

Communiqué

FALL 2008



Council Receives Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for Project on Global Agricultural Development

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs is undertaking an initiative to bring attention to the need for renewed U.S. leadership in long-term global agricultural development. Over the next ten months, the Council will examine how the United States can better contribute to global poverty alleviation and food security through an international effort to help raise the productivity of small farmers, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The project is funded by a grant of nearly \$1 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



The Global Agricultural Development Project will convene a bipartisan group of former government, business, and civic leaders, and experts in the fields of agricultural development, U.S. foreign policy, trade, and international economics to propose a series of recommendations that can help increase the productivity and incomes of small-holder farming families and advance global agricultural development as a major U.S. foreign aid priority.

A project report and recommendations will be broadly disseminated on a bipartisan basis to the incoming admin-

istration and senior officials, key leaders in the new Congress, policy influencers, and U.S. and international media and opinion leaders in early 2009.

Dan Glickman and Catherine Bertini will serve as co-chairs of the project. Mr. Glickman, currently chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America, served as secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1995 to 2001. During his eighteen-year tenure in the U.S. Congress, Glickman was a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture. Ms. Bertini served as the executive director of the UN World Food Programme from 1992 to 2002, and is presently a professor of public administration at Syracuse University's Maxwell School and senior fellow of agricultural development for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Development Program.

"During my international travels as secretary of agriculture, I saw firsthand how a thriving agricultural sector decreases poverty, increases national wealth, allows the state to reinvest in the sector, and provides a better daily life for the people," said Glickman. "It is in the direct interest of the United States to help as many nations as possible achieve such a goal as it is in line with our foreign policy, economic development, and humanitarian goals."

IN THIS ISSUE:

CHICAGO COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER Q&A

Douglas A. Doetsch Featured

Page 3

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Thomas Wright

Page 4

2008 AMERICA AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Re-Imagining the World Order

Page 4

GLOBALIZATION AND THE MIDWEST

*Conference to Confront
Challenges Facing the Region*

Page 5

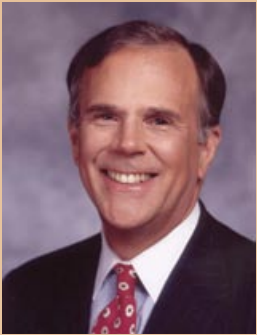
COUNCIL IDENTIFIES CHICAGO'S EMERGING LEADERS

*Eighteen Selected to Participate
in New Program*

Page 6 & 7

Tracking American Attitudes about the World and U.S. Foreign Policy for the Past Thirty-four Years

Message from the President



As we enter the final stretch of the 2008 presidential race, we are inundated with the results of public opinion polls. Where do the candidates stand? What do Americans want as they prepare to vote for a new president and Congress? What does the world think of our policies and America's role in a fast-changing world? Most of these media-generated polling data flash onto our television and computer screens and are gone quickly from our minds. But there is no doubt that polling, for all its limitations, is permanently a part of the American political process and increasingly a global phenomenon.

For thirty-four years, The Chicago Council has been an important contributor to our understanding of American thinking about the world through its widely known and highly respected surveys. Every four years from 1974 to 2002, and every other year since, the Council's in-depth studies of U.S. public and leadership opinion have been used by the media and policymakers to track American attitudes and policy preferences. Do Americans want their country to play an "active part" in world affairs, or do they prefer to "stay out"? What important threats face the country? What should be the goals of U.S. foreign policy? How do they "feel" about key countries and international organizations, a question closely followed in the capitals of those countries?

In September, the Council released the first of three reports on its 2008 public opinion study. The Chicago Council study adds depth and detail to the picture of American public attitudes not found in polls conducted by media organizations. For example, the results indicate that a strong majority of Americans wants the country to remain engaged in the world, but is looking for significant changes in U.S. foreign policy. They are concerned about American standing and effectiveness in the world and want greater use of diplomatic tools. They favor a robust U.S. military presence and the use of force when, and only when, vital U.S. interests are at stake. The Council will release, in mid-October, the findings on public concerns about the economy, and in late October a special focus on how Americans view the U.S. relationship with Japan. Survey reports can be found on our Web site: thechicagocouncil.org.

In recent years, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs has expanded its work on public opinion to include studies in other countries. In 2002, the Council collaborated with the German Marshall Fund to compare U.S. and European opinion on a variety of issues. In 2004, we worked with the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations on the first ever comparative study of U.S. and Mexican opinion. And in 2006 and 2008, the Council worked with a number of Asian organizations to conduct landmark studies of how Americans and Asians view each other. The Council's data on Asian public opinion is unparalleled and generating much interest in that region.

The Chicago Council's public opinion study results are available in an online database as a resource open to interested analysts, journalists, and policymakers. Stories on survey findings have appeared in the *Financial Times*, the *New York Times*, and *Newsweek International* among others. In 2007, a book based on the Council's public opinion data by Northwestern University professor Benjamin Page, the country's leading specialist on public opinion and foreign policy and a member of the Council's study team since 1974, won the American Political Science Association award for the best book on national policy.

The Chicago Council's members and friends can take justifiable pride in the contribution its public opinion studies have made over four decades to informed national and international debate about U.S. foreign policy and global affairs. This much respected work reflects the Council's core commitment to the involvement of American citizens in the shaping of the U.S. role in the world.

Marshall M. Bouton
President

Board Q&A with Douglas A. Doetsch



Douglas A. Doetsch

Douglas A. Doetsch, a partner at the multinational law firm Mayer Brown LLP, specializes in international finance and corporate issues. He is the author of numerous publications and speaks frequently at international legal and financial conferences. After joining The Chicago Council's Board of Directors in 2002, he served as a cochair of the Council's 2006 task force "A Shared Future: The Economic Engagement of Greater Chicago and Its Mexican Community," which called for partnership among all levels of government, business, nonprofit agencies, and all parts of the Mexican community to realize the potential of Mexican immigrants and their children to participate fully in the economic, social, and civic life of Chicago.

Q: How did you first become involved with The Chicago Council?

A: As a young lawyer at Mayer Brown LLP, I joined The Chicago Council's Young Professionals group and attended presentations by visiting foreign government officials and leaders of various nongovernmental organizations. As a new partner of the firm, I was invited to join one of the Council's Young Leaders trips to Europe, spending a week with emerging leaders in Germany and Prague, where the memories of the "Velvet Revolution" and the break from the Soviet Union were fresh on people's minds. That experience cemented my interest in The Chicago Council and its ability to make connections between Chicago and the world.

Q: Why is The Chicago Council on Global Affairs important to Chicago?

A: A recent study confirmed Chicago as one of the world's most global cities for matters of commerce. Yet in noncommercial areas, Chicago's global presence has, until recently, been less felt. The Chicago Council connects its members with political, nongovernmental, business leaders, and others from around the world - not simply from Europe but also from emerging global powers such as India and China. At the same time, the Council contributes perspective and ideas from the Midwest on problems facing the United States and its place in the world. For example, the task force on immigration sponsored by the Council several years ago reminded U.S. policymakers that the Midwest is home to many immigrants and offered pragmatic responses to immigration issues.

Q: If you could meet any global leader from any point in history, who would you choose?

A: Alexander Hamilton, one of our "founding fathers." Hamilton was an early embodiment of American ideals: an immigrant of humble origins who rose on merit and hard work, who devoted his life to public service. He was a soldier, writer, financier, political philosopher, and statesman, as adept at influencing public opinion through covert publishing campaigns as he was in exercising the machinery of our early government. Reputed to be a great conversationalist, he was central to many early debates on the shape of our government, our economic system, and our diplomacy.

Q: What global affairs topics do you believe should receive more attention?

A: One that should receive more attention - but probably won't in an election year - is the fact that our international treaties bring obligations as well as benefits. U.S. trade treaties require us to open markets or reduce producer subsidies in ways that are not always comfortable or politically popular, although we have agreed to these measures. Under NAFTA, for example, the United States agreed to allow Mexican truckers to operate throughout the nation, yet we have repeatedly balked at complying with our commitments. Another issue that should receive more attention is U.S. energy security and our energy relationships with countries beyond the Middle East. For example, Brazil, Columbia, and Peru are all potentially large exporters of oil and gas to the United States, yet we tend not to think of these producers as important to overall energy policy.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS DINNER SERIES

October 2008 through January 2009

Now in its seventh year, the Global Connections Dinner Series continues to attract leading national and international experts to dinners in intimate settings where guests engage in provocative conversations about critical global issues. Nineteen dinners, hosted by members of the Council's Board of Directors, Chairman's Circle, and President's Circle, are taking place from October through January as part of this annual Chicago Council fundraising initiative. Dinner hosts have personally selected the topic and the theme for the evening, and in many instances are welcoming guests to their home for dinner.

A contribution of \$250, and in some cases \$500, per person reserves your seat.

To learn more or to download an invitation, visit thechicagocouncil.org/globalconnections.

Council Welcomes New Executive Director of Studies



Thomas Wright

Thomas Wright joined The Chicago Council on Global Affairs as its new executive director of studies on August 1, 2008. Wright takes leadership of the studies team as the Council has convened several task forces, including “National Energy Policy and Midwestern Regional Competitiveness” and “Religion and the Making of American Foreign Policy.” In addition to helping to bring these initiatives, and the 2008 Public Opinion

Study, to successful conclusions, Wright’s responsibilities will include designing a new initiative on Europe and shaping future studies activities.

“Tom’s ability to guide groups of experts to consensus and to write for a well-informed policy audience is exactly the experience we were looking for,” said Rachel Bronson, vice president of programs and studies at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. “He is incredibly talented, thoughtful, and accomplished and is going to help us do great things.”

Long known for its studies of American public opinion on foreign policy matters, The Chicago Council has expanded its efforts to contribute ideas and opinions from Chicago and the Midwest to discussions of critical global issues. Its reports have been profiled in major publications like *Newsweek International* and have influenced U.S. foreign policy discussions around key issues such as the farm bill.

“I’m delighted to be joining the Council at such an exciting time in Chicago, the United

States, and the world at large” said Wright. “There is an extraordinary team here, and I’m looking forward to helping The Chicago Council produce cutting edge research that addresses the important challenges and opportunities we face in the years ahead, including climate change, energy, national security, the stability of the global economy, and transnational threats.”

Previously, Wright served as a senior researcher for the Princeton Project on National Security, a multiyear bipartisan project of Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He was the principal drafter of the final report titled “Forging a World of Liberty Under Law.” For the past six years, Wright also has served as the rapporteur for a National Intelligence Council-sponsored study group on strategic challenges in an age of American preeminence. He earned his doctorate from Georgetown University in 2007 and was awarded a predoctoral fellowship at Harvard University’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Conference Unites Midwest Region to Confront the Challenges of Globalization

On Monday, October 6, 2008, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs hosted a full-day conference, “Globalization and the Midwest,” to discuss key challenges facing the region and to develop recommendations for how to best position the Midwest for success in a global era. The conference was open to Chicago Council members and the public and took place at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago.

“I’ve been driving around the great heartland swath that defines the Midwest and have found towns, cities, and states grappling on their own with the pressures of globalization, unaware that it’s a regional crisis with regional solutions,” said Richard Longworth, senior fellow at The Chicago Council of Global Affairs and author of *Caught in the Middle: America’s Heartland in the Age of Globalism*. “What the Midwest needs is the ability to bring together key actors to generate real thinking – and solutions – across state lines.”

With support from powerful regional stakeholders such as the Big Ten Universities’ Committee on Institutional Cooperation,

the national CEOs for Cities, the Millennium Project, the Farm Foundation, and the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, The Chicago Council has helped jump start a long overdue conversation about globalization.

Thomas Dorr, under secretary for rural development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; John Engler, president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Manufacturers and former governor of Michigan; and Thomas Vilsack, former governor of Iowa, delivered keynote addresses.

Panels throughout the day covered the Midwest in the global economy, industries of the future, the impact of immigration, and the importance of thinking regionally. Sessions were designed to offer innovative thinking on crucial policy issues confronting the Midwest and to promote dialogue between panelists and the audience. Conference sponsors included The Cleveland Foundation, Navistar, Barnes & Thornburg, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2008 America and the World Conference Takes on the World Order

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs brought together forty-five specialists from sixteen countries for its 2008 America and the World Conference, “Re-Imagining the World Order: Nation-States, International Institutions, and Non-State Actors in a Global Era.” With generous support from the McCormick Foundation, the Cooper Family Foundation, and A.T. Kearney, the conference took place in Chicago from June 12-14, 2008.



Kevin Casas-Zamora (center) speaks during the conference session on “Integrated Approaches to Economic Challenges.”

Participants spent two days discussing how to best manage the ever-increasing issues raised by globalization, and developing a set of recommendations that would address the challenges posed by growing interconnectedness.

“The conference was premised on the fact that the international architecture that facilitated stability during the second half of the twentieth century is under duress,” said Rachel Bronson, vice president of programs and studies at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. “International institutions and multilateral alliances are struggling to respond to new and diverse challenges that span borders, expand beyond traditional institutional mandates, and require greater coordination.”

In the first session, “Global Forces and Society,” participants considered key transnational issues that fall between the traditional definitions of economics and security and are not easily addressed by states, international institutions, and non-state actors. Delegates agreed that more international information-sharing and regional coordination is needed to better

manage issues of migration, public health, and climate change.

The second session on “Integrated Approaches to Security Challenges” examined the risks collapsing states pose to their neighbors, their region, and the international community. Intrastate conflicts produce refugees, are attractive to terrorist networks, raise the risk of WMD proliferation, and have the potential to spillover into neighboring states. Moreover, when national governments fail to protect their populations from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or ethnic cleansing, there is a growing call for the international community to intervene. Participants discussed tools states, non-state actors, and international institutions can employ to prevent and manage these conflicts and minimize their effect on the surrounding region.

During the third session, “Integrated Approaches to Economic Challenges,” participants observed that no extant international body effectively monitors, let alone manages, the high volume of daily financial transactions. The challenges

this creates is compounded by the fact that powerful emerging economic engines such as Brazil, Russia, India, and China remain largely outside existing financial arrangements, and neither states, corporate leaders, nor regulatory bodies are keeping pace with evolving economic realities.

Although the conversation was widespread, delegates made recommendations on ways the international community can better organize itself to manage global debacles. One of the strongest conclusions was cautionary.

Growing interconnectedness calls for a more complete view of global needs, and creating new institutions will not work unless they are comprehensive and expansive. As P. R. Chari, director of India’s Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, said, any successful solution to the challenges raised by global interconnectedness “requires a creation, firstly, of a greater global and national awareness of all these forces and their implications for society.”

Delegates also concluded that formal institutions are useful but cannot provide the predictability they once did because of the quickening pace of global change. Kevin Casas-Zamora, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and former Costa Rican second vice president and minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, argued that “we are going to have to learn to live with chaos.”

The group finally recommended the international community rethink what is expected from political institutions. The United Nations and other broad international institutions are well positioned to manage information, coordinate activities, and monitor risk while regional arrangements may be better placed for execution.

Since 2002, the America and the World Conference has annually brought together foreign policy specialists from think tanks, academia, media, government, nongovernmental organizations, and business from the United States and abroad to discuss key global issues. Previous conference themes have included “The Rise of China and India: Implications for World Order,” “Democratization: Can It Make the World Safe?” and “America and the World: One Year After the Attacks.”

Council Identifies City's Emerging Leaders



Back row, from left: Mino Javanmardian, Jordan Shields, Chicago Council Board member John F. Manley, Piyush Chaudhari, Roger Shores, Steve Haggerty, Olga Camargo, Reza Yassari, Lisa McClung, Sean Ryan, Kate Maehr, Zach Egan, Josh Hale. Front row, from left: Charlie Wheelan, Tracey Scruggs-Yearwood, Chicago Council President Marshall M. Bouton, Juliet Sorensen, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Sophia Siskel. Not pictured: Nik Theodore.

Chicago is one of the world's top global cities because its farsighted leaders understood how to transform it from an industrial powerhouse to an agile modern city deeply integrated in the international economy. A new generation is now rising to leadership, and The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, with the support of the

Emerging Leaders Class of 2008-2010

OLGA CAMARGO, *Head of Hispanic Research and Strategy, Mesirow Financial.*

Olga joined Mesirow Financial in 2004 and launched the firm's Hispanic Outreach program. She is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, a board member of the Instituto del Progreso Latino, and was designated by Chicago Latino Network as the Latina Professional of the Year in 2007. She earned her B.S. in marketing and her M.A. in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

PIYUSH CHAUDHARI, *Executive Vice President, Aon Consulting*

Piyush joined Aon Consulting in 2006 after having worked at IBM, Motorola, and McKinsey and Company. He has been awarded two U.S. patents in the area of microelectronics. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

ZACH EGAN, *Director of International Research And Fund Manager, Columbia Wanger Asset Management, L.P.*

Zach joined Columbia Wanger Asset Management in 1999. He was a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow in Germany in 1998-99 and is a trustee of the Lycée Français de Chicago. He earned his B.A. in philosophy from Middlebury College and his A.M. in political science from the University of Chicago.

STEPHEN HAGGERTY, *Global Head of Real Estate And Development, Global Hyatt Corporation*

Steve joined Hyatt in 2007 after thirteen years with Marriott International. He is responsible for global development activity for all of Hyatt's lodging brands, owned real estate, and related asset management activities. Steve has extensive international experience, having held positions in Europe and the Asia/Pacific region. He earned his B.A. from Cornell University.

JOSHUA HALE, *Executive Director, Big Shoulders Fund*

Josh became the executive director of Big Shoulders in 2005. Big Shoulders provides scholarships and programmatic support for ninety-three inner-city Catholic schools and more than 25,000 children. Previously, he worked at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, as management consultant with The Hale Group, Ltd., and as a volunteer school teacher with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in the Marshall Islands. He earned his B.A. in communications from Marquette University.

MINOO JAVANMARDIAN, *Vice President, Booz and Company*

Mino is focused on developing corporate and business strategies and strategy-based transformation in the healthcare industry, including payors (health plans) and providers (e.g. hospitals and clinics) sectors. Born in Iran, she completed undergraduate studies in chemical engineering at the University of Tehran, received an M.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Manchester in Britain, a Ph.D. in chemical/biochemical engineering from the University of Michigan, and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago.

S. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, *Deputy Treasurer for Policy and Programs, Illinois State Treasurer's Office*

Prior to joining the Illinois State Treasurer's Office in 2007, Raja worked for the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Kirkland & Ellis, and Obama for Illinois. Born in India, he is the highest ranking South Asian to have served in Illinois government. He earned his B.S.E. in mechanical engineering from Princeton University and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

KATHERINE MAEHR, *Executive Director, Greater Chicago Food Depository*

Kate was selected in 2006, after ten years with the Food Depository, to lead the nation's premier food bank. She has been recognized by *Crain's* "Who's Who" in 2006 and 2007, *Crain's* "40 Under 40" in 2004, and participated in Leadership Greater Chicago in 2005. She earned her B.A. in English and art history from Macalester College and her M.A. in public administration from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

LISA MCCLUNG, *Senior Director, W.M. Wrigley Jr. Company*

Lisa began working at Wrigley in 2000 and has over fifteen years of global marketing and product development experience. She has lived in Africa and Europe. In Chicago, Lisa is a member of several boards including the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Architecture Foundation, the Women's Board of the Field Museum, and the Ravinia Associates. She earned her B.A. from Smith College and her M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She was also a visiting scholar at Harvard College.

McCormick Foundation, has established an Emerging Leaders Program to identify those who will make the decisions that will equip the city to compete and thrive in the global era.

Eighteen Emerging Leaders from the government, private, and nonprofit sectors were selected from a competitive pool of nominated candidates to participate in the inaugural year. The two-year program is designed to deepen their engagement in and understanding of global affairs.

“These Emerging Leaders are global citizens in every sense, with roots sunk deep in Chicago but with a gaze that spans far beyond,” said Marshall M. Bouton, president of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. “The city’s future depends greatly on their abilities to serve as agents of change.”

Each year, a selection committee will identify a new class of leaders to participate in the two-year program. During the first year, the Emerging Leaders will meet as a

group in a series of seminars to examine timely issues such as the global economy, foreign policy, the environment and climate change, energy, and migration. In the second year, they will develop, produce, and present a report on a pressing global challenge that affects Chicago and the Midwest.

SEAN RYAN, Principal, A.T. Kearney

Sean has over ten years of consulting experience with U.S. and European clients. He specializes in growth related issues in consumer products and health care and leads the North America practice area. He has published articles on Europe, the global economy, and finance. He earned his B.A. in history from Boston College, his M.A. in international relations from The Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), and his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago.

TRACEY SCRUGGS-YEARWOOD, Vice President of Multimedia, Chicago Urban League

Tracey joined the Chicago Urban League in 2007 after having previously worked with the Illinois Department of Human Services and cable news networks around the country. She produced segments for the *Oprah Winfrey Show* and was an Ethel Payne Fellow in South Africa in 1998. She has studied in Italy and earned her B.S. in communications from Northwestern University.

J. JORDAN SHIELDS, Healthcare Strategy Consultant, Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Jordan joined Navigant Consulting in 2006 and has healthcare consulting experience with Ernst & Young and Arthur Andersen. He studied in Chile and volunteered in Ecuador as a school teacher and for the government. He earned his B.A. with honors in economics and Spanish from Bowdoin College and his M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, where he was named Top Student in Health Industry Management.

SOPHIA SISKEL, President and Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Botanic Garden

Sophia was selected to lead the Chicago Botanic Garden in 2007 after having served as a vice president of the Garden and The Field Museum, and as a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Art Institute of Chicago. She is a board member of Chicago Wilderness and the Arts Club of Chicago. She earned her B.A. from Wellesley College, her M.A. in art history from the University of Chicago, and her M.B.A. in finance and accounting from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

ROGER SHORES, Group President, Illinois Tool Works

Roger has been with ITW since 1992 and has nearly ten years of experience in global business. He was a member of the board of directors of the Jesse White Tumbling and Scholars Program for four years. He earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Massachusetts.

JULIE SORENSEN, Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office

Juliet is an assistant U.S. attorney focusing on fraud and public corruption. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2003, Juliet was a litigation associate and a judicial clerk in Boston. She was also a maternal and child health volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps in Morocco and volunteered in Colombia as a trial advocacy instructor. She received her B.A. in politics from Princeton University and her J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.

NIK THEODORE, Associate Professor, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago

Nik teaches, writes, lectures, and consults on urban planning and labor markets in the United States and Britain. He was an Atlantic Fellow in Public Policy at Manchester University in England and was recognized by *Crain's* “40 Under 40” in 2003. He earned his B.A. in urban studies and political science from Macalester College and his M.A. in urban planning and Ph.D. in public policy analysis from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

CHARLES WHEELAN, Senior Lecturer, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

Charlie teaches at the University of Chicago and Dartmouth College and is the author of *Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science*, a monthly column on Yahoo! Finance, and a correspondent for WBEZ Chicago Public Radio. Previously, he worked for Chicago Metropolis 2020 and *The Economist*. He earned his B.A. from Dartmouth College, his M.P.A. from Princeton University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

REZA YASSARI, Chief Resident, Section of Neurosurgery, University of Chicago Medical Center

Reza previously was a fellow at the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. He has published extensively in neurosciences and has been awarded numerous scholarships and awards in the United States and abroad. He works as a volunteer for the Virtue Foundation, where his main interest has been the development of sustainable educational and medical infrastructures in developing countries, with special focus on Chiapas, Mexico. Reza earned his M.D. from the University of Vienna and his M.S. from the University of Chicago.

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FALL 2008

Council Receives Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

continued from front

U.S. spending on agricultural development has fallen from around \$1.6 billion annually in the 1980s to just over \$300 million per year this decade. In 1980, agriculture accounted for thirty percent of the World Bank's lending; by 2007 it was only 13 percent.

While immediate reaction to the sharp increase in food prices might reverse this trend and lead to a modest short-term growth in spending, there is no current government-driven effort to significantly ramp up sustained investment in global agricultural development to alleviate rural poverty and related hunger over the long-term.

"Agricultural development is the essential first step to alleviate extreme poverty and hunger in developing nations," said Ms. Bertini. "Three quarters of the world's poorest people live on less than \$1 per day and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Most of these small stakeholder farmers are women. Agriculture is an issue of survival, the health of their children, and hope of rising from poverty."

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Development Program has committed more than \$900 million to agricultural development efforts with a focus on Africa and South Asia. The foundation is working with a wide range of partners to provide millions of small farmers with tools and opportunities to boost their productivity, increase their incomes, and build better lives for themselves and their families.

Robert Thompson, the Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and former USDA assistant secretary for economics, is serving as chair of an experts committee providing the group with guidance and critical thinking on the full spectrum of issues under examination. The members of the committee led by Thompson are experts in agricultural research, infrastructure and agricultural development, and regional affairs in Africa and South Asia.

Bertini and Thomson also co-chaired The Chicago Council's task force on modernizing America's food and farm policy, which released a report in September 2006 that contained a balanced set of recommendations for reform of the nation's farm bill. The task force called on Congress to end trade-distorting subsidies, redefine the farm safety net, transform the Food Stamp Program, and reinvest in U.S. agriculture's future. It gained widespread attention, including coverage by national farm and agriculture press and international media such as the *Financial Times*, and continues to be cited in discussions about the future of U.S. agriculture policy.

"The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has recognized The Chicago Council for its prior work on agricultural issues," said Marshall M. Bouton, president of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. "This new project will help shape the national discourse about the future of U.S. development policy at a time of change."