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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BILL OF RIGHTS FORUMS CONTINUE

CHARLESTON, IL.-- The public is invited to two upcoming forums at Eastern Illinois University that focus on "The Bill of Rights and Our Community."

"Making America Safe for the First Amendment: The Case of Freedom of Religion" is the topic of the fourth in a series of seven forums being presented to commemorate the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. EIU Speech Communication Professor Floyd Merritt will lead the forum at 7 p.m. Monday, April 1, in the Charleston City Council Chambers. It is being sponsored by the Newman Center.

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Pastor Ray Notgrass of the Philo Road Church of Christ and Carzella Pritchett, Piatt County conservationist, will offer commentary.

On Tuesday, April 2, EIU Political Science Professor Barbara Poole will join Charleston City Councilman Bruce Scism in a discussion of "The Scope of the Bill of Rights: Right to Privacy," at 7 p.m. at the Charleston Public Library. Jim Lively, president of the East Central Illinois Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the forum sponsor; and James Tidwell, attorney and EIU journalism professor, will comment.

Audience members will be encouraged to participate by asking questions and offering their own opinions.

Remaining forum topics include a discussion of federal-state applications of the Bill of Rights and the importance of the Bill of Rights in cases that come before the Illinois Supreme Court.

The public forums are funded by Eastern, the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and the Illinois Humanities Council.

For more information, call EIU program directors Christopher Waldrep, 581-6359, or Thomas Scism, 581-2217.