Neff Receives WC Award for Evidence-Based Journalism

Joseph Neff, Investigative Reporter at The News & Observer, received the 2013 Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism. His award submission was part of a five-part joint project investigating how North Carolina’s major nonprofit hospitals generate large profits and contribute to the high cost of health care. The articles revealed how non-profit hospital systems have gained monopolistic powers and, by consolidating into large systems, gained negotiation leverage for higher insurance payments.

The series painstakingly documented how hospitals make huge profits on cancer drugs, pocketing five, ten, or even 50 times the average sales price reported to Medicare. The research behind the series relied on three data sets: Average Sales Price, Medicare allowables (obtained from the Center on Medicare and Medicaid Services) and private insurance claims (obtained by the newspaper from an industry source). It also examined how hospital acquisitions and consolidations have driven up the cost of routine care. The article honed in on a routine medical test, the echocardiogram, and showed how hospitals are increasingly being paid much more for this test than independent practices. The series also examined how hospitals can command higher reimbursements.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER
1
Major Donors Public Policy Luncheon

17
Public Policy Breakfast Meeting
The United States of Paranoia: A Conspiracy Theory
Jesse Walker, Reason Magazine

25
Forum
Government and Healthcare: Perspectives from a President and Physician
Alfredo Palacio, former President and Health Minister of Ecuador

OCTOBER
1
Major Donors Public Policy Luncheon

4
Forum
Cost of Health Care
Jonathan Gruber, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

8
Public Policy Breakfast Meeting
Tackling Wicked Government Problems
Jackson Nickerson, Washington University

Dates subject to change. More, Page 2.
EVIDENCE BASED: continued from cover

by reclassifying a practice as a hospital-based practice.

To quote Neff, “These articles delved into the complicated economic issues of monopolistic behavior, lack of market transparency and rent seeking in clear articles free of jargon. Reader response was overwhelming and positive. We have not received a single complaint about factual errors, misinterpretation of data or unfairness.”

Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism

For the past 11 years, the Weidenbaum Center has held an annual Media Retreat. This three-day program brings writers, reporters, editors, and producers together with academic and business experts to examine the role played by numbers, statistics, and data analysis in news, public policy, and politics.

Past attendees are encouraged to submit work that illustrates quality journalism on public policy, embodying the principles of the retreat. They can also nominate other attendees.

Submissions are evaluated and one (or two) is chosen for the Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism. Recipients receive a plaque, a cash prize, and an invitation to attend the Retreat. For more information on the Media Retreat, please visit http://wc.wustl.edu/media_retreat.

Colleagues on these articles were Ames Alexander and Karen Garloch of The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer and David Raynor of The News and Observer, Raleigh, N.C.

Mr. Neff’s work has been recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists and he (along with fellow colleagues) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism in 2013.

CALENDAR

22 Public Policy Breakfast Meeting
Developments in the Middle East
Itai Sened, Washington University and Morris Kalliny, St. Louis University

24 Corporate Leaders Breakfast Meeting
Developments on the Role of Corporate Boards
Hillary Sale, Washington University

NOVEMBER

5 Major Donors Public Policy Luncheon

8-9 TAPS Workshop

18 Public Policy Breakfast Meeting
Policy Innovation and Regional Security: Mexico and the US
Alejandro Poiré, former Secretary of the Interior in Mexico

DECEMBER

TBA Corporate Leaders Breakfast Meeting
Incentive Compensation and Pay Systems
Judi McLean Parks, Washington University

10 Major Donors Public Policy Luncheon

TBA Public Policy Breakfast Meeting
National Security Privacy/NSA Issues
Neil Richards, Washington University

Dates subject to change.
We are pleased to once again share information on the Center’s upcoming meetings, lectures, conferences, forums and debates. You will see that our fall 2013 programs address a broad spectrum of both economic and political issues.

While this Newsletter focuses on our programs, research remains a critical part of our mission — to serve as a bridge between policymakers and scholars by supporting scholarly research, public affairs programs, and other activities at the intersection of government and business. Center small grants enable Washington University faculty (primarily in the Departments of Economics and Political Science) to conduct surveys, workshops, and forums; to hire undergraduate and graduate research assistants; and to finance research travel and data collection. Our major research program areas provide larger grants for more in-depth projects. We encourage you to visit http://wc.wustl.edu/faculty_research to see some of the important projects and varied publications that have resulted from faculty.

Additionally, The American Panel Survey (TAPS) project has greatly expanded. Twenty monthly surveys, each including approximately 2,000 U.S. adults, have been conducted. This data is key to providing new and enriched research in the fields of Arts & Sciences. A generous grant from the Russell Sage Foundation is making some of this data collection possible.

Please remember that occasionally dates of our activities will change due to unforeseen circumstances. Additional programs and educational opportunities will be added as we enter into the fall semester. We encourage you to visit our website http://wc.wustl.edu/ frequently for updated information on the Center and its programs.
The Center’s forum programs provide a platform to discuss economic and political issues that are important to both the nation and the world. Forum programs are free and open to the public. Below are confirmed fall programs. Watch the Center’s website for new events.

September 25

As part of Washington University’s Global Health Week, Dr. Alfredo Palacio, former president and health minister of Ecuador, will speak on “Government and Healthcare: Perspectives from a President and a Physician.” This talk, which will take place on Wednesday, September 25, at 5 p.m. in Graham Chapel, is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Dr. Palacio served as President of Ecuador from April 2005 to January 2007. From January 15, 2003 to April 20, 2005, he served as Vice President, after which he was appointed to the presidency when the Ecuadorian Congress removed President Lucio Gutiérrez from power.

Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dr. Palacio is a physician by profession, specializing in cardiology. He did his residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, followed by a two-year cardiology fellowship at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine. He later lectured in cardiology and public health at Guayaquil University’s faculty of medicine.

This forum is cosponsored with Washington University’s Assembly Series, School of Medicine, Institute for Public Health, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Gephardt Institute for Public Service, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis College of Pharmacy and the Global Health Scholarships in Medicine.

October 4

Jonathan Gruber, Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Director of the Health Care Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research, will speak on the “Costs of Health Care” at a public forum on October 4.

Professor Gruber’s research focuses on the areas of public finance and health economics. He is an Associate Editor of both the Journal of Public Economics and the Journal of Health Economics. He helped to craft the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act while serving as a technical consultant to the Obama Administration from 2009-2010. In 2011, he was named “One of the Top 25 Most Innovative and Practical Thinkers of Our Time” by Slate Magazine.

His book, Health Care Reform: What It Is, Why It’s Necessary, How it Works, uses a comic-book format to explain health-care policies to the public. He uses a two-headed alligator to represent the twin health menaces of “rising costs” and “the number of uninsured.” His health economist superhero fights the zombies and vampires that represent rumors of death panels and government health-care takeovers.

This forum is cosponsored with Washington University’s GlobeMed, Assembly Series, and Gephardt Institute for Public Service. Registration will not be required for this forum.
The Weidenbaum Center is part of Washington University’s membership programs — such as its Century Club and William Greenleaf Eliot Society and Patron Memberships. Individuals that join these memberships and direct their support to the Weidenbaum Center help provide a solid annual operating base for the Center and are able to take advantage of special Center programs.

Elion Society-Corporate Leaders Series

The Center’s Breakfast Series provides a platform for experts to present their views and concerns on important current issues.

**October 8**

Jackson Nickerson, the Frahm Family Professor of Organization and Strategy at the Olin Business School at Washington University, will discuss “Tackling Wicked Government Problems: A Practical Guide for Developing Enterprise.” His talk will examine several approaches for translating social network theory into practical approaches for building and employing collaborative networks. He will discuss real solutions for developing enterprise leaders and explore how such leaders can use these networks to respond to and solve problems that span multiple agencies and disciplines.

Dr. Nickerson is a director of the Brookings Executive Education program and a nonresident senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution. His research interests include pharmaceutical manufacturing, strategic management and leadership, and critical and strategic thinking.

**October 22**

Itai Sened and Morris Kalliny will speak on “Developments in the Middle East.” Itai Sened was born on Kibbutz Revivm in the Israeli desert and during 1991-1995 was a senior strategist to the Rabin campaign and then Israeli government. He is currently a Full Professor in the Department of Political Science at Washington University. Morris Kalliny is an Assistant Professor of Marketing at the John Cook School of Business at Saint Louis University and a Christian native of Egypt where he lived until he was 18. His work focuses on the Middle East and he credits the upheavals to the increasingly prevalent satellite TV networks in the region, as well as to the people’s willingness to invest in education.

**November 30**

Alejandro Poiré, the former Secretary of the Interior in Mexico, will speak on “Policy Innovation and Regional Security — Mexico and the U.S.” Poiré held top positions under the Calderón Administration including national security spokesman and chief of the national intelligence agency. He is often regarded as the face and voice of Mexico’s strategy against drug trafficking and organized crime. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University and has been a Visiting Fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution where he taught governance and security in Latin America. He also heads a social startup, Mexico Crece, which finds scalable and high impact solutions to help Mexican students identify and pursue their dreams.

**Date TBA**

The Center’s Corporate Leaders Program keeps corporate representatives informed of key public policy developments. Corporate leaders regularly receive top-level research and analysis in specific policy interests and priorities while maintaining close relationships with Center-affiliated scholars.

Corporate Leader’s Program

The Center’s Corporate Leaders program keeps corporate representatives informed of key public policy developments. Corporate leaders regularly receive top-level research and analysis on specific policy interests and priorities while maintaining close relationships with Center-affiliated scholars.

Date TBA

Judi McLean Parks, Reuben C. and Anne Carpenter McLean Taylor Professor of Organizational Behavior at the Olin School of Business at Washington University, will meet with the Center’s Corporate Leaders to discuss incentive compensation and pay systems. Her work in this area has focused on exploring the impact of compensation on theft and misrepresentation (falsely reporting performance), two forms of fraud.

Professor McLean Parks’ expertise lies in leadership development, organizational behavior, human resource management/industrial relations, international relations, international business, management development, motivation, negotiation, organizational change and development. Her research interests include conflict management and dispute resolution, psychological contracts and workplace justice, diversity and socio-cultural and cross-cultural management factors, revenge in the workplace, and organizational identity. She previously taught at the Industrial Relations Center at the University of Minnesota, Cornell University, and the Institute d’Administration des Entreprises, Université Jean Moulin Lyon III in Lyon, France.

Public Policy Luncheon Series

The Center’s Major Donor Public Policy Luncheon Series will resume in the fall of 2013 with meetings on September 16 (event filled), October 1, November 5, and December 10. These roundtable discussions enable invitees to interact with a broad spectrum of faculty experts who examine current affairs issues in an open discussion format. While the focus is on specific issues in the news, they generally lie in the broad spectrum of business, government, economics, healthcare, education, the federal budget, international relations, or politics.

Due to limited space at these programs, they are by invitation only with registration required.
The Center supports and works closely with a wide array of both students and faculty across the Washington University campus and its many disciplines. A few of the current undergraduate, graduate, and former graduate students, as well as some of our newer affiliated faculty, are highlighted below:

**Graduate Students**

Christopher Claassen received a Ph.D. in Political Science in May 2013. He is currently continuing research efforts with Center Director Steven Smith on a project that investigates attrition of respondents on online panel surveys. Beginning in October 2013, he will be a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Government at the University of Essex in England.

Ian Ostrander received his Ph.D. in Political Science in August 2013. He has worked very closely with Center Director Steven Smith on research concerning party theories of the U.S. Senate and majority party power (published in the journal *Legislative Studies Quarterly*). Under the sponsorship of Smith, Ostrander received an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, “Winning the Waiting Game: Senatorial Delay in Executive Nomination.” He was also the graduate research assistant for the Center’s NSF project, “Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM).” After graduation, he served as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate. His research interests focus on U.S. Institutions — particularly the presidency and Congress — and their interaction. He has background and interest in public policy issues such as environmental and energy policy. In Fall 2013, he will be an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Texas Tech University.

**Undergraduate Students**

Stephanie Budrus is a 2013 Political Science Graduate. While at the Center, she was a research assistant for Director Steven Smith. She researched media coverage of senate cloture votes and candidates for the 2012 general congressional election. She also did data coding, formatting of citations, and related efforts. She had the unique opportunity to work as an editor on Profesor Smith’s upcoming book on the evolution of the procedural holds in the Senate. Ms. Budrus has a fellowship with a St. Louis nonprofit organization for the next year.

Adam Caplan is a senior majoring in History and minoring in Writing. He has worked as a research assistant for Honorary Chairman Murray Weidenbaum and Director Steven Smith since his freshman year. Monthly, he researches and compiles the Center’s regulatory update report. Other projects include identifying potential bloggers for coverage of The American Panel Survey results, identifying Department of Defense expenditures, and research on legislative voting. His spring 2013 semester was spent at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland as part of a study abroad program in History and Political Science.

Nay’Chelle Harris, a senior majoring in Latin American Studies and History and minoring in Spanish, has worked as an undergraduate research assistant for Center Director Steven Smith since her freshman year. She has assisted on numerous projects involving Congress and Congressional voting. In Fall 2013, she studied abroad in Nicaragua — conducting research on public opinions about the Nicaraguan government and its political propaganda. In Spring 2013, she was chosen to present her research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.
Faculty
Economics

George-Levi Gayle joined the Department of Economics in 2012 as an Associate Professor. His research interests include economic theory, contract theory, labor economics, personnel economics, and corporate governance. His research in the field of labor economics focuses on three main areas: family and gender issues in labor, the effect of information friction on earnings and compensation, and the estimation of semi-parametric models. His recent work investigates how investment in human capital, job assignment, and job turnover affect wage determination and the distribution of economic rents in the presence of uncertainty and imperfect information. Dr. Gayle was formerly at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Limor Golan joined the Department of Economics in 2012 as an Associate Professor. Her research interests include labor economics, applied microeconomics, and applied econometrics. Her recent research includes discrimination and gender gaps in labor market outcomes, the link between fertility, labor supply, and parental time investment in children decisions, and the intergenerational persistence in education and earnings. She also researches dynamic equilibrium models of labor markets with incomplete information. She was formerly at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Political Science

Jon Rogowski came to Washington University in 2012 and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. His research interests include American political institutions, legislative studies, the presidency, separation of powers, campaigns and elections, representation, and public opinion. His work focuses broadly on American politics, with specific research and teaching interests in electoral politics, Congress, and the presidency.

Betsy Sinclair is the Weidenbaum Center's new Associate Director of The American Panel Survey (TAPS). In this role, Sinclair will assist the Director in planning, preparing, and reviewing the monthly TAPS questionnaire and organize a speaker series on American political behavior. This fall, Dr. Sinclair is organizing the TAPS Workshop on November 8-9. She is also a new Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science. Her research interests are American politics and political methodology with an emphasis on individual behavior. Her overarching interests can be broadly defined as those involving voting and elections and range from evaluating the consequences of different voting technologies to developing techniques to draw additional causal inferences in randomized field experiments. Dr. Sinclair was formerly at the University of Chicago.

On November 8 and 9, the Center will host an academic workshop that will bring in academics and survey experts to discuss methods of data collection, engaging participants in TAPS, and enhancing overall efforts to accurately collect crucial data. The focus will be on survey research and its relation to the social sciences. This closed workshop will allow collaboration between social scientists interested in survey data, bring researchers up to date on the latest techniques in this field, and offer improvements for the TAPS survey platform. More information on TAPS can be found at http://taps.wustl.edu.
James E. Schiele is the Center’s Eliot Society Volunteer Committee and Corporate Volunteer Committee Chairman. His volunteer efforts and dedication to the Center has enabled the Center to exceed the University’s Eliot Society membership goals for a number of years. He is also a Life Fellow of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society and a Brookings Partner.

In 2013, Jim received an Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award which honors graduates who exemplify the ideals embodied by a liberal arts education and bring distinction to Washington University through their lives, work, and service. Other awards include the Dean’s Medal for his dedication to University Libraries, the Founders Day Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Center’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

“Jim is an outstanding citizen of the Washington University community… His enthusiasm is contagious, and his generosity is an inspiration. He is a true friend of the university.”

— Murray Weidenbaum

Jim has a Bachelor of Arts and two Masters Degrees from Washington University. He is currently working on a Doctor of Liberal Arts (2015) on how media and illustrations affected the thinking and attitudes of the public in the 19th century.

David and Carol Gast are Weidenbaum Center Eliot Society members who have supported the Center for many years. They are Life Fellows of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society and Eliot Patrons for several divisions of Washington University. Both are graduates of Washington University. David Gast holds a Bachelors of Arts, a Bachelor of Sciences, and a Masters from the Sever Institute. Carol Gast holds a Bachelors of Liberal Arts.

In 2008, their generous support enabled the Center to build a state of the arts conference room within its facility — The Gast Family Conference Room. More recently, David Gast has been instrumental in starting the Weidenbaum Center’s Benefactor Fund for Student Research Opportunities, to which he and Carol generously became the first donors. He continues to work at raising funds for this important student research opportunity. This fund expands support for students working with faculty in economics, political science, and other social sciences and gives Washington University students a unique, rewarding, and life altering chance to learn and work under the guidance and mentoring of world-class academic experts. The program serves as an exceptional capstone to the academic careers of Washington University students in the fields of economics and political science. For those interested in donating, contact Melinda Warren at warren@wustl.edu or 314-935-5652.
The Weidenbaum Center, while an integral part of Washington University, is responsible for its own financial support and relies heavily upon generous donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, the Center falls under the University’s 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status. As the Weidenbaum Center continues to grow and expand its programs, the Center’s funding needs are also rising.

The Center’s development efforts are supported by Rebecca Hanrahan, Associate Director of Development, Arts & Sciences. James E. Schiele is its Eliot Society Volunteer Committee Chairman and Corporate Leaders Volunteer Committee Chairman.

Anyone wishing to help support any of these needs or assist in fundraising should contact Melinda Warren, Director of the Weidenbaum Center Forum (warren@wustl.edu, 314-935-5652) or Gloria Lucy, Assistant Director and Business Manager (glolucy@wustl.edu, 314-935-5689).

Consider a Special Gift

The Center could not have accomplished all that it has throughout the years without the leadership and guidance of its Honorary Chairman Murray Weidenbaum. In 2013, special programs recognizing Dr. Weidenbaum were held and several special gifts were made — including the bronze sculpture that is displayed in the Center’s entry way. We are eager, however, to continue to honor Dr. Weidenbaum and to create other ways to enhance research, faculty and student expertise and education, and tackle public policy concerns. Support, whether short-term, long-term, or through planned giving would be instrumental in accomplishing these goals. Please contact us if you would like to help, or consider a special gift.