



NEWS RELEASE

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Celia Morris
to present
Berger Lecture

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Dr. Celia Morris, author and freelance writer from Washington, D.C., will deliver the 1995 Sydney Berger Lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 9, in Forum I of the Wright Administration Building at the University of Southern Indiana.

In "Race, Sex and Power: the Legacy of Fanny Wright," Dr. Morris will focus on how the ideas of one of the 19th century's most controversial women activists -- an educator who first came to Owenite New Harmony with her husband in 1825 -- remain relevant to contemporary issues of race and gender.

A reception will follow outside of Forum I, providing an opportunity to meet Dr. Morris, buy an autographed copy of one or more of her books, and enjoy cider and cake. The lecture and the reception are free and open to the public. Dr. Paul B. Raymond, assistant professor of political science, is coordinating this year's program.

Dr. Morris is a 1957 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. She did independent tutorial work at Oxford University and later earned a master's degree from Stanford University and Ph.D. from City University of New York. Her interest in Frances Wright dates back to at least the '70s, when she wrote "Frances Wright: 'She Fought the Major Battles of Her Time and Ours'" for *Ms.* magazine. Her book, *Fanny Wright: Rebel in America*, was published by Harvard University Press in 1984 and reprinted in paperback by University of Illinois Press in 1992. She has since written two other books, *Storming the Statehouse: Running for Governor with Ann Richards and Dianne Feinstein* (1992) and *Bearing Witness: Sexual Harassment and Beyond -- Everywoman's Story* (1994).

A thread of similarity links the activities of Ms. Wright and the late Sydney Berger, a sometimes controversial Evansville attorney who was an adjunct professor of constitutional law at USI for 20 years. Ms. Wright was an educator who worked to improve the lot of women and African-Americans. Mr. Berger was recruited out of law school by union leaders during a time of labor strife in Evansville and later was involved with the NAACP and ACLU in the city. The Sydney Berger Lecture was established by an anonymous donor in 1989 to encourage public discussion of social and religious issues at the University.