DIRECTOR’S NOTE

I am pleased to announce that the Center has been very fortunate in securing multiple grant support for our Energy-related research from Washington University entities — I-CARES – The International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy and Sustainability, Center for Programs, and MAGEEP – The McDonnell Academy Global Energy and Environment Partnership — as well as from IREE – International Research and Education in Engineering at the University of Minnesota.

We additionally received multiple grants from the Washington University Livable Lives Initiative through the School of Social Work, as well as from the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, and the Center for Programs, to pursue our continued research on redefining and better understanding the role of the middle class both here and abroad.

This long list of internal and external grants will support the remarkable research conducted by our undergraduate and graduate students as well as our leading scholars in these respective fields.

A quick note to keep November 4-6, 2010 open on your calendars for our very special event honoring the legacy and work of Douglass North. We are also very excited about our newly launched North Research Fund which will provide pilot and small research grants to junior faculty and students at Washington University in St. Louis.

You can find more information on both of the above in this e-letter and at our website, http://cniss.wustl.edu.

We wish everyone a terrific summer!

Sincerely,
Itai Senned

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

CNISS Establishes Douglass North Research Fund

Professor Douglass C. North, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics (1993), has been a pillar of the social science group at Washington University for over two decades. He has had a remarkable impact on the social sciences discipline as a whole. Central to his work is applying economics more effectively to enhance the growth and development of all nations. We are very excited about the newly established North Research Fund (NRF). The NRF will help us continue in our work at a paradigmatic shift in how we teach, define, and conduct research in the social sciences. Capitalizing on Washington University’s remarkable pool of talented students and faculty, the fund will support pilot and small research grants to junior faculty and students. The goal is to improve the reach and quality of social sciences research to go beyond theoretical technicalities and promote growth and social development around the globe through effective dissemination of groundbreaking and independent research that the NRF will support.

Professor North gave the kickoff lecture to inaugurate the Campaign for the Fund on May 3, 2010 (this lecture pictured above) to a crowd of over 100 people. He spoke on his research on violence and social institutions. This lecture can be viewed on our CNISS YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/CNISSwashingtonuniv.

The contributions of Professor North can only continue through the work of future generations and the support of individuals. For more information on the Fund and how to support it, both generally and for specific projects funded by CNISS, please visit our website at http://cniss.wustl.edu or email the center at cniss@arts.wustl.edu.

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.
UPCOMING FALL 2010 CNISS LECTURES

We are very excited about how our line-up of speakers is shaping up for the Fall 2010 CNISS Lecture Series. Lectures are held on Mondays and start at 12 noon, preceded by a buffet lunch at 11:30 a.m. All lectures are held on the Washington University campus and will take place in Seigle Hall, Room 148. To view topics and presenters from past lectures, visit http://cniss.wustl.edu

Below we list two of the speakers for which we have already confirmed dates for Fall 2010:

October 11, 2010
“How the Welfare System Could Cause Israel to Collapse”
Dan Ben David, Executive Director of Jerusalem-based Taube Center for Social Policy Studies – Israel.

Professor Ben-David’s research examines the effects of the welfare system in Israel on the country’s economic performance. According to his research, nearly one in five Israeli men between the ages of 35-54 do not work. Ben-David is worried that this nonproductive part of Israel’s population, which survives largely on welfare, is also the fastest growing. Professor Ben David who is also an associate Professor at Tel Aviv University will talk about the tensions between social welfare programs and economic sustainability, a topic that is at the heart of the current economic crisis in Europe.

Ben-David is the first in a series of Israeli scholars we will bring to Washington University to speak as part of our newly established Israel Scholars Series

November 8, 2010
“Ingredients That Make For a Successful Revolutionary Group”
Micah Levinson recently received his Bachelors (with honors) in Government from Harvard University. Two years earlier, in 2008, he received his MA in Political Economy and Public Policy from Washington University. Micah is probably one of a handful of individuals to have ever gotten their M.A degree two years before completing their B.A. In September, Micah Levinson will join, as a Junior Fellow, the American Foreign Policy Council — a DC based non-profit organization dedicated to bringing information to those who make or influence the foreign policy of the United States and to assisting world leaders with building democracies and market economies.

Micah Levinson will talk about his cumulative research on authoritarian regimes and non state organizations.

REMINDER: Conference On The Legacy And Work Of Douglass North

A reminder that CNISS will 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 Douglas 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. For more information on this event and how to RSVP, please visit our website at http://cniss.wustl.edu or email cniss@artsci.wustl.edu
Congratulations To Our Graduates!

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our CNISS Hirsch Family Undergraduate Fellows who are graduating this May. We want to thank them for all of the important contributions they have made to the Center and the significant research they contributed to the broad field of social sciences. We wish all of them the best of luck in their future endeavors:

**Guillaume Auffret** – Bachelors in Political Science | CNISS research: Wind and tidal industries in Brittany, France | Post graduation plans: Law School, Sciences-Po Paris

**Michelle Bernard** – Bachelors in Political Science | CNISS research: Strategic planning in renewable energy policy. Michelle was awarded a grant from the Undergraduate Research Program to travel to Minnesota with Itai Sened in April 2010 to present their research in the field of alternative energy policy strategies. | Post graduation plans: Will teach elementary school in Mississippi

**Jon Feinman** – Bachelors in Economics | CNISS research: Globalization and multi-national investment | Post graduation plans: Law School

**Vidyharath Hariharan** – Bachelors in Political Science and Bachelors in Economics | CNISS research: Relationship between intellectual property rights and foreign direct investment; Winner of 2010 CNISS – Hirsch Annual Prize for Best Honors Thesis in New Institutional Social Sciences | Post graduation plans: Financial consultant at General Mills, Minneapolis, MN

**Laura Kelly** — Bachelors in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology | CNISS research: Do certain uses of language worsen the effects of a stalled or downturned economic period. Laura won the 2009 Undergraduate Research Award from the College of Arts & Sciences for her work on how the word “recession” affects economic decision making. Laura additionally was invited to the 2009 Mellon Summer School in Logic and Formal Epistemology at Carnegie Mellon University. | Post graduation plans: Graduate School

**Eddy Lazzarin** – Bachelors in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology | CNISS research: Redefining the middle class. Eddy was also invited to the 2009 Mellon Summer School in Logic and Formal Epistemology at Carnegie Mellon University. | Post graduation plans: Graduate School

**Victor Roy** – Bachelors in Finance and Bachelors in Mathematics | CNISS research: Economic Growth and the Origins of Political Economy in Prehistory | Post graduation plans: Graduate School

We would also like to wish Ji Yan, one of our CNISS Certificate Ph.D. Fellows in Economics, the best of luck in his recently accepted tenure track position in the Economics Department of Appalachian State University in North Carolina.