

INSIGHT

*Jesse White · Secretary of State & State Librarian***Lincoln birthday bicentennial — Essays About Lincoln**

Abraham Lincoln was the first person to borrow a book from the Illinois State Library while he was a state legislator. He also is the only U.S. President to be awarded a patent, a replica of which is on file in the ISL Patent & Trademark Library.

The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, for which the state is planning a multitude of activities and celebrations. To commemorate the landmark occasion, Secretary of State Jesse White, the State Library and the Illinois State Archives are sponsoring an essay contest in schools next year. The Essays About Lincoln contest encourages students to write an essay of 300 words or less, using Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as a guideline to reflect on current affairs in our country.

Teachers' packets are being developed for schools with contest information and guidelines, and a series of bookmarks with Lincoln-related facts will be sent to schools and libraries. Look for more information about the essay contest in the coming months at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

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ICB RECEIVES BOORSTIN AWARD — The Illinois Center for the Book received one of five Boorstin Center for the Book Awards at the annual State Centers Idea Exchange held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. in May. State Library employee Bonnie Matheis (right), coordinator of the Illinois Center for the Book, received the honor from John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The ICB was recognized "for celebrating and honoring Illinois authors through projects including the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, the Illinois Authors Directory and the Illinois Literary Heritage Award." The award is named for the late Daniel J. Boorstin, who established the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in 1977.

1970 Constitutional Convention on CD

Public and academic libraries in Illinois recently received a free CD containing the complete record of proceedings from Illinois' historic sixth Constitutional Convention in 1970, which established a new Illinois Constitution for the first time in 100 years. The Illinois Legislative Research Unit (LRU) undertook the project with the goal of producing an easy-to-use, hyperlinked CD of manageable size. The CD is composed of seven volumes and about 8,900 pages of convention proceedings in Mac or PC formats.

Public interest in the 1970 Constitutional Convention is expected to increase during the coming months as Illinois voters decide in 2008 whether the state should conduct another Constitutional Convention. Until now, Convention records were only available in printed volumes.

"I anticipate that teachers, historians, members of the media and others will want to revisit the 1970 Convention as the 2008 election approaches," said

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Convention on CD — (cont. from p. 1)

Secretary of State Jesse White. “I’m delighted that this CD will be available at our public and academic libraries. Those who review these historic proceedings will no doubt be fascinated by how this important document came together during 10 months of intense negotiations.”

The CD also contains several additional documents to aid in researching the convention. The original document is unchanged, though LRU corrected misspelled words for searches. Researchers may search for a word that was originally misspelled and still find it, and search by key word, table of contents, or index for the volumes. The Mary Redmond Index, which is organized by article and section, also may be used for searches.

In addition to being available at libraries, contents of the CD may be downloaded free from the General Assembly’s Web site at www.ilga.gov.

New chief deputy director named

Secretary of State Jesse White has named **Lawren Tucker** of Petersburg as the State Library’s new chief deputy director. Tucker most recently served as policy director for Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., and the Senate Democratic Caucus. He succeeds Mike Ragen, who retired in January.

In other State Library employee news, **Lisa Waller** has begun work as a library aide at the Talking Book and Braille Service. **Natalie Tague** is the new coordinator of the Ask?Away virtual reference program. **William Echelbarger** is a new OCLC Network Coordinator.

Project Next Generation adds new site

The Hayner Public Library District in Alton has been selected as the newest host site for Project Next Generation, Secretary of State Jesse White’s statewide mentoring program for young people.

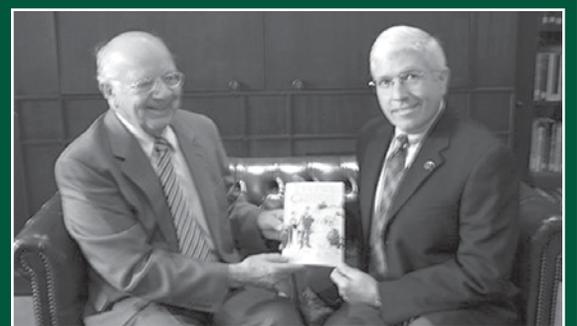
“It’s a special pleasure for me to welcome Alton to the Project Next Generation family because I am a native of this wonderful town,” said Secretary White. “Upon becoming Secretary of State eight years ago, I promised to create an innovative new mentoring program that would provide positive new learning opportunities for our young people. Project Next Generation is the realization of that goal.”

Alton joins PNG programs currently operating at public libraries in Beardstown, Bensenville, Bethany, Bloomington, Carbondale, Centralia, Champaign, Danville, Decatur, Des Plaines, Dixon, Elmwood Park, Effingham, Freeport, Harrisburg, Joliet, Kankakee, Macomb, Peoria, Quincy, Richton Park, Sparta and Springfield.

“The Hayner Public Library District is extremely pleased to serve as a host for Project Next Generation beginning this summer,” said library Director Jeff Owen. “Hayner Public Library District recently developed a new strategy to try to bring more young people — specifically teenagers — into our libraries, and Project Next Generation adds tremendous dimension to this effort.”

BOOKS DONATED TO ISL — Author

Raymond H. Montgomery (left) has donated copies of his book, *Living in the Shadows of Greatness* to the Illinois State Library. The book is a self-guided tour of sites associated with Abraham Lincoln in New Salem, Petersburg and Sandridge. State Library Chief Deputy Director Lawren Tucker accepted the book on behalf of the library.





LINCOLN DOCUMENTARY DVD — The State Library recently hosted the downstate Illinois premiere of a 35-min. documentary on Abraham Lincoln's 25-year, pre-presidential career as a lawyer. Thanks to the generosity of the Illinois Judges Association and the Illinois State Bar Association, every library in Illinois will receive a free copy of the documentary — "A. Lincoln, Attorney at Law" — in DVD format. Circuit Court Judge Ronald Spears of Taylorville conceived the idea for the DVD and called upon Craig Lindvahl, a Taylorville high school teacher and Emmy award-winning filmmaker, to research, write and produce the documentary. Pictured at the premiere of the DVD are (left to right) Cook County Circuit Judge Jesse Reyes; Illinois Supreme Court Justices Rita Garman and Lloyd Karmeier; State Library Deputy Director Jodi Martinez; and State Library Director Anne Craig.

Read for a Lifetime

The State Library's Read for a Lifetime program for high school students has reported another successful year. About 1,450 students from 101 schools and public libraries completed the program requirements for the 2006-07 school year. Twenty-nine seniors received special recognition for participating in the program all four years of high school.

Read for a Lifetime was Illinois' first statewide reading program to target high school students. The primary goal of the program is to promote a lifelong love of reading by encouraging students to read both classic and contemporary literature, and rewarding them for their efforts. Students must read 25 books from the suggested reading list during the school year. Participating students received a certificate from Secretary of State Jesse White and gift certificates to Borders Books.

To find out what participating students will be reading during the 2007-08 school year, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/pdfs/ReadingList.pdf.

Digital Illinois expands digital collections

The Illinois State Library is proud to participate in Digital Illinois, a new Web site that contains interesting digital collections from libraries, historical societies, museums and other cultural institutions in Illinois.

If you enjoy the content of the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idaillinois.org, you will be pleased to know that all these collections are now also part of Digital Illinois, along with well-known collections from Digital Past, developed by the North Suburban Library System. Other hosting institutions include Augustana College, Barrington Area Library, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), DePaul University, Illinois State University, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, and the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign.

Digital Illinois is powered by CONTENTdm's multi-site aggregating server, which automatically harvests metadata from the hosting institutions and provides the search and discovery engine. Visit <http://digitalillinois.org> to check out this exciting new digital venture!

"Summer camp" for librarians a big success

The Illinois State Library's two annual weeklong June institutes for library professionals — a sort of "summer camp" for librarians — were once again a big success.

The 14th Small Public Library Management Institute welcomed 40 public library directors and regional library system staff to the University of Illinois at Springfield. Participants took part in seminars on leadership and teamwork, security, dealing with problem patrons, grants, virtual reference, legal issues, library policies, director/library board relations, advocacy and other issues. When not immersed in learning, participants attended a dinner at the State Library and visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. State Rep. Richard Myers of Colchester discussed the legislative process and briefed participants on the spring legislative session. Year after year, participants praise the event for helping them enhance their administrative and leadership skills.

The 13th Institute for School and Public Librarians was held again at Bradley University in Peoria. Forty-four participants represented eight regional library systems, 18 public libraries and 26 school libraries. The institute provides valuable basic skills and knowledge for school and public librarians. Sessions were held on such topics as cataloging, weeding, storytelling, collection development and dealing with difficult patrons. State Library staff members gave presentations on the Ask?Away virtual reference program, electronic resources, FirstSearch and the new WebJunction Illinois online community for librarians and staff.



Participants of the annual Institute for School and Public Librarians included (left to right): Meg Frazier, Cullom Davis Library at Bradley University; author and institute presenter Kathleen Baxter; Mary Richards, Dietrich Community Unit School Dist. #30; Ellen Popit, Shawnee Library System; and Jan Bolding, Whiteside Middle School Library, Belleville.

SAVE THE DATE

September 20

Government Documents Conference
Illinois State Library

September 20-21

Reaching Forward South
Annual Conference
Springfield

October 9-12

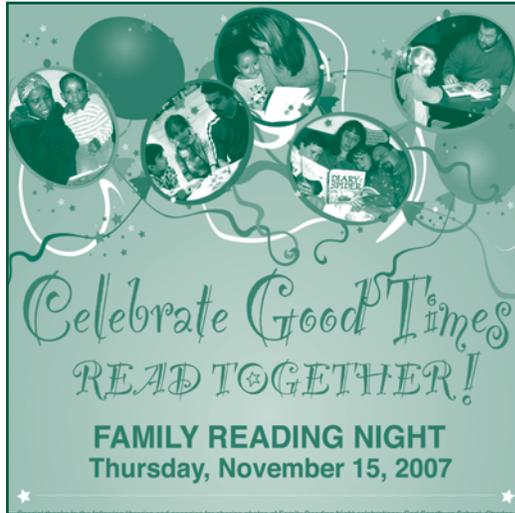
Illinois Library Association
Annual Conference
Springfield

November 1-3

Illinois School Library Media Association
Fall Conference
Springfield

State Library at the Illinois State Fair — August 10-19

Stop by the State Library's booth in the Secretary of State tent to catch a PowerPoint presentation on the new Digital Illinois Web site as well as pick up bookmarks and brochures. The Talking Book and Braille Service will have a booth in the Senior Building with information on how patrons can sign up for free services for the print disabled. See you at the fair!



To request materials for this year's
Family Reading Night,
call **217-785-6921.**
Pre-orders have been mailed.
Posters are available at
www.cyberdriveillinois.com
(click Publications).