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## Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin to speak tonight

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**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

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Seats have been selling fast for presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's lecture at the University of Illinois Springfield's Sangamon Auditorium tonight.

Tickets are available, but only a few. As of Tuesday afternoon, there were 325, according to UIS. Goodwin's lecture begins at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 (\$21 online). The lecture is part of the Jim Edgar Lecture Series sponsored by UIS and the museum.

Goodwin, who is in Springfield for the opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's new exhibit based on her book "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," will share her thoughts on "The Art and Craft of Storytelling: From JFK, LBJ and FDR to Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt."

"What I'm going to do is look at various presidents I've lived with these past years, dealing especially with how do you find a story from a fresh angle," Goodwin said. "Obviously, with 'Team of Rivals,' where there are 14,000 books written about Lincoln, I couldn't write another biography."

Instead, Goodwin explored the rivalries among Lincoln's cabinet members and Lincoln's ability to rise above them and manage his administration during the tumultuous days of the Civil War.

Goodwin received the Pulitzer Prize in history for her 1995 book, "No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II." She's also written best-selling works on the Kennedy family, Lyndon Johnson and baseball. "Team of Rivals" received the Lincoln Prize and was a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist.

She is working on a book about Theodore Roosevelt, emphasizing his unsteady relationship with William Howard Taft and the era of muckraking journalism, a term some say Roosevelt helped coin.

Goodwin said she's drawn to popular historical figures. If she's going to spend years researching someone, she said, she'd prefer someone who's enjoyable to be with every day.

"There's a reason why so many (historians) write about the same people," she said. "They're usually the most interesting people living during the most interesting times."

### Day at the museum

In addition to her evening lecture at UIS, Doris Kearns Goodwin and other dignitaries will participate in a ceremony marking the opening of the "Team of Rivals" exhibit at 9:15 a.m. today at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

She's then scheduled to sign copies of her books from 10 a.m. to noon in the Presidential Museum Store.

*Pete Sherman can be reached at 788-1539.*

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