

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: SchrepelB@stmary.edu



Point-Counter Point: USM Students to Argue Election Reform at Annual Lincoln-Douglas Debate

11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007



(Leavenworth, Kan.)—At the 9th Annual University of Saint Mary Lincoln-Douglas Debate, four USM students will debate a hot topic issue: U.S. government election reform.

Presented in the style of the original Abraham Lincoln-Stephen A. Douglas debates of 1858, USM students Noel Myhand and Jorge Rojas will argue in favor of affirmative action, while Alisha Herzog and Michelle Barbie will counter. The honorable Judge Robert Bednar, Leavenworth County 5th District, will preside over the debate. The Lincoln-Douglas Debate will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14 inside the USM Social Room, located on the second floor of Saint Mary Hall. Admission is free and open to the public. Call 913-758-6157 for details.

The Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 pitted a young Abraham Lincoln against Stephen A. Douglas in a series of formal political debates in a campaign for one of two Illinois state Senate seats. Although Lincoln lost that election, the debates launched him into national prominence, and led to his election as the 16th President of the United States in 1861.

The Lincoln-Douglas debate is a prelude to the 9th Annual Lincoln Lecture, “An Evening with Lincoln,” featuring one of the foremost Lincoln actors in the U.S. today, Richard “Fritz” Klein. Klein has portrayed Lincoln on stage, in television and in film for nearly 30 years, including performances on the Discovery Channel, C-Span and the History Channel. He has been featured by national publications, including *USA Today* and the *New York Times*, as the best Lincoln actor in the U.S.

Klein will perform as Lincoln at the 9th Annual Lincoln Lecture at 7 p.m., Presidents’ Day, Monday, Feb. 19 in Xavier Theatre. The Lincoln Lecture Series was established to honor USM’s Bernard H. Hall Lincoln Collection, which contains more than 10,000 pieces of unique Lincoln artifacts housed in De Paul Library. The Lincoln Lecture is free and open to the public. Call 913-758-6165 for more information.

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 at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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