

# Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking  
Discussions



## Steve Noll

*Historian, Writer*

Steve Noll is a master lecturer in the history department at the University of Florida, where he received his PhD in 1991. Dr. Noll taught special education in the public schools of Alachua County for 28 years before moving over full-time to UF in 2004. Dr. Noll has written extensively on general Florida history as well as more specialized subjects ranging from Florida environmental policy, the ill-fated Cross Florida Barge Canal, and the disability rights movement of the 1970s.

### Programs Available

#### Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal & the Struggle for Florida's Future

The long and convoluted history of an effort to cross the Florida peninsula by cutting a waterway from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico, starting with the Ocklawaha River in the 19th century and the first attempted ship canal in the 1930s. An environmental movement stopped the canal before it was completed and eventually turned it into a greenway.

#### Florida Water Stories

Florida's long and difficult relationship with water, its attempts to turn land into water and water into land, and the contentious issues involving the Everglades, the Ocklawaha River, political battles with Alabama and Georgia, and the potential impact of sea-level rise.

#### Hometown Teams: Florida Sports History

The history of sports in Florida in the context of racial and gender issues, the influence of big business, and personal identities Floridians have with their local teams. It's serious but it's also fun.

#### Florida Transportation History: Planes, Trains, & Automobiles (& Steamboats too!)

Florida's history told through the myriad methods of transportation designed to move people and goods to and within Florida, which transformed from a backwoods frontier to one of the most important states in the union. From Bellamy Road of the 1820s to the modern transportation issues facing Florida in the 21st century.

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#### Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

**Need to reach Florida Humanities?** For Grants, contact Lindsey Morrison at [lmorrison@flahum.org](mailto:lmorrison@flahum.org), for Florida Talks, contact Lisa Lennox at [lennox@flahum.org](mailto:lennox@flahum.org). For more information about the Florida Humanities Speakers Directory, visit <https://floridahumanities.org/speakers>.

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