

# REVIEW & PREVIEW

The Newsletter of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Summer 2000

## A Message From Paul

### We Bring Together Experts To Forge Concrete Solutions

The Public Policy Institute has been described as a “do tank” rather than a “think tank”. I like to believe we stimulate thinking, but it is true that we have as a bottom line on our formal symposiums: Is there a possibility of something concrete happening as a result of this symposium? If we can’t answer that in the affirmative, we don’t have that particular symposium.

An example of something that receives no visibility because it is a little complex is the symposium we had on the unintended consequences of a law on student loan defaults.

The federal government was paying large sums of money on student loan defaults because of poor management and loose policies. Congress, rightfully concerned, instituted some changes that have dramatically improved things. One change put in place a provision that said if a school’s loan default rate exceeded 25 percent, that school would no longer be eligible for any federal student assistance programs.

The problem with that well-intended law was that it applied

the same standard to Harvard as to an inner city school in Chicago. Schools that serve poorer students are the ones that have the problems. While Southern Illinois University’s default rate is well below 25 percent (8.0

train people to be everything from hair dressers and truck drivers to dental assistants and computer technicians are moving out of the central cities to the suburbs. The result is that those who need that added lift the most are sometimes denied an opportunity.

It is an example of a well-intended policy that has gone astray.

We pulled together a group of about a dozen experts, including former Congressman William Gray, now president of the United Negro College Fund; U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education A. Lee Fritchler, former president of Dickinson College; Dr. Terry Hartle of the American Council on Education, former

staff director for the Senate committee that deals with education; and Dr. Marshall Grigsby, former president of Benedict College and staff director for Congressman William Clay on the House committee that deals with education.

We made several recommendations for correcting the situation, a few of which are likely to be enacted.

These are not monumental changes, not changes that will



Paul Simon and William Gray

percent at Carbondale, 9.5 percent at Edwardsville), both rates are roughly triple the rate of default at the University of Illinois at Urbana because we serve many more low income students. Schools that serve primarily low income students have real problems.

The net result is that some schools try to limit the numbers of low-income students, though that is never a publicly stated policy. And the trade schools that

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make news stories, but changes that will make educational opportunity a greater reality for many low income families.

That is the type of thing we are doing. Things that no other public policy institute is looking at. The Rwanda symposium, covered in the last newsletter, so far as we can determine is the only symposium conducted by any public policy institute in the world on the lessons to be learned from that tragedy. And our recommendations have caused at least some discussion among members of the U.S. House and Senate and among some international leaders.

\* \* \*

One of the people who twice donated a small amount for the work of the Public Policy Institute

was Charles Schlesinger of the Chicago area. Because of his contributions, he was on our mailing list and must have read about Robert Luken including the Public Policy Institute in his estate plans.

A few weeks ago Charles Schlesinger died. Shortly after his death we received word that he had included our Public Policy Institute in his will with a \$20,000 gift. To my knowledge, he never visited Carbondale or Southern Illinois University, nor have I ever had a discussion about the Institute with him.

But thanks to his thoughtfulness and generosity, the Institute will be able to continue its work of stimulating and improving public policy. His name will not be stamped on any of the improvements that take place because

of our Public Policy Institute, but in a very real sense his non-visible stamp will be on our accomplishments.

Changing public policy is not done, with rare exceptions, with one single dramatic move. It is pieced together, like a mosaic. And Charles Schlesinger has added one piece to that mosaic. We are grateful to him.



### New Member

The Public Policy Institute is pleased to announce that Glen L. Bower, director of the Illinois Department of Revenue, has been named to the Public Policy Institute Regional Advisory Board.

## Harvard Professor Says Presidential Nomination Process Must Change

The front-loading of presidential primaries is disenfranchising millions of voters, a nationally known scholar asserted as he delivered the Morton-Kenney address.

Thomas Patterson, the Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press at Harvard University, said the battles for the presidential nominations concluded just as Americans were beginning to focus on them.

Patterson recalled it was mid-May in 1972—nearly 12 weeks after the New Hampshire primary—before half of the delegates were chosen for the national conventions. This year, the majority of delegates to the national convention were decided by March 7—only four weeks after the New Hampshire primary.

“Interest was still rising March 7, the learning curve still accelerating,” Patterson said. “Then it was over. We basically disenfranchised half of the electorate. Why turn out to vote? The race is over.”

Patterson said both political parties and the National Association of Secretaries of State are researching ways to change the nomination process.

He described and briefly analyzed five possible alternatives:

- Stay with the current system but fix the front-loading by developing a lottery system to determine who goes first (excluding Iowa and New Hampshire)
- Establish regional primaries
- Hold a national primary (the public’s favorite alternative according to Patterson)
- Adopt the Delaware Plan, which allows for the least populated states to hold their primaries first and then progress to the most

populated states

- Return to the party convention system.

“We will have a new system in 2004 or 2008,” Patterson concluded.

The Morton-Kenney Lecture Series is sponsored through a grant by SIUC alumnus Jerry Mileur, a political science professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and is coordinated by the Public Policy Institute and the SIUC Department of Political Science in honor of former SIUC political science professors Ward Morton and David Kenney.

**“We basically disenfranchised half of the electorate. Why turn out to vote? The race is over.”**  
—Thomas Patterson

## William Gray Tackles Education in the Next Millenium

William H. Gray III, president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, addressed future challenges for education, disputed some common myths about minorities and higher education, and praised a new scholarship program funded by Microsoft founder Bill Gates at an Institute-sponsored lecture.

Gray, the first African American to head the U.S. House Budget Committee, pointed out population trends indicate the largest minority group in the 2020s will be Hispanic Americans and that current minorities will become majorities by 2050.

"There are more blacks going to college today than at any other time in American history," Gray said.

"Only 16 percent of blacks go to historically black institutions while 84 percent of blacks attend historically white colleges. The biggest

barrier to the success of minorities in higher education is money."



**William Gray**

Which is why Gray is excited about the Gates Millenium Scholars Program, a billion-dollar project to produce a new generation of

achievers. Criteria for scholarship winners is based on academic excellence, a poverty level defined by Pell grant eligibility and leadership abilities.

"This is a tremendous investment," Gray said. "The message to our kids is stay in school. Someone wants to help."

Gray directs America's oldest and most successful black higher education assistance organization. During his tenure, approximately half of the \$1.4 billion raised in the College Fund's 54-year history has been collected while administrative costs have been lowered to 3.4 cents for each dollar raised.

As a former member of Congress, Gray was a leading advocate for strengthening America's educational systems. He served as chair of the Democratic Caucus and later as Majority Whip.

## Dental Clinic Set To Open This Fall

Thousands of disadvantaged children who have been unable to receive preventative dental care will be served by a project stemming from an initiative by the Public Policy Institute and its partners on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

The services will be provided at a clinic operated by SIUC's dental hygiene program. The initiative received a significant boost from Lt. Gov. Corinne Wood, who provided state funding for the additional equipment needed.

"This is an example of where our institute has been able to make a positive difference in the region by working with state officials and those in leadership roles at the university," Mike Lawrence, the Institute's associate director, said.

"This will not meet all the

dental needs of low-income people in our region, but it is a significant step forward and could become a statewide model for improving access in rural areas through greater use of university and community college resources," Lawrence said.

"We are grateful to Lieutenant Governor Wood and the leadership of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts for making this happen," Lawrence said.

"I also want to commend Jeanie Akamanti, an intern at the Institute, for her unflinching commitment to this project. Her research and persistence were vital."

Playing a key role in mobilizing university and community support for the initiative was Dr. Paul Sarvela, chair of the Health Care Professions Department. The dental hygiene program is part of his

department, and he met with local dental society members to assure there would be cooperation. Twelve dentists from the Southern Illinois Dental Society are volunteering to help make this project a success.

A study demonstrating the strong need to improve access to preventative dental care services for low-income children was conducted by the Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development, which Sarvela directed before moving to the department chairmanship.

Also strongly supportive was Dr. Elaine M. Vitello, dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts and Dr. John Jackson, SIUC interim chancellor.

In addition, Sen. David Luechtefeld arranged a session with state dental society officials that proved helpful.

## Social Activist Heather Booth Delivers John White Fellowship and Lecture

Heather Booth, founder of Citizen Action, the nation's largest grassroots progressive political organization, spoke to student groups and discussed ways to engage people, particularly young people, in public service and participation in the democratic process.

During her SIUC visit, Booth counseled a fledgling Feminist Action Coalition on strategies to increase interest in women's issues. She also conducted a brainstorming session with the campus Anti-Racist Action group. After the Fellowship Lecture, she was joined by former Jackson County Republican chairman Ray Doerr and Jackson County Democrat chairwoman Shirley Booker in offering insights on what is effective in local politics.

"Heather was absolutely wonderful in terms of organization, how she broke things down," student Kate Kelly said of her meeting with Booth on the Feminist Action Coalition. "She had great ideas for activities and how to proceed step by step. She had the most magnetic personality and was very approachable."



**From left: Jill Berube, of Carbondale, and Lilly Crane, of Makanda, speak with Heather Booth.**

Booth is the founder and president of the Midwest Academy, a training center that teaches people how to build membership-based organizations. She directed the field operation for Carol Moseley-Braun's successful 1992 Senate race, ran the Illinois 1996 Coordinated Campaign and spearheaded the 1998 New York Get Out the Vote campaign.

The John White Fellowship and Lecture is named in honor of John White, president of Midland Manufacturing, former president of the Better Government Association of Chicago and an active participant in civic and political life. Previous recipients include Dannel McCollum, former mayor of Champaign and Jack Kubik, former Republican state representative.

### Upcoming Events

**Pulitzer Prize  
Winning Poet**

**Gwendolyn Brooks**

What I Have  
Learned  
Lecture Series

September 14



**Youth**

**Government Day**

for high school  
juniors/seniors and  
community college  
students

October 21



**Don McHenry  
Former U.S.**

**Ambassador to the  
United Nations,  
SIU alumnus**

November 2



**David Broder,  
National Columnist**

What I Have  
Learned  
Lecture Series

December 4

## Starting Young Is Key To Human Rights Education

It is never too early to educate children about the importance of human rights.

"You don't want to wait until junior high or high school to teach children about what is fair, just and right," Paulette Aronson, an elementary fine arts teacher said. "You start very young with simple things. I'm always amazed at what a sense of justice young children have and how they lose that as they age."

SIUC law student Adam Stone proposed the idea exchange to brainstorm ways to integrate human rights education into the school curriculum.

"Most Americans don't learn about human rights in school," Stone said. "Many other countries do have programs established and their citizens learn about human

rights from the beginning."

Possible strategies included initiating a public awareness campaign with a speakers' bureau to reach churches, community

**"Most Americans don't learn about human rights in school. Many other countries do have programs established and their citizens learn about human rights from the beginning."  
—Adam Stone**

organizations and schools, developing language for inclusion into the Illinois Standards and implement-

ing a training program to meet teacher's continuing education requirements.

Additionally, the Carbondale Elementary School District has decided to integrate human rights education into its social studies classes. Stone will assist with this integration by serving on the District's Social Studies Advisory Committee.

Members of the group were Paulette Aronson, Anna school teacher; Joe Beck, former editorial page editor, *Southern Illinoisan*; Brad Cole, Governor's Office; Jim Leming, professor of curriculum and instruction in SIUC's College of Education; Keith Hillkirk, dean of the SIUC College of Education; Elizabeth Lewin, superintendent of Carbondale Elementary Schools; and Adam Stone, SIUC law student.

## Ron and Joan Engel Present First Hayward Lecture

People representing widely diverse perspectives must come together to meet long-term responsibilities to humanity and the environment.

That was the message from husband and wife team Ron and Joan Engel who spoke to faculty, students and members of the public as they inaugurated the John and Muriel Hayward Lecture Series, which will become an annual event.

The Engels are considered pioneers in the struggle to save the natural world from urban sprawl and commercial invasion. Their strategy through the Nature/Polis/Ethics project brings civic, business

and environmental leaders together with scientists, ethicists, philosophers, theologians and other humanities scholars to discuss long term social and environmental responsibilities in the Chicago area.

The Engels are also actively working with the Earth Charter to be presented to the United Nations for adoption in 2002. During audience discussion, Public Policy Institute director Paul Simon shared his thoughts on environmental issues.

"It's a global problem that gets complicated by two things," Simon said. "One is our tendency to look short term. In the public sector, the

emphasis is on the next election. In the private sector, the emphasis is on the next quarterly report.

"Second, we really have to realize we are in this global village together."

Ron Engel teaches environmental social ethics and theology at Chicago area colleges and divinity schools. Joan Engel writes about environmental topics for various publications.

The John and Muriel Hayward Fellowship was created in 1999 to bring in distinguished guests to lecture in the general area of politics and religion or politics and the arts.

## Default Initiative Examines College Funding for Low-Income Students

Gradually increasing Pell Grants and making them available year-round to low-income students were two of the recommendations from a working group led by Paul Simon, director of the Public Policy Institute, William Gray, president of the United Negro College Fund, and A. Lee Fritschler, assistant secretary for postsecondary education for the Department of Education.

“The shift from heavy reliance on student grants to heavy reliance on student loans needs to be reversed,” the group asserted. “Gradually increasing the Pell Grants is in the nation’s interest and will lessen the prospect that students from low-income families will accumulate unmanageable debt. Increasing funding for Pell Grants will encourage more students from families of limited income to attend postsecondary institutions and remain in school through graduation.”

The group gathered to discuss problems dealing with the current student loan program. Among other things, schools with high default rates are penalized without regard to whether they are serving significant numbers of students who have limited means.

Standards dealing with student loans were tightened several years ago because of concern over defaults. As a result, however, some schools, including excellent institutions, began losing federal student aid because of the mechanical application of the student aid rules. Low-income students were among those most hurt by the action.



**Part of the working group that examined college funding were (from left) William “Bud” Blakey, Tom Babel and Tommy Sims.**

Some of the working group’s short-term recommendations are:

- Greater flexibility for institutions that have a substantial number of enrollees from low-income circumstances.
- Immediate research into assessing the total debt burden students are assuming when they end their schooling and how that burden impacts a student’s career choices.
- Better financial counseling, including financial planning, budgeting and debt management for students and families before and during college.
- Increased communication to the public and particularly minority communities about educational opportunities.

Additional members of the working group include the

following: Tom Babel, DeVry Inc.; William “Bud” Blakey, Dean Blakey & Moskowitz; Pam Britton, Education First; William Carson, Santa Fe, N.M.; Cheryl Fields, Langhum Mitchell Communications; Dr. Marshall Grigsby, Rep. William Clay’s office; Dr. Terry Hartle, American Council on Education; Tommy Sims, DeVry Institute of Technology; Marian Smithson, National Direct Student Loan Coalition, SIUE; Andrew Sund, St. Augustine College, and Omer Waddles, ITT Educational Services Inc.

Recommendations were sent to committee members in the United States House and Senate, congressional staff members, and national media. A copy of the recommendations is also available from the Public Policy Institute.

## Remembering Jeanne Hurley Simon

She was one of us. Adviser. Inspirer. Role model. Friend.

As most of you who read this newsletter already know, Jeanne Simon was a truly special person.

Her profound concern for the less fortunate, her courage and resolve in the face of great challenges and adversity, her graciousness in triumph and her tenacity in the grip of setbacks, her wonderfully keen sense of humor, her love of family and friends, her unflagging zest for life—all of these remarkable qualities allowed her to make a huge positive difference in the lives of those she touched personally and the millions of other people she benefited through her good deeds and full partnership with the man who founded and directs our enterprise.

The staff at the institute shares a common bond with those who served with the Simons in the

Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois lieutenant governor's office, the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate and in a campaign for the presidency of our nation.

We have experienced the distinct pleasure and honor of associating with this great woman who so generously shared her laughter, enthusiasm, encouragement, intelligence, insights and genuineness with us, who made all of us feel important, who made us proud to be part of her extended family.

We miss her. The time with her seemed far too short. But we are



**Paul Simon accepted an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on behalf of his late wife, Jeanne Hurley Simon, at May 13 graduate school commencement ceremonies. From left are Bill Norwood, a member of the SIU Board of Trustees, Simon, Carolyn Snyder, former dean of Library Affairs, and Frank Horton, SIU interim president.**

grateful for the gift of knowing and loving Jeanne Simon.

— Mike Lawrence  
Associate Director  
Public Policy Institute

## Bernard Rapoport: What I Have Learned

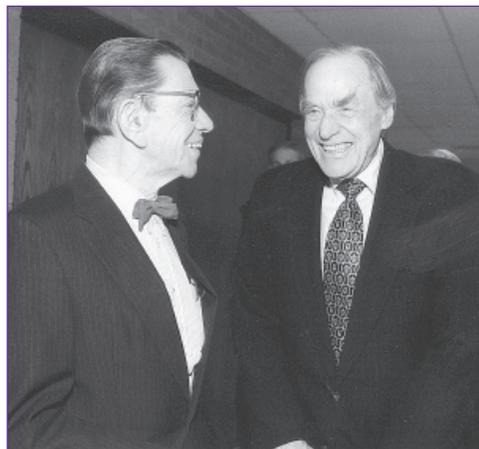
American business leader "B." Rapoport attributes much of his corporate and personal success to the P.I.E. theory.

"Passion, integrity and energy," the 82-year old told a group of business students and members of the community. "The greatest lack we have in society is passion. You have to be able to get mad, to get excited, to believe in something."

Rapoport is founder and chairman emeritus of Texas-based American Income Life Insurance Company, which serves more than two million members and has more than \$13 billion of life insurance in force.

The son of Jewish Russian immigrants, Rapoport credits his father with giving him valuable

direction in life. His father, who served in the Revolutionary Army of 1905 and later escaped to America from Siberia, told him: "Protect your name, never let a book out of your hands, and always



**Paul Simon and Bernard Rapoport**

have a sense of outrage at injustice."

Rapoport belongs to numerous civic organizations including serving as chairman of the board for the American Friends of Tel Aviv University, a member of the advisory council for the National Jobs for All Coalition, a member of the advisory committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, and many others. He also served as chairman of the Board of Regents for the University of Texas system.

"What kind of a society do we really want?" he asked of his audience. "We have to have the will for a better society. What about the poverty? The children who are not well fed, well clothed? We don't have the will to do socially what we have the will to do economically."

Dear Paul:

Visit us online at [www.siu.edu/~ppi](http://www.siu.edu/~ppi)

- I appreciate what the Public Policy Institute has done during its first three years. I look forward to what it will accomplish for our state and nation in the future. And, I want to help support your efforts.
- I am enclosing my most generous contribution of:  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$1000 other: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested to learn how making a planned gift to the Institute could benefit my beneficiaries and me.

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#### Message to Paul:

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