evaluations proved that the course was a huge success among students and many outside visitors that came just to get a taste of it. We are now working on expanding the initiative to a full blown M.S. degree in Engineering and Social Sciences.

Recent and Upcoming CNISS Publications (Continued)

**Michelle Bernard, Michael Craig, and Itai Sened.**

**Carlos Costa** and Itai Sened. “A Marginal Voter, General Equilibrium Theory of Politics.” Accepted for presentation at the 2011 APSA Annual Meeting on Politics and Rights

**Hirsch Family Undergraduate Fellow Chike Croslin accepted at the London School of Economics**

**Chike Croslin**, Hirsch Family Undergraduate Fellow in Political Science and soon-to-be graduate of Washington University, has been accepted to the Master’s Program in Science in Anthropology and Development at the London School of Economics. 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. This program will provide Chike with a more solid foundation that will help him discover his role in critiquing and reforming development policies and practices in the future. We wish Chike all the best!
Dr. Yaara Bar-On, Deputy President for Academic Affairs, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem. Prof. Yaara Bar-On holds a Ph.D. in history from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before participating in the Mandel School for Educational Leadership program, Yaara was a lecturer at Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Bar-On was in St. Louis to discuss exchange programs and collaborative efforts with Washington University and the Bezalel Academy and met with Dean Buzz Spector, Dean of the Graduate School of Art at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts in this regard. While here, she was treated to a guided tour of the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, as well as tours of the student studios and the St. Louis Art Museum by CNISS affiliated faculty and students.

Jack Oliver is the Founder and Senior Policy Advisor of Bryan Cave Strategies and served as advisor and chief strategist for the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign. In that role, he was described by Time magazine as “the man largely responsible for what is being heralded as the most formidable money machine in modern political history. He spoke on "Presidential Fundraising" as part of our Spring 2011 seminar series on "Money and Politics." Mr. Oliver’s presentation included a discussion of the rules and restrictions that apply to presidential candidates who accept public funding, as well as a detailed look at the impact of public funding in most recent presidential elections. Mr. Oliver also discussed the vast advantage President Obama had over Senator McCain in terms of their presence online and incorporation of new technology during the campaign. His lecture and the following discussion were rated by attendees as one of the best they had seen at Washington University.

Jasmin Aber is a research member of the “Shrinking Cities” research group at UC Berkeley's Center for Global Metropolitan Studies and is a licensed architect in Germany (RIBA I&II 1998). In the U.S. her work is largely academic and her research and design projects focus on the role human capital, creativity, culture, local assets and technology can play as a catalyst in urban (re)development in shrinking cities, and the degree to which they are intrinsic to successful strategies for sustainable community and economic development. Her lecture centered on a paradigm shift in urban development towards the creation of “creative cities,” which “cultivate arts and culture and foster an innovative economic base.” Her presentation included ideas for transforming and revitalizing the riverfront in downtown St. Louis.

On the growing unrest in the Middle East, Itai Sened participated in a panel discussion, along with journalist Repps Hudson and St. Louis University Professor Morris Kalliny of the SLU business school, on the "Crisis in the Arab World," put on by the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis (JCRC). To read an article on this lecture, please visit www.stljewishligh.com and type in Sened in the search engine. Professors Sened and Kalliny gave a similar overview and discussion for the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, as a part of their Public Policy lecture series. The discussion was titled “Why is the Middle East Burning And Can Anyone Put Out the Fire?” The discussion took place in front of a packed house and provided a forum for a number of interesting questions including the role of the US in the crisis, the role of cultural differences, and the role the definition of democracy, both in the US and abroad, played in the uprisings and the US media’s coverage of the topic.

On the energy front, Professor Sened gave a lecture as part of the School of Engineering’s Seminar Series on “The Math of Alternative Energy Sources.” This lecture addressed the theory and mathematics behind the examination of alternative energy sources and the institutional barriers to implementing these types of energy technologies. The presentation addressed examining other country examples from around the globe in areas such as solar and wind power technologies, and how policy decisions, both home and abroad, affect the implementation and production of alternative energy.