



Blevins to Present May 24 Lecture On *Arkansas Arkansaw*

Brooks Blevins, the Noel Boyd Associate Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University, will discuss his award-winning book, *Arkansas/Arkansaw: How Bear Hunters, Hillbillies, and Good Ol' Boys Defined a State*, in the 2010 spring presentation of the John Paul Hammerschmidt Lecture Series Monday, May 24, at North Arkansas College. His presentation will begin at 7 p.m. in the L.E. "Gene" Durand Center on Northark's Center Campus.

Winner of the 2010 book award from the Missouri Conference on History, *Arkansas/Arkansaw* surveys more than 200 years of books, artwork, music, radio programs, films, and television shows that have created and sustained for the state a dual image. While many of these portray Arkansas and her people in a negative light as backwards and uneducated hillbillies, Blevins found just as many portraits of Arkansas have reflected an appreciation for the independent-minded, resourceful, and nonconformist attributes of the Arkansawyer. In Little Rock, the Old State House Museum's exhibit based on the book debuted in April 2010 and will remain on display until March 2012.

Regarded as one of the country's foremost experts on the Ozarks, Dr. Blevins is the author of four books and co-editor of a fifth. An Arkansas native, he was raised on his family's farm in the IZARD County community of Violet Hill. He received the B.A. in history from Lyon College and the M.A. and Ph.D. in American history from Auburn University. Prior to joining the faculty of Missouri State University in August 2008, Blevins held teaching appointments at Lyon College, Ozarka College, and Mississippi State University.

In addition to *Arkansas/Arkansaw*, Blevins is the author of three other books: *Hill Folks: A History of Arkansas Ozarkers and Their Image*; *Lyon College, 1872-2002: The Perseverance and*

Promise of an Arkansas College; and *Cattle in the Cotton Fields: A History of Cattle Raising in Alabama*. Also, he co-edited, with Gene Hyde, a revised edition of John Quincy Wolf's classic memoir of growing up in the late-nineteenth-century Ozarks, *Life in the Leatherwoods*.

This will be the 21st presentation in the JPH Lecture Series. As a presenter in the series, Dr. Blevins follows astronaut and cosmonaut Dr. Jerry Linenger, Sherpa mountain guide Jamling Tenzing Norgay, CIA officers Tony and Jonna Mendez, internationally syndicated columnist Gwynne Dyer, former North Vietnam prisoner of war Colonel Edward L. Hubbard, 1972 Olympic 800-meter-run champion Dave Wottle, FDNY Chief Richard "Pitch" Picciotto, Harrison native and music therapy specialist Dr. Frederick (Ted) Tims, Savant Syndrome expert Dr. Darold Treffert, retired Wal-Mart senior vice-chairman Don Soderquist, "Homeless to Harvard" heroine Liz Murray, Navy Commander (retired) Scott Waddle of the USS Greeneville, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette staff writer and Iraq war correspondent Amy Schlesing, animator/filmmaker Gary Goldman, former college and pro football great Keith Jackson, Clinton School of Public Service Dean James L. "Skip" Rutherford, *Horns, Hogs, & Nixon Coming: Texas vs. Arkansas in Dixie's Last Stand* author Terry Frei, award-winning journalist Juan Williams of Fox News Sunday and PBS, pollster John Zogby, and wilderness photographer Tim Ernst.

The JPH Lecture Series is funded by gifts to the North Arkansas College Foundation. Dr. Blevins' presentation will be open to the public free of charge.