

Review & Preview

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

Institute Helps Launch Southern Illinois School Based Dental Clinic



It's all smiles for two students in Gallatin County who have taken advantage of the on-site dental clinic.

Last school year, students in Gallatin County not only had to leave school to visit the dentist, they had to cross county lines to do it. If they went to a dentist at all, that is.

That changed this spring after an institute-sponsored graduate student began working with the school district to jump start plans for an on-site dental clinic.

"Many of the key elements needed to open the clinic were there when I was asked to help, but other core components needed substantial attention," said Emily Burke, who graduated

from SIU in August with a master's in public administration. "I was able to act quickly because of the groundwork that had already been laid and because of the overwhelming support for the project."

In less than four months, Burke, school and community leaders, and students and their parents were celebrating the clinic's grand opening.

"Now, instead of missing a large part of the school day to visit the dentist, students have access to oral health care on the school grounds," said Burke.

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Search Begins to Replace Retiring Institute Director

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute has initiated the search process to find a replacement for director Mike Lawrence, who announced to the board of counselors this spring his intention to retire on November 1.

Lawrence, 66, partnered with Paul Simon to launch the institute in 1997 and was named director in 2004.

"Greatly appreciative of the support given to me by a competent, highly dedicated staff, our Board of Counselors and the Simon family, I leave with the satisfaction that our team kept faith with Paul's vision and sense of mission, strengthened the institute and significantly enhanced its ability to tackle future challenges," Lawrence wrote in his formal announcement to the university.

Several strong candidates already have indicated an interest in applying

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Institute's Legislative Redistricting Proposal Passes Widely in Illinois House

The alumni who gathered on the Carbondale campus two years ago were not educated at Southern Illinois University. They were graduates of the hard-knocks school known as the Illinois General Assembly, and they agreed to help the institute address the most contentious, political process in which politicians become engaged: the mapping of districts from which legislators are elected.

Thanks to their experience and willingness to put statesmanship above partisanship during sessions in Springfield and Carbondale, the institute was able to fashion and advance through the Illinois House a significant redistricting reform that would replace a widely criticized and ridiculed process that has allowed the luck of the draw – literally – to give one party control over mapmaking during each of the last three decades.

Among those who worked with the institute were Michael McClain, who

was the House Democrats' point person for redistricting in 1981; Carter Hendren, long-time chief of staff for Senate Republicans; Republican Eileen Lyons and Democrat Paul Williams, who were well-respected members of the House; David Gross, who served as a key member of the Senate Democratic staff, and MayeBeth Hadfield, who was a lawyer on the Senate Republican staff.

Mike Lawrence, institute director, chaired the sessions. Other institute staffers – Matt Baughman, assistant director; John Jackson, visiting professor, and Linda Renee Baker, university professor – were heavily engaged.

Under the current constitution, the lottery comes into play when the House, the Senate and the governor are unable to agree on the new districts required after each federal census. That happened in 1981, 1991 and 2001. The institute's proposal, which won overwhelming biparti-

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A Message from Mike Lawrence

As I prepare to retire in November, I am deeply grateful for the special opportunity to help Paul Simon launch this institute and for the support from so many wonderful friends.

But, even as I reflect on the institute's substantial impact since I joined Paul in July 1997, we are fashioning an exciting fall agenda.

Ted Sorensen, whose remarkable run has taken him to the White House as one of President Kennedy's top advisers and to Egypt as an international lawyer counseling Anwar Sadat, has agreed to join us for a lecture on October 8.

A week later, we will sponsor a forum spotlighting the important decision facing Illinois voters in November: Whether to call a constitutional convention that could yield remedies for a dysfunctional state government or become an overflowing cauldron of witches' brews concocted by pandering populists and superbly organized, heavily bankrolled interest groups.

Those events and others will inform the campus and the entire southern Illinois region. Meanwhile, we will build on our gains in improving access to health care in rural and underserved areas, boosting employment among college graduates with significant disabilities, fostering bipartisanship in the drawing of state legislative districts and encouraging more civic engagement among youths.

As I reported to the university's Board of Trustees recently, the institute has made its mark on several fronts since Paul founded it in 1997. Because we engaged elected and appointed public officials, community leaders, a diverse group of organizations and experts on the campus and throughout

the world:

- Illinois has one of the nation's most effective campaign finance disclosure laws.

- Retired physicians can volunteer to make house calls at no charge without carrying expensive malpractice insurance.

- Legal barriers to providing psychiatric care through telemedicine have been removed.

- An overwhelming, bipartisan Illinois House majority this spring approved an institute-crafted reform of the legislative redistricting process.

- At least 2,400 disadvantaged kids from our region have received preventative dental care at a center we launched with the university's dental hygiene department.

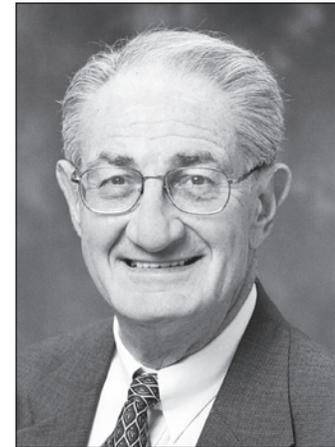
- Nearly 2,000 high school and community college students have had their interest in public service rewarded and re-enforced at our annual Youth Government Days.

- Hundreds of young African-American males from the East St. Louis area have learned leadership skills, benefited from mentoring and helped not-for-profit groups in their community.

- Some three dozen students have landed internships in state government agencies through the Demuzio Internship Program we help administer.

- One of our graduate assistants, Edith Ng'oma of Zambia, spoke everywhere from the southern Illinois to South Asia about our strategy for stirring greater involvement by American citizens in the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We have hosted scores of speakers, including Maya Angelou, Gwendolyn Brooks, Walter Cronkite, Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King III, David Broder, Barbara Bush, Mike Huckabee, Tom



Daschle, Julie Eisenhower and Brian Mulroney.

We recently secured a most generous donation – from one of the finest people I have known – that allowed us to reach Paul's goal of at least a \$10 million endowment.

The momentum is unmistakable and must be seized upon. Challenges in the public policy arena command attention. We must continue asking our friends to augment our financial base. Paul Simon never – ever – rested on his accomplishments. Neither should his institute. It must remain true to Paul's remarkable humanity, vision, sense of mission and work ethic.

I am confident that those charged with selecting my successor will do so wisely, and I am equally confident he or she will lead a first-rate staff in enhancing the living legacy of the truly extraordinary public servant who allowed me to help build it.

Please join us to celebrate the retirement of Mike Lawrence during a "Come and Go" reception on

Wednesday, October 29
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SIU Student Center, Corker Lounge
Carbondale, Ill.

For more information, contact Matt Baughman at
(618) 453-4001 or baughman@siu.edu.

View Online

Look for this logo throughout the newsletter—it indicates videos of events that are now available for free, online viewing at:

www.paulsimoninstitute.siu.edu

Pulitzer Prize Winning White House Correspondent Talks Global Competitiveness

The United States is losing ground on its hold as the most powerful nation in the world, according to David Sanger, the New York Time's White House correspondent.

Sanger focused on the development of China, Japan and India into much more powerful nations in the last decade, making them strategic competitors to the U.S. He said over the past few years the focus of Asian countries has turned from catching the United States, to worrying about one another.

"Japan no longer worries about the economic competition with [the United States], but now they worry about the Chinese," Sanger said.

Sanger feels it would be a mistake to assume that the power of Asian countries will



David Sanger pauses to listen to a question from the audience following his speech.

remain stagnant over the next 20 years, but he doesn't have any solutions.

"The Chinese have managed to do something that nobody would have anticipated," Sanger said. "They have been coming down a rushing river on a raft, and have avoided every boulder that has been cast in front of them. However, you cannot forget the law of averages--sooner or later, it will catch up to you."

Sanger said the United States is holding

itself back by continuing to focus on the terrorist attacks of September 11 because the rest of the world is moving on.

"We should never forget about what happened on 9/11, but the rest of the world is not sitting around waiting for us," Sanger said.

Sanger's 25-year career with the Times has included a share of two Pulitzer Prizes and a six-year tenure as Tokyo bureau chief.



Ray Suarez answers a question during a luncheon session with students, faculty and WSIU (PBS) board members.

PBS' Ray Suarez Tackles Religion and Politics

There's long been a great debate over the separation of church and state. Ray Suarez says the same is not true, however, for church and politics. He says religion matters to voters in picking a candidate.

Suarez, senior correspondent for The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, examined the relationship between religion and politics in his book, *The Holy Vote*.

"If you don't understand how important religion is, look at Mitt Romney," Suarez said. "Every time he was asked about his following of the Mormon faith, he deferred."

Suarez made the point during the institute's Jack and Muriel Hayward lecture, during which he analyzed the impact of religion on modern-day politics. Even though it is important to emphasize your

religion in some cases, it is a tricky task, according to Suarez.

"It's identity politics--saying, 'Look, I'm like you. Vote for me,'" Suarez said. "For instance, the week of Christmas you need to be on television, but you shouldn't push things too far."

Recent studies by the Pew Research Center has shown religious labels to be not as important to younger voters. Nearly one-quarter of voters aged 18-29 say they have no religious affiliations. Although these numbers might prove that the importance of religion in politics is decreasing, Suarez believes the opposite.

"Religious identity shapes the world view, and the world view shapes the political view," Suarez said. "Religious-based politics are here to stay."

Patrick Fitzgerald: A Corrupt Politician's Worst Nightmare

As the newly appointed U.S. Attorney in Northern Illinois, Patrick Fitzgerald had a clear objective: eliminate corruption in Illinois politics. That was 2001.

In the years since, Fitzgerald has overseen high-profile cases aimed at rooting out the culture of corruption in all levels of government in the state, including the prosecution of a former Illinois governor and an investigation into the hiring practices by the City of Chicago.

"Patrick Fitzgerald has made a positive difference in Illinois," said institute director Mike Lawrence. "He is a corrupt politician's worst nightmare, and a consummate professional."

"If someone told me that I'd spend 20 years in public service, I'd think they were out of their mind," said Fitzgerald, during an institute-sponsored lecture. "Now that I'm older, I've learned that life is what happens to you when you have other plans."

After practicing civil law for three years, Fitzgerald became an Assistant U. S. Attorney in New York in 1988. He took a pay cut, but that was the last thing on his mind.

"I never really thought about the cut in pay because I loved what I did and who I did it



Patrick Fitzgerald delivered the 2008 Morton Kenny lecture.

with," Fitzgerald said. "Nobody can take the enjoyment I get from working in public service away from me."

Fitzgerald stressed the need for the public to play a greater role in reporting wrongdoings.

"The problem has started because people give too much credit to prosecutors. In giving them too much credit, they give them too much

responsibility," Fitzgerald said. "We need the public to speak up about what they hear or see. We have to end the culture that says it is alright to lie in order to protect someone."

Fitzgerald's appearance was sponsored by the Morton-Kenny Public Affairs Lecture Series, a collaboration between the institute and the Department of Political Science.

Upcoming Events

Ted Sorensen

Speech Writer and Special Counselor to President John F. Kennedy

Wednesday, October 8

7 p.m.

SIU Student Center Ballrooms

Is It Time for a Constitutional Convention?

Wednesday, October 15

10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

SIU Student Center Ballrooms

Free registration required by calling 618/453-4078

Doyle McManus

Washington Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times

Monday, November 17

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SIU Student Center Ballrooms

Free registration required by calling 618/453-4078

Dental Care in Gallatin County Continued...from page 1

"It not only saves parents' time and money for gas, it also ensures all students can be cared for, whether they are Medicaid patients, privately insured or are uninsured."

But it doesn't stop at the students. School staff and community members are also eligible to use the clinic.

"We've seen a tremendous response to the clinic," said Burke. "It's very rewarding."

Burke oversaw everything from creating a business model and marketing strategy to dealing with government paperwork and from establishing a board of directors to hiring the clinic's staff.

Increasing access to health care in rural and underserved areas—especially in southern Illinois—is a major institute commitment.

In recent years the institute has advocated for expanding school based health centers, championed a state law that provides mental health care through telemedicine, and worked to find solutions to the lack of oral health care for the disadvantaged.

A Daughter of Cairo Returns Home

Respected broadcast and print journalist Rachel Jones has traveled the world, but her heart has remained on the banks of the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers—in her hometown of Cairo, Illinois.

Her message to the scores of high school students who were in the audience at the institute's forum on the past, present and future of Cairo was simple: Don't be afraid to dream and don't think that getting an education is a game.

"It takes the ability to *dream* of a better future to *have* a better future," said Jones.

She underscored for the students the importance of not waiting for their future to be determined by someone else or by their circumstances but to make their own fate.

"There's just no time to play, said Jones. "Now is the time for each and every one of you to start taking yourself seriously and to start trying to develop a vision for yourself and using the abilities and the talents that you have."

Jones—as well as a group of panelists preceding her talk—did not shy away from addressing the city's tragic past of racial strife and lamenting the days gone by when business—and family life—flourished in the historic river town.

"If you can't picture yourself at 30



Rachel Jones delivering the keynote address in Cairo.

[years old] the people of Cairo have lots of work to do. Somehow while we let the buildings collapse, we forgot to build up the dreams of our children."

Her speech touched on her work in training journalists in Africa and her motivation for venturing far from home.

"You are a citizen of the world and you have an obligation to go out into the world and to leave your mark," said Jones.

Jones left this summer for a year

long fellowship in Kenya where she'll be working with African journalists through the International Center for Journalists. Her career includes posts with National Public Radio, Knight-Ridder, the Detroit Free Press and the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times.

"She has made a substantial difference in the lives of millions of people," said institute director Mike Lawrence.



Norma Ewing (far left), then-associate dean of the SIU College of Education and Human Services and who has strong personal ties to Cairo, moderated a panel discussion on the past, present and future of Cairo which included: Stacey Thomas, project coordinator for Alexander County's participation in the federally funded Southern Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone; Jarel Loveless, graduate of the SIU school of journalism and contributor to the book, "The Cairo Project"; Bob Swenson, associate professor of the SIU school of architecture who has been involved with Cairo restoration projects for two decades; Cairo Mayor Judson Childs and Cairo Junior/Senior High School Principal Lynn Byrd, who hosted the event in the school gymnasium.

Congress, President Bush Approve Funding for the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act

It took two years and scores of hours of meetings, but the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act received its first substantial funding when President Bush signed the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act on December 26, 2007.

Patti Simon, Paul's widow, has remained actively engaged in global water issues and serves as the institute's key representative to Washington on the project.

"As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Paul Simon realized the significance of water problems for developing countries," said Patti. "Passage of this appropriation is a major step in pro-

viding sustainable safe water and sanitation and preventing waterborne illnesses which too often cut short the future of children who are most vulnerable."

The legislation requires that among other priorities, "not less than \$300,000,000 shall be made available for safe drinking water and sanitation supply projects." The Act is the U.S. response to the UN Millennium Development Goals for Safe Water and Sanitation.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL) were recipients of the 2008 Water Advocate award for their leadership in passage of

this appropriation.

A recently released report by the U.S. Department of State, the lead agency on the project, lists three dozen countries—the most being in Africa—as the first priorities for funding.

To read the U.S. State Department's report on the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, visit www.paulsimoninstitute.siuc.edu or www.state.gov/documents/organization/105643.pdf.

Occasional Papers Series Continues Expansion

Three additional works have been added to the institute's Occasional Papers series.

Taking advantage of a presidential election cycle, John Jackson wrote two papers on an area of great personal and professional interest: the presidential nomination process.

The first paper, published in early 2008, looked at the structure of today's presidential primary process and examined a variety of leading recommendations to change the system.

"It took 18 months for the nomination season to come to an end," said Jackson. "It was a long, contentious and expensive process that many believe is in need of change for 2012."

Jackson advocates for a plan by the National Association of Secretaries of State calling for a system of rotating regional primaries.

His second paper, published this sum-

mer, analyzes the 2008 nomination process by the Republicans and Democrats, which he dubbed as a "sprint" for the Republicans and a "marathon" for the Democrats.

Jackson found rules related to the systems—the Republican's "winner take all" versus the Democrat's "proportional representation"—were undoubtedly part of the reason. Jackson made recommendations for changes to the process for the parties to consider at their 2008 national conventions.

A third publication, the first to be published by a graduate student, was authored by political science doctoral student Wilfred T. Reilly.

"This paper addresses public policy and university policy issues endemic to competitive sports in the 21st century academy—issues involving investment of collegiate and community resources," wrote institute director Mike Lawrence in his cover letter accompanying the print ver-

sion of the work.

Reilly examined a decade of data on teams which competed in the NCAA men's basketball tournament as a sweet sixteen or higher competitor.

He found that those teams were dominated by the large state universities (more than 20,000 students) which are also football powerhouses (BCS conferences) and which spend the most money on their athletic programs. This was the case for all ten of the championship winners and for 131 of the past 160 sweet sixteen contestants.

He suggested that it is very difficult for most universities to build competitive programs in a system where, in effect, the rich get richer through the revenues from big time sports, especially the television contracts.

To read these and other institute papers, log-on to www.paulsimoninstitute.siuc.edu/publications.papers.htm.

Institute, Illinois Department of Public Health Co-Host AIDS Awareness Programs

Through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the institute co-sponsored AIDS awareness programs in Carbondale and East St. Louis focused on the high-risk, college-age population. The traveling acting troupe Purposed One Entertainment performed the educational and inspirational play "What You Don't Know About HIV/AIDS

Can Kill You," on several college campuses in the state to spread awareness and prevention education about the disease.

"We were pleased that the combined events brought nearly 500 participants to the play, including dozens who took advantage of the free HIV testing," said institute professor Linda Renee Baker who worked on the project.

Institute Taught University Honors Course on Barack Obama's Campaign for President

Twelve of SIUC's best and brightest students from a variety of academic backgrounds took advantage of a special University Honors course focused on Barack Obama's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Co-taught by institute director Mike Lawrence and visiting professor John Jackson, this fall 2007 class followed the campaign as a case study of the larger trends and forces which have shaped American presidential nominations and elections.

"Our nominations process is long, complicated, and expensive, and the most recent nominations process, which featured a protracted battle between Senator Obama and Senator Clinton, illustrated many important points about the system and its history," said Jackson. "The Republican

nominations process, which ended fairly quickly with the nomination of Senator McCain was also an important part of the context of the course."

Much of the background for lectures and class discussions came not only from the textbook but from the news and Senator Obama's book, *Audacity of Hope*.

Additionally, guest lecturers included Des Moines Register columnist and presidential election expert David Yepsen and Lynn Sweet, the Washington D.C. based columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times who has been following the Obama campaign.

Students were also required to write a research paper and make their own independent contribution to the literature on the subject of presidential nominations and elections.

The last segment of the course was devoted to an exploration of how the presidential campaigns and elections condition and constrain the successful candidate upon establishing control over the executive branch, to relate to Congress and to govern successfully.

"We are confident students from this course will be interested and involved in the political process throughout their lives and be discerning observers of the upcoming general election as it unfolds," said Jackson.

Short interviews conducted by Mike Lawrence with Ms. Sweet and Mr. Yepsen for WSIU-TV are available to view online.

Lawrence's Politics and the Mass Media Class Brings in Guest Lecturers

Students enrolled in Mike Lawrence's political science and journalism course were again treated to access to some of the state's leading players in the public policy arena. In addition to spending time in the classroom, the guest lecturers also remained for a lunch discussion with a group of students, faculty, staff and community leaders.

Speakers this year included Chicago Sun-Times columnist **Laura Washington**; **Rich Miller**, owner and publisher of the Capitol Fax and thecapitolfaxblog.com; **Steve Brown** (SIU '71), press secretary to House Speaker Mike Madigan; **Jim Williams**, co-anchor of the CBS 2 Chicago weekend evening news and former press secretary to Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley; **Ellen Soeteber**, former editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch; **Carter Hendren**, a lobbyist, former chief of staff to Senate President Pate Philip and former campaign manager for Jim Edgar's 1990 gubernatorial election; **Kathy Best** (SIU '79), managing editor, digital news and innovation at the Seattle Times; State House reporter for WUIS (PBS) **Sean Crawford**; Illinois Supreme Court spokesman **Joe Tybor**; **Sergio Molina**, executive assistant to the director of the Illinois Department of Corrections; Illinois State Medical Society Chief Operating Officer **Jeff Holden**; State Journal-Register political columnist **Bernie Schoenburg** and



Bernie Schoenburg of the Springfield State Journal-Register

his wife, Springfield physician **Kim Schoenburg**; former director of the Illinois State Lottery and executive of People's Energy Company **Desiree Rogers**; **Patty Schuh**, press secretary to the Senate Republican Leader; U.S. Congressman **Ray LaHood**; Lake County board chairwoman **Suzi Schmidt** (SIU '74) and national political columnist for the Des Moines Register, **David Yepsen**.

Joan Higginbotham: How an Accidental Astronaut Became the First Saluki in Space

You might call Joan Higginbotham the “Accidental Astronaut.” During an institute-sponsored presentation, Higginbotham (SIU ’87) described how a series of flukes led her from an electrical engineering degree to a ride aboard Space Shuttle Discovery.

Higginbotham laughed as she recalled not even thinking of working for NASA until a representative of the space agency called her following the recommendation of a university career services member.

She began her career working on the ground in a support role for space missions. After nine years of preparing shuttles for missions, Higginbotham said her boss “pressured” her into applying for the astronaut program—where she became one of 6,000 people aspiring to fly in space.

Then, NASA told her she didn’t make the cut-in part because she needed more education.

“Originally, I didn’t have much interest in being an astronaut,” Higginbotham said. “When they told me that I couldn’t be an



Joan Higginbotham greeted scores of fans following her remarks at the SIU Arena.

astronaut, I wanted to be one a lot more.” Higginbotham underscored to students the need to study and be steadfast in their dreams.

“You have to learn how to study hard,” she told the numerous grade school students in attendance. “If you’re determined, you can get through anything.”

She was eventually selected into the astronaut program in 1996 and trained 10 years before her opportunity to launch into space came along, making her the first

Saluki to orbit the earth. She operated the shuttle’s mechanical arm during work on the International Space Station.

While on campus, Higginbotham served as parade grand marshal during SIU’s homecoming and visited with 200 middle school students from across the region.

Her visit was co-sponsored by the institute, SIU Alumni Association, the SIU Foundation, Student Programming Council, Office of the Chancellor and the College of Engineering.

Institute Helps Create New Rural Transportation Route to Increase Health Care Access

A new public transportation route connecting communities from Harrisburg to Carbondale along Illinois Route 13 was the outcome of a grant project involving the institute and other campus and community organizations.

“The Job Access/Intercity routes will provide our citizens a new mobility choice for employment, education and connecting travel options,” said Bill Jung, chief executive officer of Rides Mass Transit District, which is operating the new route.

Buses will run four times daily providing affordable access to employment, education, medical facilities, shopping, and other air, rail and bus transportation.

“Paul Simon enjoyed telling people that he was creating a ‘do

tank’ instead of a ‘think tank’ with his public policy institute and this project is an excellent example of his vision in action,” said institute professor and grant team member Linda Reneé Baker.

Baker said the team identified a need for greater access for rural residents to medical care and in working together to meet that need, the scope of the project expanded to include transportation services to other important destinations as well.

Funding for the project comes from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration.

In addition to the institute, university partners included the SIU president’s office, the Center for Rural Health and Social Services and the School of Medicine.

Morris Dees: Waging War on Hate

Morris Dees, civil rights activist and co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, lives by rules that he learned in grade school.

His fifth and sixth grade teacher instructed students to not drink or smoke and to value the words in the Pledge of Allegiance--“with liberty and justice for all.”

“Even though my school was segregated, she was concerned with how we treated our brothers and sisters, regardless of race,” Dees said. “That has followed me ever since.”

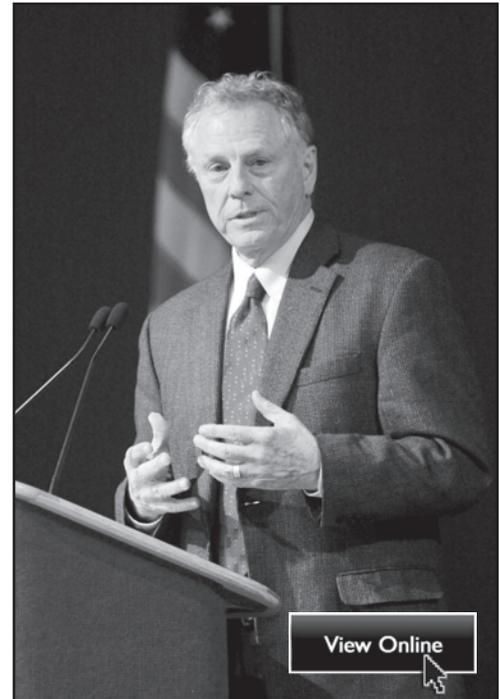
Southern born, Dees went on to graduate from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1960. He spent the next decade working as a lawyer before co-founding the Southern Poverty Law Center, which was designed to

bring legal action against hate groups. It has made Dees the target of many threats, harassments and assassination attempts.

Dees recounted one of his most memorable legal victories—securing the rights of a group of Vietnamese fishermen in Texas who had not been able to fish without threats from hate groups. He believes cases like that help the status of immigration in the United States, which in turn builds diversity.

“Not only was I proud to be a lawyer for these immigrants, I was proud to be an American,” Dees said. “Our nation is great because of diversity, not in spite of it.”

Dees spoke as part of the institute’s Bill and Molly Norwood lecture series.



Morris Dees

Update on the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Legislation

Efforts continue on Capitol Hill for passage of the “Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act,” a program that would greatly enhance the number of American undergraduates studying abroad each year.

The House version of the bill (H.R. 1469) easily passed last year but its Senate counterpart (S. 991) has been held up using Senate rules to block legislation.

“There is a large, bi-partisan list of co-sponsors and broad support within the study abroad community and among education leaders that gives us hope for the bill’s future,” said Martin Simon, who has championed the bill since his father’s passing.

In an attempt to move the legislation this summer, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) placed the Simon bill in a package of legislation (S.3297, The Advancing America’s Priorities Act). But even with bi-partisan support of the individual pieces of legislation within, the Senate failed to approve it.

Those committed to the Simon legislation will continue to seek opportunities for its passage.

As Paul Simon said in 2003 shortly before his death, “A nation cannot drift into greatness. We must dream and we must be willing to make small sacrifices to achieve those dreams.”

Institute’s Web Site Offering New Features, New Name

Visitors to the institute’s website may have noticed its address changed to www.paulsimoninstitute.siuc.edu and a new feature—the ability to watch online videos of institute events.

In conjunction with WSIU-TV and the Office of Disability Support Services, many of the videos are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

“We’re dedicated to continual updating and expansion of information and services on our website,” said assistant director Matt Baughman. “We hope the site’s new name makes it easier for people to remember and our online video gallery provides a mean-

ingful service to anyone who can access the Internet.”

Indeed, the institute has tallied more than 12,000 visits to its web page since last summer with viewers logging on from more than 60 countries or territories ranging from sites across North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Currently, more than three dozen videos are available free online and more are in the process of being added.

www.PaulSimonInstitute.siuc.edu

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Thank You!

Giannoulas: Young People Needed in Public Service

Matching last year's record attendance, Youth Government Day brought nearly 400 Illinois high school students to Springfield for the free, day-long program fostering civic leadership and promoting careers in the public policy arena.

"As long as you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything," said Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulas during the luncheon keynote speech at the Hilton Hotel. "I implore you to get involved soon... we need people who believe in public service."

Giannoulas, who was 30 years old when elected to his statewide post, made history as being the youngest person in the nation to achieve that feat.

Recalling how people told him he was too young or not well enough connected or lacked experience to run for statewide office, Giannoulas encouraged the students to believe in themselves and to be persistent in following their dreams—no matter what they may be. He credits his success to following that philosophy.

Prior to lunch, students had the opportunity to visit the Illinois Capitol where



Photo by Kristen Schmid Schurter

Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulas speaks at the Springfield Hilton Hotel

they were given special access to the floors of the House and Senate chambers. They received a hands-on lesson when they were able to conduct mock votes using the latest electronic technology at the legislators' desks.

"Our students are very excited and enthusiastic about attending Youth Government Day every year," said Regina Dominican High School teacher Mike Small. "This year our students insisted on creating a Youth Government Day shirt to let everyone know how proud they would be to par-

ticipate in this wonderful and educational experience."

He continued, "The events, speakers, and Lincoln Museum tour are carefully planned to provide an exceptional high school memory. We look forward to participating for many years to come."

**SAVE THE DATE • April 4, 2009
Youth Government Day
Springfield, Illinois**

Diverse Panel Encourages Students to Consider Careers in the Public Policy Arena

A freshman state legislator, an up and coming young journalist, an experienced lobbyist and a political party official shared their experiences in working in and around government and politics during a morning panel discussion at Youth Government Day 2008.

"Good public policy is made by those who care," said Katy Lawrence, government affairs manager for U.S. Steel Corp.

All speakers stressed the importance of young people getting involved in public policy, political campaigns and in their communities sooner rather than later.

"Volunteer, volunteer, volunteer," said Lance Trover (SIU '01/'06), spokesman for the Illinois Republican Party. "At 8 years old I started walking for candidates...take

advantage of opportunities to meet people and make connections."

Illinois State Rep. LaShawn Ford (D-Chicago) has learned a great deal about many subjects since entering the state legislature in 2006. But there's more than the learning that excites him about serving in public office—he likes to help make change

"I feel in many ways I'm a representative of the people also...I'm there for you,"

and to convince people of his positions on issues. But he cautioned the students.

"The only way to do that is to get good people in government, to get in rooms like this and to be able to talk to each other,"

Ford said.

Watching—and reporting on—these public policy makers are journalists like Monique Garcia (SIU '06) of the Chicago Tribune. As a reporter, she enjoys covering the dynamics created by this mix of personalities and issues and how every day is different.

"I feel in many ways I'm a representative of the people also...I'm there for you," Garcia said. "I'm there to let you know what's going on in the world around you. [To] help you understand it a little bit more. And that's powerful. It's inspiring."

The panel was moderated by Chad Hoosier (SIU '06), a graduate assistant at the institute studying public administration.

Illinois Principals Association Hosts Intern

DeJuan Kea doesn't forget where he came from. Having been aided by institute director Mike Lawrence in launching his career in public policy, Kea is eager to help others.

Enter Hannah Oliver.

Oliver, who was one of the institute's student workers and an active student ambassador, served as an intern for Kea at the Illinois Principals Association this spring, helping track legislation.

"I'm big on giving back. The internship program through the political science department at SIU was a great opportunity and experience for me," said Kea. "I felt that it was only appropriate to provide a person with the same opportunity and experience that helped launch me into my career."

Oliver benefited from Kea's support in getting her experience in not only legislative matters, but also public relations, networking and event planning and helped guide her decision regarding career paths.

"I believe this internship was vital for my future," said Oliver. "These duties have helped me hone in on what I want to do."

Kea has been called on by the institute for a number of other roles—he gave opening remarks at the institute's Youth Government Day program and served on a panel discussion last fall for the institute's leadership weekend for African American males. He recently returned to campus to speak on effective lobbying for a program sponsored by The League of Women Voters.

Institute Supports Summer Intern in Sen. Dick Durbin's Office

A summer internship in Washington D.C., supported by the institute, provided an SIU student the chance to learn first hand about the federal government and the opportunity to meet some of the nation's leaders.

The institute supported Justin Stofferahn, a junior from Round Lake Beach (Ill.) studying journalism, with a modest stipend while he worked in the Washington D.C. office of U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin.

"Overall, I learned just how big government really is, and how difficult it has become to pass meaningful legislation," said Stofferahn. "But for every Climate Security Act that gets blocked, there is trade adjustment assistance, community development grants and infrastructure improvement assistance to keep the little things working."

Stofferahn met some of the leading political figures, including Sens. Hillary Clinton, Arlen Specter, Joe Biden and Ted Stevens, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Republican Leader John Boehner as well as part of the Illinois delegation including Reps. Jesse Jackson Jr., Jan Schakowsky, Melissa Bean and Danny Davis.

He also experienced being on the floor of the U.S. Senate, watching a filibuster by Sen. Russ Feingold, having Vice President Cheney's motorcade pass in front of him and sitting in on testimony of Gen. David Petraeus, the leading military commander in Iraq, in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"My hope is that I can again walk the halls of the Capitol...but as a member," said Stofferahn. "The experience reaffirmed my love of politics and strengthened my desire to learn more about policy."

Former Institute Student Ambassador, Demuzio Intern Goes to Washington

Alex Reynolds, an institute ambassador who graduated in 2007 with a degree in history and political science, served as logistical support for attorneys appearing before the U.S. Supreme Court to debate the meaning of the 2nd Amendment earlier this year. Reynolds is an intern for the Institute for Justice where he also researches possible eminent domain situations across the country.

Courtesy of the College of Liberal Arts newsletter.

Morris Dees Hosts SIU Student for Externship

Following his visit to SIU, Morris Dees was approached with a request that institute assistant director Matt Baughman thought was a long shot.

"One of our student ambassadors asked me if we could help him serve a week-long 'externship' with the Southern Poverty Law Center during the university's spring break," said Baughman. "I told him not to get his hopes up, but I'd ask."

The answer was a pleasant surprise: Yes.

Mason Sloan, a junior from Harrisburg (Ill.) studying political science, was ex-

cited about the news, but also was caught off guard. He recalls Baughman calling to ask if he had already made other plans for spring break and thinking it was bad news.

"When I told him I didn't have any other plans, Mr. Baughman said, 'Good, because you're going to Montgomery,'" said Sloan. "I was thrilled."

Sloan said his unpaid week with Dees gave him a chance to "learn from doing" and the opportunity to experience his dream of working in public service and community activism long before he expected to make them a reality.

At the center, Sloan analyzed and compiled research for a policy recommendation for the state of Alabama and completed a final report for Mr. Dees and his legal staff.

The highlight of his time there was an opportunity to visit with Mr. Dees. They met "one-on-one to chat about our lives, history and what the future holds," Sloan said. "At the end of the discussion, Mr. Dees offered an invitation to come back and clerk with him should I go to law school."

Not too bad for a week of work.

Leadership Weekend Students Encouraged to “Prepare for Life After the Game”

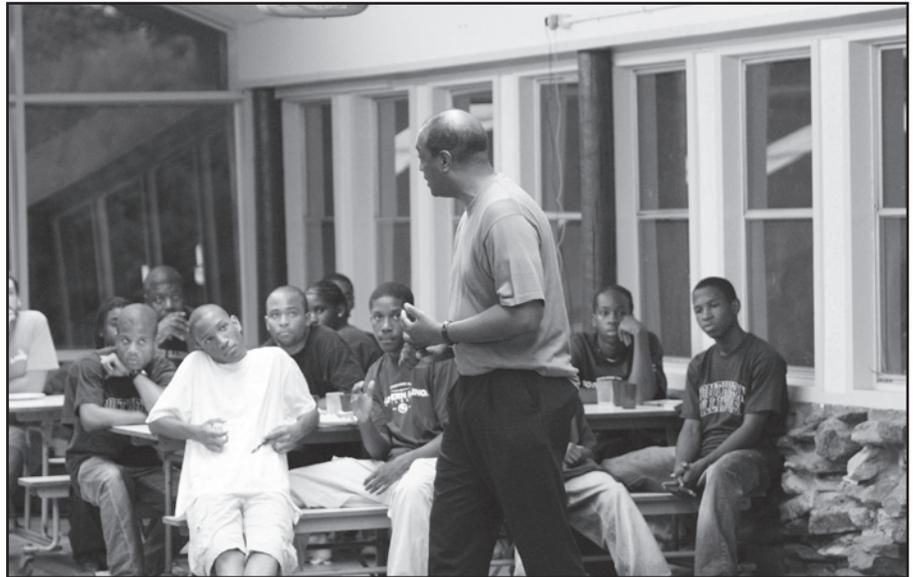
About 35 young African American males from the East St. Louis area participated in the institute’s fifth annual leadership weekend where they were encouraged to think past entering the career fields of sports or entertainment.

Ironically, it was a former professional basketball star and ESPN analyst leading the charge.

“Don’t let [sports] be your whole life,” said Mike “Stinger” Glenn who after playing college basketball for SIU spent a decade playing in the NBA for the Buffalo Braves, New York Knicks, Atlanta Hawks and Milwaukee Bucks.

“What you’ve got to recognize is that God made your whole body. There seems to be an attitude where you were made in a fantastic way from the neck down, but that’s false,” Glenn continued. “You’ve got that wonderful stuff all the way to the top.”

The panel included former SIU basketball standout Seymour Bryson, then-associate chancellor at the university; former Saluki football starter DeJuan Kea, now



Mike Glenn speaks to students at SIU’s Touch of Nature.

government affairs manager for the Illinois Principals’ Association; and Corey Bradford, an SIU assistant vice president.

All three echoed Glenn’s comments and stressed the importance of focusing on education, finding role models and understanding expectations in mixing sports and studies.

Students had the opportunity to view Glenn’s exhibit, “From Molineaux to Michael: African Americans in Athletics,” featuring early American and modern day black sports heroes such as Hank Aaron, Muhammed Ali, Joe Louis and Jackie Rob-

inson.

Other activities during the weekend included hands-on activities at SIU’s Touch of Nature that combines leadership development, teamwork skills and career information in addition to fostering problem-solving and critical thinking

Participants are selected by mentoring groups in the East St. Louis area, including Alpha Pi Alpha, Top Ladies of Distinction, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, SIU Edwardsville Charter School and the East St. Louis Community College Center.

Former Leadership Participants Now Attending SIU

As a high school student, Shaka Mitchell was a four-year participant in the institute’s leadership weekend for African American males from the East St. Louis area. He didn’t expect to attend SIU until hearing an offer that was too good to refuse—a full scholarship.

The considerable investment in his future was made during leadership weekend 2006 by SIU President Glenn Poshard as he and the students had the opportunity to visit privately with Martin Luther King III following King’s institute-sponsored appear-

ance in Carbondale.

Mitchell is one of three students from the leadership weekend who has taken advantage of the presidential scholarships. More students from that weekend event remain eligible for the program when they reach college age.

“I participated in the first leadership weekend and have attended every one since,” said Mitchell. “Through the years, I’ve learned many different leadership qualities from this program and I was honored to be a recipient of a scholarship.”

Upon enrolling at SIU, Mitchell joined the ranks of the institute student ambassadors and maintained solid grades while participating in a number of other campus and community events.

“I’ve attended many different luncheons and dinners where I’ve met a number of politicians and other leaders,” said Mitchell. “There is a friendly atmosphere at the institute where everyone wants to help you.”

Conference Explores What You Should Know about Complementary Health Care

Tieraona Low Dog believes traditional medical care and complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) should not necessarily be seen as competitors. She has faith they can work together for the best treatment of a patient.

And you think she would know—she’s a medical doctor and a CAM practitioner.

Low Dog, who delivered the keynote address for an institute-sponsored conference on complementary medicine, served with “healthy skepticism” on a White House commission focused on the topic. She came away from that experience with many more questions than answers, primarily due to the group’s inability to define “complementary medicine.”

“We were asked to represent the American public—and that means everyone in the American public. It doesn’t mean just people who are interested in complementary and alternative medicine,” said Low Dog.

Nonetheless, Low Dog, who worked as a massage therapist, midwife and herbalist before earning her medical degree, believes a doctor’s primary responsibility is to be a patient’s advocate. This advocacy



Dr. Tieraona Low Dog delivered the opening address.

should balance the use of nontraditional medical techniques with what is best for the patient’s well being, Low Dog said.

“As director of the fellowship in Integrative Medicine [at the University of Arizona] I am in a unique position to teach physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants how to use the best of evidence-based medicine within a patient-centered model,” said Low Dog. She continued, “[I am] always coming alongside the patient, helping the patient explore what’s right for them and supporting them on that journey.”

Two panel discussions followed her presentation. One covered the past, present and future of complementary medicine—particularly as part of meeting rural

health care challenges—and the other examined consumer issues such as legal, regulatory, oversight, insurance liability and consumer protection concerns.

The goal of the conference was to better inform the public about complementary health care and to encourage more discussion between doctors and their patients—many of whom are using or considering complementary medicine techniques as part of their overall health care options.

SIU’s Center for Delta Studies, headed by professor Jane Adams, co-sponsored the event.

The keynote and both panel discussions are available to view on the institute’s website.

SIU’s Community Dental Center Honored

The Illinois State Dental Society recently presented its President’s Award to SIU’s Community Dental Center in recognition of its teamwork and efforts in providing disadvantaged southern Illinoisans with access to oral health care.

The institute launched an initiative that spearheaded the center’s creation in 2000. Since then, it has provided preventative dental care to more than 2,400 children. The center serves Medicaid recipients, low-income families and the uninsured

using dental hygiene students and faculty as well as volunteer dentists to provide comprehensive oral health care services.

The university’s Dental Hygiene Program and the Southern Illinois Dental Society were noted by Dr. Keith W. Dickey, president of the Illinois State Dental Society, for building a valuable partnership that serves the public.

For more information about the center or scheduling a visit, call (618) 453-2353.

Justice Anne Burke: A Champion of Children in Need

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke learned what you do early in life leaves an indelible mark.

At just 19 years old, Burke attended a workshop at SIU for children with disabilities that would change the course of her life—and millions of others around the world over the past 40 years.

Presenting the institute's Jeanne Hurley Simon lecture, Burke recounted working as a physical education teacher for the Chicago Park District, which included volunteering to work on a new grant focused on helping disabled children. That decision led her to a lifetime of working for children in need.

"I did not have a clear view of what the future had in store for me," Burke said of the time spent at the workshop. But she returned to Chicago energized by what she learned and with a deepened commitment to doing something special for these children.

"Children with disabilities in those days faced life in the world very differently than they do today," said Burke. "It was a less friendly universe...less open and understanding to children with special needs."

After spending two years building a sports program for these children, Burke



Justice Anne Burke delivered the Jeanne Hurley Simon lecture.

was offered funding from Eunice Kennedy Shriver to host a national event. And the Special Olympics was born.

Burke eventually graduated from law school, and did so with four children under the age of 10 at home. While challenging, this decision provided more life changing opportunities.

"[Special Olympics] definitely shaped me as an attorney," said Burke, who was appointed to the high court in 2006. "It also helped me protect the most fragile and vulnerable people in our community. Everything I have accomplished has flowed from helping children in need."

In 1994, following several years as serving as the first woman appointed to the Illinois Court of Claims, Burke was asked by Gov. Jim Edgar to lead reforms of the state's child welfare services to better protect and care for neglected and abused children. Burke's leadership and persistence led to a substantial improvement in the coordination of government agencies as they served the children.

"This was a monumental achievement," said institute director Mike Lawrence, who called her a "champion of children in need."

Institute Participates in Strategic Planning for State's Emergency Health Care System

For the past year, the institute, in partnership with faculty and staff from the SIU law and medical schools and the Center for Rural Health and Social Services, has participated in an Illinois Department of Public Health project to develop strategic plans for the state's emergency medical system and trauma communities.

"This strategic planning process was initiated to explore opportunities highlighted in the American College of Surgeons report on the status of trauma in the State of Illinois," said Dr. Walter Bradley, Senior Medical Administrator of the Illinois Department of Public Health. "EMS and trauma stakeholders will be integral in the implementation of the newly developed

strategic plan, which will advance the State of Illinois' EMS and trauma program to a model for the country."

The project has involved more than 100 medical and health care professionals who will develop and evaluate 90 day, 1 year, 3 year and 5 year plans for the future of emergency medical services and trauma systems in Illinois.

"The institute was delighted to have been asked to participate in this project," said Linda Baker, the institute's point person on the grant. "This is another way in which the institute is contributing to improving health care, particularly in rural and underserved areas."

World Food Prize Winner Delivers Kroening Lecture

Saving lives. Eliminating instability. Building capacity.

These are some of the hallmarks pointed to by Catherine Bertini during an institute sponsored lecture covering her tenure as head of the United Nations World Food Program.

“Humanitarian action in the right situation does much more than saving the lives of the people who are caught up in the natural or manmade disaster,” said Bertini. “[It] also really can help change regions and help build stability in regions.”

Bertini, who was awarded the World Food Prize in 2003, highlighted UN efforts in Africa, North Korea, Afghanistan and Pakistan and assured that funding provided by the United States to the World Food Program goes beyond just providing meals. It brings about long-term change.

For instance, in Afghanistan the program negotiated with the Taliban to allow



Catherine Bertini delivered the Kroening lecture.

women to work in bakeries to help boost food production.

“In my 10 years at WFP, seeing women work in Afghanistan was one of the most heartwarming things I ever saw,” Bertini said. “It made the effort worth it. It’s incredibly hard work, but also incredibly re-

warding work.”

Bertini’s lecture was co-sponsored by the institute’s Gil and Jean Kroening lecture series, the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Illinois Soybean Association.

Search to Replace Director continued From page 1

for the position.

Institute visiting professor John Jackson is chair of the 11-member search committee, which includes six members of the institute’s board of counselors—all of whom were appointed under the direction of Paul Simon—as well as two faculty members and two students.

Jackson oversaw a similar process that resulted in Lawrence being named director after Paul Simon’s death in December 2003.

In accordance with university and institute procedures, the search committee will recommend a select group of candidates for the board of counselors to interview. The board then will recommend a final candidate to the university administration.

State Legislative Proposal continued from page 1

san support in clearing the House, would resolve a stalemate by having two state Supreme Court justices – one a Democrat and the other a Republican – appoint one or more knowledgeable, fair-minded people as special masters to put together maps for the House and Senate. Other provisions would make the entire redistricting process more open and more likely to produce bipartisan agreements in the legislature itself.

The proposal did not receive a hearing in the Senate before the deadline for submitting it to voters on the November 2008 ballot. However, members in each legislative caucus said they would be interested in working with the institute to win the necessary General Assembly support to place the measure – or a modified version of it – on the 2010 ballot. If it is approved by the Legislature and by voters, the new process would be effective for the next redistricting round in 2011.

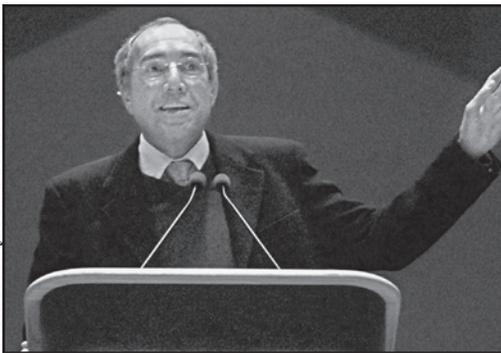


Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes was the featured speaker during an institute sponsored forum focused on the state's fiscal condition. "More than any number on a balance sheet, our budget reflects our actions and values," Hynes said. "The budget provides us an opportunity to serve those who count on the government the most." The program also included a panel discussion featuring Linda Baker, institute professor and former head of the Illinois Department of Human Services; Fred Giertz, widely respected economics professor at the University of Illinois; Tom Johnson, president of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois and former director of the Illinois Department of Revenue; and Mary Jo Waits, project director of the Pew Center on the States, and an expert on state budgets across the nation. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and the Donors Forum of Illinois.

The institute partnered with SIU student leaders to host award-winning Chicago Sun Times columnist Laura Washington for a discussion on Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on today's generation during MLK Recognition Week on campus. Although some might remember King best for his "I Have a Dream" speech, Washington urged the student dominated audience to focus on his actions and beliefs, and not just his words. "The importance about Martin Luther King isn't one speech," Washington said. "It's a continuance of history--you learn and are made from history."



Photo courtesy of the Southern Illinoisian



The institute and SIU's Global Media Research Center co-hosted a visit by Federico Subervi, a widely respected author and Texas State University professor who is a recognized expert in the field of Latinos and politics. Subervi said the Latino vote is more important than ever this year, and is surprised politicians do not pay more consistent attention to this fastest growing demographic in the country. "The Latino vote is typically ignored [by politicians] during regular years," Subervi said. "As soon as an election year comes around, they begin to court this constituency."

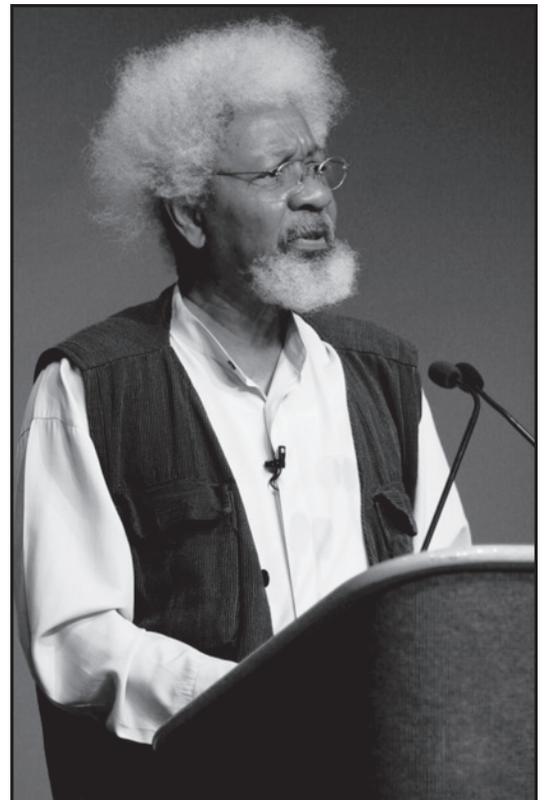
Desiree Rogers, who at the time was president of two subsidiaries of the Chicago-based Peoples Energy Corporation and the first African American and the first female to hold the title of president within the company, spoke during an institute-sponsored luncheon focused on civic engagement and other issues. During the 1990s, she was director of the Illinois Lottery for Gov. Jim Edgar and she is a close friend and key supporter of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama. She recently was named to a top executive role for Allstate Insurance Company. Rogers also serves as a member of the institute's board of counselors.



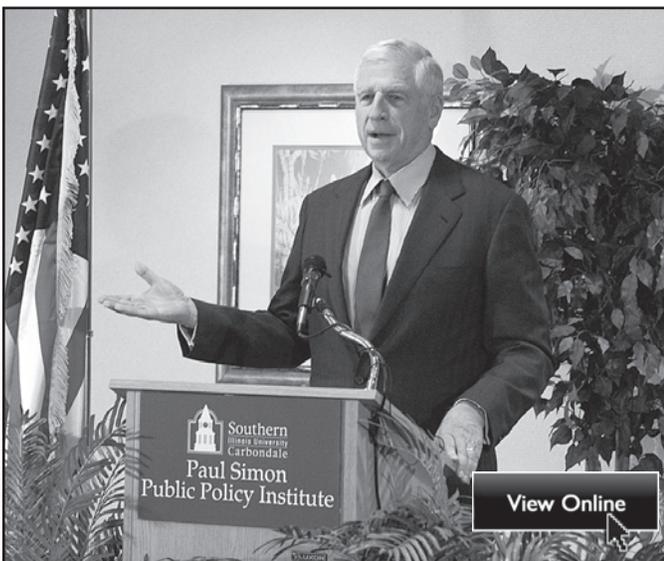


When Chicago Sun-Times Washington bureau chief Lynn Sweet visited campus for a luncheon speech in the fall of 2007, she had spent the last year covering U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, following his world travels as well as the announcement of his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for president. And she has continued her journeys with the Illinois Senator since then. Her coverage includes up to the minute reports on her Sun-Times blog. “Covering politics is a 24-hour-a-day process,” Sweet said. “Blogs are constantly updated with the latest news—it’s very competitive.” Sweet spent time visiting with students and others during her two days in Carbondale.

Wole Soyinka, winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature, spoke about current-day entertainment and social issues in his home country, Nigeria, as part of an institute-sponsored appearance for SIU’s Black History Month. The Department of Theater was one of the many co-sponsors. Soyinka is widely respected for his attempt at brokering peace during the Nigerian Civil War—something which landed him in jail for nearly two years and leading to his living in exile until recent years.



Former three-term U.S. Sen. Jack Danforth (R-MO) delivered a luncheon speech for the institute on the state of today’s politics. “If you watch news shows with talking heads, it’s usually a maniac on one side yelling at a maniac on the other side,” Danforth said. “It’s not a real discussion. Politics has become aimed at making people angry, as opposed to paying attention to real matters of interest to the future of the country.” Following his speech, Danforth hosted a roundtable discussion with about a dozen students.





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Institute Board Member Donates Presidential Campaign Memorabilia

A valuable collection of political campaign memorabilia dating back to Andrew Jackson was recently donated to the institute by Jerry Mileur, a board member and major benefactor of the institute.

Mileur, a southern Illinois native and two degree alumnus of SIU, hopes the nearly 1,500 item exhibit of buttons, ribbons, framed prints and other materials allows students and the general public to learn more about our nation's politics.

"I would hope they would be reminded that we really do have popular politics in America, and that there was a time when voters were proud to display their party favorites," he said. "I would most like them to realize that political parties are critical to democratic

politics, even now in an age when buttons are not so lavishly distributed."

The University Museum has partnered with the institute to assemble and host the exhibit, care for and store the items and make plans for future showings.

"This wonderful gift -- from one of the finest people I know -- reflects Jerry Mileur's great passion for politics and his love for this university," institute director Mike Lawrence said. "The institute is honored and thrilled to play a role in bringing the collection to this community."

**Join us for a reception honoring
Jerry Mileur
Thursday, October 9, 2008 - 4-7 PM
University Museum, Faner Hall**



Jerry Mileur poses with a small but important part of the collection -- the Lincoln and Kennedy items.

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