NYTimes.Com Editor Recipient of 2010 WC Media Award

On June 27, 2010, Catherine Rampell received the first annual Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism. The Award recognizes a past participant whose work represents quality journalism on economics, business, and government and reflects the sophisticated use of research, numbers, and statistics.

Ms. Rampell, who attended the Center’s 2009 Media Retreat, was nominated by a number of past participants. The award was presented at the opening dinner for the Center’s 2010 Media Retreat in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Since June 2002, the Center has annually brought together writers, reporters, editors, and producers for an interactive seminar that examines the role that statistics and data analysis play in the news, public policy, and politics. (See the Center’s website, http://wc.wustl.edu/media_retreat for more information on this program.)

Ms. Rampell is the Economics Editor at nytimes.com as well as the editor of the Times’s Economix blog. Before joining the Times, she wrote for the Washington Post editorial pages and financial section and for the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Her work has also appeared in Slate, Smithsonian Magazine, Village Voice, USA Today, NPR, MSNBC.com, Miami Herald, Dallas Morning News and other publications.

Past participants in a Weidenbaum Center Media Retreat are encouraged to nominate others for the 2011 award. The recipient is chosen in late May. Recipients receive a plaque, a prize, and an invitation to attend the Media Retreat at no cost in the year of the award.
A Joint Letter from the Center’s Leadership Team

The Center continues to pursue its mission to serve as a bridge between policymakers and scholars by supporting scholarly research, public affairs programs, and other activities at the intersection of social science, government, and business. This newsletter summarizes our new research activities and publications, announces upcoming events, and highlights the accomplishments of alumni and faculty. It also serves to inform you about our fall programs. Please remember that we will continue to add activities, so be sure you keep informed about our evolving schedule.

The Center’s website has been completely redesigned in an effort to better provide information about our programs and the research activities we support and keep you up to date on our events. In addition, we have added a News section to better inform you of news at the Center. As always, your feedback on our site is most welcome.

The Center has strong ties with the Departments of Economics and Political Science and continues to work with these departments to enhance faculty research and create larger faculty program areas, co-sponsor academic workshops and public forums, and generally increase the visibility of the work of Washington University scholars. Our research grants to faculty in Economics, Political Science and other social science departments are of great importance to the faculty, their departments, and the University as a whole. We also continue our commitment to enrich the environment for our students through research assistant support, dissertation support, and special meetings with visiting scholars and guest speakers.

Corporate Leaders Program

The Weidenbaum Center’s Corporate Leaders Program continues to inform corporate representatives about key developments related to the economy, politics, and public policy. Corporate Leaders maintain close relationships with Center scholars and regularly receive top-level briefings on research and analysis of specific policy issues. In addition, the members of this program provide the Center with important insight on a wide variety of issues.

Center Corporate Leaders are invited to all Center programs. In addition, corporate briefings are held on a regular basis (4 to 6 times a year). These briefings address topics that include the national political situation, the national economic conditions and forecasts, and St. Louis regional developments. The Center welcomes suggestions from corporate members about timely issues of special relevance. Two Corporate Leaders programs are scheduled for the fall.

OCTOBER

12

Steve Fazzari, Weidenbaum Center Associate Director, will talk on “Is This Economic Recovery?”

NOVEMBER

9

Steven Smith, Weidenbaum Center Director, will speak on “Implications of the 2010 Elections.”
Forum Series

*The Weidenbaum Center Forum is undergoing change. While the Forum will continue to host occasional large full-day and half-day conferences, its mission has been expanded to include an evening program.*

**SEPTEMBER 9**

Monika Piazzesi, Stanford University economist, delivers a lecture entitled “The Macroeconomics of Housing.” Piazzesi will discuss the recent boom/bust episode in housing prices and where the market is going from here. This program is cosponsored by the Department of Economics.

**SEPTEMBER 21**

Chris Fields, Director of the Carnegie Institution’s Department of Global Ecology and Professor of Biology and Environmental Earth System Science at Stanford University, will speak on “The Velocity of Climate Change” in a program cosponsored by the International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy and Sustainability. Dr. Fields’ research emphasizes impacts of climate change, from the molecular to the global scale. His work includes major field experiments on responses of California grassland to multifactor global change, integrative studies on the global carbon cycle, and assessments of impacts of climate change on agriculture.

**NOVEMBER 8**

Richard Heinzl, founder of Doctors Without Borders Canada, will discuss “Lessons from Abroad: The Opportunities of a Borderless World.” He will share lessons from his experiences at the far corners of the world: major moments, such as working through a humanitarian crisis during the Iraq War, or witnessing South Africa’s first democratic elections. Heinzl takes us past the expected sphere of humanitarian aid stories to reveal a remarkable world with universal lessons and incredible human stories. This forum is cosponsored with the Gephardt Institute for Public Service and the School of Medicine.

**Major Donor Current Events Luncheon Series**

The Center’s popular Major Donor Current Events Luncheon Series resumes in the fall of 2010. Upcoming meetings will be held on September 21, October 21, November 18, and December 15. Major Weidenbaum Center donors are invited to join faculty experts in an open dialogue on current public policy topics. The economy, government regulation, taxes, government spending, intellectual property rights, and health care are discussed as well as global issues such as international trade, international peace (or lack of it), intellectual property rights and copyright issues, and terrorism.

While forums are free and open to the public, registration is required and space may be limited. Registration can be completed on-line at http://wc.wustl.edu.
Mexico

Guillermo Rosas, Professor of Political Science at Washington University, will talk on “The Challenges of Governing Mexico: Recent Developments and American Interests.” Dr. Rosas will discuss the critical, yet complex, relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. He will also address how the scope of U.S.-Mexico government relations, which goes far beyond diplomatic and official contacts, affects commercial, cultural, and financial investments. This relationship’s impact on trade and economic reform, migration, drug control, transnational organized crime, homeland safety, transborder infectious diseases, as well as the environment, is profound. Dr. Rosas’ expertise lies in politics and finance, determinants of budget deficits, and banking crises.

China

Andrew Mertha, Professor, Department of Government, Cornell University, will discuss “U.S.-China Relations.” His talk will focus on recent developments in China such as China’s economic future, environmental developments, floating currency, and the accumulation of U.S. debt. The difference between President Obama’s policy and President Bush’s will also be explored. Dr. Mertha is an internationally recognized expert on China.

Finance, Hegemony & Globalization

Andrew Sobel, Professor of Political Science at Washington University, will lead a discussion on his book *Domestic Finance, Hegemony & Globalization* (forthcoming at University of Chicago Press). Policy decisions at the domestic level—whether relating to currency rates, tariffs on certain goods, or labor protection—factor heavily on such issues as trade, monetary policy, foreign debt, and development. Sobel will discuss how we can best understand the way those decisions and events at the national level affect outcomes and policy at the international level.

Century Club Meetings

The Center’s Century Club Breakfast Series brings in local and national experts to speak on important public policy issues.

Economic Outlook

Joel Prakken, Chairman, Macroeconomic Advisers, LLC, will speak on “The Economic Outlook: 2011 and Beyond.” Macroeconomic Advisers, LLC (MA) is one of the most trusted sources for U.S. macroeconomic forecasts, monetary and fiscal policy analysis, and econometric modeling.

After Many Days

Alumni Shirley Perry will speak on her new book, *After Many Days*, which tells about her days as a CIA operative during the Cold War in Vienna, her experiences behind the Iron Curtain, and her Halliburton-inspired travels around the Middle East during that period.

Programs are by invitation only. Registration is required and space is limited.
Major Program Areas

The Center offers faculty in the Departments of Economics and Political Science an opportunity to become a Research Fellow with the Weidenbaum Center. This program enables these faculty to engage and receive support for large research programs areas. This section reports on current activities in these areas.

Citizenship, Civil Society, and Democratic Values

Political Scientist Dr. James Gibson’s and Center Director Steven Smith’s project “Majority Rule and Minority Rights: A Panel Study of Democratic Values and Attitudes toward the Senate Filibuster among the American Public” is being funded by the National Science Foundation. This project is particularly designed to examine the effect of (a) abstract views of majority rule, minority rights, and the filibuster, (b) policy preferences, (c) party preferences, and (d) other factors (attention, sophistication, education) on applied evaluations of majority rule and minority rights within the context of actual legislative episodes involving the filibuster.

The study is the first to measure public attitudes about majority rule and minority rights and relate those attitudes to an important parliamentary practice (filibusters and super-majority cloture). In doing so, it brings together work on mass behavior, political institutions, and elite behavior in a way that is essential to understanding policy making and politics.

Multinational Enterprises

A new book from this program area will soon be released. Political Scientist Nathan Jensen’s (and coauthors) book, Politics and Foreign Direct Investment addresses the complex relationship between politics and multinational corporations (MNCs) within a global context. This is a co-written book that is different in form and overall contribution than an edited volume. Its approach addresses two inter-related concepts: (1) how politics affects the risk environment for multinational corporations and (2) how firms influence politics.

Professor Jensen will participate in the 2010 Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) with funding from the Weidenbaum Center. Professor Jensen’s portion of the 2010 “Globalization and Governance” CCES survey will include questions about economic policy, views on foreign investment (both into and out of the U.S.) and views on international institutions (specifically the United Nations). Professor Jensen’s effort will also assist Ph.D. students Mariana Medina and Ugur Ozdemir with their research. This data will be used for a number of peer-reviewed research publications and public policy work.

Behavioral Economics

This new major faculty research area — Behavioral Economics — uses social, cognitive, and emotional factors to help understand the economic decisions of individuals and institutions performing economic functions. This interdisciplinary approach looks at consumers, borrowers and investors, and their effects on market prices, returns, and the resource allocation. The program supports the research and scholarly activity of faculty at Washington University and elsewhere on an interdisciplinary basis. Leaders of the program are Washington University economists Sebastian Galiani and David Levine.

Under the direction of Professor Levine, in 2010 this program will help fund programming for an experimental lab and an experimental lab assistant. Under the direction of Professor Galiani, it will help fund data collection, a survey on property rights for the poor, as well as a research assistant for Professor Galiani.

Program in American Politics

With survey data being the key to many research objectives in politics and economics, Center Director Steven Smith will host a half-day workshop on “Survey-Based Economic Indicators” this fall. This academic workshop will pull together top researchers from current survey firms, economists, and public opinion specialists. These experts will discuss the measures and use of consumer confidence and consumer sentiment indices in macroeconomic studies.

Macroeconomic Policy Program

Center Associate Director Steven Fazzari recently held an academic workshop, “After the Great Recession: Perspectives on the Way Forward.” Scholars from across the nation discussed drafts of 11 chapters that are being prepared for an edited volume on this timely topic. The project considers the emergence of financial instability and the evolution of financial regulation. Several chapters explore the source of financial fragility in the household sector in the run up to the recession that began in late 2007. Other parts of the project address international imbalances, and both monetary and fiscal policy responses to the economic crisis.
Small Grant Awards

Congratulations to the following faculty in the departments of Economics and Political Science who most recently received Weidenbaum Center small grants. For a full list of all 2010 small grants, visit the Center’s website http://wc.wustl.edu/academics/research_grants.

Economics Department Chairman Michele Boldrin has received a Center small grant for a workshop under the auspices of his project on “Allocating Resources Across Generations.” This project concerns questions of sustainability, energy policy, and climate. The workshop (to be held in Italy) will bring together some of the leading global specialists on the issues of sustainable resource use as it relates to energy policy and climate change.

Professor Jeff Gill, Department of Political Science and the Director of the Center for Applied Statistics, received a Weidenbaum Center small grant to supplement his incoming National Science Foundation (NSF) grant “Collaborative Research: Identifying Structure in Social Data Models Using Markov Chain Monte Carlo Algorithms.” Dr. Gill’s small grant will cover additional research assistant support and travel expenses to meet with his collaborator George Casella of the Department of Statistics, University of Florida. The Center also supported and administered the initial submission of the NSF proposal.

Professor Norman Schofield, Chairman of the Center for Political Economy, will receive funds to help with a survey he will be commissioning from a group of sociologists in Baku, Azerbaijan. The survey data will be used to model the November election in Azerbaijan. Schofield has done this kind of analysis with more than 10 other countries.

Numerous other small grants were awarded earlier in 2010. These grants include the following projects: Liquidity and Monetary Policy, Floor Decision Making in Latin America, U. S. State Laws and Regulations Reconsidered, Support for Presidential Campaigns in Federal Regimes, AIDS Development and Policy, The Political Economy of Democracy, Role of Middle Class in Subsustainable Economic Growth, Inside Political Parties, and Housing Dynamics: A Quantitative Study.

Workshop & Conference Support

The Weidenbaum Center, in an effort to enrich the programs offered to graduate students and to encourage collaboration among faculty, supports the Macroeconomics and Development and Public Policy workshops in the Department of Economics. These programs run in the fall and spring of each academic year. Scholars are brought in from across the globe to discuss their research. For a list of workshops, visit http://economics.wustl.edu/events/workshops.
Spotlight On Alumni

Dino Falaschetti received his Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in 1999, an MBA with high honors from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and a BS with distinction from Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business. Dr. Falaschetti is Associate Professor of Law and Economics at the Florida State University College of Law, and Professor (by courtesy) in the Departments of Economics and Political Science. Dr. Falaschetti previously served the President of the United States as Senior Economist for the Council of Economic Advisers (with responsibilities for regulation and financial services), held academic appointments at Montana State University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Tennessee, and Washington University in St. Louis, and managed a $1 billion money market portfolio and financial statement audit-engagements for a Fortune 100 conglomerate. Dr. Falaschetti enjoys bicycling (which he did competitively as an undergraduate), and food and wine (although he admits his wife Suzanne has become the better cook during their 15 years of marriage).

Anandi P. Sahu received his A.M. and Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in 1985. Dr. Sahu is a professor of economics, Chairperson of the Department of Economics at the School of Business Administration at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.


In Memoriam

Victor’s regular involvement in many of the Weidenbaum Center’s activities greatly enriched us all.

Victor T. Le Vine, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor in the Department of Political Science at Washington University, passed away on May 7, 2010. Dr. Le Vine was an internationally known expert in comparative and international politics, Africa, the Middle East, international conflict resolution, international law, terrorism, non-formal politics, political corruption, and ethnic politics. He served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of State, advised USIA and the Peace Corps, did pro-bono consulting as a country expert on middle eastern and African countries for the immigration bar, served as an international elections monitor in Africa, and was a consultant to the Eritrean Constitutional Commission. From 1989 through 1999, he was President of the Centre for International Understanding, a private philanthropic organization dedicated to promoting nonviolent resolution of international conflicts.

He was a frequent news commentator on issues related to U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East as well as the management of domestic terrorism threats in the U.S. His opinion pieces appeared often in national news outlets. He authored and coauthored numerous books and monographs on African politics and well over fifty articles. His contribution to society was enormous.
### Programs

Information on past or upcoming programs, program content, volunteer opportunities, or co-sponsorship should be directed to: Melinda Warren (314-935-5652, warren@wustl.edu) or Gloria Lucy (314-935-5689, glolucy@wustl.edu). Should you have suggestions or comments on these Center activities, please contact Mrs. Warren or Mrs. Lucy.

### Support

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. Anyone wishing to help support any of our programs 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 (glolucy@wustl.edu, 314-935-5689).

### Our Staff

- **Steven Smith**
  - Director

- **Murray Weidenbaum**
  - Honorary Chairman

- **Steven Fazzari**
  - Associate Director

- **Richard Mahoney**
  - Distinguished Executive in Residence

- **Melinda Warren**
  - Director, Weidenbaum Center Forum

- **Gloria Lucy**
  - Assistant Director, Business Manager

- **Christine Moseley**
  - Administrative Coordinator

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<td>Century Club Public Policy Meeting – After Many Days (talk by a former CIA Operative)</td>
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For information, contact the Center at (314) 935-5630, or visit us on the web at [http://wc.wustl.edu](http://wc.wustl.edu). Dates subject to change.