

02FEB08

The Marietta Daily Journal  
['Rebuild the Dream'](#)

**KENNESAW - Former president Bill Clinton swung through Cobb County last night on behalf of his wife, Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.**

**Clinton spoke to students and campaign supporters before a standing room only crowd in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center at Kennesaw State University, challenging the thousands in attendance to cast their vote for a woman he says could "rebuild the American dream."**

**"If we'd never been married, I would still be here for her tonight knowing what I know," Clinton said. "I think she's the most qualified candidate."**

**The former president hit the highlights of his wife's campaign during his hour long speech, including restoring the middle class, universal health care and education.**

**The loudest crowd response came when Clinton brought up President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" policy. Clinton said his wife would do away with the policy and vows to raise education standards. Clinton joked that discussing the policy was his only surefire way to get applause.**

**"I tell you, they didn't mean to do this. They just wrote a law about education without ever talking to teacher or principals," he said to laughter in the crowd.**

**He also briefly touched on the U.S. mortgage crisis, adding that his wife would pass a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures for responsible homeowners. Clinton reasoned the hold would reverse the mortgage meltdown, despite costing Americans \$30 billion.**

**"It would cost you \$30 billion, but wouldn't you rather spend \$30 billion and keep 2 million people in their homes," he said.**

**Ms. Clinton is pitted against Sen. Barack Obama in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Friday's visit to the traditionally Republican territory marks the kickoff of the last weekend before Super Tuesday.**

**One vote already won by the presidential hopeful in the state of Georgia is that of Allison Barnes Salter, daughter of former Gov. Roy Barnes. Ms. Barnes Salter introduced the former president.**

**"Although children are a small part of our population, they're 100 percent of our future," she said. "She understands the importance of taking care of our children and building a strong foundation for the future."**

**Not everyone in the crowd was swayed by Clinton's message, however. Dr. Robert Desmon, a professor in management and entrepreneurship, said he would have liked to hear more about Ms. Clinton's foreign trade policies before he makes up his mind.**

"I thought it was good that he addressed the economy, but I wished he had addressed foreign trade more," he said. "I'm still undecided on my vote but I think he made a very positive contribution to her campaign."

Julie Bare, of Porterdale, said this was her second time hearing Bill Clinton speak and she supported the Clinton camp.

"I am going to vote for Hillary," she said. "She seems to know what she's doing and I think she has the experience."

Former president for Kennesaw State University Dr. Betty Siegel said the evening, in all, was very interesting.

"This continues the tradition of people coming together to have courageous conversations," she said. "These opportunities are important, not only for what is said, but for the conversations afterwards."

17JAN08

MDJ

[Retired? Siegel making globe her playground](#)

**KENNESAW - Stacks of books are piled high on a coffee table in Dr. Betty Siegel's office across the street from the campus of Kennesaw State University.**

**Knick-knacks with a foreign flair, collected during her travels across the world, fill the room. There's a photo of her with the first black president of Stellenbosch University in South Africa, a school that formerly served as an incubator of apartheid. Nearby is a Native American talking stick, which urges all to "seek first to understand ... then to be understood."**

**The former president of KSU, Dr. Siegel says she's not really retired, even though she stepped down as president in 2006.**

**"I'm redirecting. Redefining. We're not going to extend senility, we're going to extend vitality-that's what I see in my life right now," she said Wednesday morning. "I'm probably as happy as I've ever been. Personally and professionally, it is very exciting to see how things are coming together. There are real opportunities to use the self as an instrument, if you remain open to them."**

**And Dr. Siegel is busy doing just that. Last year, she spent three months in South Africa, where she worked with leaders at Stellenbosch University and other colleges, sharing her wisdom and experience.**

**She spoke there about a program she co-founded in 1982, The International Alliance for Invitational Education, which operates on principles of respect, trust, optimism, and intentionality.**

**Invitational education is an educational theory of practice, she said. That's an important message in South Africa, which in many ways is still reeling from the effects of years of apartheid.**

**"Diversity is ethics in action," she said.**

**Dr. Siegel took advantage of her time at Stellenbosch to introduce other programs she's passionate about. Global Ethical Leadership and The First Year Experience: Living Learning Community, are two of the programs she spent time speaking about in South Africa.**

**Ethical leadership is an important message globally, especially for leaders in higher education, she said.**

**"This is a coming together of leaders committed to ethical leadership, to look at social responsibility. These are universities speaking ... the university is a convening agency in which ideas can be talked about," Dr. Siegel said.**

**Now, she's preparing to return. Dr. Siegel will start with a week in China. In mid-April, she'll go to South Africa, where she'll stay until May.**

The details of her trip to China are still fuzzy, she said, but she hopes to visit schools using her invitational model of leadership in Hong Kong. She also hopes to see a program developing in Shanghai on ethical leadership for young people.

In South Africa she'll lead the "Stellenbosch Seboka on Higher Education and Ethical Leadership." Seboka is an African word that means a group of people meeting for a common cause. In this case, the seboka is a group of university leaders interested in pursuing global ethics and leadership.

The seminar will be a recreation of The Oxford Conclave, a group that met at Oxford in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Dr. Siegel will speak at the conference, which will feature Bishop Desmond Tutu as a keynote speaker.

She'll return to Stellenbosch, about 25 miles outside of Cape Town, in September for the first conference on the first year experience. Stellenbosch University won't do things the same way KSU did, Dr. Siegel said, but they're eager to learn from KSU's successes, even if they don't replicate them exactly.

"They will make their own imprint on it," she said.

Education was the window to the world for his wife, said Dr. Joel Siegel, an associate magistrate judge for the City of Kennesaw. She's opened that windows for countless others, he said.

"She once said that on her epitaph she'd like to see written, 'Minister for education,'" he said. "Her passion is to live a life of meaning."

In recent years, two books have been written about Dr. Siegel. "For the Common Good," was written in 2007 in honor of Dr. Siegel. The most recent, "Wintering Into Wisdom," is known as a festschrift, a German word which could be translated as 'celebration publication.' Festschriften are books honoring respected educational leaders during their lifetime, and are a series of original essays. "Wintering Into Wisdom" includes compositions by Dr. Siegel's husband, two sons, and notables such as U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-East Cobb), and novelist Ferrol Sams.

Dr. Siegel's own book, "Becoming an Invitational Leader," was published in 2003. She expects to publish a revised edition soon, she said.

"To me, to winter into wisdom has been to see a Chinese connection that is going to come to fruition. In England, bringing together (university) presidents and their teams to talk about how we collaborate. In South Africa, a developing country, they're moving dramatically in new democratic ways," Dr. Siegel said. "It's teaching, but in a different classroom. Teaching, but in a broader classroom."

efarnsworth@mdjonline.com