

## **Lincoln Bicentennial Fall, 2009 Events**

### ***Morrill Act of July 2, 1862 Land-grant Act: A Bold Vision for Education***

October 1, 2009 – October 31, 2009

Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion; 500 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois

#### **Free and Open to the Public**

This installation showcases one of the United States' most important historical documents: The Morrill Act of 1862. Signed into law on July 2 by President Abraham Lincoln, the document enabled states to make higher education accessible to all through the establishment of land-grant colleges and universities. As one of these institutions, The University of Illinois, together with Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion is pleased to host the Morrill Act, only recently available for public viewing outside of Washington, D.C. The exhibition will serve as a focal point for campus-wide lectures and educational events as part of the University's ongoing celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial. See a complete schedule of related programming at: <http://engagement.illinois.edu/lincoln.html>

Co-sponsored by: The Office of the Chancellor, Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, the University of Illinois Library, and The Foundation for the National Archives.

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### ***The Morrill Act Exhibition Preview and Opening Reception***

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

4:30-6:00pm Opening Reception  
6:00-7:00pm Screening of *Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency*

Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion; 500 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois

#### **Free and Open to the Public**

Join us for the opening reception and preview of this installation, followed by a screening of the public television documentary *Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency*.

Co-sponsored by: The Office of the Chancellor, Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, and Illinois Public Media.

## ***A Presidential Press Conference with Abraham Lincoln***

Abraham Lincoln presenters George Buss of Freeport, Illinois and Robert J. Lenz of Bloomington, Illinois as Press Secretary.

Friday, October 2, 2009

3:00-4:00pm Tryon Festival Theatre, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts; 500 S. Goodwin Avenue Urbana, Illinois

Free and Open to the Public

Join President Abraham Lincoln in a modern day press conference, as he responds to questions from local media and the audience concerning important events of his career; featuring nationally known Lincoln presenter George Buss of Freeport, Illinois and Robert J. Lenz of Bloomington, Illinois (UIUC '59, Law '63; Member, U of I Board of Trustee Emeritus) as Press Secretary.

Co-sponsored by: The Office of the Chancellor, The Abraham Lincoln Association, University of Illinois Foundation, Krannert Center for Performing Arts, and the Department of Theatre.

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## ***Lincoln's Illinois Today: A Vision for Education***

Wednesday October 7, 2009

4:00-6:00pm Colloquium

6:00-7:00pm Reception

Alice Campbell Alumni Center Ballroom and Atrium; 601 S. Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois

**Free and Open to the Public**

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in partnership with the University of Illinois' Institute of Government & Public Affairs, proudly invites you to attend a two hour symposium, Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> as part of our continuing celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

Entitled "Lincoln's Illinois Today," this special program will examine the state of education in Illinois today and compare it with Lincoln's vision for a broad-based education system. In 1862, Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act, thereby creating the land-grant college and university system. Participants are encouraged to tour the Morrill Act Exhibit at Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion. Guest speakers include: The Honorable Jim Edgar, former Governor of Illinois and Distinguished Fellow at the Institute of Government & Public Affairs, Judy Erwin, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Dr. Thomas Schwartz, Illinois State Historian, and Doug Whitley, President, Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

Co-sponsored by: The Office of the Chancellor and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

***Practice as Theory: Lincoln's Address to the Temperance Society, February 22, 1842.***

Professor Michael Leff

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

3:30pm Third Floor Levis Faculty Center; 919 W. Illinois Street, Urbana, Illinois

**Free and Open to the Public**

Michael Leff is Chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis. A prolific scholar of rhetoric, Leff is the current president of the Rhetoric Society of America. He has also been named a Distinguished Scholar of both the National Communication Association and the International Society for the Study of Argumentation.

Co-sponsored by: The Office of the Chancellor and the Department of Communications.

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***Teaching Abe to Dance: (RE)searching and Dreaming a Character to Life***

James Still, Playwright

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

7:30pm Location TBA

**Free and Open to the Public**

Award-winning playwright, James Still, was commissioned to create a new play to re-open the historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC for the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in February 2009. *THE HEAVENS ARE HUNG IN BLACK*, depicts the depths of the Civil War as Lincoln wrestled with the decision to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. Haunted and prodded by dreams, the president depicted in Still's play is complex and deeply human. Actors from the Department of Theatre will present scenes as the playwright discusses the process of characterizing Abraham Lincoln in a vivid and meaningful way for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. From conception to opening night was a journey of discovery, frustration, stamina, and inspiration. How the creative artist crawled into Lincoln's personality in order to teach the iconographic image to "dance."

The Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis (where James Still is playwright in residence) will be producing *THE HEAVENS ARE HUNG IN BLACK* to open their 2010 Season, October 6-25.

Co-sponsored by: The Office of the Chancellor and the Department of Theatre.

***The Republican and the Revolutionary: Abraham Lincoln and Karl Marx***

Robin Blackburn, Professor of Sociology, Essex University; and Professor of Historical Studies, New School University

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

4:00pm Third Floor Levis Faculty Center; 919 W. Illinois Street, Urbana, Illinois

**Free and Open to the Public**

Robin Blackburn, Professor of Sociology, Essex University; and Professor of Historical Studies, New School University; an historical sociologist who teaches both at the University of Essex and the New School University in New York. He is the author of two major works of synthesis and interpretation: *The Making of New World Slavery* and *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery*.

Co-sponsored by: The Office of the Chancellor and the Department of History.

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Complete list of Lincoln Bicentennial Programming visit: <http://engagement.illinois.edu/lincoln.html>