

Review & Preview

The newsletter of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
at Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Youth Government Day Moves To Springfield



Photo by Ted Schurter

U.S. Congressman Ray LaHood (R-Peoria) addresses high school students in the chamber of the Illinois House of Representatives during the institute's sixth Youth Government Day and the first to be held in Springfield.

Increased attendance and a great deal of excitement for future events resulted from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's decision to move its annual Youth Government Day to Springfield, the seat of state government in Illinois and home to one of our nation's greatest public servants, Abraham Lincoln.

"Unfortunately, young people interested in making a positive difference in society don't always get the encouragement they need. We are delighted to give students this great opportunity to hear from accomplished leaders who
see Youth, Page 11

LaHood, Edgar Jump Start Youth Government Day Endowment

Two prominent long-time public officials made major contributions to the institute's Youth Government Day endowment.

U.S. Congressman Ray LaHood and former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar each made donations of \$25,000 to the newly established endowment to assure the annual event aimed at motivating young people to enter the public service profession continues for years to come with a dedicated source of revenue. The gifts were acknowledged during a November 2005 institute fundraiser in Springfield.

"I'm so proud to be able to support these important programs which do so much to help ensure we will have good public servants in the future," LaHood said in a statement announcing his gift.

Paul Simon dedicated a major portion of his time and energy to working with young people and he established this annual program to help students learn about becoming involved in government.

The institute plans to raise at least \$200,000 for the Youth Government Day endowment. Thanks to the generosity of
see Endowment, Page 11

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Message from Mike Lawrence

As you will note elsewhere in this newsletter, the institute has gone on the road to Chicago, St. Louis and Springfield.

The enormous respect for Paul Simon's extraordinary public service, as well as the institute's work during the nearly 10 years since he established it, have given us visibility throughout the state and well beyond Illinois' borders. But we want to build on our success through an expanded physical presence that will help raise awareness of how we address vital matters as a "do tank."

In Chicago we worked closely with members of the Asian-American com-

We will never neglect our roots – Paul Simon's roots. But I am convinced we must branch out to reach our full potential and accomplish all that Paul would want us to achieve.

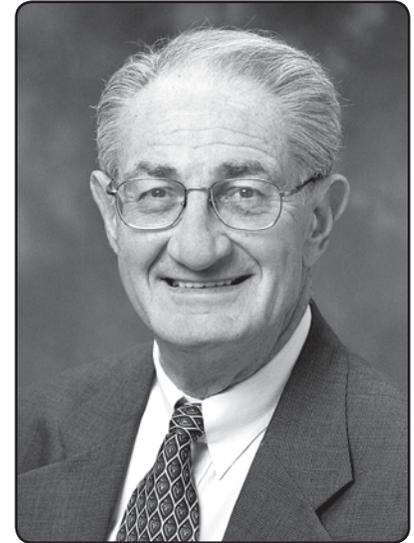
munity to organize a conference that focused on two of their concerns: discrimination-abetting ignorance of the contributions made by Asian-Americans throughout our nation's history and special challenges confronting Asian-Americans in the corporate world. We are pursuing recommendations from the conference, which drew more than 100 people to the Union League Club, and we fully expect to hold similar sessions on Asian-American issues at least every other year through an ongoing relationship with community leaders.

In downtown St. Louis a couple of months earlier, we drew nearly 100 people from the area's legal community to a luncheon in which we spotlighted threats to judicial independence posed by the growing assertiveness and influence of interest groups in both the federal and state processes of selecting judges. The gathering provided an excellent forum to highlight the institute's partnership with the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform in pushing public funding of state Supreme Court candidacies.

In Springfield, we joined the Illinois African-American Family Commission in bringing policy makers and education experts together to exchange ideas and begin mapping strategies to narrow the significant achievement gap between white and minority students in the state. We also brought our annual Youth Government Day to the capital city for the first time – taking advantage of Springfield's central location, the State House venue and the presence of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to entice the largest crowd of attendees in several years.

We plan to make Springfield the permanent site for Youth Government Day. In partnership with Chicago Metropolitan 2020 and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyo., we will co-host a Chicago conference on effective responses to dwindling supplies of drinkable water – a neglected but ominous situation that Paul targeted in his book "Tapped Out: The Coming World Crisis in Water and What We Can Do About It."

All this outreach by no means diminishes our commitment to enriching the Southern Illinois University cam-



Mike Lawrence, Director

pus at Carbondale and the surrounding region. We had a full slate of speakers here in the spring, including Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist Clarence Page, Illinois House Republican Leader Tom Cross and Iraqi War correspondent Jackie Spinner of the Washington Post. We hosted a debate on the No Child Left Behind Act between former U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle and former Secretary of Education Rodney Paige. In cooperation with the Chicago-based Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, we brought national and Illinois experts on state fiscal policies to Carbondale for a conference on Illinois' monumental budgetary challenges. Meanwhile, our agenda embraces issues vital to our region, such as how to improve access to health care in rural areas.

We will never neglect our roots – Paul Simon's roots. But I am convinced we must branch out to reach our full potential and accomplish all that Paul would want us to achieve.

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Award-Winning Journalist from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Joins Institute

William Freivogel, an award-winning journalist who has covered the U.S. Supreme Court and served as deputy editorial page editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, is lecturing and spearheading major projects at the institute.

“Bill has had an outstanding journalism career, and we are delighted to have someone of his caliber take a lead role as the institute tackles significant public policy and media issues in 2006,” institute director Mike Lawrence said.

Freivogel, who has a bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis, is spending the year on campus as a university professor based at the institute where he will organize and lead an initiative to examine possible means of addressing conflicts that arise when prosecutors and other key players in the legal system want journalists to reveal confidential sources and seek other materials that reporters regard as private.

He also will bring together local government officials and jour-

nalists to discuss and debate the implications, requirements and ramifications of Illinois’ Open Meetings Law.

“Bringing Bill here is an excellent way to use endowment funds the institute has been raising since it was launched,” Lawrence said. “We are keeping faith with donors who liked the idea of enriching the university and the institute’s agenda by attracting accomplished professionals to the campus.”

Freivogel, 56, began his journalism career with the Post-Dispatch in 1971. He was a member of the newspaper’s Washington bureau for 12 years, where he served as assistant bureau chief, focused on the Supreme Court and reported on such historic events as the assassination attempt on President Reagan.

He returned to St. Louis to become the deputy editorial page editor in 1997.

Freivogel’s editorials on former Attorney General John Ashcroft and the Constitution made him a finalist in the 2002 Pulitzer Prize competition. He also won Sigma Delta Chi’s top award in 1991 for a series on the Bill of Rights, and he



shared the Sidney Hillman award for a series on civil rights policy changes during the Reagan administration. Freivogel was the main contributor to a 1987 project that won the Benjamin Franklin award as the best newspaper series on the bicentennial of the Constitution.

He and wife Margaret, who also served in the Post-Dispatch’s Washington bureau and has served as Sunday editor at the Post-Dispatch, are the parents of four children.

Institute Adds Two Publications

Papers on two important public policy matters, Illinois legislative redistricting and water resources, have been added to the institute’s publications.

The first paper was done to complement a project on looking at the way Illinois redraws state legislative districts. Institute visiting professor John Jackson and SIUC political science doctoral student, Lourenke Prozesky, a native of South Africa, authored the work.

The second is based upon Paul Simon being a champion of raising awareness of the global crisis in water. To

continue Simon’s previous work on the issue, including a continued effort by the institute to enhance the visibility and impact of a major documentary film based on Simon’s 1998 book, “Tapped Out”, the institute funded a study by Christopher Lant, SIUC professor of geography and environmental resources. Lant is also the executive director of the Universities Council on Water Resources. Lant’s paper specifically looks at water resources within Illinois.

The institute’s papers are available on-line at www.siu.edu/~ppi under “publications.”

Student Ambassador Program Thriving

The institute's Student Ambassador program has engaged more than a dozen students from all academic backgrounds to become involved with on-campus programming by helping build awareness of events and serving as volunteers during institute programs.

Additionally, the students have had the opportunity to have lunch with such guests as Washington Post journalist Jackie Spinner, former CNN senior international correspondent Walter Rodgers and Janice Jacobs, who at the time of her speaking engagement was head of visa services at the U.S. State Department. Jacobs has since been appointed



Institute Student Ambassadors Alyssa Forsyth, Kate McNamara, Kelly Gerlach, and Terra Engler speak with Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Ann McMorrow. (L-R)

by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the U.S. Ambassador to Senegal and

Guinea-Bissau.

A limited number of Student Ambassador positions are available each

year. For more information, please contact Chris Rich at 618/453-4078 or clrich@siu.edu.

Commission Endorses Paul Simon's Study Abroad Proposal

The director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is lauding a report that calls for sending one million American undergraduate students to study

the president and Congress to make \$50 million available annually beginning in 2006 to fund a Lincoln Fellowship Program.

"The commission's action plan represents a substantial step toward realizing Paul Simon's vision of dramatically increasing the number of American college and university students participating in study abroad programs," said Mike Lawrence, director of the institute.

"This plan deserves solid and strong support from the Congress. It responds to the need Paul articulated so passionately and effectively," he said. "Young Americans need to broaden their knowledge and understanding of other nations and their people, especially in

countries where our students have not traditionally studied. The institute salutes the commission for its diligence and determination to move ahead on Paul's proposal, and we look forward to seeing it move even closer to fruition."

Prior to his death in December 2003, Simon worked tirelessly on his vision for renewing international education and for establishing the commission to design the program. Legislation that called for the creation of the commission passed in January 2004.

The commission's complete report, a news release, and additional information are available at <http://www.lincolncommission.org/global-compnationalneed.html>.

"The commission's action plan represents a substantial step toward realizing Paul Simon's vision..."

abroad annually by 2017.

The bi-partisan Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program released its report on the need for the program in late 2005. The commission calls on

Institute Involved in State Internship Program

The Illinois General Assembly established the Vince Demuzio Governmental Internship Program in 2005 to offer up to 30 undergraduate students at Southern Illinois University internship opportunities in legislative offices and state agencies. Students from all academic areas are eligible to apply for these paid internships which provide them introductions to careers in public service.

The program was named after Illinois State Senator Vince Demuzio (D-Carlinville) who died in 2004 after battling colon cancer. A champion of Downstate Illinois, Senator Demuzio was elected to the Senate in 1974, served as chairman of the state Democratic Party from 1986 to 1990, and was serving as Majority Leader of the Illinois Senate at the time of his death at age 62.

The internship strives to make state government an attractive career path, provide undergraduate students a unique opportunity to explore the benefits of careers in public service and to partner with participating legislators and state agencies in efforts to attract qualified people to state government.

Interns can hold these positions for up to two years. For more information, visit the institute's Web site or call John Jackson at 618/453-3106 or email him at jsjacson@siu.edu.



Photo provided

FOCUS ON: CHAD HOOSIER

SIUC senior Chad Hoosier was looking for an opportunity to enhance his work experience before beginning the job search or heading to graduate school. He found just the right way to get it--the Vince Demuzio Governmental Intern Program. Hoosier, a political science student from Chicago, served as a student worker at the institute for more than two years prior to heading to Springfield for the spring and summer 2006 semesters to work under the guidance of one the nation's leading emergency management experts, Mike Chamness. Chamness also happens to be a graduate of SIU Carbondale.

As an intern for the Illinois Ter-

rorism Task Force, which is part of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Hoosier is gaining valuable and practical hands-on experience related to the working relationship between the state and federal governments on homeland security and emergency management issues, including a better understanding of the operational, administrative and fiscal policies and procedures.

Hooiser notes that the internship provides him a "productive and unique experience" as he was able to participate in the planning and implementation of an exercise to evaluate the agency's response to a pandemic flu outbreak and for other emergency response scenarios in the Chicago area.

Did you see...?

...UN Special Envoy to Africa on HIV/AIDS, Stephen Lewis, was named to Time magazine's list of the world's top 100 most influential people in 2005. Lewis was the keynote speaker for the institute's 2004 symposium on how to engage more Americans in the battle against HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Judicial Independence Examined at St. Louis Event

Examining the threat to judicial independence posed by the political polarization of the process in choosing judges at the federal and state levels was the focus of a program sponsored by the institute and held in downtown St. Louis at the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

“At the national level, we have seen increased partisanship in the confirmation process and far more energized activity by interest groups,” said institute director Mike Lawrence. “In Illinois and other states, we have seen interest groups become increasingly aggressive. Among other things, opinions of judges have been distorted in 30-second commercials and mailers.”

Bill Freivogel, who has joined the institute as a visiting professor for 2006 after serving as deputy editorial page editor at the Post-Dispatch, delivered the keynote speech and discussed how the public’s perception of judicial races could affect their feelings towards the courts in general.

“Even though the threat to judicial independence at the national level has eased in recent years,” Freivogel said, “judges at the state



Photo courtesy of the Bar Association of Metro St. Louis

Panel participants included (left to right) Michael A. Wolff, Doreen Dodson, Ann Covington, Mike Lawrence, and Laninya Cason.

level face a growing number of attacks for unpopular decisions.” Freivogel cited the 2004 effort to defeat Missouri Supreme Court Judge Richard B. Teitelman based on his opinions that touched on wedge issues.

The program also featured a panel discussion with:

- Michael A. Wolff, chief justice of the Missouri Supreme Court
- Doreen Dodson, a partner at the Stolar Partnership who is chair of the American Bar Association’s Com-

mittee on Judicial Independence

- Ann Covington, former Missouri Supreme Court judge and a partner at Bryan Cave who is co-chair of the Missouri Bar committee to study how to respond to attacks on the state’s nonpartisan court plan

- Laninya Cason, St. Clair County Associate Circuit Judge
- Mike Lawrence, director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

In memory...

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute was saddened by the nation’s loss of Coretta Scott King in January 2006. King visited campus just weeks after the terrorist attacks of 2001 to deliver a lecture that preached peace and understanding among the world’s citizens.



School-Based Health Centers: A Progress Report on Institute Efforts

There are not many issues more at the forefront of people's minds today than access to quality health care. It is an issue that the institute has tackled on a number of fronts this past year by working in conjunction with a dedicated group of people from across campus and around Illinois.

The institute is fortunate to have forged a strong relationship with the SIU School of Medicine and one of its faculty members, Dr. Sharon Hull. "Sharon's passion for integrating her interests in creating good public policy through her expertise as a medical professional is impressive," said institute director Mike Lawrence.

With her guidance, the institute has been able to make progress towards one of its goals for the past year—facilitating the development and networking of school-based health clinics to improve primary and preventive care in southern Illinois with the potential to become a national model of collaboration

for rural school health centers.

The institute brought together health care providers, public school officials and university faculty members to foster collaboration between these stakeholders. It has also developed a strong working relationship with the Illinois Coalition for School Health Centers to help build upon the foundation it provides to existing clinics as well as identify ways these groups can encourage the development of future sites.

Hull has begun the process of connecting students and faculty on the university campus with local school health centers in need of additional support. For example, Hull believes a partnership between the university's physician assistant program and school health centers is in the making for the fall of 2006.

"We have started to match specific resources at the university, such as physician assistant students in need of practicum experience, with the needs of the school health centers in southern Illinois," Hull

said. "We are designing a system in which students will provide medical services at the school health centers as part of their learning experience, which in turn enables the centers to reduce costs, see more students and provide greater service."

The institute has also developed a database of health, educational and economic indicators for 11 counties in southern Illinois. This information will serve as a resource

"Sharon's passion for integrating her interests in creating good public policy through her expertise as a medical professional is impressive."

to communities writing grants and seeking outcome measures for school health clinic activities. Additionally, this summer, Hull and other coalition representatives will present a workshop on public policy issues at the National Assembly on School Based Health Care Convention in Oregon.

Institute Hosts Discussion on Understanding the Middle East

Two journalists, one American and the other an Arab, shared their perspectives on the troubled Middle East region during a luncheon hosted by the institute and the university's Global Media Research Center. The presentation entitled "Understanding the Middle East: an Arab Journalist and a U.S. Journalist in Dialogue," drew a good crowd of students and faculty.

Jon Sawyer, former Washington bureau chief for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Habib Battah, managing editor of the Beirut-based Middle East Broadcasters Journal were the featured speakers. This event was a continuation of a conversation on the Middle East the two began after meeting last fall in Beirut.

Institute professor Bill Freivogel arranged the event through his friendship with Sawyer, director of the Pu-

litzer Center on Crisis Reporting. Sawyer also heads that new group's effort at improving media coverage of global issues. Prior to his current position, Sawyer worked for the Post-Dispatch for 31 years. Since 2001, he has focused on covering the Middle East and predominantly Muslim countries and recently returned from a three-week reporting trip to Sudan.

Battah has worked in print and broadcast journalism for some of the Arab world's leading media outlets, including Qatar-based Al Jazeera, Lebanon's Daily Star and the Beirut-based television channel, Future Television.

The institute is pleased to provide unique opportunities such as this for students and faculty to learn from distinguished professionals with knowledge from a lifetime of experiences throughout the world.

Annual honor roll of donors, 2004-2005

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is grateful for the hundreds of gifts it receives each year. The following are those who made contributions between **June 1, 2004 to December 31, 2005**. While every gift is meaningful, space limitations prevent us from publishing gifts under \$100. However, a list of all donors may be found at www.siu.edu/~ppi. **Thank you to all who support our work.**

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Institute Hosts Third Annual Leadership Weekend For African American Males

The institute hosted about 45 high school students from the St. Louis Metro East Area to participate in the third annual retreat at the university's Touch of Nature Environmental Center that focuses on enhancing leadership qualities of African-American young men.

The retreat serves to reinforce positive qualities of the participants and build upon their leadership skills, along with career awareness education.

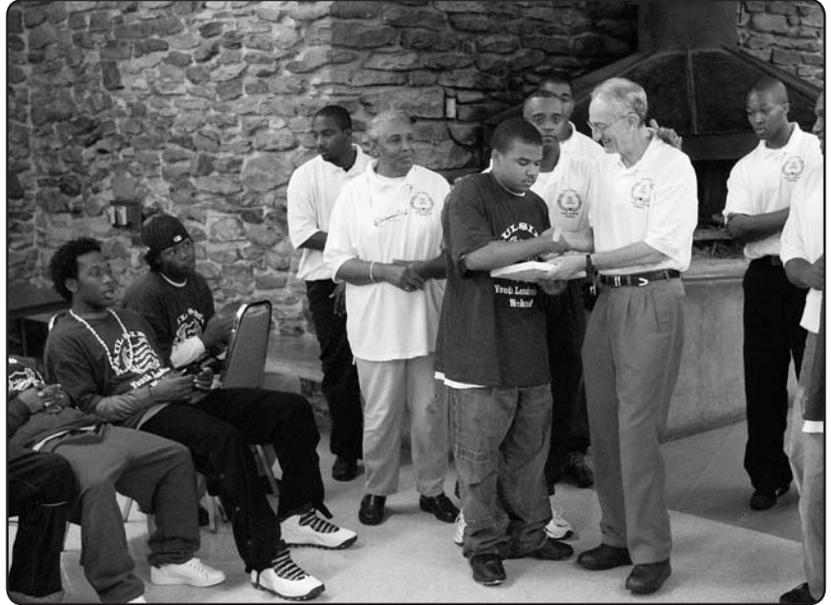
Redditt Hudson, a former St. Louis police officer who works on social, cultural and economic matters affecting African-American communities and youths, was the keynote speaker. Hudson founded Project Peace, which focuses on issues of accountability and responsibility for high school students. He also works with the Racial Justice Initiative of the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri.

The institute used a 1994 report by the Illinois Commission on African American Males, chaired by then-Illinois Attorney General and SIUC graduate Roland W. Burris, as

"This program helps lay a good foundation about the importance of leadership and personal and individual responsibility, and citizenship, to not only make it in college but also in life."

inspiration for the weekend.

"Our institute is committed to helping each participant at this event reach his full potential," institute director Mike Lawrence said. "Developing leadership skills in young



people is vital to the future of their communities."

The leadership weekend is realizing the fruits of its early labor. Linda Renee Baker, university professor at the institute and the leadership project director, said one of the previous weekend participants is enrolling at SIUC and participated as a chaperone during the retreat.

"Some of our previous participants are in colleges and universities across the state," she said. "This program helps lay a good foundation about the importance of leadership and personal and individual responsibility, and citizenship, to not only make it in college but also in life."

The institute received funding for the program from the Illinois Community College Board and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Higher Learning Center in East St. Louis.

As part of the weekend, the Higher Learning Center provided parts that allowed teams of young men to build personal computers. Each team nominated and voted on a non-profit

community organization in the Metro East area to receive the computer.

The conference included team-building exercises that demonstrate leadership, discussions on current societal issues and talking with current SIUC students on preparing for college. The event also provides a chance for youths to network with one another and talk informally with college students and other participants.

Among the fraternal and community-based groups in the Metro East area participating were Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Omega Psi Psi fraternities; the Top Ladies of Distinction Inc.; Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Charter School; and the East St. Louis Community College Center.

This year's participants created a CD-ROM of the weekend, which then was made available to community colleges across the state interested in replicating the leadership weekend model, Baker said.

Youth, continued from page 1

have gained a great deal of personal satisfaction from their public service,” said Mike Lawrence, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

Thirty high schools ranging from the southern Illinois town of Carterville to Hoffman Estates, north of Chicago, sent students to hear keynote addresses by Republican U.S. Congressman Ray LaHood of Peoria and Democratic State Senator Deanna Demuzio of Carlinville.

“As a former junior high social studies teacher, I believe it is vitally important that we encourage students to seek out careers in government and public service,” said LaHood.

Participants spent the morning at the Capitol Complex, including using the Illinois House of Representatives chamber for LaHood’s morning keynote speech and question and answer session. Students sat at the representative’s desks and used their microphones to quiz the six-term lawmaker on topics ranging from immigration issues to getting started in politics.

Smaller breakout sessions were held in House and Senate committee hearing rooms throughout the Capitol building where students interacted with Republican State Representative Aaron Schock of Peoria who, at 23, became the youngest member of the Illinois General Assembly. Other breakout speakers included Donovan Pepper, government affairs manager for Walgreens, and SIUC alumni Phil Keene of the Illinois Senate Republican staff and Bryen Johnson of the Illinois Senate Democrat staff. Breakout session speakers shared their personal journeys of becoming involved in government and answered students’ questions about different roles in policy making.

Following lunch in the Secretary of State’s Howlett Building, students were transported to the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum where



Sen. Deanna Demuzio speaks to high school students at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

they heard from Sen. Demuzio about the importance of volunteers in political campaigns and the need for people to be involved in government at the local levels.

The day concluded with complimentary tours of the presidential library and museum, which proved to be popular with students and teachers alike.

Since 1998, Youth Government Day has inspired more than 1,000 high school and community college students to become actively engaged in their communities.

Endowment, continued from page 1

hundreds of people across the state and nation, the endowment has reached the halfway point.

For more information on this or other fundraising initiatives, please contact institute assistant director Matt Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or baughman@siu.edu.

Lori Reimers delivered brief remarks to participants at Youth Government Day and announced State Farm Insurance Company’s \$2,500 contribution to the Youth Government Day endowment fund.

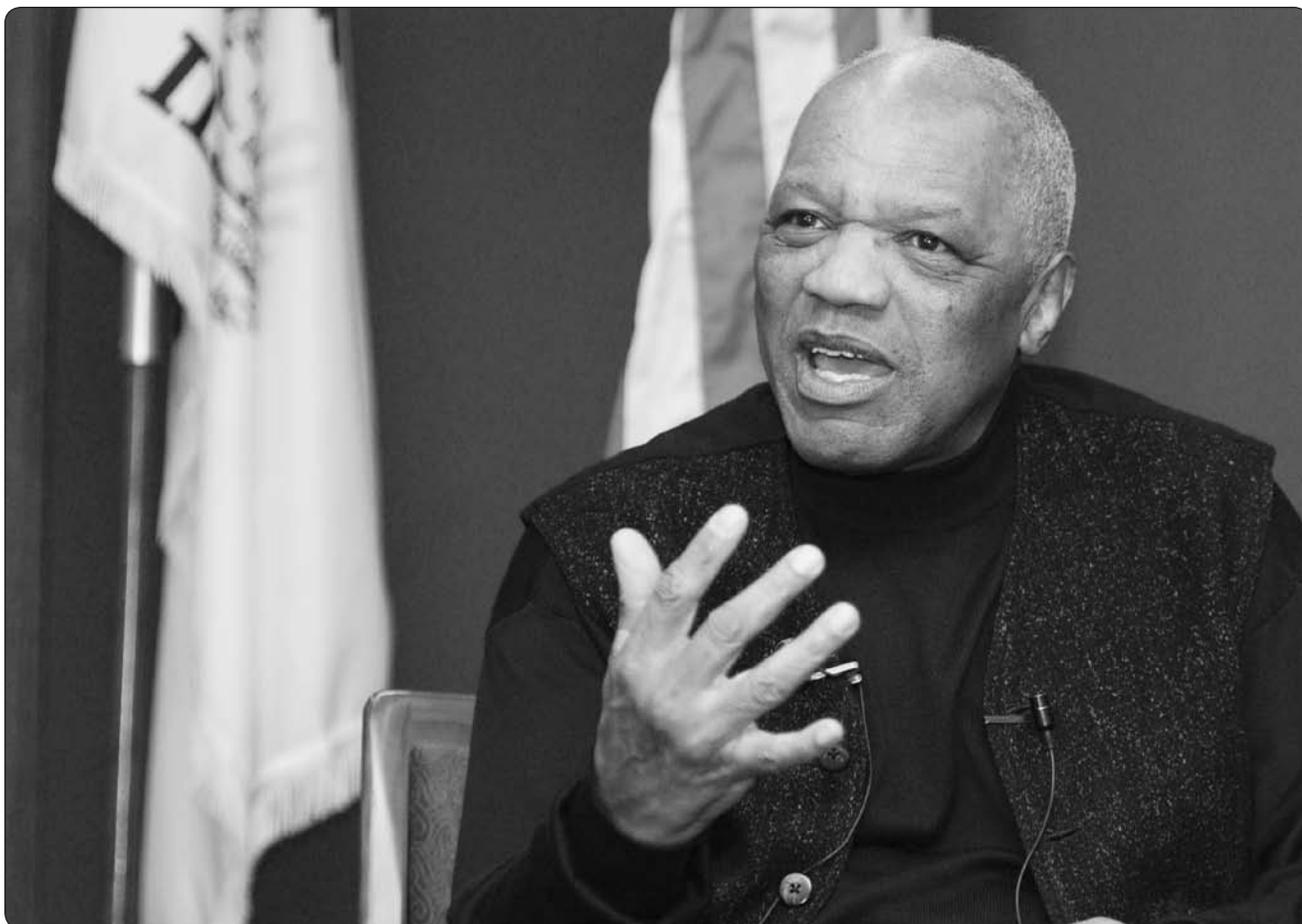




Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Janice Jacobs, an SIUC alumna, visits with students during a reception prior to her lecture on balancing border security and international educational exchanges. While on campus, Jacobs also spoke to classes and held a seminar for students interested in pursuing a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Immediately prior to traveling to Carbondale, it was announced that Jacobs had been nominated by President Bush to become U.S. Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. She gained Senate confirmation for that post in early 2006.



Nationally acclaimed journalist Jerry Mitchell (left) and former U.S. prosecutor Don Cochran (right picture, left side) visited southern Illinois to present their experiences in dealing with decades-old civil rights cases. Both have been instrumental in seeing that justice was done in cases such as the assassination of Medgar Evers through the prosecution of Byron De La Beckwith. Mitchell was portrayed in the movie “Ghosts of Mississippi” to acknowledge the importance of his investigative reporting on the case. Cochran earned notoriety by gaining a conviction in 2002 of Ku Klux Klan member Bobby Frank Cherry for the bombing of Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church which killed four young girls in 1963. The two also appeared at John A. Logan College, a partner with the institute in bringing them to southern Illinois.



ABOVE
 Earl Caldwell, the first nationally syndicated black columnist for the New York Times, and the only member of the media present at the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., visited campus as part of Black History Month. While on campus, Caldwell met with students, faculty and community leaders to discuss his experiences and the current state of journalism and delivered an evening lecture.

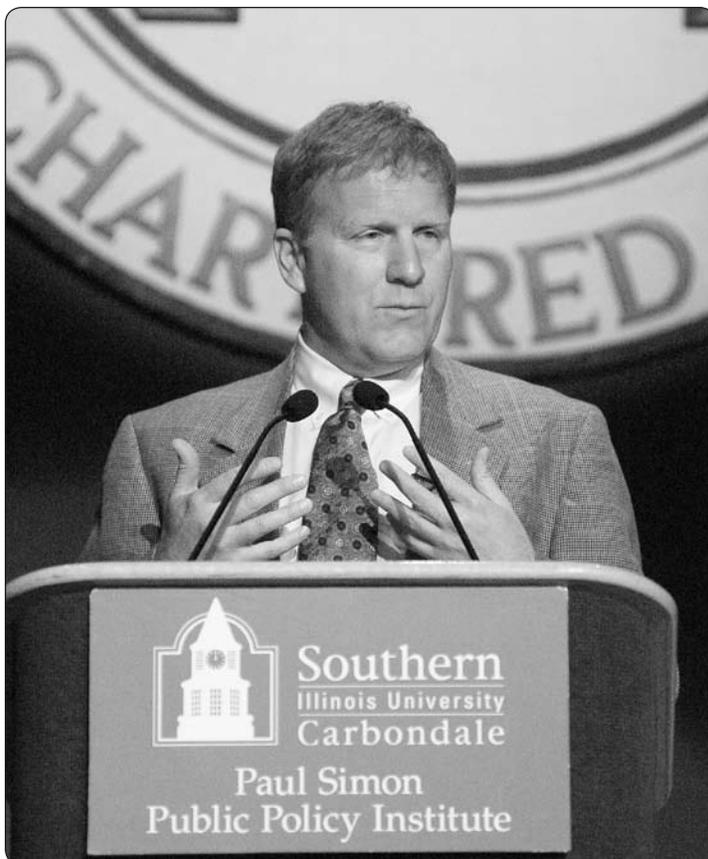
RIGHT
 Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn visited the institute in 2005 to praise a rural transportation bill that passed the Illinois General Assembly and was signed into law. The legislation, which enhances access to health care providers by rural residents, was inspired by an institute summit in November 2003 on rural health care issues.





ABOVE

Three-time Pulitzer Prize winning columnist and best selling author Thomas Friedman shared his insights on foreign affairs and global issues from his book, "The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century." Friedman began his career with the New York Times in 1981 serving posts in Beirut, Jerusalem and Lebanon. He moved to the paper's Washington bureau where over a five year period he held positions as its chief correspondent for Diplomatic, White House, and International Economic coverage. He became its foreign-affairs columnist in 1995. Friedman is one of world's leading journalistic voices on international issues.



LEFT

The top Republican in the Illinois House of Representatives, Tom Cross, visited campus as part of the John White Lecture Series to discuss current issues facing the Illinois General Assembly during the spring 2006 session.



Photo by Ted Schurrer

ABOVE

Philip Jackson, executive director of the Black Star Project based in Chicago, speaks as part of a conference, “Eliminating the Achievement Gap,” co-sponsored by the Illinois African American Family Commission, SIUC’s Office of Diversity and Equity, and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. Recommendations on helping the state address this issue were developed by the participants for further review by the organizers. The institute plans to publish a final document as a call to action for community, government, public policy and educational leaders.

RIGHT

Judy Shepard, whose son Matthew was slain during a 1998 anti-gay hate crime in Wyoming, spoke to a capacity crowd at the SIU Student Center Ballrooms to encourage people to treat one another with respect, honor and love. In light of their son’s murder, the family established the Matthew Shepard Foundation to champion causes he believed in, including social justice.





ABOVE

Former CNN senior international correspondent Walter Rodgers (second from right) is flanked by three SIUC emeritus history professors during his return visit to his alma mater. Rodgers spent a week on campus where he visited classes, met with students and faculty and delivered a keynote address about his time as an embedded reporter with the U.S. Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003. His book, "Sleeping with Custer and the 7th Cavalry," recounts his experience. Rodgers spent more than a decade with CNN and previously worked for 12 years with ABC News. Rodgers, armed with two degrees in history, entered journalism in order to "try to live some history instead of writing about it." Pictured with Rodgers are, left to right, Ed O'Day, Betty Fladeland and Howard Allen.



LEFT/BELOW

Youth Government Day 2006 included opportunities for students to hear from an outstanding group of young people involved in government and the political process, including Walgreens' government affairs manager Donovan Pepper, State Representative Aaron Schock (R-Peoria), and two SIUC alumni, Phillip Keene of the State Senate Republican staff and Bryen Johnson of the Illinois Senate Democrat staff.





ABOVE

Jackie Spinner, Washington Post journalist and SIU Carbondale alumna, visited campus to speak about her time as the Post's Baghdad bureau chief where she reported from Fallujah, Kurdistan and Abu Ghraib, among other sites of the war in Iraq. Her experiences in Iraq include surviving a kidnap attempt outside of Abu Ghraib where she had traveled to report on the release of prisoners. Spinner is shown signing a copy of her book, "Tell Them I Didn't Cry," for Lee and Frank Klingberg of Carbondale. While at SIUC, where she earned an undergraduate degree in journalism, Spinner served as Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Egyptian, the student-run newspaper.

RIGHT

Mary Ann McMorrow is a woman of many firsts. She is the first woman to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court and the first woman to be elected the court's Chief Justice. McMorrow, who along with Jeanne Hurley, were among the first women to work in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in the 1950s, visited campus to deliver the Jeanne Hurley Simon Lecture. Jeanne was later elected to the Illinois General Assembly where she met her future husband, Paul Simon, a fellow legislator. McMorrow spoke about the evolution of women in the legal profession and the judiciary over the course of her remarkable career.





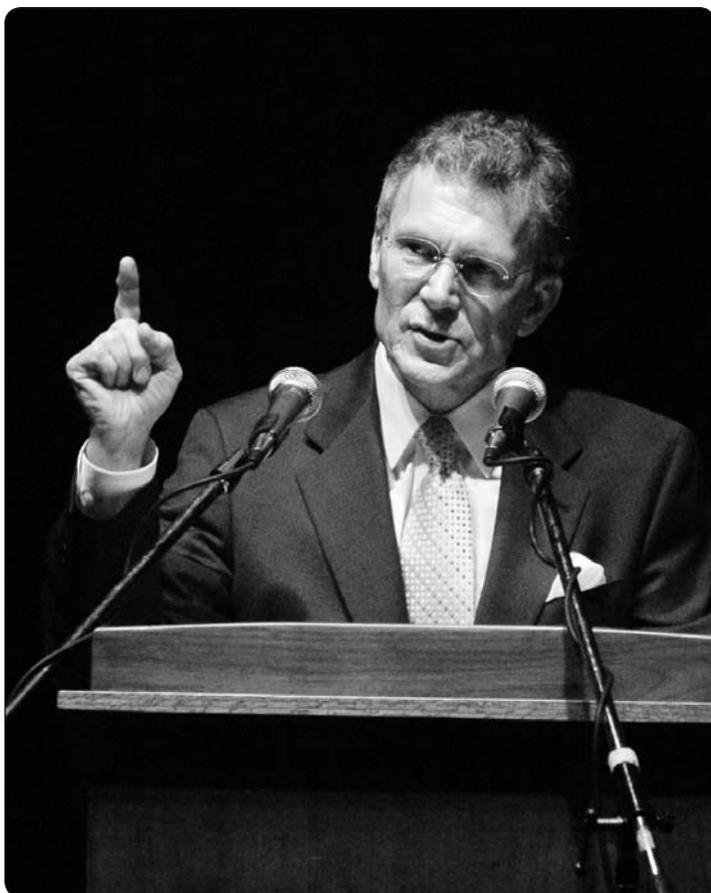
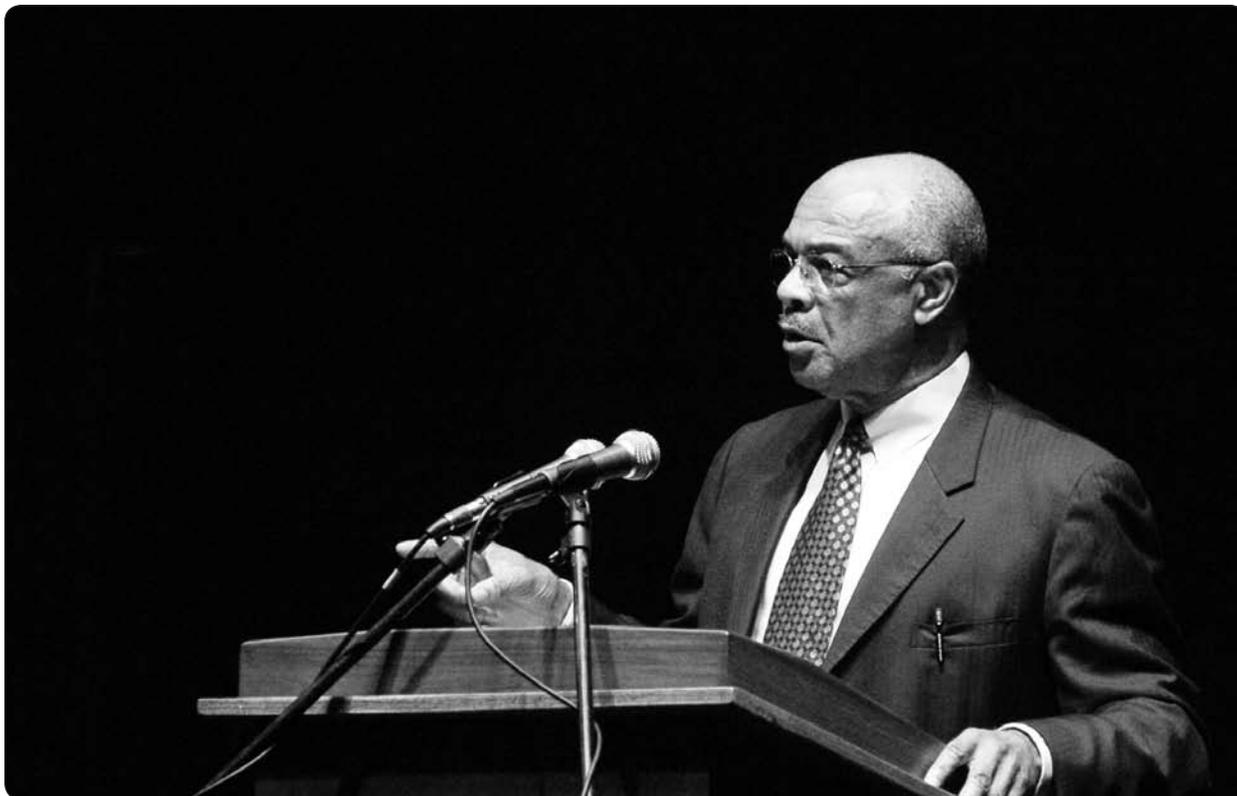
Photo provided

**ABOVE**

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and the Asian American Policy Coalition of Illinois co-sponsored a day-long conference to examine issues facing Asian Americans. Sponsors of the event are developing recommendations based on panel discussions featuring educational and business leaders, including Peter Nien-chu Kiang, professor of education and director of the Asian American Studies Program at Boston University; Jesse H. Ruiz, chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education; and Kevin Bradley, director of diversity for McDonald's Corporation. Pictured is conference keynote speaker, Clarence Page (right), with Bill Yoshino, and Nancy Chen, two of the organizers of the conference.

LEFT

"Running Dry," the documentary film based on Paul Simon's 1998 book, "Tapped Out," was screened on the SIU Carbondale campus following showings in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Beijing, among other locations around the world. Over the last year, the film has helped spur action on the global water issue in Congress, including the creation of the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 which President Bush signed into law in December 2005. Pictured is Jim Thebaut, the film's producer and director, who visited Carbondale to discuss the film and to guest lecture in classes.



No Child Left Behind: Is It Making the Grade? That was the question posed to former U.S. Senator Tom Daschle (left) and former U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige (above) during a debate to a crowded Shryock Auditorium. Daschle, who voted for the legislation, is critical of the government's funding and implementation of the program. Paige, who guided the bill's passage in Congress, maintains the controversial program is necessary to lift U.S. educational standards as well as school and teacher accountability.



ABOVE

Illinois' ability to meet critical vital service needs given the state's structural budget deficit was the focus of a one-day conference, "Real Needs & Red Ink: How Do We Fund Vital Services in Illinois?," sponsored by the institute and the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. Ralph Martire (above at microphone), the center's executive director and a columnist with the *Chicago Sun-Times*, delivered the keynote address. Panel members included experts from government, business and social services, including former Illinois state representative Jeff Mays who now heads the Illinois Business Roundtable; institute professor Linda Baker who was secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services; Randy Dunn, Illinois Superintendent of Schools; Tom Johnson, former director of the Illinois Department of Revenue; Matthew Gardner of the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy; and Judy Erwin, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

RIGHT

Jim Ryan, former Illinois Attorney General and the 2002 Republican candidate for governor of Illinois, visited the SIU Carbondale campus on primary election day of 2006 to guest lecture at the law school and in Mike Lawrence's journalism and political science class. He also had an informal lunch discussion with university students, faculty and staff and community leaders. Ryan now heads a public affairs program at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois.



Did you see...?

...SIUC Journalism professor William Recktenwald was featured in a History Channel documentary about his harrowing experience in the 2004 tsunami. Recktenwald, who barely survived the ravaging flood waters in Sri Lanka where he was vacationing, was the keynote speaker during an institute event highlighting the devastation and its aftermath. The program included presentations by SIUC international students representing several of the affected countries.

Board of Counselors

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is guided by a board of counselors that meets twice per year and interacts regularly with the institute between meetings. The 15 member board includes two members of the Simon family, an appointee by each chair of the Illinois Republican and Democratic Parties, the SIUC chancellor and vice chancellor of institutional advancement, and nine members at-large serving four year terms. We thank these members for their service to the board and for their dedication to ensuring Paul Simon's vision of the institute is fulfilled:

- Gene Callahan, Springfield, Ill.
- Nancy Chen, Naperville, Ill.
- Ross Glickman, Chicago, Ill.
- Rickey McCurry, Carbondale, Ill.
- Jerry Mileur, Hadley, Mass.
- Bill Norwood, Carbondale, Ill.
- Howard Peters, Springfield, Ill.
- Desiree Rogers, Chicago, Ill.
- Martin Simon, Crofton, Maryland
- Sheila Simon, Carbondale, Ill.
- Lucy Sloan, Carbondale, Ill.
- Walter Wendler, Carbondale, Ill.
- John White, Glenview, Ill.
- Paula Wolff, Chicago, Ill.
- *Vacant position to be named*

Lawrence Honored by Illinois Good Government Group

Institute director Mike Lawrence received the prestigious Paul Simon Public Service Award from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) during a Chicago ceremony in May 2006.

The press release announcing the award stated that Lawrence was being "recognized for his contributions to better government through a distinguished career in public service and journalism."

Former Gov. Jim Edgar, Lawrence's boss for nearly a decade, was invited to join Paul Simon's daughter Shiela to present him with this honor. The late Senator played a significant role in establishing the organization in 1999 and Shiela serves on its board of directors.

Also receiving the award in 2006 were Newton Minow, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and Mike Bailey of the Peoria Journal Star in tribute to the quality of the paper's editorial page.

Honor Roll, continued from page 9

Mary Simon
 Richard and Mary Skelley
 Blanche Carlton and Fred Sloan
 Francis Smith
 Alden and Lillian Snyder
 Nina and Steven Solarz
 South County Publications, Ltd.
 Marvin Sparrow
 Susan and Robert Spellman
 Zachary and Diane Stamp
 Jane and Ronald Stockton
 Chester and Virginia Strohecker
 Claudia and R. Michael Svoboda
 Debra and Lee Tayes
 Dorothy and F. John Taylor
 Dorothy Taylor
 Christina Tchen
 Mary and Thomas Thayer
 Harry and Marilyn Thiel
 Catherine and Norman Thoburn
 J. A. Treviranus
 Frank Houdek and Susan Tulis
 Barbra Luce-Turner
 A.D. and Margaret VanMeter
 Judith and Richard Wagner
 Stephen L. Wasby
 J. Richard and Margaret Weaver
 O. Glenn and Phyllis Webb
 Dennis Hogan and Olga Weidner
 Betsy Weiner
 Nancy and Walter Weiss
 Jesse White
 Robert Wilcox
 Geoffrey Nathan and Margaret Winters
 Cathryn and Harlington Wood
 World Reach, Inc.
 Elizabeth and Kevin Wright
 Almer and Kristen Yancey
 Susan Fisher-Yellen
 Charles York
 Michael York
 York Farms, Inc.

✧ In Memory ✧

Gifts to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute were made in memory of:

John McDermott
 Merrill Rosenthal
 Paul Simon

Institute Graduate Assistant Continues Leading International Efforts on HIV/AIDS

If you were to visit Edith Ng'oma in the institute office she shares with four other students, you might catch her as she conducts research for the institute's school health center project, prepares for a presentation on HIV/AIDS in Africa for an area high school, or prepares to participate in an international conference.

She's doing all this while in her final year as a graduate student studying rehabilitation counseling and managing a household of three children and her husband, Alex, who is a doctoral student in the SIUC political science department.

In the fall of 2005, Ng'oma spent nearly a month in Nepal during two separate trips to the South Asian country. The reason she would spend that much time in a distant land and away from her family? Her dedication to the education of youth workers and young people dealing with HIV/AIDS and the contributing factors related to social, political and economic issues. Poverty and other societal problems have led to the rise in the number of HIV/AIDS cases in Nepal.

"Gender inequality, low levels of education and literacy, denial, stigma and discrimination" all are a factor in the increase, Ng'oma said. "In addition to the foregoing causes, seasonal and long-term labor migration to neighboring countries, like India, which is necessary for the economic survival of many households in both rural and urban areas, has been on the increase. Thousands of women and men live away from their families as migrant workers. Removal from traditional social structures, such as family, has been shown to promote unsafe sexual practices, such as engaging in multiple sexual partners and in commercial sex."



Photo provided

Nirmeeta Shakya (left), Shubha Shrestha (right) and Edith Ng'oma (center) at Park Village Hotel in Katmandu. Ng'oma, a graduate assistant for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, assisted with a business skills training program for underprivileged youth in September 2005.

To combat this and other problems, Ng'oma was asked by Street Kids International and UNICEF Nepal to co-facilitate two conferences aimed at training dozens of youth workers and the young people who find themselves living and working on the street. The conferences allowed the conveners to educate them how to respond to the changing needs of local youth.

"As someone who has presented papers at such conferences and practically worked with orphans, street children and other categories of vulnerable youth, it gives me a lot of satisfaction to see such youths go back to their communities and begin to lead 'normal lives' once again," Ng'oma said. "For the youths who are already in the communities but leading risky lives, I am always happy to see them turn around and become economically independent as well as begin to lead stable and 'normal lives' too."



Edith Ng'oma visited Elverado High School in southern Illinois to build awareness about HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Legislative Task Force On Rural Health Care Established; Fulfills Recommendation From 2003 Summit

A new legislative task force can play a key role in increasing access to quality health care in rural and other underserved areas, organizers of a 2003 statewide summit agreed.

“We have seen real progress since Senator Simon brought a cross-section of Illinoisans together shortly before his death to address critical issues regarding the availability of good health care throughout Illinois. But much remains on the agenda fashioned at that summit, and we believe the Joint Task Force on Rural Health can move our state significantly ahead on several of the items,” said Mike Lawrence, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University.

The institute and the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine were principal co-sponsors of the Springfield summit along with the Illinois Rural Health Association.

“As a sponsor of the health care summit, the School of Medicine is pleased that the important work of addressing the needs of rural and underserved citizens of Illinois will continue with the naming of this legislative task force,” said Dr. J. Kevin Dorsey, dean and provost of the medical school. “As a physician I know that the best treatment will not be started until the diagnosis is known. With the support of our legislators and attention given to the summit recommendations, I have great hope that we will see marked improvement

in health care access as well as other improvements in the health of Illinois communities.”

Sheldon Keyser, the president of the Illinois Rural Health Association, said, “This task force provides an opportunity for rural leaders and legislators to discuss the existing health care infrastructure and explore ways to improve access to services in rural Illinois. We look forward to working with the Task Force and others to develop a comprehensive plan for the delivery of services in rural Illinois.”

Linda Renee Baker served as the institute’s point person for the summit and will work closely with the task force.

Appointed to the task force, established by a joint House-Senate resolution, are Reps. William Delgado (D-Chicago), Patricia Bellock (R-Westmont), John Bradley (D-Marion) and Rich Brauer (R-Petersburg) and Sens. James Clayborne Jr. (D-Belleville), Dale Righter (R-Mattoon), Deanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville) and Dan Ruthertford (R-Pontiac).

Delgado, Bellock, Clayborne and Righter participated in the November 2003 summit that brought health care professionals, educators and community activists to Springfield from all parts of Illinois.

“Even though a major focus of the summit was rural Illinois, we also recognized that people in inner-city areas had significant problems accessing qual-

ity health care. We have seen expansion of coverage to hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans, but being able to access physicians, dentists and mental health professionals is equally crucial,” Lawrence said.

A major summit recommendation was to establish the legislative task force. Other recommendations called for:

- * Creating a funding mechanism to help develop and expand education programs that can lead to careers in the health professions – particularly for minority students and those from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds.

- * Forming partnerships between government, educators and the health care industry to develop workplace-based, interdisciplinary models for educating allied health professionals locally.

- * Providing funds for bilingual and bicultural education of health care professionals.

- * Conducting a comprehensive study to identify and modify state regulations that have a disproportionately negative impact on health care providers and consumers in rural and underserved areas.

- * Designing transportation systems to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas.

- * Exploring the use of school-based clinics to extend health care services for children in rural and underserved areas.

- * Creating a funding mechanism for telemedicine that is equitable for both recipients and providers of health care services.

Did you see...?

...Mississippi’s Jerry Mitchell, a reporter for the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, was featured in Newsweek magazine in the summer 2005 as part of its “America’s Best” series. Mitchell, who spoke at the institute shortly before the article was published, is highly-regarded as an investigative journalist for researching and reporting on decades-old civil rights cases. His work has helped prosecutors gain convictions in cases such as the murder of Medgar Evers.

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Clarence Page (right), Pulitzer Prize winning syndicated columnist with the Chicago Tribune, shared his insightful perspectives on public policy and national politics as he delivered the inaugural Bill and Molly Norwood Lecture. He won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1989 and his column is syndicated to 200 newspapers. The Norwood lecture series brings prominent speakers in the area of public policy and diversity in society to campus. An anonymous friend created the \$20,000 endowment to honor the Norwoods, and it has more than doubled since its inception thanks to generous friends and admirers of the Norwoods, two of the most respected community leaders in southern Illinois. Institute director Mike Lawrence noted that the couple has “blazed trails and contributed monumentally to this university, this community and this state.”