

Keynote Address



Julianna Baggott

Florida State University Associate Professor, (MFA, University of North Carolina at Greensboro 1994). Author of sixteen books—published and forthcoming—including national bestseller *Girl Talk* and *Which Brings Me to You* (co-written with Steve Almond); three books of poems, and seven novels for young readers, most notably *The Anybodies* trilogy, under the pen name N.E. Bode.

Her work has appeared in dozens of publications, including *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Best American Poetry 2000*, *180 More Extraordinary Poems for Everyday* (ed. Billy Collins), *The Southern Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Poetry*, and *Glamour*.
<http://www.juliannabaggott.com/>

Conference and Panel Speakers



Doug Alderson

Author of *New Dawn for the Kissimmee River: Orlando to Lake Okeechobee by Kayak*, *Waters Less Traveled*, *The Vision Keepers*, and *The Ghost Orchid Ghost and Other Tales from the Swamp*. Alderson has also written for many magazines, including *Wildlife Conservation*, *Mother Earth News*, *Sierra*, *Sea Kayaker*, and *American Forests*. He has served as an associate editor of *Florida Wildlife* magazine. Alderson will appear in a conference/festival panel on “Writing the Murky Waters: How Our Water and Waterways Are in Trouble.” <http://www.dougalderson.net/>

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. She has won eight Green Eyeshades awards for environmental journalism. In 2004 she won a Knight-Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan, where she spent a year studying freshwater supply. Barnett will appear in a conference/festival panel on “Writing the Murky Waters: How Our Water and Waterways Are in Trouble.” She will also present a conference session on writing a book that makes a difference. The Florida Humanities Council is sponsoring her appearance. <http://www.cynthiabarnett.net/>



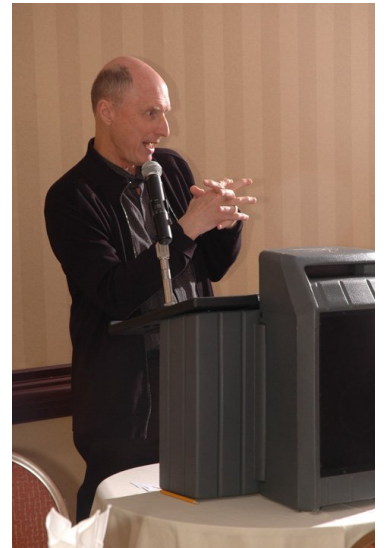


Jessica Burkhart

The 22-year-old author of eight books for tweens—and she just signed a contract for four more books. The Canterwood Crest series for middle grades focuses on girls, horses, and competition. Titles include *Take the Reins*, *Chasing Blue*, *Behind the Bit*, *Triple Fault*, *Best Enemies*, *Little White Lies*, *Rival Revenge*, and *Home Sweet Drama*. Her first novel was the result of taking the National Novel Writing Month challenge: complete a 50,000 word novel in 30 days. Besides speaking to young people at the festival, Jessica will present a conference session on writing for tweens. <http://www.jessicaburkhart.com/>

Robert Olen Butler

The Francis Eppes Distinguished Professor holding the Michael Shaara Chair in Creative Writing at Florida State University. Butler's latest novel is *Hell*, set entirely in the underworld with the major character being the anchorman for the TV Evening News in Hell. He has published ten additional novels—*The Alleys of Eden*, *Sun Dogs*, *Countrymen of Bones*, *On Distant Ground*, *Wabash*, *The Deuce*, *They Whisper*, *The Deep Green Sea*, *Mr. Spaceman*, and *Fair Warning*—and six volumes of short fiction—*Tabloid Dreams*, *Had a Good Time*, *Severance*, *Intercourse*, and *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, which won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. He will teach a session of applying cinema techniques to fiction. <http://www.english.fsu.edu/faculty/rbutler.htm>



John Cole

Founding director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. He has published extensively about the history of books and libraries in society and the history of the Library of Congress. Starting in 1984, the Center for the Book in the Library began to establish affiliate centers in the 50 states. Today, there is a State Center for the Book in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These Center for the Book affiliates carry out the national Center's mission in their local areas, sponsor programs that highlight their area's literary heritage and call attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy and libraries.

He will speak at the conference kickoff. The Florida Humanities Council is sponsoring his appearance.



John Fenstermaker

Fred L. Standley Professor of English at Florida State University. He served as English Department Chair from 1982-1994 and is currently Director of the Program in American and Florida Studies. His most recent book is *The Art of Literary Research* (with Richard D. Altick). Dr. Fenstermaker recently retired. He is a founder of the Florida Book Awards and President of the Friends of Florida State Libraries. Fenstermaker has been President of the Florida College English Association, the Florida Association of Departments of English, and the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English. He will speak at the conference kickoff. The Florida Humanities Council is sponsoring his appearance.

<http://www.english.fsu.edu/faculty/jfenstermaker.htm>

Roberta George

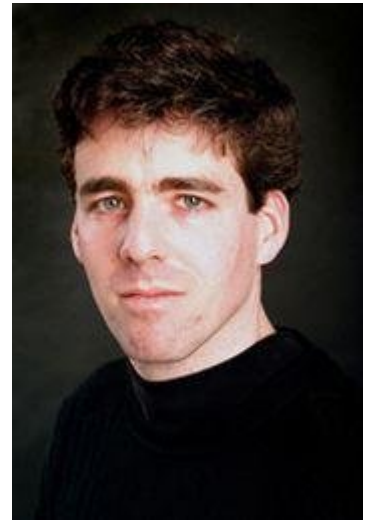
Founder of *Snake Nation*, named by *Writers Digest* as one of the 50 best small literary magazines in the country. She, along with editor Jean Arambula, will speak on what literary magazines are looking for.

<http://www.snakenationpress.org/>

Michael Grunwald

Senior national correspondent for *Time Magazine*. Grunwald won the George Polk Award for national reporting, the Worth Bingham Prize for investigative reporting, the Society of Environmental Journalists award for in-depth reporting, and numerous other journalism honors. In 2008, he won the Understanding Government Foundation's first-ever preventive journalism award for his reporting on Hurricane Katrina and the Army Corps of Engineers. In 2009, he won the Deadline Club's environmental reporting award for his investigation into biofuels. In 2006, Simon & Schuster published Mike's widely acclaimed first book, *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise*, which received the gold medal for nonfiction at the Florida Book Awards. The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System is sponsoring Grunwald's appearance.

<http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Michael-Grunwald/20348207/biography>



Barbara Hamby

Author of four volumes of poetry, including *All-Night Lingo Tango*, *Babel*, *The Alphabet of Desire*, and *Delirium*. Her work has been widely anthologized, most recently in [American Poetry Now: Pitt Poetry Series Anthology](#), [Poetry Daily Essentials 2007](#), [Good Poems for Hard Times](#), [Deep Travel: Contemporary American Poets Abroad](#), and [Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul](#). Hamby teaches creative writing at Florida State University and is married to fellow poet David Kirby. She will read at the festival and teach a session on poetry at the conference.

<http://www.english.fsu.edu/faculty/bhamby.htm>

Claudia Hunter-Johnson

Distinguished Writer in Residence/Visiting Screenwriter in Residence at the Florida State University School of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts, 2008. Author of numerous award-winning plays, TV and screenplays, essays and novels, including *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect*. She also has a memoir *Stifled Laughter: One Woman's Story About Fighting Censorship* and *A Christmas Belle* (a sequel to *A Christmas Carol*, co-authored with Matt Stevens.) She is currently writing and directing a documentary film about a famous Florida civil rights case. She will teach two sessions on screenwriting and also participate in a festival panel discussion on "Telling It Like It Was: Writing About Historical Conflicts," sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council.



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. It also won the Independent Publishers Award, Silver Medal Southeast Best Regional Nonfiction; Florida Historical Society, Inaugural Stetson Kennedy Award, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission Historic Preservation Award, and Sabrina Book Reviews Best Book and General Nonfiction. Hurst is a Civil Rights leader who at age 15 led a lunch counter demonstration in Jacksonville. He will participate in a festival panel discussion on "Telling It Like It Was: Writing About Historical Conflicts," sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council. He will also present a session on memoir writing at the conference.

<http://www.rodneyhurst.com/book.php>

Lisa Rector-Maass

New York editor Lisa Rector will reveal 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. This will be offered as a two-hour session during the writers conference at no extra charge to conference attendees. Lisa's company, The Third Draft, specializes in late-stage story issues, sagging middles and third draft woes.

She works with thrillers, suspense, mystery, historical, fantasy, YA, mainstream and literary fiction. Services include one-on-one story development workshops, manuscript evaluations, revision assistance plus outline and query guidance.

<http://www.thirddraftnyc.com/>



Lucia St. Clair Robson

“Best Living Western Historical Novelist”—that’s what *True West Magazine* declared Robson in 2003. Her *Ride the Wind* and appeared on the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* bestseller lists. The Western Writers of America awarded it the Golden Spur for Best Historical Western of 1982. Robson has written nine other novels, including *Light a Distant Fire*, about the Seminole Indian War leader Osceola; and *Ghost Warrior*, the story of Lozen, warrior woman of the Apaches and sister of Chief Victorio. Robson will teach two sessions on historical fiction at the conference. She will teach writers how to dig up historical characters and bring them to life. Her sessions will also focus on researching, recreating sensory detail, and using period speech patterns and vocabulary in your dialogue.

<http://www.luciestclairrobson.com/>



Jeff Shaara

Shaara’s first novel, *Gods and Generals* leapt onto the *New York Times* Bestseller List and remained there for fifteen weeks. Critics nationwide praised the book and Jeff’s writing ability, and the book was awarded the American Library Association’s William Young Boyd Award. The sequel, *The Last Full Measure*, was published with the same result: thirteen weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List and universal praise from critics and fans nationwide. He followed those successes with more military fiction: *Gone For Soldiers*, *Rise To Rebellion*, *The Glorious Cause*, *To The Last Man* (awarded the American Library Association’s William Young Boyd Award for Excellence in Military Fiction) *The Rising Tide*, *The Steel Wave*, and his latest book, *No Less Than Victory*, the conclusion of Jeff’s World War II trilogy. His appearance on the Saturday evening panel is sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council.

<http://www.jeffshaara.com/>

Ginny Stibolt

Author of *Sustainable Gardening for Florida*, Stibolt is a naturalist with a master's degree in botany, who moved from Maryland to Green Cove Springs in northern Florida. She is a community columnist for Jacksonville's *Times Union* and is a contributing editor for the online plant encyclopedia: www.floridata.com. She is a webmaster and has been in the computer business since 1981. Stibolt is a sought-after speaker not only on gardening topics, but also on author Web site development. She will present two sessions: author Web sites and managing your' online persona. <http://www.sky-bolt.com/writers/>





Wayne Wiegand

Wiegand is currently the F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies and Professor of American Studies at Florida State University. A founder of the Florida Book Awards, his most recent book, *Books on Trial: Red Scare in the Heartland*, is co-authored with his wife Shirley. He also co-authored books on *Women in Print: Essays on the Print Culture of American Women from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, *Genreflecting: A Guide to Popular Reading Interests*, and *Defining Print Culture for Youth : The Cultural Work of Children's Literature*. He will speak at the conference/book festival kickoff sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_A._Wiegand

Lee Williams

Williams is a Florida State University alumni, where he majored in creative writing and also received his certificate in editing and publishing. He has professionally edited manuscripts for three years. He self-published his first novel, *Project STAR*, at the age of eighteen and is also a freelance writer for publications in Florida. Williams is currently a graduate student at the University of Central Florida and working on his second novel. He will speak on editing your manuscript.



Don Yaeger

Yaeger's first book, *Undue Process: The NCAA's Injustice For All*, was published by Sagamore Publishers in 1990. He has gone on to write sixteen other sports-related books (four of them *New York Times* bestsellers) including the highly-publicized *Under The Tarnished Dome: How Notre Dame Betrayed Its Ideals For Football Glory* and 1998's Sports Book of The Year, *Pros and Cons: The Criminals Who Play in the NFL*. Yaeger also has had a colorful career in journalism. Highlights include walking into Afghanistan with the mujahadeen as they fought the Soviets, going into Baghdad with the victorious Iraqi soccer team as the battle between insurgents and the U.S. military waged around them, and traveling with candidates from both parties during presidential campaigns. A past associate editor for *Sports Illustrated*, he now owns a consulting business and public relations firm in Tallahassee. <http://www.donyaeger.com/>

***Speakers may change due to circumstances beyond our control.**