
The Tallahassee Festival of Books and Writers Conference Schedule

March 19-21, 2010

“Books Make a Difference”

All Friday and Saturday events take place in the FSU Conference Center on Pensacola St. (next to the Civic Center). Parking is free in the attached garage during evenings and on weekends.

*Classrooms 201, 205, 208, 214, and 215 are on the second floor of the FSU Conference Center. Room 108 (dining room) is on the first floor.

*Times and sessions are subject to change.

*Funding for specific book festival and conference events was provided by the Council on Culture and Arts, the Florida Humanities Council, the Leon County Tourism Development Council, the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Tallahassee Writers Association. Thank you.

Friday, March 19

5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Early Bird Sessions

Rm 201 Writing Down the Funny Bones

Southern humor author Rhett Devane will provide tips on how to work humor into your writing. Devane authored *The Madhatter's Guide to Chocolate* and *Up the Devil's Belly*.

Rm 205 Marketing Your Book

Western author Anne Holt will talk about what happens after the book is published: how to arrange a book tour, how to promote your book. Holt is the author of numerous novels, including *Kendrick* and *Riding Fence*.

6:30 – 9 p.m. Friday Night Kickoff

Rm 208 The Power of Books to Shape American Life (free and open to public)

The discussion will be moderated by Helen Moeller, Director of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System. Speakers include:

- John Cole, founding director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress
- John Fenstermaker, Fred L. Standley Professor of English, Emeritus, at Florida State University and a founder of the Florida Book Awards program
- Wayne Wiegand, the F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies and Professor of American Studies at Florida State University and a founder of the Florida Book Awards program

Bring your friends and spouses to enjoy

- stimulating presentations
- light hors d'oeuvres
- cash bar

Meet and talk with conference presenters in a casual setting.

*This panel is sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Note: Throughout the day, *The House of Flying Cards*, an incredible troupe of creative street magicians will perform unique tricks in the corridors between sessions. You usually can only see tricks like these on television. Watch them pull smoke through solid glass, change the color of leaves, bend silverware into sculptures, and more! They have performed to great acclaim all over Florida. They are playing for tips, so be appreciative to these young performers from Orlando!

Individual Agent Appointments:

Those with appointments to see Jessica Sinsheimer should arrive outside conference room 215 about five minutes before the appointed time and wait. When it is time for your appointment, it is okay to knock lightly. Please be sure not to stay past your appointment time as others will be waiting to talk to her.

7-7:40 a.m. Arrival and Registration

**Registration—Foyer FSU Conference Center
Continental Breakfast –Second Floor**

7:45-8:00 Welcome

Rm 208 Welcome and announcements
Donna Meredith, TWA President

8-8:45 First Breakout Sessions

Rm 201 What Literary Magazines Are Looking For

Roberta George and Jean Arambula of the well-respected literary magazine *Snake Nation Review* will give insider tips to get your work published.

Rm 205 Screenwriting, Part I: How To Structure a Great Plot

Renowned screenwriter, playwright, and novelist Claudia Hunter Johnson will give writers insight into structuring screenplays.

Rm 208 Research: The Devil Is in the Details

How the beliefs, knowledge, and technology of the past affect your story – NY Times best-selling author Lucia Robson will tell how research and selection of detail bring stories to life.

Rm 214 Book Festival Authors (free and open to public)

Authors Michelle Beaudin (8:00), Richard Noble (8:10), Michael Whitehead (8:20), Patricia Stephens (8:30), Ted Simmons (8:40)

9-9:45 Second Breakout Sessions

Rm 201 Historical Characters: The Ghost That Got into My House

Learn how to dig up historical characters and bring them to life with NY Times bestselling author Lucia Robson.

Rm 205 Screenwriting, Part II: How To Develop Memorable Characters

Claudia Hunter Johnson, the Distinguished Writer in Residence/Visiting Screenwriter in Residence at the Florida State University School of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts, will lead this session in character development.

Rm 208 Getting the Most from Your Author Web Site!

You don't need to be a technical wizard. Every serious writer (published or not) needs a Web presence. Webmaster Ginny Stibolt leads this session.

Rm 214 Young Children’s Storyfest (free and open to public)

Puppet show (9:00), Mark Fletcher (9:35), Regina Lewis (9:40), Carol Hair Moore (9:45), Jan Annino (9:50) Winning Essays—early grades (9:55)

10-10:45 Third Breakout Sessions

Rm 201 Agent/Editor Q/A Session

The gatekeepers to the world of publishing answer your questions. Find out what they look for and how to approach them.

Rm 205 How To Structure a Nonfiction Book

NY Times best-selling author Don Yaeger will teach writers how to organize their nonfiction material into a cohesive story. Yaeger is the author of 17 nonfiction books, including *Undue Process: The NCAA’s Injustice For All* and *Under The Tarnished Dome: How Notre Dame Betrayed Its Ideals For Football Glory*.

Rm 208 The Cinema of the Mind

Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler will teach fiction writers how to adapt cinema techniques to their works of prose.

Rm 214 Tween Time (free and open to public)

Winning Essays—middle grades (10:00), Jessica Burkhart (10:15) Susan Womble (10:30), M.R. Street (10:40), Anne Holt (10:50)

11-11:45 Fourth Breakout Sessions

Rm 201 Writing Fiction for Teens and Tweens

The 22-year-old author of eight novels, Jessica Burkhart, will talk about the art of writing for young readers. Her *Canterwood Crest* series for middle grades focuses on girls, horses, and competition.

Rm 205 Self-editing Your Manuscript

FSU creative writing program graduate and book editor Lee Williams will provide tips on shaping up your own manuscript before you submit it—and when you need another set of eyes on those words.

Rm 208 Storytelling Pizzazz

NY Times best-selling author Jeff Shaara says it’s all about the story. The beloved author of *Gods and Generals* will tell share his secrets on making history interesting.

Rm 214 This Is My Best (free and open to public)

Authors read their best scenes. Robert Olen Butler (11:00), Claudia Hunter Johnson (11:10), Rhett Devane (11:20), Michael Lister (11:30), Anne Petty (11:40)

11:55-1:20 A Taste of Tuscany Banquet

Rm 108 Julianna Baggott

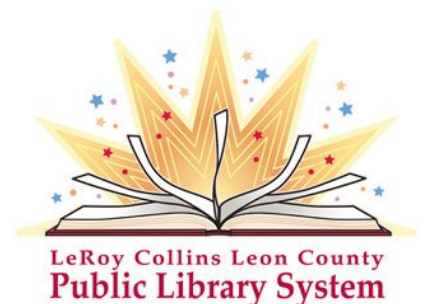
The renowned FSU professor of creative writing and bestselling author of sixteen books will present the keynote address. Titles include the national bestsellers *Girl Talk* and *Which Brings Me to You* (co-written with Steve Almond); three books of poems, and seven novels for young readers, including the *Anybodies* trilogy. Seven Hills and Penumbra awards presentation will follow the keynote speech.

*Additional luncheon tickets are available for \$25. Deadline to purchase tickets: March 5.

1:25-2:15 Michael Grunwald

Rm 208 In the Front Lines of Journalism Today (free and open to public)

Time Magazine senior correspondent and former Washington Post reporter Mike Grunwald will talk about the biggest stories of his career, including his recent story on the Time Magazine Man of the Year, Ben Bernanke.* Grunwald’s appearance is sponsored by the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System.



2:20-3:15 Environment Panel

Rm 208 Writing the Murky Waters: How Our Water and Waterways Are in Trouble (free and open to public)

Moderated by Nancy Caire Miller of Tallahassee's TAPP (Think About Personal Pollution)

Panel speakers include:

- Mike Grunwald, author of *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise*, which received the gold medal for nonfiction at the Florida Book Awards. He is a Time Magazine senior correspondent and former Washington Post reporter.
- Cynthia Barnett, author of *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*, gold medal winner in the Florida Book Awards. Barnett is a senior writer for Florida Trend magazine.
- Doug Alderson, author of *New Dawn for the Kissimmee River: Orlando to Lake Okeechobee by Kayak and Waters Less Traveled*.

*Grunwald's appearance is funded by the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System. The panel is also funded by Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



3:15-3:35 Snack Break and Book Festival Events

Snacks available in foyer

3:15 -3:25

Rm 214 Sustainable Gardening in Florida (free and open to public)

Community columnist for Jacksonville's Times Union, Ginny Stibolt is a naturalist with a master's degree in botany. She will talk about her new book, *Sustainable Gardening in Florida*.

3:25-3:35

Rm 214 50 Great Walks in Florida (free and open to the public)

Lucy Tobias will present a slide show "Looking at Florida with Fresh Eyes." Tobias is an award-winning reporter, environmental writer, and photographer, and author of *50 Great Walks in Florida*.

3:35-4:20 Fifth Breakout Sessions

Rm 201 Writing a Short Story That Gets Published

The widely published Dr. Pat Murphy shares his secrets.

Rm 205 Memoir: Writing Your Life Story

Prominent Civil Rights Leader and Florida Book Award winner Rodney Hurst will tell how to turn your own life experiences into a book worth reading.

Rm 208 The Sagging Middle

New York editor Lisa Rector-Maass reveals the techniques that will turn your sagging middle into one of the most compelling parts of your novel. This is an intensive, hands-on workshop for advanced fiction writers. Participants should bring a work-in-progress and writing materials. (double session)

Rm 214 Poetryfest (free and open to public)

- President of Big Bend Poets Roberta Burton will lead a brief memorial in honor of Michael Carducci, a local champion of the literary arts.
- Hal Shows will entertain with his guitar.
- Rick Campbell, Mark Fletcher, Barbara Hamby, Mary Jane Ryals, and Michael Trammel will each read one of their best poems, followed by an open mike.

4:30-5:15 Sixth Breakout Sessions

Rm 201 Writing Nonfiction That Matters

Cynthia Barnett, Florida Book Award winner and senior writer for Florida Trend magazine, talks about the importance of writing on subjects you have passion for.

Rm 205 Ultra-talk Poetry

FSU creative writing teacher and well-known poet Barbara Hamby talks about techniques in ultra-talk, the style of poetry she and husband David Kirby are known for. Hamby is the author of four volumes of poetry, including All-Night Lingo Tango, Babel, The Alphabet of Desire, and Delirium.

Rm 208 The Sagging Middle (continued)

Session continues with NY editor Lisa Rector-Maass.

Rm 214 Panel on Seminole Culture (free and open to public, sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida)

- Leading ethnohistorian and FSU anthropology graduate Patsy West, who has lived among tribal peoples for 37 years and written about them extensively, will kickoff this series of speakers. West authored *The Enduring Seminoles: From Alligator Wrestling to Casino Gaming*, and *Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern Florida, The (FL)* (Images of America. (4:30-4:45)
- Kiki Belmonte-Schaller's novel *Gray Rainbow Journey* was selected Winner of Multicultural Fiction in the National Best Books 2009 competition sponsored by USA Book News. Schaller (Cherokee/Seminole) uses her Native American heritage to create unique characters. (4:45-4:55)
- Jan Godown Annino will make a presentation related to her picture book biography, *She Sang Promise: The Story of Betty Mae Jumper, Seminole Indian Leader*. (4:55-5:05)
- Lucia Robson, who has been called "Best Living Western Historical Novelist," will talk about one of her early books, *Light a Distant Fire*, about the Seminole Indian War leader Osceola. (5:05-5:15)

5:30-6:15 Seventh Breakout Sessions

Rm 201 Community Journalism

A reporter from the Tallahassee Democrat will tell how to get involved and discuss the impact community participation is having on journalism today.

Rm 205 Keeping a Series Character Fresh

North Florida Noir author Michael Lister will give tips on working with a series character. A former prison chaplain, Lister is the author of the "Blood" series, featuring prison chaplain/detective John Jordan (*Blood of the Lamb*, *Blood Money*, *The Body and the Blood*). Latest title is *Double Exposure*.

Rm 208 Managing Your On-Line Presence

Author Web site guru Ginny Stibolt will give tips on how—and whether—to use Facebook, Twitter, and blogs; how to get useful links to your site; and other insider technology magic.

Rm 214 Book Festival Authors (free and open to public)

Lucia Robson (5:20), Dee Merian (5:30), Don Yaeger (5:40), Glynn Marsh Alam (5:50), Bob Beard (6:00)

6:15-6:45 Magic Show (free and open to public)

Rm 208 The House of Flying Cards

From Orlando, this troupe of talented street magicians perform unique tricks you usually can only see on television. Watch them pull smoke through solid glass, change the color of leaves, bend silverware into sculptures, and more! They are playing for tips, so be appreciative to these young performers!

6:45- 9 p.m. Saturday Evening Panel

Rm 208 Telling It Like It Was: Writing About Historical Conflicts (free and open to public)

- Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar followed by a panel discussion
- Neil Jumonville, the William Warren Rogers Professor of History at Florida State University, will moderate.
 - Rodney Hurst, author of *It Was Never About a Hotdog and a Coke*, which won a bronze medal in the Florida Book Awards nonfiction category. Hurst is a Civil Rights leader who at age 15 led a lunch counter demonstration in Jacksonville.
 - Claudia Hunter Johnson, author of numerous award-winning plays, TV and screenplays, essays and novels, including *Stifled Laughter: One Woman's Story About Fighting Censorship*. Johnson is Claudia Hunter Johnson is the Distinguished Writer in Residence/Visiting Screenwriter in Residence at the Florida State University School of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts.
 - Jeff Shaara, the NY Times best-selling author of nine military fiction novels, covering the Civil War, WWI, and WWII. Titles include *Gods and Generals* and his latest, *No Less Than Victory*, which completes his WWII series.

*This panel is sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Sunday, March 21 (extra fee - \$125)

8 a.m. – noon and 1-5 p.m. Writing the Breakout Novel with NY Agent Donald Maass

Location: the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA) Building at 816 S. ML King Jr. Blvd.
(upstairs in the meeting room)

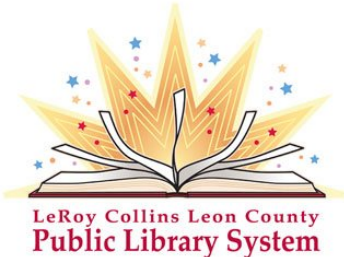
- Bring your Work-In-Progress and get ready to shape a book that will catch an agent's eye.
- Park in the COCA lot or at the meters across the street (no fee required on weekend).
- Hour lunch break. Bring your own or plan to eat at one of Tallahassee's fun downtown restaurants.

Thank You!

Sponsors

The Tallahassee Festival of Books and Writers Conference received funding for specific events from

- The City of Tallahassee and Leon County through the Council on Culture & Arts
- The Florida Humanities Council
- The Florida State University
- The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System
- The Leon County Tourist Development Council
- The Seminole Tribe of Florida
- The Tallahassee Writers Association



Partners for the event

- The Tallahassee Writers Association
- The Florida State University
- The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System
- The Florida Book Awards
- The Friends of the Florida State University Libraries
- Barnes and Noble
- The Tallahassee Democrat

Date for next Tallahassee Festival of Books and Writers Conference:
March 18-20, 2011
Visit www.tallahasseewriters.net for details