This is the memoir of an explorer in the truest sense. It is about storms that twist our lives and shatter our dreams. It is about the pearls: the guides, the guardians, and the mentors who lift us up after we fall. The elements of history and literature that structure the narrative expose a scholarly mind that yearns to understand what it means to live a just and meaningful life. It is not long before tragedy enters the narrative. There is pain, sadness, and lonely self-denial. These aspects help us to understand why an otherwise sensible woman would choose to row alone across an ocean. In the end the fortress of intellect that the author had depended upon crumbles and she discovers her heart. The book is an intricate blend of comedy, history, tragedy, and romance.

Tori Murden McClure is the President of Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky. She is best known as the first woman and first American to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She rowed a twenty-three foot boat alone and without physical support a distance of more than 3,300 miles. Tori was one of two women and six Americans who were the first women and first Americans to travel over land to the geographic South Pole, skiing 750 miles from the ice shelf to the pole. An avid mountaineer, Tori has climbed on several continents and she was the first woman to climb Lewis Nunatuck summit in Antarctica.

Reception and book signing will follow the lecture. The ASU Bookstore has “A Pearl in the Storm” in stock and will also be selling the book the night of the lecture.