

The Honorands of The 2001 Commencement

Honorable Paul Simon Doctor of Laws

Paul Simon is a professor at Southern Illinois University, where he teaches classes in political science, history, and journalism. He joined SIU's faculty in 1997, just weeks after retiring from the U.S. Senate. In addition, he is founder and director of the Public Policy Institute at the Carbondale campus.

Illinois's former senior U.S. senator has enjoyed a long and illustrious political career. Elected to both the state's House and Senate, he also served a term as lieutenant governor. His wide-ranging policy interests span such diverse topics as the budget, education, disability policy, foreign affairs labor, and television violence.

Born in Eugene, Oregon, Simon attended the University of Oregon and Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. At the age of 19, he became the nation's youngest editor/publisher when he accepted a local Lion's Club challenge to save the *Troy Tribune* in Troy, Ill., near St. Louis. He built a chain of 13 newspapers in southern and central Illinois, which he sold in 1966 to devote full time to public service and writing.

Simon served two years (1951-1953) in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Counter-Intelligence Corps as a special agent along the Iron Curtain in Europe. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 and served Illinois's 22nd and 24th Congressional districts for ten years, during which time he was chief sponsor of the Missing Children Act and of subsequent legislation that established the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. In 1984, Simon upset three-term incumbent Charles Percy to win election to the U.S. Senate. In 1987-1988, he sought the Democratic nomination for president. He won re-election to the U.S. Senate in 1990.

Simon holds 52 honorary degrees and has written 19 books (four with co-authors), starting with *Lovejoy: Martyr to Freedom* in 1964, and most recently *How to Get Into Politics- and Why* (with Michael Dukakis) in 2000.