

NEWS RELEASE
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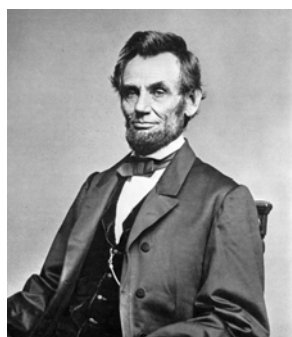
Contact: Bryan Schrepel, 913-758-6165

E-mail: SchrepelB@stmary.edu



An Evening with President Lincoln:
The University of Saint Mary Presents the
9th Annual Lincoln Lecture

7 p.m. President's Day, Monday, Feb. 19, 2007 ♦ Xavier Theatre



(Leavenworth, Kan.)—On President's Day, the University of Saint Mary will present a unique theatrical experience featuring "Honest Abe" himself.

Veteran actor Richard "Fritz" Klein of Springfield, Ill. will portray Abraham Lincoln at USM's 9th Annual Lincoln Lecture. Klein is one of the most recognized Lincoln performers in the U.S., having spent the past 26 years embodying the 16th President on stage, in television, and in film.

Klein's performance at USM's 9th Annual Lincoln Lecture can be seen at **7 p.m. President's Day, Monday, Feb. 19, inside USM's Xavier Theatre, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan.** Admission is free and open to the public. Call 913-758-6165 or visit www.stmary.edu for more information. MidAmerican Bank and Trust Company is the benefactor of the Lincoln Lecture series.

Considered one of the nation's foremost Lincoln actors, Klein has received rave reviews for his performances, which include appearances on the History Channel, Discovery Channel and C-Span. He has been featured in national publications as well, including the *New York Times* and *USA Today*. Past audiences have been mesmerized by his physical Lincoln-like appearance (he stands at 6'3", just inches shorter than Lincoln, and has a "Quaker beard") and his witty charisma.

"I seek to engage my audience directly, rather than allowing them to simply sit and watch Lincoln from a sort of timeless perspective," Klein said. "I am attempting to draw the audience into the illusion that they are actually listening to Lincoln Speaking to an 1860's crowd. At the same time, I try to bring Lincoln's words to bear upon the present."

So what do audiences say about Klein's portrayal of Lincoln?

"I've seen (and often directed) many Lincolns over the years, but Fritz Klein has distilled our 16th president into a living, breathing national treasure," said Dr. Ken Bradbury, educator, playwright, actor and syndicated newspaper columnist.

"Fritz Klein is Abraham Lincoln. He exhibits all the complexity, wisdom, and great country humor that Lincoln possessed. We could not imagine a better Lincoln impersonator - our audiences spoke in raving terms about his appearance at our recent Civil War reenactment. We have invited him back," said Jeff Schultz, Wade House State Historic Site, Greenbush, Wisconsin.

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The Lincoln Lecture includes performances by USM's Concert Chorale, a presentation of awards to local elementary school students who are winners of the 2007 Honest Abe Art Contest, and a dessert reception following the lecture in the Walnut Room, 201 Mead Hall, where guests may see select items from the university's rare Lincoln collection on display.

The University of Saint Mary initiated the Lincoln Lecture series in 1999 to acknowledge the university's Bernard Hall Lincoln Collection, which includes extensive and unique Lincoln memorabilia. USM's De Paul Library houses the collection, which includes a rare original copy of the 13th Amendment, the document that abolished slavery, signed by Lincoln that will be on display following the lecture. The USM Bernard Hall Lincoln Collection made national headlines when it was on display Aug. 25 – Dec. 17, 2006 as part of the Saint Louis University Museum of Art presentation, "*The Lincoln Legacy: Presidential Years*"

Past Lincoln Lecture Presenters include Missouri Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver, Kansas Governors Bill Graves and Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas filmmaker Kevin Willmott, and Kansas City baseball legend, the late Buck O'Neil.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center, 8929 Parallel Parkway, in Kansas City, Kan.

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MidAmerican Bank and Trust Company President Pete Payne presents a check totaling \$5,000 to University of Saint Mary President Sister Diane Steele. MidAmerican Bank and Trust Company has been the benefactor for USM's Lincoln Lecture Series for all nine editions. The ninth Lincoln Lecture is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19 inside Xavier Theatre.