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## LEHRMAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER'S FIRST ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE JUNE 20-JULY 2, 2005

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Princeton, NJ—On June 20, ISI, in partnership with Princeton University's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, and with the generous support of Mr. Lewis Lehrman, convened its first annual Summer Institute. The Lehrman Summer Institute hosted over 40 distinguished scholars, young faculty members and graduate students of exceptional merit. The ambitious two week program focused on an intensive study of the writings of Abraham Lincoln, and the way in which key aspects of Lincoln's thought were pre-figured in the Founding Era, developed and germinated in the Civil War and critiqued in the Progressive Era.

The conference began with a rousing lecture from Professor Allen Guelzo of Gettysburg College on "Abraham Lincoln and the Politics of Prudence." The spirit of Dr. Guelzo's energetic presentation was galvanized the following day by two thoughtful and bracing lectures by Professor Robert George of Princeton on "The Path of the Law in the Twentieth



Century," and Mr. Lewis Lehrman on "The Restoration of American History."

Thus began an extraordinary two week intellectual feast, one which included presentations from many other leading lights of contemporary academia, such as Harvey Mansfield, Charles Kesler, James Ceaser, Hadley Arkes, James Stoner, Nelson Lund, Peter Lawler and Michael Pakaluk. Through a combination of seminars, workshops, lectures and presentations, the participants were immersed in a far-reaching and intensive exploration of American history and political thought, all with an eye toward helping young scholars and graduate students to revive the teaching of America's heritage.



The Summer Institute represented a remarkable gathering of the best and brightest of both the young and the Old Guard. Said one faculty participant, "This was an outstanding conference in virtually every respect, from the [Institute] faculty right down to the food. . . . The seminars were lively and engaging, and the lectures were fantastic." Said another, "I found the [program] intense but tremendously stimulating. Since returning to my work, I feel a new sense of purpose and excitement thanks in large part to the conference. I found it a wonderful experience. The choice of participants was also superb. There was an interesting array of viewpoints, none of which were overbearing and deleterious to the atmosphere of the conference."

One graduate student remarked enthusiastically that "This was one of the best and most satisfying academic experiences I've had. It was refreshing to be able to explore issues - and argue about them - with people who share my general concerns. We had plenty of disagreement, but it was productive disagreement that helped me, at least, build on my understanding. The summer institute has already enriched my research and teaching, and I'm approaching my work with renewed enthusiasm."

