

Review & Preview

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

Institute Crafting Model Program to Assist College Graduates With Disabilities

Although the economy continues to grow, college graduates with disabilities still struggle to find employment. Indeed, only 40 percent succeed.

The Office of Disability Support Services at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute have teamed to develop a transplantable model of more aggressive job placement and to explore whether changes in government policies are needed to facilitate the hiring.

Soon after the initiative was launched:

- The institute facilitated linkage with an organization called disabilityworks, which is based in the Chicago metropolitan area and supported by employers eager to hire people with disabilities. Karen McCulloh, executive director of disabilityworks, saw a partnership as a way to expand her organization's impact to other parts of the state.

- The Illinois Board of Higher Education provided a \$100,000 grant to help support the project.

- Transition to Employment was launched, providing assistance to graduates throughout southern Illinois.

- Employers from the private and public sectors were briefed by McCulloh and others at a conference designed to educate and inspire those who can play a significant role in linking skilled graduates with good jobs.

"The unemployment rate among college graduates with significant disabilities is outrageous and unacceptable," Mike Lawrence, institute director, told the conference. "We cannot accept this loss of talent and commitment in our workforce."

The group also heard from Anne Tiesenga, managing director of the Chicagoand Chamber of Commerce; Edna Jeffries, representing the Illinois Department of Em-



T.J. Zweidinger, a junior from Palatine, Ill., studying political science, works in one of the adaptive technology labs at the university's disability support services office. He is one of more than 500 students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale who take advantage of assistance provided to students with disabilities while they earn their college degrees.

ployment Security; Ethan Garrett, human resource manager with Walgreen's Co.; Michael Whitney, coordinator of Disability Support Services, and Jo Gulley Ancell, supervisor of the Division of Rehabilitation Services for the Illinois Department of Human Services, among others.

"People with disabilities are one of the largest minority groups in the country, as they make up 14 percent of the population," McCulloh said. "We all need to develop a better way to assist people with disabilities in employment placement."

Many factors contribute to the low employment rate. Employers are unaware of advances in technology that allow people with disabilities to do their work with little, if any, unusual accommodations. Job prospects often lack experience. Some employ-

ers see only potential difficulties in bringing people with disabilities into their work place. All of these challenges were identified and addressed at the conference for prospective employers.

Transition to Employment will educate employers about incentives for hiring college graduates with disabilities – including tax credits for providing adaptive equipment and other necessary services.

The program also will assist students with job searches, career guidance and valuable networking. It also will provide travel stipends to facilitate job interviews and other activities that will lead to employment.

A Message from Mike Lawrence

Many Illinois politicians raised their eyebrows and some Republicans frowned when a GOP state senator said nice things about Barack Obama in a TV ad touting the Democrat's presidential quest.

Why was a party mainstay, indeed a John McCain backer, so publicly affirming Obama's claim that he would as the nation's chief executive put problem-solving ahead of partisanship?

Well, to borrow a phrase from commentator Paul Harvey, there is a "rest of the story" worth recounting because it not only sheds light on that commercial but also, given its genesis, offers hope to college graduates with significant disabilities and Illinoisans struggling to access quality health care.

The story takes root in an institute initiative that produced the most comprehensive reform of Illinois campaign finance in nearly a quarter of a century.

In the winter and spring of 1998, we brought together four lawmakers tapped by their leaders to work toward consensus on meaningful change in laws governing political contributions and expenditures.

The two House members of our working group were Democrat Gary Hannig and Republican Jack Kubik, both seasoned. The Senate participants were Republican Kirk Dillard, another proven performer in the lawmaking process, and a freshly minted Democratic state legislator named Obama.

Few in the State House took note. After all, meaningful reforms had been buried unceremoniously year after year. But the group persisted. They met many times. They agreed on some proposals. They

agreed to disagree on others. Ultimately, they fashioned and jointly sold a package that made Illinois' disclosure laws among the strongest in the nation and outlawed the long-standing practice of politicians converting campaign funds to personal use.

Nine years later, presidential aspirant Obama regularly cites his bipartisan approach in enacting the legislation as a key credential; and Senator Dillard, one of his 1998 partners, took the bold step of appearing in an Obama commercial to verify the Democrat's claim and underscore his own commitment to eschewing the political polarization that too frequently produces paralysis.

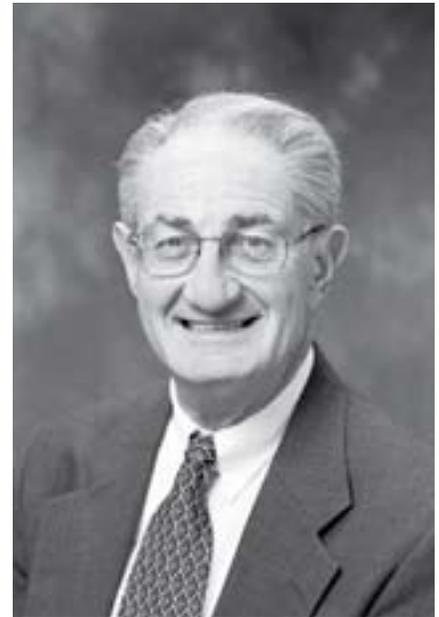
"You know, it started with you and Paul Simon," Dillard told me recently.

We proudly plead guilty.

We also have committed our "do tank" to pursue that same bipartisan, results-oriented route in two compelling initiatives: one to expand health care to rural and underserved areas; the other to help college graduates with major disabilities to realize their full potential and contribute significantly to our economy.

A few weeks ago, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed institute-inspired legislation to facilitate access to psychiatric help through telemedicine. The proposal stemmed from a bipartisan legislative task force spawned by a statewide health care conference presided over by Paul a month before his death. We are confident other access-enhancing proposals of even greater consequence will become law in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, we also are making progress – detailed elsewhere in the newsletter – on a venture to improve our nation's dis-



graceful record when it comes to employment of college and university graduates with impairments. Only 40 percent of these courageous, resourceful, skilled graduates land jobs.

With a grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education and working with Kathleen Plesko and her nationally hailed Disability Support Services program at SIU, we are determined to establish a model of more aggressive placement through networking with employers. We also are exploring possible changes in government policies to facilitate the hiring of these worthy graduates.

As we move ahead, we are confident public officials will find fulfillment in helping us. Just ask Barack Obama and Kirk Dillard. They still disagree on many issues, but they found common ground and an enduring bond through this institute.

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Life and Legacy of Paul Powell Explored

The legacy of Paul Powell, one of the most powerful and controversial figures to come from southern Illinois, was explored during a day-long conference at the high school he attended in Vienna, some 40 miles south of Carbondale.

The conference organized by the institute analyzed Powell's impact on Vienna, the region and the entire state of Illinois.

Powell, who spent his adult life as a public official, may be best remembered for leaving behind over \$850,000 in a Springfield hotel room after his death in 1970. The money was stored in a now-famous shoebox and several briefcases. His estate was later valued at \$4.6 million.

He also is known as the driving force behind the exponential growth of Southern Illinois University and for successfully sponsoring hundreds of bills during his 35 years in state politics, including four terms as minority leader, three terms as House speaker and two terms as secretary of state.

"In the few short years I covered Paul Powell, I discovered he was extraordinary in many aspects of his life," said Mike Lawrence, institute director who was a State House reporter for decades.

"I don't know where southern Illinois would be without Paul Powell," said Taylor Pensoneau, former Illinois political correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "In many ways, he was a one-man public



Former U.S. Sen. Alan Dixon (D-Ill.) delivered one of two keynote addresses during the Paul Powell event at Vienna High School. Powell biographer Bob Hartley opened the program with a speech that morning.

works department for downstate Illinois."

Gene Callahan, former political columnist and reporter for the State Journal-Register, covered Powell from 1961 through 1967. Callahan was initially skeptical about Powell, but he quickly gained his trust and respect.

Marion Mayor Robert L. Butler also had respect for Powell, even though they had a rough working relationship at times.

"We weren't friends, but he had a special touch," Butler said. "If you needed something done, you'd go to Paul. He would do whatever he could to get it done. If he gave you his word, it stuck."

John Gardner, former publisher of the Southern Illinoisan, said, "His ability to find money for the university was legendary."

He added, "I'm always amazed when I think that he came from Vienna and made it to the pinnacle of politics."

Bob Hartley, author of *Paul Powell of Illinois: A Lifelong Democrat*, believes there will never be another politician from downstate Illinois like Powell.

"Even though he wasn't always in a leadership role, (Powell) was more powerful than some of the governors that served during the same time he did."

Editor's note: The Paul Simon Institute donated 35 copies of Hartley's book and two DVD sets of the Powell event proceedings to Vienna High School for use by future students.

Notes From Vienna High School

"Because it is not often that an opportunity to become more connected to one's community comes around, I would like to thank you for creating such an opportunity for the students of Vienna High School. I know that your panel discussion caused some great in-class discussions the following day."

Brian Jones, Social Studies Teacher

"It was a privilege to learn about Powell's impact on our government, but mainly his contributions to Southern Illinois. It is really influential to know that someone from our small community could have such an impact on Illinois."

Casey White, VHS Student

Rural Health Care Task Force Completes Hearings, Submits Recommendations

After conducting hearings throughout the state, a bipartisan legislative task force formed at the behest of the institute unveiled a package designed to improve access to quality health care in rural and underserved areas.

One of those measures – a proposal to facilitate the delivery of psychiatric services through telecommunications – already has been signed into law.

“I thank the governor for signing this important piece of legislation which aligns Illinois’ policy on access to care with several other states,” said State Sen. Deanna Demuzio, co-chair of the taskforce. “This will help many Illinoisans receive the care they need, and it will also improve access

to care due to the effects of meth abuse in rural Illinois.” Task force recommendations include:

- Resolving chronic Medicaid provider payment issues, especially the low and slow rates of reimbursement that are crippling health care delivery in many areas.
- Boosting funding for programs and services authorized by the Rural/Downstate Health Act.
- Increasing basic grants for local public health departments to improve and expand core public health programs and services for rural and medically underserved areas.
- Expanding access to specialty and subspecialty care for underserved populations through a combination of more prompt payment, adjusted Medicaid reimburse-

ment, and incentives to specialty providers to serve underserved populations.

In a letter to the governor and House and Senate leaders, task force members underscored the critical need to address long-term issues facing rural and medically underserved areas and suggested strategically phasing-in funding for the five priority areas if state budget constraints prevent immediate implementation.

The task force was established through a recommendation from the institute’s 2003 rural health care conference in Springfield, co-sponsored with the SIU School of Medicine.

Visit www.ilga.gov/reports/specialreports.asp to read the task force’s full report.

Telemedicine Recommendation Becomes Law; Institute’s Role Acknowledged by General Assembly

Legislation making access to psychiatric mental health services for Illinois citizens just a phone call away was unanimously passed by the Illinois General Assembly during its spring session and signed into law by the governor this summer.

The measure, an outcome of the state’s Rural Health Care Task Force hearings, requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to establish the program as a way to improve the quality of life for persons suffering from mental

illness and to contain health care costs by curtailing inpatient hospitalization.

The recommendation originated from a November 2003 symposium sponsored by the institute and was included in a series of proposals from the task force.

Additionally, a Senate Joint Resolution was passed in support of the legislation giving the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute credit for its role in inspiring the creation of the task force and the legislation. The resolution also calls for each chamber of the General Assembly to create



“a permanent standing committee charged with monitoring and advocating for health needs of rural and medically underserved citizens of the State” and suggests that the body “should develop and implement in Senator Paul Simon’s honor the Task Force recommendations with the appropriations necessary to accomplish the same.”

Institute Publishes Two More Occasional Papers

The institute added to its collection of “occasional papers” with publications by John Jackson and Bill Freivogel. Jackson’s piece, “Party Competition in Illinois: Republican Prospects in a Blue State,” is his fourth in the series. Freivogel penned a work, “Publishing National Security Secrets – The Case for ‘Benign Indeterminacy,’” in conjunction with his leading an institute project on shield laws for journalists. Both are available at the institute’s website (www.siu.edu/~ppi) under the “Publications” tab. You may also contact the institute to have a copy mailed to you.

Arthur Turner Receives the 2007 Ralph A. Dunn Public Service Award

Arthur Turner received the 2007 Ralph A. Dunn Public Service Award during an institute program at the SIUC Student Center.

Turner, the third most powerful member of the Illinois House of Representatives, was elected to the House at 29 and has served since 1981.

“From the beginning, I knew Art would be a major player,” said Mike Lawrence, institute director. “He was a real gentleman.”

Turner had no background in public policy before his first campaign, but he quickly learned about how the legislature works.

“I saw that there were two types of politicians—tree shakers and applesauce makers,” Turner said. “I’ve learned that we need more applesauce makers, people who get things done.”

Turner, who served as vice chair of the Higher Education Committee, places a high value on education, which he said has opened many doors for him. His father dropped out in third grade, and his mother did not finish high school.

“Education is the answer in life,” Turner



Art Turner and Mike Lawrence visit with an SIUC student following Turner’s media availability prior to his speech.

said.

“I tell kids that we believe in education so much in my home that we even send the dogs to school,” he quipped, recalling how they sent their pets to obedience school.

Turner supports education reform, including downsizing classes, requiring all students to wear uniforms, separating sexes and enacting year-round schooling.

“The biggest travesty is shutting down

school for the summer,” Turner said. “They then start back in September, and it is October before they’re back in the mix. Next thing you know, it’s time for Christmas vacation.”

The Ralph A. Dunn Public Service Award was created in 2003 in honor of the late state legislator from Du Quoin, who passed away in 2004.

Majority Leader Currie Highlights Gains for Women



Barbara Flynn Currie spoke as part of the John J. White Lecture Series.

Illinois House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie discussed the evolution of women in politics as she spoke to a crowd at an institute-sponsored event on the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus.

Currie, who became the highest ranking woman in the history of the General Assembly when she was named majority leader in 1997 said, “In the past, it was like a zoo—everyone would stop what they were doing when (women) talked. It’s not like that anymore.”

“Barbara Flynn Currie is a gifted, truly dedicated and highly knowledgeable lawmaker,” institute

director Mike Lawrence said. “She is greatly respected in Springfield for her straight talk and her effective, responsible leadership in behalf of education, more accessible health care for the needy and other important causes she has championed during her trailblazing run in the Illinois House.”

Currie began her career in state politics in 1978, when she was elected to the Illinois House to represent Chicago’s 25th district. Only 11 percent of politicians were female at the time.

Currie also spent time on campus speaking at a luncheon attended by SIU students, faculty and administrators.

Veteran Journalists Discuss Challenges to the Media

The future of the media is not as grim as many believe, according to speakers at the “Trends in Media Ownership” conference hosted by the institute in partnership with the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts.

The discussion featured Alfred Balk, editor at four magazines and former Chicago Sun-Times reporter; Bob Hillman, senior editor of The Politico and former member of the Dallas Morning News’ Washington bureau, and Ellen Soeteber, former St. Louis Post-Dispatch editor and visiting faculty member at the Poynter Institute for Journalism Studies.

Soeteber believes changing technology has had an effect on decreased newspaper readership, as online news sources have become increasingly popular. According to a 2006 study by the Pew Research Center, nearly 71 percent of high-speed internet users get their news from the internet, while only 40 percent get their news from newspapers.

“People are going to different venues and seeking out information,” Soeteber said. “Now, there are exciting possibilities for reaching unique crowds.”

Television shows are also responsible for declining newspaper popularity, according to Hillman.

“If you ask many kids where they get their news, they’ll tell you that they only watch ‘The Daily Show,’” Hillman said. “When you can get personalized news delivered to you wherever you are with a device like a Blackberry, the broadsheet newspaper will suffer.”

The newspaper, radio and television industries have suffered because of deregulation,



Three veteran journalists Al Balk, Ellen Soeteber and Bob Hillman (left to right) opened the conference with a discussion on trends in the media.

said Balk.

“Although (deregulation) has been great for Wall Street, it’s been a disaster for public interest,” Balk said, referring to a 1996 decision that resulted in seven companies owning more than 90 percent of the media market.

Soeteber believes many problems beleaguering newspapers are brought on by themselves, such as revenue generation and newsroom cuts.

“If newspapers die, then it’s because we committed suicide as an industry,” Soeteber said. “How can you charge the same price for 30 years and expect to survive?”

Even with recent newsroom cuts, declining readership and decreased revenue, Balk is optimistic newspapers will adapt and survive.

“The industry will have its ups and downs, but I believe we can stay on track. In the future, we’ll have people who will

demand newspapers with dedication to online content which will cause all kinds of change, but it will work out.”

Concluding the two-day conference were two other panel discussions.

“New Media,” which provided a closer look at citizen journalism, featured a panel of Nick Charles, editor of AOL’s Black Voices; Ray Schroeder, communications professor and director of online teaching at the University of Illinois-Springfield, and Jan Schaeffer, executive director of J-Lab’s New Voices project on citizen journalism.

“Where Does International Journalism Fit in the ‘Local, Local, Local’ Newsroom?” featured a discussion by Peter Kareithi, an author of studies of African and global journalism; Jon Sawyer, director of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and former Washington bureau chief for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Nick Charles.

Freivogel Named Director of SIU School of Journalism

The institute wishes to congratulate Bill Freivogel for being named director of the SIUC School of Journalism in May 2007. Freivogel previously served as a university professor based at the institute during 2006. In 2005, Freivogel took early retirement from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch where he had served in key roles such as deputy editorial page editor and Washington D.C. bureau chief.

Former Governors Look at the Future of Moderates

The institute kicked off its spring schedule with “The Future of Moderates in State and National Politics” featuring a discussion among three highly successful political moderates: Former governors Jim Edgar of Illinois and Christy Whitman of New Jersey and U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, who previously served as Nebraska’s chief executive.

“Governors Whitman and Edgar are Republicans, and Senator Nelson is a Democrat, but they all had an outstanding working relationship when they were all governors in the 1990s,” said Mike Lawrence, institute director.

The participants spoke of the difficulty of being a moderate in modern public policy, although polls have shown that an increasing number of Americans identifying themselves as being politically in the middle.

“The extremes on both sides tend to be the most inflammatory, so they throw out really great quotes,” said Whitman, the first woman elected governor in New Jersey. “We’re not nearly as exciting, so we don’t get the (media) coverage...meaning we are giving an inordinate amount of power to a smaller and smaller group of people.”

Edgar agreed. “It’s becoming more and more difficult to be elected as a moderate,” Edgar said. “In primaries, it’s more or less become voters from the two extremes.”



Former Governors Jim Edgar of Illinois and Christy Todd Whitman of New Jersey share a laugh during the discussion on the future of moderates in politics.

A survey by the Pew Research Center and National Public Radio shows the public believes the United States is more politically polarized than ever, and it is negatively affecting public policy. However, the survey found 75 percent of respondents favored politicians willing to compromise, and 60 percent prefer politicians who mix liberal and conservative views.

Senator Nelson attributed his success as a moderate to his trustworthiness.

“I get along well with my constituents because they really know me. I don’t surprise anyone with what I do.”

Edgar said he regarded Nelson as one of the best among his fellow governors because he took position on issues based on the merits and not partisanship.

Whitman also believes in establishing trust with voters by leveling with constituents on why they voted a certain way.

“If you show people why you come to a certain conclusion, while they may not like what you did, if they understand the process they really appreciate it,” Edgar said. “Paul Simon was the perfect example of that. Not everyone agreed with him, but they trusted him. That appealed to all voters.”

Simon Paper Archivist Produces Results

Walter Ray never met Jeanne Hurley Simon. But that hasn’t stopped him from getting to know her.

As curator of the special political papers collection at the university’s Morris Library, Ray has gained an appreciation for Simon’s life and legacy by preparing an exhibit that includes correspondence and material from her own campaign for state representative, personal journals

from Paul’s political campaigns—ranging from Illinois state senator to the race for the Democratic nomination as President of the United States—and her speeches, research files and other materials.

“Jeanne Hurley Simon was a significant public servant and pioneering political figure in her own right,” said Ray.

The exhibit was introduced in Troy, Ill. in partnership with the U.S. Senator Paul Simon Museum and the Tri-Township Public Library. It will be displayed in

Carbondale in conjunction with the next Jeanne Hurley Simon Lecture Series presentation hosted by the institute.

Ray continues his work on the library’s collection of political papers for future exhibits, including those belonging to southern Illinois political figures such as Paul Simon, Ken Gray and Glenn Poshard. His work is supported in part by the institute.

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Youth Government Day Sets Attendance Record

In its second year at the state capitol, Youth Government Day reached new highs.

Attendance tripled as nearly 400 high school students from across the state traveled to Springfield to gain insight into the political process. Students heard the inspiring stories of how Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and State Rep. Aaron Schock (R-Peoria) became young leaders in their state.

Schock, elected to the House at age 23, began his public service four years earlier when he captured a seat on the Peoria School Board as a write-in candidate. He compared his experiences on the board to the experiences of many of the attendees.

“Being on the school board was just like being in high school,” Schock said. “If you did your homework and showed up, you did pretty well.”

After becoming chairman of the school board at 21, Schock was elected to the Illinois Legislature by only 235 of the 40,000 votes cast in one of the most expensive House races in state history.



Photo by Kristen Schmid Schurter

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan took time following her keynote speech to meet with high school students.

“If you ever think your vote won’t count, or your work won’t count, remember my story,” Schock urged.

Madigan, a Democrat, became attorney general after serving in the Illinois Senate. She noted her parents each have been deeply involved in public affairs – her father as speaker of the Illinois House and her mother as head of the Illinois Arts Council.

She also said a key motivating factor was an internship she served with the late Sen.

Paul Simon.

“Through Paul Simon’s mentoring, I was motivated to get involved in public service,” Madigan said. “I have never seen a public servant that was as down to earth as he was.”

Madigan also urged students to become involved in any way they can, as it will benefit their future.

“In order to make a difference, you don’t have to wait until you’re 40. Do it now,” Madigan said. “In a few years, you could be a major government staff member. It can be scary, but it’s also awe-inspiring.”

Smaller breakout sessions were held in the Capitol, which allowed students to interact with SIUC alumnus and former institute student volunteer DeJuan A. Kea, director of governmental relations and communications coordinator for the Illinois Principals Association; Luz Lopez, executive assistant to Illinois State Senate President Emil Jones, Jr.; and representatives of the Mikva Challenge, a Chicago-based group that involves youths in politics.

Students also had the opportunity to tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, an exciting end to an informative day.

Since 1998, Youth Government Day has allowed nearly 1,500 Illinois students to learn about the political process and inspired them to become involved in their communities.



Photo by Kristen Schmid Schurter

Rep. Aaron Schock (R-Peoria) greets a student on the House floor prior to his opening keyote address.

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Students, Teachers Value Youth Government Day

Brandon Thompson, a senior at Althoff High School, has doubts about whether he will serve in political office.

"I'm really interested in banking," Thompson said. "But I really wanted to come because there is a lot of government involvement in banking, and I really didn't know much about it."

So, he became one of nearly 400 high school students from throughout Illinois to attend the institute's annual Youth Government Day in Springfield.

Other students planned to use their newly acquired knowledge in college. John Shukites, a senior at Christopher High School, plans to attend Southern Illinois University to pursue a degree in mass communications.

"I attended because I'm fascinated by government and politics," Shukites said. "It's been informative, and hearing Mr. Schock's story was inspiring," referring to remarks by Rep. Aaron Schock, one of the youngest legislators in the state's history. "Youth Government Day has given me a lot of information that I can use next year."

Frank Kernats, a history teacher at Conant



Photo by Kristen Schmid Schurter

Students sat at legislators' desks on the floor of the newly renovated Illinois House of Representative's chamber during the opening program.

High School, has been taking a group of his students to sightsee in Springfield for the last 10 years. However, last year he began taking them to Youth Government Day as a result of its relocation to the state capital.

"My students get to see that there's a lot more to government than just being elected," Kernats said. "This shows a lot of different roles in government through the variety of people the institute brings in. I couldn't be any happier with the day this year."

The Paul Simon Institute wishes to thank State Farm Insurance Companies for its continued support of Youth Government Day by making another gift of \$2,500 to support the event's endowment.

Former Youth Government Day Student Joins Obama Staff

A recent SIUC graduate motivated by her experience at Youth Government Day has been hired by Illinois Senator Barack Obama.

Katie Pennell, a summer 2007 graduate with degrees in Political Science and Journalism, was named Southeastern Illinois Field Representative. Her duties include attending events on the senator's behalf, working with constituents and notifying the senator of issues that arise in her area.

"I was dumbstruck when I found out that I got the job," Pennell said. "I called

my mom and we both started squealing. I wasn't expecting it."

Pennell, a 2002 graduate of Hardin County High School, participated in Youth Government Day in 2001 after being invited by her government teacher.

"Senator Simon and others present at Youth Government Day taught me a lot of valuable background information that I've found to be very helpful in my studies and career."

Simon served as the afternoon keynote speaker at that year's event and hosted the students for a barbeque picnic at his home

in rural Makanda as part of the program. Corinne Wood, then-Illinois lieutenant governor, delivered the morning keynote speech.

Even though she has not held the job for long, Pennell says she enjoys her work.

"It keeps me busy, but I love what I do," Pennell said. "My time at SIU taught me the importance of being able to follow timelines and follow through on everything I begin."

Congress Contemplating Funding of Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act

The Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act would be implemented if legislation included in the foreign operations appropriations bill is agreed on by the House and Senate.

President Bush signed the act into law in 2005 but it was without a budget. If Sen. Dick Durbin is successful in leading efforts to guide the funding legislation through Congress, up to \$300 million would be heading to developing nations to ensure access to safe water and sanitation—which is a major objective of U.S. foreign policy and also helps meet our nation's international commitments on water.

“Most people in the United States take access to safe water and sanitation for granted, yet worldwide 1 billion people do not have safe drinking water and 2.6 billion do not have basic sanitation,” said Patti Simon. “Paul understood the ramifications of these conditions when he served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

“It is a tribute to his efforts, and those of many others to overcome these conditions, that Congress and the President have supported this legislation.”

Earlier this year, Simon joined Emmy Award winning actress Jane Seymour to raise awareness of the need to address global water issues during a Capitol Hill event for legislators and their staffs, non-government organizations, not-for-profit groups and others.

Seymour served as narrator for “Running Dry,” a feature-length documentary film based on Paul Simon’s 1998 book on the world water crisis. Its director, Jim Thebaut, shared a 19-minute mini-version of the film during the program.

Paul’s Study Abroad Initiative Clears Major Hurdle

The Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act cleared a major hurdle as it unanimously passed the U.S. House of Representatives and now awaits authorization from the Senate foreign relations committee.

The act, introduced by Representatives Tom Lantos and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, would increase the number of college undergraduates studying internationally to 1 million annually within 10 years – nearly a five-fold increase over the current level.

The House bill would particularly assist underrepresented students seeking such opportunities and expand destinations to non-traditional study areas.

“As Senator Simon said, it is essential that more people know more about the world,” said Tom Saville, associate director of the Study Abroad program at SIUC. “Even though underrepresented groups involve socioeconomic status and race, it also includes students studying sciences such as engineering.”

A similar version of the House bill was introduced in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Norm Coleman (R-Minn.).

“Senator Paul Simon was one of our nation’s great public servants,” Durbin said. “This program will instill in the next generation of Americans a deeper understanding of the cultures and histories of other nations.”

This, in turn, will enhance the United States’ capacity to lead in the 21st Century. Simon’s son Martin has been involved in the project since his father’s death in 2003.

“I am grateful to all those who have led on this so far,” said Martin Simon. “Now comes the hard part -- getting the Senate to authorize and fully fund the program.”

The legislation would clear \$80 million in grants for students, colleges, and non-governmental institutions for study abroad opportunities. Additional money would be raised from the private sector.

Mary Cheney Offers Insight to Life in a Political Family

Mary Cheney, daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, offered insight into life on the campaign trail at an event co-sponsored in Lebanon, Ill., by McKendree College and the institute.

Cheney was a senior adviser to her father during the 2000 and 2004 presidential campaigns.

“It was so busy, I always kept a piece of paper next to my bed with my name, the date and what state I was in,” Cheney said. “I would wake up and have a panic attack because I didn’t know where I was.”

Cheney, now vice president for consumer advocacy at AOL Inc., recently published her memoir, “Now It’s My Turn.” In it she talks about her relationship with her parents, what it’s like to be pursued by the media and being an open lesbian in a conservative community.

Cheney, who gave birth to a boy in late May, does not plan to run for public office.

“I have the utmost respect for anyone who does it, but it’s not for me,” she said.



Photo by Kristen Schmid Schurter



Photo by Kristen Schmid Schurter

R. Eden Martin (left), president of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, delivered the opening address at an April conference held in Springfield that focused on the fiscal situation facing the state. "Budget on the Brink," co-sponsored by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois, the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Illinois Issues magazine and the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, drew more than 200 people for the free, one-day program. Ginger Ostro (right), director of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, co-presented a session with John Filan, Illinois' Chief Operating Officer and Doug Kane, an economist and former member of the Illinois House of Representatives who is working with the governor's office on budget issues.



Renowned University of Chicago geneticist and cancer researcher Rick Kittles appeared in two separate events on the SIUC campus co-sponsored by the institute, the Black Graduate Student Association and other university groups. An evening address focused on his gene research and socio-cultural issues related to race and health disparities. A second event the following morning brought some 200 high school students from across southern Illinois to campus to encourage the prospective SIUC students to seek careers in the sciences. The event, aimed particularly at two demographic areas underrepresented in the sciences--minorities and females--included a tour of university research labs.

Upcoming Events

Joan Higginbotham

NASA Astronaut and SIUC Alumna
Celebrating SIUC Homecoming 2007
Thursday, October 4
7:00 p.m. - SIU Arena

Catherine Bertini

Former Executive Director of the
United Nations World Food Programme and
Senior Fellow at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Delivering the Gil and Jean Kroening Lecture
Monday, October 15
7:00 p.m. - SIU Student Center Ballroom B

Anne Burke

Illinois Supreme Court Justice
Delivering the Jeanne Hurley Simon Lecture
Wednesday, October 17
7:00 p.m. - SIU Student Center Ballroom D

Morris Dees

Co-Founder, Southern Poverty Law Center
Delivering the Bill and Molly Norwood Lecture Series
Tuesday, November 6
7:00 p.m. - SIU Student Center Ballroom D

Guest Speakers Highlight Lawrence's Politics and Media Course

Mike Lawrence enjoys teaching. But he also delights in sharing the opportunity with others who can underscore the major points of his class. Last semester, students benefited from the insights of a dozen public policy leaders and journalists as they served as guest lecturers in Lawrence's 300-level course, American Politics and the Mass Media.

The list of distinguished guests, who in addition to their day in the classroom also visited with students over informal lunch or dinner discussions, included: **Rich Miller**, owner and editor, Capitol Fax and thecapitolfaxblog.com; **Steve Brown**, press secretary to Illinois House Speaker; **Dick Schuldt**, director, Survey Research Office, University of Illinois at Springfield; **Art Turner**, Illinois House Deputy Majority Leader; SIUC alumna **Molly Parker**, political reporter, Peoria Journal-Star; **Amanda Vinicky**, State



Chicago Sun Times columnist Laura Washington served as a guest lecturer in Mike Lawrence's class and spent an evening in informal discussion about journalism and politics with students.

House reporter, WUIS Public Radio; **Barbara Flynn Currie**, Illinois House Majority Leader; **Laura Washington**, Chicago Sun-Times columnist; **Sergio Molina**, executive assistant to director, Illinois Department of Corrections; **Ray Schroeder**, director, Office of Technology-Enhanced

Learning, University of Illinois at Springfield; **Bernard Schoenburg**, political columnist, State Journal-Register; and **Edan Schultz**, reporter and news anchor, WSIL-TV 3 Carterville.

SIUC Students Benefit From Institute Ambassador Program

Undergraduate and graduate students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale last fall took advantage of a rare opportunity to interact with Andrew Card, former White House chief of staff, and other major players in public policy.

They participated in the Student Ambassador program, which has given students such exposure over the last several years as a reward for their efforts to stimulate interest in institute events.

In addition to Card, students spent time with other guests, including Philip Taubman, who was Washington bureau chief of the New York Times when the paper uncovered controversial national security practices, and Gillian Serenson, senior adviser at the United Nations Foundation.

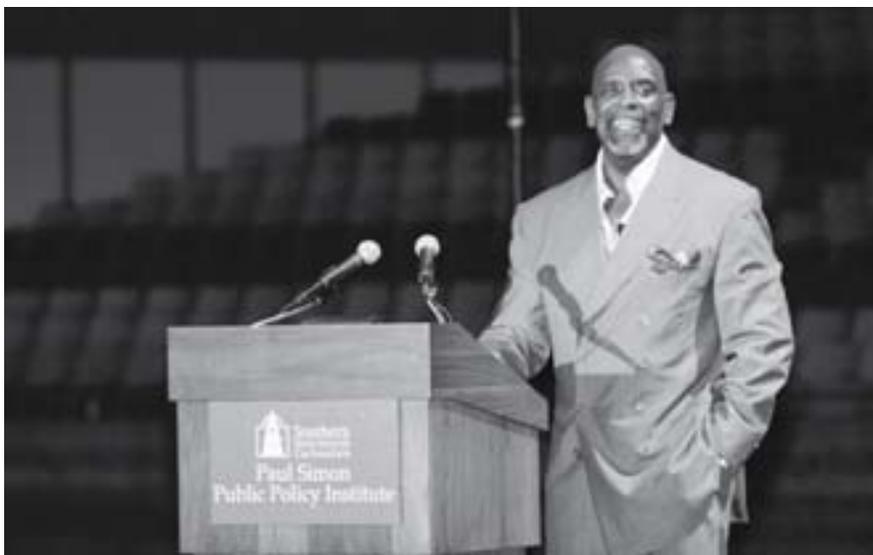
Student Ambassador Michael Burrows believes the program has given him many unique opportunities that will benefit his studies in political science.

"It's been a positive experience,"

Burrows said. "I have the opportunity to see things outside of a student's perspective. The experience I've gained from being an ambassador is experience that I can apply to the workforce."

A limited number of student ambassador positions are open each semester. For more information, students should contact Christina Rich at (618) 453-4078 or crich@siu.edu

Chris Gardner Brings His Pursuit of Happyness to SIU



Chris Gardner spoke to more than 2,500 people at the SIU Arena.

In his darkest moments as a homeless single parent, Chris Gardner turned to the words of his mom – “You got a dream, you gotta protect it.

Gardner, 53, spoke of his hardships to a large crowd at the SIU Arena in an event co-sponsored by the institute, the SIU president’s office, the university’s associate chancellor for diversity and the Southern Illinoisan. He gained national recognition after the 2006 release of “The Pursuit of Happyness,” an award-winning cinema depiction of his struggles.

“Every time I see the movie, I have the same thought – those people spent 70 million dollars to recreate what I did with nothing,” Gardner joked.

Gardner says he is often asked how he became homeless.

“Was it drugs? No. Alcohol? No, but something just as lethal—life,” he said.

Shortly after the birth of his son, Gardner left his job selling medical equipment in search of higher wages, which strained his relationship with his wife and led to their divorce.

“Unemployment will not help your relationship,” Gardner said. “A tense situation got even more tense pretty quickly.”

Gardner spent the next year applying to

become an unpaid intern at Dean Witter, even though he lacked the proper training. He was finally accepted into the program, where he spent a year struggling to make ends meet for him and his son.

“People told me to give my son to my mom,” Gardner said. “I always told them that he was my baby, not hers.”

“The most important thing I ever did in my life was to break the cycle of men not being there for their children,” Gardner said.

He received his break when he was hired by Dean Witter after passing his licensing exam, where he spent the next year saving enough money to rent his own property. Even though he had a paying job and a house, he hit a new low – his electricity was turned off because he didn’t pay his bill.

“I had to give my son a bath by candlelight that night,” Gardner said. “He looked at me and said, ‘Dad, you’re a good pop.’ It meant the world to me.”

Today, Gardner has a net worth of \$65 million and is CEO of his own company, Christopher Gardner International Holdings. Even though he is the owner of a successful business, his children are still his top priority.

Honor roll continued from page 9

Brockman and Doris Schumacher
Deborah and Mark Schwiebert
Barbara Attebery and John Scott
Myra Secoy
Julie and William Shapiro
Leonard and Sharon Shepard
Robert Simon
Richard and Mary Skelley
Earl and Janet Smith
Charlotte Swett
Seena Swibel
Judy Baar Topinka
Gregory Tuite
Albert and Glennette Turner
Kristina Valaitis
Thomas Villiger
Willie Watson
Analee and Joel Weisman
Nancy and Walter Weiss
R. Wharton
Hugh Worthen
Lee and Sol Yates
M. Sue and Byron York
Kenneth and Mildred Young

The institute is grateful to the financial support it receives from hundreds of people, foundations and corporations each year. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your annual commitment to one of the institute’s endowment accounts to help assure Paul Simon’s legacy not only survives, but thrives. You can also make a secure, online gift at: <http://www.siu.edu/~ppi/funding.online.htm>.

For more information about making a planned gift, such as in your will or estate plans or through an annuity or charitable trust fund, please contact institute assistant director Matt Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or baughman@siu.edu.



Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
1231 Lincoln Drive
Mail Code 4429
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A Legend Speaks at SIUC



Maya Angelou, one of the most well-known authors of our times, presented a lecture co-sponsored by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute to a capacity crowd in the SIU Student Center ballrooms. She has gained fame and respect for her work as a poet, writer and playwright, as well as for her efforts as a civil rights activist and her numerous appearances on television. She is widely credited with shaping public thinking and being an inspiration to young and old alike. During her remarks, Angelou touched on the theme of finding “rainbows in the clouds,” her poetic reference to bright spots in a life that at times can be filled with sorrow.