The Thirty-Second Annual

Children's Book Festival

The University of Southern Mississippi
March 24-26, 1999
History of the Children's Book Festival

In 1968, Dr. Warren Tracy, chairman of the Library Science Department and University librarian for The University of Southern Mississippi, saw his vision for a children's literature conference come to life. The University, under the leadership of Dr. William D. McCuin, and the Library Science Department hosted the Conference on the Writing, Illustrating, and Publishing of Children's Books, the first of what soon became the annual Children's Book Festival.

Two years earlier, Dr. Lena de Grummond, professor of Library Science, with Dr. Tracy's blessing, had begun to procure early children's books to support the Library Science program. She spent countless hours writing to authors and illustrators of contemporary children's books to acquire original material for the library. Contributions of artwork and manuscripts flowed in from across the United States and Canada. Today, more than 1,200 authors and illustrators are represented in the collection, which in 1976 officially became known as the "de Grummond Children's Literature Research Collection."

In his original vision for a children's literature conference, Dr. Tracy saw the conference as a way to highlight the de Grummond Collection. That first conference, in May 1968, was designed to announce the opening of the special children's literature collection. Librarians, teachers, parents, and other adults interested in promoting children's literature were invited for three days of exhibits, workshops, and panel discussions led by publishers and editors of children's books. Dr. Francis Landers Spain, past president of the American Library Association and former head of the children's department of the New York Public Library, spoke at the first evening session, which was open to the public.

In 1969, the conference became known as the "Children's Book Festival" and included an event that became an honored tradition—presentation of The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion, an award for distinguished service in the field of children's literature. A committee of professionals associated with children's literature selects the recipients each year. The recipients are chosen based on their contributions to children's literature. The medal is awarded for an individual's total body of work, rather than for one particular work, and each medallion is different. Cast in silver for the recipient and for permanent display in the de Grummond Collection and in bronze for wider distribution, a profile of the honoree is engraved on the face, or donor's name, is engraved on the reverse side. Since the first award in 1969, the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion has been presented to an outstanding array of children's authors and illustrators.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the festival came into its own. Dr. Tracy continued to attract out-of-state writers and illustrators, enhancing the festival's reputation. From 1977 to 1980, Dr. Ona K. Boshears served as director of the festival. Dr. June McCuin appointed her director of the festival in 1980. That was the year that the Ezra Jack Keats, internationally acclaimed author and illustrator, was invited to accept the USM Medallion. Following his visit, Keats became one of the strongest supporters of the Children's Book Festival and the de Grummond Collection. Since his death, the University has acquired his personal and professional papers, original artwork, typescripts, and dummies and preliminary sketches for thirty-six of his books. The materials are now housed in the de Grummond Collection. In 1985, the Keats Foundation established an Ezra Jack Keats Lectureship, with Barbara Cooney as the artist honoree and Brian Alderson as the first Keats lecturer. In years since, the lecture has become a highly regarded feature of the festival. Children's Authors Speak, a collection of speeches compiled by Dr. Laughlin-Porter and Sherry Laughlin, was published in 1993 and includes a number of Keats lectures, as well as speeches by USM Medallion honorees.

Dr. Boshears, during Dr. Laughlin-Porter's directorship of the festival, continued to work closely with her and chaired the Medallion Selection Committee through spring 1993. In 1994, he resumed directorship of the festival. This year, 1999, marks the second presentation of the Kaiger-Lamont Award for distinguished service to children to a librarian or teacher. Miss Fay Kaiger has generously funded the award to honor each year an individual who brings books and children together.

From its modest beginning of one hundred participants, the Children's Book Festival has grown to one of 1,000 participants and states. Originally organized to promote the de Grummond Collection, the festival has come into its own. Both the festival and the de Grummond Collection continue to evolve together for the advancement of children's literature, and, year after year, enthusiastic supporters of children's literature come together to celebrate the joy of children's books.

The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion for distinguished contributions to children's literature is made possible by the generous support of the Ralph and Carol Wicker Foundation.

Past Recipients of the Medallion

1969 Lois Lenski
1970 Ernest H. Shepard
1971 Roger Duvoisin
1972 Marcia Brown
1973 Lynd Ward
1974 Taro Yashima
1975 Barbara Cooney
1976 Scott O'Dell
1977 Adrienne Adams
1978 Madeleine L'Engle
1979 Leonard Everett Fisher
1980 Ezra Jack Keats
1981 Maurice Sendak
1982 Beverly Cleary
1983 Katherine Paterson

1984 Peter Spier
1985 Arnold Lobel
1986 Jean Craighead George
1987 Paula Fox
1988 Jean Fritz
1989 Lee Bennett Hopkins
1990 Charlotte Zolotow
1991 Richard Peck
1992 James Marshall
1993 Quentin Blake
1994 Ashley Bryan
1995 Tomie de Paola
1996 Patricia MacLachlan
1997 Eric Carle
1998 Elaine Konigsburg

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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pre-Festival Seminar</td>
<td>&quot;Using the de Gruymond Collection for Research: James Marshall Materials&quot; McCann Library, Room 405 Speaker: Brian Alderson</td>
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<td>3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Autograph Session</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>First General Session</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium Presenters: Nina K. Borders, Keynote Speaker: Russell Freedman</td>
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| 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Workshops | "Discussion of Caldecott and Newberry Winners" Polymer Science Auditorium Speakers: Dr. Pam Barron and Dr. Maureen White "Explore a Story" Storytelling Workshop McCann Library, Room H Brave Story |}

**Kevin Henkes**

Born in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1960, Kevin Henkes always knew that he wanted to be an artist and writer. He was encouraged by his parents and siblings, and they often visited a local art museum. He enrolled at the University of Wisconsin at Madison to study art, and, during the summer after his freshman year, he went to New York City to work in a publishing firm. He heard a tape of a lecture by Greenwillow editor Susan Hirschman, and enjoyed her sense of humor and editorial expertise, so she gave him her name on the list of editors to contact. As a result of this meeting, his career was launched. Although Henkes has written many books for children of all ages, Hirschman was impressed with his work and gave him a contract. His first book, All Alone, was published in 1991.

**Thursday, March 25, 1999**

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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>&quot;The ALA Notable Children's Books&quot; Chain Technology Auditorium Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Brodie &quot;Books Come in All Flavors: Carryout Available&quot; McCann Library, Room H Brave Story School of Library and Information Science Speaker: Virginia Schilder &quot;The ALA Notable Children's Books&quot; Chain Technology Auditorium Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Brodie &quot;Books Come in All Flavors: Carryout Available&quot; McCann Library, Room 405 Brave Story School of Library and Information Science</td>
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**Kevin Henkes' work** is not limited to picture books. Urged by Hirschman to write longer stories, he has published several novels including Words of Stone, Protecting Max, Return to Sender, and Sun & Spoon. Although Henkes feels that he is more naturally an artist, he is starting to prefer writing. His novels tend to be serious, while his picture books explore humorous experiences. Even in his picture books, the writing comes first, and the pictures are added later. The ability to experiment with words and illustrations keeps his job interesting.

Both Henkes' picture books and novels have received enthusiastic reviews. A full page of the New York Times Book Review was dedicated to M.P. Dudashew's review of Liddy's Purple Plastic Purse, where she observed, "Every once in a while - and in children's books, it's only once in a very great while - there is a book so delightful, so exuberant, honest, and evocative of the purest spirit of life that children live as we see that, one considers mailing a proclamation to the door of the local bookseller or wearing a copy around one's neck to advertise it: Liddy's Purple Plastic Purse ... is just such a book."

Soozin Hirschman has mortgaged Henkes' creative abilities over the past 13 years. Together, they have produced nearly 30 books for children and young adults. His books have appeared on the ALA Notable list and, in 1994, Ouens received recognition as a Caldecott Honor book.

**Pat Cummings**

Pat Cummings' father was in the United States Army when she was growing up, which meant that the family was often transferred from city to city to country to country. She was born in Chicago in 1950 but soon moved to Virginia and, by the time she was five, the family had relocated to Germany. They later spent time in Okinawa before Cummings returned to the United States.

Cummings has artistic inclinations from a very early age and remembers drawing pictures of barnyard animals that she would "sell" for nickels and dimes. Her parents encouraged her artistic endeavors with moral support and a ready supply of paint and brushes. She attended art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and the Atlanta School of Art. Shortly after her graduation from Pratt in 1974, Cummings was commissioned to create posters for the Billie Holiday Festival for Little Folk.

Cummings received her first opportunity to illustrate a child's book when an editor at Coward McCann was impressed with her work that was featured in a publication on illustration. It was this contact that led to an assignment on the manuscript of Children's Role in Our World, which was eventually published as an Onlateral Books for Children. Her first assignment was to illustrate Eloise Greenfield's God Bless America. Feeding the birds, she drew upon the influence of her own back yard to come up with a composition that is both creatively satisfying and visually engaging.

Cummings was also influenced in teaching children's book illustration at the Parsons School of Design. She has taught advertising design and illustration and co-taught a class with Nicholson Mohr on writing for children. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of drawing and writing and finds the interaction with the students to be very stimulating.

Since her first book in 1977, Cummings has continued to illustrate the books of outstanding writers such as Mildred Pitts Walter, Nikki Grimes, Mary Stolz, Angela S. Mearns, and Joyce Durham Barrett. In 1965, she wrote and illustrated her first book, Jimmy Lee Did It. She has also illustrated a number of other titles for children including C.L.O.U.D.S., Crafty Clean Your Room, Hannen Moore: The Blue Hanger, Dear Me; and My Aunt Came Back. In addition, she has written a three-volume study of children's literature artists entitled Talking with Artists. In these volumes, distinguished picture book artists talk about their early art experiences, career aspirations, and special questions most frequently asked by children.

Cummings is also involved in teaching children's book illustration at the Parsons School of Design. She has taught advertising design and illustration and co-taught a class with Nicholson Mohr on writing for children. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of drawing and writing and finds the interaction with the students to be very stimulating.

Pat Cummings' work has received critical acclaim and has been honored by a number of organizations. She received the Coretta Scott King Award in 1984 for her illustrations in My Mama Needs Me, an Honorable Mention for the King Award in 1983 for Just Us Women, and the King Award again in 1987 for C.L.O.U.D.S. Her work has been exhibited at Black Enterprise Gallery in New York and the C.R.T. Gallery in Hartford.

Cummings has two books scheduled for publication in 2000. Angel Baby is written and illustrated by Cummings, while Lulu's Birthday was written by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard. Cummings continues to do what she loves best, writing and illustrating for children, in the spacious, bright, and airy loft that she shares with her husband, Chuck Lee, and their cat, Cash.
Evelyn Coleman

Evelyn Coleman came to the arena of children’s books after a career in a number of different professions. She has worked as a journalist, psychotherapist, hypnotherapist, a stress management trainer, a housekeeper, and a group artist. After a serious car accident, which left her in a wheelchair, she turned to writing. In 1994, she published White Socks Opy, a novel that was inspired by events in Coleman's childhood when she realized that there were things she could do and places she could go simply because of the color of her skin. This title appeared on the spring 1996 American Booksellers’ “Pick of the Lists” and was on the Smithsonian Magazine’s list of outstanding books for 1996. The story has been adapted for film and will soon be released by Phoenix Films and Video Productions.

The subject of Coleman’s latest book is Oseola McCarty, a woman whose life is now permanently intertwined with The University of Southern Mississippi. Miss McCarty is a retired laundrywoman who became internationally known after she donated her hard-earned life savings of $150,000 to the University to fund scholarships for needy students. The Riches of Oseola McCarty is a thoroughly researched chapter book that introduces an uncommon heroine whose values and lifestyle can serve as an inspiration to today’s children.

Coleman continues to write fiction and nonfiction for the adult reader as well. Her work has appeared in Essence, Black Enterprise, and other major publications. For example, the Quarterly Black Review, and numerous newspapers including the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution. She has recently published What a Woman’s Gotta Do, a thriller featuring African American journalist Patricia Conley. This gutsy heroine is a combination of the many strong African American women Coleman has known.

Coleman’s new projects include a second thriller with a new protagonist, to be followed by a third thriller once again starring Patricia Conley. She will also continue to write children’s books.

Susan Hirschman
Ezra Jack Keats Lecturer

Susan Hirschman grew up in New York City in an apartment filled with books. She was an avid reader as a child and even took some of her favorite children’s books along to college. During Hirschman’s senior year, she was inspired by Jennie D. Lindquist, editor of Horn Book, who spoke to a group of students. Upon graduation from Wellesley College, Hirschman knew her future was in publishing.

Hirschman began her illustrious career in children’s publishing in 1954 with a job in the children’s book department of Alfred A. Knopf. Working in the morning as secretary and in the afternoons as secretary to the edi tors-in-chief, she was soon promoted to the position of secretary to the editorial director. A year later, at the age of 22, Hirschman moved to Harper and Brothers children’s department, where she worked for legendary editor Ursula Nordstrom, reading unsolicited manuscripts.

During her time at Harper, Hirschman was responsible for beginning the careers of many now-famous authors and illustrators. Hirschman saw the potential in Elise Holm and Minnari’s Little Bear stories and Peggy Parish’s Amelia Bedelia, gave Arnold Lobel his first job as an illustrator with Red Pig Comes Back, and was involved in the formation of the Caldecott Medal. Hirschman worked at Harper for ten years, when she left to become editor in chief of the Macmillan children’s book department.

At Macmillan, Hirschman worked with the stars of their backlist - Carol Ryrie Brink, Elizabeth Coatsworth, Isotta and Elmer Hader, and Armstrong Sperry. She launched the careers of Pat Hutchins, Virginia Hamilton, Jack Prelutsky, Eve Rice, Tana Hoban, Ezra Jack Keats, Albi and Franca Bredeson, and Janina Domanska. Liz at Macmillan was very good until 1974, when all department heads were told to cut their lists in half and to fire half of their staff. Rather than acquiesce, Hirschman resigned. She left the publishing house to design books for the public with the Library Services Commission. After the commission was funded, she was soon offered a position at William Morrow. They offered to start a new division, where she would be able to hire her talented staff from Macmillan - art director Ava Weiss, managing editor Ada Sharamon, and senior editor Elizabeth Shub. The new division was called “Greenwillow,” inspired by Elizabeth Coatsworth’s book Under the Greenwood Tree that was illustrated by Janina Domanska.

The list of artists included in 1975, with sixteen books by former Macmillan authors and illustrators. They soon added James Stevenson, Kevin Henkes, Chris Craymer, Donald Crews, Ann Jonas, and many others. That good year had two Newbery Medal winners, three Newbery Honor books, ten Caldecott Honor books, and more than one hundred American Library Association Notable Children’s Books and Best Books for Young Adults.

Hirschman’s genius is recognized not only in the United States but throughout the world. In the summer of 1990, three Japanese art museums hosted a special exhibition of original art from fifty-five picture books created by eleven of the artists edited by Hirschman. The exhibition traveled to forty-seven museums in thirty countries. Hirschman was present at each stop and was overwhelmed by the reactions from public and educators. In Japan she was told that the important thing is to develop more young artists of talent and that patience allows the time to become a master. She now works with educators and parents conducting workshops and seminars where she tells them that “we must remember that every author has a first book. No one starts full-blown. All authors need space and time to figure out just exactly who they are. Without the early books, there can be no later ones. We publish authors, not books.”

Mary Hamilton

Mary Hamilton grew up on a family farm in Meade County, Kentucky, in the 1950s. Her childhood was typical of a rural youngster, revolving around family, the farm, school, and church. Her love of reading led her to enroll at the University of Kentucky, where she received a bachelor of science in secondary education in 1974. After graduation, she taught high school English for five years before returning to the master’s in library science, also at the University of Kentucky, in 1979. She worked as a children’s librarian for the Grand Rapids Public Library in Michigan from 1979 to 1983, when she began full-time work as a professional storyteller.

Hamilton has appeared at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee; the Cape Cod Storytelling Festival in Louisville, Kentucky; the Oklahoma Storytelling Festival of Oklahoma; and the Florida Storytelling Camp. She also uses storytelling at professional conferences to set the stage for learning. Keynote venues include the National Storytelling Conference, Appalachian Educational Laboratory, and Clemson University’s Professional Development Conferences for Women. In addition to her conference presentations, Hamilton leads workshops on storytelling technique and presentation skills. She spends nearly 300 days a year at storytelling residencies for schools in Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, and North Carolina.

With Cynthia Changaris, she co-founded Secheraender’s Legacy, producer of storytelling in education workshops and a supplier of storytelling resources. Hamilton’s storytelling expertise can be enjoyed on the following audio- and video-cassettes: The Winter Wife, 1000 Minutes and Then Some, Snow DogJand Other Kentucky Wonder Tales, Stepping Stones - Stories for Ages 4-10, Haunting Tales, and Sailing the Flying Ship: Stories and Thoughts on Navigating Life.

The Faigl-Ruth Lamont Award

Last year, 1998, marked the first presentation of the Kaigler-Lamont Award. The generous financial support of Fay Kaigler Griffith, a former chairwoman of the Board of Directors, made it possible. Miss Kaigler is well known for her support of libraries and devoted herself for many years as an elementary school teacher to enhancing books and reading in the lives of children. Her students were soon hooked on books. In retirement, she continues to promote books and reading in her local public library. Her dear friend, Ruth Lamont, who was for many years a successful school librarian in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, shares her passion for making books integral to children’s lives.

The Kaigler-Lamont Award recognizes distinguished accomplishments in promoting children’s reading by librarians and teachers in Southern libraries and schools. It is presented to librarians in the public libraries of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. It is a prize presented by the Mississippi Library Commission, the Louisiana Library Commission, the Arkansas Library Commission, the Tennessee Library Commission, and the Mississippi Library Association.

In recognition of Miss Kaigler’s additional financial support for the Children’s Book Festival, the storytelling program on Wednesday evening was named in her honor. It is now the “Fay Kaigler Storytelling Celebration.”

Workshop Presenters

Professor Brian Alderson, Richmond, North Yorkshire, England, former children’s books editor, the Times (London) and Visiting Professor of Library Science, The University of Southern Mississippi

Mr. Kathy Bocco, Children’s Librarian, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dr. Paulette Bailey, Director, Children’s Services, West Virginia State University

Dr. Kay Bishop, Assistant Professor, Library Science, University of Kentucky

Dr. Brenda Brodie, Associate Professor, Library Science, Kent State University

Dr. Maureen White, Associate Professor, Library Science, University of Houston

Distinguished Guest

Dr. Oseola McCarty, The University of Southern Mississippi’s beloved benefactor, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Russell Freedman Bibliography


The University of Southern Mississippi
Children’s Book Festival

Director
Dr. Onwa Boshears, Distinguished Service Professor
School of Library and Information Science

Program Director
Dr. Pam Barron, Associate Professor, Library Science, Florida State University

Medallion Selection Committee Chair
Dr. Kay Bishop, Assistant Professor, Library Science, University of Kentucky

Festival Arrangements
Kalinae Henderson, Senior Coordinator, Department of Continuing Education

Book Sales
Jim McCay, Coordinator, Department of Continuing Education

Kaiger-Lamont Award Selection Committee Chair
Mrs. Josie Roberts, Librarian, Purvis High School, Purvis, Mississippi

Special Thanks
The USM Children’s Book Festival expresses appreciation to the following for their help in making this 1999 Children’s Book Festival an exciting and rewarding event:

Dr. Horace Fleming, President, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, President Emeritus, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Myron Henry, Provost, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. James Hollandsworth, Associate Provost, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Martin Pope and Dr. Lillie Pope and the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, New York, New York
Dr. Carrol Wicker and the Ralph and Carrol Wicker Foundation, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Miss Fay Kaiger, Gloster, Mississippi, and Mrs. Ruth Lamont, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Mrs. Dee Jones, Curator, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection
Mrs. Mary Hamilton, Assistant to the Curator, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection
Colleen Salley, Professor Emerita, University of New Orleans, Storytelling Convener
Members of the Medallion Selection Committee
Members of the Kaiger-Lamont Award Selection Committee
Members of the Library Science Faculty
Students from the School of Library and Information Science, for assisting our guest speakers and for providing refreshments
University employees who assisted with the book sales and the entire staff of the Department of Continuing Education, Noncredit Programming

Surely it would be less arrogant, and truer to the evidence, to say that the peculiarity of child readers is that they are not peculiar. It is we who are peculiar. Fashions in literary taste come and go among the adults, and every period has its own shibboleths. These, when good, do not improve the taste of children, and, when bad, do not corrupt it; for the children read only to enjoy. Of course their vocabulary and general ignorance make some books unintelligible to them. But apart from that, juvenile taste is simply human taste, going on from age to age, silly with a universal silliness or wise with a universal wisdom, regardless of modes, movements, and literary revolutions.

C. S. Lewis

On Juvenile Taste
This printed program has been made possible through the generous support of the Ralph and Carrol Wicker Foundation.