

# **The Wepner Symposium on the Lincoln Legacy and Contemporary Scholarship**

**“Emancipation: What Came Before, How It Worked, and What Followed”**

*The University of Illinois Springfield*

*October 19-20, 2012*

The Wepner Symposium is offered to link concepts, issues, and techniques of contemporary political science to "the legacy of Abraham Lincoln." This can be interpreted broadly and can be related to any field of political science or any of the forty-odd organized sections of the American Political Science Association. The symposium is also open to colleagues who study politics from the conceptual terrain of anthropology, economics, history, psychology, sociology, law, and the humanities, including American Studies and Afro-American studies.

Since 2012 is the sesquicentennial year of President Lincoln's announcement of his intention to issue an emancipation proclamation in 1863, the symposium is expressly designed to include material on what happened before emancipation, on how emancipation worked once proclaimed, and on what happened in politics, economics, and society in the century and a half afterward

## **FRIDAY OCTOBER 19**

**Reception at 6:00 p.m. in the Public Affairs Center Restaurant, University of Illinois Springfield**

***Welcome and Brief Comments on Lincoln Studies in a Contemporary University***

**6:45 p.m.**

Matthew Holden, Jr., *University of Illinois Springfield (Convener)*

Lynn Pardie, *Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Illinois Springfield*

### **Holtz Memorial Lecture**

**7:00 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium, University of Illinois Springfield**

**Introduction** by Jane Treadwell, *Associate Professor, Dean of the UIS Library and University Librarian*

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**“How a Railroad Lawyer Became the Great Emancipator: Lincoln and the Constitutional Limits on Emancipation”**

Paul Finkelman, *John Hope Franklin Visiting Professor of American Legal History at Duke University School of Law and President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy at Albany Law School*

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***Discussion***

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 20**

### **MORNING: The Politics of Emancipation and Civil Rights after Emancipation**

Session begins at **8:00 a.m.** at the **Old State Capitol** in **downtown Springfield**

Chair: Pinky Wassenberg, *University of Illinois Springfield*

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**“Emancipation in a Free State: The Racial Politics Behind the Repeal of Illinois’ Black Laws”**

Sally Heinzl, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

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**“Whitewashing the Great Emancipator: Racial Politics and the Legacy of Lincoln”**

Jackie Hogan, *Bradley University*

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**“The Limits of Emancipation: Black Americans and White Southern Dominance of American Politics from the Founding to the Twenty-First Century”**

Neal Allen, *Wichita State University*

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*Break (15 minutes)*

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**“Extending Emancipation: Foundations for Freedom”**

Richard Sobel, *Northwestern University and Harvard University*

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#### **Theme Lecture:**

**“Lincoln’s Legacy and Struggles for African American Rights and Women’s Rights, 1895-1945”**

Rogers M. Smith, *Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania*

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*Discussion*

**Break for Lunch at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants are welcome to explore historic downtown Springfield and enjoy the many restaurants available. We will return to the University of Illinois Springfield campus for our afternoon session.

**AFTERNOON: Cultural Bias, Historical Memory, and What is Taught and Learned in School**

Session begins at **1:00 p.m.** at the **Public Affairs Center, University of Illinois Springfield**

**What Have African Americans Thought of Their Emancipation?**

**1:00 p.m.**

Chair: Matthew Holden, Jr., *University of Illinois Springfield*

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**“African American Responses to Emancipation and the Emancipation Proclamation”**

Roger D. Bridges, *Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center*

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**“Divided Hearts: Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation in African American Memory”**

Matthew Norman, *University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College*

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**“Edith Sampson, the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission, and the ‘Meaning and Significance of the Historic Emancipation Proclamation’”**

Gwen Jordan, *University of Illinois Springfield*

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**“Holding Up a Flawed Mirror to America’s Soul: Abraham Lincoln in the Writings of Lerone Bennett, Jr.”**

John Barr, *Lone Star College – Kingwood*

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**Commentary**

Archie Lawrence, *Springfield*

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**Discussion**

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*Break (10 minutes)*

**“Nothing to Lose but Their Chains”: Comparative & International Perspectives**

**3:00 p.m.**

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**Theme Lecture:**

**“The Civil Rights Movement and American Policy Towards Decolonization”**

Stephen Schwark, *University of Illinois Springfield*

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**“‘Out of the death of Slavery, a new life at once arose’: Marx, Emancipation and the Civil War”**

Chris McDonald, *Lincoln Land Community College*

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**“The Freeing and Freedom of the Russian Peasants”**

Heather L. Bailey, *University of Illinois Springfield*

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*Discussion*

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*Break (10 minutes)*

**Closing Discussion:**

**Thinking About Lincoln and Emancipation in Light of Contemporary Scholarship**

**4:30 p.m.**

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Some comments by the convener, Matthew Holden, Jr., *University of Illinois Springfield*

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**Round table**, all participants

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**Closing remarks** by Pinky Wassenberg, *Dean of the College of Public Affairs & Administration at the University of Illinois Springfield*

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