

1-25-2002

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "01/25/2002 - Ladies Man.pdf" (2002). 2002. 12.  
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# NEWS

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02-16

January 25, 2002

For Immediate Release:

## WATSON – A REAL “FIRST” LADIES’ MAN – TO SPEAK AT EIU

CHARLESTON – If First Lady Laura Bush ever wonders how one of her predecessors may have handled a particularly sticky situation, she may just ask Robert Watson for the answer.

Watson, recognized as the leading expert on the United States' first ladies, would certainly share with her any applicable knowledge he has, just as he will with an audience when he visits the campus of Eastern Illinois University next week.

His lecture, “Powers ‘Behind the Throne’: The First Ladies,” is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, in Roberson Auditorium (room 2030), Lumpkin Hall. Admission is free and open to the public. An informal reception will follow his presentation.

Watson, an associate professor of political science at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, is the author of more than 100 scholarly publications, including nine books on such topics as the presidents and first ladies. A frequent media commentator, he has appeared on or been interviewed by MSNBC, CNN.com, *USA Today*, the *LA Times* and other major media sources.

He is the founder/editor of the scholarly journal, *White House Studies*; the book review editor of *The Social Science Journal*; and a member of the editorial boards of other journals.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

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LADIES' MAN

In addition, Watson has widely lectured on the first ladies at universities, book stores, community organizations and presidential libraries. He served as project director and editor of the first *Report to the First Lady*, a publication which includes advice and information on the history, duties and challenges of the first ladyship with essays from former first ladies, public officials and well-known historians of the office. A copy of the publication was presented to Laura Bush.

Watson's presentation, co-sponsored by Eastern's College of Sciences' Visiting Scholar Award, the Department of Political Science and the Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, is a part of this year's Opening Doors 2002 conference. Contact (217) 581-5020 for information.