

Columbus native, Former CIA Agent to Speak at Library

By Melodee Pedersen

The Friends of the Columbus Public Library are thrilled to present author Mike Floyd on January 13 at 2:00 pm in the Art Gallery at the library. Mr. Floyd is a co-author of the book, "Spy the Lie: former CIA agents teach you how to detect deception." This New York Times best seller includes anecdotes from their careers designed to teach the average person how to recognize deceptive behavioral clues, both verbal and non-verbal. Whether you are interviewing a potential employee, a parent concerned about your teenager and risky behavior, or dating someone new, this book can teach you how to phrase questions to elicit the truth. There are also tips explaining which indicators of truthfulness we all rely on, such as direct eye contact, are really a myth.

Mr. Floyd was born and raised in Columbus. His father was the principal of the Columbus High School and later Platte County Superintendent of Schools. His mother was an elementary school teacher. His older sisters Julie and Stephanie are also graduates of Columbus High School.

After graduating college, he served in the U.S. Army Military Police. This led to his interest in the polygraph profession and a Master of Science degree in Detection of Deception. During his six years as a polygraph examiner and instructor at John Reid & Associates, they began training CIA officers in polygraph, behavior assessment, interview, and interrogation techniques. After several classes of CIA officers went through the training, he was recruited by the CIA to work in the Office of Security's Polygraph Division. He traveled internationally in support of the CIA's Directorate of Operations as well as worked domestically in support of the Office of Security. After three years at the CIA, he made a lateral transfer to the National Security Agency's Polygraph Division.

Mr. Floyd and his fellow authors have a business of teaching others, including the Los Angeles police department, how to detect deception. This book came to be written because participants in their classes often asked where they could find additional information. Mr. Floyd stated, "We could not in good conscience point them to other books because so much of what has been written on the subject would lead them astray. Consequently, we felt it was our obligation to give our participants something of value."

The authors' goal in writing the book was to offer something that would have broad appeal to the thousands of people in all walks of life that they could never reach through their training services. "Our goal was to write a sophisticated and practical, how-to book that illustrated the teaching points through interesting stories from our own careers. Based on the overwhelmingly positive response to the book we believe we achieved our goal," explained Mr. Floyd.

Mr. Floyd also had some very kind things to say about Columbus and the library. "The easiest and most rewarding part about writing the book was my "personal acknowledgements" section. There I had the honor and privilege of recognizing Columbus

and its people for the huge role they played in my life. My formative years were spent at the Columbus Public Library either attending 'Story Hour' or checking out children's books. I cannot imagine what my life would have been but for the availability of the library and its dedicated staff."

A limited number of Mr. Floyd's book will be available for sale at the program. To find out more about Mr. Floyd's career in the CIA, detecting deception, and writing a book, come to Mr. Floyd's presentation on January 13 at 2:00 pm at the library.