



2017-2018
FLORIDA
LECTURE
SERIES

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

FLORIDA LECTURE SERIES



FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE®



THE 2017–2018 FLORIDA LECTURE SERIES IS
SPONSORED IN PART BY WUSF PUBLIC MEDIA.

SEPTEMBER 7

CRAIG PITTMAN

Journalist

Oh Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country

Branscomb Auditorium



In the opening lecture of this year's series, Craig Pittman, award-winning reporter for the *Tampa Bay Times*, gives a humorous and sobering look at the politics and culture of a state that is sometimes right, sometimes wacky, but never dull. He traces how Florida's unique geography and history naturally has attracted outliers. Pittman, a native Floridian, has covered numerous beats and (in his own words) quite a few natural disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires and the Florida Legislature. Since 1998, he has covered environmental issues for the *Times*. He is a four-time winner of the Waldo Proffitt Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism in Florida and twice received the top investigative reporting award from the Society of Environmental Journalists. He is the author of four books, including 2016's *Oh Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country*.

OCTOBER 5

BOB KEALING

Writer

Elvis Ignited!

Hollis Room



In 1956, his most crucial and transformative year, Elvis Presley played more live shows in his breakout state, Florida, than New York, California, and Las Vegas combined. In fifteen months, Presley barnstormed Florida four times, rising from bottom of the bill to the stratosphere of music stardom. Bob Kealing describes how there are many little-known Florida connections to this iconic performer's moonshot to fame, including a concert at the Historic Polk Theatre in Lakeland. Kealing, an Edward R. Murrow and five-time Emmy award-winning reporter for WESH-TV in Orlando, is the author of four books on Florida culture and history, including *Elvis Ignited: The Rise of an Icon in Florida*. He is making a return visit to the Florida Lecture Series, having previously lectured on country-rock pioneer and Polk County resident Gram Parsons.

NOVEMBER 9

MARY ADKINS

*Director of Legal Writing and Appellate Advocacy and
Master Legal Skills Professor at the University
of Florida Levin College of Law*

Making Modern Florida

Hollis Room



In the middle of the 20th century, Florida was undergoing explosive growth and the Kennedy Space Center was bringing technological progress to the state. Florida's antiquated 1885 constitution was no match for the dramatic changes that took place in the makeup of the state during this time. Professor Mary Adkins goes behind the scenes to examine the history and impact of the 1966-68 revision of the Florida state constitution, including the moves, gambits, and backroom strategy necessary to create and introduce a new state constitution. This will be a timely lecture now that a new constitutional revision is underway. Adkins is the author of *Making Modern Florida: How the Spirit of Reform Shaped a New State Constitution*. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society.

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

JANUARY 18

RYAN WHITE

Writer

Jimmy Buffett: A Good Life All the Way

Hollis Room



Born on the Gulf Coast, singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett scuffed around New Orleans, washed out of the Nashville scene, and found refuge among the artists, shrimpers, and genuine characters at the end of the road in Key West. Music critic Ryan White describes how Buffett found his voice and eventually brought to life the song that would launch Parrot Head nation: “Margaritaville.” Twice named one of the top writers in the country by the Society for Features Journalism, White spent nearly 16 years at the *Oregonian* covering sports, music, and culture. He is the author of *Jimmy Buffett: A Good Life All the Way* and a retrospective on Bruce Springsteen. He also has written for *Sports Illustrated*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Portland Mercury*.

FEBRUARY 15

BOB LEE

Historian and Writer

Bad Guys, Bullets, and Boat Chases: True Stories of Florida Game Wardens

Hollis Room



For those who might think that all game wardens do is check fishing licenses, there is a different story, one of rescue, shoot-outs, and powerboat chases. Tracking black-market gator poachers, trapping airboats, ferrying crates of baby sea turtles, and hunting for missing persons in remote areas are just some of the situations in which game wardens find themselves. In a return visit to the Florida Lecture Series, veteran Florida Wildlife officer Bob Lee describes the excitement, dangers, and disasters that game wardens face every day on the job. Lee spent over three decades as a water patrol officer on the St. Johns River and as a land patrol lieutenant in three Florida counties. He is the author of two books, including *Bad Guys, Bullets, and Boat Chases: True Stories of Florida Game Wardens*.

The Robert and Rose Stahl Criminal Justice Lecture honors the memories of Robert and Rose Stahl. Mr. Stahl served more than 30 years as a police officer, including his years as chief of police in North Miami Beach, Florida. The family of Robert and Rose Stahl has generously made these lectures available to Florida Southern College.

MARCH 22

JACK E. DAVIS

Professor of History, University of Florida

The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea

Hollis Room



From the sportfish that brought the earliest tourists to Gulf shores to Hollywood's engagement with the first offshore oil wells, the Gulf of Mexico has inspired and empowered, sometimes to its own detriment, the ethnically diverse groups of a growing nation. Significant beyond tragic oil spills and hurricanes, the Gulf has historically been one of the world's most bounteous marine environments, supporting human life for millennia, but it has presented itself as America's sea—bound by geography, culture, and tradition to the national experience. Premier environmental historian Professor Jack Davis places this exceptional region into the American mythos in a sweeping history that extends from prehistoric times to the 21st century. Davis is the author or co-author of several books, including *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*.



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



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