

**Jay Mechling** is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of California, Davis. He earned his B.A. (1967, *magna cum laude*) in American Studies at Stetson University and his graduate degrees (1968, 1971) in American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the UC Davis faculty in 1971 and was a fellow of the National Humanities Institute at Yale University in 1975-76. He served as a member of the National Council of the American Studies Association from 1974 to 1981, first as chair of the ASA Bibliography Committee and then as member elected at-large. He edited the annual bibliography issue of the American Quarterly from 1974 through 1979, and was editor of Western Folklore (the quarterly journal of the California Folklore Society) from 1984 through 1988. He directed the American Studies Program at UCD from 1978 to 1988 and has served as president of the Northern California ASA and of The Association for the Study of Play. He directed the Teaching Resources Center at UCD from 1986 to 1989. He was elected president of the California Folklore Society in 1991 and that same year received a national award as one of the ten outstanding freshman advocates in the nation. He was appointed to the California Council for the Humanities in 1992 and became its chair in early 1994. He received the UC Davis Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993 and the Mary Turpie Award from the American Studies Association in 1998, for his outstanding achievements in teaching and curricular development at the local, regional, and national levels. He was elected a Fellow of the American Folklore Society in 1998 and served as the Fellows' President from 2007-09. The Project Director for the planning grant given by the NEH to UC Davis for the

creation of a Pacific Regional Humanities Center, Mechling has played an important role in creating the “new regional studies” within American Studies scholarship and teaching.

Mechling was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Stetson University in 2002 and named to the Miami Beach Senior High School Hall of Fame in 2006.

In 2006 Mechling received the Davis Prize, the campus’s highest honor for outstanding teaching and scholarship.

Mechling has published over one hundred and twenty essays and articles in books, journals, and encyclopedias. He was co-editor of *American Wildlife in Symbol and Story* (U. of Tennessee Press, 1987) and author of *On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth* (University of Chicago Press 2001). He is one of the three senior editors for the 4-volume *Encyclopedia of American Studies* (Grolier, 2001), he is co-author of *Embellishing Eden: The Hand-Painted Photograph in Florida* (Daytona Beach, FL: Southeast Museum of Photography, 2001), the catalog accompanying the exhibition he guest curated with Elizabeth Walker Mechling. Most recently he guest curated an exhibition on vintage panoramic photography in Florida and wrote the catalog (*Edge to Edge: Vintage Panoramic Photography in Florida*, 2012) for that show.