



An Evening of Readings

Friday, February 20, 2015

Evans Library

Florida Institute of Technology

An Evening of Readings

6:00 p.m. **Reception**

6:30 p.m. **Welcome**

Dr. Sohair Wastawy
Dean of Libraries

Readings

Kathy Turner
Associate Dean of Libraries, Moderator

8:30 p.m. **Book Sales and Signing**

Ms. Joanie Holzer Schirm (joanieschirm.com) worked in engineering for thirty-five years, seventeen of which were at the helm of her own Orlando company. Her business, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants, was chosen three times as Orlando's "Best Small Engineering Firm." Now an author, archivist, and sought-after speaker, Joanie applies her passion and skill to storytelling. Her nonfiction books are based on revelations from a treasure trove of WWII letters that her Czech father hid after the war. Her debut book, *Adventurers Against Their Will*, is described by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as "brilliant and compelling" and won the 2013 Global EBook Award for Best Biography. Recently published in Czech, the book's been named to the 2015 Recommended Reading List by the Florida Department of Education. She is the daughter of the late Dr. Oswald Holzer, founder of Florida Tech's Holzer Health Center. A proud mother and grandmother, Ms. Schirm is a Melbourne High graduate who lives in Orlando with husband Roger Neiswender. Her 2014 interview on Czech radio can be found at: <http://www.radio.cz/en/section/czech-history/adventurers-against-their-will-highlights-fate-of-people-displaced-during-wwii> and her recent interview with WFIT's Pam Pedersen is available at wfit.org.

Dr. Joddy Murray is visiting Florida Tech this academic year as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow. He earned his MFA in poetry at Texas State University, San Marcos, and his Ph.D. in Composition and Cultural Rhetoric at Syracuse University. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in over 70 literary journals. He is on

faculty at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, where he teaches writing, poetry, and rhetoric.

Dr. Ben Brotemarkle is Executive Director of the Florida Historical Society. He is author of *Beyond the Theme Parks: Exploring Central Florida*, winner of the inaugural James J. Horgan Book Award; *Images of America: Titusville and Mims, Florida, Barberville*; and *Crossing Division Street: An Oral History of the African American Community in Orlando*, winner of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Award. Dr. Brotemarkle is a part-time Professor of Humanities and former Department Chair at Eastern Florida State College where he was named Distinguished Educator and the Barnes and Noble College Booksellers Endowed Faculty Chair of Academic Excellence. As an award-winning broadcast journalist, Brotemarkle's features have been heard around the world on Voice of America Radio, across the country on National Public Radio, and throughout the state on Florida Public Radio. He is producer and host of *Florida Frontiers: The Weekly Radio Magazine of the Florida Historical Society*. His documentary, *The Lost Years of Zora Neale Hurston*, airs nationally on public television. Brotemarkle's weekly column *Florida Frontiers* appears every Tuesday in *Florida Today* newspaper.

Ms. Weona Cleveland was named Honorary County Historian by the Brevard County Commission in 2006. She was a journalist for more than 30 years at the *Melbourne Times* and later *Florida Today* newspaper, which attracted to her a devoted following. Her books include *Mosquito Soup; Crossroad Towns Remembered*; and *Melbourne: a Century of Memories*. Aside from Brevard County, she writes about pioneer life in Osceola, Orange, and Indian River Counties. Ms. Cleveland received Florida Tech's Julius Montgomery Pioneer Award in 2009.

Dr. Scott Tilley, Professor in Florida Tech's Department of Education and Interdisciplinary Studies and Director of Computing Education, is an ACM Distinguished Lecturer. He writes the weekly "Technology Today" column for the Florida Today newspaper. He is the author of *Software Testing in the Cloud: Migration & Execution* (2012), *Hard Problems in Software Testing: Solutions using Testing as a Service* (2014), *Testing iOS Apps with HadoopUnit: Rapid Distributed GUI Testing* (2014), and the forthcoming book *Systems Analysis & Design* (2015).

Ms. Marcia Denius, Professor Emerita since 2013, taught at Florida Tech more than 20 years. Currently she tutors for the Academic Support Center and devotes herself to a wide variety of human and environmental interests. She will read from her poetry book, *Sweet Surrender*, as well as from a publication called *Transformations: A Convergence of Artists and Poets*, which was published by Brevard Art Center, now known as the Foosaner Art Museum.

Dr. Andrew Aberdein, Professor of Philosophy at Florida Tech's School of Arts and Communication, joined the faculty in 2003. He has held visiting research positions at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and the University of Windsor in Ontario. In 2001, he earned his Ph.D. in Logic & Metaphysics at the University of St. Andrews. Much of his research focuses on how human reasoning works, yet his broader interests lie in the use of informal logic in understanding science, technology, and mathematics. He currently serves as President of the Florida Philosophical Association. While he has many publications, tonight he will read an excerpt from "The Judo Principle, Philosophical Method, and the Logic of Jokes," his essay in the book, *Philosophy and the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Dr. Louise Noah Skellings received her BA and MA in English from the University of Iowa where she met Edmund Skellings who was in the famous Iowa Writers' Workshop. They lived and taught in Maryland, Alaska, and Florida. Dr. Ed Skellings was on faculty at Florida Tech. Also he was Florida's Poet Laureate from 1980 until his death in 2012. Now Professor Emerita, Dr. Louise Skellings taught composition and literature in the English Department of Miami-Dade College for 36 years. She is a martial artist, reader, writer, traveler, and private pilot.

Captain Winston Scott, a retired U.S. Navy pilot and Florida Tech's Senior Vice President for External Relations and Economic Development, served as mission specialist for two U.S. space shuttle missions (STS-72 and STS-87) and conducted three space walks. Scott has also served as the Executive Director of the Florida Space Authority where he was responsible for the statewide development of space-related business. Captain Scott holds professor ranks in both the College of Aeronautics and the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts. His book, *Reflections from Earth Orbit*, was published in 2005.