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EIU Library Exhibit Shows Importance of History to Cultural Heritage, Identity

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EIU library exhibit shows importance of history to cultural heritage, identity

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library is set to unveil a new exhibit, "A Question of History: Public History in Illinois," as well as several related programs.

The opening reception, set for 7 p.m. March 30 in the library's West Reading Room, includes a keynote address by Samuel Wheeler, Illinois state historian.

Featuring items from institutions across the state, including the Illinois State Museum, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, this exhibit traces the role of public and historical institutions of Illinois to show how history was and continues to be vital to our cultural heritage and identity.

The exhibit was created by EIU's Historical Administration class, with the support of Booth Library.

It will be on display in

the Marvin Foyer of Booth Library through July 31.

Several events focusing on public engagement with history are also planned. Admission is free, and all programs and the exhibit are open to the public.

- "Finding Yourself: Using Archives to Research Your Family Genealogy," by student Cayla Wagner, will be at 5:30 p.m. April 5 in the Witters Conference Room 4440 in Booth Library.

This event informs participants how to use the Illinois Regional Archive Depository to research their family history.

- "A Keeper of History: Dr. Michael Wiant on Archeology, Public History and Preserving the Past," will be held at 5:30 p.m. April 10 in Witters Conference Room 4440 in Booth Library.

The lecture discusses the intricacies of being "a keeper of history."

- "Asking the Question: A Guided Exhibit Tour" will be offered at 5:30 p.m. April 12 in the library's Marvin Foyer.

Historical Administration students will give detailed stories of certain artifacts and the institutions that care for them.

- "Photos, Papers and Publications: Restoring Personal Documents" will be presented by Bob Bertrand at Pensees Bookshop in Charleston at 5:30 p.m. April 19.

This workshop will familiarize individuals with the basic materials and techniques used in the restoration of book bindings and their contents. Due to limited space, please contact Hailey Paige at hpaige@eiu.edu to register for this event.

For more information about the exhibits and related programming, visit www.aquestionofhistory.wixsite.com/mysite.