

KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

Shifting Gears: The Exhilaration of Change

I'm pleased to introduce our keynote speaker who's one of the few people I've met who's told me that throughout his career he was often too scared to move forward or too complacent to care. But by recognizing when he's falling into that trap, Gary McKechnie (***pronounced Ma-kek-nee***) has managed to create a life by design; becoming a two-time National Geographic author, a two-time winner of the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Award, author of the nation's best-selling motorcycle guidebook, a popular speaker aboard the Cunard Line's prestigious Insights Series, and one of America's leading travel writers. He put himself through college as a stand-up comedian and Walt Disney World Jungle Cruise skipper, backpacked across Europe, owned and operated a bed and breakfast, ran for Florida State Senate and, as a community leader, founded several non-profits.

He's a wonderful storyteller and if you've ever found yourself at a crossroads, I know his insights can help point you in the right direction.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Gary McKechnie.