



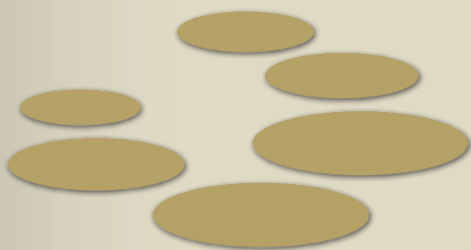
2021-2022
FLORIDA
LECTURE
SERIES

The Lawton M. Chiles, Jr., Center for Florida History presents the

FLORIDA LECTURE SERIES



FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE®



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COUNTY
HISTORY CENTER

THE 2021-2022 FLORIDA LECTURE SERIES IS
SPONSORED IN PART BY WUSF PUBLIC MEDIA
AND POLK COUNTY HISTORY CENTER.

SEPTEMBER 29

(WEDNESDAY)

CRAIG PITTMAN

Writer, St. Petersburg

The State You're In: Florida Men, Florida Women, and other Wildlife

Branscomb Auditorium



In the opening lecture of this year's series, Craig Pittman, award-winning reporter for the *Tampa Bay Times* and most recently the *Florida Phoenix* provides a humorous and sobering look at the politics and culture of his native state. For more than thirty years Pittman has covered the wildest stories Florida has to offer, and will share many of them with the FSC community and our friends. With a keen eye for history and the environment, Pittman will describe some of Florida's oddest wildlife as well as its quirkiest people. Pittman is a *New York Times* best-selling author and a four-time winner of the Waldo Proffitt Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism in Florida. He is the author of six books, including *Paving Paradise*, *Manatee Insanity*, *Cat Tale: The Wild Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther*, *Oh Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country* and, most recently, *The State You're In*.

OCTOBER 28

JASON VUIC

Writer, Dallas, Texas

Swamp Peddlers

Branscomb Auditorium



Beginning in the 1950s, the so-called “installment land sales industry” hawked billions of dollars of Florida residential property, sight unseen, to retiring Northerners. For \$10 down and \$10 a month, working-class pensioners could buy a piece of the American dream in planned communities like Cape Coral, Port Charlotte, Deltona, Port St. Lucie, and Palm Coast. Eventually “swamp peddlers” completely transformed Florida’s landscape and demographics. The result was long lasting, and in many instances devastating to the environment. Jason Vuic will share this raucous tale, and provide an overview of this American economic and cultural phenomenon. Jason Vuic resides in Dallas, Texas, and is the author of *The Swamp Peddlers: How Sellers, Land Scammers, and Retirees Built Modern Florida and Transformed the American Dream*, *The Yucks!: Two Years in Tampa with the Losingest Team in NFL History*, and *The Yugo: The Rise and Fall of the Worst Car in History*.

NOVEMBER 4

BOYD MURPHREE

University of Florida

ROBERT TAYLOR

Florida Institute of Technology

Florida Governors

Polk County History Center, Bartow



Until 2020, no serious work provided Floridians and lovers of Floridiana with an in-depth look at the fifty men who have served Florida as governor during the past two centuries.

Professors Boyd Murphree and Robert Taylor have remedied this omission. They offer — within the pages of a single volume — insightful biographical sketches of each

of the individuals who have administered the territory and state. Editors Murphree and Boyd enlisted thirty top historians, political scientists, and writers who have demonstrated keen grasps of Florida and its experience to write the essays. Ultimately, they produced a resonant and telling portrait of Florida and its executive leadership. *The Governors of Florida* — published by the University Press of Florida — earned the Florida Book Award Gold Medal in Florida Nonfiction. Murphree and Taylor will share the details of their arduous, decade-long quest in pursuit of their monumental achievement. Selected authors, and perhaps even a governor or two, will join them.

THIS LECTURE IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY
PROFESSOR WALTER W. MANLEY II, FSC ALUMNUS.

JANUARY 13

MARY E. ADKINS

University of Florida School of Law

Chesterfield Smith: America's Lawyer

Branscomb Auditorium



Chesterfield Smith spearheaded the American Bar Association's condemnation of Richard M. Nixon during the Watergate scandal. Smith's damning statement "No man is above the law" turned him into a national figure. Yet his outsized accomplishments, and equally outsized personality, had already made the Florida attorney a legend in his home state. A child of the rural South turned war hero, Smith earned a law degree and rose fast to lead the Florida Bar and mastermind the drafting of a new state constitution. Meanwhile, he grew his small Bartow law firm into the legal leviathan Holland & Knight. Mary E. Adkins uncovers Smith's life and legacy. She is master legal skills professor at the University of Florida's Fredric G. Levin College of Law and the author of *Making Modern Florida: How the Spirit of Reform Shaped a New State Constitution* and *Chesterfield Smith, America's Lawyer* that earned the Florida Historical Society's Rembert Patrick Award.

THIS LECTURE IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LILLY & BROWN LLP

FEBRUARY 10

JANIS OWENS

Writer, Newberry, Florida

Doing What Comes Naturally: A Cracker Talks Stories

Branscomb Auditorium



Acclaimed Florida writer Janis Owens, the author of five award-winning novels, a memoir cookbook, and a recent work of non-fiction, will share her life in writing and her storytelling roots that draw deeply on her love for our unique Florida Cracker culture. Born in Marianna in 1960, the last child and only daughter of an Assembly of God preacher who later became an insurance salesman, Owens attended the University of Florida, where she was a student of Harry Crews' Creative Writing Workshop. Pat Conroy called her, "one of the finest novelists of our time." She is the author of acclaimed novels, including *My Brother Michael*, *Myra Sims*, *The Schooling of Claybird Catts*, and *American Ghost*. Her essays on Florida life have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Writer's Digest* and many other publications. Also the author of a memoir cookbook, *The Cracker Kitchen*, Owens's most recent project is a work of creative non-fiction, *Hidden in Plain Sight* — a twisted tale of death and destruction in her adopted home of Newberry, Florida.

MARCH 17

JOSE GARCIA

Florida Southern College

VICTOR TRIAY

Middletown, Connecticut

The Mariel Boatlift

Location – TBD



During the spring and summer of 1980, over 125,000 desperate Cuban refugees set out across the Straits of Florida to escape economic and political repression. Many longed to reunite with family members in the United States, who had already escaped from Fidel Castro's communist dictatorship. Professors Jose Garcia and Victor Triay

capture and interpret this human drama— in written form, and from personal experience, and both will share their perspectives on this human drama. José Manuel García, himself a *Marielito*, is associate professor of Spanish and Latin American studies at Florida Southern College, and the author of *Voices from Mariel: Oral Histories of the 1980 Cuban Boatlift*. Victor Andres Triay is professor of history at Middlesex Community College in Middletown, Connecticut, and he is the author of several books, including *Operation Pedro Pan*, *Bay of Pigs: An Oral History of Brigade 2506* and *The Mariel Boatlift: A Cuban-American Journey*, which earned the gold medal non-fiction Florida book Award.



Flame Lily (*Gloriosa superba*)

THE LAWTON M. CHILES, JR. CENTER FOR FLORIDA HISTORY

Founded in 2001, the Lawton M. Chiles, Jr., Center for Florida History strives to enhance the teaching, study, and writing of Florida history. The center seeks to preserve the state's past through cooperative efforts with historical societies, preservation groups, museums, public programs, media, and interested persons. This unique center, housed in the Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr., Archives Center, is a source of continuing information created to increase appreciation for Florida history.

ABOUT THE LECTURE SERIES

The Lawton M. Chiles, Jr., Florida Lecture Series is a forum that brings speakers to the Florida Southern College campus to explore Florida life and culture from a wide range of disciplines, including history, public affairs, law, sociology, criminology, anthropology, literature, and art. The overall objective of the series is to bring members of the community, the faculty, and the student body together to interact with and learn from leading scholars in their fields.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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The Mariel Boatlift

LOCATION – TBD

ALL LECTURES BEGIN AT 7:00 PM
AND ARE IN THE LOCATIONS DESIGNATED ABOVE.
ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



LAWTON M. CHILES, JR., CENTER FOR FLORIDA HISTORY

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LAKELAND, FL 33801-5698

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