

From David Yepsen

Dear Friends,

We are celebrating the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's 15th birthday this year. We're doing it by working even harder on the missions Paul charted back in 1997. He wanted the Institute to work on reforming government, promoting civic education and helping minority students get a start on the first rung of the ladder of success.

Later this fall, we're beginning a series of conferences on reform issues in Illinois to bring experts from across the country to provide policy makers with options for reforming our state's politics.

We have two on-going series, one designed to help women get into politics and the other to focus attention on issues surrounding debt in the U.S. and Illinois. We're helping students win internships, sponsoring speakers on campus and working with young African American men in East St. Louis.

Thanks for your continued financial support. We are grateful for it. As always, I'd be glad to hear from you with ideas and thoughts about our work ~
dyepsen@siu.edu



David Yepsen

Reform Conference Planned for Chicago this Fall

The impact of continuing political corruption in Illinois can be staggering, both in terms of faith in public servants to do the right thing and also economic development.

A conference on reform politics is planned for this fall by the Simon Institute. The two-day conference at the Union League Club in Chicago will look at the underlying causes for corruption and identify specific policy and legislative options for meaningful reform.

Dr. Alan Rosenthal of Rutgers and ethicist Michael Josephson are among confirmed speakers and plans include bringing in academics, public policy practitioners, journalists and reform activists to address the issue.

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Women in Politics Series a Success

Helping women get elected to office is the ongoing focus of the Simon Institute's Women in Politics Series.

Speakers included local leaders such as Gloria Campos, a member of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly and a local business owner who was recently named Jackson County GOP chair and Carolyn Smoot, the first female circuit court judge in Williamson County history.

In April, the Institute hosted two more speakers, Nancy Bocskor and Bobbie Steele. Bocskor is an internationally recognized leader who works with Rutgers University's Center on American Women in Politics and teaches at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, drawing on her experiences working on Capitol Hill, where she began her career with Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA), a future House Speaker. Steele, a Democrat, was the first female to serve as president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and is also nationally recognized for her expertise on public health issues for the poor.

Speakers last fall included former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, Illinois Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, former southern Illinois news reporter Dana Jay and Illinois Republican Coalition Leader Terri Bryant.

The Institute is committed to continuing work on helping women and others who are underrepresented in elected office overcome challenges to running for office and earning the recognition they deserve as leaders in government and politics.



Gloria Campos speaks at a Women in Politics event at the Simon Institute in February.

Save the Date | Fall 2012

- "Race, Southern Politics and American Democracy" presented by **Former Congressman Glen Browder and Dr. Artemesia Stanberry**
Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. - SIU Student Center Ballroom D
- **Reform Conference at the Union League Club in Chicago**
Thursday, Sept. 27-Friday, Sept. 28 **RSVP will be required**
- **Former U.S. Senator Alan Dixon**
Thursday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. - SIU Student Center Ballroom D
- **Former Illinois Governor Jim Thompson**
Thursday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. - SIU Student Center Ballroom D

Visit www.paulsimoninstitute.org
for more information on these and other upcoming events.

Event Honors Trailblazing Black Alumnus



Continuing its efforts to honor the first black male graduate of SIU Carbondale—a trailblazing African American state legislator in the early 1900s—the Simon Institute brought together alumni, donors and friends for a presentation in Chicago on Alexander Lane’s life and legacy by historian Dr. Pamela Smoot.

Lane’s incredible story is of a man born into slavery who took advantage of his freedom and the opportunity for an education to become an educator, physician and state legislator. The 35-page biography by Smoot with the help of two student research assistants is available at www.paulsimoninstitute.org or by calling (618) 453-4009.

“Dr. Lane is a historic figure for our campus and for the black community,” said Institute director David Yepsen. “We are delighted to have had the opportunity to honor him in this way and to provide opportunities for young people who are interested in following in his footsteps to enter public service.”

The Simon Institute has received more than \$100,000 in gifts and pledges to establish the Alexander Lane Internship. An endowment of at least \$150,000 is required to fully fund a student working in Springfield during the General Assembly’s spring session each year. There is a preference for the intern to be a minority and to work with members of the Legislative Black Caucus.

To make a contribution or to learn more, contact Institute associate director Matt Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or baughman@siu.edu.



Winston Mardis (center), the great-grandson of Alexander Lane, posed for a picture with (left to right) Institute associate director Matt Baughman; state Rep. Will Davis (D-East Hazel Crest) who is an SIU Carbondale alumnus and chair of the Legislative Black Caucus; Winston’s wife, Barbara Mardis; Lane biographer and SIU Carbondale assistant professor Dr. Pamela Smoot; Institute director David Yepsen; and Institute professor Linda Renee Baker.

SAVE THE DATE: ALEXANDER LANE EVENT IN SPRINGFIELD

The Simon Institute will hold an event to celebrate the life of Dr. Alexander Lane on the evening of Tuesday, May 22 in Springfield in partnership with the SIU School of Medicine. Watch for more information on our website or contact us for more details at (618) 453-4009.

Thanks for Supporting the Alexander Lane Internship Endowment

Carmelita Banks
Matt and Angie Baughman
Tom and Molly Britton
Dion and Cynthia DeLude
Commonwealth Edison
Harry Crisp/Pepsi MidAmerica
Trish Guyon
Chad Hoosier
Charlie and Kimberly Leonard
Winston and Barbara Mardis
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Walgreens
Wenona Whitfield
Christy Woolard
David Yepsen

Join this list today!

Reform cont. from page 1

“This isn’t a laughing matter anymore,” said David Yepsen, Institute director. “This makes our state unattractive for economic development. Who wants to locate a business in a state where you have to pay to play? It makes us a laughingstock and a butt of jokes on late-night television. If you tell people you are from Illinois you get a little snicker from many of them.”

The conference is slated for Sept. 27-28. More details about speakers and registration information will be available soon.

The event is funded in part by the Joyce Foundation.

Youth Government Day Participant Wins Municipal Election; Returns to Inspire Young People to Run for Office and Be Leaders Now

Cody Hendricks wasn't raised in a political family. In fact, his parents weren't even registered to vote. But that all changed when their son decided to run for elected office as a 17-year-old senior at Pekin High School. (His young age required officials to seek verification that Hendricks was an eligible candidate—which he was since he turned 18 prior to Election Day.)

Hendricks is in his first term as a Councilman in the central Illinois town, home to 33,000 residents. And his parents, now registered voters, cast their first marks for their own son. Hendricks' success in running for office and getting more involved as a student comes in part from the Institute's Youth Government Day program—he attended three years in a row prior to running for office.

"Youth Government Day helped me focus my interest in politics to the state and local level, where I feel I could make a big difference as a young person," said Hendricks. "Our communities—and really our entire state—need lots of attention from people like me with new ideas and new energy. The Simon Institute



Cody Hendricks speaks to students in the Illinois House of Representatives at Youth Government Day 2012.

helped me better understand how I could play a role in that now rather than wait until later."

But his own ambition and interest in politics is a major motivator. Hendricks established the first-ever political organization in his high school—the Teenage Republicans. That led him to being named to a leadership post in the Tazewell County GOP and later appointed State Chairman of the Teenage Republicans by Illinois Republican Party chairman Pat Brady.

"Cody is doing exactly what Paul Simon hoped this event would do—motivate young people to be engaged in

politics and government and consider careers in public service," said Institute professor Linda Baker. "We are proud that the Institute has had a small role in helping foster Cody's passion for public service."

Earlier this year, Hendricks traveled to Carbondale to speak to a southern Illinois high school leadership program and also served as a featured speaker at the 2012 Youth Government Day in Springfield.

Hendricks, a freshman studying political science and history at Eureka College on the Ronald Reagan Leadership Scholarship, aspires to enter state government.

Southern Illinois Poll Results Show Opinions on Reforms, Splitting Cook County from the State, Wealth Issues, State Spending and Much More

It is not surprising, given Illinois' reputation for pay-to-play politics, that a large majority of voters in southern Illinois are dissatisfied with the information they have about the finances of political candidates in their state.

This year's Southern Illinois Poll from the Simon Institute also shows strong support for a number of financial reporting reform proposals that have been talked about in Springfield.

The survey, conducted Feb. 23-28, showed that three in 10 (30 percent) were very or somewhat satisfied with the information they have on elected officials' outside financial interests. More than twice as many (65 percent) were not very or not at all satisfied with the information they had on elected officials' finances.

Other findings from the poll include a near majority of southern Illinoisans favoring the split of Cook County into its own state. Also included are opinions about regionalism issues and how the federal government should deal with income inequality.

Further, the poll found that more than six in ten (63 percent) believe the state takes in enough to pay for public services, and

that eliminating waste and inefficiencies can close the budget gap. Just one in twelve (8 percent) believe that a tax increase is necessary to fix the budget.

They also are against having local school districts pay their own teachers' pension contributions rather than having the state do it. Respondents narrowly favor consolidating sparsely populated local school districts and support some measures that would cut down on pension costs for the state.

"The Southern Illinois Poll provides important information for our elected officials and other policymakers," said Simon Institute Visiting Professor Charlie Leonard, who supervised the poll. "Southern Illinois voters clearly want more transparency in financial reporting from elected officials, and show some willingness to bend on tough issues like school consolidation and pension reform."

The sample of 400 registered voters in Illinois' 18 southernmost counties has a margin for error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points. **Find all the poll results at www.paulsimoninstitute.org.**

Remember Paul Simon, Leave a Legacy Gift

In tribute to Paul Simon’s memory and to honor the good work the Simon Institute does, an increasing number of donors have chosen to make a legacy gift for the benefit of the Institute.

“There are many ways to make a legacy gift—it can be as simple as including the Institute in your will, or something more sophisticated like a charitable gift annuity,” said Institute associate director Matt Baughman.

Many of the planned giving options have benefits such as tax deductibility and tax-free earnings.

For instance, the American Council on Gift Annuities shows that an 80-year-old donor could receive a guaranteed annual payout of 6.8 percent along with generous tax benefits.

Learning more about leaving a legacy gift is simple: contact Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or baughman@siu.edu and he’ll help you understand the options.

Simon Students Earn Scholarships, Award

Three more students have benefited from the generosity of Simon Institute donors as recipients of the Mike Lawrence Scholarship and a special Director’s Award for outstanding student service and research.

Undergraduate students Oliver Keys and Keith Burton are the 2012 Mike Lawrence Scholars, which is given in tribute to the Institute’s former director who retired in 2008 and who helped Paul Simon launch the Institute in 1997.

The pair are from the Metro East area and have been active participants in Institute events, including as volunteers at Youth Government Day in Springfield. Both came to SIU Carbondale after participating in the Institute’s Leadership Weekend for African American males from the East St. Louis area.

Burton is a senior studying psychology. He is also in the Air Force ROTC. Keys is a sophomore studying automotive technology.

Additionally, Tyler Chance, a junior from West Franfort studying political science, has been given an Institute Director’s Award for excellence in service and research. The University Honors Student has assisted the Institute in numerous special research projects since becoming a student employee in 2010.

“We are pleased to honor students who provide valuable service to the Institute,” said Director David Yepsen.

Sample Language for Your Will

“I bequeath to the Southern Illinois University Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation duly existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, the sum of \$_____ (or _____% of my estate) to be directed to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.”

You can work with the Institute to further designate the purpose for your gift.

MAKE A DONATION * SHARE YOUR INTENTIONS

SIU Carbondale and the SIU Foundation retain six percent of all gifts to enhance philanthropic-related initiatives.

____ I/We appreciate the Paul Simon Institute and enclosed is a contribution for the:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Simon Institute endowment | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill and Molly Norwood Fellowship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alexander Lane Internship | <input type="checkbox"/> Gil and Jean Kroening Fellowship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Lawrence Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> John White Fellowship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack and Muriel Hayward Fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> Ralph A. Dunn Fellowship |

____ I/We want more information about a LEGACY GIFT. Please contact me/us.

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____ I/We have ALREADY INCLUDED the Institute in my/our will or estate plans.

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