

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

41st Annual Convocation and Investiture of Student Laureates

Saturday, the 7th of November
Two thousand fifteen

Hall of Representatives
Old State Capitol Historic Site
Springfield

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing.

*Abraham Lincoln
November 5, 1855*

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

The Old State Capitol Historic Site

Where Lincoln debated slavery's future, freedom's meaning and America's destiny

When Abraham Lincoln and eight of his fellow state legislators (known as the Long Nine) were successful in their efforts to move the capital city from Vandalia to Springfield, a new statehouse was needed. On July 4, 1837, workers laid the cornerstone for this building. Designed by Springfield architect John Rague in Greek Revival style, the first rooms opened for use in 1839. When the Illinois House of Representatives convened in this room for the first time in December 1840, Abraham Lincoln took his seat for his fourth and final term as a legislator. Lincoln's desk and the portrait of Washington are the only two items present today which are original to the room.

As a lawyer, Lincoln argued many cases in this building before the Illinois Supreme Court. He launched his 1858 Senate campaign against Stephen A. Douglas in this room, warning the nation of the dangers of a 'house divided against itself.' And two years later, he prepared to assume the duties of President in the second floor governor's office and adjoining reception room.

Following his death, Lincoln's body was brought here to the Hall of Representatives in the spring of 1865 to lie in state as thousands of grief-stricken mourners streamed past the open coffin.

In 1876, state government offices moved to a new capitol building, several blocks away, and this building was extensively remodeled for use as the county courthouse.

Admirers of Abraham Lincoln launched an effort to return this noble building to its original appearance. Reconstruction began in 1966 when the building was completely dismantled, and the exterior stones were carefully removed, numbered and stored at the state fairgrounds until the walls could be meticulously rebuilt.

Following a three-year collaboration of historians and architects to re-create the Illinois Statehouse of Abraham Lincoln's time, the Old State Capitol Historic Site was rededicated November 15, 1969. Shortly thereafter, Illinois' Sixth Constitutional Convention met in this room, drafting our state's current constitution, the Constitution of 1970.

And on a cold winter day in 2007 -- just prior to Lincoln's birthday -- another proud Illinoisan, U.S. Senator Barack Obama, announced his own candidacy for President on the steps of this building, *'where Lincoln once called on a divided house to stand together,'* he said, *'where common hopes and common dreams still live.'*

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Sangamon Woodwind Consort
Cindy Garretson Krista Steller Cathy McGuire
Flute *Oboe* *Bassoon*

Call to Order
Dennis Lyle

Invocation
Dr. Stanley R. Liberty
President of Bradley University

Opening of the Convocation
The Chancellor

Speaking on behalf of the Student Laureates
Cynthia J. Avila
The University of Chicago

Presentation of the 2015 Student Laureates
Ethel Holladay
Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall

Remarks
The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor of the State of Illinois

Mr. Lincoln at Gettysburg
Fritz Klein

Benediction
J. David Arnold
President of Eureka College

The Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award

The monetary awards presented to the Student Laureates are made possible through the generous support of the Malott Family Foundation and from the contributions to the Order of Lincoln ceremonies held earlier this year. Support from the Malott Family Foundation is in memory of Elizabeth Hubert Malott. Ibbey Malott was an extraordinary woman who combined keen insight, limitless energy and elegance. Her leadership as a Regent of the Academy greatly influenced and furthered its mission. Her husband, Robert Malott, now retired as the Chief Executive Officer of a major Chicago based corporation, received the Order of Lincoln at the Academy's 1995 convocation.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Student Laureates

Student Laureate

Aubrey Waddick
Sherry A. Maschmeyer
Dana Viola Cairns
Sarah Collman
Kristin Kreher
Lance Taylor Cox
Kayla Elizabeth Lohman
Nicole May
Cutberto Aguayo
Ghada M. Morrar
Shirmeen Ahmad
Angil J. Tate
Michael A. Sain, II
Jerry Davis el
Nathan Kriebel
Kavita Ketan Patel
Pooja Agarwal
Maureen Rose Christensen
Nicole Marie Jovicevic
Ethan Robert Adams
Sophia Dunn Croll
Benjamin Labaschin
Jessica L. Tennant
Cody Ray Garretson
Ashley Rogers
Shannon Marie Young
Kenneth (Kenny) O'Dell Jr.
Alexander Harry Koulos

Institution

Augustana College
Aurora University
Benedictine University
Blackburn College
Bradley University
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia University Chicago
DePaul University
Dominican University
East-West University
Eastern Illinois University
Elmhurst College
Eureka College
Governors State University
Greenville College
Illinois College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Judson University
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lewis University
Lincoln College
Loyola University Chicago
MacMurray College
McKendree University
Millikin University

Academic Trustee

Steven C. Bahls
Rebecca Sherrick
Michael Brophy
John Comerford
Stanley R. Liberty
Kuang-Wu Kim
Daniel L. Gard
Dennis Holtschneider, C.M.
Donna M. Carroll
M. Wasiulla Khan
David Glassman
Larry Braskamp
J. David Arnold
Elaine P. Maimon
Ivan Filby
Barbara A. Edwards Farley
Alan W. Cramb
Larry H. Dietz
Richard F. Wilson
Gene C. Crume, Jr.
Teresa Amott
Stephen D. Schutt
James Gaffney, F.S.C.
David Gerlach
John P. Pelissero
Mark Tierno
James M. Dennis
Patrick E. White

Academic Trustee

Timothy L. Killeen
University of Illinois

Randy J. Dunn
Southern Illinois University

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Student Laureates

Student Laureate	Institution	Academic Trustee
Drake A. Decker	Monmouth College	Clarence Wyatt
Jeanette Kyle	National Louis University	Nivine Megahed
Jack A. Ryan	North Central College	Troy D. Hammond
Carmen Iralda Velazquez-Alvarez	North Park University	David L. Parkyn
Emily Fioramonti	Northeastern Illinois University	Sharon K. Hahs
Kiranjit Gill	Northern Illinois University	Douglas Baker
Chelsea Risinger	Olivet Nazarene University	John Bowling
Shontee Maya Pant	Principia College	Jonathan Palmer
Catherine Richards	Quincy University	Robert Gervasi
Angela Martinez	Rockford University	Robert Head
Lacy N. Reyna	Roosevelt University	Ali R. Malekzadeh
Anna Elizabeth Goldman	Saint Xavier University	Christine M. Wiseman
Florian Palluci	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Walter Massey
Savannah Lee McCord	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	Lori Merrill-Fink
Joshua George Pritsolas	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Stephen Hansen (Interim)
Cynthia J. Avila	The University of Chicago	Robert J. Zimmer
Halie Ann Wisse	Trinity Christian College	Kurt D. Dykstra
Richard James Davis	Trinity College of Trinity International University	Joanne Berger-Sweeney
Taylor Rae Casino	University of Illinois at Chicago	Michael D. Amiridis
Hannah Cave	University of Illinois Springfield	Susan J. Koch
Monica S. Chen	University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign	Barbara Wilson (Interim)
Laura Muñoz Lopez	University of St. Francis	Arvid C. Johnson
Kendall Christopher Jones	VanderCook College of Music	Charles T. Menghini
Hannah Fay Drake	Western Illinois University	Jack Thomas
Kyle L. Mellinger	Wheaton College	Philip G. Ryken
Matilyn Nicole Bindl	Rock Valley College	Mike Mastroianni (Interim)

Trustees at Large

Karen Hunter Anderson
Illinois Community College Board

James Applegate
Illinois Board of Higher Education

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

History of the Academy

The Lincoln Academy was established by proclamation of the Governor of Illinois in 1964, shortly after the New York World's Fair. During the World's Fair a reception had been given for some of our state's most celebrated sons and daughters which impressed the Governor and gave birth to a permanent program to recognize distinguished Illinoisans annually through the establishment of the Order of Lincoln. The first Convocation and Investiture of Laureates were held on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1965, at the Chicago Historical Society, and convocations have been held in locations across the state every year since then. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009, a special Bicentennial Edition of the Order of Lincoln was established, and thirty distinguished Lincoln scholars, collectors, artists, and curators from around the world were honored. The mission of the Lincoln Academy was expanded in 1975 by the Student Laureate Program, in which an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting colleges and universities in Illinois and one student representing our state's community colleges are honored. **Thus, the Lincoln Academy honors the Great Citizens of Today and celebrates the Great Citizens of Tomorrow -- knowing that now, as always, our state and nation need what Vachel Lindsay called 'Lincoln-hearted' men and women.**

Organization of the Academy

The Lincoln Academy is a nonpartisan organization governed by a Board of Regents and a membership of General Trustees. The Governor of Illinois is the President of the Academy, and the Board of Regents elects a Chancellor who serves as the Academy's Chief Executive Officer. The General Trustees are appointed by the Governor or elected by the Academy. Ten Rectors serve as ex officio trustees and assist in identifying potential nominees for the Order of Lincoln. The Academic Trustees are the chief executive officers of all four-year colleges and universities in Illinois and three members at large. At the discretion of the Regents, a former Governor may be elected a Regent for Life, and a former Member Regent, General Trustee, or Rector who has served in office for ten years or more may be elected an Emeritus Member, in recognition of distinguished service to the Academy.

Former Chancellors of the Academy

The Honorable Michael Butler, Chicago (1965 - 1969)

Robert Bone, Bloomington (1969 - 1971)

William K. Alderfor, Chicago (1971 - 1975)

Thomas R. Mulroy, Chicago (1975 - 1979)

Marshall Burman, Chicago, (1979 - 1985)

John Trutter, Chicago (1985 - 2001)

The Honorable John B. Simon, Chicago (2001 - 2010)

Thomas S. Johnson (2010 – 2015)

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Officers of the Academy

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, President
William E. Bennett, Chancellor*
Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall, Vice Chancellor*
Ethel Holladay, Secretary*

Ernest R. Wish, Treasurer*
The Honorable John B. Simon,
Chancellor Emeritus
Julie A. Kellner, Executive Director*

Regents for Life

The Honorable Jim Edgar
The Honorable George H. Ryan

The Honorable James R. Thompson
The Honorable Pat Quinn

Regents

The Hon. Peter B. Bensinger*
Major General John L. Borling,
USAF (Ret.)*
The Rev. Stanley L. Davis, Jr.
Jane Denes*
Dr. George J. Dohrmann*

Andrea O. Hasten*
Thomas S. Johnson*
Robert J. Lenz*
Dennis Lyle*
Lester H. McKeever, Jr.*
The Hon. Richard Mills*

Alexandra Ransburg
William E. Shaw*
Courtney C. Shea*
Don Tracy*
Eric Trimble*
Dia S. Weil*

And the Officers

General Trustees

Ronald L. Chez
Margaret A. Cline
Frank Clark*
James G. Gidwitz*
Zale Glauberman
The Rev. Marshall Hatch
Sondra A. Healy

Dr. Roger Herrin*
Melvin L. Katten*
Sheila Berner Kennedy
Karen G. J. Lewis*
Dr. Osvaldo Lopez
Shirley R. Madigan
Lucyna Migala

Delmer R. Mitchell*
Daniel J. Montgomery
Joseph A. Power, Jr.*
Jon Pyatt*
Shirley W. Ryan*
Marc S. Schulman*
Dr. Howard Sulkin*

And the Regents

Rectors

Steve Wentworth, *Agriculture*
Ashley C. Wheeler, *Arts and The Performing Arts*
James O'Connor, *Business, Industry and Communication*
Dr. Samuel Goldman, *Education*
The Hon. Ronald D. Spears, *Government and Law*

Jorge Ramirez, *Labor*
Dr. Helen Morrison* *Medicine and Science*
The Rev. Kenneth Velo, *Religion*
The Rev. Thomas Behrens, *Social Services*

Emeritus Members

Peter C. Alexander
Stanley Balzekas, Jr.
Judith H. Bartholf
Molly Becker

John Cuneo
The Rev. Ruben I. Cruz
Brooks Davis

Wayne C. Temple
**Sustaining Member*

Michael Butler

Gayl S. Pyatt
Bruce Wirtz MacArthur

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Thank you to these donors whose financial support helped make today's ceremonies possible.

Foundation Circle

The Malott Family Foundation

Media Donors

Illinois Broadcasters Association/ Illinois Broadcasters Foundation

Sarah Hautala, Chairman John Gehron, Chairman Dennis Lyle, President/CEO
Illinois Broadcasters Association Illinois Broadcasters Foundation Illinois Broadcasters Association

Leadership Circle

William E. & Susan M. Bennett
Frank & Vera Clark
James Gidwitz

Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall
Delmer R. & Barbara Mitchell

Top Hat Donors

The Hon. Peter B. &
Dr. Judith S. Bensinger
Andrea O. Hasten
Melvin L. & Renee Katten

Robert J. & Peggy Lenz
The Hon. Richard & Rachel Mills
William & Amy Shaw

Courtney C. Shea
Don & Wanda Tracy
Dia S. Weil & Edward S. Weil, Jr.

Abraham Lincoln and the Illinois Executive Mansion

Abraham Lincoln had long advocated for an official residence for the state's Chief Executive, and it was first opened to the public on January 10, 1856 -- the third oldest governor's mansion in the nation. A magnificent elliptical stairway designed by its architect, John Van Osdel, was one of the building's most famous features, and, originally, the building was crowned with an observatory that was fifteen feet above the roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, who lived nearby, were frequent guests, particularly during the tenure of Governor William H. Bissell, who relied on Lincoln as a principal adviser.

Primarily because of the public safety concerns of an aging building, the mansion was renovated and expanded during Governor Ogilvie's administration, adding a library -- paneled in Illinois walnut -- a ballroom and improved private quarters for the Governor and his family. The public rooms of the renovated building were furnished, in large part, by private contributions. The building includes priceless antiques and artifacts, including several portraits and busts of Lincoln.

In 1989, the annual Student Laureate luncheon at the Executive Mansion followed a controversial government decision to elevate the base of the Lincoln bust which stands in front of the Lincoln Tomb so that visitors could no longer rub Mr. Lincoln's nose for good luck. (So many had done so over the years that officials feared that the nose would fall off.) Learning of the decision, Governor James R. Thompson promptly ordered that the bust be restored to its original height. A few days later, he explained his decision to the Student Laureates of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

“Reach out and touch Lincoln,” he told them, ***“and let Lincoln touch you.”***