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Professor of English to be Featured at National Park Service Program

Kristin Fields '12

Illinois Wesleyan University

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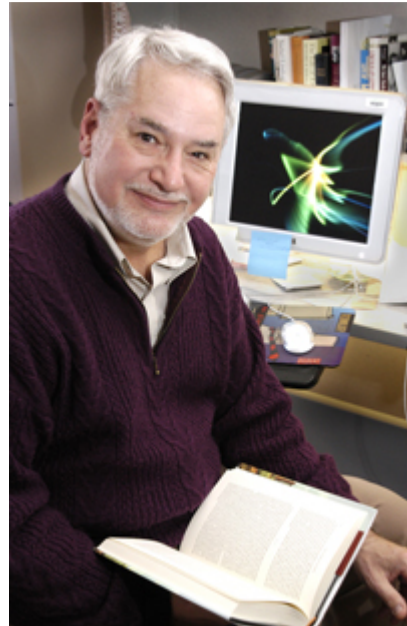
BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – On Sunday, Feb. 19, R. Forrest Colwell Professor of American Literature Robert Bray will be the featured speaker at the annual Lincoln Day program in Lincoln City, Ind. Sponsored by the National Park Service, the event will begin at 2 p.m. in the Abraham Lincoln Hall of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial (3027 E South St.).

In honor of the memory of Abraham Lincoln and his family, the program will include presentation of the colors by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, special music and other ceremonial activities. The traditional pilgrimage to the gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and a wreath laying ceremony will follow. A reception at the Memorial Visitor Center will conclude the program. The park entrance fee will be waived for this special event.

The event will also mark the start of the park's year-long observance of its 50th anniversary as a member of the National Park System. Signed into legislation by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is Indiana's first national park. The memorial preserves the farm where Abraham Lincoln lived for 14 years and the site where his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, is buried.

Bray is the author of *Reading with Lincoln*. Published in 2010 by Southern Illinois University Press, the book was the winner of the 2010-11 Illinois State Historical Society's Russell P. Strange Memorial Book Award, as well as the runner-up for the Lincoln Prize in 2011.

For more information, contact the Director for News and Media Relations, Sherry Wallace, at (309) 556-3792.



R. Forrest Colwell Professor of American Literature Robert Bray

Contact: Kristin Fields, '12, (309) 556-3181, univcomm@iwu.edu