

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

# FLORIDA LECTURE SERIES

2013–2014



LAWTON M CHILES, JR  
CENTER FOR FLORIDA HISTORY  
FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

The 2013–2014 Florida Lecture Series is sponsored in part by WUSF Public Media.



## 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

In its 17<sup>th</sup> year, 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 Hon. Susan Roberts, Lakeland  
The Hon. Dr. T. Terrell Sessums, Tampa

### ON THE COVER

*Down There*

Jackson Walker, oil on canvas, 2007.

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SEPTEMBER 26

## T. D. ALLMAN

*Journalist and author*

### “Finding Florida: The True History of the Sunshine State”

*Branscomb Memorial Auditorium*



Rarely, if ever, has a book on Florida history generated as much discussion and controversy as T. D. Allman’s *Finding Florida*. From Ponce de León to

Trayvon Martin, Allman’s take on his native state has aroused debates and provoked spirited arguments throughout Florida and the nation. The book has drawn extensive comment in national media and reviews in major publications such as the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *London Daily Mail*. Allman himself brings a lifetime of experience reporting and writing to the task. Mainly known as a foreign correspondent, Allman has been featured in publications such as *Harpers*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, *New Republic*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Economist*, and *National Geographic*. Allman is also the author of four other books including *Miami: City of the Future*. Allman’s style is provocative and daring. All of those present at this event will be challenged to join the conversation.

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OCTOBER 24

## JACKSON WALKER

*Artist*

### “Florida History in the Art of Jackson Walker”

*The Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr. Archives Center*



For almost a generation Jackson Walker’s paintings have graced the halls of courthouses and statehouses and have been exhibited in countless public and private venues throughout the state and nation. His life’s work of portraying visually arresting historical scenes of Florida’s past has earned him a reputation as one of Florida’s most distinguished artists, and he has won numerous awards for his work. Walker’s program will feature a discussion of his most well-known paintings, including his methods of re-creating the historical scenes. Also exhibited that evening will be Walker’s latest painting depicting the landing of Ponce de León in Florida, executed to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the conquistador’s landing. The painting is on loan from the Florida House in Washington, D.C., and will be on display both at the Polk County Museum of Art and the McKay Archives gallery.

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NOVEMBER 21

**GENE SMITH**

*Professor of History, Texas Christian University*

**“The Slave’s Gamble: Choosing Sides in the War of 1812”**

*Thad Buckner Building, Hollis Room*



Though largely forgotten, the War of 1812 had profound consequences for the United States. The conflict confirmed U.S. independence and secured its

borders, all the while ushering in a significant, if brief, period of national unity. The war also dislodged Native Americans, triggering American expansion to the Mississippi River. Historian Gene Smith studies the war and its aftermath from the perspective of enslaved Africans, concluding that the conflict resulted in “the greatest nineteenth-century diaspora of blacks from the United States” ever. A native of Alabama, Smith earned his Ph.D. in history from Auburn University in 1991. He is an expert on early national America and naval history and the author of seven books and many articles. Recently he was appointed Class of 1957 Distinguished Lecturer in Naval Heritage at the United States Naval Academy during 2013–14. Smith lives in Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife, Tracy, and their son.

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JANUARY 23

**ROBERT H. KEALING**

*Journalist and author*

**“Calling Me Home: Gram Parsons and the Roots of Country Rock”**

*Thad Buckner Building, Hollis Room*



The well-to-do son of one of Polk County’s most distinguished citrus families, Gram Parsons developed lyrics and rhythms in the 1960s that gave him claim to

the title of the father of country rock. From Central Florida garage bands, to Harvard, to New York, to Coconut Grove, to Austin, to Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium, to California, Parsons cut a wide swath before his untimely death due to a drug overdose in 1973. In *Calling Me Home*, Bob Kealing traces the arc of Parson’s career, emphasizing his Southern roots and his influences on such alt-country icons as Roger McGuinn, Tom Petty, and Emmylou Harris. In the process, he sheds light on Parsons’s timeless and transformative musical legacy. A three-time Emmy award-winning reporter for NBC’s WESH-TV in Orlando, Kealing has written two other books, *Tupperware Unsealed: Brownie Wise, Earl Tupper, and the Home Party Pioneers* (2009) and *Kerouac in Florida: Where the Road Ends*. He is currently working on a book on Elvis Presley in Florida.

FEBRUARY 20

## LESLIE KEMP POOLE

*Professor of History, Rollins College*

### “Marjorie Rawlings and the Year of *The Yearling*”

*Branscomb Memorial Auditorium, Room 202*



Seventy-five years ago, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings published *The Yearling*. It was a number-one best-seller in 1938, and Rawlings won the Pulitzer

Prize for literature for the book the next year. Rawlings’s heartfelt story of a boy and his pet fawn on the late nineteenth-century Florida frontier eventually was made into a major motion picture starring Gregory Peck, became the most famous novel associated with Florida, and catapulted Rawlings’s literary career. Rollins College adjunct professor Leslie Kemp Poole will explore these subjects in words and visuals. Poole earned her Ph.D. from the University of Florida and is a specialist in American environmental, women’s, and science history. A Rawlings Society board of trustees member, she has written widely on Rawlings, won numerous awards, and co-produced the acclaimed documentary “Marjorie’s Wake” in 2008.

## Stahl Lecture in Criminal Justice

MARCH 13

## GILBERT KING

*Journalist and author*

### “Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America”

*Annie Pfeiffer Chapel*



A gripping true story about murder, rape, racism, and the law, Gilbert King’s *Devil in the Grove* follows one of America’s most heated court cases and

paints a rare, unparalleled portrait of Thurgood Marshall. Just as he was about to bring the landmark suit *Brown v. Board of Education* to the Supreme Court, Marshall risked his life to save a young black man slated for the electric chair. Gilbert King has written about Supreme Court history and the death penalty for the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, and he is a featured contributor to *Smithsonian* magazine’s history blog, “Past Imperfect.” King’s book, *Devil in the Grove*, won the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction in 2013. He lives in New York City with his wife, two daughters, and a French bulldog named Louis.

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.



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Gilbert King

“Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America”

*All programs are free and open to the public.*



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