

State Policy and Leadership Monthly

Center for State Policy and Leadership
University of Illinois at Springfield

Illinois Issues and WUIS-WIPA Staff Win National ACRE Awards

The Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors (ACRE) announced winners of their fifth annual contest for excellence in state government coverage at the Association's annual conference in November at Columbia, South Carolina. Two *Illinois Issues* writers earned first place awards for excellence in state government reporting, and WUIS-WIPA Public Radio won the top two prizes in the radio beat reporting category.

Charles N. Wheeler III was awarded first place for three of his "Ends and Means" columns about significant public policy issues. Wheeler, whose commentary appears each month in *Illinois Issues*, is director of the Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) program at UIS. He was a longtime Statehouse reporter for the *Chicago*



Professor Charles Wheeler writes a monthly column "Ends and Means" for *Illinois Issues*.

Sun-Times. Kate Clements was awarded first place for "Risky Math," an essay on funding of the state's pension systems. Her analysis appeared in the May issue of the magazine. Clements is Statehouse bureau chief for *The News-Gazette* of Champaign.

WUIS Statehouse Bureau Chief Bill Wheelhouse won first place and Statehouse reporter Sean Crawford won second place.

"Many people, political junkies and not, tell us they couldn't go very long without the coverage of state government that Bill and Sean provide," said Brad Swanson, General Manager of WUIS. "These seasoned reporters provide a balanced view and unique spotlight into the work of our elected officials."

Wheelhouse has served as WUIS Statehouse Bureau Chief since 1995. He is an adjunct professor in the PAR program at UIS. Wheelhouse's winning entry included his stories from the past year on medical malpractice, the death of Paul Simon, Illinois' history of corrupt governors, prescription drugs, and the Governor's internal battle with the State Board of Education.

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Kelley Boston Wins Special Merit for History Master's Thesis at UIS

Kelley Boston, Data Specialist with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, has been awarded a Special Merit Award by the UIS Research Board for her master's thesis in History entitled *A Phalanx Disintegrated: Socialism in Sangamon County, Illinois, 1844 - 1848*.

While Kelley was work-

ing as a graduate assistant with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, director Daniel Stowell suggested that she look into this topic, as very little research had been conducted on this specific group of Sangamon County residents. Boston reviewed the files of the legal battle that took place when the group

dissolved, which are maintained in the Illinois Regional Archives Depository at UIS. Most of the handwritten depositions, taken in 1847 and 1848, had never been transcribed, so Boston transcribed them for her own use.

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November, 2004

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- 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



Illinois Issues and WUIS-WIPA Staff Win National ACRE Awards



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Both Crawford and Wheelhouse are panelists on the weekly public radio show *State Week in Review*, which originates at WUIS and is broadcast to public radio stations statewide. Crawford has over 20

years' experience in radio, and has been Statehouse reporter since 1997. He has won numerous awards. His second place win in the ACRE awards included his stories from the past year on the Illinois Republican party's nomination of Jack

Ryan for Senate, the proposal for expanded gambling in Illinois, Governor Rod Blagojevich's call for a tax on farmers, stem cell research, and the sale of Illinois Power.

Congratulations to all four award winners!

Office of Electronic Media Provides Hands-On Opportunities for Student Workers



As associate producer, Melissa Mason edits programs for Access 4.

Melissa Mason, a senior in Communication (Mass Media) at UIS has worked part-time in the Office of Electronic Media since January, 2004. Her many experiences include operating the camera, running audio during production (which adjusts the audio levels of guests to ensure consistency), directing, editing, and serving as associate producer.

mat on the videotape. Mason says she enjoys her job and is learning so much about the practical side of television production that she could not have learned from her textbooks. Also, she has gained experience dealing with community producers and interacting with the public. This is Mason's career field and she hopes these experiences will help her as she begins her career.

recting, and serving as associate producer.

Nicole is associate producer on Access 4 of "Blessings of Hope" which airs every Friday at 8:00 p.m., and "Praise and Worship Today" which airs every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. She is responsible for scheduling the programming of the shows as well as editing the programs. France has been trained to run the master control for Access 4, has designed community calendar slides, as well as contacted community producers to confirm productions.



Nicole France sits in the director's seat and directs programs for Access 4.

Melissa is associate producer on Access 4 (Springfield's public access cable channel) of "Equity for Women" which airs every other Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., and "Singing with Danny Hicks" which airs every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. She is responsible for scheduling the programming of the shows as well as editing the programs. Melissa recently assisted with videotaping two of the Lincoln Legacy Lectures. She had the opportunity to not only run the camera, but learned the correct camera set-up, and also recently learned how to run the character generator, which is a computer program that identifies the speaker in print for-

Nicole France, a junior in Biology at UIS has worked part-time in the Office of Electronic Media since fall 2002. She enjoys her job, which is outside of her chosen career field, and actually considers her work in the television studio as her hobby.

Dave Antoine, Television Production Coordinator, and Melissa and Nicole's supervisor, spoke of the important role student workers and graduate assistants play in the Office of Electronic Media. Currently, this unit employs 17 student workers, which accounts for more than one-half of the employees within the unit. Typically about 50% of the student workers are Communication majors, while the other 50% major in other areas.

Nicole's experiences include a number of university productions, such as sporting events, commencement, music fall showcase, World Affairs Council lectures, and all three Lincoln Legacy lectures. She is experienced in studio production, editing, operating the camera, running audio, di-



Kelley Boston, M.A., won a Special Merit Award on her master's thesis in History at UIS.

Kelley Boston Wins Special Merit on UIS History Master's Thesis

(Continued from page 1)

She also conducted research in the state archives by examining voting records to determine the group's political and social affiliations. Using census and genealogical data, she conducted a considerable amount of demographic research on Sangamon County.

The members of the group

she researched had settled in Loami, Illinois and were mostly from New England, were educated, and were in their 40's and 50's. This was a very distinct group of people who were interested in the communal way of living, both socially and economically, not unlike the hippie movement of the 1960's and 1970's. Their experiment

with socialism failed because the members decided they were better off living on their own. Through her research, Boston also has discovered that many of the descendents of this group are alive and still living in Sangamon County.

Congratulations to Kelley on her M.A. and Special Merit Award!

Excerpts from the Panel on Women and Politics in Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities



(L to R) Back row: Meredith Newman, and Barbara Ferrara. Front row: Brenda Holmes, Billie Paige, and Diana Nelson.

Dr. Meredith Newman, Chair, Department of Public Administration at UIS, moderated the September 27th panel on Women and Politics in Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities. The panelists included Brenda Holmes, Member of the Illinois State Board of Education; former State Representative Diana Nelson, Executive Director, Cross City Campaign for Urban School Reform; and Billie Paige, Partner, Shea, Paige and Rogal.

Newman set the stage for discussion by stating "the purpose of the panel is to examine the difference that gender makes to politics in Illinois." She also shared some interesting statistics that related to women in office. According to the Center for American Women and Politics, in 2004, 74 women serve in the U.S. Congress (14 women in the Senate and 60 women in the House). In 2004, 80 women hold state-

wide elective executive offices across the country; women hold 25% of the 315 available positions. In 2004, 22% of the 1,661 state legislators in the U.S. are women. Twenty years ago the percentage of women in the U.S. Congress was just 4% - today it is nearly 14%.

Diana Nelson was the first panelist to speak and one of the topics she addressed was the importance of raising money. "It takes money to get elected. If you support me, I need you to write a check." She stated that politics is expensive. She also shared some valuable advice given to her by a lobbyist early in her career. That advice was to be very cautious about the type of committees you choose. Do not become involved in only women's issues, but also committees that deal with law and finance. Nelson feels women bring great, broad-ranging interests to the political process and

women, just like men, can self-destruct. They can choose not to be risk-takers. She hopes for the day when women are seen as equals to men and take on leadership roles that **do** determine the course of their lives in this state.

Billie Paige began by stating that stereotyping of women in public life still exists and provided a number of examples, one of which was, if a male wants to think before doing, he is considered "thoughtful" while a female is labeled "indecisive." Paige talked about women who are interested in pursuing a career in public life and the importance of becoming involved with one of two groups that train women to go into public life: "The Lincoln Series" (Republican) and "Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership" (Democrat). They both hold annual training classes on how to raise
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Diana Nelson speaks of the need for raising money when running for office.

Excerpts from the Panel on Women and Politics in Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities

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money, public speaking and many other helpful topics for women. Paige suggested women not try to be “one of the boys.” It is not the way to get elected, re-elected, or be successful as a woman in public life. She suggests being yourself at all times.

Brenda Holmes concluded the panel and spoke of the importance of having integrity – say what you mean and mean what you say and make sure you are correct in what you say. She noted in her experiences with education, the General Assembly and, most recently, the Govern-

nor’s Office that there doesn’t seem to be, with women, the emphasis on “me” winning at all costs or casting blame to identify winners and losers as there seems to sometimes be with men. Holmes feels there are more women behind the scenes in key positions where women can have the opportunity to influence final decisions. She is encouraged by the number of young women graduating from college who have talent, energy, and dedication – all that it takes to be involved in education or politics. In her opinion, women have made tremendous inroads, however, the real final decision-making still rests

with men.

After a brief question and answer period, the panelists remained to speak individually with many in the audience. The next luncheon panel is scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2004 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sangamo Club in Springfield. Guest speaker Richard Norton Smith, Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, will give a historical perspective on the changing world of politics. For registration information, please contact 217/333-3340 or email bunette@uillinois.edu.



Brenda Holmes speaks about the importance of having integrity.



UIS DPA student Beverly Peters speaks to Billie Paige after the luncheon panel.

Institute for Legislative Studies Hosts Conference Related to Illinois State Budget

On Friday, October 15, 2004 the Institute for Legislative Studies (ILS) held their first conference related to the Illinois State Budget, entitled, “Illinois State Budget: Tax and Spend 101.” The half-day workshop on how the state budget process works in Illinois, and how to succeed in effectively influencing the budget-making process was attended by 40 participants.

Basic information on the state budget, beginning with the state’s revenue streams and the governor’s proposed budget, through the legislative appropriations process was presented by staff of the ILS. Dr. Christopher Z. Mooney outlined the state budget timeline in “Triple Helix: The State Budget Timeline.” Drs. Kent Redfield and Ethan Bernick set the stage by following

the money that comes in and out of the state. Redfield presented “Money In: Taxes and Fees,” while Bernick discussed appropriations and expenditures in “Money Out: State Dollars at Work.” Professor Charles Wheeler rounded out the discussion by adding political elements to the framework in “Budget Making and Breaking: The Political Dynamics.”

The ILS staff was joined by a panel of distinguished speakers, which included Tom Ryder, former Illinois State Representative and Doug Whitley, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Moderated by Kent Redfield, the panelists presented their views on how the budget deals get made in the final days of the session in “Let’s

Make a Deal: Budget Making in Illinois.”

A special thank you goes to Doug Whitley and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce for their generosity in picking up the cost of the luncheon that followed. The conference concluded with remarks from the special luncheon speaker, John Filan, Director of the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget, on the role and work of his office in the budget making process.

The conference was well received by those attending. The Institute looks forward to adding this conference to their current offerings, The Third House: Workshop on Legislative Lobbying (scheduled for December 3, 2004) and The Illinois Legislative Process: The Basics and Beyond.





Dr. John Petter Teaches Introduction to Public Service for 1st Year GPSI Interns



Dr. John Petter (center) assists GPSI students working on a group project. Pictured from left are Ivan Czwan, Yi Zhang, Petter, Swathi Mallepaddi, and Naga Ala. Other group members not pictured include Megan Bleich and Imran Aziz.

Professor John Petter of the UIS Department of Public Administration teaches Introduction to Public Service: The Organizational-Bureaucratic Environment for first year Graduate Public Service Interns (GPSI). This course is one of a series of four seminars that GPSI students take during their two year internship. When asked what topics are covered in his course, Dr. Petter stated that his seminar class “seeks to provide the students, many of whom are internationals, a foundation for understanding their intern position within a larger context...starting with the U.S. system of constitutional government, setting the

‘bureaucracy’ in its legislative and judicial setting, and then what it means to work in a public bureaucracy: the individual vs. the bureaucracy, personnel systems, ethics, public management, etc. These topics have obvious direct value to students who are beginning their GPSI experience.”

As a second year adjunct faculty member and a former GPSI himself, Dr. Petter very much enjoys teaching and working with the interns. Dr. Petter earned a DPA degree from UIS and works as the Chief of the Bureau of Compliance and Review in the Illinois Department of Human Ser-

vices’ Office of the Inspector General. He developed the syllabus and selected topics that he felt would be helpful to the students in their role as interns.

The other three seminar courses in the series are Conflict Management and Interpersonal Communication Skills, Facilitation and Presentation Skills, and Career Development. The seminar classes meet five times per semester for three hours, and students earn 1.0 credit hour, for a total of 4.0 credit hours upon completion of all four seminar classes. Other GPSI seminar classes will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

Illinois Issues Will Publish its Ninth Annual Arts Issue in December



This artistic interpretation of Abraham Lincoln by Gregory Manchess appears in the new Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in Springfield, IL. The museum exhibits were designed by BRC Imagination Arts, which provided the photograph.

UIS’ monthly public affairs magazine published by the Center has evolved dramatically over the past three decades. And one of the more popular innovations is the mid-winter arts issue, an effort to highlight the relationship between policy and culture.

Illinois Issues has always sought to draw a connection between this state’s quality of life and public support for imagination in all its forms. But on the eve of the magazine’s 30th Anniversary year, our writers and editors will explore the strategies cultural interpreters employ to attract a “point and click”

generation.

“Directors of museums and historic sites,” writes essayist Dan Guillory, “have long recognized that older patrons were already suffering from information overload. And the younger patrons, increasingly comfortable with cyberspace, were simply turned off by the glass-case exhibits of traditional museums. So the new historians wanted — and urgently needed — high-profile exhibits that were palpable, accessible and instantly memorable.”

The new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is expected to be a

notable exemplar of this high-tech, more “user-friendly” approach to the state’s heritage. *Illinois Issues* will offer readers an early look at the museum, which is scheduled to open this spring, along with an analysis of some of the challenges faced in the digital age by historians, artists and educators who want to teach new generations to “read” (literally and symbolically) the traditional cultural texts.

The December edition will be available December 3. The magazine’s Web site address is <http://illinoisissues.uis.edu>.



(L to R) GAs Renee Redfield and Rikeesha Cannon visit at the GA Brown Bag.



(L to R) GAs Joe Maxon and Brad Mitchell enjoy dessert after the GA Brown Bag.

GA Brown Bag Hosted by Office of Executive Director

The Office of the Executive Director hosted a GA brown bag on Wednesday, October 27 over the lunch hour. The purpose of the brown bag was to invite the Graduate Assistants (GAs) who work for the various units within the Center, as well as their supervisors, and have them give an informal presentation about the types of assignments and projects they are working on as a GA. Eight GAs and six supervisors attended the event.

Those attending included: Rikeesha Cannon and her supervisor Bev Scobell (Center Publications/*Illinois Issues*); Sarah Chase (Office of Electronic Media); Joe Maxon (Survey Research); Brad Mitchell and Nathan Myers and their supervisor Joy Syrcle (Institute for Legal and Policy Studies); Renee Redfield and her supervisor Barbara Ferrara (Office of the Executive Director); Leslie Rossman and her supervisors Kent Redfield and Bar-

bara Van Dyke-Brown (Institute for Legislative Studies); and, Keith Taylor and his supervisor Bob Ladendorf (Center Publications/*Illinois Issues*).

The Center plans to sponsor a GA brown bag once each semester to provide the GAs an opportunity to get to know each other, as well as showcase their projects and successes. After the informal presentations, homemade desserts were provided for all to enjoy.

Premier Edition of CIVICS Plan-It! Ezine Online November 1, 2004

The Public Policy High School Initiatives Program at UIS provides classroom grants to teacher teams in Illinois to enhance civic education for Illinois students and engage them in public policymaking. An extension of this program is an ezine, which is an electronic magazine, titled CIVICS Plan-It! The new ezine, which contains 48 pages premiered online November 1, 2004 and can be viewed at <http://pphsp.uis.edu/civicsplanit.htm>.

The ezine is written for high school students and their teachers. The civics title represents Classroom Involvement, Volunteering & Innovative Community Solutions and is intended to provide up to date information on state and local gov-

ernment for high school students in Illinois. The goal is to encourage students and teachers in Illinois to become more involved in public policy and that those in Illinois will spread this voice in policymaking throughout the United States. High school students and their teachers are invited to take up the task of involving themselves in their local and state government policymaking and contribute to the magazine. CIVICS Plan-It! contains nine sections: About us; State and Local Government Resources; Students; Teachers; Schools Making a Difference; Intro to Civics; Action Links; Polls and Results; and, Sign up for Listserve. Many of these sections are interactive and contain surveys to participate in, and nomination

forms to nominate students, such as Creative Thinkers, and Citizen Actors, as well as nomination forms to nominate a school that is making a difference in their community.

In 2004-2005, four issues will be published: November/December 2004, January/February 2005, March/April 2005, and May/June 2005, with a goal of monthly publication during the 2005-2006 school year. Peggy Dunn serves as the Director of the Public Policy High School Initiatives Program and is Editor/Writer of CIVICS Plan-It! The January/February 2005 issue will contain information on local, state and federal internship opportunities for high school students.

The new CIVICS Plan-It! Ezine can be viewed at <http://pphsp.uis.edu/civicsplanit.htm>.



Dr. Stu Jacobson Speaks to Missouri State Beekeeping Association



Dr. Stu Jacobson of the Institute for Legal and Policy Studies at UIS gave a presentation to the members of the Missouri State Beekeeping Association at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri on October 29 and 30, 2004. The presentation, "Could a new business plan help your beekeeping operation?" was attended by approximately 50 beekeepers from throughout Missouri.

Funding for a business plan workbook was provided through a grant the Institute

received from the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research. The workbook/guide was prepared by Jacobson, as well as Susan Daley, Sue Kohler, and Joshua Buchheit of the SIU Carbondale Economic Development Center. The presentation covered topics featured in the workbook, which included: beekeeping economics; what can beekeepers do to improve the situation; the process of writing and putting together a business plan; should you consider developing a

branded line of products; what a brand can do for you; and words of advice.

In addition to the business plan presentation, Jacobson also moderated a panel for people in different facets of beekeeping, and conducted two workshops on how to begin writing a business plan. Jacobson mentioned the importance of having a solid business plan in written format. A business plan can assist individuals secure a bank loan to begin their own business.

Papers of Abraham Lincoln Staff Captures Lincoln Images at Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne

Papers of Abraham Lincoln staff members John Lupton and Stacy McDermott traveled to the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana to capture images of more than 500 documents in their collection. The Lincoln Museum is a part of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and has one of the largest collections of Lincolnia in the coun-

try. The Museum has in their possession nearly 200 documents written by the sixteenth president and a large collection of over 300 documents of letters written to Lincoln.

Lupton and McDermott worked with the Director of Collections, and the Library Registrar who graciously accommodated their large

scanning equipment and laptops computers. It took two weeks for Lupton and McDermott to scan the documents. The 500 documents yielded nearly 1,200 images and 120 Gigabytes of data. The project scans high resolution .tiff files with plans to make the images available on the Internet.

"The 500 documents yielded nearly 1,200 images and 120 Gigabytes of data."

Meet Our Students!

Sarah Chase was interviewed by Center GA Renee Redfield in mid-November having spent about two and one-half months on the job as a Graduate Assistant (GA) in the Of-

fice of Electronic Media. She is a first semester graduate student at UIS.

Where did you earn your undergraduate degree, and

what was your major?

I graduated from UIS with B.A. in English and Communication.

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Meet our Students!

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Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I started the theatre club here on campus and was president for a year. I belonged to the Christian Student Fellowship and was a part of the fellowship's leadership team in charge of media. I was also a member on a few English program committees.

What is your major in grad school?

I am working on my Master's in English.

What are your career plans?

I would like to work in television for a few years and I plan to eventually teach English at the community college

level. I would like to concentrate on war and post-war American Literature.

How long have you been a GA in the Center?

I have been a GA for the Office of Electronic Media since August but I was a student worker there for three years prior to being a GA.

Does being a GA differ much from being a student worker?

As a student worker, I was responsible for a lot of office work. The GA position offers me many more responsibilities. I am gaining supervisory experience, serving as a crew leader in charge of evening productions and remotes. I am also responsible for gathering and organizing local Springfield

graphics for the Access 4 community calendar, which will be used repeatedly as needed.

Could you discuss the types of assignments you are (or will be) working on as a GA?

I recently produced and edited Dr. Jeffrey Chesky's video acceptance speech when he won the 2004 Mildred M. Selzer Distinguished Service Recognition Award.

How did you spend your summer vacation?

This summer I worked at the Office of Electronic Media full-time so that I could prepare myself for the heavier GA workload. I also spent time with my fiancée and took a class at my church.



Sarah Chase edits television programs for Access 4.

Richard Schuldt Interviewed for "Eye on Illinois" Radio Show

Richard Schuldt, Director of the Center's Survey Research Office, was the "newsmaker" interviewed for the "Eye on Illinois" radio show that aired the weekend before the November election. Hosted by James Anderson, News Director for the Illinois Radio Network, Schuldt discussed how telephone polls are conducted and why poll results can differ. The half-hour news show is produced by the Illinois Radio Network and is sent to over 50 radio stations throughout Illinois.

Schuldt suggests two websites for information on polls in general and why polls differ specifically. These can be accessed from the websites of two major survey research/polling national organizations: the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and the National Council on Public Polls (NCPP). Articles include "Sources of Variation in Published Election Polling: A Primer" by Cliff Zukin, and "20 Questions a Journalist Should Ask about Poll

Results" by Sheldon R. Gawiser and G. Evans Witt. The websites can be found at <http://www.aapor.org/pdfs/varsource.pdf> and www.ncpp.org/qajsa.htm.

Additional information on polling can be found in the February 2004 edition of *Illinois Issues* (<http://illinoisissues.uis.edu>). Peggy Boyer-Long, Executive Editor, *Illinois Issues* conducted a Q & A with Richard Schuldt, entitled "A Primer on Polling."





Center for State Policy
and Leadership

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
[HTTP://CSPL.UIS.EDU](http://CSPL.UIS.EDU)

Upcoming Events

December 13, 2004:

Richard Norton Smith, Executive Director, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, will speak.

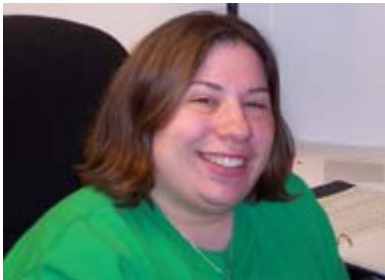
Join us for the third in this year's Policy Luncheon Series from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For registration information, please contact Scott Koeneman at 217-333-3340.

January 18, 2005:

Louis Fisher, Ph.D., Senior Specialist in Separation of Powers with the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, will give a lecture in Brookens Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on "Bush and the War on Terrorism." Free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois, UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership, and Lincoln Land Community College.

Meet Our Students!



Leslie Rossman, who is pursuing her M.A. in Political Studies was awarded the Lee Frost-Kumpf Memorial Scholarship for this academic year.

Leslie Rossman was interviewed by Center GA Renee Redfield in mid-November, having spent about two and one-half months on the job as a Graduate Assistant (GA) in the Institute for Legislative Studies. She is a second year graduate student at UIS.

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

I graduated from SIU Carbondale with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Speech Communication.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I was involved with campus politics and politics in general. I was a four-year member of the College Democrats and held various offices including Vice President and

President. I was also a four year member of the Model Illinois Government. I founded the campus chapter of the ACLU. I also worked on a number of political campaigns including a congressional campaign and a state senate campaign.

What is your major in grad school?

I am working on my Master's in Political Science.

What are your career plans?

I would like to work in the Illinois Legislature. I plan to start out as a staffer or as a lobbyist but eventually I would like to be a legislator. My ultimate goal is to work in Congress.

Could you describe the types of assignments you are (or will be) working on

as a GA?

I am co-authoring a paper with Dr. Ethan Bernick on gender in elected office in Illinois. The paper will specifically discuss why office holders are predominately female at the county level but not at the state level. The paper has been approved for presentation at the Midwest Political Science convention.

How did you spend your summer vacation?

I spent the first half of my summer finishing out my internship with Cook-Witter, a Springfield lobbying firm. Through my internship, I was able to better learn how the legislature works and how lobbyists can affect legislation. I spent the rest of the summer resting up for the upcoming school year.