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**Editors: See note at end of release about photos**

## ***SIUE's Arts & Issues To Present Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin Feb. 5***

(EDWARDSVILLE, Ill.) To celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln, the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville *Arts & Issues* series is presenting the preeminent historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, speaking about "Leadership Lessons from Abraham Lincoln."

This is the *A&I* series' 24<sup>th</sup> season of bringing provocative speakers and exciting entertainment to the SIUE stage. The official media sponsor for the series is the *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, while its official hotel sponsor is Hampton Inn and Suites.

Goodwin, whose appearance here is sponsored by the SIUE Graduate School, is a renowned historian who has been writing and reporting on presidential politics for more than two decades. Her most recent book has been called a "monumental history" of America's 16<sup>th</sup> president: *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* (Simon and Schuster, 2005), which recently came out in paperback.

According to Steve Hansen, associate provost and dean of the Graduate School, who is a Civil War and Lincoln historian himself, Lincoln is central to understanding the American experience. "His actions as President changed the nature of our democracy," Hansen pointed out. "Even beyond those accomplishments, he symbolizes the aspirations and hopes of our nation. He appeals to the 'better angels of our nature.'

"Goodwin brilliantly explains how Lincoln changed America and why he has come to represent our most cherished values while capturing his foibles as well as his genius."

Grant Andree, coordinator of the *A&I* series said it is fitting that Ms. Goodwin will be speaking about President Lincoln near the 200th anniversary of his birth. "It's also interesting to note that President-Elect Barack Obama has been quoted as saying he enjoyed *Team of Rivals* in light of Lincoln's practice of relying on advice from those who may not have publicly agreed with him, a

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notion that Obama apparently aspires to,” Andree said. “It’s notable that of the eight Democrats who ran against Obama, four have now agreed to join his administration.”

According to *Taegan Goddard’s Political Wire*, “Lincoln assembled many of the Republicans who ran against him in his war cabinet, some of whom disagreed with him vehemently and persistently.”

Goodwin, who is often seen on network television as a political pundit, served as an assistant to then-President Lyndon Johnson in his last year in the White House. She also assisted Johnson in the preparation of his memoirs. She later wrote *Lyndon Johnson & the American Dream* (Harper & Row, 1976), *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys: An American Saga* (Simon & Schuster, 1986), and *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The American Home Front During World War II* (Simon & Schuster, 1994), for which she won the Pulitzer.

She received a baccalaureate from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, graduating *magna cum laude*, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Goodwin went on to earn a doctorate in government at Harvard, where she taught a course on the American presidency. She also is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. Goodwin is winner of the Charles Frankel Prize given by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Sara Josepha Hale medal.

Goodwin also has been interviewed about her love of baseball and is the first woman journalist to enter the Boston Red Sox locker room. One of her books, *Wait Till Next Year: A Memoir* (Reed Business Information Inc., 1997), about growing up in the 1950s as a fan of the old Brooklyn Dodgers, won the Book-of-the-Month Club and was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Currently an NBC News analyst, Goodwin has been consulted and interviewed extensively for PBS documentaries on LBJ, the Kennedy family, Franklin Roosevelt, Abraham and Mary Lincoln, and for Ken Burns’ documentary, *The History of Baseball*.

She is married to the writer Richard Goodwin, who worked in the White House under both Kennedy and Johnson, and who uncovered the quiz show scandals of the 1950s; they have three sons, Richard, Michael and Joseph.

Remaining events in the *Arts & Issues* series (all appearing in SIUE’s Meridian Ballroom) include: a National Geographic Society presentation, along with NPR’s Neal Conan as narrator, “First Person: Stories from the Edge of the World,” 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20; Nashville singer-songwriter Peter Mayer and Company, *Beyond Abbey Road*, 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 20; and drummer, bandleader and composer T.S. Monk with his jazz sextet, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

For additional information about the series, call Grant Andree, (618) 650-2626; tickets are available through the Web site: [artsandissues.com](http://www.artsandissues.com) or by calling the SIUE Fine Arts box office, (618) 650-2774.