

NEWS RELEASE

March 7, 2006

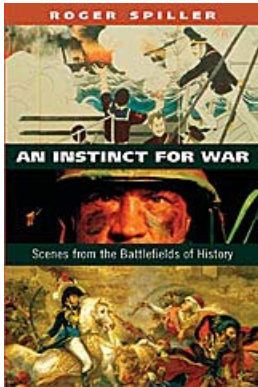
Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: SchrepelB@stmary.edu



Author Roger Spiller Presents University of Saint Mary Lecture: "An Instinct For War?"

7 p.m., Thursday, March 16, 2006



(Leavenworth, Kan.)— If wars are inevitable, what is the work of the peacemaker? What can we understand about war that can assist in promoting peace in an age of terror and horrific violence? These questions and more will be discussed when Command General Staff College professor, author and war scholar Roger Spiller headlines the next Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 16 in Mabee Auditorium at the University of Saint Mary main campus in Leavenworth.

Spiller will present his book, "*An Instinct for War?, Scenes from the Battlefields of History*," a vivid and provocative sense of what lies at the heart of war, with voices that speak through the ages.

"War is an obscenity...I study war...not to make it better, certainly not to glorify it, but to understand it...because it's an indelible part of human history," said 61-year-old Spiller of Leavenworth.

Spiller's presentation, titled "*An Instinct for War*" coincides with De Paul Library's WWI film and lecture series, "*The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power*." His appearance is co-sponsored by the academic vice president's office. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 913-758-6115 for more information.

National critics are calling Spiller's book, "*An Instinct for War*," the most comprehensive history of war written in the modern era. Filmmaker Ken Burns offered his praise for "*An Instinct for War*." He said the book places Spiller on the same level as other war authors, such as John Keegan and Paul Fussell. He also said, "The truths that accumulate here in '*An Instinct for War*' are like the layers of a pearl, born in friction, imperceptibly accrued at first, but ultimately exquisitely valuable."

A "scholar of war," Spiller spent 25 years teaching military history at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Upon his retirement, Spiller was conferred with professor emeritus status.

In addition to his book presentation, Spiller will also answer questions about his book, the horrors of war, and how peace indelibly alters the political landscape. Peace is also the theme of De Paul Library's fifth installment of "*The WWI Years*" film series entitled, "Peacemaking." The film will show at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23 in Mabee Auditorium. Call 913-758-6111 for more details about the film series.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

###