

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: John Shultz (913) 758-6165
Email: shultz35@stmary.edu



Country Club Bank Presents Check to USM to Fund 2010 Lincoln Lecture Featuring Best-Selling Author Ronald C. White

7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, Xavier Theatre

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary is bringing in nationally-known Lincoln scholar and *New York Times* best-selling author Ronald C. White, Jr. to speak on “Abraham Lincoln’s Journey of Faith” for the university’s 12th annual Lincoln Lecture at 7 p.m. Presidents’ Day Monday, Feb. 15, 2010. The event will be held in Xavier Theatre at the main campus in Leavenworth, 4100 South 4th Street. Admission is free.

The USM Lincoln Lecture Series is made possible by Country Club Bank in Leavenworth and Lansing. On Tuesday, Jan. 19, Pete Payne, regional president of Country Club Bank, presented a check to University of Saint Mary President Sister Diane Steele to cover the costs to present the 2010 Lincoln Lecture.

“It is our pleasure to help make the University of Saint Mary Lincoln Lecture series possible,” Payne said. “Our main branch is located in the same spot where Lincoln delivered his first presidential campaign speech in Leavenworth on Dec. 3, 1859. Items from the Saint Mary Lincoln Collection are on display in our Lincoln Room. We are proud to be a part of what has become a very popular event for the local community that also celebrates our history.”

In celebration of the Dec. 3, 2009, sesquicentennial of Lincoln’s visit to Leavenworth, the university has selected the theme of “Lincoln in Leavenworth” for the 2010 Abe Lincoln Art Contest that coincides with the USM Lincoln Lecture. The contest features the art work of students from a broad sampling of area schools.

Guest speaker White, the author of several books on the former president—including, most recently, the *New York Times* Bestseller “*A. Lincoln: A Biography*”—will sign copies of his book after his presentation.

White has lectured at the White House and was chosen to speak on Lincoln’s religious beliefs to a Congressional audience as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration. He is a graduate of UCLA, Princeton Theological Seminary, and earned his Ph.D. in Religion and History from Princeton University. White has taught at several higher learning institutions, and is currently a Fellow at the Huntington Library and a Visiting Professor of History at UCLA.

“Ron White is a leading Lincoln scholar,” said Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM’s academic vice president and historian. “Recently, he has been writing and speaking on a topic that has both intrigued and mystified students of Lincoln for decades—just what was Lincoln’s faith? What did he really believe in reference to God? Exploring these unresolved questions will make for a very intriguing Lincoln Lecture at the University of Saint Mary.”

The University of Saint Mary started the Lincoln Lecture series in 1999 to acknowledge the university's Bernard H. 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.

Call (913) 758-6165 or visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu on the web for more information.

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