

State Policy and Leadership News

Center for State Policy and Leadership
University of Illinois at Springfield

Public Policy Summit on Politics and Religion: Global and American Perspectives Held on April 11

Nearly 300 people attended the Center's third annual public policy summit, which was held on April 11. This year's theme was "Politics and Religion: Global and American Perspectives." There were two sessions at this year's policy summit; a luncheon session and an evening session.

Barbara Ferrara made opening remarks at the luncheon session which featured keynote speaker Dr. Pippa Norris, McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Her presentation was entitled "A World Divided – Sacred and Secular Values." Richard Schuldt, UIS' Director of the Survey Research Office presented findings on a statewide survey on "Morality, Public Opinion and Public Policy in Illinois." Dr. Stephen Schwark, UIS professor of Political Studies, served as moderator, while Dr. Christopher Mooney, UIS professor of Political Studies, gave a response to Norris' presentation. The luncheon was held in PAC Conference Room C/D and attended by 125.

Equality and Cultural Change Around the Globe, Digital Divide: Civic Engagement, Information Poverty and the Internet Worldwide. Her latest book is scheduled for publication in fall 2005, entitled *Radical Right: Voters and Parties in the Electoral Market.*

Dr. Norris has served as an expert consultant for many international bodies including the UN, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the National Endowment for Democracy. Her work has been published in more than a dozen languages and appeared in numerous international journals. She co-founded the Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics. She has served on the Council of the American Political Science Association and as Executive of the International Political Science Association. She was President of the Women and Politics Research Group of the American Political Science Association. She holds masters and doctoral degrees in Politics from the London School of Economics.

The evening session in the Studio Theatre featured guest speaker Dr. James Morone,

in American Politics." Dr. Morone began his presentation by pulling up his pant leg and showing the audience his "hellfire socks" that were black with red and gold flames!

Dr. Morone is the author of numerous books, including *Hellfire Nation: The Politics of Sin in American History*, and *Democratic Wish: Popular Participation and the Limits of*



Dr. Stephen Schwark takes questions from the audience for the panelists.

American Government. His book, *Hellfire Nation* was named book of the month by the *History News Network*, selected a top ten book of the year by *Christianity Today* and has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He co-edited *The Politics of Health Care Reform and Healthy, Wealthy and Fair.* He has written over 100 essays on politics, history and social policy. The Brown University classes of 1993, 1999 and 2001 voted him the teacher that most inspired them.

Following his presentation attended by 160, Dr. Morone graciously made himself available to sign copies of his book, *Hellfire Nation: The Politics of Sin in American History.* A dessert reception followed his presentation.



(L to R) Dr. Christopher Mooney, Dr. Stephen Schwark, Dr. Pippa Norris, Richard Schuldt, and Dr. James Morone.

Dr. Norris is the author of several books, including *Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide*, *Gender*

Professor of Political Science at Brown University. His presentation was entitled "Hellfire Nation – Moral Values

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- Institute for Legal and Policy Studies
- Institute for Legislative Studies
- Office of Electronic Media
- Office of Graduate Intern Programs
- Papers of Abraham Lincoln
- Public Policy High School Initiatives
- Survey Research Office
- WUIS/WIPA Public Radio



GPSI Loyalty Award Presented to Illinois EPA



IEPA Deputy Director Bernard Killian (L) accepts GPSI Loyalty Award from UIS Chancellor Richard Ringeisen.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency was recently recognized for its exemplary contributions to the UIS Graduate Public Service Internship Program. IEPA Deputy Director Bernard Killian accepted the GPSI Loyalty Award on behalf of Director Renee Cipriano at the Annual Intern Recognition breakfast held on April 6, 2005. The presentation marked the culmination of the 30th anniversary of the GPSI program.

The award, presented by Chancellor Ringeisen, recognized the agency's leadership for three decades in mentoring Graduate Public Service Interns. "The IEPA/GPSI relationship has been a win/win arrangement for all of us over the years," said Kim Hayden, Director of the UIS Office of Graduate Intern Programs. "Our students gain extraordi-

nary experience and many go on to successful careers in Illinois state government or in the environmental field. At the same time, we believe the students are excellent employees and provide a valuable service for the agency in these times of tight budgets."

"We appreciate this award and the great partnership it represents. For more than three decades GPSI interns have made valuable contributions to Illinois EPA and its mission of protecting the environment and human health," said IEPA Director Renee Cipriano. "The hundreds of GPSI interns at IEPA have been enthusiastic, dedicated and hard-working and their growing professionalism during the two-year internships has been an incentive for us to continue to participate in the program each year," said IEPA Deputy Di-

rector Bernard Killian, in accepting the award on behalf of the agency.

For the current year, there are 32 GPSI interns at IEPA, the largest class ever, working with staff mentors in all areas of the agency, from assisting with field inspections and permitting, water quality assessment, community relations work, helping respond to emergency spills, brownfields cleanups, and creating information videos and radio programs, for example.

Darien Siddall, a GPSI intern in the IEPA Office of Brownfields Assistance, spoke on behalf of the current class during the program. Siddall recounted his rewarding experiences, especially helping communities obtain grants to clean up contaminated sites for redevelopment.

Hurricane Carter takes Springfield by Storm



Professors Larry Golden (L) and Nancy Ford (R) are joined by UIS students involved with the Innocence Project. Rubin "Hurricane" Carter (seated) spoke to a full house on April 13 at UIS.

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a former contender for the middleweight boxing championship who was wrongfully convicted in 1967 of the murders of three people in New Jersey, went on a whirlwind tour of Springfield, addressing several different audiences. Since being released from prison in 1985 by Federal District Court Judge Sarokin on a writ of habeas corpus, Carter has spent his time fighting to free innocent persons from prison who have been convicted of crimes they did not commit. Carter had maintained his own innocence at trial and throughout the lengthy period of his incarceration.

Brought to Springfield by the Downstate Illinois Inno-

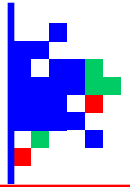
cence Project in the Institute for Legal and Policy Studies at UIS, Carter met informally with project staff and principal supporters of the project at a gathering on Tuesday, April 12. He praised the group for the work it is doing to free the innocent and invited the project to become a part of a new Ontario-based network he has established called Innocence International, Inc. The goal of the network is to provide lawyers and resources to innocent persons incarcerated anywhere in the world.

On Wednesday, April 13, he addressed the Illinois State Senate and made an impassioned plea for the rights of the wrongfully incarcerated. Reminding the senators that "You make the laws; you are

the laws," he recounted the horror of his own experience. "I was 29 and at the peak of my career contending for a world title," he said. "The next thing I knew, I was fighting for my life on trial in criminal court." At a later press conference, he told members of the press that as Americans "It is our birthright to be free from arbitrary, capricious, unjust, unconstitutional judgment, confinement or execution." He commended Illinois and former Governor George Ryan for being a leader on the death penalty issue. "We need more Governor Ryans in our lives," Carter said.

At his presentation on April 13 to over 350 people in

(Continued on page 4)



Dr. Jacobson Awarded Grant to Work with Latino Audiences

Dr. Stu Jacobson is project director of a professional development project for U of I Extension for agricultural educators working with Latino audiences.

Dr. Jacobson, research specialist in the UIS Institute for Legal and Policy Studies, Dr. Jose Garcia of the University of Missouri at Columbia and Juan Marinez from Michigan State University have received a two-year grant from the USDA North Central Region for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

The primary target audience Jacobson and his colleagues hope to reach in a three-state area includes agricultural educators from university extension offices, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and possibly not-for profits, as well as some for-profit operations. The project goal of the grant is to improve the capability of the educators and

others to develop and implement programs for Latino agricultural communities, which include farmers, workers in production and processing sectors, and families. Jacobson, Garcia and Marinez will be training the extension educators rather than working directly with Latino populations.

Jacobson mentioned that most of the country's farmers are white; however, across the Midwest and the nation most new farmers are Latino. Currently the Southwest contains the largest number of Latino farmers. On average, Illinois has two to three Latino farmers in each county, based on the agricultural census. Beardstown, Illinois is an example of many Latinos moving into rural America, primarily into towns that have food processing plants. De Pue, Illinois (near LaSalle-Peru) is another example, where many are working in mushroom factories and nursery fields. Although they

are not currently farming, most recent immigrants, especially, are from rural and farming backgrounds. The majorities are from Mexico; however, there are increasing numbers from Central American countries.

In many rural areas Latinos work in processing plants and other industries and contribute to the local economy, however, they are not integrated into civic life, with the exception of some churches. In many rural communities immigrants are perceived as a problem—instead they are providing a future to many “dying” towns. Depending in part on the reception they receive, these “newcomers” will be more or less successful.

It is hoped that this project is a way for Latinos to make greater economic contributions, to improve their economic and health status, and, perhaps for some, to own their own farm.



Office of Electronic Media Sells DVDs and VHS Tapes of UIS Events

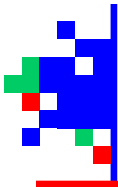
Did you know that the UIS Office of Electronic Media (OEM) has professional broadcast quality DVDs and VHS tapes of many Center and UIS events available for purchase? OEM's professional staff and student crews videotape many live events both on campus and off campus, using anywhere from three to five television cameras, depending upon the scope of the event. Prices vary, based on whether you are interested in

purchasing a DVD or VHS tape. Call the OEM at 217/206-6799 to find out if they have a DVD or VHS tape of the event you'd like and the price.

Examples of current Center events that have been taped include the 2004 Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series, Sheila Simon's presentation on “A Life in Illinois Politics and Law: A Daughter Carries Forward the Legacy of Jeanne and Paul Simon,” and the annual Policy

Summit on Politics and Religion. Commencement 2005 will be available for purchase on both DVD (\$25) and VHS (\$20). A copy of the UIS 2005 commencement can be ordered by going to the UIS webpage at <http://www.uis.edu/registration/graduation/commencement/index.html> and selecting “Download the order form to purchase a Video or DVD of the ceremony.”





(Hurricane Carter continued from page 2)

the Studio Theatre at UIS, Carter called for people of all ages and races to get involved in the struggle to keep innocent people out of jail and to free those who have been wrongfully convicted. He argued, "It is necessary for young people to get involved with the system. Anything can be done. My standing here is proof of that."

Referring to his involvement with numerous innocence organizations throughout the country he said great things can be done with few resources. Since his own exoneration he has helped to free more than 150 innocent people in the United States and Canada.

In response to a question about what advice he would

give a young black male today to keep him on the right track, Carter, who indicated he didn't believe in race, said he would tell him that "he is a member of the human race and that he has the potential to achieve whatever he set out to achieve." He urged young people to have the courage to create a new world.

Illinois Issues Features First Paul Simon Essayist

Political philosopher Jean Bethke Elshtain is *Illinois Issues'* first Paul Simon Essayist. She argues in the magazine's May issue that we need more religion in politics.

"Without morality," she writes, "there would be no civil society as we have come to understand it."

Elshtain is the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the University of Chicago and is co-chair of the national Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. She has written extensively on the connections between the nation's political and ethical convictions. Her timely *Just War Against Terror: The Burden of American Power in a Violent World* was published in 2003. She is a contributing editor of *The New Republic*.

Illinois Issues invited Elshtain to explore the moral imperatives of American civic life. Her essay, *Civic Virtues*, was made possible through the generous support of the Joyce Foundation.

Elshtain, a public intellectual, got into the spirit of the

assignment easily. She also recognized that promoting religion in public life is controversial. For many Americans, this raises the specter of theocracy. But she contends that regular churchgoers tend to be more active in their communities.

"The difference religiously derived morality makes is that it is more likely to get us up and out of the house and into civic life than the alternative of no religious connection or a very thin one."

The essay is available on the magazine's Web site at <http://illinoisissues.uis.edu>.

Illinois Issues established the Paul Simon Essay this year, the magazine's 30th anniversary. Simon, one of *Illinois Issues'* founders, had a deep interest in the moral and ethical dimensions of a wide range of issues. And the magazine's goal in commissioning these annual essays will be to find new ways to frame policy questions.

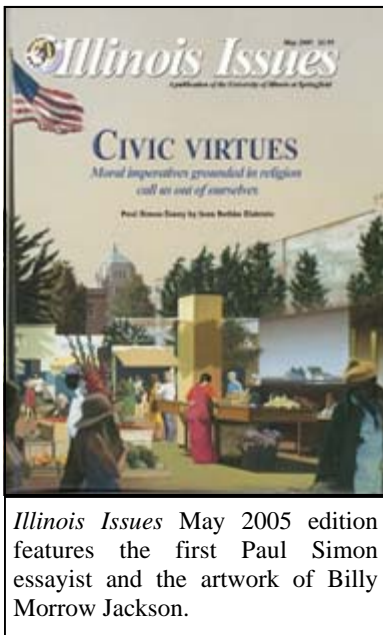
The magazine is seeking financial support toward this goal. Individuals can contribute by contacting the University Foundation at

<http://www.uif.uillinois.edu/Gifts/StartGiving.asp>. In the remarks section, which is located on the second screen, please identify that you would like your contribution applied to the Paul Simon Essay Fund.

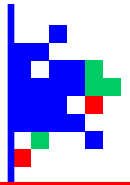
Elshtain's essay is accompanied by Billy Morrow Jackson's paintings. The cover illustration is a detail of his mural *Greater Downtown*.

Jackson is one of the leading landscape artists of the Midwest. Though he's a noted realist painter, this cityscape, published with permission, reveals his idealism. It manages to capture the social and political interconnections of community. Jackson's works have been displayed in the National Museum of American Art and in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as well as in many other museums across the country.

He was on the art faculty at the University of Illinois for many years and continues to live and work in Champaign.



Illinois Issues May 2005 edition features the first Paul Simon essayist and the artwork of Billy Morrow Jackson.



First Year GPSI Interns Participate in Shadowing Experience with Legislators

From February 28 to March 11, 2005, twenty-one first year GPSI interns experienced the Illinois legislative process from behind the scenes. For over 20 years the UIS Office of Graduate Intern Programs and the Illinois General Assembly have collaborated in providing a two week legislative job shadowing experience. The Legislative Shadowing Program is designed to provide first year GPSI interns the opportunity to spend two weeks with a legislator. In some cases this may be an intern who is matched with a legislator from their home district.

This experience provides GPSI interns with insight into the operation of the Illinois General Assembly, a chance to network and an opportunity to better understand the legislative process. During the two week period GPSI interns work 20 hours per week accompanying legislators in their daily activities in the unique environment of the Illinois state legislature. GPSI interns, many of whom are international students, participated in the Legislative Shadowing Program.

Interns took part in a variety of activities including

assisting legislators on the floor of the House and Senate, attending hearings and lobbying events, researching and analyzing legislation and meeting with constituents. The mentoring relationship of the Legislative Shadowing Program is a unique opportunity for today's leaders to support the professional development of the leaders of tomorrow. Former GPSI interns state that the Legislative Shadowing Program was an invaluable feature of their GPSI internship and helped them refine their career objectives. This year 21 GPSI interns were matched with eight senators and twelve representatives (one senator agreed to work with two GPSI interns.)

GPSI Zeke Remington, a MBA grad student, was matched with Republican Sen. Bill Brady of the 44th district. Remington stated that the Legislative Shadowing Program was "an awesome experience." He attended committee meetings, was actually on the floor with the Senator during session and was able to join him at a few of the after hour receptions. He considers himself a businessman, but after seeing

how the legislators worked, he may be interested in pursuing a job that involves both business and politics. Remington commented, "It is definitely interesting to see first-hand how business and politics go together."

Veronica Williams, a GPSI intern pursuing a master's of public administration degree, was matched with Democrat Sen. Jacqueline Collins of the 16th district. Williams served as a liaison for Sen. Collins making calls and arranging meetings. She also attended committee and appropriation meetings. Williams recommends the legislative shadowing experience and felt the experience itself was very enriching. "Just to sit on the Senate floor is indescribable – in a most incredible way. The pace at which the legislators work is amazing and it would be quite a feat for anyone to keep up with. The experiences I've had at the state capitol have been much like meeting celebrities; only to find out they are people just like you and me, people of great character. Any students owe it to themselves to experience their state government at work for them."



Zeke Remington



Veronica Williams

Survey Research Office Conducted Poll on Judicial Selection and Election

On March 29, 2005, the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) issued a press release summarizing the results from a recent public opinion poll on issues relating to judicial selection and election, conducted by the Survey Research Office of the

Center. The Poll was jointly commissioned by the ICPR and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

In the survey, registered voters were asked their views on what judges and judicial

campaigns should be like as well as their perceptions of selected characteristics of actual judges and judicial campaigns. Voters were asked their opinions about whether judges should be elected or appointed, and

(Continued on page 6)



Interviewers working in the Survey Research Interviewing Lab.

(SRO continued from page 5)

they were asked their opinions about several selected campaign reforms. A focus of part of the survey was the recent election for Supreme Court Judge in District 5 (Southern Illinois), where over 9 million dollars was spent by both candidates, a national record for spending in a state Supreme Court race.

The survey was conducted through telephone interviews with a random sample of about 770 Illinois self-reported registered voters. About half of the respondents were selected to be from

Supreme Court Judicial District 5 (Southern Illinois), the only district holding an election for Supreme Court judge in the fall of 2004. The other half were chosen to be from Cook County (District 1, from which 3 judges are chosen), and the geographic region composed of Districts 2 through 4 (each of which chooses 1 judge). About one-quarter of the completions were targeted for each of these two areas. This allowed for comparisons to be made between District 5 registered voters and registered voters in the rest of the state. (For statewide results, the sample's

regional proportions were adjusted to reflect the actual statewide distribution of registered voters by region.) Interviewing with District 5 respondents was conducted from December 8 – 20, 2004, and interviewing with the other respondents was conducted from January 3-19, 2005.

Complete poll results are available on line at www.ilcampaign.org. This site contains the full survey, a summary of the results, selected charts, and the press release.

Bernick and Rossman Present Paper at Midwest Political Science Conference



Dr. Ethan Bernick

Dr. Ethan Bernick, assistant professor, Public Administration, with a joint appointment in the Institute for Legislative Studies (ILS), and Leslie Rossman, graduate assistant in ILS, co-authored and presented a paper at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago in April. The paper, entitled "Sex Segregation and Glass Escalators: The Experiences of Women and Men in 'Female' Elected Offices" was presented by Bernick and Rossman, who served as panelists at a session at the conference. Bernick indicated that this paper is part of a larger project examining gender discrepancies in American politics and why few women hold elected offices. Contrary to

the 25% of elected positions held by women nationally for all elected offices, in Illinois county and circuit clerk positions are primarily held by women.

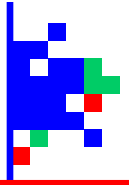
Their research examined the prevalence of female officials in county elected offices, specifically county clerk and circuit clerk. Data gathered from all 102 Illinois counties included election results, party affiliation, population of county, and gender, race and ethnicity. They found that approximately 73% of circuit clerks are women, and 64% of county clerks are women. This is consistent with national averages of these same positions.

Their findings prompted them to find out why these

two offices are perceived to be female positions. Are the positions of county clerk and circuit clerk perceived as glorified secretarial positions, even though these positions hold power? They found that the more densely populated counties seem to have more men running for these offices, than those with less population. The position of county clerk seems to carry more prestige than that of circuit clerk, including more power and notoriety, which translates to more status. Their research confirmed their beliefs that men do not view these two positions as having as much power or status as other elected positions.



Leslie Rossman



A Life in Illinois Politics and Law: Sheila Simon Carries Forward the Legacy of Jeanne and Paul Simon

The Center and the UIS Women's Center co-sponsored a presentation by Sheila Simon in honor of Women's Heritage Month on March 28, 2005. Simon, a clinical assistant professor of law at Southern Illinois University School of Law and a current member of the Carbondale City Council, as well as a member of a local Carbondale band "Loose Gravel" spoke to crowd of approximately 175. As the crowd entered Brookens Auditorium, they were greeted with music playing from her band's CD which was released in January 2004, also titled "Loose Gravel."

Simon began her lively presentation by inviting the audience to sing along with her as she sang some favorite jump rope songs. She then polled the audience to see how many people knew a song by the name of "Frog Went A-Courtin" and invited those who were familiar with the song to come up on stage and sing in a group. Five brave individuals joined in the fun, including UIS Chancellor, Richard Ringeisen, and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Chris Miller. Though the sing-alongs may have seemed silly to some, she touched on the importance of childhood traditions that are passed from one generation to another, usually by word of mouth, and that there may be variations,

based upon the region in which you were raised. She stressed the importance of these family traditions and that you cannot necessarily go to a text book to find these types of traditions from childhood.

Simon spoke of the influence that her parents, Jeanne and Paul Simon had on her and her brother, Martin. Jeanne Hurley Simon was one of the very earliest females to be elected as a state representative in Illinois in 1956. Her parents met while both serving in the Illinois General Assembly, and were the first couple in Illinois history to be married while both serving in the General Assembly. Sheila mentioned that many people are not aware that her mother was a college graduate, as well as a law school graduate, while her father did not finish college. Her mother chose to end her formal political career to raise her family, but still remained very politically engaged throughout her life. At the time of her death, Jeanne Hurley Simon was the chairwoman of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Simon spoke of a tradition that she grew up with in her parent's house that holds true in her own house, which consists of her husband, Perry Knop and daughters Reilly and

Brennan. That tradition is the importance of reading a number of morning newspapers at the breakfast table and the practice of doing so without feeling the obligation of speaking to one another. She described this as "the most religiously observed practice" in her family.

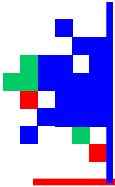
On the humorous side, Simon spoke of how her father would embarrass her brother and her when they were teenagers. One example shared was when her family would go into a restaurant and her father, would shake hands with every patron in the restaurant (literally.) She also mentioned how embarrassing it was when her father saw someone waving, and he would assume that they were waving at him!

Sheila concluded with the advice that her parents' legacy wasn't only for her but for all of us. We can all carry forward the Simon's care for other people and their devotion to serving the public good.

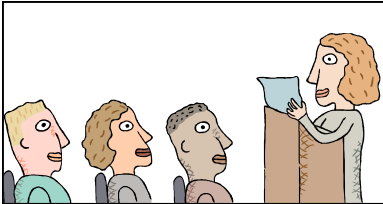
At the end of her presentation, Simon graciously answered questions from the audience, followed by a reception in the PAC Restaurant. Simon's presentation can be viewed as "Video on Demand" through the UIS webpage at <http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html>.



Sheila Simon



Public Policy High Schools Staff Present at “Connections” Conference



Peggy Dunn, director, Public Policy High School Initiatives, and Alanna Sablotny, graduate assistant, participated as presenters at the 2005 Connections Conference, sponsored by Illinois State University, in St. Charles, Illinois on March 9 – 10, 2005. The title of their presentation was “Public Policymaking in the Illinois Classroom.”

The Connections Conference provides Midwest educators with the opportunity to engage in professional development related to best practices in education. The UIS Public Policy High School Initiatives Program was chosen as one of the best practices in civics education and engagement for this conference. Over 1300

educators participated in this conference. Keynote speeches were made by Cary Mullen, the world downhill speed record holder who spoke on champion insights, and Joel Zeff, a national humorist who provided the audience with laughter that contained messages about how to become better people and better employees.

UIS GEAR UP Project Will Present at National Conference in July



Full house at GEAR UP parent workshop.

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Project at UIS has been selected to present a session, entitled “Parents, Kids, and Meatballs at the Lanphier High Café” at the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)/GEAR UP National Conference in San Francisco, CA, July 17-20, 2005. The conference proposal, submitted by Geri Marion, was accepted and awarded a perfect score of 100% by NCCEP’s reviewers.

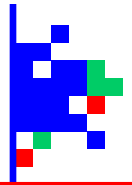
The presentation will focus on the successful parental engagement strategies now used with the GEAR UP program at

Lanphier High School (LHS). When GEAR UP was introduced at LHS in 2001, parental involvement was at an all-time low. During the first two years, GEAR UP parent workshops at LHS averaged 10-15 participants per event. After revisiting and retooling the strategies used at the end of the 2002-2003 academic year, the partnership devised new strategies which to date have dramatically increased attendance rates. One of the most recent parent workshops drew nearly 500 attendees. Examples of topics featured at parent workshops this academic year include financial assistance for college, the realities of college life (as experienced

by LHS alumni and their parents) and a career information fair.

The UIS GEAR UP program demonstrates to students, their parents, and their families the importance of gaining early awareness of the necessity of traveling the road to college together, in order to help ensure future student academic, career, and personal success.

Congratulations to Geri Marion and the UIS GEAR UP partnership for the success of its parent programs, and for being selected to present at this prestigious national conference.



GA Appreciation Reception Held

The Center hosted a Graduate Assistant (GA) Appreciation Reception the afternoon of April 14, 2005 to thank the GAs working in Center units for their contributions to the Center this year. Nine of the twelve graduate assistants employed in the Center and their supervisors attended the reception and spoke briefly about the projects they have been involved with this academic year.

Barbara Ferrara extended thanks on behalf of the Center to those GAs who attended: Rikeesha Cannon (Center Publications/*Illinois Issues*), Bill Davidson (Institute for Legislative Studies), Jenifer Maseman (Papers of Abraham

Lincoln), Joe Maxon (Survey Research Office), Brad Mitchell (Institute for Legal and Policy Studies), Marilyn Mueller (Papers of Abraham Lincoln), Nathan Myers (Institute for Legal and Policy Studies), Leslie Rossman (Institute for Legislative Studies), and Keith Taylor (Center Publications/*Illinois Issues*). Supervisors Barbara Ferrara, John Lupton, Richard Schuldt, Bev Scobell, and Joy Syrcle attended, as did Harry Berman, interim provost.

The interns described the projects they have worked on which included event planning and promotion, book publishing, writing, editing, and fact checking, conference presentations, research

projects, statistical information, active participation in surveys, and advanced use of computer software packages, including Access and SPSS. Provost Berman spoke briefly about the stellar experiences the Center GAs are receiving to help them not only with their graduate education, but also to carry on into their professional careers. Many GAs spoke of how their assistantships relate to their graduate degree and the importance of gaining this caliber of experience. At the end of the informal presentations, everyone enjoyed homemade goodies and drinks.



Harry Berman, interim provost, speaks to the Center GAs. Jenifer Maseman, GA in the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, listens to Berman's comments.



GA Leslie Rossman talks about her current projects in the Institute for Legislative Studies while John Lupton, GA supervisor, Papers of Abraham Lincoln, listens.

U.S. Congressman Shimkus Led Panel Discussion about Bullying and Harassment Prevention Legislation

The Public Policies High School Initiatives Program hosted U.S. Congressman John Shimkus, R-Collinsville, at UIS on April 25 in Brookens Auditorium. Congressman Shimkus led a panel discussion about his bill, House Resolution (HR) 284, which was introduced at the 109th Congress on 1/6/05. HR 284 would "amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include bullying and harassment prevention programs." The bill is currently co-sponsored by 24 members of Congress.

Other panelists participating in the discussion included Kristin Allen, Boys and Girls Clubs of Springfield, Jill Grove, Springfield School District 186, and Mark Schwartz,

Youth Service Bureau. The panel was moderated by Dr. Allan Cook, associate professor, Teacher Education program at UIS.

Congressman Shimkus began the discussion by providing background information and shared some statistics about bullying. HR 284 is stuck in committee with no hearing currently scheduled. Rep. Shimkus stated, "What I am doing is addressing the need. Currently there's no federal law specifically prohibiting bullying in schools." With President Bush wanting to eliminate Title IV funding, Rep. Shimkus hopes that raising awareness of the problems of bullying and harassment that there could be a chance of keeping some of the Title IV funds alive.

Because of the probable changes to the No Child Left Behind Act, Rep. Shimkus believes there may be an opportunity to include some anti-bullying language there.

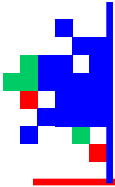
The panelists agreed that bullying is a definite problem and needs to be addressed. Jill Grove mentioned that there is a lot of confusion over exactly what a bully is. She defined bullying as a "willful, deliberate intention to cause harm" to another person. She went as far as to say that bullying was once considered to be an ongoing act, however, that even an isolated act can now be considered bullying. A question and answer session was held at the end of the panel discussion.



U.S. Congressman John Shimkus.



(L to R) Mark Schwartz, Youth Service Bureau, Jill Grove, Springfield School District 186, Dr. Allan Cook, UIS Teacher Education Program, Kristin Allen, Boys and Girls Clubs of Springfield, and U.S. Congressman John Shimkus.



WUIS/WIPA Welcomes Two Public Affairs Reporting Interns



Elizabeth Braun

WUIS/WIPA radio station has two Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) interns this semester at the statehouse bureau and the WUIS studio on campus. Those interns are Elizabeth Braun and Amanda Vinicky. Both began their internship January 2 and will continue through June 30, 2005.

Braun, a 2004 graduate of Bradley University with a double major in Journalism and Multimedia comes to the PAR program and WUIS highly recommend by Jonathan Ahl and Tanya Koonce of WCBU public radio in Peoria, IL. Both Ahl and Koonce are alums of UIS' PAR program and encouraged Elizabeth to pursue her master's degree in public affairs reporting.



Amanda Vinicky

Braun began her first job in the field prior to high school graduation by writing, advertising, and doing some designing for a Chicago area magazine, *Food Industry News*. As a student at Bradley, Brauan worked for the college newspaper, *The Scout* as an assistant layout editor and reporter/columnist. She also wrote for a local Peoria area television show, *Midstate Magazine*, and served as news director at WRBU, Bradley's campus radio station. Prior to college graduation, Braun completed an undergraduate internship at WCBU, Peoria's public radio station where she worked under Ahl and Koonce.

Braun spent the first three months of her PAR internship at the WUIS Statehouse Bureau where she interned under the direction of Bill Wheelhouse, bureau chief and had a political focus, reporting on House, Senate, and

committee happenings. Early April she came to the WUIS studio on campus to fill-in as anchor for "*All Things Considered*." She also is anchoring the noon news and reporting on local stories and the arts. At the studio she is interning under the direction of Rich Bradley, long time news director at WUIS and currently interim general manager.

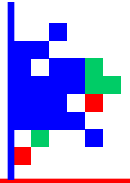
Vinicky, a 2003 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a double major in Journalism and Political Science brings a wealth of experience with her to the PAR program. The summer after her college graduation, Amanda interned for Parliament in London for three months. She was assigned to two "Members of Parliament" and was able to experience how parliament operates. While in Europe, she traveled in many countries, including France, Italy and Spain.

Vinicky completed a number of college internships at Chicago television stations CLTV and WFLD, and at WCIA in Champaign. At CLTV Amanda primarily worked on a business show and a food show, as well as reported the news. Her internship at WFLD included news reporting and field producing, as did her internship at WCIA. Prior to beginning the PAR program at UIS, Vinicky worked for a suburban weekly newspaper, *The Doings* in Hinsdale, IL. There she was a beat reporter for Burr Ridge, IL and covered stories on their city council, park district, and elementary schools, as well as writing feature stories and profiles.

Currently, Vinicky is a statehouse reporter, interning under the direction of Bill Wheelhouse and Sean Crawford at the WUIS statehouse bureau. She covers "anything and everything" that happens in the House and Senate, though she noted that it seems as though she tends to be more involved with the activities in the House. She has conducted many interviews, including interviewing the Governor. She enjoys looking at the bills and the state budget and likes to explain to people what is going on that will affect their lives. Vinicky stated, "There are so many stories floating around, it's just a matter of uncovering them." When asked if she prefers print, radio or television, Vinicky stated that she enjoys them all, but that she loves public radio.

The Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) program, directed by Professor Charles N. Wheeler III, offers graduate degrees in reporting. Students are required to complete an intensive six month internship during their second semester and are assigned to either a print or broadcast internship in the State Capitol pressroom. For additional information on the PAR program at UIS, please refer to their website at <http://www.uis.edu/publicaffairsreporting>.

Our best wishes go out to Elizabeth Braun and Amanda Vinicky as they complete their PAR internships and begin the next step in their careers.



Meet Our Students!

Joe Maxon

Joe Maxon is a graduate assistant (GA) in the Center with the Survey Research Office (SRO). He is a second year grad student and was interviewed in late April for this article.

Where did you earn your undergraduate degree, and what was your major?

I earned a B.A. in History from Aurora University, with a minor in Political Science.

What is your major in grad school?

I will receive a M.A. in Political Studies with an emphasis on practical politics this May.

Are you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I am currently a member of the UIS College Democrats. I am also involved in a number of community political activities in Springfield, and back home in DuPage County, specifically the DuPage County Democrats.

Are you working on your thesis or project?

I chose to take the comprehensive examination for the M.A. in Political Studies. It is scheduled for late April. My focus is on incumbency in congressional elections.

What are your career plans?

When asked if he had political aspirations, Maxon laughed and said no, but that everyone asks him that question! He loves all politics, especially American politics, but also likes international politics as well. He stated that he would like to work with public policy or be involved in government research. Because he "likes to help get things done" he may enjoy a position in policy development for politicians. Maxon is currently interviewing for a job in the Chicago area for a position that conducts research, very much like the research he has experience with in the SRO.

How long have you been a GA in the Center?

I've been a GA in the SRO since August 2004. Prior to that, I spent last summer as an intern in the Springfield office of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, which was a requirement of my master's degree program. In that capacity I served as a front line telephone contact for constituents. I assisted with a variety of cases, including topics such as immigration, taxes, health care and public housing. The internship was an excellent experience. I spent the first year of graduate school as a student worker in the Chancellor's Office.

Could you discuss the types of assignments you are working on as a GA?

I have been very involved in conducting the survey on Politics and Religion for the Center's annual Policy Summit. It is still ongoing, but not at the pace it was prior to the Policy Summit. I am also working on an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) survey on seatbelt usage and motorist's habits. The IDOT survey is an on-going survey that cycles through about every three to four months. We just concluded a survey that was sponsored by Brookens Library at UIS about the usage of the two Springfield libraries, which include Lincoln Library (and its branches) and the UIS library, and what the likelihood of community members using Brookens Library would be.

Do you have plans for the summer?

I haven't made summer plans specifically. I am hoping to find a job in the Chicago area and begin my career. I also will spend time with family and friends, as well as cheer on the Cubs. I consider myself a huge Cubs fan and believe that I may be their biggest fan south of I-80. My advice to all Cubs fans is to BELIEVE – our time will come!

We wish Joe well on his comprehensive exam, his graduation, and his job search. Thank you, Joe, for your service to the Center and the SRO.



Joe Maxon at Center GA appreciation reception.

Jenifer Maseman

Jenifer Maseman is a graduate assistant (GA) in the Center with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. She began her GA position in January 2005, and has been formally invited to return for the 2005-2006 academic year, which begins in August. This is Maseman's first year as a graduate student in English. She was interviewed in early April for this article.

Where did you earn your undergraduate degree, and what was your major?

I earned a bachelor's degree in English from UIS.

What are your career plans?

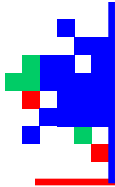
My ultimate goal is to earn a doctoral degree and become a tenured professor at a university. I

want to teach classical literature, preferably Homer and Shakespeare. At this point, I am a bit torn about what area I'd like to focus on in my doctoral studies. I am finding that I also have an interest in American Indian literature.

Could you discuss the types of assignments you are working on as a GA?

I have been involved in conducting a lot of fact checking. Also, I am learning how to image edit, which entails working with copies of documents that have been scanned into the computer and cropping them to the appropriate size. This process brings the documents more into focus. We work with two types of images; those from Lincoln's legal career, and those that are non-legal, such as

(Continued on page 12)



(Meet Our Students continued from page 11) personal letters. I am focusing mainly on the legal documents currently.

Do you have plans for the upcoming summer?

I will be taking a summer course at UIS. It will be the first time I have been in the same class as my husband. Taking a course together should prove to be interesting, as we are very competitive about our GPAs! Other summer plans include spending time with my family.

Have you begun your thesis?

I am in the beginning stages of working on my

thesis. I have my title, which is "The Power of Words: The Importance of Storytelling and Oral Tradition." My focus is on oral traditions, and without oral traditions we would not have storytelling. I am currently working with Ethan Lewis and Jim Ottery in the English department, but have not officially formed my thesis committee.

We wish Jenifer well in the completion of her thesis and master's degree and are pleased that she will be with us in the Center/Papers of Abraham Lincoln as a GA next year.



Jenifer Maseman

Upcoming Events

June 17, 2005:

Society, Slavery and the Civil War - "With Hearts on Fire - Women in the Civil War: North & South." Co-sponsored by the UIS Public Policy High School Initiatives Program, Professor Phillip Shaw Paludan, UIS Speakers Bureau, and Lawrence J. Smith and Sheila Stocks-Smith. Free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium. **Reservations required due to limited seating** by calling 217-206-7398 or email pphsp@uis.edu.

July 10, 2005:

The winners of *A Prairie Home Companion's* "Musicians under Twenty" competition will play at the **WUIS barbeque and bluegrass event**. The Lovell Sisters Band <http://www.lovellsistersband.com/> will be the headlining act and local host Mark Mathewson and daughter Molly will kick things off. WUIS personalities will serve barbeque and all the 'fixin's.' Everyone will have an opportunity to tour WUIS and see the campus and a Kids Area will allow children to make musical crafts, such as kazoos. This is the station's big "thank you" event for the year for all current members, while reaching out to other families and younger listeners. Everyone in the WUIS listening area is invited; families are encouraged to donate \$10 and a can of food, \$5 of which will be donated to the Children's Museum and the can of food to Kumler Food Pantry. The event will run from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 30, 2005:

Illinois Issues will host a 30th anniversary celebration luncheon at the Union League Club of Chicago from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A panel discussion on future challenges facing Illinois will be moderated by former Governor Jim Edgar. Ed Wojcicki, UIS associate chancellor for constituent relations, will serve as master of ceremonies. Ticket price and additional panel members are to be announced. For additional information, contact *Illinois Issues* at 217/206-6084.

October 13, 20 and 26, 2005:

Mark your calendar now for **the Center's annual Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series**. **The theme of the 2005 series is "Lincoln and Economic Opportunity."** **The lectures will be held on Thursday, October 13, Thursday October 20, and Wednesday October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium on the UIS campus.** These events are free and open to the public. The featured speakers include Professor Allen Guelzo, Gettysburg College, on October 13, Professor Michael Holt, University of Virginia, on October 20, and Professor Gabor Boritt, Gettysburg College, on October 26. Professor Phillip Paludan, Distinguished Chair of Lincoln Studies at UIS, will provide commentary following each lecture. Save the dates and plan to attend!

October 27, 2005:

The evening of Thursday, October 27, **WUIS brings *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me* to Sangamon Auditorium.** The station's last successful national program visit, by *Whad Ya Know?* was in September 2002 to an almost-sold-out crowd. Thirty-seven pairs of up-front tickets were grabbed during this year's spring fundraiser, and tickets will go on sale at the Auditorium soon, first open to WUIS members, then the general public.

**Center for State Policy and Leadership
University of Illinois at Springfield**

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