



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary Riker; (850) 484-1211; mriker@wsre.org

**JEFF KLINKENBERG: “BOOKS THAT EVERY FLORIDIAN SHOULD HAVE ON THE SHELF”
AUG. 28 AT THE WSRE AMOS STUDIO**

A Florida Humanities Council grant has been awarded to Pensacola State College for the WSRE Public Square Speakers Series roster in 2018-2019



PENSACOLA, Fla., August 1, 2018 — While many authors have called Florida home, some truly define the state’s literary heritage. Award-winning writer Jeff Klinkenberg is coming to Pensacola to discuss some of his favorite Florida books, working his way up from William Bartram in 1791 to Jack E. Davis in 2017, as part of the WSRE Public Square Speakers Series on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio at Pensacola State College. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Klinkenberg, who wrote about Florida culture for nearly four decades for the St. Petersburg Times (now Tampa Bay Times), won the Florida Humanities Council’s Lifetime Achievement for Writing Award in 2018. His newest collection of book essays, “Son of Real Florida: Stories from My Life,” was published by the University Press earlier this year, as well. Previous books, including “Alligators in B-Flat,” “Pilgrim in the Land of Alligator,” “Seasons of Real Florida” and “Dispatches from the Land of Flowers,” have been best sellers.

Also this year, Florida’s Secretary of State conferred a Florida Heritage Award on Klinkenberg, who joined Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Zora Neale Hurston as previous inductees. Hurston’s novel, “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” along with “The Yearling” by Rawlings, is on Klinkenberg’s list of must-read books for Floridians to be discussed during his talk at WSRE.

This WSRE Public Square Speakers Series event is being presented in conjunction with “The Great American Read”—the PBS series which goes in search of America’s best-loved book—and in partnership with Pensacola State College and the Florida Humanities Council as part of the Florida Humanities Series.

Pensacola State College, the public television station's licensee, was successful in acquiring a Florida Humanities Series grant for funding four public programs during the 2018-2019 academic year. Following Klinkenberg on Aug. 28, the speakers series will return with Jack E. Davis, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Gulf," on Feb. 5; Ersula Knox-Odom's living history presentation of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune on March 5; and Cynthia Barnett, author of "Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis" on April 23.

All events are free and open to the public. Visit wsre.org/speakers to register online.

###

Photo Note:

Award-winning writer Jeff Klinkenberg will present "Books That Every Floridian Should Have on the Shelf" as part of the WSRE Public Square Speakers Series on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio at Pensacola State College. Admission is free.

About "The Great American Read"

"The Great American Read" is a new eight-part television series, competition and nationwide campaign, created by PBS in partnership with the production company Nutopia, which explores the power of books and the joy of reading through the lens of America's 100 best-loved novels, as voted on by the public. "The Great American Read" journeys across America to uncover illuminating details and new reflections, sometimes from unlikely sources, about some of the titles on the top 100 book list, revealing the story behind the story from multiple perspectives. To spark conversation about the books that have inspired, moved and shaped us, both individually and as a society, viewers will hear from a variety of sources about what the novels on the top 100 list can tell us about our diverse nation, our shared values, our cultural identities and the common themes that tie us together. Launched on May 22, the series returns with weekly broadcasts airing locally on WSRE at 7 p.m. Tuesdays from Sept. 11 to Oct. 23, when the voting concludes and America's best-loved novel is revealed.

About WSRE

WSRE is a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) member station, locally owned and licensed to the Pensacola State College District Board of Trustees. Since 1967, WSRE has served Gulf Coast communities with informative, educational and entertaining programs and services. WSRE produces, acquires and distributes programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of the coverage area, and WSRE connects teachers, parents, caregivers and children to PBS educational resources.

