

REVIEW & PREVIEW

The Newsletter of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Spring 2001

A Message From Paul

Little Things in Life Really Make the Difference

The longer I live the more I realize that the “little things” that we do in life really make a difference. That small gesture to someone in need, that letter to a legislator, the time you speak out when someone tells a “joke” that de-mans another person’s race or religion or ethnic background—these and a million more little things are the small pieces of a mosaic that portray our future. Each of us plays the role of artist, by what we do positively, negatively, or through indifference.

Why have a Public Policy Institute, of all places, in Carbondale at Southern Illinois University?

There are two “little things” that make this geographically advantageous.

First, unlike Washington, D.C., or New York City, or Chicago, we are much less likely to have competing demands on participants in a symposium that gathers at Southern Illinois University. There probably are not friends you’ve committed to see the next time you’re in the big city, there certainly will not be demands to show up on the floor of the House or Senate for a vote, or to make a quorum

at a committee meeting. We have a good cultural program at SIU, but there are less likely to be Broadway shows to distract Public Policy Institute participants. Where the Institute is located may seem like a small detail, but it is significant—and it adds to

conducive to Republicans and Democrats sitting around a table and working things out. And believe it or not, that small atmosphere change makes a difference, makes it easier for people to reach out to one another and find agreement.



During Youth Government Day 2000, Paul Simon spoke to students at an outdoor barbecue at his home in Makanda. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) looks on.

I was pleased to attend a meeting in the Cabinet Room in the White House with President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney on their first working day there, along with five other longtime friends, to discuss how the President can reach out across party lines to lead the nation.

My former Senate colleague, John Glenn, twice pointed out during that meeting that our Public Policy Institute (as well as his at Ohio State University) is working on practical solutions to problems, and also encouraging political participation by students and faculty members.

Will our Public Policy Institute at SIU come up with answers to solve all the nation’s and the world’s problems? Obviously not.

Are we making a significant but largely unheralded contribution? Just as obviously yes.

We limit ourselves to taking on three major symposiums a

the richness and depth of the University.

Second, while academic politics on occasion can be amazingly mean-spirited, partisan politics (Republicans vs. Democrats) in Carbondale and the University are much less a part of the atmosphere, an atmosphere

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year, at which we make specific recommendations to policy-makers. We also have smaller meetings and events. Some of our recommendations from these sessions are accepted, some are not. Of those that are not immediately adopted, at least a few will see fruition eventually.

Those of you who have contributed even the smallest of amounts make possible what we are doing. Yesterday a reporter from San Diego called to ask about one of our recommendations. I did not ask him how he learned about it, but his question illustrates the old truth each of us learned as children: When you drop a rock into a lake the ripples go out and out and out.

Two weeks ago Elizabeth Dole called me and said that when she was leaving the airport in Peoria a



SIU President James Walker spent time chatting with State Sen. Lisa Madigan (D-Chicago) (at left) during Youth Government Day 2000.

young woman came up to shake her hand, obviously moved to be able to do it, and then said that she attended SIU and because of the work one of us did to encourage her, she is now thinking about making a career of public service.

The ripples go out and out

and out.

You've helped to make those ripples and we thank you.

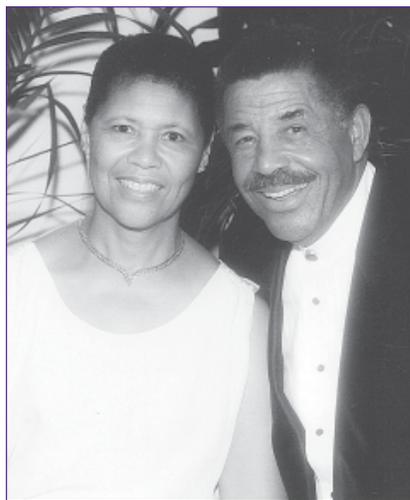
Anonymous friend creates Norwood Fellowship Program

An anonymous friend of Bill and Molly Norwood who also believes in the mission of the Public Policy Institute has created a \$20,000 endowment for the Bill and Molly Norwood Fellowship program. This new program will bring a distinguished guest to SIUC annually to lecture in the general area of public policy and diversity in our society.

"We are pleased with this generous gift to honor two of the most public service-oriented citizens of our region," Paul Simon said. "They represent quality in public service and this merited tribute to them will be a permanent part of the endowment. Each year, beyond the lives of all of us, there will be a Bill and Molly Norwood Fellowship or lecture to continue to inspire people."

Bill Norwood is a retired United Airlines captain and a member of the SIU Board of Trustees. He was the first black pilot the company hired, and his name is painted on

the side of a United Boeing 727 on display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The



Molly and Bill Norwood

Tuskegee Airmen, a black fighter squadron, captured his imagination when he was a child. He joined the Air Force ROTC program at SIUC and first flew a Cessna 172.

He served in the Air Force for

six years after he graduated from SIUC with a degree in chemistry (1959) and joined United in 1965. He completed a master's degree in business administration at the University of Chicago in 1974. He has received many awards and honors including United Airlines' 1991 Community Relations Award. He is a member of the SIUC ROTC and the SIUC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Molly serves on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and the Illinois Community College Board. She is a former trustee and chairperson of William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Ill. Molly has been an elementary school teacher, as well as an educational consultant and president and CFO of Blue Ribbon Press, a publisher of educational titles. She was recognized in 1995 as a Woman of Achievement by the Girl Scouts' Illinois Crossroads Council.

Bill and Molly have two grown sons, George and Bill Jr.

Youth Government Day 2000 Encourages Young People to Get Involved

Students from high schools and community colleges throughout Illinois listened to and questioned prominent public officials, brainstormed ways to better motivate their friends to participate, and enjoyed a barbecue picnic at Paul Simon's home for Youth Government Day 2000.

"Thank you so very much for putting together the whole Youth Government Day," wrote Roxana High School student Diane Fink. "It was extremely interesting and totally changed my viewpoints on politics. I have a better understanding of them, and I now appreciate my right to have a voice."

The kick-off festivities began the night before with a pizza party. After dinner, students gathered in small groups and discussed strate-



Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan (right) meets with students following his address on Youth Government Day 2000.

gies to encourage their friends back home to get more involved. Political science ambassadors and SIUC faculty members helped lead discussions while Simon and State Sen. Lisa Madigan (D-Chicago) rotated from group to group. Student ideas included persuading school newspapers to include government issues that specifically concern young people, incorporating voter registration into the schools for eligible students, and inviting local and state officials to speak with students at school forums.

The next day, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan each highlighted how they decided as young adults to get more involved and the issues they presently face as elected officials. Other speakers included state senators Madigan and Barack Obama (D-Chicago) as well as Jackie Price, former press aide to Gov. George Ryan. Students asked questions, took pictures, and mingled with the speakers at Simon's home later in the afternoon.

"In the midst of a very partisan presidential campaign, the speakers all managed to convey a fairly non-partisan approach to government service," wrote Roxana teacher Stephanie Cann. "These type of events are rare for students and the general public."

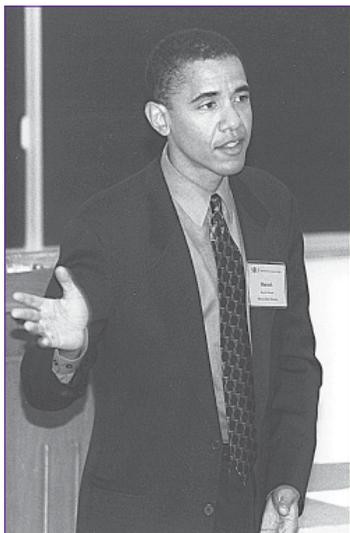
Roger Gibbens, a social studies

teacher who brought six students to Carbondale from central Illinois, was also pleased with the day's line-up: "Please accept an enthusiastic thank you for allowing me to bring the students from Pekin to Youth Government Day in October," he wrote after the event. "I



U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) addresses the crowd

have taught for 33 years, and other than two trips to Washington, D.C., for the Close Up Program, your conference has been the most enjoyable and enlightening time I have spent out of my classroom."



State Sen. Barack Obama (D-Chicago)



Gwendolyn Brooks at SIUC

Illinois' Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks Shares Her Magic Before a Packed House

Nearly 1,400 people from southern Illinois were fortunate to hear acclaimed poet Gwendolyn Brooks speak as part of the "What I Have Learned" lecture series last fall, just months before the 83-year-old African-American author died of cancer in early December.

"At 83-plus, my knowledge of myself is considerable," Brooks said in her lecture. "Parents, books, church and movies were my greatest influences."

She chuckled about her bronze statue standing across from the statue of Saul Bellows in the main branch of the Chicago Public Library:

"I wonder, what do they say to each other when the library is closed?" she paused. "I probably enjoy thinking of that more than you do."

Brooks spent more than an hour speaking of her experiences, reading some of her poetry, and proudly proclaiming the potential of the child poets she sponsors through contests and scholarships.

Some of the poems she read from were "Thinking of Elizabeth Steinberg," "I Am a Black," "The Good Mother," and "Children Coming Home."

After the lecture, hundreds of people stood in line for hours waiting for Brooks to sign autographs on books, programs and even a wedding picture. She patiently signed outside Shryock Auditorium from 8:30 p.m. until the last person reached her, just after 1 a.m. Someone delivered helium balloons to adorn her table, another brought flowers, and the vocal group, Voices for Inspiration, serenaded her for nearly an hour at the beginning of the autograph session.

Brooks was born in Topeka, Kan., but grew up in Chicago. She became Illinois' Poet Laureate in 1968 when then-Gov. Otto Kerner nominated her to replace Carl Sandburg after his death in 1967. In 1989, she received a lifetime achievement award from the National Endowment for the Arts. She was named the 1994 Jefferson Lecturer by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the highest honor bestowed by the federal government for work in the humanities.

The Public Policy Institute and the SIUC English Department's Visiting Writers Series sponsored Brooks' appearance before the standing room-only crowd. University Bookstore coordinated the book signing.

Mark Your Calendar

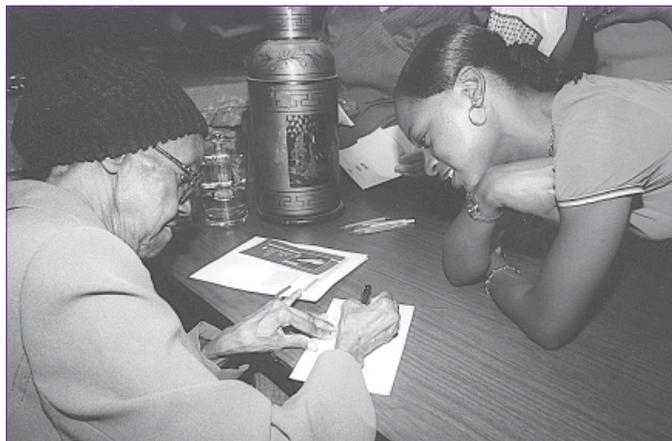
- **David Broder**, *Washington Post* political columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner. What I Have Learned Lecture Series. 8 p.m. Thursday, March 29, Shryock Auditorium. Co-sponsored by the SIUC School of Journalism.

- **Rev. Leon Sullivan**, author of the *Sullivan Principles for Fair Employment in South Africa*, founder and chairperson of the OIC of America, OIC International. John White Fellowship Series. 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, SIUC Student Center Ballroom A. Reception will follow in the Gallery Lounge.

- **Year-round schools symposium.** Sunday-Monday, April 22-23. Keynote by Richard Riley, former secretary of education, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 22, Student Center Auditorium.

- **James Baker**, former U.S. Secretary of State. Morton-Kenney Lecture Series. 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, Shryock Auditorium. Co-sponsored by the Public Policy Institute and the SIUC Department of Political Science.

- **Gen. Romeo Dallaire**, Canadian general in charge of 5,000 United Nations troops sent to Rwanda. Follow-up to November 1999 symposium on Rwanda. 7 p.m. Monday, April 30, Browne Auditorium, Parkinson, Room 124.



Gwendolyn Brooks signed autographs into the wee hours after she spoke at SIUC.

Fall Conference Takes a New Look at the Educational System and Its Impact on the African-American Male

The Public Policy Institute and the SIUC Associate Chancellor for Diversity's office brought together African-American leaders from the region, from throughout Illinois and from across the nation last fall. The purpose was to develop proposals that could lead to alternatives for African-American males who might otherwise be placed and kept in educational programs that could restrict future educational and career opportunities.

The group met for two days last fall and is finishing its recommendations with the goal of eventually implementing pilot programs. The second stage of the initiative will involve finding partners in the education and foundation worlds to implement one or more of the proposals on a pilot basis.

"Minorities, particularly African-American males, seem to be disproportionately represented in special education programs. Once

classified, their educational opportunities are limited," said Mike Lawrence, the institute's associate director. "Dr. Bryson brought this compelling situation to the

English at SIUC; Stephen Reiss, director of the Nisonger Center for Developmental Disorders, Ohio State University; and Joseph White, professor in the School of Social Sciences, University of California-Irvine.

The second group discussed possible alternatives to the current system. Group members were James Battles, a psychologist in private practice in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; Michael Pope, vice-president, Job Corps Operations, ResCare; Elizabeth

Lewin, superintendent for Carbondale Elementary School District 95; and Daphne Robinson, head of the Joshua Academy in Evansville, Ind.

The second day of the conference was devoted to a working group session where the panelists and a broad range of additional experts tackled a variety of the issues facing young African-American males in the school setting. Copies of the recommendations that came out of the working group session are available from the Public Policy Institute.



From left, Daphne Robinson, James Battles, Elizabeth Lewin and Michael Pope at the two-day SIUC meeting.

institute's attention and, with his leadership, we have begun focusing on it.

"I strongly believe this subject must be addressed in thoughtful, constructive ways as part of shaping strategies to help African-American males realize their full potential," said Lawrence.

The first group of panelists addressed the challenges within the current educational system. In that group were Norma Ewing, associate dean, SIUC College of Education; Anna Jackson, lecturer in En-

Student Government Initiative Works to Promote Involvement

While the debate over election rules and regulations for the U. S. presidential election raged in November, the Public Policy Institute worked with SIUC student government leaders to brainstorm ways to improve their own campus elections.

Some of their recommendations:

- Change the style of ballot to include all candidates on one ballot and utilize Scantron technology to allow for more precise counting;
- Add polling places to the School of

Law and the School of Medicine to make voting more accessible;

- Change the required number of signatures needed to run for election from a flat number to a percentage of each individual seat's constituency;
- Seek out classes and departments in which instructors will center projects on recruitment and elections such as marketing and/or political science classes.

Issues of concern for the daylong retreat included how to attract quality student leaders, how to increase student

voter turnout, and how to improve the overall campus election process. Student leaders met with Tricia Torok, a national leader on student government from Rutgers University, who acted as the facilitator for the group.

Barbara Jane Schwartz, a southern Illinois resident and long-time supporter of SIUC, established a Center for Civil Discourse with an endowment contribution that enabled the Public Policy Institute to promote student involvement at SIUC.

Former U.S. Ambassador to United Nations Analyzes Foreign Policy Challenges

Don McHenry, SIUC alumnus and former ambassador to the United Nations under President Jimmy Carter, spoke about the challenges facing the United States in foreign policy during a lecture sponsored by the Public Policy Institute and the Southern Illinois chapter of the United Nations Association.

He asserted that the American public needs to be engaged in a thorough evaluation of our role in foreign policy.

"Research conducted by the University of Maryland reveals that the American public is far more disposed to greater American involvement in world affairs than either the Congress or the Executive branch," McHenry said. "The American public is willing to carry its fair share in cooperation with the world community."

McHenry was critical about the United States' relationship with the United Nations, noting that "we want the United Nations around when we need it but we keep it on life support and then complain about its frailties."

During the question-and-answer session McHenry said that



From left are Bill Norwood, member of the SIU Board of Trustees; Don McHenry, former U.N. ambassador; Keith Sanders, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Paul Simon.

the United Nations charter deals mainly with interstate conflict while intra-state conflict is the biggest challenge to the world today.

He also talked about the recent tragedies in Rwanda, Kosovo, and Timor, the possible effectiveness of a standing United Nations force to deal with similar crises, and expectations in the post-Cold War world.

McHenry is a Distinguished

Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University and is president of IRC Group, an international consulting firm. An East St. Louis native, McHenry served as ambassador to the United Nations from 1979 to 1981. Prior to that, he worked for the U.S. State Department and as a project director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Maximizing Our Tourism Potential" is First of Four Public Forums

Cathy Ritter, director of the Bureau of Tourism for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, analyzed the challenges facing the southern Illinois region in bringing tourism dollars to the area during a public forum at John A. Logan College in Carterville.

"By working together we can make a difference in the landscape," she said. "But we have to address the lack of lodging, the lack of resort facilities, the lack of good transportation links and the

lack of development funding."

Ritter served as the keynote speaker for the first in a series of four public forums sponsored by the *Southern Illinoisian* newspaper and the Public Policy Institute. She was joined by panelists Roger Beck, SIUC professor of agriculture; Debbie Moore, executive director of the Carbondale Tourism and Convention Bureau; Cindy Benefield, director of the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau; "Doc" Milner, director of the Southern Illinois Tourism Development Office; and

Thomas Held, director of retail sales/advertising for Stone Hill Winery in Hermann, Mo.

Speakers emphasized the importance of working together across local community lines. SIUC Interim Chancellor John S. Jackson moderated the forum and concluded there is a need for regional approaches, partnerships, comprehensive plans, a thorough understanding of customers, a better educational and advertising campaign, and a way to address the constant need for capital.

Orientation Session Held for Newly Elected Public Officials

Illinois State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka had a few words of advice for newly elected officials at a public forum at Rend Lake College in Ina last fall:

"If you try to please everyone, you please no one," she said. "Be public spirited, not mean spirited. Your word has to stand for something. Change has to occur. To sit there is to do nothing."

Topinka spoke from her experience as the first woman in Illinois to become treasurer in 1994 and the first woman to be re-elected to a statewide office in 1998. She touched on challenges facing elected officials at all levels: hiring personnel, prioritizing pro-

grams, and dealing with the media.

She was joined by fellow speakers Andrea Brown, regional superintendent of schools for Alexander,

Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union counties; Mike Wepsiec, Jackson County State's Attorney; Pat Bauer, mayor of Benton; and Beth Bennett,

government affairs manager for the Illinois Press Association. Bennett fielded the most detailed questions from the audience about the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts.

"It is in your best interest to be as open as possible," Bennett reminded the officials. "The media enjoys no rights that everyday citizens do not have."

This was the second forum in a four-part series sponsored by the *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper and the Public Policy Institute.



Benton Mayor Pat Bauer, State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka and Jackson County States Attorney Michael Wepsiec at the orientation session.

Heartland Clinic Opens, Provides Free Dental Care to Needy Children

Illinois Lt. Gov. Corinne Wood opened the new Heartland Clinic on the SIUC campus and stressed the importance of accessible dental care for everyone.

The clinic, which will serve disadvantaged children and adults, resulted from an initiative launched and spearheaded by the Public Policy Institute.

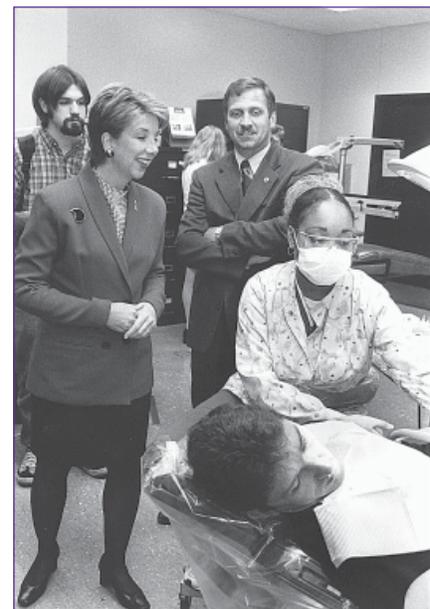
"Clearly, health care access and affordability are primary issues," Wood said. "We found here in southern Illinois that there is a dire need."

Wood's office gave \$36,000 for the clinic and was joined by local legislators, the Southern Illinois Dental Society, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the SIUC

College of Applied Arts and Sciences in supporting the project.

The Heartland Clinic will provide preventative treatments including teeth cleanings and X-rays for children who receive Medicaid, as well as restorative services such as fillings. Some of the dental hygienists and dental technicians are students who will gain valuable experience, which particularly pleases Paul Sarvela, chairman of the Department of Health Care Professions. Area dentists donate their time to the clinic.

"It's just a wonderful opportunity for us to get good experience for our students," Sarvela said. "We also can provide a valuable service to the community."



Illinois Lt. Gov. Corinne Wood and State Rep. Mike Bost at the Heartland Clinic opening.



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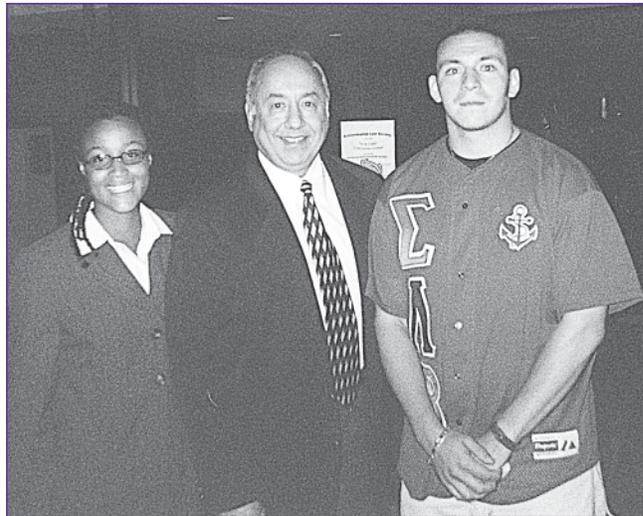
**President of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute
 Kicks Off Hispanic Heritage Month**

Juan Andrade Jr. told a group of enthusiastic students to "learn what you've got to learn, don't become a victim of your circumstances, and get a philosophy" as part of his lecture to open Hispanic Heritage Month.

Andrade's lecture was sponsored by the Public Policy Institute and SIUC Multicultural Programs and Services.

"It is important that we talk about empowerment here at SIU and other universities," Andrade said. "People have begun to recognize that we are part of that body that makes up American society. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, it is good that we do that. We can be at peace and be positive about celebrations."

Andrade's United States Hispanic Leadership Institute has organized more than 1,000 nonpartisan voter registration



Juan Andrade Jr. (center), president of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, with SIUC students Shioban Lawler (left) and Juan Ortiz.

campaigns, registered more than 1.5 million new voters, published 313 studies on Hispanic demographics, and trained 165,000 present and future leaders.

"A community needs choices," Andrade said. "People need to be able to have choices."

Andrade has worked in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama,

Colombia, Paraguay, Bolivia, Mexico, Guyana, Suriname, and Haiti with key leaders in promoting democracy. He was the only Hispanic invited to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Armando Calderona Sol of El Salvador. He was also a political commentator on WLS-TV, the ABC affiliate in Chicago.

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