

PAUL SIMON
PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

.....
YEAR *in* REVIEW | 2023





Front cover photo by Martin H. Simon, 1988.

Delyte Morris statue is pictured on the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus. Photo by Russell Bailey, 2023.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Dear Friends,

As we looked back during 2023 on the many good works of the Simon Institute during its first 25 years, a consistent theme emerged of hope and optimism for the future. In planning for this publication, Director Shaw asked me if I had any images of my father that illustrated that feeling, and the photo shown on this cover immediately came to mind. I shot this in the waning days of his run for president in 1988, at a time when we knew he would not likely ever join that exclusive club carved in stone behind him. Yet his spirits that day (as they were on most days during that year-long run for the White House) were fueled by meeting folks all across our great country who reminded him of how all of us share far more in common than what divides us. But it was the young people he met on college campuses nationwide that energized him the most, which is why he would ultimately choose our SIU campus to house his Institute, which is dedicated to fostering responsible citizenship for young people.



Director Shaw and his team are doing a marvelous job of maintaining that spirit of hope and optimism. The Board of Counselors is grateful for their hard work and for your continued support of my dad's legacy!

Thank you,
MARTIN H. SIMON



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Paul Simon Public Policy Institute





Pulliam Hall pictured on the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus. *Photo by Russell Bailey, 2023.*

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we move into an extremely challenging political year in the United States, it is important to reflect on Paul Simon's lifelong commitment to civility, respect, and a fact-based approach to public policy. Paul also insisted on looking to the future with hope and optimism.

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute remains committed to these values, as demonstrated by our work in 2023.

The Institute's distinctive programs promote "Better Politics, Smarter Government." These programs strengthen the Institute in Illinois and across the United States and give us substantial international exposure. The Institute remains committed to offering opportunities to students that prepare and inspire them for careers in public service.

We celebrated the Institute's silver anniversary last year and embraced the theme of *The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute: The Next 25 Years*. Obviously, it is difficult to look a quarter-century into the future with full clarity, but I believe our programs will stand the test of time even as they evolve.

The Institute's agenda has four central features.

First, we are committed to compelling in-person events to simulate SIU students and educate and edify our community. I'm very proud of the quality of our in-person events in 2023 which included *The New York Times* Chief Washington correspondent Carl Hulse, Carbondale Mayor Carolin Harvey, US Senator Richard Durbin, former President of the Illinois Senate John Cullerton, current President of the Illinois Senate Don Harmon, Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch, former Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, Congressman Darin LaHood, former Congressman and US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo.

Second, our virtual events give the Institute—and SIU—national and international reach. The *Understanding Our New World* series will celebrate its four-year anniversary this spring. We have hosted substantive hour-long conversations with more than 80 leaders in diplomacy, politics, academia, and philanthropy. More than 13,000 people from 45 states and territories and 29 countries have registered for our virtual discussions, which have attracted nearly 70,000 views on YouTube.

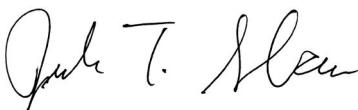
Third, we are proud of our programs related to Illinois since Paul chose to build the Institute in the Prairie State. The Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Statesmanship Award, the Paul Simon Democracy Prize, and the Renewing Illinois Summit underscore our commitment to democracy and leadership in Illinois. We have other programs that solidify this commitment, such as Meet the Mayor, Illinois Authors, and Rising Stars in Illinois Politics.

Finally, Paul Simon was determined to integrate the Institute into the fabric of SIU. Our excellent programs for students include scholarships, internships, ambassadorships, work opportunities, and special events. The Institute supports the Alexander Lane, Gene Callahan, Barbara Brown, Latino Heritage, Vince Demuzio, and social work internships and also awards several scholarships, including those honoring Mike Lawrence and David Yepsen.

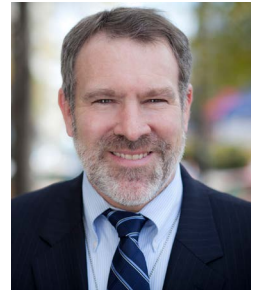
In the following pages, you will learn more about the work we did in 2023 and get a sense of the accomplishments we anticipate this year.

We ask for your continuing support to make the Institute's *Next 25 Years* reflect the best of Paul Simon.

Sincerely,



JOHN T. SHAW





Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, Institute Director John Shaw, and Illinois Speaker of the House Chris Welch discuss the future of Illinois at the Union League Club of Chicago.
Photo by Poetic Productions, Keith Jorgensen, 2023.

WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATIONS



SPECIAL EVENTS

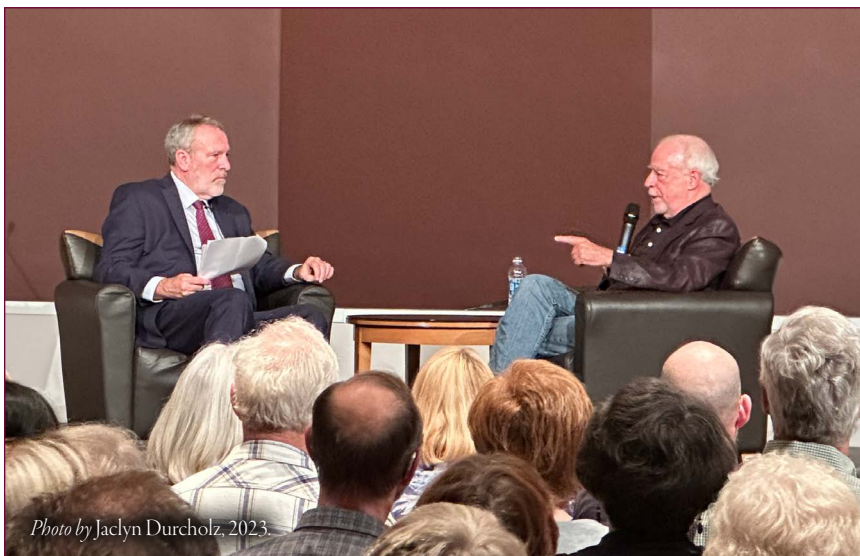
The Institute hosted several special programs in 2023 that offered SIU students, faculty, and staff, as well as the Institute's larger community, wonderful opportunities to meet and listen to compelling speakers in Carbondale.

Our 2023 special events included:



AN ILLINOIS POLITICAL FAMILY: DARIN AND RAY LAHOOD

The Institute was delighted to host a conversation with Congressman Darin LaHood and his father, former Congressman and US Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood. The wide-ranging and good-humored discussion was the first joint event that the LaHoods have done. They discussed Illinois politics, running for and serving in public office, national and international issues, and important mentors who shaped their careers.



RICHARD RUSSO'S RETURN TO CARBONDALE

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and screenwriter Richard Russo returned to campus for a delightful conversation hosted by the Institute. Speaking to a standing-room-only audience, Russo reflected on his career as a teacher and writer. He spoke warmly about his experiences as a professor of creative writing at SIU from 1986 to 1991. He confided that some of his best writing in Carbondale was done at Denny's. Russo signed dozens of books after his presentation and greeted old friends from SIU and the Carbondale community.



Special Events can be found on our YouTube Channel
[YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE](https://www.youtube.com/paulsimoninstitute)

THE FUTURE OF ILLINOIS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Institute celebrated its silver anniversary and looked to its next 25 years with a program at Chicago's Union League Club.

Institute Director Shaw moderated a discussion with Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Illinois Speaker of the House Chris Welch.



Photo by Poetic Productions, Keith Jorgensen, 2023.

WASHINGTON POLITICS WITH CARL HULSE

Carl Hulse, chief Washington correspondent for *The New York Times*, shared his thoughts on the perils and possibilities of American politics on the approach to the 2024 presidential election during a special presentation at The Varsity Center in Carbondale.



Photo by Jaelyn Durcholz, 2023.

SENATOR DICK DURBIN'S VISIT WITH SIU STUDENTS

The five-term senator from Illinois gave a presentation at the Institute and responded to questions from SIU students. Senator Durbin discussed his career, current issues in American politics, and Paul Simon as a crucial mentor in his life and career.



Photo by Jaelyn Durcholz, 2023.

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEW WORLD

The Institute's Understanding Our New World series of virtual conversations continues to provide critical insights about the seismic political and cultural changes that are shaping our collective future. We hosted 13 conversations this year with a diverse array of speakers covering a wide range of topics, including religion, democracy, voting, journalism, philanthropy, civil rights, economics, history, and William Shakespeare.

We are continuing this series in 2024. Visit paulsimoninstitute.org/events to see who we'll be speaking with and register to join us.



Ellen Alberding

President and CEO of The Joyce Foundation



Eliot Cohen

Professor at Johns Hopkins University, national security expert and an authority on William Shakespeare



Liz Dozier

Founder and CEO of Chicago Beyond



Drew Gilpin Faust

Former president of Harvard University and a leading scholar of the American Civil War



Samuel Freedman

Award winning author, columnist, and professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism



Susan Hayward

Associate Director for the Religious Literacy and Professions Initiative at Harvard Divinity School



Shannon McGregor

Professor at the University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill



Michelle Morales

President of Woods Fund Chicago



Miles Rapoport

Executive Director of 100% Democracy



Julieanna Richardson

Founder and Executive Director
of The HistoryMakers



Ben Smith

Journalist and co-founder of Semafor



Philip Taubman

Lecturer at Stanford University



John Walcott

Award-winning journalist and
foreign policy expert



Understanding Our New World conversations can be found on our YouTube channel
[YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE](https://www.youtube.com/paulsimoninstitute)

MEET THE MAYOR

GETTING TO KNOW ILLINOIS' MUNICIPAL LEADERS

Institute Director John Shaw reaches out to compelling and important mayors in Illinois to learn about the challenges and opportunities they are confronting. We continue to learn how mayors are grappling with the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge in crime, political polarization, and economic development in their communities.



The mayors we met in 2023 were:



Rita Ali
Mayor of Peoria



Carolin Harvey
Mayor of Carbondale



Watch **Meet The Mayor, Illinois Authors,** and **Rising Stars In Illinois Politics** conversations on our YouTube channel

[YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE](https://www.youtube.com/paulsimoninstitute)

ILLINOIS AUTHORS

MEETING THE WRITERS THAT BRING THE PRAIRIE STATE TO LIFE

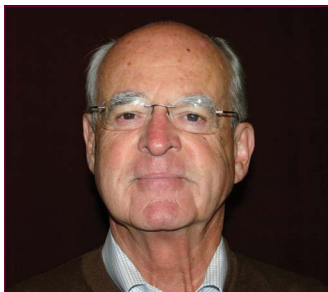
The Institute's Illinois Authors series introduces our viewers to writers who are shaping our understanding of Illinois' past and present and who are helping us envision our state's future.



Last year, we had stimulating conversations with:



Allison Joseph
Allison reflected on her work as a creative writing teacher at SIU, the challenge and thrill of writing poetry, and her book, "Confessions of a Barefaced Woman." She also read several of her poems.



Jim Nowlan
Jim discussed his wide-ranging career in Illinois politics, several of his books about government in the Prairie State, and his most recent book, "Politics: The Starter Kit—How to Succeed in Politics and Government."

RISING STARS IN ILLINOIS POLITICS

INTRODUCING A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS

In 2023 the Institute launched our Rising Stars in Illinois Politics series. Director Shaw had a terrific conversation with Margaret Croke, a member of the Illinois House who represents the 12th District.

This series focuses on young leaders in Illinois who are already shaping the Prairie State and are poised to become increasingly influential. The Institute will host young leaders from the Illinois General Assembly, mayors, and members of city councils, county commissions, and school boards.

We are eager to learn what kind of future they envision for our state—and how we can all work together to ensure "Better Politics, Smarter Government."



Margaret Croke
Illinois State Representative for the 12th District



RISING STARS IN ILLINOIS POLITICS

ILLINOIS 101
RECOMMENDED
READING LIST



SIU PAUL SIMON INSTITUTE
PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Want to dive deeper into Illinois history, culture, or politics?

Download **Illinois 101**, a collection of essential reading recommendations from state leaders, at PAULSIMONINSTITUTE.ORG/ILLINOIS101 OR contact us for a hard copy.

MORTON-KENNEY LECTURE

The Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture Series is presented by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and SIU’s School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology. The lectures occur in the spring and fall of each year. The late Jerome Mileur, an SIU alumnus, established the series in 1995 in honor of two of his political science professors—Ward Morton and David Kenney—who inspired him as a student.

The lectures in 2023 were:



Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier,
Professor of political science at
Ohio State University.

Her lecture was entitled
“Engagement and Pluralism:
Paths for Making a Difference”



Cheri Bustos,
Former US Representative from
Illinois’ 17th District.

She discussed her career as
a journalist and healthcare
executive, her decade as a
member of Congress, and her
current work for a global public
strategy firm.



Watch **Morton-Kenney Lectures** on our YouTube channel [YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE](https://www.youtube.com/paulsimoninstitute)

SIMON REVIEW

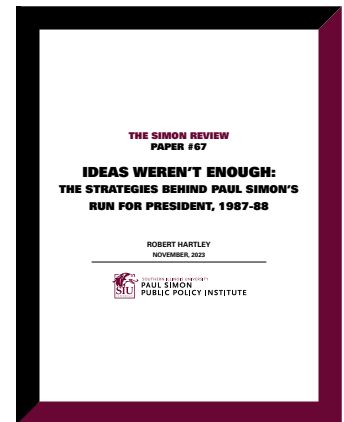
We published four *Simon Review* research papers this year.

Ideas Weren’t Enough: The Strategies Behind Paul Simon’s Run for President, 1987-88
by Robert Hartley

The 2022 Mid-Term elections in Illinois: Unfinished Business or The Wave of The Future?
by John Jackson and John Foster

Where is Illinois Now and Where is it Going?
by Rob Paral

Redistricting in Illinois Judicial Elections: A Once in Five Decades Event
by Suzanne Schmitz



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BUILDING A STRONGER ILLINOIS



Renewing Illinois Summit:

Bringing students together to share ideas for revitalizing the Prairie State.



Congressional Conversations:

Discussing critical issues with members of the Illinois congressional delegation.



PAUL SIMON
DEMOCRACY PRIZE

Paul Simon Democracy Prize:

Students submit projects to revitalize democracy in their communities.



Meet the Mayor:

Getting to know Illinois' municipal leaders.



Simon-Edgar Award:

Celebrating statesmanship in Illinois municipal and state government.



Illinois Authors:

Meeting the writers who bring the Prairie State to life.



Better Politics,

Smarter Government:

Statewide public policy op-eds.



Future of Illinois Project:

Assessing fundamental challenges facing Illinois.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS
INTERNSHIPS

Public Affairs Internships:

Training future public service leaders in Springfield and throughout Illinois.



Illinois 101:

State leaders' must-reads for a deeper understanding of Illinois history and culture.



RISING STARS
IN ILLINOIS POLITICS

Rising Stars in Illinois Politics:

Conversations with the new generation of leaders.

29

COUNTRIES

- 1 ARGENTINA
- 2 AUSTRALIA
- 3 BELGIUM
- 4 BRAZIL
- 5 CANADA
- 6 DENMARK
- 7 ENGLAND
- 8 FRANCE
- 9 GEORGIA
- 10 GERMANY
- 11 HONDURAS
- 12 INDIA
- 13 IRELAND
- 14 ITALY
- 15 KOSOVO
- 16 MALAYSIA
- 17 MEXICO
- 18 NETHERLANDS
- 19 NEW ZEALAND
- 20 POLAND
- 21 ROMANIA
- 22 SAUDI ARABIA
- 23 SINGAPORE
- 24 SLOVENIA
- 25 SOUTH AFRICA
- 26 SOUTH KOREA
- 27 SWEDEN
- 28 UNITED STATES
- 29 ZIMBABWE



68,408
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VIEWS

13,000+
AUDIENCE REACHED





The Illinois Capitol building is pictured in Springfield, Illinois. iStock.com

BETTER POLITICS, SMARTER GOVERNMENT



PAUL SIMON-JIM EDGAR STATESMANSHIP AWARD

FORMER ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE WAS SELECTED AS RECIPIENT OF SIMON-EDGAR AWARD

Former Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Statesmanship Award. Former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar and Institute Director John Shaw, announced White's selection on August 8, 2023 in Champaign.

Edgar and Shaw applauded White's half-century of constructive, practical and principled leadership in Illinois.

White, a native of Alton, Illinois, served in the US Army's 101st Airborne Division, played baseball in the Chicago Cubs farm system, and created the nationally famous Jesse White Tumbling Team for underprivileged young people.

He served in the Illinois House of Representatives, as the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, and as the 37th Illinois Secretary of State. As secretary of state from 1999 to 2023, White worked for traffic safety, teen driver safety, strong DUI laws, truck safety, and enhanced organ and tissue donations.

The annual Simon-Edgar Statesmanship Award is presented to an elected state or local government official in Illinois who has demonstrated a pattern of public service characterized by vision, courage, compassion, effectiveness, civility, and bipartisanship.

The Simon-Edgar Award shines a spotlight on remarkable leadership that is taking place in our state and our communities, inspiring current and future public servants to act in the best traditions of Illinois.

Illinois residents, including political, academic, and business leaders, nominated dozens of state, city, and county officials for the Simon-Edgar Award. Look for nominations for the 2024 award to open in the spring at paulsimoninstitute.org/SimonEdgarAward.



2023 Simon-Edgar Award Recipient Jesse White. *Photo by Mindy Steinman, 2023.*



Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, former Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, and Institute Director John Shaw. *Photo by Mindy Steinman, 2023.*



PAUL SIMON DEMOCRACY PRIZE

The Institute inaugurated the Paul Simon Democracy Prize in 2023. Three prizes of \$5,000 were awarded to current Illinois college or university students for the design and implementation of projects to revitalize democracy in their communities.

2023 Paul Simon Democracy Prize Winners:



PAUL SIMON
DEMOCRACY PRIZE

Connor Wielgos of the University of Illinois at Chicago is creating a discussion series on public policy issues pertaining to the Chicago Bears' plan to build a stadium and entertainment district in Arlington Heights.

Naya Busbea of McKendree University, is designing a pilot project in which political science students at McKendree will work with local, middle, and high school students to help them better understand the challenges and opportunities of democracy.

Darian Chess, Emma McConnell, LaMya Roach, and Vivian Walter of Southern Illinois University are developing a discussion and interaction series involving students, community residents, and public officials in the Carbondale area.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP WEEKEND



The Institute hosted our Metro East Youth Leadership Weekend this November, the first time since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's keynote speaker was Mayor Jaylen Smith of Earle, Arkansas, who made history in 2022 by becoming the youngest mayor elected to office in America at age 18.

The weekend focused on bringing young African-American men from the Metro East area of St. Louis to the SIU campus to support leadership development, education, career awareness, and to encourage community service.

The leadership weekend has been one of the crown jewels of the Institute since Paul Simon launched the program in 2002. Dr. Linda Baker directs the weekend with assistance from local mentoring groups from the Metro East area.

Many young men who participated in the program in previous years have gone on to achieve considerable academic and professional success.

We look forward to following the achievements of last year's participants.



Illinois Senator Dick Durbin visited the Institute to speak to Southern Illinois University Carbondale students. *Photo by Jaelyn Durcholz, 2023.*

FUTURE PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERS



INTERNSHIPS



2023 Springfield interns (from left to right, Alex Huels, Kamaria Harmon, Ty McKain)

2023 SPRINGFIELD INTERNS

Alex Huels

Gene Callahan Intern

Illinois House of Representatives

Kamaria Harmon

Alexander Lane Intern

Illinois State Senate

Ty McKain

Gene Callahan Intern

Illinois House of Representatives



2023-24 Mike Lawrence Scholarship recipients LaMya Roach and Darian Chess speak with former Institute Director Mike Lawrence

SOCIAL WORK INTERN SPRING 2023

Gunnar Skoog worked at the Institute researching the initiative to replace lead-contaminated pipes in Illinois. Gunnar entered the SIU master's program in social work in the Fall of 2023.

VINCE DEMUZIO GOVERNMENTAL INTERNS FALL 2023

Natalie Cusumano-Rossi

SIU Small Business Development Center

Zeneya Scott

Jackson County State's Attorney's Office

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Georgia Danielle Costello
*Barbara Brown Memorial
Scholarship*

Olivia Larrison
*Barbara Brown Memorial
Scholarship*

Rylee Connor
Debate Team Scholarship

Lora Judge
David Yepsen Director's Award

Matthew Laurent
David Yepsen Director's Award

Gunnar Skoog
David Yepsen Director's Award

Briana Ugalde-Galvan
*Jeane Hurley Simon Memorial
Scholarship*

Darian Chess
Mike Lawrence Scholarship

LaMya Roach
Mike Lawrence Scholarship

MATT BAUGHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Matt Baughman Scholarship Endowment was established with a gift from ULLICO Chairman and CEO Ed Smith, a long-time supporter of Senator Simon, the Simon Institute, SIU Carbondale, and Matt. Sadly, Smith died just a few weeks after establishing the scholarship fund, which makes his generosity all the more meaningful.

Baughman retired as the university's chief of staff at the end of 2023 after a quarter-century of committed and consequential service. Baughman was hired by Senator Simon in 1998 as the Institute's first development officer and helped Simon realize his initial fundraising goals for the Institute. Matt served as the Institute's assistant director, associate director, and briefly as its interim director. During his time at the Institute, he participated in the 2001 SIU trip to Cuba with Senator Simon and helped ensure the legacy of the university's first African American male student, Alexander Lane, through an endowment internship for SIU students. Baughman left the Institute in 2013 to become the chief of staff to SIU Carbondale's Chancellor. He served eight different Chancellors during his decade in that position.

Matt is a native of Springfield, Illinois. He has an undergraduate degree from Illinois College and earned an MBA from SIU Carbondale in 1997. He was selected for the prestigious Dunn Fellowship Program in 1994 and worked for a year in the press office of Governor Jim Edgar. Matt participated in the Edgar Fellows program in 2013. Before coming to SIU Carbondale, he worked for the Executive Development Center at the University of Central Florida.

The Matt Baughman Scholarship Endowment will make an enduring impact on SIU students who are active with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. It also honors Baughman for his contributions to the Institute and SIU while inspiring future students to make a difference in their communities.

Gifts in honor of Baughman can be made at salukifunder.siu.edu/project/40639 or by contacting Carol Greenlee at cgreenlee@siu.edu or 618-453-4001.



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PAULSIMONINSTITUTE.ORG/SUPPORT



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CARBONDALE

Paul Simon
Public Policy
Institute

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\$500 - \$999

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Joan M. Montroy
Jan T. Pasek
Suzanne J. Schmitz
Gail A. Snavelly
Howard M. & Karri I. Spiegel
Edward R. & Karen L. Stallman
John T. Shaw & Mindy N. Steinman
Roselyne C. Swig
Judy F. Wood

\$250 - \$499

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Gary F. & Janice J. Austin
John H. & Dorothy W. Baker
M. Wade Baughman & Michael Ritter
Richard A. Baumgartner & Elizabeth Salzer
Benjamin W. & Christine Begley
Wil A. Clark and Brian Rhodes
Tequia M. Hicks & Pedro A. Delgado
Barbara B. & Phillip L. Dillow
Judge Annette A. Eckert & William L. Enyart
William L. & Helen L. Eickhoff
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Robert C. Todd
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Jeremy R. & Jennifer M. Walker
Edward J. & Kathleen E. Weilbacher
Bonnie C. & Stephen J. Wheeler
Donald W. & LaLeta J. Wilson
Laraine J. Wright
David A. Yepsen

\$100 - \$249

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Mark D. Elder
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Gwendy Garner
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Linda K. Hawker
Philip H. Heckel
Edward J. Helleny
Malcolm J. Todd & Brenda L. Hellmer-Todd
Jerrold R. Hennrich
Robert D. & Pamela J. Herriott
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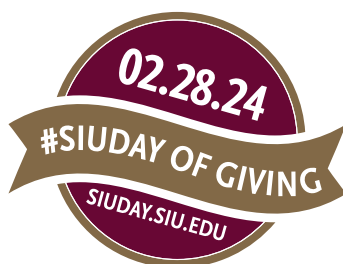


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