

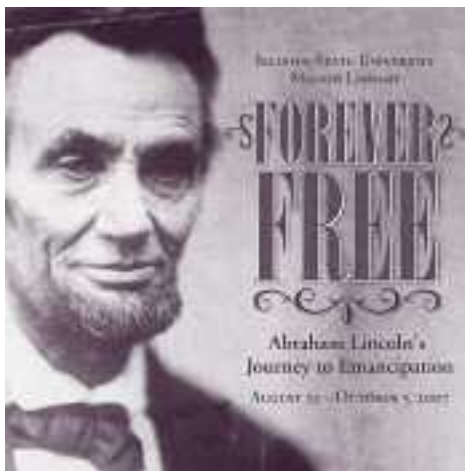
Illinois State University **Milner** *matters*

Newsletter for library science alums, librarians who are Illinois State graduates, retirees, and the friends of Milner Library

Milner Library receives grant to host national traveling exhibit

Why did a nation founded on ideals of freedom and equality tolerate for so long one of the harshest labor systems the world has known? A new traveling exhibition opening at Milner Library on August 23, 2007, looks for answers to this question by tracing Abraham Lincoln's gradual transformation from an antislavery moderate into "The Great Emancipator" who freed all slaves with a revolutionary wartime proclamation in 1863. "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" will be on display at the library until October 5, 2007.

Organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York City, in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA),



this traveling exhibition is made possible through major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, created by Congress and charged with planning the national celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday.

"We are pleased to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said Toni Tucker, coordinator of the exhibit. "The Civil War and slavery are topics which must constantly be revisited in order to help 21st-century Americans better understand their causes and more clearly see how their effects are still with us today. This exhibit offers our community an opportunity to learn more about how Abraham Lincoln decided upon emancipation of the slaves, even as he tried to hold together a fragile coalition of states in order to preserve

the Union. It is a revealing insight into the values, principles, and ideals that guided one of our greatest presidents."

Abraham Lincoln was an obscure Illinois lawyer and politician of humble origins who rose in an astonishingly short time to world renown as the leader of a young nation during one of its most troubled periods. Throughout his life, Lincoln's dedication to the ideals of freedom and equality for all people did not waver. "I want every man to have the chance—and I believe a black man is entitled to it—in which he can better his condition," he said early in his political career.

Lincoln was also a pragmatic politician who believed that a direct attack on slavery in the South would split the Union and end America's experiment in self-government. He steered a middle course during the early years of the Civil War but became convinced that ending slavery would help the Union militarily. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation transformed the character of the war by re-committing the nation to its founders' vision of freedom and equality for all people.

"Forever Free" draws upon original documents in the collections of the Huntington Library and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. It was curated by John Rhodehamel, Norris Foundation Curator of American historical manuscripts, at the Huntington Library.

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Dean's message

Colleagues and Friends,

On the surface, Milner may not look a whole lot different when you walk in. There are still the service desks on the main floor, the ranges of books, the study areas. But a closer look reveals many new and different things around the library. Those of you who've worked here or have done research here will be surprised.



Dean Cheryl Elzy

All the reference desks have closed except the main desk on Floor 2. The reference collection has been weeded and merged into one large reference collection on Floor 2. The current periodicals from all floors have converged into the space next to the reference collection. Government Documents have moved to Floor 4 while the Teaching Materials Center has settled in on Floor 6. Floor 1 will soon be converted into a closed storage site for 500,000 volumes. And on and on. More

changes will be happening over the next year.

Yes, we are abandoning Floor 1 as a public service area and as a place where Milner colleagues work. We've had concrete fall from its ceiling. We've had lights explode over patrons and 25'-long fixtures fall from their mounts. We continue to carry out 200–400 gallons of water each time it rains. Our basement level has become a place that's not safe or healthy, and we're told the plaza can't be fixed. So we'll stuff Floor 1 with books, periodicals, and microforms while we move the people and active collections to other floors.

We're hoping to incorporate some improvements along the way. We are working to improve lighting, increase seating on upper floors, add another electronic classroom, and design several learning community spaces for disciplines like the arts, nursing, business, history, and more. We are exploring the addition of a coffee bar. While we're doing all this, we also are striving to increase electronic access to our materials since most of our patrons come to us through our Web site.

Illinois State University is supporting our need for upgraded and expanded facilities. We are number two on Illinois State's capital projects list behind the Fine Arts Complex. So we're cheering for them to get their funding—which will make us number one. Our renovation/expansion calls expanding six floors behind the library and replacing the area under the plaza with a new three-story addition on the front—as well as completely renovating the existing library. It can't come soon enough!

But back to our current situation here in Milner: Change is difficult. There's no mistaking that—it's physical, cultural, emotional, personal. But change brings with it an invigoration and discovery. We're finding things we didn't know we had! We're re-evaluating our collections and services even more closely with patrons in mind. We're cleaning up some problems and quirks we've just been living with for years and years. We hope you'll come visit soon to experience what we're changing, improving, and re-inventing as we strive to become the library that Illinois State needs as it embarks on its next 150 years of excellence.

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Inside Milner

Retirements

Martha Burk retired in April after 31 years of service. Martha's last position at Milner was working with the An Adventure of the American Mind Project.

Kathe Conley retired in May. She worked at Milner for 36 years, starting out in the Teaching Materials Center as a library clerk and spending the last nine years as head of General Reference and Documents.

Peggy Heinz retired in May after 32 years of service—23 years in Bibliographic Services and nine in the Systems Department.

New employees

Ted Schwitzner has joined the library as head of the Bibliographic Services Division. Ted previously was the collections, instruction, and technical services coordinator from North Central College in Naperville.

Christina Horna is the new assistant database manager in the Systems Department.

Accomplishments

Cheryl Elzy testified for the second time before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology on June 5, 2007, on the University's work to combat illegal computer file downloads. She also presented "Peer-to-Peer Digital Citizen Project" at the Fall Meeting, Joint Committee of Higher Education and Entertainment Committee Task Force in New York City.

Katherine James was elected to the office of treasurer for Online Audiovisual Catalogers.

Chad Kahl presented "Information Literacy Illinois: Reaching Beyond Libraries" at the Information Literacy Summit in Carterville.

Priscilla Matthews was one of the column editors for "Serials Review, Index." *Serials Review* 33.1 (2007): 54–61.

Sharon Naylor published "Disabilities" in *Magazines for Libraries*, 15th edition (2007).

Rick Satchwell presented "Teaching with Digital Primary Resources" at the TechEd 2007 conference in Ontario, Canada.

Beth Schobernd and **Toni Tucker** presented the poster session "Closing the Gap: Use of Student Volunteers in an Academic Library" at the Association of College and Research Libraries meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Vanette Schwartz published "Cultural-Social Studies" in *Magazines for Libraries*, 15th edition (2007).

Ted Schwitzner presented "ABC & W: Acquisitions Basics, Client Workflow for a Small College Library" at the EndUser 2007: Endeavor User Group Meeting in Schaumburg.

Kay Weir published "Statistics" in *Magazines for Libraries*, 15th edition (2007).



Cheryl Elzy at the U.S. House of Representatives

Historian Richard Norton Smith drew a large crowd for the fourth annual Bryant Jackson Lectureship. His lecture "Our Lincoln" discussed how each generation rediscovers him. The Bryant Jackson Lectureship was established in 2003 by Professor Joe Kraus to honor associate university librarian Bryant Jackson.

Tidbits

Bryant Jackson Lectureship

Historian Richard Norton Smith drew a large crowd for the fourth annual Bryant Jackson Lectureship. His lecture "Our Lincoln" discussed how each generation rediscovers him. "Each generation needs to rediscover and redefine Abraham Lincoln." Smith stated that, depending on his relationships with people, Lincoln could be seen as one of two ways: "To people who did not know him, he appeared cold, dull and indifferent. But those who knew him saw him as zealous and radical."



Joe Kraus, Richard Norton Smith, and Bryant Jackson

Smith spoke about Lincoln's role at Illinois State Normal University. He talked about Jesse Fell, founder of the town of Normal, and the friendship between the two men.

The Bryant Jackson Lectureship was established in 2003 by Professor Emeritus Joe Kraus to honor associate university librarian Bryant Jackson. The lectureship is an annual event with speakers of the highest reputation in library research.

Milner hosts book launch

Mystery writer Kate Charles—aka Illinois State alumna Carol Chase '72—chose her alma mater as the site for the official launch of her latest novel, *Secret Sins*. Milner Library hosted the book launch on March 7, 2007. During the launch Dean Elzy announced that several of Kate's friends started an endowment in her honor, the Kate Charles Milner Library Fund, to be used to purchase traditional mysteries and creative writing materials. To learn more about this endowment and to contribute contact Jill Jones at (309) 438-3135 or jajone2@IllinoisState.edu.



Kate Charles

Mystery writer
Kate Charles—
aka Illinois State
alumna Carol
Chase '72—chose
her alma mater as
the site for the
official launch of
her latest novel,
Secret Sins.

National award

Illinois State University's Milner Library is one of seven libraries nationwide to be awarded the 2007 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. The award recognizes Milner Library's work in raising campus and community awareness about the life and professional contributions of Angeline "Ange" Vernon Milner, the University's first librarian. The prestigious John Cotton Dana Award has been given annually since 1946 to recognize and honor outstanding achievement in library public relations. Through the years the majority of the awards have been given to public libraries for their outreach efforts. Milner Library was the only academic library to receive the honor in 2007.

Listen to Milner speakers online

Live too far away or just can't make it to one of Milner's speakers? You can now listen to lectures, hear authors, and even listen in on the Q&A sessions. Go to the podcasting page of Milner's Web site at www.library.ilstu.edu/page/1091. All you need are speakers connected to your computer. Click on the "listen online" link. To date you can hear Richard Norton Smith, Robert Ballard, John Freed, Kate Charles, and Becky Dailey. This fall the Lincoln lectures will be added as they happen.

Friends support Milner Library

Founded in 1947, the Friends of Milner Library is dedicated to raising funds to support Milner Library. Through book sales, mystery dinners, and other fundraisers the Friends of Milner Library's 14-member board supported the following projects during 2007:

- Pamphlet-binding unit
- Software for the library's Digitization Lab
- Digital signage system
- Book binder
- "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" speaker honorariums

Alumni update

Rose Chenoweth '74 was a school librarian in Mt. Zion from 1974 to 1978. She graduated from the University of Illinois with an M.L.I.S. degree in 1979. Rose worked in public libraries in Indiana and Illinois and is a library development consultant for the Alliance Library System in East Peoria. She is also chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee for the Illinois Library Association.

Joan Snapp '77 retired from Honeywell Inc.

Leslie Mendez '87 worked at Methodist Medical Center School/College of Nursing from 1987 to 2004, mostly as a solo librarian. She was a full faculty member during her tenure there. Leslie earned her M.L.I.S. from Dominican University with a specialization in health science librarianship in 2001. She commuted the 354-mile round trip three times a week for three years. Since July 2004 she has been at the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing Library. During Leslie's first year there she wrote a successful grant with her colleague, Karl Gibson, to the National Network of Library of Medicine/ Greater Midwest Region for a scanner/copier/fax/e-mail combination machine. She serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Cultural Diversity* and the official journal of the *Association of Black Nursing Faculty*.

Elaine Gass Hirsch '92 has been an education librarian at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, for nearly 10 years. She has a scholarly interest in the historical development of children's literature. Elaine and her husband Alec, along with their 2-year-old daughter Beatrice, welcomed Clarissa to the family in September 2006.

Alumni news

We welcome updates from alumni for *Milner Matters* publication. Please fill out this form and return it to Illinois State University, Milner Library, Alumni News, Campus Box 8900, Normal, IL 61790-8900, or e-mail to ttucker@IllinoisState.edu.

NAME (MAIDEN NAME IF APPLICABLE)

CLASS YEAR

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

MAILING ADDRESS

PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER

NEWS/COMMENTS

Thank you for sharing your news with other alumni.



2007 fall events

Please join us for any or all events sponsored by Milner Library. For additional information visit our Web site at www.library.ilstu.edu or contact Toni Tucker at (309) 438-7402 or ttucker@IllinoisState.edu.

August 23–October 5

“Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation” traveling exhibit
Main Floor, Milner Library
For additional information go to www.library.ilstu.edu

August 28

Guy C. Fraker: “The Emancipation Proclamation: Fatal Blow to Slavery Struck by a Central Illinois Lawyer”
7 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

September 6

Mark A. Plummer: “Emancipation Defended: Lincoln’s Letter and the Springfield Rally”
7 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

September 13

James Loewen
“Lies My Teacher Told Me and How to Avoid Them: Teaching Lincoln and Emancipation”
4 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

September 18

Doris Kearns Goodwin: “Leadership Lessons from Abraham Lincoln”
7 p.m.
Braden Auditorium, Bone Student Center

September 27

Timothy Connors and George Buss: “A Discussion with President Lincoln and Judge Davis”
1 p.m.
Milner Library Plaza

September 27

Roger Bridges: “African American Responses to Emancipation and the Emancipation Proclamation”
7 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

October 27

Annual Friends of Milner Library Book Sale
9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

November 2

Illinois School Library Media Association
4:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

November 3

Trivia Night—Friends of Milner Library Fund-raiser
7 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

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