



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

2024-2025

FLORIDA LECTURE SERIES



FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE®



The 2024-2025 Florida Lecture Series is
sponsored in part by WUSF Public Media

September 12, 2024

Corey Malcom

Historian, Florida Keys History Center

Slavery & The Sea: Exploring the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the Florida Keys

For over 500 years the waters surrounding the Florida Keys have been a graveyard for all manner of ships carrying goods and commodities from the Old World to the New and back again. As an underwater archeologist and historian Corey Malcom



has spent a lifetime exploring, studying, and documenting under sea bottoms and what they can tell us about the life and times of the past. Historian of the Florida Keys History Center, Malcom specializes in researching the maritime past of the Keys and the Bahamas. For more than thirty years he was Director of Archaeology at the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West, Florida. He has investigated and published on the shipwrecks of the 1622 galleon *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*, the 1700 English slaver *Henrietta Marie*, the 16th-century galleon *Santa Clara*, and the Cuban pirate-slaver *Guerrero*, among others. Malcom holds degrees from Indiana and Nova Southeastern universities, and earned a P.H. D. from the University of Huddersfield. Malcom is president of the Key West Maritime Historical Society and is an Advisory Council member of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

October 3, 2024

Kevin Kokomoor

Lecturer, Coastal Carolina University

**La Florida: Catholics,
Conquistadores, and Other
American Origin Stories**



In the fall of 1565, Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez de Aviles celebrated a “feast day of commemoration” with his men after their successful landing at the future site of the town of St. Augustine. This celebration had many of the same

trappings as what we think of when we recount the story of the first Thanksgiving, celebrated 56 years later in the fall of 1621, by Pilgrims in Plymouth Plantation. But, it’s not considered the “first Thanksgiving.” Why is that?

In *La Florida* Kevin Kokomoor explores a Spanish thread to early American history that is unfamiliar or even unknown to most Americans. He argues that it was Spanish influence, and not English, which drove America’s early history. By focusing on America’s Spanish heritage, this collection of stories complicates and sometimes challenges how Americans view their past, which Kokomoor refers to as “the country’s founding mythology.” This program will dig deeper into Hispanic and Caribbean history, and how important happenings elsewhere in the Spanish colonial world influenced the discovery and colonization of the American Southeast. A Florida native, Kokomoor holds degrees from USF (M. A.) and Florida State University (Ph.D). He teaches early American history at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina.

November 14, 2024
Branscomb 202

Charlie Fanning
Lecturer, University of Florida

**Building an Empire of the
Everglades: How Industrial
Agriculture Transformed South
Florida's "River of Grass"**

In the decades after World War II, industrial growers transformed South Florida's environment, workforce, and communities to build a regional agricultural hub that led the United States in sugarcane and winter vegetable production. As Florida's agricultural sector grew to claim the nation's highest concentration of corporate farms by the 1960s, exiled Cuban sugar barons rebuilt their fortunes in the Everglades. Diversified farming operations flourished in the region at the expense of the environment and impoverished farmworkers. South Florida's agribusinesses growth and profits relied on reengineering the Everglades, controlling farm labor, and shaping U.S. foreign policy to secure concessions and protections.



A proud graduate of Florida Southern College and Georgetown University, Charlie Fanning earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2023.

January 30, 2025

Keith Huneycutt

Professor of English, Florida Southern College

The Storm: An Antebellum Tale of Key West



The Storm, probably completed in the late 1850s, is Ellen Brown Anderson's previously unpublished novella set in Key West during the hurricane year of 1846. The story presents a woman's unique viewpoint on the economy and society

of mid-nineteenth-century Key West, including the island's shipwreck salvage industry and the town's get-rich-quick mentality. *The Storm* is one of the first works of fiction written by a woman in Florida. It is the first work of Florida fiction with a first-person female narrator, and the first Key West story focusing on domestic life from a woman's perspective.

A Charlotte, N. C. native, Keith L. Huneycutt earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina. He is a Professor of English at Florida Southern College, where he has taught since 1987. A former president of the Florida College English Association, his publications include two books co-authored with James M. Denham, *Echoes From a Distant Frontier: The Brown Sisters' Correspondence from Antebellum Florida*, (2004) and *The Letters of George Long Brown*, (2019) and various articles on Florida literature, history, and culture.

February 20, 2025

Leslie Kemp Poole

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies,
Rollins College

Tracing Florida Journeys: Explorers, Travelers, and Landscapes Then and Now

John Muir and Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote about their visits to Florida, reflecting their expectations of a place that was touted to be “paradise.” John James Audubon found riches of bird life in the Keys. Zora Neale Hurston



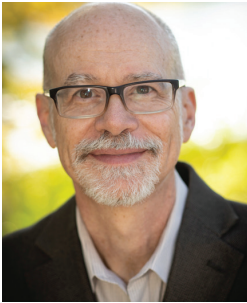
traveled to turpentine camps and sawmills documenting the stories and music of workers and residents. Jonathan Dickinson and Stephen Crane recounted shipwrecks along a sparsely populated coastline. Members of Hernando de Soto’s violent 1539 expedition of conquest described their struggles with dense swamps, forests, and rivers, and resistance from the Native people they exploited. Using journals and articles by these and other authors that date back to the early European exploration of the region, fourth generation Floridian and Rollins College Professor Leslie Kemp Poole retraces their steps. The land they write about is often hard to imagine in today’s Florida, a top destination for tourists filled with almost 22 million residents. Highlighting the Florida that was and the Florida that exists now, Poole brings together historical research, interviews with experts, and her personal experiences to tell a revealing story of the state’s natural history.

March 20, 2025

Rick Kilby

Writer, Graphic Designer, Orlando, FL

Florida's Healing Waters: Gilded Age Mineral Springs, Seaside Resorts, and Health Spas



In *Florida's Healing Waters*, Rick Kilby explores the Victorian belief that water was a source of healing and rehabilitation and traces the history of "taking the waters" in ancient cultures. Kilby shows how Florida's natural wonders

were developed and promoted as restorative destinations for America's emerging upper class. The richly illustrated book received both the silver medal for Florida nonfiction from the Florida Book Awards and the Florida Historical Society's Stetson Kennedy Award in 2021.

Rick Kilby is committed to building awareness of Florida's rich history, unique culture, and endangered natural environment through art, design, and education. His first book, *Finding the Fountain of Youth: Ponce de León and Florida's Magical Waters* (University Press of Florida, 2013), won a Florida Book Award in the Visual Arts category. Since his first book was published, Kilby has given presentations at museums, libraries, conferences, and even on a boat on the St. Johns River.

**This lecture is generously sponsored by
Professor Walter W. Manley II, FSC Alumnus '69**



2024-2025 Schedule

Lectures begin at 7 p.m. and are held in Branscomb Auditorium unless otherwise noted. All programs are free and open to the public.

September 12, 2024

Corey Malcom

Slavery & The Sea: Exploring the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the Florida Keys

October 3, 2024

Kevin Kokomoor

La Florida: Catholics, Conquistadores, and Other American Origin Stories

November 14, 2024

Branscomb 202

Charlie Fanning

Building an 'Empire of the Everglades': How Industrial Agriculture Transformed South Florida's 'River of Grass'

January 30, 2025

Keith Huneycutt

The Storm: An Antebellum Tale of Key West

February 20, 2025

Leslie Kemp Poole

Tracing Florida Journeys: Explorers, Travelers, and Landscapes Then and Now

March 20, 2025

Rick Kilby

Florida's Healing Waters: Gilded Age Mineral Springs, Seaside Resorts, and Health Spas

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

Dr. James M. Denham, Executive Director
Mr. Hollis H. Hooks, Lakeland
Mr. Ken Keck, Lakeland
Mr. Kent Lilly, Lakeland
Mrs. Carolyn Lindsey, Lakeland
Professor Walter W. Manley II, Tallahassee
Dr. Sarah D. McKay, Lakeland
Mr. C. Richard Nail, Lakeland
Mr. Stephen R. Senn, Lakeland



The Lawton M. Chiles, Jr. Center for Florida History
111 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, FL 33801

863.680.3001

flsouthern.edu/flhistory