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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
***THE SEARCH FOR MABILA* BY VERNON JAMES KNIGHT**
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues its tradition of informative talks on Alabama history at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, October 21** as **Vernon J. Knight** presents ***The Search for Mabila***.

The lost battle site of Mabila is the predominant historical mystery of the Deep South. Spanish conquistadors led by Hernando de Soto faced off against the warriors of Chief Taskalusa at a small fortified town somewhere in south Alabama. By all accounts, thousands of lives were lost. Speculation about the location of Mabila, based on surviving reports, dates from the early eighteenth century, but the exact location has never been determined. In 2006 a multi-disciplinary team of specialists in history, folklore, geography, geology, and archaeology gathered for a three-day workshop to explore the fact and fiction surrounding the search for Mabila. In this program Knight will summarize the findings of the workshop.

Dr. Vernon J. Knight is an archaeologist and ethnohistorian in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama. His endeavors in the field of southern Indian studies include works on the origins of the Creeks as well as the Hernando de Soto expedition. His archaeological field research has taken him to numerous sites in the eastern United States and Cuba. He is co-editor, with Lawrence A. Clayton and Edward C. Moore, of *The De Soto Chronicles* (University of Alabama Press, 1993); editor of *The Search for Mabila* (University of Alabama Press, 2009); and author of *Mound Excavations at Moundville: Architecture, Elites, and Social Order* (University of Alabama Press, 2010).

The *ArchiTreats: Food for Thought* lecture series is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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