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Contact:

Lisa Eitner
Oread Books / KU Bookstores
785-864-4431
oreadbooks@ku.edu

David A. Nichols Talk and Book Signing Scheduled at Oread Books

August 31, 2007 (LAWRENCE, KS) – Historian David A. Nichols will present a talk and book signing at Oread Books on level 2 of the Kansas Union on the University of Kansas Campus in Lawrence on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Dr. Nichols is the author of the new book *A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution*. The event is free and the public is invited.

A Matter of Justice (Simon & Schuster) is a lively and provocative narrative history that completely inverts our long-held understanding of Eisenhower and civil rights. David A. Nichols is the first historian to exhaustively mine the archives of the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas for documents pertaining to civil rights – many of them newly released or previously neglected. He replaces the disinterested, mildly racist president that historians have traditionally portrayed with the real Eisenhower who was fully engaged in the legal fight for civil rights for African Americans in the 1950s. Nichols argues that, during that decade, Ike was more progressive on civil rights than Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson. Eisenhower introduced and pushed through Congress the first civil rights legislation in eighty-two years, completed the integration of the armed forces, desegregated the District of Columbia, and made pivotal judicial appointments that advanced the cause of civil rights long after his term of office.

“Revelatory reading . . . Nichols persuasively argues that Eisenhower did more than any other white politician in the 1950s to advance the civil rights agenda . . . Likely to be controversial.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

A native of Lyons, Kansas, David A. Nichols received a bachelor of music degree from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, a Master of Arts degree in music from Northwestern University, an M.A. in history from Roosevelt University, and a Ph.D. in history from the College of William and Mary. A former professor and academic dean at Southwestern College, he is also the author of *Lincoln and the Indians: Civil War Policy and Politics* (University of Missouri Press; reissued by University of Illinois Press).

Oread Books is a full-service, independent bookseller located on the University of Kansas Campus in Lawrence on the second floor of the Kansas Union. As a non-profit organization, all proceeds are given back to KU through student programs and activities. The selection and events at Oread Books are reflective of the campus community, always current and representing diverse points of view.

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