

## NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 17, 2010

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



## University of Saint Mary Academic Dean to Talk About Lincoln at National Archives Exhibition *Lincoln Exhibits Also Include Artifacts from USM Lincoln Collection*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—University of Saint Mary Academic Vice President and Dean Dr. Bryan Le Beau will present a lecture to coincide with the opening of two Abraham Lincoln exhibits at the National Archives at Kansas City, Mo., later this month. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Dr. Le Beau, a history columnist, will speak at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the National Archives at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Mo., just west of Union Station. His talk will look at the origins of the myth of the self-made man in America and how and why Lincoln came to be associated with that myth. The lecture ties in to two exhibitions at the National Archives celebrating the life of Lincoln: *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* and *Lincoln Lives On*.

The *Lincoln Lives On* exhibition—which explores how Lincoln’s persona has been built up in the decades proceeding his death—presents a wide range of Lincoln memorabilia, including a number of items on loan from the Bernard H. Hall Abraham Lincoln Collection at USM’s De Paul Library.

The Saint Mary Lincoln artifacts on loan include an 1865 telegram from Lincoln to his wife, Mary Todd, believed to be the last written message he sent her; an 1864 letter from the Executive Mansion to the Provost Marshal General; and a lock of hair purportedly taken from the president’s head at the time of his death.

“Abraham Lincoln is always rated among the nation’s greatest presidents,” said Dr. Le Beau. “He has often been presented as the epitome of the self-made man. But does he really ‘fit the bill’ or is that image a myth? And why is it important to us? I will explore those and other questions at the National Archives event.”

Dr. Le Beau holds a Ph.D. from New York University and has been a professor of American history since 1982. He has held an endowed faculty chair at Creighton University, as well as various administrative positions, and he has authored seven books and dozens of articles on various topics in American history.

The *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* and *Lincoln Lives On* are free exhibitions. *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* will be on display through Sept. 24, and *Lincoln Lives On* will run through Oct. 30. Call (816) 268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) for more information on the events or to register for the lecture.

Learn more about USM’s Lincoln Collection at <http://www.stmary.edu/depaul/lincoln-collection.htm>.

*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 and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*