

The Simon Times

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PAUL SIMON PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



Women's Civic Institute

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Thinking about giving to the institute?

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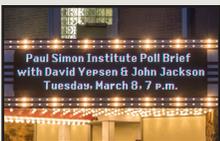
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Vilsack: "There's a great future in agriculture."

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spoke March 23 at SIU Carbondale

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told a Southern Illinois audience there needs to be "a balance" in labeling genetically modified foods and in growing food with sustainable methods.

He also told SIU students "there is a great future in agriculture," because between 57,000 and 60,000 new jobs in agriculture will be available to young graduates in the near future, but only 30,000 people are studying for them.

"It's an extraordinary place and time to be time in agriculture," Vilsack said. "I think there is an absolutely bright, incredibly innovative, unbelievable future in agriculture today."

Vilsack, the longest-serving member of President Obama's cabinet, made the comments in a speech for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture Series.

Vilsack, a former Iowa governor, told reporters the controversy over genetically modified foods "is a great lesson for agriculture. It's great to have new technology, and it's great to make the case to producers, but you've got to remember that you also have to sell it and market it to consumers. Because at the end of the day the consumer is going to be the boss."

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WANT TO DONATE? HONOR ROLL OF DONORS - PAGE 8 • CHECK OUR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT STARTING ON PAGE 3!

Jorge Ramirez, president,
Chicago Federation of Labor

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Loretta Swit, M*A*S*H star
"Never the Same" Screening

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ISSUE 25 - 2016

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Through our YouTube page, you can watch our events via livestream, and check out archived event and conference videos.

CONTACT US AT:

Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
SIU Carbondale
Mail Code 4429
1231 Lincoln Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

Tel: 618/453-4009

Fax: 618/453-7800

paulsimoninstitute@gmail.com

www.paulsimoninstitute.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE SIMON FAMILY



Greetings from the next generation of Simons!

When the Policy Institute was set up, Grandpa Paul wanted to have

two family members on the board. Since I am the first of my generation to serve on it, I thought I would tell you about the group of four grandchildren in the Paul Simon family.

I just completed a bachelor's degree from DePaul University and am planning to stick around Chicago for another year.

The youngest is Nick Simon, who is working on a chemical engineering degree from the University of Maryland. Nick has also been a drummer and musician for as long as I can remember and continues to rock all around Maryland.

Corey Simon (who will always be "CJ" to me) is off to the next destination, working hard as always, and is hoping to spend her spring semester in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The oldest one of the bunch, my sister Reilly Knop, recently completed a two-year Peace Corps mission in Fuling, China, teaching English at a Chinese university. She made her way back to the United States by way of a large slew of beautiful countries along the way.

As one of the newest members to the board, I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to work with, and support, such a great group of folks. As a representative of this generation of the Paul Simon family, I am in awe at the great work the institute is doing.

To mention one thing in particular, I am amazed to hear the amount raised for the Jeanne Hurley Simon Memorial Scholarship for women getting involved in politics! The amount raised is almost double the initial goal, and I am excited to see how the recipients use that political power for good.

Keep up the great work, and thank you for everything you do for the community of Carbondale, the state of Illinois and the world at large!

Brennan Knop

THANK YOU FROM DAVID YEPSEN



Back in May, I announced my plans to retire as director on Oct. 31. These past seven years have been a wonderful time in my life, and it's been rewarding to work with students and my colleagues here at the institute. We've done a lot of good things — especially for our students — and I think Paul would approve.

Some thank-yous are in order: First, I'd like to recognize **YOU** — the donors and supporters who do so much to keep Paul Simon's living legacy alive.

And I want to recognize my current and former colleagues on the staff who do so much. They are dedicated people who, like me, do this work as a way to help students succeed, and to make our politics and civic life better. Not only are they

colleagues, but they've become friends. I'm going to miss them.

I'd also like to thank SIU. Paul could have located this institute any number of places, but he chose SIU because he wanted to do something for a region and a state that had done so much for him during his career. SIU's faculty, staff and administrators have shown their gratitude with their support. They know the institute is a distinctive jewel in the university's crown.

It's hard to depart. As we all know, these are difficult financial times at SIU and in Illinois. Part of me feels like I'm deserting the ship. But with your continued good financial help, the strong support of the university and the hard-working staff at the institute, I'm confident the future is a good one.

Hope to see you at our 20th anniversary next year!

David Yepsen

STUDENT spotlight

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS SINCE 1997

YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY 2016

In April, several Illinois legislators shared their perspectives about politics and public service at the 16th annual Youth Government Day in Springfield, Illinois, sponsored by the institute.

High school students from all across the state visited the Illinois Capitol, toured offices, heard from experts about how state government works and explored how decisions are made for residents of Illinois.

Students also had the opportunity to tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, and to learn about Lincoln's history.

Delegate Saira Blair (R), notable as the youngest holder of elected office in

the United States and delegate in the 59th district of the West Virginia House of Delegates, presented the keynote address.

Other speakers in breakout sessions included state Reps. Art Turner Jr. (D-9th District), Tim Butler (R-87th District) and state Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-40th District).

Nearly 200 students participated in this year's program. This program is free and open to any Illinois high school student.

Youth Government Day began in 2000 to motivate Illinois high school students to enter government service and politics.



Saira Blair, center, with a couple of high school students at this year's Youth Government Day.

2016-2017 CELIA M. HOWARD FELLOW NAMED

Kimberly Palermo has been named the 2016-17 Celia M. Howard Fellow at the institute.

Palermo has spent the past four years providing services to women and children survivors of abuse throughout Southern Illinois. She is now pursuing a master's degree in social work at SIU.

In fall 2014, she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at SIU. During her undergraduate career, she was the president of Southern Illinois Dance Company and a student employee for the University Housing marketing office.

"This fellowship will allow me to serve those who require assistance on a larger



scale," Palermo said. "The Celia Howard Fellowship will enrich my learning by providing experiences in research and learning about important issues the people of Southern Illinois face," she said.

The fellowship is made possible through the generosity of the Celia M. Howard Fellowship Fund and the Illinois Federation of Business Women's Clubs. The graduate assistantship comes with a stipend and a tuition waiver.

"We are most grateful to the fund and federation for providing this generous opportunity to an SIU student," said David Yepsen, institute director. "This fellowship is important because it gives women experience with policy and political issues while completing school."

Apply for the fellowship at:
www.paulsimoninstitute/celiahoward

THE LATINO HERITAGE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP

The Latino Heritage Legislative Internship provides a student the paid opportunity to work with the Illinois General Assembly during the spring legislative session.

Students gain valuable experience throughout the internship, including:

- Analyzing and reviewing proposed legislation.
- Looking at critical community issues.
- Developing networking skills.

All majors may apply. Applicants must have junior status (56+ hours) at the time of the internship, plus live in Springfield during the duration of the internship.

ON THE FRONT LINES: THE INSTITUTE'S SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, INTERNS:



THE GENE CALLAHAN INTERN - RYAN GOUGIS

Ryan Gougis is the institute's second Gene Callahan intern.

He recently completed his bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice.

During his time at the Illinois Capitol, Gougis worked the on House Democratic staff. His assignments included legislative duties and drafting press releases.

His legislative work also served as background for his research paper on solutions to Illinois' costly war on drugs.



In addition to his research and work with the Illinois Legislature, Gougis also took an active role with the institute, serving as a panelist for the Women's Civic Institute, where he related his experiences as an intern to program participants.

While at SIU, Gougis, a Chicago native, was active as president of Phi Rho Eta Fraternity Inc. and vice executive director of the Student Programming Council.

Gougis recently accepted a position with the Illinois House of Representatives, working as a member of the Speaker of the House's issues staff.

"I was honored to receive a position

working with the Illinois General Assembly," Gougis said. "I will have a chance to observe firsthand, and work on the challenges and opportunities our state faces." He will also attend graduate school in Springfield at the University of Illinois.

The internship was renamed in honor of Gene Callahan and is supported by Jerry Mileur, a dual degree holder from SIU. Both Callahan and Mileur have served on the institute's Board of Counselors.

During the internship, Callahan interns spend a semester living in Springfield, working in state government. Interns work on public policy issues and provide regular reports of their activities.

THE ALEXANDER LANE INTERN - SHANTEL FRANKLIN

The Alexander Lane Internship was created to honor the legacy of Alexander Lane, SIU's first African-American male graduate. The internship gives students an opportunity to work on public policy issues within state government, working directly with public officials and their staff.

This year the institute named Shantel Franklin as the fourth Alexander Lane Intern, as well as this year's recipient of the Jeanne Hurley Simon Memorial Scholarship (see page 10). Finishing a bachelor's degree in political science, Franklin was



assigned to Illinois Senate Democratic staff under President John Cullerton.

During her assignment, Franklin worked with legislative staff in policy research in support of bills before the General Assembly. She also conducted research into the problem of pay equity, preparing a paper as a part of her experience.

Franklin conducted interviews with members and agency staff, plus completed an extensive survey of the existing literature on the subject.

A Chicago native, Franklin is a first-generation college student who has been committed to academic excellence and public service throughout her time at SIU Carbondale.

In addition to her internship and

coursework, Franklin also took an active role in other institute activities, including serving as a panelist and guest speaker for the Women's Civic Institute.

Highly regarded by her supervisors and colleagues, she was offered a position within the state Legislature, but has decided that she will pursue graduate-level studies in her field, to earn a master's degree in public administration at Indiana University Bloomington.

"I was honored to have been considered for a position with the Illinois General Assembly," Franklin said. "The Alexander Lane Internship gave me a rewarding opportunity to observe the legislative process firsthand and excellent preparation for a future in public service."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE INTERNSHIPS, VISIT PAULSIMONINSTITUTE.ORG/STUDENT-OPPORTUNITIES.

THE SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Social Work Internship program is a field practicum developed at the institute to allow social work students to develop their skills at a macro level in the area of policy development, community education, legislative advocacy and grant writing.

This year, the institute was pleased to have two social work interns: Kimberly Palermo, a graduate student, and Shavonne Simmons, an undergraduate student.

As a graduate social work intern, Palermo analyzed public policy related to human rights and social justice, and assisted with the development of the Women's Civic Institute 2016 program agenda and Youth Government Day.

"This internship has allowed me to collaborate with organizations and individuals on policy issues," Palermo said. In the fall, she will continue to work on her master's degree in social work. She was selected as the institute's 2016-2017 Celia M. Howard Fellow.

Simmons was the undergraduate social work intern and assisted institute staff on a host of projects this year.

"This internship helped me realize the connection between social work and public policy, and the need for clinicians to engage in the policy development process and its impact on the practice generally," Simmons said.

She coordinated with staff to implement the institute's annual Women's Civic Institute and Youth Government Day. During her internship, Simmons also researched and developed a policy paper on the topic of juvenile justice.

"Her work at the (Illinois) Capitol and her research demonstrates that she understands the value of policymaking to clinical practice," said Dr. Linda Baker, internship supervisor.

Simmons graduated in June with a bachelor's degree in social work. She will attend Washington University in the fall, where she will pursue her master's degree in social work.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS SINCE 1997

INSTITUTE HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S GOVERNMENT DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL



The 2016 Women's Civic Institute participants in Springfield, Illinois. Dr. Linda Baker, program sponsor, and keynote speaker Howard Peters are in the center of the picture.

The Illinois Women's Civic Institute recently held its third annual Women's Government Day visit to the General Assembly at the Illinois Capitol in Springfield.

The annual event has been established by the institute, the Women's Civic Institute, and supporters/stakeholders throughout Illinois to stimulate interest, involvement and scholarship in the key role women play in government and the public sector throughout our state.

This year's Women's Government Day was underwritten by this year's keynote speaker and a Women's Civic Institute supporter, Howard Peters, a former Cabinet secretary under former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar. In his keynote address, Peters highlighted the central role strong women played in his life and development, as well as the importance of their input in the public sector at all levels.

Other prominent speakers included Michelle Kelm, director of government affairs for the Illinois Commerce Commission, and Vince Williams, principal of VR Williams and Associates.

Three former SIU interns now working in state government, Shantel Franklin, Ryan Gougis and Barton Lorimor, spoke about their internships in the General Assembly to the attendees in a panel titled "Ladder to Success: Navigating the Legislative Process."

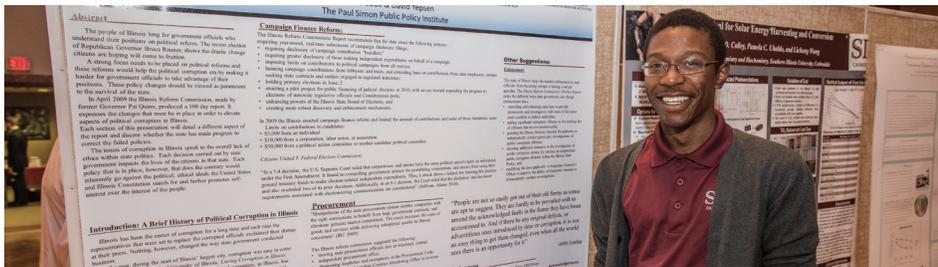
In addition to a full slate of guest speakers, institute attendees had the opportunity to meet and take photographs with several legislators, and to witness legislative debate firsthand.

They were invited into the gallery as the special guests of Illinois Speaker of the House Michael Madigan. Dr. Linda Baker, program sponsor, attributed the event's continued success to the strong support from legislators, public officials and professionals in the policymaking community.

"Legislative leaders and our colleagues in the field have given generously of themselves and their time, and have really made this event a valuable learning and networking experience for these outstanding young women," Baker said.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCH - THE NEXT STEP:

INSTITUTE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER WINS FIRST-PLACE RESEARCH AWARD



Institute undergraduate researcher Clance Cook won a first-place award this spring for his study of Illinois ethics reform issues from the SIU Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities.

Cook examined the 2009 recommendations of the Illinois Reform Commission formed after the impeachment of Gov. Rod Blagojevich to see if progress was being made.

“Small changes have been enacted, but corruption issues continue to plague the state,” Cook said.

SIU MEDICAL STUDENT FOCUSES ON PUBLIC POLICY IMPLICATIONS SURROUNDING SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH INSURANCE

“As Congress and legislatures across the country debate issues that impact our lives, I am reminded of the impact of the policymaking process on the practice of medicine,” said Dr. Linda R. Baker, university professor at the institute. “As a professor in health care policy at SIU, I encourage students to be cognizant of the interrelationship between healthcare service delivery and the legislative and regulatory processes that will impact them in their practice.”

This spring, fourth-year medical student Phillip Knouse conducted research into the relative merits of a single-payer health insurance scheme and the obstacles to such a system in the United States.

During his research, Knouse interviewed and followed the work of two legislative leaders in the health care sector, state Reps. Mary Flowers and Patty Bellock. Their differing perspectives gave his work a bipartisan understanding of the issues and the obstacles to the

He said the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Citizens United case undercut many of the efforts to regulate campaign contributions in Illinois. Efforts to strengthen the hand of local prosecutors in public corruption cases have likewise stalled.

“Regardless of which party is in charge of the state, Illinois suffers from the harsh reality that some political officials would rather use their office for their own personal gain instead of using it for the will of the people,” Cook said.

implementation of single-payer insurance within Illinois.

Knouse used his research as an opportunity to gain greater insight into the policymaking process and noted the interaction of various business, community and professional interests in this complex matter, and saw how this interaction ultimately affected outcomes. The research made such an impact on institute faculty that they encouraged Knouse to expand upon this research to prepare the paper for publication following graduation.

Since graduation, Knouse has accepted a position with Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. His field of practice will be in internal medicine, with tentative plans to specialize in hematology/oncology.

To read Knouse's paper, visit:
opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/ppi_papers/46/

YOUTH LEADERSHIP WEEKEND: DEVELOPING NEW GENERATIONS OF LEADERS

The institute held another successful edition of its annual Youth Leadership Weekend at SIU. Started in 2003, the annual conference brings 35 to 50 junior high and high school students from across Metro East schools in the St. Louis area to campus for two days of activities.

The weekend focuses on enhancing leadership qualities of young African-American men through reinforcing positive qualities, skill building and increasing career education.

This past year's conference, titled “Developing New Generations of Strong and Effective Leaders,” provided the students with valuable experiences and connected them with role models who have been where they are now.

Supporting Metro East groups include the Top Ladies of Distinction, and the Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi and Omega Psi Phi fraternities. The AT&T Foundation served as a corporate sponsor for the event. This year's keynote speaker was Richard Gardner, M.D., and an SIU alumnus. Gardner's address provided the students with a powerful message of hope, determination and perseverance.

One of the key activities during this year's event was the goal-setting session. Students received assistance in formulating short-, medium- and long-range personal goals, and devised strategies for ensuring they stay on track.

Several participants have attended and graduated from SIU Carbondale or other universities, and began successful careers. Others are in school and serving as mentors within their communities.

“Sen. Simon would be pleased to see so many Metro East-area youths participate in a program he strongly supported, right here at the institution that bears his name,” said Linda Baker, university professor and organizer of the event at the institute.

LAW, POLICY AND POLITICS EXTERN AND MIKE LAWRENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - WILLIE LYLES III

Willie Lyles III, of Blythewood, South Carolina, was the Law, Policy and Politics Extern in the spring semester and the recipient of the prestigious Mike Lawrence Scholarship.



He is entering his third year at SIU School of Law. In 2006, Lyles graduated from Winthrop University with a bachelor's degree in political science.

His research, "Criminal Justice Reform and Race from a Southern Illinois Perspective," was an effort to gauge support for a criminal justice reform proposal advocated at the national level and in Illinois. The

research included interviews with several community leaders in Southern Illinois, including conversations with Richard Grisby, president of the Alexander-Pulaski County NAACP branch, and Richard Stubblefield, outgoing chairman of the Jefferson County Republican Party. Lyles will continue working with the institute next year on this project.

"Willie is an ambitious advocate and tremendous researcher," said Delio Calzolari, associate director. "He is one of those students who you cannot wait to see what exciting challenge he will take on after graduation and, of course, the bar exam."

The institute's extern program is made possible through SIU School of Law's extern program and because Calzolari's Illinois law license allows him to certify law school academic credit for law students

working under his supervision on public policy legal issues.

Recently, Lyles also had the opportunity to extern with Judge Staci Yandle at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois in Benton. In addition, Lyles serves as the vice president for administrative affairs for the Graduate and Professional Student Council and is a member of the SIU Law Moot Court Board. Over the summer he clerked at a prestigious law firm office in St. Louis.

Before coming to SIU, Lyles accepted an opportunity in 2008 to work for U.S. House Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn and within an 18-month time period was promoted to legislative assistant advising Clyburn on education, agriculture and defense.

2016 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE

The institute and the Department of Political Science were co-sponsors of a Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) during the summer semester. This institute is supported by the U.S. State Department and brings 20 students from four countries to SIU for five weeks of study of American government, politics, history and culture. The SUSI directors are Dr. John Foster and Dr. John Jackson. This year was the 18th summer the institute was held at SIU in the SUSI series.

This year's program included students from Turkey, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The students are nominated by their universities for their leadership and academic records, and chosen by the U.S. Embassy in each country after a personal interview.

The students spend time on the campus in academic seminars taught by faculty from political science, history, philosophy, economics and law. They also hear from a wide variety of public officials and



practitioners. The students also engage in local volunteer service.

The students spent a weekend in Chester, Illinois, where they stayed with 10 host families and enjoyed weekend activities that are typical for rural middle America.

There were road trips to various sites in Southern Illinois, St. Louis and Chicago, where they saw local and state government in action. Most of the final week was spent in Washington, D.C., where extensive tours and trips were arranged to federal agencies, the Capitol, the White House, Arlington National Cemetery and the

Smithsonian Museum.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the State Department sponsors these institutes to help shape the future leaders of the countries involved. This is a long-term commitment of the U.S. government to educate the young leaders of nations important to the United States, allowing them to see the United States in a way that shows the students firsthand how this country is governed and how Americans live.

The Paul Simon Institute is proud to be a crucial part of this important and worthwhile program.

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YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM YOUR GIFT TO THE INSTITUTE!

Many of our donors support the institute through tax-advantaged IRA charitable rollover gifts.

How Does it Work?

An IRA rollover gift is a way for you to support the institute today without affecting your checking or savings account balance. Gifts made from your IRA (up to \$100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income. They also qualify for your required minimum distribution, which can lower your income and taxes.

What Does This Mean?

Income deposited into an IRA is taxable when the assets are withdrawn. By law, you must begin withdrawing those assets at the age of 70 1/2. Making an IRA rollover gift can prevent you from being bumped into higher income tax brackets and diminish the risk of having deductions and personal exemptions reduced.

It may also help you avoid incurring the Affordable Care Act tax or keep you from falling into the alternative

minimum tax bracket. This gift opportunity works only for IRAs. If you own another type of qualified retirement plan, you must first make a tax-free rollover of funds into an IRA. Then you can make the gift from the IRA to support the institute.

Mutually Beneficial

Previously, the ability to make such gifts was approved by Congress every year or two, so prospective donors didn't always know until the very end of the year if their gift would qualify. But now, the IRA rollover is permanent, and donors can plan for future giving with the assurance they can contribute each year via their IRA.

The process of donating is relatively easy, and we are available to help. Just notify your IRA plan administrator that you want to make an IRA rollover gift to the institute, and inform us of your plan for areas you would like to support.

THANK YOU!

You can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover gift if:

- You are 70 1/2 or older.
- You do not need all or part of your IRA income.
- You wish to make a significant gift without using cash or other assets.
- You are paying higher taxes than you prefer and see a way to reduce your income while positively affecting others.
- You do not itemize deductions.
- You want to give over and above your normal charitable giving because IRA rollover gift does not count toward the 50 percent annual charitable gift limitation.

Want to know more?

Contact Delio Calzolari, associate director, at 618/453-4001 or email delio@siu.edu. You also can visit siufgiving.org to learn more about the many benefits of making an IRA charitable rollover.

JEANNE HURLEY SIMON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In the past year, we created a new scholarship focused toward undergraduate women seeking careers in public service: The Jeanne Hurley Simon Memorial Scholarship. The institute thanks local supporter and former dean of SIU Library Affairs, Carolyn Wagner Snyder, for working with us in this endeavor. This effort honors a trailblazer who broke glass ceilings, helped to start the institute and empowers young women into the future.



Jeanne Simon is now commemorated in two ways: this new scholarship, which will help deserving students pursue their goals, and the Jeanne Simon Fellowship, which inspires students by bringing accomplished women in public service to campus.

Jeanne Hurley Simon was born in 1922 in Chicago to Ira W. Hurley and Margaret Reilly Hurley. She graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, and attended Barat College, which was later absorbed by DePaul University in Lake Forest. She earned a J.D. at Northwestern University and worked as an attorney for the Northern Trust Co. and for the Wage Stabilization Board. She was one of the first two female assistant state's attorneys for Cook County from 1953-1956.

In 1956, she was elected to the Illinois General Assembly as a state representative from Illinois' Seventh District, the 18th woman to serve in the General Assembly. While serving in the Illinois House of Representatives, she met then-state Rep. Paul Simon.

Jeanne Simon left her position as an Illinois state representative when she married Paul Simon but was deeply engaged in public service throughout her life. She helped found the Public Policy



(l-r) Sheila Simon, Carolyn Snyder, Shantel Franklin (scholarship recipient) and Martin Simon

Institute, while serving as an adjunct professor in Library Affairs and chairing the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, an appointment made by President Bill Clinton recognizing her advocacy of literacy. She held these positions until her death in February 2000.

Snyder recommended the establishment of the scholarship and, with her financial support to seed the scholarship, it allowed the first award to be made to a dynamic young woman: an SIU senior studying political science, Shantel Franklin.

At a reception was held at the institute on May 10 celebrating both Jeanne Simon's 94th birthday and raising sufficient funds to endow the fund. Donors who attended were able to meet Franklin.

Snyder also gave the institute additional gifts of her time and talent. She worked with Delio Calzolari, institute associate director, to raise these funds and help plan the reception mentioned above. Snyder and Jeanne Simon's shared interests in libraries, literacy and information science made a special impact.

Donations to this fund can be mailed to the institute or given directly online at: www.jeannesimon.org.

We want to extend a special thank you to the distinguished founders who make gifts or pledges of \$5,000 or greater, and the founders who made gifts or pledges of \$1,000 to \$4,999.

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EDWIN D. PHILLIPS DEBATE TEAM SCHOLARSHIP

The Edwin D. Phillips Debate Team Scholarship has been established to honor students on SIU Carbondale's championship debate team and the memory of Dr. Edwin Phillips.

Speech communication, especially when it involved leadership, always was important to Phillips. While attending Central Michigan University, he was on the debate team and received national honors in debate and speech.

Before his time at SIU, where Phillips earned his Ph.D. in speech communication and later taught airline management, he had a long career in the Navy.

Phillips retired after 22 years and attained the rank of captain. He was a diver in a Navy explosive ordnance disposal unit. He left active duty and was hired by United Airlines in 1966. Phillips worked for 29 years in management for the airline's corporate headquarters.

In 1995-96, while working on his master's degree in speech communication, Phillips was one of the assistant coaches for the SIU debate team. His 2000 dissertation was titled "Defining Leadership Communication."

Donations to this fund that will help debate team students can be made at: www.edphillips.org.

'NEVER THE SAME: THE PRISONER OF WAR EXPERIENCE' FILM SCREENING



Actress Loretta Swit headlined the institute's hosting of the local premiere of "Never The Same: The Prisoner of War Experience," a documentary film by SIU professor Jan Thompson.

An overflow crowd of 450 greeted the Emmy award-winning actress during her visit. Interest in the film was so large that a second showing was held a few days later.

Swit starred in the 1970s hit television series "M*A*S*H" and narrated Thompson's film depicting the experiences of U.S. POWs held by the Japanese in World War II. Thompson's father survived three years in captivity.

"We don't have the neurons to understand what these men went through," Swit told the audience.

She also helped Thompson recruit leading actors to narrate the film. They included Alec Baldwin, Ed Asner, Jamie

Farr, Mike Farrell, Robert Loggia, Kathleen Turner, Robert Wagner, Sam Waterston, Robert Forster, Christopher Franciosa, Christopher Murray, Don Murray and John O'Hurley.

The film is based on diaries kept by the prisoners.

"It was an honor for us to host this powerful tribute to these men," said David Yepsen, institute director. "Generations from now, it will serve as a definitive reminder of the sacrifices they made."

Want to know more
about the film?

www.nts-pow.com

BARB BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Donate online at:

www.barbbrownmemorial.org

The Barb Brown Memorial Fund has been established by many donors through the institute to honor the life and legacy of Barbara L. Brown, Ph.D.

After graduating from SIU, she taught in the department of political science as well as American government and democracy classes to international students through a summer program funded by the U.S. State Department. She later served as Clerk of the Courts in Randolph County, Illinois. She was a co-founder of the Illinois

Women's Institute for Leadership, vice chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois, co-founder of Southwestern Illinois Democratic Women, founder of Southern Illinois Democratic Women and former chairwoman of the Randolph County Democratic Central Committee.

She attended and was a nine-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention, a two-time candidate for Illinois' 58th State Senate District, and served notable roles in the presidential campaigns of Bill

Clinton and Barack Obama. Proceeds from the fund will be used to continue Brown's service and teaching legacy.

The purpose and intent of the fund is to enrich the educational opportunities for SIU students and promote the principle that public higher education shares a responsibility to encourage public service and serve the public good by addressing the challenges that confront our communities.

ASSISTANT ENERGY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER A. SMITH HELPS KICK OFF 'SIU ENERGY DAY'

Christopher A. Smith, assistant secretary of fossil energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, traveled to SIU in April to help launch the university's Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center's first "SIU Energy Day" on campus.

SIU Energy Day is a full-day networking conference for faculty, students, alumni and industry members interested in coal and energy issues.

Smith, a member of President Obama's subcabinet, was sworn into office in December 2014 after a presidential nomination for the position in November 2013. Smith leads the energy department's Office of Fossil Energy, which oversees fossil energy research and development and the National Energy Technology Laboratory. He is also responsible for the U.S. petroleum reserves, the largest strategic petroleum stockpile in the world.

He previously served as principal deputy assistant secretary for fossil energy, and as deputy assistant secretary for oil and natural gas. During that tenure he served as the designated federal official for the national commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and offshore drilling.

His talk on "Fossil Fuels in a Post-COP-21 World" addressed the Paris



Agreement. It dealt with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. During a Q&A session, Smith tackled some of the toughest issues regarding energy – especially the future of the coal industry.

Smith also served in managerial and analytical positions in the private sector, including 11 years with two major international oil companies focused primarily on upstream business development and liquid natural gas (LNG) trading.

Smith's trip was sponsored by the institute. Smith discussed the future of fossil fuels and the work needed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

VILSACK (CONTINUED)

He said a national system of labeling with flexibility would mean "as the market changes you can change the information more easily and less expensively."

Vilsack also addressed questions about sustainable agriculture.

"It seems to me that what's sustainable needs to be a combination of what is environmentally sustainable, what's socially sustainable and what's economically sustainable," he said. "The reality is that there has to be a balance, because you can have the highest environmental standards and the highest social sustainability standards, but the cost of that food would not be available to the vast majority of people.

"Or you can have relatively inexpensive food that is produced in a way that is not sustainable. So I think the key for us is to make sure that there is a clear definition of sustainability and an understanding of the need for balance, and then work with whatever production system there is and make sure that there is a balance."

The lecture series was founded by SIU alumnus Jerry Mileur to honor two professors he had while attending SIU. The series invites political scientists, academics and political practitioners to campus.

A YouTube video of Vilsack's speech can be found under past event presentations at:

www.paulsimoninstitute.org/news.

WHO WILL BE OUR NEXT PRESIDENT?

Institute Director David Yepsen and visiting professor John Jackson paired up in the fall semester for luncheon talks and "Pizza and Politics" sessions that are always a hit with students.

"American politics are in a period of great change," Yepsen said. "Voters are unhappy. Many Americans feel left behind. The media is under scrutiny. The two parties are stressed by factions. New voters are coming into the electorate while, at the same time, others are saying 'To heck with it.' It's a lot to digest."

Added Jackson: "In an academic community, there are a lot of people with a keen interest in politics and public affairs; however, they often do not have an opportunity to talk with, and interact with, others of similar interests. These sessions

are highly valuable for the opportunity they provide for such sharing."

Some recent observations discussed:

***It takes 270 electoral votes to win the White House. A Democrat starts out a little closer than a Republican because more states lean Democratic. But, as in past races, the 2016 presidential race comes down to the vote in eight or nine "battleground" states that have shown they could vote either way.**

***The presidency, control of the U.S. Senate – and, with that, the tiebreaking seat on a divided Supreme Court – are at stake in this election.**

***Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have more people who view them unfavorably than favorably. Will some voters just stay home as a result?**

***Third-party candidacies are hard to**

organize and unlikely to win. Can they siphon enough votes away to throw the election to the other party's candidate?

***Because of the deep ideological and partisan polarization that has existed for some time in the United States, each candidate starts with a base of highly committed voters who are highly unlikely to vote for the other party, no matter how flawed their own candidate is. This means that this election, like most, will likely rest on the final decision of those who are undecided and make up the 10 percent to 15 percent of the voters who are truly up for grabs – and who will be influenced by the campaigns.**

Jackson is a longtime political scientist and administrator at SIU. Before joining the institute in 2009, Yepsen had a 34-year career covering politics, especially presidential caucus politics in Iowa.

THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN WORKER SERIES CONTINUES

This year we continued our exploration into rising income inequality and stresses on the middle class with three speakers: Keona Ervin, Jeff Mays and Jorge Ramirez.

In October, Jorge Ramirez asked a packed library auditorium, “Where are we at as a country?” Ramirez is president of the Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL) and a vice president of the national American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

He compared the labor movement’s vitality with different ways of measuring the health of the country and the middle class from the 1950s to today. He connected the country’s better standing in infrastructure, public health and other categories in the past with the shrinking of the middle class. He shared examples of how unions must adapt to the times through new thinking that helps management meet goals while



Jorge Ramirez



Dr. Keona Ervin



Jeff Mays

protecting jobs.

This lecture was made possible with the help and support of Edward M. Smith, CEO of Ullico Inc.

Early in the spring, Jeff Mays joined the series sharing his view of the state of the Illinois worker, calling it a “state of concern.” Mays is director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security and a member of Gov. Bruce Rauner’s Cabinet. Mays is a former five-term Illinois state legislator who represented west-central Illinois (R-96th District:1981-1990).

He described a “big disconnect”

between high unemployment rates and a large number of positions ready for hiring. He explained his reasoning why many Illinoisans have proportionally not been beneficiaries of the national economic recovery.

Later in the spring, Dr. Keona K. Ervin presented “Black Women Organizing for Worker Justice: Rethinking the History of the U.S. Labor Movement.” Ervin is an assistant professor of African-American history and faculty affiliate in the Department of Black Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Ervin is completing a book titled “The Labor of Dignity: Black Women and the Struggle for Economic Justice in St. Louis, 1933-1969.”

Her lecture at the institute spurred the audience into a discussion tying in the history of racial and gender justice in the labor movement to the efforts of contemporary movements such as Black Lives Matter, criminal justice reform and others.

THE 2016 SIMON POLL DATA

“Public opinion polling has become an important part of the institute’s research mission,” said David Yepsen, director of the institute. “It’s important for policy-makers to understand how citizens feel about issues.”

Institute surveys seek to do credible, nonpartisan research into public opinion in both Illinois as a whole and the southern region of the state, plus serve as a research tool for students who use the data for papers, dissertations and thesis projects.



The institute has been conducting polls since 2008, and in 2016 it published a “longitudinal” survey that examined the track of public opinion on issues during that period. Copies of the 80-page study can be found and downloaded at TheSimon-Review.org.

Last fall, the institute hosted a poll briefing to review the data for the public

at the historic Varsity Theater in downtown Carbondale.

Among the findings:

***Support for having independent commissions draw legislative district lines was overwhelming.**

***Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump led their respective races for president in the Illinois primaries, a finding borne out by the results the following month.**

***Democrat Tammy Duckworth and Republican Mark Kirk held comfortable leads in their party primary contests for U.S. senator, a finding also verified by the results later.**

***Overwhelming numbers of Illinois residents see the state headed in the wrong direction and give weak job approval ratings to political leaders.**

***A third of Illinois residents have been adversely affected by the state’s budget stalemate, a figure expected to grow in future polls.**

All results and crosstab data can be found at the following website: www.SimonPoll.org.

Live telephone interviews are conduct-



ed by Customer Research International of San Marcos, Texas, using the random-digit-dialing method. Potential interviewees are screened based on whether they were registered voters, and quotas are based on area code and gender.

Cellphone interviews account for 40 percent of the sample. Interviews could be conducted in Spanish.

No auto-dial or “robo” polling is included. Customer Research International reports no Illinois political clients. The survey was paid for with non-tax dollars from the institute’s endowment fund.

HAVE YOU READ THE LATEST 'THE SIMON REVIEWS?'

The most recent publications are as follows:

John S. Jackson. “The Presidential Contests of 1976-2012 and What They Mean for Who Will Win in 2016,” December 2015, Paper No. 44.

This paper offers a comprehensive analysis of all the presidential nominations contests and general elections between 1976 and 2012. This period was chosen because it constitutes the post-reform era when the nominations process was transformed from the earlier party insider and boss-driven process to the modern system, which features mass participation via the primaries choosing who will be the Republican and Democratic nominees for president.

Shiloh L. Deitz. “Healthy Communities in Southern Illinois,” April 2016, Paper No. 45.

Deitz looks at the factors that help contribute to healthy communities, especially in the rural areas. Deitz provides empirical data on how many stores are available that provide healthy foods and

how those relate to “walkability” – that is, how far do people, especially the poor, live from where they can find foods that provide better dietary choices?

Linda R. Baker, “Perspectives on the Illinois Healthcare Delivery System,” April 2016, Paper No. 46.

Baker offers three papers written by fourth-year medical students at the SIU School of Medicine as a part of the requirements for a course on public policy she teaches there. The first paper covers the Affordable Care Act and offers a way to encourage more treatment for patients without insurance in exchange for a tax break for doctors. The second paper deals with young people in the foster care system in Illinois. It proposes a variety of changes that would ensure that the providers learn more and do more about the nutritional needs of those in their care. The third paper deals with vaccination policy in Illinois. The author postulates that the state makes it as hard to get an exemption from vaccination as it is to get the students vaccinated.

John S. Jackson, Charles W. Leonard and Shiloh Deitz. “The Climate of Opinion in Illinois 2010-2016: The Roots of Gridlock,” June, 2016, Paper No. 47.

The institute does statewide polls and a poll of Southern Illinois each year. This paper gives a comprehensive overview of the results of all the statewide polls conducted between 2008 and 2016. The longitudinal data span the gamut of current political issues and the enduring public policy debates, which make up the public agenda in Illinois. The authors also use the data to address the current budgetary crisis and the impasse in state government, which has divided Illinois since January 2015.

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CO-SPONSORED EVENTS - PARTNERING WITH THE SIU COMMUNITY

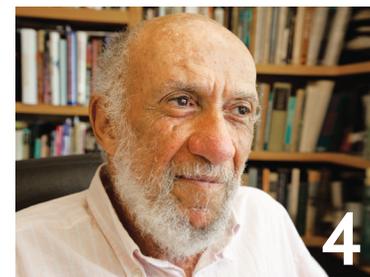
1. Wes Moore, author, U.S. veteran, TV personality and founder of BridgeEdu.

Wes Moore delivered the SIU Distinguished Speaker Series lecture last September, which is designed to enhance the academic experience for students and engage the community in SIU. The institute co-sponsored this event with the university.



2. The Role of Education in Wealth Accumulation

The institute partnered with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center at SIU to host a presentation and panel discussion on “The Demographics of Wealth - How Age, Education and Race Separate Thrivers from Strugglers in Today’s Economy.” The discussion focused on the role of education in amassing wealth in the United States.



3. Carbondale Community Arts: “University for a Day”

During three days (Nov. 12-14), Carbondale Community Arts and the institute teamed up to facilitate discussions, workshops and lectures that explored the role of artists in Carbondale, identified community needs and engaged creative people in collaborations for improving the quality of life through art.

4. The Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture with Dr. Richard Falk.

Dr. Richard Falk visited campus last November for a lecture titled “Why U.S. Foreign Policy is Failing in the Middle East,” in an event co-sponsored by the department of political science and the institute. Richard Falk is the Albert G. Milbank Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University.

EVENTS IN REVIEW

Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti

The first Latina elected to Illinois statewide office visited SIU in September 2015 as a part of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Sanguinetti, a former Wheaton City Council member, became the first Hispanic and Latina to hold statewide office when she was elected alongside Gov. Bruce Rauner in November 2014.



Cindi Canary, director of the effort to adopt the Independent Map Amendment, discussed potential legislative redistricting in Illinois at a lecture last September. The Independent Map Amendment would establish a nonpartisan, independent 11-member commission “responsible for drawing state legislative districts in a way that is transparent and open to the public.”

Illinois Sen. David Luechtefeld (R-Okawville)

Sen. Luechtefeld received the Ralph Dunn Public Service Award last November. This award was started by the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon and the institute “to honor public servants who have demonstrated a substantial, positive contribution to the citizens of Illinois by their service in government, public policy and politics.”



State Rep. James Durkin, Illinois House minority leader, presented a lecture last November discussing the future of Illinois. The former Illinois assistant attorney general and assistant state’s attorney in Cook County has served in Illinois government for nearly 20 years.

“Pizza and Politics” with Canadian Consul General Roy Norton

Based in Chicago, Roy Norton presented in March 2016 about what his job entails as a consul general. He represents Canada in Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin. The Consulate General of Canada in Chicago, which he leads, promotes Canadian interests, with trade, investment, the environment, culture and academic relations being among the primary interests.



SIU Debate Team Showcase

Arielle Stephenson and Bobby Swetz, who just finished as the runners-up at this year’s National Championships of Debate, were featured in this year’s showcase. They debated the following topic: “Who would be the best president for Southern Illinoisans?”

Sign up at www.paulsimoninstitute.org/signup to receive emails about programs tailored to your interests!

COMING SOON!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, PAUL SIMON PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE!

In 1997, former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon and Mike Lawrence opened the doors to SIU's Public Policy Institute.

Today, almost 20 years later, the institute bears Simon's name and is still going strong.

That's 20 years of:

- Examining political issues.
- Researching public policy.
 - Encouraging students.
 - Providing internships.
- Sponsoring speakers, lectures and panels.
- Providing leadership training.

In 2017 we will be celebrating this anniversary, so keep in touch as we say, "Happy 20th!"

