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Jack E. Davis : Green and Golden

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Alumni



JACK E. DAVIS
BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE '85
MA, HISTORY '89

After obtaining his Master's degree at USF St. Petersburg, Jack E. Davis completed his Ph.D. at Brandeis University in 1994. Currently, Jack is a faculty member in History at the University of Florida where he works with students whose interests lie in environmental history. In 2004, he launched the department's

student journal, *Alpata: A Journal of History*, and remains its faculty advisor.

Before joining the University of Florida faculty, Jack taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (where he was director of environmental studies), the University of Jordan (where he was a Fulbright scholar), and Eckerd College. A multi-talented and insightful writer, Jack won the prestigious Charles S. Sydnor Prize for the best book in southern history for his work, *Race Against Time: Culture and Separation in Natchez Since 1930*, published in 2001. Another book, *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century* (2009), received the gold medal in the nonfiction category of the Florida Book Awards. In addition to examining the iconic Douglas's eighty-year relationship with the Everglades, "the book explores nature as historical agent, the feminization of nature protection, and the evolution of the science of ecology and its influence in environmental awareness," explains Jack. Ever intellectually vigorous, he has also edited three anthologies (on the civil rights movement, female activism in Florida, and Florida environmental history) and a collection of writings by Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Jack's current book project, *Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*, is a sweeping history from geological formation to the present of how the Gulf of Mexico converged with human life around it.

“People talk about the physical beauty of USFSP. For me, the school possesses a quiet, unpretentious beauty in its community of students, faculty, and staff; the intimacy of the learning environment; and the accessibility to an education that prepares you well for life’s endeavors, whatever yours may be. USFSP is like an original thinker. It has never tried to be anything but itself, to strive for excellence developed from within. Quality, excellence, and originality are the beauty and spirit of the place. And, yes, just when you think the campus can’t get more beautiful, it gets more beautiful.”

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