

The Simon Times

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

“WHO HOLDS THE CRAYONS: HOW OTHER STATES REDISTRICT LEGISLATURES”

When it comes to drawing the district lines for state legislators, Illinois has lots of options to choose for doing a better job, leading national experts told a Simon Institute conference earlier this year in Springfield.

“Who Holds The Crayons: How Other States Redistrict Legislatures,” was a day-long gathering designed to examine how other large, diverse states craft legislative districts. Attendees were looking to see if those systems might work in Illinois.

“The drawing of legislative and congressional districts is a political issue that sits at the center of many problems in Illinois politics,” said David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

“Under the current system, the legislature devises its own district lines, a process that ensures incumbents protect themselves and sees the majority party marginalize the minority party.

“By creating safe districts for most members, members have little incentive to cross party lines to work together and every incentive to simply pander to their base vote so they don’t lose in a primary. After all, once they win that primary in a safe district, they don’t have to worry about winning in November,” he said.

That, in turn, creates more partisanship and makes it difficult to encourage collaboration, Yepsen said. “It also contributes to public mistrust and provides no incen-

tive for members to compromise to solve problems and appeal to independent voters back home. As a result, Illinois has record high budget deficits and record low bond ratings.”

Looking at ways to improve redistricting in Illinois has been a research focus of the Institute for years.

Other states use different methods for redistricting including citizens commissions, or commissions independent of the legislature. Some have non-partisan staffers draw lines that pay no attention to the residence of incumbents or the party registrations of voters in those districts.

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PAUL SIMON’S 85TH BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION AND DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE



Ten years ago this fall we lost Paul Simon. It was far too early.

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is marking the 85th anniversary of Paul’s birth with a

major fundraising event at a Chicago premiere of a documentary about his life.

The new documentary, produced by WSIU-TV’s Jak Tichenor, will be the featured entertainment at the event.

Donations are being accepted by check and online for the Nov. 18 event at the Union League Club in Chicago.

“This will be a festive evening,” said

Matt Baughman, former associate director of the Institute.

“We hope many of Paul’s former staffers, campaign workers, donors and friends will join us for the film screening while renewing old friendships and helping Paul’s living legacy.”

Chicago philanthropist and long-time Simon friend Lester Crown is offering a \$50,000 matching grant to encourage donors to contribute to the event.

“We can’t thank Mr. Crown and our donors enough for their help,” Institute Director David Yepsen said.

“This support will enable the Institute to expand its work on political reform efforts and helping students prepare for careers in politics and public service. These were things Paul championed during his career and I know he would be happy.”

To donate, visit www.paulsimoninstitute.org.

ILLINOIS GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES’ VISITS

The 2014 Illinois gubernatorial race has started to take shape. To kick off the campaign season, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute has invited each of



the candidates to campus to have the opportunity to speak with students and hear their concerns about Illinois government.

Illinois State Senator Kirk Dillard, a candidate for the Republican nomination, (pictured above) was the first candidate to come to campus and conducted a discussion group with students. Dillard spoke with students about state redistricting, the state budget and fracking.

A MESSAGE FROM DAVID YEPSEN



This year – 2013 – is an anniversary year. It's the 85th anniversary of Paul Simon's birth, the 25th anniversary of his 1988 campaign for the presidency and the 10th year after his passing.

So we're marking 2013 by holding one of the Institute's largest fundraising efforts ever – complete with the showing of a new WSIU-TV documentary about Paul's life.

On Monday evening, Nov. 18 at the Union League Club in Chicago, the Institute will present an hour-long documentary about Paul's life: "P.S. Illinois: The Paul Simon Story, A Life of Uncommon Courage," produced by WSIU-TV's award-winning producer Jak Tichenor. It features interviews with Studs Terkel, Abner Mikva, David Broder, David

Axelrod, Al Franken, Carol Marin and Andy Shaw, among others.

To encourage people to attend the Chicago premiere of the film, Lester Crown has provided a \$50,000 matching grant. Mr. Crown is a leading Chicago business executive and philanthropist – and a longtime supporter of Paul's and this Institute. Contributions to the Institute during this fundraising period will help us meet Mr. Crown's generous challenge.

I hope you will be able to join members of the Simon family and many of Paul's former supporters and staffers for a little popcorn and beverage as we bring back many fond memories and renew old friendships at the "cinema."

Another fundraising effort is asking donors and supporters to remember us in their estate plans. The end of the year tax planning is a good time for you to tell your accountant or lawyer that you want to leave something to the Institute. It could be a cash gift, but charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder

trusts, and IRAs often generate more support over time.

Two important points about this:

- First, it's essential YOU bring this up with your lawyer and tax planner, so they know you want to leave something for the Institute. Don't wait for them to ask. It's critical to have the conversation and make your wishes known to get the paperwork rolling.
- Second, leaving these gifts isn't just something done by the well-to-do. Paul was a champion of the little guy and smaller donations left for us can multiply quickly.

We are deeply grateful to each of you for the support you have provided us over the years. Your donations are also votes of confidence letting us know you want to keep Paul and Jeanne Simon's legacies alive for future generations.

2013 MIKE LAWRENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Two outstanding students who work with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute are the recipients of the 2013 Mike Lawrence Scholarship.

Lauren Conner, a graduating senior from Maywood, and Shanara Bush, a senior from Romeoville, each received the scholarship at a ceremony on April 24.

The award honors Lawrence, who retired as Institute director in November 2008. The veteran newsman, press secretary and political analyst joined the Institute in 1997



(l-r) Shanara Bush, Lauren Conner and David Yepsen

as associate director, and became director in 2004 following the death of founder and former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon.

Scholarship candidates are students involved with the Institute and active in the University community.

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Paul Simon Public Policy Institute - Mail Code 4429
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
1231 Lincoln Drive
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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

LANE INTERN CHERISHES LEGISLATIVE WORK

For recent SIU Carbondale graduate Lauren Connor, learning first-hand about the legislative process in Springfield was an opportunity she will cherish.

Connor, the inaugural Alexander Lane intern, recently finished her work with the Democratic Issues/Communications staff for the Illinois House of Representatives. Connor, who earned her bachelor's degree in theater with a minor in political science in May, worked from mid-January through May 31 on tasks including assisting representatives in communicating with constituents, researching, and reviewing proposed legislation.

Connor said the experience at the Capitol "was a crash-course in state government, politics, policy and professionalism."

"This is invaluable to anyone interested in pursuing a career in politics and government," she said. "My knowledge of public policy, relationships with politicians, and understanding of the legislative and political process are the things I most cherish from my experience."

The Institute established the internship program in November 2011 to honor Lane, the first African American male student at what would become SIU Carbondale. The paid internship allows at least one student each spring to work with a minority member of the Illinois General Assembly toward a goal of carrying on Lane's legacy of high achievement and public service.

Lane rose from meager beginnings in pre-Civil War Mississippi to become a school principal, physician, and an Illinois state legislator. Lane attended then-Southern Illinois Normal University, enrolling in the teachers college in 1876, just two years

after instruction at Southern Illinois Normal University began.

Lane was the ninth African American elected to the General Assembly in 1906,



Lauren Connor at the Illinois Capitol in Springfield, IL

and was re-elected in 1908. He died in 1911 in Chicago.

With a passion for writing and public speaking, Connor said one of the favorite aspects of her internship was developing speech-writing skills for remarks prepared for House members for conferences and hearings.

She also recalls the passionate speeches of legislators opposed to conceal and carry gun laws because they feared the laws would be detrimental to their communities.

"I am still fascinated that I was able to participate in such historic moments in Illinois," she said.

Connor recently accepted a position in government and foundation relations with the famed Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago.

INAUGURAL CELIA M. HOWARD INTERN NAMED



The inaugural Celia M. Howard intern is Lindsay Knaus, a 2nd year master's student in Public Administration from Seattle, Wash-

ington. Knaus has a bachelor's degree in human services from Western Washington University and a Master's degree in Social Work from SIU Carbondale.

Knaus is currently working on southern Illinois regional and statewide polling, while also focusing on redistricting and term limits in Illinois.

She is also collaborating with Institute staff on its civic education initiative, which includes developing new civic engagement opportunities for local high school students and educators.

2013 SIMON GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW NAMED



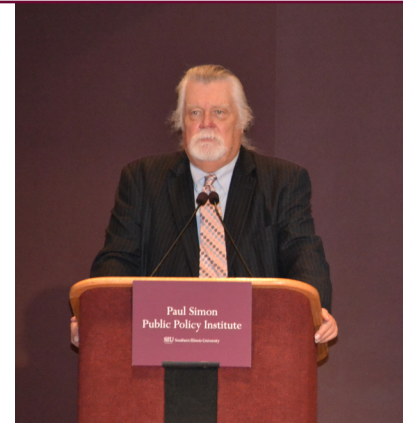
The 2013 Simon Graduate Research Fellow is Kent Dolezal, a Ph.D. candidate in economics from Chi-

nook, Montana. Dolezal has a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Montana State University and a Master's degree in Public Affairs from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Policy and Affairs.

Dolezal is working on the Institute's statewide Simon Poll; on the Southern Illinois Poll; and studying regional economic development issues. He will help with special events throughout the year.

Events in Review

Steve Schnorf, former senior budget and policy adviser to Illinois Governors Edgar and Ryan, spent a day on campus during the early spring 2013 semester to visit with donors, students, and faculty to share his thoughts on Illinois' budget and pension woes. Schnorf, a state budget and procurement consultant to Morrill and Associates, has more than two decades experience with state government, and held lead negotiating roles on many of Illinois' key legislative initiatives. Schnorf was state budget director from 1997 to 2002, and his experience included contract negotiations with the state's largest employee union; developing state budgets and supervising all bond sales during that time.



John Tillman, CEO of the Illinois Policy Institute, visited campus to discuss how state government can begin to address Illinois' budget and pension crisis. Tillman's six-year tenure at the Illinois Policy Institute has earned him the prestigious Roe Award for his leadership, innovation and accomplishments in public policy for advancing the free market philosophy. The Illinois Policy Institute has released numerous studies and reports on topics such as government spending, taxes, pensions and economic matters.



Bill Stanhouse, manager of the Southern Region Office of Regional Economic Development, for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity met with students at a "Pizza and Politics" session to discuss southern Illinois' opportunities for economic growth and how to shape a new business climate for the region. Stanhouse (SIU '74), also discussed his experiences working for DuPont and in governmental affairs all over the nation.



Dr. Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Iowa State University, visited campus this spring to discuss the role of women in politics. Bystrom frequently comments on political and women's issues for numerous national and international media. She is a contributor, co-author or co-editor of 15 books, and also teaches courses on leadership, women in politics and political campaigns for Women's Studies, Political Science and Communications as an adjunct assistant professor. Her visit was sponsored by the Institute's "Women in Politics" Series designed to encourage their participation in politics.





Allen LaPointe, Vice President of Environmental Quality at John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago spoke with students at a “Pizza and Politics” session where he shared his concerns about the future of the world’s water supply. An SIU Carbondale alumnus (’93 Zoology), LaPointe has led numerous water quality seminars and trainings for zoological organizations. He also teaches courses in water chemistry and aquarium environmental quality at the Shedd, as well as travels internationally conducting water research.



Andy Shaw, executive director of the Better Government Association, spoke about Illinois government reform at a luncheon this past April. Shaw is a former award-winning television and newspaper journalist who spent 37 years covering local, state and national politics, business, and education issues. He became executive director of the BGA in June 2009, and later its president and chief operating executive. The Institute is partnering with the BGA for a March symposium examining the issue of term limits in Illinois. (See page 11 for more details.) His visit was sponsored by the John White Lecture Series.



Steven Casteel, former Chief of Intelligence of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) held a discussion with students at “Pizza and Politics,” sharing his experiences from his career in law enforcement. During his 31 years with the DEA, Casteel traveled and worked in dozens of countries with the responsibility for aligning worldwide offices by focusing on operations, auditing, and law enforcement. Upon retirement, Casteel was appointed by the White House as Senior Advisor to Iraq’s Ministry of Interior. Today, he works and consults for international energy and private equity companies. Casteel, an SIU Carbondale alumnus (’71 Zoology), also spoke to students in the criminal justice program.

Visit www.paulsimoninstitute.org
to learn about upcoming events.

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U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN CHERI BUSTOS AND WOMEN IN POLITICS

First-term Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL) presented a self-described “intimate conversation” in southern Illinois as part of the Institute’s ongoing Women in Politics series.

As a Democrat from the 17th District of Illinois, Bustos offered the audience insight on the importance of political parties working together and how rewarding a career in public service can be.

Bustos said if the country is to move forward, political parties need to find common ground to make common sense solutions. Since arriving in Washington D.C., Bustos has already been hard at work building relationships and conquering issues important to her district. She made a promise to herself to reach out to each of the freshmen members of Congress to develop strong relationships.

“I am a relationship-building kind of person. I think anybody who has success in business understands that,” said Bustos.

Bustos also suggested that efforts need to be made to curtail out-of-control election campaign spending. Her 2012 election race ended up being the fourth most expensive race in the country because of outside money

being poured into the campaigns.

“This outside money is very, very harmful to the democratic process,” she said. “Think of what could have been done with money like that.”



U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos speaking at luncheon in March 2013.

She said the new Democratic caucus in Congress also includes a “majority minority,” meaning that there are now more people of color and women serving than the typical white male legislator stereotype. Bustos stressed that if anyone has any inclination to make a difference, running for office or taking a career in public service is a terrific way to accomplish that.

“We have always, always made better

decisions when we had a diverse group sitting at the table,” Bustos said. “I really think we make better decisions because we all come from different places in our lives.”

During a meet and greet with students,

Bustos also encouraged them to get involved now with politics and gain experience to be better informed decision makers.

Bustos is the daughter of Gene Callahan, former SIU Board Trustee (00-04’) and chief of staff to Paul Simon during his tenure as Lt. Governor. She is also the sister of the late Dan Callahan, head coach of Saluki baseball for 16 seasons.

WHO HOLDS THE CRAYONS: CONTINUED...

Experts participating in the Springfield symposium included Morgan Cullen, a redistricting expert from the National Conference of State Legislatures; Maria Blanco, a member of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and Colleen Mathis, chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission in Arizona.

The keynote speaker was Peter Wattson, former Secretary of the Senate in Minnesota and one of the nation’s foremost experts on legislative redistricting. Other participants were Drs. Chris Mooney of the University of Illinois Springfield and Seth McKee of the University of South Florida. Nicholas Stephanopolous, University of Chicago and David Ellis, former chief legal counsel for Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.

2013 WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP



On the Institute’s annual Washington, D.C. trip, affiliated students (l-r) David Lynch, Emily Berglin, Ben Campbell, Ekateryna Bondareva, Lindsay Knaus, and Oliver Keys got an extended meeting with Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL, center) in his office in the Hart Senate Office Building.

HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE SIMON ARCHIVE?

The Institute is always learning new things about the late senator by the items being donated to his research collection at Morris Library from Paul’s family, friends and many supporters. “I hope that many of Paul’s friends and former staffers will cull through their attics, basements and old storage boxes for items – letters, documents, photographs,

video – that might be useful to the archives,” said David Yepson. “Even copies will be helpful to historians.”

The Simon Political Papers Archivist, Walter Ray, who is based at the University’s Morris Library, encourages others with significant items to reach out to him at wray@lib.siu.edu or (618) 453-1427.

THIRD ANNUAL CIVIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

On November 8, The Simon Institute will partner with the McCormick Foundation to host its third annual Civic Education Conference to help southern Illinois teachers and administrators prepare students to become more involved in their communities.

The free workshop is for high school educators looking to deepen their commitment to producing high-quality civic learning opportunities for all students at their school. Teams of two to five members from each school are invited to attend, including teachers, administrators, board members and community partners.

Attendees will explore the Illinois Civic Blueprint, a basic framework created by the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition to restore the central place of civics in the high school curriculum. By assessing and aligning their curriculum and school governance policies with the framework, workshop participants will engage with the latest research in the civic learning community, including:

- The benefits of civic learning across the curriculum, including the development of 21st Century skills, improved school climate, and reduced drop-out rates.

- Proven pedagogical practices that yield lifelong engagement and the means of partnering with the community to provide civic learning opportunities within and outside of school.
- The intersection between civic learning and the Common Core, the Danielson framework, and the Five Essential Supports for student achievement.

For more information about the workshop, please contact: Vanessa Sneed at (618) 453-4004 or via email at vsneed@siu.edu or visit www.paulsimoninstitute.org to register online.

DID YOU KNOW SOME 17-YEAR-OLD RESIDENTS CAN NOW VOTE IN ILLINOIS?

On July 4, 2013, Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill into law that will allow eligible 17-year-olds to vote beginning January 1, 2014. Illinois residents who are 17-years-old will be allowed to vote in the Illinois General Primary Elections in March if they turn 18 by the November 4 general election.

New voters must have been a resident in their jurisdiction at least 30 days prior to registration. This new measure will encourage more young adults to take part in the democratic process and help increase civic engagement in Illinois.

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

is now offering links to various resources to help families, educators, and community members encourage 17-year-olds to register to vote.

Please visit www.paulsimoninstitute.org for more information.

TONI PRECKWINKLE - THE JEANNE HURLEY SIMON LECTURE

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle visited campus this spring to deliver the 2013 Jeanne Hurley Simon Lecture, named for the wife of Institute founder Paul Simon.

Preckwinkle took control of the Cook County Board in 2010, and was the first woman to be elected to the seat. Her job entails overseeing the second-largest county in the U.S. — a population of 5.3 million residents, she said, and a budget in the billions.

One of the challenges she undertook coming into office was to bring Cook County government business out of the shadows. Preckwinkle said she's very pleased with the progress and openness she's implemented yet there still have been snags.

Preckwinkle says while Illinois is one state, the often tense relationship between the Chicago area and downstate communities is unique. The day to day business of Cook County isn't easy, and what's best for local constituents often goes against attitudes

from smaller communities farther down the state, especially dealing with gun control and concealed-carry issues.

"I grew up in a household where there were guns," she said, saying she understands the type of gun culture in Southern Illinois,



Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle

because she is a native of Minnesota. "That's a culture I'm more familiar with; it's not a culture people in Chicago are familiar with."

Chicago is plagued by gun violence. Cook County has top-notch hospitals when it comes to dealing with gun trauma, and

they have earned that designation by necessity, given the frequency with which they have to treat gunshot victims, Preckwinkle said.

When it comes to the concealed carry law Illinois passed in June, Preckwinkle said

she hopes the state will enact something that gives some measure of control to local governments in deciding how best to implement the legislation.

FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN JERRY COSTELLO

Former U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello (D-IL) talked about the proudest, the happiest and the saddest moments of his 25-year political career at a lecture in March.

Costello's spring lecture was the first of several lectures organized by the Institute for the Carbondale and Edwardsville campuses. He will also be involved with public events, guest lecturing in classes and speaking to students in a variety of disciplines on both campuses.

"Jerry Costello served Southern Illinois well for almost 25 years, earning the respect of both Republicans and Democrats for his calm, let's-get-the-job-done style," said David Yepsen, institute director. "He is a role model for how a public servant should operate. His lectures and the series of appearances he's making on these campus are opportunities to learn about leadership, what's wrong with Congress today and how we might find some solutions to the problems facing the nation and Southern Illinois."

Costello, who announced his retirement from Congress in 2011, spoke in March about the current state of Congress and the politicians he worked with, including Speakers of the House and U.S. presidents.

Costello, a Belleville lawmaker, gave credit to local politicians such as the late Sen. Paul Simon and former Congressman Ken Gray for helping him get started in Washington. He also said he was pleased to have served as long as he did.

"While Congress has a pathetic approval rating with the public — with good reason — I want you to know it was an honor to serve

in the U.S. Congress," Costello said.

In October, Costello's political papers found a new home at SIU Morris Library's Special Collection Research Center. The donation consists of 750 boxes of records detailing his time representing the 12th Congressional District.

"Rep. Costello's longstanding support for SIU continues through this donation," Chancellor Rita Cheng said in a news release.



Former U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello meeting for a discussion with students after his lecture in March.

"He was an outstanding advocate for our University and for the region, and his papers are a valuable addition because of the important issues he addressed and his many accomplishments."

Costello attributed his family's longstanding connection to the university as the reason he wanted it to house his records.

"SIU Carbondale is an excellent learning institution," Costello said. "I have a lot of faith in the University and its work. I think it is important for officials who have served the public to make their records available to the

public and researchers to enable them to look back at the issues and see what the public sentiment and concerns are and how they change through years."

Costello decided against seeking reelection in 2012. He was the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Aviation as part of his serving on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Among his accomplishments, Costello helped pass the

strongest pilot training legislation in almost 50 years. Costello also served on the Committee on Science, Space and Technology and the subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

He is now president and CEO of The Jerry Costello Group, which provides services and advocacy for government agencies, trade associations and businesses. An East St. Louis native, Costello began his political career on the St. Clair County Board in 1980.

STAFF NEWS: COMINGS AND GOINGS

More changes have taken place at the Institute this year, bringing new ideas and fresh faces to our staff.

Associate Director Matt Baughman became the Assistant to the Chancellor at SIU, effective August 1. Baughman had been with the Institute for 15 years, since being hired in 1998 by Paul Simon and Mike Lawrence. Baughman's experience in the SIU community will be a great asset to the university. He plans to work on special projects for the Institute in the future.

The Institute also welcomes Vanessa Sneed



Matt Baughman

as a Coordinator. Prior to joining the Simon Institute, she was a Research Project Specialist and the Director of the REACH program (Research-Enriched Academic Challenge) in the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration at SIU. Before that, she was a Conference Coordinator at Continuing Education and Outreach from July 2006 until October 2012 where she assisted with several of the Simon Institute's



Vanessa Sneed

programs. Originally from the Ewing, IL area, she earned her MA and BA degrees in Speech Communication from Eastern Illinois University. Currently, she has completed classwork and is in the final stages of earning a Ph.D. in Education Administration and Higher Education from SIU Carbondale.

ILLINOIS BETTER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION & INSTITUTE'S TERM LIMITS SYMPOSIUM - MARCH 4, 2014

The Illinois Better Government Association and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute are planning a March 4 symposium in Chicago to discuss term limits for public officials in Illinois.

The gathering, which will be held at the Union League Club in Chicago, will bring together political and policy experts to examine questions surrounding term limits and whether they are a good idea for Illinois and local communities. Former Gov. Jim Edgar and Dr. Karl Kurtz of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) have agreed to make presentations.

"We're pleased to be working with the BGA and the Union League Club on this important issue," said David Yepsen, director of the Institute. "Both organizations have long histories of working to improve civic life in Illinois and all of us hope to shed some light on the pluses and minuses of term limiting public officials in the state.

Andy Shaw, the head of the BGA, said his organization "is excited to be partnering with our friends and colleagues at the Simon Institute and the Union League Club of Chicago for a deep dive into a topic that's near and dear to the hearts of many voters: Term Limits. Polls indicate a vast majority of Illinois residents support term limits for elected officials, but is it constitutional? And, if so, how could it be done? And, perhaps most importantly, will it produce better government?"

Shaw said "this is part of the BGA's commitment to examining important public policy issues fairly, objectively and apolitically, because an informed electorate is a key component of a healthy democracy,

Critics of term limits say they take options away from voters. They also say term limits increase the power of unelected staff members and lobbyists by destroying the institutional memories of governmental bodies.

They also say there's no evidence term

limits work.

Supporters of term limits say incumbents have such power in Illinois – the ability to raise large amounts of campaign money, districts often drawn to protect them and weak political parties - that term limits are often the only way to give fresh faces and ideas a chance.

The state's fiscal and ethical problems are so large that new people need the opportunity to solve them.

There are also questions of just who should be term limited. Some have talked about term limiting legislators, term limiting legislative leaders or statewide and local elected officials.

"We hope to bring together leading political and academic experts to shed some light on this important topic," Yepsen said.

A final list of speakers and registration information will be made available later.

THE 2013 SIMON POLL RESULTS

The Simon Institute's 2013 poll of Illinois voters showed growing support for gay marriage, majority support for stricter gun control laws and mixed opinions about what to do about the state's pension crisis.

All three issues were before lawmakers in the 2013 legislative session.

The poll of statewide voters, which is taken once a year by the Institute, is designed to provide guidance to policy-makers as they grapple with the state's problems. The 2013 survey found:

*Voters agreed there's a problem with public employee pensions but they were closely divided over what to do about it. Voters overwhelmingly opposed tax increases and gave strong support to budget cuts but were mixed in their views of specific changes to the pension system to make it sound.

*Over 79 percent of voters said they favor some sort of legal recognition of the relationship between gay and lesbian couples.

*About twice as many Illinois voters surveyed thought controlling gun ownership was more important than protecting the right to own guns (59.5 percent to 31.3 percent).

Complete survey results can be found at www.paulsimoninstitute.org.

2013-2014 VINCE DEMUZIO GOVERNMENTAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



The 2013-2014 class of Vince Demuzio interns are deployed in a number of state agencies in southern Illinois gaining valuable work experience in such areas as human services, transportation, technology, employment security and higher education as well as the Attorney General's office. The interns include (left to right): Andrew Milkuley, Chase Karrick, Katherine Jones, Jenna Hubbs, Mandy Little, Nick Kaiser, Darian Etienne, Edreco Amos, Zach Green, Joseph Carnduff and Demuzio Coordinator, Dr. John Jackson.

WSIU PUBLIC TELEVISION TO AIR NEW LOCAL DOCUMENTARY ON FORMER U.S. SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Written and produced by WSIU-TV senior producer Jak Tichenor, P.S. Illinois: The Paul Simon Story, A Life of Uncommon Courage, is a 90-minute documentary chronicling the life of the late corruption-fighting newspaper publisher and former Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Congressman, and U.S. Senator Paul Simon (1928-2003). Simon also taught political science, history, and journalism at SIU Carbondale and founded the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at the university.

The program covers Simon's life and distinguished career from his early days as a crusading journalist in Troy, Illinois to his service in the Illinois General Assembly as a Representative and Senator, to his statewide service as Lt. Governor, and then through his five terms in the U. S. House and two terms in the U. S. Senate.

It also provides personal interviews with friends and family, and those who worked with him closely in government.

"Paul Simon was one of the most outstanding political leaders the State of Illinois has ever produced," says John S. Jackson, visiting professor at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. "This documentary will become a classic treatment of an Illinois political giant."

The documentary project began in 2001 when SIU Cinema and

Photography undergraduate student Erik Mauck began interviewing many of Simon's colleagues, family, and friends.

"Erik was absolutely tireless in seeking out everyone from Paul's mother, Ruth, to former legislative colleagues Anthony 'Tony' Scariano, Alan Dixon, Abner Mikva, and others," says Tichenor.

Tichenor, who had covered Simon's career since 1981, began collecting interviews for the documentary following Simon's passing. He talked with author Studs Terkel, Washington Post political reporter David Broder, America's Most Wanted host John Walsh, and former Simon press secretary Terry Michael, among others.

Chicago reporters Carol Marin and Andy Shaw also shared their insights into Simon's career, along with former Des Moines Register political reporter and current Simon Institute director David Yepsen.

"Students sometimes ask me who Paul Simon was," says David Yepsen. "This film is a wonderful way to introduce him to them. Told by the people who knew him best, it speaks to a younger generation. It offers hope that politics as we know it could be better – a lot better."

