The Thirty-Fourth Annual

Children's Book Festival

de Grummond Children's Literature Collection and the School of Library and Information Science

The University of Southern Mississippi

March 21-23, 2001
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. McCain, 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 de Grummond Children’s Literature 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 Landry St. Jean, 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 recipient each year. Unique among literary prizes, the medallion 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, it is bronze for wider distribution, a profile of the honoree is engraved on the face, or obverse, of the medallion, and an illustration from the honoree’s work is engraved on the reverse side. Since the first award to author Lois Lenski at the second annual Children’s Book Festival, the USM 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. Onya K. Boshears served as director of the festival. Dr. Jeanne Laughlin-Porter assumed the directorship in 1980. That was the year Ezra Jack Keats, internationally acclaimed author and illustrator for children, 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 1995 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, 2001, marks the fourth presentation of the Kiagar-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 hundreds of participants representing seventeen states. Originally organized to promote the de Grummond Collection, the festival has become 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

Awarding The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion is the highlight of the Children’s Book Festival. This year’s recipient is Virginia Hamilton. The medallion is awarded annually for outstanding contributions in the field of children’s literature. Silver medallions are cast for the recipient, for the President of The University of Southern Mississippi, and for the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection’s permanent display. In addition, a number of bronze medallions are cast and are available for purchase during the festival.

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 Anne of Green Gables
1999 Russell Freedman
2000 David Macaulay

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.
Children's Book Festival Speakers, 1968-2001

Arnold Adoff
Brian Alderson
Valerie Alderson
Aliki
Lee Ames
Berthe Amos
Nancy Anderson
Jose Aruego
Thomas J. Aylesworth
Molly Bang
Liz Ann Barber
Kathy Barco
Pam Barron
Caroline Bauer
Marion Dane Bauer
Kay Bishop
Elizabeth Bowen
Carolyn Bode
Bruce Brooks
Ashley Bryan
Barbara Bryant
Judy Broadus Bullock
Dorothy Butler
Eric Carle
Carroll Case
Beatty Cavanna
Tony Chen
Evelyn Coleman
Carroll Coley
Pam Conrad
Scott Cook
Barbara Cooney
Floyd Cooper
Barbara Corcoran
Donald Crews
Pat Cummings
Tomie dePaola
Carol Doll
Mary K. Eakin
Richard Egielski
Ed Emberley
Carol Evans
Tom Feelings
Denise Fleming
Barbara Freeman
Russell Freedman
Jean Fritz
Chuck Galey
Patricia Lee Gauch
Jean Craighead George
Charles Ghigna
Faye Gibbons
Betty Greene
David S. Halacy
Gail Haley
Mary Hamilton
Virginia Hamilton
Kevin Henkes
Tana Hoban
Will Hobbs
Bonnie Holder
Lee Bennett Hopkins
Robert Hubbard
Sylvia Hubbard
Irene Hunt
Trina Schart Hyman
Anne Laird
William Joyce
Jean Karl
Steven Kellogg
Margaret Mary Kimmel
Debra King
Elaine Konigsburg
Joseph Krugold
Karla Kunski
Barbara LeCroy
Madeleine L'Engle
Robert Lipsyte
Anita Lobel
Arnold Lobel
Anne Lurndin
David Macaulay
Patricia MacLachlan
James Marshall
Jill May
Ann McClellan
Emily Arnold McCully
Barney McKee
Bruce McMillan
May McNeer
Milton Meltzer
Eve Merriam
Barry Moser
Walter Dean Myers
Elizabeth Nichols
Scott O'Dell
Iona Opie
Peggy Parish
Katherine Paterson
Kate Pearce
Richard Peck
Patsy Pittir
Peggy Pfeiffer
Mary Anderson Pickard
Lillie Pope
Martin Pope
Jack Prelutsky
Robert Quackenbush
James Robinson
Bruce Roberts
Evester Roper
Judy Schachter
Essphir Slobodkina
Franz Schubert
Peter Sper
Jay Stailey
Eric Suben
Zena Sutherland
Andrews Scott
Tim Tingle
Jeanne Titherington
Chris Vinsonhaler
"Ginny Talks"
Cecilia von meilleurs, Recipient of the Caldecott Medal

March 21, 1968

Title: "The Illustrator as Storyteller"
Speaker: Vera Williams
University of Chicago, Room 209
Schedule:
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Pre-festival Seminar
The Illustrator as Storyteller: Vera Williams
Cook Library, Room 123
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Early Registration
R.C. Cook Union, Lobby
Medallion, Note Card, and Keats Status Sales
R.C. Cook Union, Lobby
Book Sales
Cook Library, Second Floor Manuscript
The Pay Kalliger Storytelling Celebration
University Union, Room A, B, C
Customer: Colleen Salyer
Bullet Stopper
Feature Storyteller: Ernie Roper
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pay Kalliger Storytelling Celebration
University Union, Room A, B, C
Customer: Colleen Salyer
Bullet Stopper
Feature Storyteller: Ernie Roper

March 22, 1968

Title: "The Illustrator as Storyteller"
Speaker: Vera Williams
University of Chicago, Room 209
Schedule:
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration
McCann Library, Room 405
Book Sales
Cook Library, Second Floor Manuscript
Medallion, Note Card, and Keats Status Sales
McCann Library, Room 405
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Book Sales
McCann Library, Room 405
9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. First General Session
Guest Speaker: Virginia Hamilton
Cook Library, Room 123
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Second General Session
Cook Library, Room 123
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Concursent Sessions
"Discussion of Celebrated and Newbery Winners"
University Union, Room A, B, C
Speakers: Moaures White & Paul Barron
"Fictional Outliners for Children, Educators and Librarians"
Cook Library, Room 123
Speakers: Carolyn Krogh
"Gallery Talk"
Cook Library, Room 405
Speakers: Carolyn Krogh
"Conversation with the Illustrator"
Cook Library, Room 405
Speakers: Carolyn Krogh

March 23, 1968

Title: "The Illustrator as Storyteller"
Speaker: Vera Williams
University of Chicago, Room 209
Schedule:
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Pre-festival Seminar
The Illustrator as Storyteller: Vera Williams
Cook Library, Room 123
3:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Autograph Session
McCann Library, Room 405
6:45 p.m. Reception Featuring Virginia Hamilton
Jackie Duke Sterling Community Center
220 West Front Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet
Jackson Duke Sterling Community Center
220 West Front Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Third General Session
McCann Library, Room 405
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ezra Jack Keats Lectures
McCann Library, Room 405
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Autograph Session
McCann Library, Room 405
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Luncheon A
University Union, Room A, B, C
Speaker: Janis Adutte
13:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Luncheon B
University Union, Room A, B, C
Speaker: Janis Adutte
Remarks: Martin and Lillie Pope, Deborah Pope, The Ezra Jack Keats Award
Denise Fleming

Denise Fleming's art was first published when she was only 11 or 12 years old. From the third through the ninth grade, this emerging artist took classes at the Toledo Museum of Art. Several of her paintings were included in an international exchange program, and a painting of morning glories was chosen for the cover of a teachers' magazine. Fleming was born in Toledo, Ohio, and grew up in a comfortable middle-class family. She and her sister divided their time between making things in their parents' workshop and putting on neighborhood theatrical productions. While in high school, Fleming assembled a portfolio that she entered in an art competition. Her work favorably impressed the judges, and she received scholarship money to attend the Kendall College of Art and Design, graduating in 1970. She married fellow artist David Powers in 1971, and their daughter, Indigo, was born in 1979.

In the early 1980s, after a decade of freelance work, Fleming met author/illustrator Wendy Watson, who encouraged her to try children's books. Portfolio in hand, she made the rounds of New York City publishing houses. Her talent was recognized, and she began to illustrate books written by other authors. She also illustrated series books of licensed characters like the Care Bears, but realized that this was not what she really wanted to do.

Her life changed when she and her sister enrolled in a papermaking class - "just for fun." Her interest was piqued and she took a more advanced course, "Handmade Paper for the Painter," at the Arrowmont craft school in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. It was here that she learned about pulp, pigment, and chemicals and developed the innovative technique used in her books since 1991. Fleming took a new and improved portfolio back to New York. Henry Holt editor Laura Godwin was quite enthusiastic, and a contract was signed on the spot.

In the Tell, Tall Grass (1991) was the first picture book that utilized this newly acquired technique of pulp painting. In a promotional brochure released by Holt, Fleming describes the technique as follows: "Cotton rag fiber is the basic material. It is beaten to a fine pulp and suspended in water. Chemicals and pigments are then added. The pulp is my paint; cups and squeeze bottles serve as brushes; hand-cut stencils are my underdrawings. To begin, a large screen is dipped into a vat of pulp suspended in water. The water drains off through an underlying screen and damp pulp is left on the surface of the screen - this serves as a base sheet to which I add shape and color using stencils, cups, and squeeze bottles. The pulp is layered and slowly built up. Some sheets are three-quarters of an inch thick before pressing and drying."

In the Tell, Tall Grass met with critical acclaim, receiving recognition from the American Library Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, the International Reading Association, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book. It was included on numerous best book lists in journals and magazines like School Library Journal, Booklist, and Redbook. Two titles, Count! and Lunch were published in 1992. In the Small, Small Pond came one year later and was named a 1994 Caldecott Honor book. Nearly every year has brought a new book, and Fleming's innovative technique is now widely recognized by picture book enthusiasts around the world. Her newest entry, The Everything Book, is just that. A virtual encyclopedia of all things toddler, it shows colors and shapes, numbers and letters, everyday objects, and parts of the body. A special touch is the ladybugs that can be found on nearly every page. Fleming's newest book, Pumpkin Eye, will be released in September 2001.

Vera B. Williams

Author/illustrator Vera B. Williams came to the world of children's books when she was forty-eight years old. In the preceding years she had many adventures that would later influence her literary work - parenthood, organizing a cooperative community and experimental school, arrests in anti-nuclear demonstrations, and jobs as cook, baker, and teacher.

Born in California in 1927, Williams discovered her artistic talents when she was just seven years old. She would often go to the Bronx House, a neighborhood center in New York City, where she acted, danced, painted, wrote for the newspaper, and played baseball. When she was eight years old, one of her paintings, called "Yentas," was exhibited at a WPA show at the Museum of Modern Art. Williams graduated from New York's High School of Music and Art, where she wrote and illustrated her first children's book. Later, she attended the now-famous Black Mountain College in North Carolina, graduating in 1949 with a degree in graphic arts.

Her entry into the world of children's books came when her friend Remy Charlip showed her ideas, sketches, and a dummy for a book he didn't have time to illustrate himself. Williams was interested in the project, and in 1975, Hooray for Me! was published with her illustrations. Within several years, Williams was writing and illustrating her own books.

She is perhaps best known for her stories about Rosa, a fictional Hispanic child from a close-knit, working-class family. The first of three books featuring Rosa and her family was A Chair for My Mother (1961), named as a Caldecott Honor book. Inspiration for this story came from Williams' own childhood memories of the economic sacrifices experienced by her family when her mother struggled to purchase a chair on the installment plan. Williams commented, "I had the wonderful feeling that I now had the power, as a writer and an illustrator, to change the past into something happier than it really was, and to offer it as a gift to my mother's memory." Rosa's story is continued in Something Special for Me (1983) and Music, Music for Everyone (1984).

A second Caldecott Honor was bestowed on More More More, Said the Baby: Three Lace Stories (1990), a simple book showing African, Asian- and Anglo-American toddlers with their loving mothers, fathers, and grandparents. Scooter, Williams' first children's novel, tells the story of a little girl's struggle to adjust to her parents' divorce and living in a new place. Reviewers found the text "disarming in its apparent simplicity," and "upbeat, innovative, delightfully engaging, and beautifully crafted . . . ."

Williams' work contains a wealth of strong female characters who live in a multicultural world. Stories are important to her and must reflect her personal interest in the causes of non-violence, children, women, and the environment. Only the most important stories get told since, according to Williams, "it takes about a year for me to bring a book from its first shadowy glimmerings to a completed work in which each element is rooted in the tale to be told: type (sometimes hand lettering), paper, format, even the flaps and back cover. Naturally, I desire to embark only on projects with serious consequences. 'But serious'? Most certainly includes the colorful, playful, and humorous."

Arnold Adoff

Born in the East Bronx, New York City, in 1935, Arnold Adoff was raised in a close-knit, liberal immigrant family that valued their Jewish heritage while seeking for assimilation. He was an avid reader, borrowing as many books as possible from the local public library.

He began to write poetry while still in his teens and continued through college. After receiving a bachelor's degree in 1956 from City College of New York, he pursued graduate studies at Columbia University. In 1958, Adoff met Virginia Hamilton, who had come to New York City several years earlier to pursue her writing career. They were married in 1960 and became "a two Olivetti family.

Adoff worked as a social studies teacher at a yeshiva in Brooklyn, and for twelve years he taught in public schools in Harlem. He soon realized that the required
textbooks were devoid of the ethnic literature that he wanted to share with his students. He searched bookstores and libraries for suitable materials and began to collect the poetry of well-known African Americans like Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Richard Wright. This compilation would become his first book, I Am the Darker Brother: An Anthology of Modern Poems by Negro Americans, published in 1968.


Adoff has also published books of his own poetry, the first being MA DA LA in 1971. It is an illustrated story poem that relates the cycle of African family life in a small village, using only words containing the sound “ah.” Black is Brown is Tan – modeled after his own family – was one of the first books to depict an interracial family. Adoff’s poetry is fluid and musical, and he experiments with structure, nonsense sounds, punctuation, capitalization, and the layout of the poem on the page. Recent examples of this creative process include Street Music (1995), with poems that explore the sights and sounds of life in a big city; Touch the Poem (2000), which is a compilation of poems about the sense of touch; and The Basket Counts (2000), where illustrations and poetic text describe the movement and feel of the game of basketball.

His most recent book, During Dog and Captain Cat, is a work of fiction. Although they are normal and obedient pets during the day, at night Irving Dog and Ermine Cat rise and shake and roost as During Dog and Captain Cat – twirling capes, flashing swords, and chasing crooks.

Adoff doesn’t consider himself “to be an expert on black life or culture or even black poetry.” He says, “I am a continuing student... I think of myself as a passer – a disseminator of black materials. I seek out opportunities to tell... about the work of black poets, writers, educators and historians. I want my anthologies of black American writing to make black kids strong in their knowledge of themselves and their great literary heritage. I also want these black books of mine to give knowledge to white kids so that mutual respect and understanding will come from mutual learning.”

**Patsy Perritt**

Dr. Perritt, currently a professor of library and information science, has been a member of the faculty at Louisiana State University since 1974. Perritt began her academic training at Louisiana Tech University, where she earned a B.A. and a M.A. in education. After several years of teaching in the East Baton Rouge Parish school system, she attended Louisiana State University, where she earned a master of science in library science and a doctor of philosophy in education.

A popular speaker, Dr. Perritt has made several hundred presentations to professional organizations, including the International Reading Association, the American Library Association, the Louisiana Association for Children Under Six, the North Carolina Association of School Librarians, the American Association of School Librarians, the Catholic Library Association, and the South Carolina Association of School Librarians. Over the years she has made a number of presentations at the University of Southern Mississippi’s Children’s Book Festival, and in February 2000, she delivered the 2nd Annual de Grammond Collection Lecture.

Her publication list is as impressive as her speaking engagements with articles in School Library Journal, Journal of Library and Information Services Today, ALA Yearbook of Library and Information Services, Journal of Youth Services in Libraries, and Top of the News. Her book, Selected Videos and Films for Young Adults 1975-1985 was published in 1986 by the American Library Association. She has also contributed chapters to several books about the picture book and young adult services. Perritt also serves as a referee for the Journal of Youth Services in Libraries, the Journal of the American Society for Information Science, and the School Library Media Quarterly.

Her major areas of research interest are reflected in her lectures, writing, and teaching and include literature and services for children and young adults, children’s book illustration, sexual health resources for teenagers and children, intellectual freedom, Louisiana publications for children, and school library collections and programs.

Dr. Perritt is quite active in national, state, and local professional organizations – she served as chairperson for the YALSA President’s Program in San Francisco in 1992, was a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Youth Services in Libraries, and served as the chair or a member of numerous committees and task forces. Her outstanding abilities have been recognized by professional organizations and associations. She was named Young Career Woman of Louisiana in 1989, was awarded the Louisiana Library Association/NMRT Mid-Career Award in 1986, the VOYA/Frances Henn Research Award from the American Library Association in 1987, was named the Researcher of Distinction by Phi Delta Kappa in 1989, and was awarded the SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award of the Louisiana Library Association in 1994. Dr. Perritt has received a number of grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

She has served as the Director of LSU’s Author/Illustrator Program Series since 1978, coordinates the Richard W. Peck Fellowship Fund, conducts study tours to England, and serves on The University of Southern Mississippi Children’s Book Festival Medallion Selection Committee.

We are pleased to have Dr. Perritt return to the campus as our 2001 Ezra Jack Keats Lecturer.

**Evester Roper**

Internationally acclaimed storyteller Evester Roper has been delighting children and adults with her stories since 1989. Her audiences are treated to fables and folklore from around the world, told in Roper’s acclaimed high-energy performance style. Her goal is to promote ethnic awareness through literature, telling stories with foundations in various cultures, including African American, African, Native American, and Russian. Her stories incorporate colloquialisms that are a part of the cultures’ speech and traditions, with themes that emphasize the difference between right and wrong and good and evil, advocating togetherness rather than separatism.

Born Evester Johnson in Palestine, Arkansas, this remarkable performer comes from a family of nine children. Her mother, recognizing the importance of storytelling, frequently used tales with an African-American theme to teach morals and values and to help her children remember important facts. Roper holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Mid-America Nazarene University, a master’s degree in library and Information science from Emporia State University, and is currently a doctoral candidate at The Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Her skill as a storyteller has led to performances at libraries, schools, businesses, storytelling festivals, and workshops. She travels throughout the world for the Department of Defense, telling stories to their Dependent Students Schools. A highlight of her career came in February 1997 when she performed for First Lady Hillary Clinton.

Roper is the mother of four children and currently resides in Olathe, Kansas. She belongs to the National Association of Black Storytellers, the National Association of Storytellers, and several library organizations. She serves on the advisory board of the Kansas City, Missouri, School District for Special Populations and is a board member of the Lotus Theater. In addition to her storytelling performances, she is an adjunct professor at Emporia State University in Kansas.
Virginia Hamilton Bibliography


Looking for America by Virginia Hamilton. A speech delivered October 23, 1993 in Madison Wisconsin at the 30th anniversary of the Cooperative Center for Children's Books.


Plain City by Virginia Hamilton. Scholastic, 1993.


Workshop Presenters

Ms. Berthe Amoss, Author, Illustrator and Instructor of Children's Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana

Dr. Pam Barron, Professor, Library Science, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Dr. Kay Bishop, Associate Professor, Library Science, University of South Florida

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

Mr. Chuck Oakey, Illustrator, Jackson, Mississippi

Dee Jones, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Henrietta Smith, Adjunct Professor, University of South Florida

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

Members of the Medallion Selection Committee

Chair, Dr. Onwa Boshears, Professor Emeritus, The University of Southern Mississippi

Mr. Brian Alderson, Scholar, critic and former editor of children's books, The Times (London)

Dr. Pam Barron, Professor, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Dr. Kay Bishop, Associate Professor, University of South Florida

Dr. Carolyn Brodie, Associate Professor, Kent State University

Dr. Elizabeth Haynes, Assistant Professor, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dee Jones, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Margaret Kimmel, Professor, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Patsy Perritt, Professor, Louisiana State University

Dr. Phyllis Van Orden, Professor Emerita, University of Washington

Dr. Maureen White, Associate Professor, University of Houston, Clear Lake
Children's Book Review Center

Over 1,500 recently published books for children and young adults are available for examination and review at The University of Southern Mississippi Children's Book Review Center. Students in education and library science classes, faculty members, and participants in the Children's Book Festival are invited to visit the Center, which is sponsored by the School of Library and Information Science. The Review Center is open at selected times during the Children's Book Festival.

Participating Publishers

Aladdin
Arcade
Atheneum
Bradbury Press
Carrollhoda
Clarion Books
Collier
Crestwood House
Crowell
Crowell/Abelard-Schuman
Crown
Dell/Laurel-Leaf Books
Dial Books
EZ Nature
Farrar, Straus & Giroux
Four Winds
Frederick Warne
Greenwillow
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich
Harper Keypoint
Harper Trophy
HarperCollins
Henry Holt
Joy Street/Little, Brown
Knopf
Knopf/Bulseye
Knopf/Drakery
Lerner Publication
Lippincott
Little, Brown
Lothrop, Lee & Shepard
Macmillan
McElderry
Morrow
Mulberry
North-South
Peaceable Kingdom
Pelican Publishing
Picture Book Studio
Puffin
Putnam & Grosset Group
Random House
Scholastic
Scribners
Seaver Books/Henry Holt
Sierra Club
Simon and Schuster
Sports Illustrated for Kids
Viking Kestrel

The de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection

The de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection is one of North America’s leading research centers in the field of children’s literature. Although the collection has many strengths, the main focus is on American and British children’s literature, historical as well as contemporary.

The collection holds original materials and published works in its facility on the fourth floor of the McCain Library and Archives on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. The collection is named for Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond, author of several children’s books, who founded the collection in 1966. She assembled materials that were sent by contributors from around the world. Over 1,200 people have generously donated their books and original materials to the collection. In addition, holdings include 70,000 published books. A major acquisition is that of the Ezra Jack Keats collection. The original artworks, typescripts, dummies, and preliminary sketches for 36 books by the Caldecott Award-winning author/illustrator complement the archives of his personal and professional papers already housed in the de Grummond Collection.

For more information, please contact

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de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection
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The University of Southern Mississippi
Children's Book Festival

Director
Dr. Ona Boshears, Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus
School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi

Assistant Director
Mary Hamilton, Assistant Professor, USM Libraries

Festival Arrangements
Meta Blanshard, Senior Coordinator, Department of Continuing Education
The University of Southern Mississippi

Book Sales
John Dorroh, President, Southwest Book Company, Stafford, Texas

Kagler-Lamont Award Selection Committee Chair
Chastain Graves, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Special Thanks

The USM Children’s Book Festival expresses appreciation to the following for their help in making the 2001 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. Anselm Griffin, Provost, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. James Hollandsworth, Associate Provost, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Martin Pope and Dr. Lilie Pope and the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, New York, New York
Dr. Carroll Wicker and the Ralph and Carrol Wicker Foundation, Oxford, Mississippi
Miss Gay Kaigler, Gloster, Mississippi, and Mrs. Ruth Lamont, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Dr. James Martin, Dean of Libraries, The University of Southern Mississippi
Roy Wall, Director of Public Services, USM Libraries
Dee Jones, Curator, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection
McCain Library, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Tom Walker, Director, School of Library and Information Science
The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Rosemary Chance, Assistant Professor, Library Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
Coleen Salley, Professor Emerita, University of New Orleans, Storytelling Convener
Members of the Medallion Selection Committee
Members of the Kagler-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
The Mississippi Humanities Council and The National Endowment for the Humanities
The Fay Kaigler-Ruth Lamont Award

The first presentation of the Kaigler-Lamont Award was made in 1998. The generous financial support of Fay Kaigler of Gloster, Mississippi, has made the award possible. Miss Kaigler is well known for her love of children 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 for many years was 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 Mississippi schools and by children’s librarians in the public libraries of Mississippi. In 1998, the first award was presented to Mattie Rials, children’s librarian, Pike-Amite-Walthall Public Library System, McComb, Mississippi. In 1999, the award was given to two outstanding school librarians: Lawana Cummings, Saint Martin East Elementary School, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and Charjean Graves, William Jones Elementary School, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Last year’s recipient was Sybil Hanna for 40 years of service as the children’s librarian at the Jackson Hinds County Public Library, Jackson, Mississippi. This year’s recipient is Sherry Donald, librarian at Oxford Elementary School, Oxford Mississippi.

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

Thanks to Dr. Boshears

Dr. Onva Boshears has had a profound and positive influence on the development of the Children’s Book Festival. As University Librarian and Dean of Library Science for over a decade, he provided resources and encouragement. In recent years he has served as director of the Festival, ensuring that it remains one of the most delightful, useful, and scholarly events on this campus. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Boshears for 25 years of significant and strong support of the Children’s Book Festival.

Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, President Emeritus

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The 35th Annual Children’s Book Festival will be held on April 4-5, 2002, under the Leadership of Dr. Rosemary Chance, a member of the faculty, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi.