



### A message from **David Yepsen**

In March, I picked up the *Southern Illinoisan* one morning and was proud to see the paper's editorial board giving us one of their Friday "thumbs up" signs. The publication said we are "a world class think tank which continues to provide real life, understandable analysis of Illinois' most-important issues and voter behavior – while still bringing top-flight, expert speakers to Carbondale."

It also said we are "an excellent resource" for the media and the public through our "polling and opinion sampling leading up to the November elections... We think the late senator would be very pleased with the public service still being provided in his name."

It's nice to get recognition like that. It's also a lot to live up to, especially during these tight financial times. We finished this academic year thankful we were able to accomplish so much despite the limitations. We were – and are – able to continue the work we believe Paul would want us to do only because of your good financial help.

This year we continued working on legislative redistricting issues and polling on state and local questions in the Simon Institute Poll and the Southern Illinois Poll. We do that to help policy-makers make good decisions. We've also brought public servants to campus and focused many of our topics on issues surrounding public debt and deficits.

We also spent a lot of time helping engage young people in politics and public service. Many of our student volunteers – we call them our ambassadors – who graduated this year were first involved with the Institute as high school students attending our Youth Government Days and leadership workshops. It's great to see them take an interest in public service as they leave – and exciting to see the new faces peeking into our office wanting to get involved.

Next year we hope to put more emphasis on improving the ethical climate in Illinois politics, finding ways to help women start political careers and improving the quality of civic education for young people.

So thanks for your help. Please contact me if you ever have questions or ideas. Paul would remind us good work can always be made better.

~ David | [dyepsen@siu.edu](mailto:dyepsen@siu.edu)

## Institute revisits 35-year-old poll

The results may be new, but questions posed to southern Illinoisans as part of the most recent Institute poll are nearly four decades old.

This year's Southern Illinois Poll, overseen by visiting professors John Jackson and Charlie Leonard, revisited a study conducted by the former Social Science Research Bureau in 1976. The goal was to compare responses from the modern southern Illinoisan to those surveyed 35 years ago.

"It is very unusual to have an opportunity to take advantage of

such comparable longitudinal studies that extend across such a long time frame for an identifiable geographic region," Jackson and Leonard wrote in the most recent Simon Review, "The Climate of Opinion in Southern Illinois Continuity and Change."

Complete poll results are included in the paper, which is the 25th installment in the series. Paper #25, as well as all of the previous Simon Reviews, can be downloaded at: [www.paulsimoninstitute.org](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org)



Justin Nickels of Manitowoc, Wisc., the country's youngest full-time mayor, was a guest speaker at this year's Youth Government Day, which brought 250 high school students from across Illinois to Springfield to get to know their government. State Rep. Jehan Gordon (D - Peoria) also spoke to the students about how to get involved at a young age.

## Women in Politics to be focus of Fall 2012 programming

The Paul Simon Institute will feature two prominent authorities on the topic of Women in Politics this September:



Former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, a Republican, who also served as EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush.



Marie Wilson, founder and president of The White House Project and co-creator of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

More details on both of their visits will be available in the coming weeks. If you'd like to know more know, please contact us at: (618) 453-4009.



## Valonda Roberts wins Lawrence Scholarship

Valonda Roberts was this year's recipient of the Mike Lawrence Scholarship.

Roberts became a student volunteer not long after she transferred to SIUC in the fall of 2009 and quickly became a student worker. She was heavily involved with the coordination of this year's Youth Government Day.

A recent recipient of degrees in political science and sociology, Roberts plans to continue her education at the University of Illinois Springfield and intern with the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The scholarship was created to honor former Institute director Mike Lawrence. Candidates are students involved with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and active in the SIUC community.

"Valonda was a delight to have in the office," Institute director David Yepsen said. "She beat most of the staff into the office many mornings and made a real contribution to the day-to-day operations of the Institute."

Contributions to the Mike Lawrence Scholarship are welcomed at any time. You may give online or by sending a check to the Institute at 1231 Lincoln Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901.

## Staff testifies before redistricting committees

Continuing their work with Illinois' redistricting procedures, Institute staff members testified in April before state House and state Senate committees charged with recommending the fairest districts.

Dr. John S. Jackson, a visiting professor, shared his thoughts with members of the House Redistricting Committee during its public hearing in East St. Louis, Ill. He was joined by Institute director David Yepsen a few days later when testifying at the Senate Redistricting Committee's hearing in Carbondale.

Though the hearings were organized to hear public concerns over this year's redistricting, Yepsen and Jackson reminded the committees of the opportunity the

Legislature missed last year to overhaul the procedure's guidelines, which have allowed party's to gerrymander districts to protect incumbents and oust political rivals.

Yepsen said it's not too early to restart those conversations to have a better system for 2021.

"We can do this with the current experience fresh in our minds without having to consider what it means for this legislator or that leader or which political party," he said.

Text of Jackson's and Yepsen's statements are on our blog:

[www.paulsimoninstitute.org/blogs](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org/blogs)

## Preserving Paul's Legacy: Charitable Gift Options

The Institute continues to benefit from generous friends who want to be a part of preserving Paul's legacy through planned gifts.

You are encouraged to inquire about options that may benefit you or your heirs while also adding to the Institute's long-term sustainability.

Ideas include:

- **A bequest in your will.** A simple line in your will can direct a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to benefit the Institute after your death. The side bar includes suggested language for your use.
- **IRA Charitable Rollover.** If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to make a charitable gift directly from your IRA that will count toward your minimum distribution AND be withdrawn tax-free. The law allows total giving up to \$100,000 through December 31.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).** A CGA provides donors the ability to make significant contributions to the Institute while receiving a guaranteed rate of return and a portion of their annual earnings as tax-free income. A minimum of \$10,000 is required to establish a CGA through the use of cash, stocks or bonds. Rates are dependent on age and other factors.

"The Institute is grateful for the many supporters who make generous annual contributions as well as those who include the Institute in their estate plans," said associate director Matt Baughman. "I look forward to working with those who wish to help in any way they can."

For more information, contact Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or [baughman@siu.edu](mailto:baughman@siu.edu).

### A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY ILLUSTRATION

Mike Smith, age 72, was an ardent supporter of Paul Simon's political career. While he has no strong connection to Southern Illinois University, he appreciates the importance of preserving Paul's legacy for future generations and is impressed with the Institute's work.

If Mr. Smith asked for a charitable gift annuity proposal for his consideration based on a \$100,000 cash gift, here's what he may find:

- The SIU Foundation would guarantee a 6.0% rate of return, which provides a \$6,000 annual payout for the rest of his life.
- Nearly \$4,300 of his annual payout would be earned tax-free.
- He may be eligible for a tax deduction of almost \$40,000.

You can receive a charitable gift annuity illustration tailored to your specific details by contacting Matt Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or [baughman@siu.edu](mailto:baughman@siu.edu).

### SAMPLE LANGUAGE LEAVING A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL

"I bequeath to the Southern Illinois University Foundation, a not for profit corporation duly existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, and located in the City of Carbondale, State of Illinois, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_% of my estate) to be directed to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute endowment."



**Simon  
Up  
for  
Summer**



Log on and get yours today!

[www.paulsimoninstitute.org](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org)