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## **2007 Founder's Day Publicity Newsletters**

Illinois State University

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## Sesquicentennial at Illinois State University

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### Old Main Bell Ceremony to Highlight Campus Units

Thursday, February 15, 2007

10 a.m.

Quad

#### History

Since 2002, members of the Illinois State University family have celebrated the heritage of the state's first public university in this special Founders Day ceremony. The bell from Old Main, the first building on the campus of what was then called Illinois State Normal University, is permanently displayed on the University Quad at the site of Old Main. Throughout the years, the bell was a symbol of daily campus life as it tolled the hours each day.

Although the Old Main building was deemed to be structurally unsound and removed from the campus in 1958, the bell remains a reminder of the campus that sprung up from the prairie. During Founders Day activities, the bell is brought back to active service as selected members of the University community pull the rope to ring it once for each year in the life of the institution.

In 2007 to celebrate the 150th year since the founding of Illinois State University, the ceremony will focus on the institution's notable firsts, accomplishments, and points of pride. Each campus unit will be asked to submit a nomination that includes not only the individual they would like to represent their unit, but also the University point of pride that individual represents. For example, a unit may wish to celebrate its connection to the first student organization on campus, a nationally-ranked academic program, an alpha chapter of a national organization, the most graduates from a particular academic discipline, etc. The purpose of the celebration is to focus on that which makes the University an outstanding institution of higher learning as well as its unique attributes.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, November 3.

Each campus unit received nomination materials; only nominations from campus units will be accepted. Because more nominations than available spots are anticipated, a special committee will make the final selections by December 1. These individuals will, together with dignitaries, total 150 honored persons who will each ring the bell once to signify a year in the life of this grandest of enterprises on Founders Day 2007.

For additional information please contact Barbara Todd, University Advancement 3200, 438-2592, or at [bttodd@ilstu.edu](mailto:bttodd@ilstu.edu).



## Illinois State University Media Relations

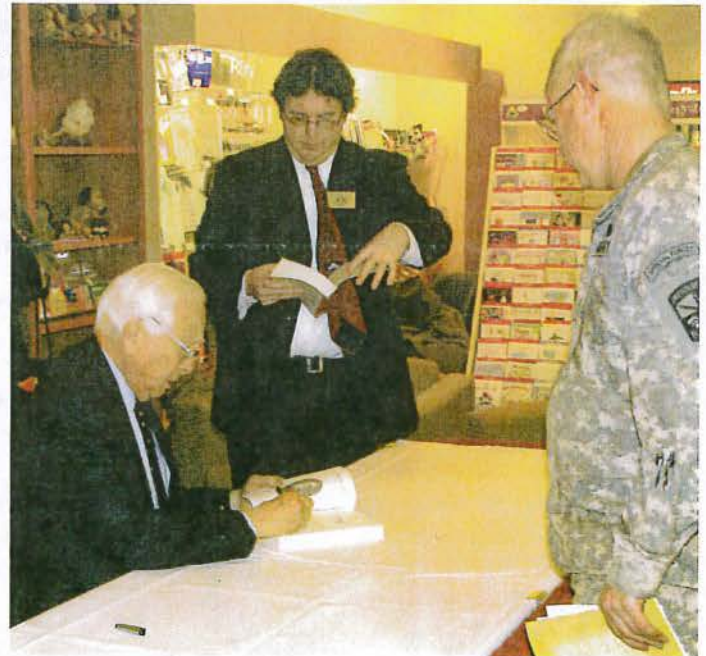
"Maybe all the academic experts ought to come here to see what you are doing," said author and historian David McCullough in praise of Illinois State University's performance in teacher education. McCullough was the keynote speaker at Thursday's Founders Day Convocation and received an Honorary Doctorate of Literature.





## Founders Day

(upper left) Because the weather outside was frightful, Craig McLauchlan, Chemistry, rang an old steamboat bell indoors, in Brown Ballroom of Bone Student Center. The bell was given to Illinois State by the McLean County Historical Society to represent the Old Main Bell at the Founders Day indoor bellringing ceremony last Thursday. At right, award-winning historian and author David McCullough gave the keynote address at the Founders Day Convocation. President Al Bowman placed the doctoral hood on McCullough (left), signifying the bestowing on McCullough of an honorary Doctorate in Literature degree. Below, McCullough signed a copy of his book at Barnes & Noble Bookstore for Lt. Col. Joe McCoskrie of Military Science.



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

# Report

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**Monday 4 p.m. deadline for submitted items**

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## Becky's notes



Greetings!

I'm enjoying being able to look out the window and see the first signs of spring!

As a little more light and warmth creep into the

days, I look forward to the upcoming months and all that the YWCA has taking place.

In February, I had the opportunity to participate in Illinois State University's Founder's Day celebration as the university kicked off a year of festivities to mark its sesquicentennial. The celebration began with the ringing of a bell for each of the 150 years, with each ring representing a milestone or first in the university's history. One ring was extra special for me. It marked the formation of the first student YWCA in the USA, which was established on the campus that was known as Illinois State Normal University in 1872.

Noted historian David McCullough gave

commended the university for including history in the teaching curriculum and noted that many universities do not. In doing a little further reading on McCullough, I came across an interview he did as a 2003 Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities. In it he indicated that history was important as "a source of strength, a source of direction, a source of inspiration – our story."

How fitting those words are for the YWCA! 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of YWCA McLean County. We have a committee working on ways to celebrate our history and look toward our future. You will hear more about this in the coming months.

One thing we do know is that over the last 100 years the YWCA McLean County has touched many lives. We want to be able to tell "our story." Is your story part of "our story?" Would you be willing to share your story? If so, please contact me at [bhines@ywcamclean.org](mailto:bhines@ywcamclean.org) or mail your story to the YWCA, 1201 N. Hershey Road, Bloomington, IL 61704.