Annual Dinner Gala

On May 5, Michael McFaul, American academic and diplomat, will be the special guest speaker at the Center’s Annual Dinner Gala.

As one of the most renowned scholars on post-communist Russia, McFaul will share his insights, experience, and views on Russia and its leadership.

McFaul served for five years in the Obama administration, first as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council at the White House (2009-2012), and then as U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2012-2014). He also was a key resource to President George W. Bush on his dealings with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Currently, he is the Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and a professor of political science and a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University. His research interests include American foreign policy, great power relations, and the relationship between democracy and development. He also works as an analyst for NBC News.

He has authored several books including Advancing Democracy Abroad: Why We Should, How We Can with Kathryn Stoer, Transitions To Democracy: A Comparative Perspective with James Goldgeier, Power and Purpose: American Policy toward Russia after the Cold War, and Russia’s Unfinished Revolution: Political Change from Gorbachev to Putin.

As a Rhodes Scholar, he completed his D.Phil. in International Relations at Oxford University.

Watch for more details about the Center’s Annual Dinner in the coming months.

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CALENDAR

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Calendar subject to change.

Please visit http://wc.wustl.edu for more information on Weidenbaum Center programs and activities.
The Weidenbaum Center continues both its academic and public policy efforts. Our mission remains to serve as a bridge between policymakers and scholars by supporting scholarly research, public affairs programs, and other activities at the intersection of business and government.

This newsletter provides insight into our upcoming public policy and public outreach programs, as well as some other special highlighted programs and activities. The academic research efforts and programs encouraged and supported by the Center can be viewed on our website and in our annual reports.

Highlighted items in this newsletter include an update on our TAPS program, and a recent award-winning publication penned by one of our Weidenbaum Center Research Fellows.

As always, we include our Spring calendar of events and programs and provide information on these to all of you. We welcome your insights, comments, and/or recommendations for public policy issues that we might evaluate for future programs.

In Memoriam

Renowned and beloved Washington University Professor of Economics Douglass North passed away on November 23, 2015 at the age of 95. Recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Economics, Professor North championed the importance of economic and political institutions, applying quantitative methods to history in an attempt to determine what conditions led certain countries to prosper while others languished. North’s research nuanced the modern understanding of U.S. and European economic development, particularly since the industrial revolution. Among the books he wrote are Institutional Change and American Economic Growth, Understanding the Process of Economic Change, and Violence and Social Orders: A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History.

North joined the University in 1983 after 33 years at the University of Washington, where he was head of the Economics Department. From 1984-1990, he served as the Director of the Center for Political Economy; in 1993, he created the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences. In 1992, he became the first economic historian to receive the John R. Commons Award, one of the economics profession’s highest honors. An avid photographer and inspired lecturer, he continued to teach at the University until recently, when his health no longer permitted.

A memorial service for Dr. North will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in Graham Chapel at Washington University. A reception in Holmes Lounge will follow.
WEIDENBAUM CENTER RESEARCH FELLOWS

Ten faculty from the Departments of Economics and Political Science serve as Research Fellows at the Center. Professor Daniel Butler is highlighted below.

Research Fellow Daniel Butler was a co-winner of the American Political Science Association’s 2015 Best Book award — Representing the Advantaged: How Politicians Reinforce Inequality — in the Experimental Research Section.

The book points out that elected officials often (but not always) discriminate against their own constituents who hold lower-status jobs, who identify with the opposite party, or who belong to a different racial or ethnic group. Butler shows that a significant amount of bias in representation traces its roots to the information, opinions, and attitudes that politicians bring to office and suggests that even if all voters participated equally, there would still be significant levels of bias in American politics because of differences in elite participation. Butler’s work provides a new theoretical basis for understanding inequality in American politics and insights into what institutional changes can be used to fix the problem. He has numerous articles that are scheduled to be published in journals in 2016.

Butler is also Director of the Laboratories of Democracy. This involves a team of political science faculty from many universities, including Temple University, Duke University, and George Washington University. These academic researchers have vast experience in designing and implementing experiments in real world settings. Their goal is to help public officials and civic groups improve program effectiveness and efficiency, learn from policies that have been evaluated, and prevent waste caused by ineffective or harmful policies. They work with nonprofits and local, state, and national governments on projects that are designed to improve their communities.

The projects that Laboratories of Democracy take on have three key elements:

♦ A clear policy intervention, i.e., a new policy that addresses a public sector problem
♦ The policy intervention is intended to influence specific outcomes
♦ The outcome can be measured by the team

For two years, the Weidenbaum Center has given financial support for Professor Butler’s research assistants and his travel to conferences to meet with community leaders to discuss the work of this project.

Current Research Fellows

Gaetano Antinolfi, Economics  Sunita Parikh, Political Science
Costas Azariadis, Economics  Bruce Petersen, Economics
Daniel Butler, Political Science  Andrew Reeves, Political Science
Matthew Gabel, Political Science  Guillermo Rosas, Political Science
Juan Pantano, Economics  Betsy Sinclair, Political Science
Murray Weidenbaum Scholars Program

Professor Murray Weidenbaum spent most of his distinguished career at Washington University working with undergraduate and graduate students. More than a thousand students benefited from his teaching and mentoring. This undergraduate student funding program was created to honor him for his many years of dedication.

Students work with faculty whose expertise lies in areas such as:

- Micro and macroeconomics
- Environmental economics
- Social choice, political economy, and democracy
- Industrial organization and medical economics
- Statistics
- Judicial politics
- Comparative political behavior democratic processes
- Democratic institutions
- International relations and political economy
- American politics and policy making

Who Benefits from the Program

The Murray Weidenbaum Scholars Program gives Washington University undergraduate students a unique and rewarding opportunity to learn and work under the guidance and mentoring of world-class academic experts in the fields of economics and political science. Previous scholars were Adam Caplan and Nay’chelle Harris. The current recipients of this honor are Tianzan Pang and Ryan Mikkelsen.

This program provides three primary types of support for undergraduate scholars:

- Research Assistantships
- Support for Honor Theses
- Conference Travel

Candidates for the Program

Undergraduates are chosen by academic standing, interests, or career goals. Stipends are determined by faculty mentors and vary based upon the hours needed to complete research projects. Requests for funds for travel/data are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Center's Director and Associate Director.

Current Weidenbaum Center Scholars

Tianzan Pang, research and teaching assistant for Center Associate Director and Economist Steven Fazzari, is one of the current Murray Weidenbaum Scholars. He assisted with research on the effect of rising inequality on the growth of the U.S. economy and has helped fine tune the content of the “Muddy Water Macro" website which explains macroeconomic concepts to the general public. He has also been a tremendous resource for Fazzari’s advanced writing-intensive macroeconomic seminar (Current Macroeconomic Issues) both inside and outside the classroom, leading discussion groups and helping students refine their writings and papers.

Ryan Mikkelsen, also a current Murray Weidenbaum Scholar, is an undergraduate student in the Department of Economics. Mikkelsen works closely with the Center’s Director and Political Scientist Steven Smith, Economist and Center Associate Director Steven Fazzari, and Center Distinguished Executive in Residence Richard Mahoney. Under their direction, he has had an opportunity to do research on housing construction since the Recession, usage of congressional rules in the House of Representatives, and how crime data is reported for St. Louis City and County.
TAPS Begins Fifth Year

The American Panel Survey (TAPS) started its fifth year in December 2015. This monthly online survey of a national probability sample involves a panel of 2,000 adults in the United States, studies the economic and political attitudes and behavior of the American public. The third public release of data will soon be available. This public data and screenshots of the surveys can be found at http://taps.wustl.edu.

TAPS is used for a variety of social science research projects, including survey experiments and long-term panel studies. Fourteen university faculty have had research modules on TAPS. In addition, seven graduate students have written papers or are planning dissertation projects using TAPS data. So far, 24 book chapters, journal articles, and papers have resulted from TAPS. Many other projects are currently underway and will produce additional papers in the near future.

Research module questions on TAPS have included unilateral power and the presidency, attitudes toward disclosure of Alzheimer disease research results, implications of ideological dissatisfaction for Supreme Court legitimacy, the relationship between personal stability and ideological structure in the mass public, and the origins and limitations of systematic individual level changes in party identification.

2016 Weidenbaum Center Media Retreat to Take Place
June 26-29, 2016

On June 26-29, 2016, the Center will host its 15th annual media retreat. This program brings writers, reporters, editors, and producers together with academic and business experts. This intense, interactive seminar examines the role that numbers, statistics, and data analysis play in news, public policy, and politics. The Retreat seminars have four goals:

♦ to give journalists the tools and techniques to analyze how numbers come into being
♦ to help journalists better evaluate and investigate the validity of these numbers
♦ to help journalists utilize numbers to substantiate or refute a story, and
♦ to assist journalists with new story ideas for challenging conventional wisdom

The Center’s Evidenced-Based Journalism award will also be presented at the opening dinner of the program. This annual award recognizes a past participant whose work represents quality journalism on public policy that embodies the principles of the Media Retreat. Each year a committee of Media Retreat seminar leaders determines who receives the award.
January 26 – Who Should Pay U.S. Taxes in a Globalized World? The Role of Corporate Inversions and Offshore Investment Funds in the Income Inequality Debate

On January 26, Professor Adam H. Rosenzweig, School of Law at Washington University, will speak on U.S. taxes in a globalized world. His research and teaching concentrates in the area of tax law and policy. An expert in international and federal income tax law with an LL.M. in taxation, he is the co-author of a casebook on federal income taxation, now in its eighth edition. His other publications have appeared in law journals and reviews on legal issues ranging from the hidden costs of a modern income tax to harnessing the costs of international tax arbitrage.

February 23 – From Scarcity to Abundance: the New Realities of Oil and Gas and Implications for the U.S. Economy

On February 23, Professor Bernard Weinstein, Economist and Associate Director of Southern Methodist University’s Maguire Energy Institute, will speak on the future of the oil and gas industries. He is the author or co-author of numerous books, monographs, and articles on economic development, public policy, and taxation. His expertise has been used on these and energy-related issues in articles published by many newspapers including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Los Angeles Times. Dr. Weinstein has been a consultant to many companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, and testifies frequently before legislative, regulatory, and judicial bodies. Since 2012, he has been an Associate of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies at SMU and a Fellow with the George W. Bush Institute.

March 9 – Why Young Americans Are Turned Off to Politics

On March 9, Jennifer Lawless, Professor in the Department of Government at American University in Washington, DC., will discuss why so many young Americans are turned off to politics. She is also a nationally recognized expert on women and politics, and the co-author (with Richard L. Fox) of It Still Takes a Candidate: Why Women Don’t Run for Office, (also with Richard L. Fox) Running from Office: Why Young Americans Are Turned Off to Politics, and Becoming a Candidate: Political Ambition and the Decision to Run for Office. Her research, which has been supported by the National Science Foundation, has appeared in numerous academic journals. In addition, Professor Lawless has issued several policy reports on the barriers that impede women’s candidate emergence. She is also Director of the Women & Politics Institute and a faculty affiliate with the Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies at American University.
April 26 – The American Panel Survey (TAPS) Research

On April 26, Weidenbaum Center Director and Political Scientist Steven Smith will discuss recent findings from TAPS, its use as a basis for numerous research studies and publications, as well as the future of survey research design as the process becomes increasingly digitized. Smith serves as the Director of TAPS and leading scholar on its usage. The TAPS survey platform is a representative panel of around 2,000 English-speaking Americans. TAPS questionnaires return to the same panel of respondents every month. It is uniquely able to track how individuals’ preferences change over time via a series of recurring questions on political and economic subjects.

Major Donors Public Policy Luncheon Series

The Center’s Major Donor roundtable discussions allow guests the unique opportunity to interact with leading scholars and industry experts from across the University and the broader St. Louis community. Held every month, the lunches provide a platform for participants to engage with both prominent intellectuals and one another in open dialogue. Topics are selected from current events and address economic, political, legal, health, or international issues.

*Upcoming meetings will be held on February 9, March 28, April 18, and May 2.*

*NOTE: These meetings are by invitation only and registration is required.*
March 9—Cosmopolitan Canopy: Challenges for a Civil Society

Elijah Anderson, Professor of Sociology at Yale University, will speak on the afternoon of March 9. Professor Anderson’s talk will be entitled, “The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Challenges for a Civil Society.”


Dr. Anderson has served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and is formerly a vice-president of the American Sociological Association. He has served in an editorial capacity for a wide range of professional journals and special publications, including *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Annals of the Society of Political and Social Science*, and the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. He has also served as a consultant to the White House, the U.S. Congress, and the National Science Foundation. Additionally, he was a member of the National Research Council’s Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior. He received his doctoral degree from Northwestern University.

Washington University’s Department of Sociology is hosting this lecture, with co-sponsorship from the Weidenbaum Center, School of Law Public Interest Law & Policy Speaker Series, Brown School of Social Work Center for Social Development, and the Assembly Series. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required for this event. However, registrants receive directions and parking instructions prior to the event as well as updates on the time and venue, if necessary. Visit the Weidenbaum Center events page at [http://wc.wustl.edu/events](http://wc.wustl.edu/events) to register for this event.

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).
**Lectures**

The Weidenbaum Center Lecture Series consists of serious, substantive scholarly talks accessible to a sophisticated general audience. Beginning in the fall of 2015, the Center will host about 6-8 lectures a year. The goal is to offer higher quality programs to our donors and to the Washington University community. Broad topics for these lectures are economics, politics, regulation, and sociology. Political polarization — when public opinion goes to two extremes, without moderates or a real middle ground — is the subject of three of the Weidenbaum Center’s Lecture Series in fiscal year 2016. Two of these took place in the Fall of 2015; the third will be held early in the spring semester.

**February 10—Political Polarization**

Following lectures given in Fall 2015 by Professors Steven Smith and Caroline Tolbert, the third of these lectures, “Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign,” will be given by Professor Frances Lee (Department of Government & Politics, University of Maryland). Professor Lee’s research has shown that the congressional agenda itself amplifies conflict by increasingly focusing on issues that reliably differentiate the parties and that many partisan battles are rooted in competition for power rather than disagreement over the rightful role of government.

Professor Lee teaches courses in American government, the public policy process, legislative politics, and political institutions. Her research interests focus on American governing institutions, especially the U.S. Congress. She is the author of *Beyond Ideology: Politics, Principles, and Partisanship in the U.S. Senate* and co-author of *Sizing Up the Senate: The Unequal Consequences of Equal Representation*. Her work has received national recognition, including the American Political Science Association’s E. E. Schattschneider Award for the best dissertation in American Politics in 1997, the APSA’s Richard F. Fenno Award for the best book on legislative politics in 2009, and the D.B. Hardeman Award presented by the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation for the best book on a congressional topic in both 1999 and 2009. She received her Ph.D. in political science from Vanderbilt University.

**March 21—Hyman Minsky Lecture**

James Bullard will be the 2016 Hyman Minsky lecturer. He is president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, positions he has held since 2008. In these roles, he participates in the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) and directs the activities of the Federal Reserve’s Eighth District head office in St. Louis and branches in Little Rock, Ark., Louisville, Ky., and Memphis, Tenn. Bullard has called for the FOMC, the Fed’s monetary policymaking body, to adopt state-contingent policy, which is policy that is adjusted based on the state of the economy, and to give greater consideration to headline inflation than core inflation when making monetary policy decisions. He discussed the reasons to de-emphasize core inflation in his paper “Measuring Inflation: The Core Is Rotten,” published in 2011 in the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis’ *Review*. In the wake of the financial crisis, he supported quantitative easing and warned about the possibility of the United States’ falling into a Japanese-style deflationary trap. The latter was the subject of his paper “Seven Faces of ‘The Peril’,” published in 2010 in the *Review*. Bullard has also argued that the U.S. output gap may not be as large as many estimates suggest — as they are based on the notion that output was at potential, rather than above, during the housing-bubble period — which has implications for monetary policy. Beyond the Fed, Bullard is an honorary professor of economics at Washington University in St. Louis, where he also sits on the advisory council of the Economics Department and the advisory boards of the Center for Dynamic Economics and the Wells Fargo Advisors Center for Finance and Accounting Research.
Support

The Weidenbaum Center, while an integral part of Washington University, is responsible for its own financial support. It relies upon generous donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

General support is needed for its operating budget and designated funds are relied upon for its special programs — such as its Murray Weidenbaum Scholars Program and The American Panel Survey (TAPS) program. It relies upon generous donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, it falls under the University's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Anyone able to help provide support or assist in fundraising should contact:

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