**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Courting Controversy: In Search of Central Illinois’ Contentious Monuments and Memorials**

*Paul Mickey Learning Series Program on May 2 at Illinois State Museum*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Controversies over historical monuments have been in the news – and will be the subject of a Paul Mickey Learning Series program at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield on Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.

From Charlottesville to Johannesburg and Chapel Hill to Belfast, disputes regarding historical monuments have occurred worldwide. What about the Springfield area?

In “Courting Controversy: In Search of Central Illinois’ Contentious Monuments and Memorials,” University of Illinois Springfield Assistant Professor of History Devin Hunter will discuss which local heritage sites might serve as flash points. Audience members are invited to bring ideas for preservation, relocation, counter-memorialization, and demolition.

The program is free and open to the public at the Illinois State Museum, located in the State Capitol Complex at 502 S. Spring St. in Springfield.

Each month, the Paul Mickey Learning Series at the ISM features a different speaker and topic. For additional information, please email events@illinoisstatemuseum.org or phone 217-558-6696.