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March 11 Lecture on Lincoln by Professor Jason Silverman Promises to be Entertaining

Winthrop University

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Quick Facts

- The talk, "Thieves, Greasers, and Mongrels": The Emancipator Encounters the Immigrant," details a little-studied part of the 16th president's life. It is set for 7 p.m. in the Richardson Ballroom in the DiGiorgio Campus Center.
- The event is described by Silverman as an entertaining look at Lincoln's introduction to the presence and significance of immigrants in the United States.
- The event was originally planned for Feb. 12 but, due to inclement weather, was rescheduled to March 11.



Jason Silverman

ROCK HILL, S.C. – Winthrop University [History Professor Jason Silverman](#) chose a thought-provoking title for his March 11 Palmer lecture on **Abraham Lincoln**.

The talk, "**Thieves, Greasers, and Mongrels**": **The Emancipator Encounters the Immigrant**," details a little-studied part of the 16th president's life. It is set for 7 p.m. in the Richardson Ballroom in the [DiGiorgio Campus Center](#). The event was originally scheduled for Feb. 12 but, due to inclement weather, was rescheduled for March 11.

The event is described by Silverman as an entertaining look at Lincoln's introduction to the presence and significance of immigrants in the United States. He finds that Lincoln's impressions of **Asian, European and South American immigrants** reveal an integral part of the president's personal and political philosophy.

Silverman was given the opportunity to study Lincoln extensively due to his naming in 2010 as the inaugural recipient of the **Ellison Capers Palmer Jr. Professorship**. His findings on Lincoln will be compiled in a book, "**Lincoln and the Immigrant**," for the Concise Lincoln Library Series, a new series of short books on the life, times and legacy of Lincoln published by the Southern Illinois University Press.

Exploring the life of the 16th president took Silverman around the country from Washington, D.C., to St. Louis to Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, Ill. "I walked the route that Lincoln took from his home to his law office to see the proximity he was to some of the immigrant neighborhoods that I mention in my book," Silverman said.

He also traveled to Chicago where Lincoln gave some of his important speeches to the Windy City's German communities, to D.C. where Silverman visited the [Library of Congress](#) and to Springfield to view the [Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum](#), in addition to visits to numerous other libraries and archives.

Even though scholars over the years have studied Lincoln a great deal, Silverman said there is little written on Lincoln's views on immigration, which today remains a timely and divisive topic. Silverman's book is due out in late 2015.

The March 11 lecture is free and open to the public.

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