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Library exhibit to showcase Civil War history

By Luis Martinez
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Booth Library is hosting a Civil War exhibit titled “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” focusing on Abraham Lincoln’s presidency during the war. The exhibition covers Lincoln’s handling of the southern states’ secession, slavery and the aftermath of the war.

Elizabeth Heldebrandt, the public relations director for Booth Library, said the keynote presentation would be the first of several planned presentations for the Lincoln exhibition.

“The Civil War was a time period in American history that is very unique,” Heldebrandt said. “Nothing’s happened before or since then in U.S. history that can be compared to your own nation being split in half.”

The presentation is called “Liberty, Security, History: Lessons from Lincoln in the Civil War” and will be given by Lynne Curry, an Eastern history professor.

“President Lincoln, as leader of the country and commander-in-chief had some very unique conflicts and problems arise because of this,” Heldebrandt said. “He had to make a lot of bold decisions during that time period, some of which people believe went against the rights guaranteed in the constitution.”

Curry’s presentation will take a close look at the legal challenges Lincoln faced and also look into the Constitutional issues that rose as a result.

“This is the first one, and then we’ll have several others for the next four to six weeks,” Heldebrandt said. “This program that Dr. Curry will be presenting is a very general look; it goes hand-in-hand with what is presented at the exhibit.”

Heldebrandt said the other programs would focus more specifically on the people from the time period including Mary Todd Lincoln and Dred Scott.

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-Beth Heldebrandt,
Booth Library public relations

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