Southern Illinois University Carbondale officials and members of the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon’s family honored him by announcing the Public Policy Institute he founded will now bear his name.

Chancellor Walter V. Wendler noted that in 1996, the university and the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the establishment of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. However, Simon preferred it being known simply as the Public Policy Institute.

“As we all know, Paul was a very modest man,” Wendler said. “He believed the institute should be identified by its contributions, not as the work of one individual. But it is only fitting that we honor his legacy.”

Institute director Mike Lawrence said the organization’s staff “is delighted with our new name, and we will do everything in our power to live up to it.”

Simon’s vision for a public policy organization at SIUC was clear from its beginnings. Rather than being a “think tank,” Simon’s efforts were focused on making the institute a “do” tank — seeking and achieving — positive results.

“I’m not interested in a great intellectual discussion that will become a volume in a library somewhere,” Simon once said. “I think that has its place, but that’s not my cup of tea. I want to do things where we can actually get something done.”

SIU Board of Trustees Chair Glenn Poshard said that since it opened its doors in 1997, the institute has launched initiatives that have made significant impacts in Illinois and beyond.

“This institute’s programs and speakers have looked at significant issues and we are pleased that it will now remind our students, faculty, staff and others of the contributions Paul made through a lifetime of public service,” Poshard said.

The institute continues to carry forward Simon’s vision of involving faculty and students, something Simon noted he missed when visiting other campus institutes around the nation. He believed it is important for students and faculty “to get a better sense of how public policy is made as we bring policymakers and idea people together.”

The 100 speakers and major symposium participants — many of whom spoke with SIUC students in various classes — include former First Lady Barbara Bush, former U.S. Sen. and Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern, actors and social activists Mike Farrell and Ed Asner, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, human rights leader Coretta Scott King, Washington Post newsmen David Broder and Dan Balz, legendary CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite, former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former New York mayor David Dinkins.

Members of the Paul Simon family; (left to right) Martin, Patti, Sheila and Art are gathered along with institute director Mike Lawrence (far right) as SIUC Chancellor, Walter V. Wendler, speaks at the news conference announcing the institute will be known as the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.
Mike Lawrence named institute director

Veteran newsman, press secretary and respected political analyst Mike Lawrence became the second director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute following a national search.

Lawrence served as the institute’s interim director, following the death of institute founder Paul Simon. Lawrence joined the institute as associate director in 1997.

“Mike was selected from an outstanding pool of finalists,” SIUC Provost and Vice Chancellor John M. Dunn said. “His credentials, broad experience and extensive contributions to the success of the institute were all major plusses in his selection. Mike will sustain Sen. Simon’s leadership and vision while adding to the institute his own distinctive views and perspectives.”

Chancellor Walter V. Wendler said Lawrence’s appointment provides the institute with continuity of purpose and leadership.

“We are pleased that Mike is going to remain at the institute and continue the important work that both he and Paul Simon brought to this campus and the region,” said Wendler. “Mike’s view of how the institute can play an integral role in improving people’s lives, not only in Southern Illinois but throughout the world, embodies what Paul Simon envisioned -- making a real difference in society.”

Lawrence said he feels “honored and privileged to be chosen.

The three other finalists had impressive credentials. I appreciate the confidence shown in me by those involved in the search, and by the administration at the University,” he said.

“The institute is never going to be the same without Paul Simon, but I am confident that we can achieve what he would want the institute to accomplish,” said Lawrence. “I am committed to building on what he achieved here, and I also am committed to remaining faithful to his vision of the institute.”

Lawrence hopes to leave his own mark on the institute, “but we are going to continue to address issues on the regional, state, national and international levels.”

In addition to his work with the institute, Lawrence holds a faculty rank of professor and teaches journalism and political science classes.

He also writes a column for the commentary pages for several newspapers. The Associated Press Editors Association recently honored Lawrence for his exemplary service to other journalists and newspapers in Illinois.

Before joining the institute, Lawrence was press secretary and senior policy adviser to former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar for more than six years. Prior to that, he was press secretary to Edgar for more than three years while Edgar was Illinois’ secretary of state. Lawrence previously headed news bureaus in the Illinois State House, first for the Quad-City Times and later for Lee Enterprises and the Chicago Sun-Times, and held top editing posts at the Quad-City Times. He got his start covering government news for the Galesburg Register-Mail.

Lawrence is a graduate of Knox College, where he also received an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1998.

Matt Baughman named assistant director

Matt Baughman, who has played a key role in raising more than $8 million in endowment funds for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, has been named assistant director.

“The decision that Paul and I made to bring Matt aboard seven years ago has paid off literally and figuratively,” director Mike Lawrence said. “He has proven he is willing and able to take on substantial responsibilities.”

Baughman has served as development officer for the institute. In an administrative restructuring, Lawrence eliminated the development officer position and merged those duties into the new post of assistant director.

Lawrence said he has not made a decision as to whether to fill the associate director position that he held before becoming director.

“I want to see how this restructuring works out,” he said. “Matt is going to shoulder most of the day-to-day administrative duties that I handled while Paul was here.”

Fundraising efforts under Baughman’s guidance have kept the institute on target towards fulfilling Paul’s goal for a $10 million endowment. The endowment now stands at more than $8 million in contributions and pledges.

After he graduated from Illinois College in Jacksonville, Baughman was selected for the prestigious Dunn Fellowship Program where he spent a full year working in the office of Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar. He earned an MBA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1997. He and his wife Angela reside in Carbondale with their infant son Alexander.
A Message from Mike Lawrence

I have a pretty good idea of how Paul would react. “Why name a public policy institute after a singer?” he would utter in one of his trademark self-effacing quips.

Then he would quickly move on to a matter much more important to him: What are we doing to make a positive difference?

The institute will never be the same without him. But I am confident the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is keeping faith with his vision and values.

Paul wanted us to have an impact in our part of America and well beyond it. Under his dynamic leadership, we did. And we continue to do so.

In this largely rural region, much of which evokes comparisons with Appalachia, we are working with university and community partners on a project to promote and facilitate the development and networking of school-based health clinics. The initiative holds great promise of improving primary and preventative care in southern Illinois and potentially becoming a national and even international model.

On another front, we are engaged with the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform in an effort to promote public funding of state judicial campaigns, which have become increasingly influenced by huge contributions from interest groups. We also are preparing to marshal bipartisan support for changing the highly partisan process of drawing state legislative districts.

Last fall, the institute acted to encourage hospices throughout the U.S. to become deeply involved in the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. Canadian Stephen Lewis, the U.N. special envoy dealing with the incredible devastation, provided inspiring leadership at a symposium in which an impressive cross-section of activists developed specific and realistic strategies.

Indeed, the institute continues to bring top-flight people, like Lewis, to the campus and the region. As this newsletter goes to press, we are looking forward to a visit from Tom Friedman, foreign affairs columnist for the New York Times who has written provocatively and cogently about U.S. involvement in Iraq. Dan Balz of the Washington Post, one of the premier political reporters in the nation, gave a public lecture and then interacted more informally with students and faculty members during a visit just days after the November election. Stanley Nelson, winner of the most prestigious award in broadcast journalism, used excerpts from his PBS documentary on the impact of the Brown v. Board decision to deliver a potent message of both progress and unfulfilled promise in the civil rights struggle.

Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, one of the most powerful politicians in the state’s history, shared his time and insights during several appearances on the campus. Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee entertained and enlightened us with a fascinating account of his personal victory over obesity and the healthy-living initiatives he developed in his state.

Jody Williams, who earned the Nobel peace prize for her crusade against land mines, and Dawn Clark Netsch, the first woman to garner a gubernatorial nomination in Illinois, gave thought-provoking presentations, as did John Block, former U.S. secretary of agriculture.

It was singularly appropriate that Rev. Arthur Simon, winner of the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award, gave the lecture commemorating the renaming of the institute in his brother’s honor. Art’s rich baritone voice was remarkably reminiscent. So was his message. After all, the two had teamed as co-authors and co-advocates of worthy causes. So, as Art spoke movingly about the outrage of world hunger and how addressing it could serve the cause of world peace, Paul was there. He was with us, as he will be each and every day at this institute – and not in name only.

Institute continues to build endowment

Thanks to the generosity of many friends and supporters of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, funds for the institute have continued to be raised, pushing the amount contributed or pledged to the endowment over the $8 million mark. Recent major gifts include an estate gift from Paul Simon for $100,000.

“Assuring the financial future of the institute was one of Paul Simon’s major goals,” assistant director Matt Baughman said. “He worked tirelessly at raising endowment dollars.

“But Paul strongly believed that he couldn’t just ask for money from others, he had to show leadership by being a significant donor himself which he hoped in turn would inspire others to make meaningful contributions,” Baughman added.

The institute is committed to fulfilling Paul’s goal of a $10 million endowment so that its work can continue for generations to make a difference to our region, our state, our nation and our world.

For more information on fundraising initiatives, please contact Matt Baughman at 618/453-4001 or at baughman@siu.edu.
When Paul Simon authored his 1998 book “Tapped Out” on the coming world water crisis, he realized that the book by itself would not be enough to build a broad awareness of the issue. After more than 2,000 people wrote to him in 1998 following the book’s feature on the cover of Parade Magazine, it was clear the message had traction. When the book was translated into Arabic and Paul was invited to meet with Middle East leaders, it was clear that the seriousness of the water crisis there was not being ignored. Then came an idea for a film that would give Paul’s message a major lift.

Documentary film producer Jim Thebaut wanted to do something that would help the world better understand Paul’s concern. Thebaut began working with Paul to make a film that showed the magnitude of the crisis in regions around the globe, including the Middle East, China, India and Southern Asia, Africa and even the United States.

Thebaut interviewed former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbechev and Israeli political leader Shimon Peres, to whom Paul’s book is dedicated.

The 80-minute film, “Running Dry,” was premiered earlier this year in Washington D.C. for members of Congress and others. The premier showings were held at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Actress Jane Seymour, the film’s narrator, attended the events to help bring greater attention to the issue. Thebaut said the film will be provided to organizations, broadcast on television, featured at showings on campuses and theaters around the world, and entered in a variety of film festivals.

“The film is something that gets people excited and motivated to take action ...”

Charitable gift annuities provide significant benefits to donors, while assuring Paul Simon’s legacy continues

You might be interested to know that a single life annuity for a 75-year old would guarantee a 7.1% rate of return on a charitable gift annuity made through the SIU Foundation. A couple, aged 72 and 75, could lock in a rate of 6.2% for a two-life annuity.

Using a $10,000 gift annuity in the above illustrations, a single person would earn $710 per year; the couple, $620 per year. Compare these returns with money market accounts, bonds, stocks, mutual funds, CDs, or other investment tools and your interest might peek.

You might ask, “Why should I consider a charitable gift annuity rather than leave a provision in my will for a charity? Good question. There is nothing wrong with making provisions in your will for an organization like the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. In fact, if you would like assistance in writing language for this purpose, the institute staff is ready to assist you. Many people have already done this.

However, a charitable gift annuity provides unique advantages, including:

Your gift is guaranteed to be immediately made available to the charity upon your death. A charitable gift annuity cannot be revoked by anyone or used for any purpose other than as a gift to the charity.

The annuity’s rate of return is legally guaranteed. That is, if you establish an annuity today at a 7% rate of return, it remains at that rate for as long as contractually agreed to. The rate can never be lowered.

There are specific and unique tax benefits depending on how you fund the annuity. You may receive a tax deduction for establishing the annuity. You may earn part of the annual payments tax free. It depends on several factors that we can determine in drafting an annuity proposal.

Your investment is guaranteed by the total assets of the SIU Foundation—valued at more than $100 million.

Please contact Matt Baughman at 618/453-4001 or baughman@siu.edu if you would like additional information on establishing a charitable gift annuity for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.
Metro East area teens who participated in a leadership weekend sponsored by the institute learned the value of giving back to their communities.

The teens built brand new computers during the second Paul Simon Leadership Conference at SIUC’s Touch of Nature Environmental Center.

As part of the hands-on activities that combined leadership, development and career information, Missy Dunn, an information technology support specialist at Shawnee Community College, and other staff, helped teams build new personal computers. Each team then nominated and voted for a non-profit community organization to receive the computer they built.

The exercise – as well as the leadership weekend – focused on team building and giving back to the community, said institute director Mike Lawrence, who was impressed with the young men who attended.

“I believe they learned a great deal about leadership and teamwork and this will give them the opportunity to feel the fulfillment that comes from giving back to the community,” said Lawrence.

The institute used a 1994 report by the Illinois Commission on African American Males, chaired by former Illinois Attorney General and SIUC graduate Roland W. Burris, as inspiration for the weekend. The report offered recommendations in several areas, including economic development and employment, education, family life and African-American manhood, health and housing.

Institute-based university professor Linda Renee Baker said the youths learned valuable lessons at the workshop, and they are giving needed assistance to community-based organizations “that sometimes have limited funding but do very important work in their community.”

The four community-based organizations that received computers are:

- Holy Angels Women’s and Children’s Sojourn.
- The Youth Empowerment Summit (YES) of East St. Louis. An HIV-prevention program for teens, the program trains teens to become peer counselors to talk about HIV prevention and safety.
- O’Fallon Outreach Center. Provides tutoring, lunch programs and support for less fortunate children.
- East St. Louis Father’s Center which provides parental counseling, training and support for young men.

Additionally, two participants, Anthony Rushing, a senior at Cahokia High School and Darryl Matthews, a senior at East St. Louis Senior High School, were chosen by the planning group to also receive computers based on their leadership, weekend participation and their conduct and character. Matthews also received the inaugural Paul Simon Leadership and Character Award.

Among the fraternal and community-based groups in the Metro East area participating in the weekend were Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi and Omega Psi Phi fraternities; the Top Ladies of Distinction Inc.; Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Charter School; the Jackie Joyner-Kersee Youth Center; and the East St. Louis Community College Center.
Five years ago, there were more than 250,000 retired physicians who were 55 years old or older, according to the National Association of Retired Physicians, and the trend is for physicians to retire at younger and younger ages.

Capturing that talent and expertise in retirement became the focus of a two-day symposium, “Helping Doctors Help Us,” which brought together professionals to lay groundwork for a model program that utilizes retired physicians who volunteer their time and expertise.

Medical and legal professionals from throughout the nation gathered under the institute’s leadership to explore how the state and nation can capitalize on the skills and abilities of retired physicians.

William T. Close, an internationally acclaimed physician and author, served as the keynote speaker. In January 2000, Close formed a nonprofit organization, Community Home Care Program, using medical personnel and volunteers to provide care for largely homebound patients. Calling himself a “semi-retired, semi-impossible village doc” in Big Piney, Wyoming, he noted that his county is about the size of Connecticut and is the only one in the state without a hospital.

“A successful synergy between science and humanity is the responsibility of doctors and patients committed to medicine as a service to our fellow humans,” Close said during his keynote speech. “We take care of people who are sick and pretty much home bound. Some are approaching the end of their lives. The project’s medical personnel and volunteers provide care at the patient’s home when needed.”

Prior to living and working in Wyoming for the past 26 years, Close was a physician and surgeon in the Congo for 16 years and part of the team to help define and contain the first outbreak of Ebola in 1976. During this time, he became personal physician to President Mobuto and the chief medical officer of the Congolese army.

A panel discussion featuring legal and medical representatives helped focus on specific issues that resulted in a series of recommendations, including:

Amend Illinois’ Good Samaritan

see DOCTORS, Page 7
DOCTORS, continued from page 6

Act to explicitly include home visits under the free medical clinic provision.

All states should consider joining such states as Connecticut, Kentucky, Nevada and Washington in subsidizing insurance coverage for retired/volunteer physicians. Such a program enables states to purchase and maintain liability malpractice insurance for retired physicians.

Consideration should be given to the practicality and legality of allowing retired volunteer physicians to be classified as physician assistants if it would provide substantial benefits to the physician, including making it easier to volunteer, reducing risk and insurance costs and increasing the number of patients that can be seen.

Visit www.siu.edu/~ppi to view the full set of recommendations.

The institute was joined in sponsoring the program by the SIU School of Medicine, SIU School of Law and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Simon’s vision for massive study abroad program moving forward; Commission members, chair announced

The Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program Commission held its first meeting late last year to begin work on Paul Simon’s vision for sending 500,000 U.S. college and university students abroad each year.

A second meeting was held in Washington this winter and other meetings are planned to continue work on the final report that is due to Congress by the end of the year.

Peter McPherson, who retired on December 31, 2004 after an 11-year tenure as president of Michigan State University, was named chair of the commission.

“I look forward to working with other commission members to develop ideas that will be helpful in increasing the number of students in high-quality, safe study abroad programs,” McPherson said. “A study abroad experience is crucial as we seek to prepare college students for the global marketplace.”

Under McPherson’s leadership, Michigan State greatly increased its involvement in and support for international study abroad programs.

“I am a huge advocate of very large study abroad programs in universities throughout the country,” he said. “The portion of students going abroad should be much larger.”

Commission members were appointed by congressional leaders and the White House. The commission has also put into place an advisory council that includes institute visiting professor John Jackson and family representative Martin Simon.

The chair of the commission was jointly appointed by President George W. Bush, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN), Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). Each congressional member also appointed three commission members while the White House appointed four members.

Commission members include:

M. Peter McPherson, Chair
John K. Andrews, Jr., President, Colorado State Senate, Colorado (Bush)
Lyn Bracewell Phillips, Texas (Bush)
Lynette Boggs McDonald, Clark County Commissioner, Nevada (Bush)
S. Kerry Cooper, Executive Director, International Business Programs, Texas A&M University, Texas (Hastert)
Richard J. Durbin, U.S. Senator (D-IL), Illinois (Daschle)
Mary M. Dwyer, President, Institute for International Education of Students, Illinois (Pelosi)
Jim Edgar, former Governor of Illinois (R), Illinois (Bush)
Brad Heegel, Director of Public Events and Marketing, Augustana College, South Dakota (Daschle)
Mark S. Kirk, U.S. Congressman (R-IL), Illinois (Hastert)
Mora McLean, President and CEO, Africa-America Institute, New York (Pelosi)
Douglas Ohmer, Director, Center for Excellence in International Business, Northern State University, South Dakota (Daschle)
John G. Peters, President, Northern Illinois University, Illinois, (Hastert)
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, U.S. Congresswoman (D-NY), New York (Pelosi)
Steve Trooboff, President and CEO, Council on International Educational Exchange, Maine (Frist)
William E. Trotter, President, Rhodes College, Tennessee (Frist)
Christine Vick, Vice President, The Cohen Group, Washington D.C. (Frist)
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The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is grateful for the hundreds of gifts it receives each year. Listed here are those who made contributions during the **2004 fiscal year (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004)**. While every gift is meaningful, space limitations prevent us from publishing gifts under $100. However, a full list of donors may be found at [www.siu.edu/~ppi](http://www.siu.edu/~ppi). **Thank you to all who support our work.**

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UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

Tom Friedman
New York Times foreign affairs columnist
and best-selling author.

UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

“Justice Delayed”
Featuring Investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell and
former prosecuting attorney Don Cochran.

Wednesday, April 13
4 p.m.
SIU Law School Auditorium

Wednesday, May 4
7 p.m.
Student Center Ballroom D

Call 618.453.4009 or visit www.siu.edu/~ppi for complete event details
Nobel Laureate Jody Williams shared her inspirational story of bringing about changes to international law and fostering international relations for the purpose of drastically reducing the number of landmines across the globe during a lecture sponsored by the institute and SIU Department of Anthropology. Widely used as weapons, landmines left buried in the earth long after the conclusion of wars have led to the deaths and injuries of thousands of innocent people, including children. Williams delivered a keynote lecture drawing more than 300 people and also presented a session with students the following day.

John Block, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under President Reagan visited campus for the Gil and Jean Kroening lecture series. Block discussed food safety, world hunger and other issues. Prior to his appointment to Reagan’s Cabinet, Block served as the director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The SIUC College of Agricultural Science co-sponsored his visit.
To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, the institute hosted award winning PBS documentary filmmaker Stanley Nelson for a two-day visit to campus. It included a presentation and discussion of his documentary, *Beyond Brown: Pursuing the Promise*, as well as the opportunity to inspire student filmmakers during a visit to a cinema and photography class. Nelson has earned journalism’s highest honor, the George Foster Peabody Award.

*The Washington Post’s* Dan Balz is considered one of the most respected national political journalists working today. He brought that stellar reputation to campus for the Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the SIUC Department of Political Science. An Illinois native like his *Post* colleague (and past institute speaker) David Broder, Balz provided an exceptional analyses of the 2004 presidential election just days after its conclusion.

Pictured with (left to right) Mike Lawrence, Sheila Simon, Patti Simon, and Martin Simon (far right), Illinois Speaker of the House Michael J. Madigan (D-Chicago) made a public appearance in southern Illinois during an institute-sponsored “What I Have Learned” lecture at the SIU Student Center. More than 450 people turned out to hear from one of the most powerful politicians in Illinois history. The following morning Madigan spoke to students in combined journalism and political science classes and was the guest of honor at a luncheon with two dozen students, faculty, staff and community members.
Five international students at SIU Carbondale formed a panel discussion to address the affects of the December 2004 tsunami on their respective countries. The institute invited panel members (pictured above left to right) Sucheta Lele of India; Shafiq Rahman of Bangladesh; Benfano Soweito of Indonesia; Aon Tiranasar of Thailand; and Timasha Udugama of Sri Lanka to share about their homelands. Indian-born SIUC doctoral student in speech communication, Ajay Ojha, provided an overview of the tsunami (center). Institute graduate assistant Edith Ng’oma of Zambia, Africa moderated the discussion.

Following the panel discussion the audience heard the harrowing story of survival from SIUC visiting professor of journalism William Recktenwald (bottom) who was vacationing in Sri Lanka at the time of the tsunami. Recktenwald, the former deputy Chicago bureau chief for the Chicago Tribune, shared photos of his experience during his presentation.
Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee brought his message of how living a healthy lifestyle can benefit individuals and governments alike. Huckabee, who lost more than 100 pounds in just over a year, was diagnosed with the onset of diabetes and was told by his physician the best way to beat it was to lose weight, exercise, and eat healthy foods. Following that advice has paid off for him. He’s hoping that the same advice might pay off for the State of Arkansas if his fellow citizens embrace the “Healthy Arkansas” initiative he has developed with business leaders, health advocates and policy makers. The program focuses on reducing tobacco use, obesity and physical inactivity. Huckabee, a Republican, believes that in the long-term such a program will significantly reduce health costs to governments and taxpayers. Huckabee also spoke to a food and nutrition class while on campus. His visit was part of the Gil and Jean Kroening lecture series in conjunction with the College of Agricultural Science.

Former Illinois Comptroller and one-time Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois, Dawn Clark Netsch brought her reputation as a trail blazer for women in Illinois politics to campus as the recipient of the 2004 Ralph A. Dunn Public Service Award. Dunn, a former state senator who died in May 2004, served with Netsch during their distinguished careers. Netsch holds a law degree from Northwestern University, where she has also been on the faculty for nearly four decades.

She was a member of the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention, is the first woman in Illinois to be elected to a statewide office and the first woman nominated by a major political party for Illinois governor. While on campus, she also spoke to students at the SIU School of Law and to a political science class.
UN Special Envoy Stephen Lewis speaks to a capacity crowd at Southern Illinois University Carbondale during the institute’s HIV/AIDS symposium.

UN Special Envoy Stephen Lewis keynotes

United Nations special envoy Stephen Lewis, one of the world’s leading voices in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa, headlined a symposium at Southern Illinois University Carbondale sponsored by the institute and Hospice of Southern Illinois (HSI).

The day-long symposium, “HIV/AIDS in Africa: Engaging America in the Battle,” focused on developing an action plan for getting more communities, organizations and individuals in the United States involved in the war on the disease in Africa.

“Our goal is to develop an action plan for encouraging communities across America to get directly involved in the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa,” said institute director Mike Lawrence. “We hope to build on the efforts of a hospice located right here in southern Illinois that is making a significant contribution in Zambia.”

Lewis became the United Nation special envoy to Africa on HIV/AIDS in 2001, and he travels the globe working on the issue.

“It’s almost impossible to make people understand what is happening in so many parts of Southern Africa, the ubiquity of death, the pervasiveness of death, you go into the adult medical wards, you have two and three people in a bed, you have someone lying on the concrete floor under the bed; These people are in the anguish finale very often of AIDS related illnesses,” Lewis said.

The action plan developed at the symposium will be published and distributed to community groups across the country, including hospices, Rotary clubs and medical schools.

Hospice of Southern Illinois is one of about 30 hospices in the nation involved in a partnership through the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa. HSI partners with Kara Counseling and Training Trust in Zambia to work with that group’s newest hospice program in Kabwe, Zambia.

Carla Feldhamer, HSI certified hospice and palliative care nurse, see HIV/AIDS, Page 17

Kathe Kobacker of Columbus, Ohio; Peter Sarver of Syracuse, New York; Edith Ng’oma of Zambia, Africa; and Carl Stecker of Baltimore, Maryland served as the symposium panelists presenting varying perspectives on the issue of U.S. involvement in HIV/AIDS in Africa.
HIV/AIDS, continued from page 16

has been associated with the program for a year.

“What we learn is the care that is given to these people, and the spirits of the people in Africa despite this horrible plague, is heart-rending,” Feldhamer said. “They are trying and doing a beautiful job with very limited resources. They have the ability; they just don’t have the money and the resources.”

Feldhamer and Allida Plumer, also an HSI certified hospice and palliative care nurse, jointly delivered a presentation at the symposium detailing their group’s partnership in Zambia. A panel discussion and working group session focused on developing a 16 point action plan that includes:

Realize that it all starts with you. Learn all you can about the tragedy of HIV/AIDS in Africa and use your education to teach others about this crisis and how it affects not only millions of people in Africa, but our lives in the United States. Find out what, if anything, is already happening in your community to address this crisis.

Begin building a team of other concerned citizens in your community from civic groups, faith-based organizations, health care organizations, educational institutions, and other places. Find those who you consider to be leaders of influence and get them excited about joining your team and form a committee or steering board.

Develop a vision within your community for what can be done with the skills, talents and abilities that you can bring to the table. Build momentum by seeking opportunities to share your vision with organizations and leaders in your community. Help others understand the moral, social, political and economic aspects of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

The full action plan can be seen at www.siu.edu/~ppi.

The institute and HSI received support for this program from Southern Illinois Healthcare, Fralish Family Foundation, Searle Lecture Fund, Jack and Muriel Hayward Fellowship and SIUC Environmental Studies Program.

Institute benefits from student employees, volunteers

Embracing its place on a college campus with more than 20,000 students representing more than 100 countries and nearly every state in the union, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute has made a difference in the lives of students who have been employed as student workers or who have volunteered their time at the institute.

And these students have made a difference to the institute.

“Tapping into the skills, abilities, knowledge and energy of students enhances the livelihood and effectiveness of the institute,” said assistant director Matt Baughman.

Currently, the institute employs three undergraduate students, an undergraduate assistant for marketing and public relations and four graduate assistants for specific projects. Two of the graduate students are international—one hails from South Africa and another from Zambia. Additionally, the institute has a core group of student volunteers who zealously provide assistance during institute functions such as dinners, lectures and symposiums.

While their presence at the institute typically lasts only as long as their academic careers, the institute staff celebrates watching students succeed after graduation.

One such former student worker is Bryen Johnson, a native of the Chicago suburb of Naperville. Johnson said he will forever remember working for Paul Simon and how Paul would always introduce him to people as “Bryen with a ‘y’ and an ‘e’.”

But he has taken much more from his time at the institute than fond memories. “My time at the institute was a great learning experience for me,” Johnson said. “I was able to learn from three great mentors, Paul Simon, Mike Lawrence and John Jackson. Senator Simon taught me the importance of strong leadership and making decisions that may not always be popular.

“Mike Lawrence and John Jackson taught me about responsibility, accountability and Illinois government,” Johnson added.

Johnson calls his time at the institute “invaluable” and credits the institute as laying the foundation for his first job—a member of the Legislative Staff Internship program where he was assigned to work on the Illinois State Senate Democratic Caucus.

Johnson said he reflects often on his experience at the institute. He added that a bonus of working at the institute was meeting several prominent figures, including Walter Cronkite.
The Chicagoland Asian American community held a memorial tribute to Paul Simon last fall to honor his legacy of service and commitment to the community. The tribute featured remembrances of many issues and events where Senator Simon demonstrated leadership for Asian Americans. Among those attending included former Illinois Comptroller Dawn Clark Netsch, former U.S. Sen. Adlai Stevenson and Cook County Circuit Court Judge Sandra Otaka. Pictured here are (left to right) Perry Knop, Dawn Clark Netsch, Elsie Sy-Niebar, Nancy Chen, Sheila Simon, Martin Simon and Sha-li Lin. (Photo courtesy of Nancy Chen)

Makanda, Illinois, Paul’s home for two decades, repainted its well-known smiley-face water tower on U.S. 51 to include a bow tie. (Photo taken by Linda Odle)
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Rev. Art Simon, the brother of institute founder Paul Simon, was the first speaker the institute hosted after its official name change. Rev. Simon founded and headed the nation’s premier lobbyist group for hunger issues, Bread for the World, for 25 years. Now as its chairman emeritus, Rev. Simon continues to be a champion for the hungry by speaking around the globe and continuing his work as an author. In 2004, Rev. Simon was honored with the Pacem in Terris award for his work with the poor and hungry. Other recipients have included Mother Teresa, Lech Walesa and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.