

PROGRAMMING ADVISORY

Illinois Stories to feature Downstate Illinois Innocence
Project on WSEC/PBS Springfield

FEB 1, 2012, SPRINGFIELD, IL – *Illinois Stories*, hosted by Mark McDonald, will feature a case taken on by the Downstate Illinois Innocence Project which provides investigative and legal research services to attorneys representing inmates who both the attorneys and the Project have good reason to believe did not commit the crimes for which they were convicted.

Recently three law students from SIU-Carbondale, in partnership with the Downstate Illinois Innocence Project of UIS, petitioned the Illinois Prisoner Review Board to exonerate Grover Thompson. Thompson died in prison in 1996 after being convicted on attempted murder charges in the stabbing of an elderly woman in Mt. Vernon. Police investigators later concluded that the stabbing was actually done by a serial killer who admitted to the stabbing.

This episode of *Illinois Stories* takes place in the State Capitol on the day that the students are petitioning the Illinois Prisoner Review Board to exonerate Thompson. Interviews include SIU law student Nicole Laforte who lead the project, Lt. Paul Echols a retired police officer who wrote a book about the case, S. T. Jamison a nephew of Grover Thompson, SIU law professor and student supervisor Christopher Behan, and UIS Downstate Illinois Innocence Project Director Dr. Larry Golden.

The program will air on WSEC/PBS Springfield on Thursday, Feb. 9th at 7:00pm, Sunday, February 12th at 4:00pm, and Monday, February 13th at 6:30pm.

WSEC/PBS Springfield, WQEC/PBS Quincy and WMEC/PBS Macomb are all part of Network Knowledge, which provides quality public television and educational services through a network of viewer-supporters, volunteers, universities, hospitals and business partners in communities throughout central and western Illinois.

Station-produced programs are also available on its YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/networkknowledge>. Network Knowledge is public media for western and central Illinois.

Contact:

Dr. Jerold Grubel
President & CEO
Network Knowledge
WSEC/PBS Springfield
217-483-7887, x222
800-232-3605

Fast Facts

WHAT: *Illinois Stories*

WHEN: Thur. Feb. 9th @ 7pm, Sun. Feb. 12th @ 4pm, Mon. Feb. 13th @ 6:30pm

WHERE: WSEC/PBS, Springfield

