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Contact:

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

**Oread Books to celebrate 40th birthday with weeklong celebration**

April 7, 2009 (LAWRENCE, Kan.) - Oread Books, the general books division of the KU Bookstores located on level two of the Kansas Union at the University of Kansas, will celebrate its 40th birthday with a weeklong public event April 20–26. The celebration will feature a 40 percent discount on in-stock Oread Books merchandise, birthday cake daily, and book signings by four KU faculty authors with new books: Robert Rodriguez, Michelle Heffner Hayes, Jonathan Mayhew, and Iain Ellis. The author events, to be held in the Oread Books lounge, are free and the public is invited.

Robert Rodriguez will present a lecture and book signing from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21 for his new book “The Regulation of Boxing: A History and Comparative Analysis of Policies Among American States” (McFarland & Company, January 2009). The book offers an historical overview, from the earliest attempts to regulate boxing to present-day legislation that may create a national boxing commission. Rodriguez has served as an administrator for the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Kansas since 1998 and teaches courses in the KU Latin American Studies department. As an undergraduate at the University of California, Irvine, Rodriguez worked as a boxing journalist for two Spanish-language newspapers and contributed articles and photographs to several boxing magazines. He has a master’s degree and a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Kansas.

Michelle Heffner Hayes and Jonathan Mayhew will give a presentation on two new books on Spanish literature and culture on Wednesday, April 22 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. A book signing will follow brief talks by each author:

Michelle Heffner Hayes is the author of “Flamenco: Conflicting Histories of the Dance” (McFarland & Company, April 2009). This analytic history traces representations of flamenco dance in Spain and abroad from the twentieth century to the present, using histories, film, accounts of live performances, and interviews. Hayes, a dancer, choreographer and dance scholar, holds a doctorate in Dance History from the University of California, Riverside. Following more than a decade as curator and director of organizations devoted to multidisciplinary performance and commissioning of new work, Hayes joined the faculty at the University of Kansas in 2006, where she teaches modern dance, improvisation, dance history, and flamenco.

Jonathan Mayhew is the author of “Apocryphal Lorca: Translation, Parody, Kitsch,” (The University of Chicago Press, April 2009). The book examines how the works of the legendary Spanish writer Federico Garcia Lorca in English translation have had enormous impact on the generation of American poets who came of age during the Cold War. Jonathan Mayhew earned a doctorate in Comparative Literature from Stanford University and taught at Ohio State University before coming to the University of Kansas in 1996, where he is a professor of Spanish. He is the author of four books on contemporary Spanish poetry, including the forthcoming “The Twilight of the Avant-Garde: Spanish Poetry 1980–2000.”

Iain Ellis will give a talk and book signing from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 for “Rebels Wit Attitude: Subversive Rock Humorists,” co-published with Soft Skull Press as part of the PopMatters Books Series in December 2008. The book throws a spotlight on the history of humor as a weapon of anti-establishment rebellion, and pays tribute to great rebel humorists in American rock history while investigating comedy and laughter as catalysts and expressive forces in these artists' work. Ellis focused on Cultural Studies at universities in the U.K. and U.S. and wrote his American Studies Ph.D. dissertation on punk culture. He teaches in the English Department at the University of Kansas and writes columns for the international online magazine “PopMatters.”

Oread Books opened in 1969 and will celebrate 40 years with several events in 2009. Visit [oreadbooks.com](http://oreadbooks.com) for more information on the weeklong celebration in April and future events.

Oread Books, a division of the KU Bookstores, is located on level two of the Kansas Union at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The selection and events at Oread Books are reflective of the campus community, always current and representing diverse points of view. As a nonprofit organization in the division of Student Success, the KU Bookstores gives all proceeds back to KU through student programs, services, and activities.