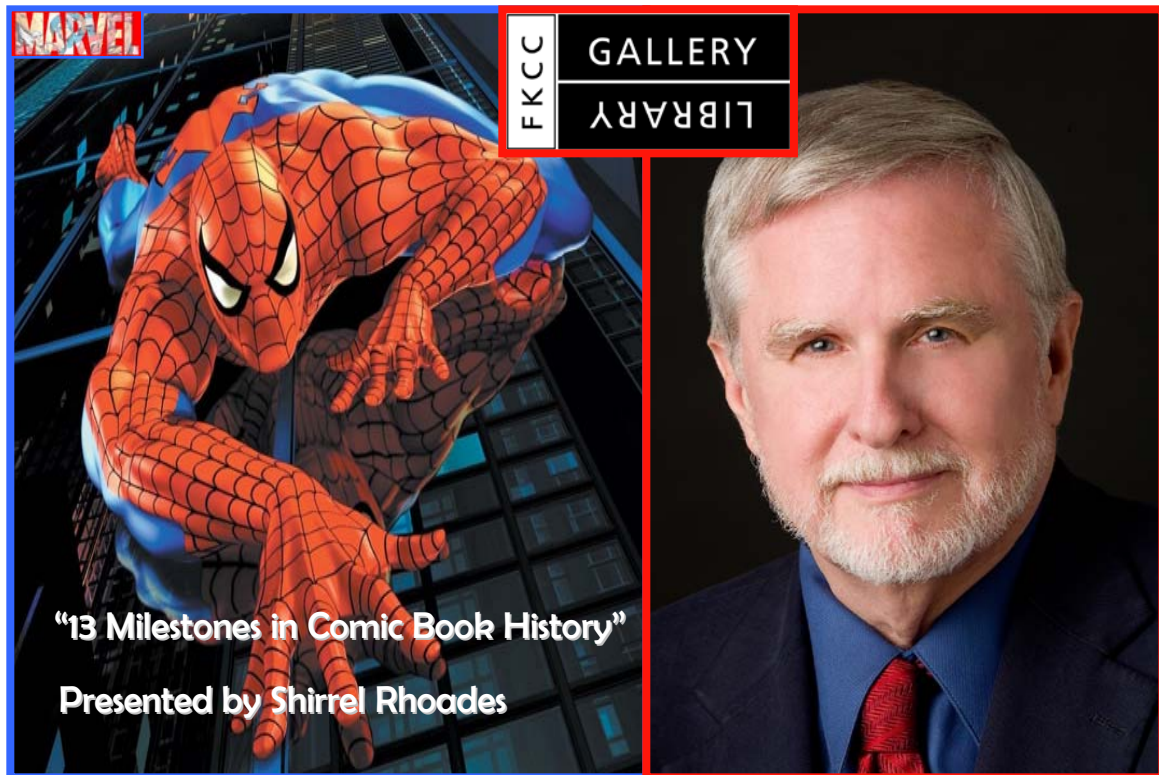


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## FKCC's Library Gallery Displays Rhoades' Collection of Marvel Comic Book Art



KEY WEST, FL, February 25, 2010—Florida Keys Community College welcomes a unique and rare collection of comic book art on loan from Shirrel Rhoades, local film critic, writer, and former Executive Vice President of Marvel Entertainment and Publisher of Marvel Comics. To celebrate the unveiling of the colorful collection, the College's Library Gallery will host a reception on Wednesday, March 3 at 5:30p.m in the Library on the Key West campus. Rhoades will give an illustrated presentation on the "13 Milestones in Comic Book History" and share anecdotes about his experience in the world of superheroes, such as Spider-Man, the Hulk, and the X-Men. The event is free and community members of all ages are invited to attend.

The 50-plus piece assortment features limited-edition illustrations, figurines, and antique memorabilia, including a series of cells that illustrates the gradual stages of developing a comic book page. The star of the collection is a one-of-a-kind painting made with an unexpected medium—the ashes of the late, legendary comic book writer, editor, and occasional penciler,

Mark Gruenwald. The large painting depicts the numerous characters that he worked with over his prolific career.

“This is a particularly fun collection for us to have. Anyone from nine to ninety will enjoy it,” says FKCC Library Specialist Steven Parker, who helps organize such art and literary events with support from the *Friends of the FKCC Library*. “We are very grateful to Shirrel for sharing these treasures with the college and the community.”

This is not the first act of generosity to FKCC for Rhoades. In 2005, he donated a large collection of famous black and white photographs to FKCC. Many of the photographs now grace the halls of the administrative building on the Key West campus.

The comic art collection will be on display until April 17. For more information about FKCC’s Library Gallery, call 305-809-3194 or visit their website <http://library.fkcc.edu>.

### **About Shirrel Rhoades**

Shirrel Rhoades may be known to Key West moviegoers as the film critic in the *Citizen’s Solares Hill*, but before moving to the island, he enjoyed a successful career as a writer, publisher, and—most notably—the Executive Vice President of Marvel Entertainment and Publisher of Marvel Comics.

With more than 40 years of media experience, he has held senior positions with *Reader’s Digest*, *Scholastic*, *Harper’s Magazine*, and *Ladies’ Home Journal*—not to mention a number of smaller, but well-respected companies. His consulting clients have ranged from Microsoft to Time, Inc. and Harvard Health Newsletters to Age Wave Communications. He currently acts as Editorial Director of The Saturday Evening Post. For 17 years, Rhoades served as a senior faculty member for New York University’s Center for Publishing.

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