

Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking
Discussions



J. Michael Butler

Historian, Author

Dr. J. Michael Butler is the Kenan Distinguished Professor of History at Flagler College, where he has taught since August 2008. He received both his Masters and Doctorate in History from the University of Mississippi, where he specialized in 20th century Southern history with an emphasis on the civil rights movement. Dr. Butler co-authored *Victory After the Fall: The Memories of Civil Rights Activist H. K. Matthews*, and has published numerous essays in various academic journals. His latest manuscript is titled *Beyond Integration: The Black Freedom Struggle in Escambia County, Florida, 1960-2000*.

Programs Available

Police Brutality and Confederate Imagery: The Black Freedom Struggle in One Florida County

A close examination of events in Escambia County in the 1970s demonstrates how—and why—the struggle against segregation in Florida continued well after the Civil Rights movement ended in the 1960s.

State, Local, and National Campaigns: The Civil Rights Movement in Florida

The idea that Florida did not experience the tumult of other Deep South states during the Civil Rights Movement is a popular misconception. Florida exceptionalism in relationship to the black freedom struggle is placed in its proper regional and national perspective.

The Magnificent Drama: Martin Luther King in St. Augustine

The civil rights movement in St. Augustine drew national attention when Martin Luther King, Jr. visited twice in 1964, sparking marches, arrests, and clashes between protesters and police on the tourist-lined beaches of St. Augustine. Local and national objectives complemented and contradicted each other in ways that affect race relations today.

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Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

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