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Lincoln Scholar to Speak at Founders' Day Convocation

Feb. 14, 2013

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, two-time Lincoln prize-winning scholar Allen C. Guelzo will deliver an address, "Was the Civil War a Second American Revolution?" for the Illinois Wesleyan University Founders' Day Convocation.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 N. Park St., Bloomington). The Founder's Day Convocation honors the 30 founders who signed the charter for the University in 1850.

Guelzo is one of the nation's leading authorities on the Civil War period. He has authored and contributed to over 25 books and articles on the topic, and has written extensively on the life and presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

Currently the Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era and the director of Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, Guelzo is the first double Lincoln Laureate in history. In 2000, he was awarded both the Lincoln Prize and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Prize for his intellectual biography of Lincoln, *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*. Guelzo received both prizes again in 2005 for his book, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America*.



Allen C. Guelzo

Originally interested in entering into the ministry, Guelzo received a bachelor of science in biblical studies from the Philadelphia Biblical University and a master of divinity degree from the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia. He returned to school to study history and earned a master of arts degree in 1979 and a doctorate in 1986 from the University of Pennsylvania. Guelzo also holds an honorary doctorate in history from Lincoln College in Illinois.

Guelzo's essays, reviews and articles have appeared in publications ranging from the *American Historical Review* and *Wilson Quarterly* to newspapers such as the *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal*. He has been featured on NPR's "Weekend Edition Sunday," Brian Lamb's "Booknotes" and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."

An accomplished scholar, Guelzo has received several teaching and writing awards, including the American Library Association Choice Award, Albert C. Outler Prize in Ecumenical Church History, and Dean's Award for Distinguished Graduate Teaching at the University of Pennsylvania.

His other critically acclaimed works include *The Crisis of the American Republic: A History of the Civil War and Reconstruction Era* (1995), *Abraham Lincoln as a Man of Ideas* (2009), *Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates That Defined America* (2009) and *Lincoln: A Very Short Introduction* (2009).

Guelzo's most recent book, *Fateful Lightning: A New History of the Civil War and Reconstruction* (2012), surveys the Civil War

era and postwar Reconstruction period while also discussing the modern-day legacy of the Civil War in American literature and popular culture.

For additional information on the event, contact Sherry Wallace, director for news and media relations at (309) 556-3181.

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