The 36th Annual

Fay B. Kaigler
Children's Book Festival
School of Library and Information Science
and the
de Grummond Children's Literature Collection
The University of Southern Mississippi
April 2-4, 2003
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 LanderSpain, 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 and in 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. Omia K. Boshears served as director of the festival. Dr. Jeannine 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 36 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 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 and continued in that role until his retirement in 2001. Dr. Rosemary Chance, an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science, became the director of the festival in 2002.

In 1998, Miss Fay B. Kaiger, a retired elementary school teacher and native Mississippian, generously funded the first Kaiger-Lamont Award to be given for distinguished service to children by a librarian or teacher. On December 5, 2001, the festival was renamed in honor of Miss Kaiger, who contributed a planned gift to the festival in excess of $1.1 million. Miss Kaiger, a longtime supporter of the festival and the university, taught in the public schools of California and Mississippi for 33 years, instilling the importance of reading in her students. She first attended the festival at the invitation of her friend, Ruth Lamont, a children's librarian from Baton Rouge. Over the years the two traveled to Hattiesburg each spring to participate in the festival. Although she is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Miss Kaiger's love of reading and children drew her to Southern Miss through the festival. Her gift to the university will continue the festival's tradition of encouraging writers to strive for excellence in children's literature and of providing information to teachers and librarians.

From its modest beginning of 100 participants, the Children's Book Festival has grown to hundreds of participants representing 17 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

Awarding the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion is the highlight of the Children’s Book Festival. This year’s recipient is Lois Lowry. 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 deGrummond 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 Elaine Konigsburg
1999 Russell Freedman
2000 David Macaulay
2001 Virginia Hamilton
2002 Rosemary Wells

LOIS LOWRY

We are pleased to honor critically acclaimed author Lois Lowry as the recipient of the 35th annual The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion. We are not alone in honoring Lowry for her writing — she has twice received the prestigious Newbery Medal from the American Library Association for Number the Stars in 1990 and four years later for The Giver. Other organizations recognizing her brilliance include the International Reading Association, the National Jewish Libraries, the Christophers, the Boston Globe and Horn Book, and the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Born in Hawaii in 1937, Lowry’s family moved frequently since her father was a career military officer. As a child, Lowry lived in New York, Pennsylvania, Tokyo, and Rhode Island. After attending Brown University for just two years, Lowry married a Naval officer in 1956 and continued the repeated moves required of a military wife. The couple lived in California, Connecticut, Florida, South Carolina, and finally Cambridge, Massachusetts, when her husband left the service. They eventually moved to Maine, where Lowry resumed her education, graduating from the University of Southern Maine.

By this time, Lowry was the mother of four children, and, despite all odds, found time to begin the writing career she had dreamed of as a child. Her first book, A Summer to Die, was published in 1977 and portrays an adolescent’s struggle to deal with her older sister’s illness and eventual death. Although fictionalized, the story stems from the emotions felt by Lowry when her older sister, Helen, died of cancer when Lowry was 25.

Although Lowry’s 29 books vary in content and style, they all deal with the same general theme - the importance of human connections. She has been praised by critics for her ability to deal realistically with the concerns of young adults.

Some of Lowry’s most popular books are those in the Anastasia series, featuring Anastasia Krupnik, her father Myron, mother Katherine, and her younger brother, Sam. The series begins with Anastasia Krupnik when the heroine is 10 years old. Eight books and many challenges later, Anastasia is 13 and immensely popular with young readers. Anastasia’s brother, Sam, was born when she was 10 years old. Young readers requested more stories about Sam, so there are now four books dealing with his childhood adventures.

Single-parent family life is explored in three books about the Tate family —11-year-old Caroline, her 13-year-old brother, J.P., and their mother Joanna solve problems with love and humor. Titles in this series are The One Hundredth Thing about Caroline, Suitica round, and Your Move, J.P.!

Thirteen years after her first children’s book was published, Lowry received the Newbery Medal for Number the Stars, a chilling novel based on a factual account of the resistance movement in Nazi-occupied Denmark. A mere four years later, Lowry was honored once again with a Newbery Medal for The Giver, a powerful fantasy that describes a seemingly perfect society.

Like others writing for children and young adults, Lowry’s words and concepts are often challenged by censors. Her problems with censorship began with her third published book, Anastasia Krupnik. Lowry was criticized for "irreverent references to Catholicism" and the use of a curse word. Her first book to receive the Newbery Medal, Number the Stars, also had a problematic use of the word "damn." Her most controversial book is The Giver, for which Lowry received a second Newbery Medal. The problem this time is not "dirty language," but rather a rebellious hero named Jason. In this utopian society there is no free will or individualism. Jason has to make a choice when he finally understands what sacrifices must be made to maintain his society.

Lowry’s newest title, to be released in April 2003, is Silent Boy. It is the story of the precocious 10-year-old daughter of the town doctor who befriends a touched boy. Please visit www.loislowry.com for more information about her books, her thought-provoking speeches, and a compilation of frequently asked questions.
The Fay B. Kaigler-Ruth Lamont Award

The first presentation of the Kaigler-Lamont Award was made in 1998. The generous financial support of Fay Kaigler of McComb, 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.

Recipients of the Kaigler-Lamont Award:

1998 – Mattie Riels, children’s librarian, Pike-Amite-Walthall Public Library System, McComb
1999 – Lavava Cummings, library media specialist, Saint Martin East Elementary School, Ocean Springs, and CharJean Graves, library media specialist, William Jones Elementary School, Hattiesburg
2000 – Sybil Hanna, children’s librarian, Jackson Hinds County Public Library, Jackson
2001 – Sherry Donald, library media specialist, Oxford Elementary School, Oxford
2002 – Linda E. Sikes, library media specialist, Beechwood Elementary School, Vicksburg
2003 – Gerrie Ann Weldon, library media specialist, Bayou View Elementary School, Gulfport

Members of the Kaigler-Lamont Award Selection Committee:

2003 Chair, William McMullen, librarian, Northeast Regional Libraries, Corinth, Mississippi
Dr. Elizabeth Haynes, assistant professor, The University of Southern Mississippi
Debra Marot, teacher, West Corinth Elementary, Corinth, Mississippi
Ellen Ruffin, library media specialist, Rowan High School, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Arnold Adoff
Jon Agee
Brian Alderson
Valerie Alderson
Aiki
Lee Ames
Berthe Amoss
Nancy Anderson
Jose Aruego
Patricia Austin
Thomas J. Ayersworth
Molly Bang
Liz Ann Barber
Kathy Barco
Pam Barron
Caroline Bauer
Marion Dane Bauer
Kay Bishop
Elizabeth Bowne
Carolyn Brodie
Bruce Brooks
Ashley Bryan
Barbara Bryant
Judy Brodus Bullock
Dorothy Butler
Eric Carle
Carroll Case
Betty Cavana
Tony Chen
Evelyn Coleman
Carroll Coley
Bryan Coller
Pam Conrad
Scott Cook
Barbara Cooney
Hoyt Cooper
Barbara Coororan
Donald Crews
Chris Crutcher
Pat Cummings
Terrie de Paola
Carol Doll
Mary K. Eakin
Richard Egielski
Barbara Ellman
Ed Emberley
Carol Evans
Tom Feelings
Denise Fleming
Barbara Freeman
Russell Freedman
Jean Fritz
Chuck Gailey
Patricia Lee Gauch
Jean Craighead George
Charles Ghigna
Faye Gibbons
Bette Greene
David S. Halacy
Gail Haley
Mary Hamilton
Virginia Hamilton
Kevin Henske
Tana Hoban
Will Hobbs
Bonnie Holder
Lee Bennett Hopkins
Robert Hubbard
Sylvia Hubbard
Irene Hunt
Trina Schart Hyman
Anne Izard
William Joyce
Jean Karl
Steven Kellogg
Margaret Mary Kinnel
Debra King
Elaine Konigsburg
Joseph Krumgold
Karla Kuskin
Barbara LeCroy
Madeleine L’Engle
Robert Lipsyte
Anita Lobel
Arnold Lobel
Anne Lundin
David Macaulay
Patricia MacLachlan
James Marshall
Jill May
Ann McConnell
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
Laurie Parker
Katherine Paterson
Kate Pearce
Richard Peck
Patsy Perrett
Peggy Plefker
Mary Anderson Pickard
Lillie Pope
Marin Pope
Jack Prelutsky
Robert Quackenbush
James Rice
Bruce Roberts
Exester Roger
Ian Scott
Esply Slobodkina
Frances Landor Spain
Peter Spier
Jay Staley
Whitney Stewart
Eric Suben
Zena Sutherland
Alan Tiegren
Tim Tingle
Jeanne Titherington
Chris Vinsonhaler
Rosemary Wells
Irving Werten
Maureen White
Garth Williams
Vera Williams
Kathryn Tucker Windham
Diane Wolkstein
Taro Yashima
Jane Yolen
Herbert S. Zim
Paul Zindel
Charlotte Zolotow
36th Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival Program

"Featuring the best literature for children and young adults"

All events are in Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center, First Floor, (except for the de Grummond Gallery Talk)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
2 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Early Registration
Location: Lobby

2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Book Sales
Location: Lakeside I

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (2)
Workshop 1: "The International Language of Children's Literature"
Presenter: Mary Hamilton
Workshop 2: "You Gotta Read This! Booktalking to Teens"
Presenter: Sean George

5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Gallery Talk at de Grummond
Location: USM Campus, McCann Library, Fourth Floor

Dinner on your own!

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Registration
Location: Lobby

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Book Sales
Location: Lakeside I

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Podium Session: "The Tree of My Life"
Location: Exhibit Hall A
Speaker: Peter Sís

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break
Location: Central Hallway

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. General Session - "The Tree of My Life"
Location: Exhibit Hall B

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Luncheon: "The Road Ahead"
Location: Exhibit Hall A
Speaker: Sharon Draper

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Autograph Session
Location: Hallways

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (2)
Workshop 3: "My Favorite New Books, New Authors and New Artists for Children"
Presenter: Colleen Salley
Workshop 4: "Adolescence Participation for K-3"
Presenter: Mary Hamilton

2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (2)
Workshop 5: "Audience Participation for K-3"
Presenter: Mary Hamilton
Workshop 6: "A Book About a Tiger" Booktalking to Teens
Presenter: Sean George

3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Gallery Talk at de Grummond
Location: USM campus, McCann Library, Fourth Floor

6:30 p.m. Dinner on your own!

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Registration
Location: Lobby

8 a.m. – Noon Book Sales
Location: Lakeside I

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Ezra Jack Keats Lecture: "Radical Change: Celebrating 21st Century Children and Their Books"
Location: Exhibit Hall B and C
Speaker: Eliza Dresang

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break
Location: Central Hallway

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (2)
Workshop 7: "Reading from A to Z: Fun with Alphabet Books"
Presenter: Kathy Barco
Workshop 8: "The Coming of Age with Diversity"
Presenter: Deborah Tucher

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (2)
Workshop 9: "Reading to Radical Readers"
Presenter: Eliza Dresang
Workshop 10: "Little Red Riding Hood Unleashed: Sex, Morality, and the Evolution of a Fairy Tale"
Presenter: Catherine Drennan

12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Luncheon: "Foundation of a Career"
Speaker: Floyd Cooper
Location: Exhibit Hall B

2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (4)
Workshop 11: "From Morals to Manifesto: The Evolution of 21st Century Children's Literature"
Presenter: Diet Jene
Workshop 12: "Information Literacy Through Collaboration"
Presenter: Mary Beth Apple
Workshop 13: "Once Upon a Planet: A Space-themed Program"
Presenter: Kathy Barco
Workshop 14: "From Laughter to Tears: Running the Gamut of Young Adult Literature"
Presenter: Torn Leinse

FLOYD COOPER

Floyd Cooper drew his first picture when he was three years old. "My father had just built a house," he told an interviewer for BookPage in 1994. "I picked up a piece of sheet rock and started scratching a really cool picture of a bird on the side of the house. [My father] didn’t think it was too great, but I kept drawing because I couldn’t stop."


Cooper’s other awards include a 1990 Parents’ Choice Award for Laura Charlotte, a collaboration with Kathryn Osebold Galbraith and the 1995 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award for Meet Danitra Brown by Nikki Grimes.

Illustrating picture books for children is more than a profession to Cooper, as he states in a 1996 brochure: "My personal goal is to take the reader on a journey into the story, to get a sense of the smells, the atmosphere, and the emotions conveyed by the character." He also looks for stories that address problems in our society which affect children. "I feel children are at the forefront in improving society. This might sound a little heavy, but it’s true. I feel children’s picture books play a role in countering all the violence and other negative images conveyed in the media."

SHARON DRAPER

In her own words, Sharon Draper is "a creator, an educator, a visionary [who] approaches the world with the eyes of an artist, the ears of a musician, and the soul of a writer."

Draper has spent more than 30 years teaching junior high and high school students and was named the 1997 National Teacher of the Year. Because her students often rebelled when asked to read the assigned texts, Draper set out to write something for young people that would be exciting and contemporary, yet have a solid literary base. The result was the award-winning Tears of a Tiger, published by Simon and Schuster in 1994. This title became the first volume of a trilogy that would eventually include Forged by Fire (1997) and Darkness Before Dawn (2001). Her body of work includes 10 books for children.
and young adults, as well as several books that focus on teaching.

Sharon Draper travels extensively, discussing issues of literature, reading, and education. Her audiences include people of all ages in countries throughout the world. Her advanced degrees include the doctor of humane letters from the College of Mount Saint Joseph and the doctor of arts from Cincinnati State University. Her multitude of awards and honors include Ohio's Outstanding High School Language Arts Educator, Ohio Teacher of the Year, and Ohio Pioneer in Education. She is the recipient of the Excellence in Education Award, The Miliken Family Foundation National Educator Award, the Dean's Award from Howard University School of Education, the Pepperdine University Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Marva Collins Education Excellence Award, and the Governor's Educational Leadership Award.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Draper now lives in Cincinnati with her husband and golden retriever, Honey. Visit her Web site at sharondraper.com and find out her favorite color, what she eats for breakfast, whether she can cook and sew, and the worst hotel in which she has ever stayed.

ELIZA DRESANG

Our 2003 Keats Lecturer is as familiar with the publishing world as she is with a college campus. Dr. Eliza Dresang is a professor at Florida State University's School of Information Studies, where she teaches courses in the management of information organizations. Dresang's primary areas of research interest are intellectual access to information, information seeking behavior, and diffusion of innovation, particularly as related to multimedia, networked information systems, and handheld digitally-influences resources. She has developed an analytical approach to resources for youth known as "radical change." She has published extensively in this area, including her book Radical Change: Books for Youth in a Digital Age (Wilson, 1999). Dresang has also written one book for youth, The Land and People of Zambé, which was named as an outstanding social studies book of the year.

Dresang received her bachelor's degree in information studies from the University of California at Los Angeles, and her doctorate in library and information studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to her appointment at FSU, she served as director of library technology and communication in the Madison Metropolitan School District for 16 years. In her first two years at FSU, Dresang served as the school's learning resource coordinator, overseeing the setup of the school's computer labs and participating in the initial development of its Web-based instruction. She also developed the Web-based internship program. Dresang is an active member of the American Library Association (ALA), where she serves on the Executive Board of the Association for Library Service to Children and the ALA Council. Intellectual freedom is a major focus of her professional involvement and she has particular interest in the ethnic and cultural information needs of children and young adults and in the instructional role of the information specialist in all libraries.

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 receiving a master's in library science, also from 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 Jonesboro, Tennessee; the Corn Island Storytelling Festival in Louisville, Kentucky; Winter Tales in Oklahoma City; 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 cofounded Scheherazade’s Legacy, producer of storytelling in education workshops and a supplier of storytelling resources. Hamilton's storytelling expertise can be enjoyed on the following audiocassettes: The Winter Wife, 1000 Ideas and Then Some, Some Dog and Other Kentucky Wonder Tales, Stepping Stones—Stories for Ages 4-10, Haunting Tales, and Sailing the Flying Ship: Stories and Thoughts on Navigating Life.

PETER SÍS

An internationally acclaimed illustrator, author, and filmmaker, Peter Sís (pronounced seez) was born in Czechoslovakia in 1949. Sís attended the Academy of Applied Art in Prague and, later, the Royal College of Art in London, where he studied with Quentin Blake. Like his father before him, Sís became a filmmaker and won the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival for his animated film, Heads.

Sís had hoped to combine his two loves—illustration and animation—by illustrating his own stories and turning them into animated films. A fortuitous meeting with author/ illustrator Maurice Sendak led to an introduction to legendary Greenwillow art director Ava Weiss. A short time later, Sís started work on the illustrations for his first book, Bean Boy, by George Shannon, published in 1984.
Nearly 20 years and more than 55 books later, Sís' work has been recognized five times by The New York Times Best Illustrated Books of the Year and he has earned the Society of Illustrators' Silver and Gold Medal. Two of his books, Starry Messenger and Tibet - Through the Red Box were named Caldecott Honor Books in 1997 and 1999, respectively.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis first saw the work of Peter Sís in 1989. Later that same year, after a visit to the newly independent Czechoslovakia, Onassis contacted Sís and encouraged him to create a children's book about his homeland. With her encouragement, Sís produced The Three Golden Keys, the last book to be edited by Jacqueline Onassis before her death in May 1994.

In addition to illustrating stories of his own creation, Sís provides a magical artistic touch to the words of others. His illustrations complement the story of The Whipping Boy, written by Sid Fleischman, recipient of the 1987 Newberry Medal. Sís has also illustrated books by Jack Prelutsky, George Shannon, Kate Banks, and Jacques Taravant. Later this year, check your bookstores for Sís' newest titles: Animal Sense by Diane Ackerman and a book detailing the life of Charles Darwin.

NANCY WILLARD

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1936, Nancy Willard had her first poem published at age 7. She also created miniature books, and in 1954 when she was a high school senior, A Child's Star was published in the Horn Book magazine. Although equally adept at both illustrating and writing, Willard concentrated on her first love—words. She had already received several honors for her writing, including merit awards in the Atlantic Monthly Creative Writing Contest for high school students.

After high school, Willard remained in Ann Arbor and received her bachelor's of arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1958. Two years later she received an master's of arts degree in medieval literature at Stanford University, and finally in 1963, earned her doctorate in modern literature from the University of Michigan.

Before her first children's book was published in 1974, Willard already had several books of poetry for adults in print and was the recipient of the O. Henry Award for best short story in 1970. Willard is a multifaceted writer, equally at ease creating books of poetry, novels, picture books, fairy tales, and fantasy. The Merry History of a Christmas Pie, published in 1974, was her first book of poetry for children, followed by Sailing to Cythera and Other Anatole Stories. Simple Pictures are Best, The Island of the Grass King, and Papa's Panda, among many others.

A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for Innocent and Experienced Travelers, illustrated by Alice and Martin Provensen, received the Newbery Medal in 1982, making it the first book of poetry to ever win this prestigious award. Recognizing Willard's creative genius, her editors have always chosen the best illustrators to complement her words — Tomie de Paola, David McPhail, Leo and Diane Dillon, Emily McCully, Lillian Hoban, Jane Dyer, and Barry Moser.

Willard's creativity is revealed in all aspects of her writing, particularly her book titles, as evidenced by Pish, Posh, Said Hieronymus Bosch: The Nighttown of the Sullen Moon; Starlit Somersault Downhill; The Moon & Riddles Diner and the Sunnyside Café; and The High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roaring Sky Pie Angel Food Cake.

After more than 25 years, Willard continues to create magical and inspirational worlds for her readers. The future holds great promise with The Mouse, the Cat and Grandmother's Hat and Cinderella's Dress being released later in 2003, and Sweep Dreams illustrated by Mary GrandPré in 2004.

The Ezra Jack Keats Lecture

Ezra Jack Keats (1916-1983) is internationally recognized as one of the most influential creators of picture books in the 20th century. He was author and illustrator of more than 20 books and provided the illustrations for an additional 61 titles in a distinguished career that spanned four decades. The Caldecott-winning title The Snowy Day (Viking, 1962) was revolutionary in sympathetically dealing with the experiences of a black child. A multiracial and urban world was beautifully reflected in many of his other books. Although comfortable and adept with many mediums, Keats is justly remembered as a true master of collage. His technique of using such favorite characters as Peter, Louie, and Willie in a series of stories is just one reason why the stories of Ezra Jack Keats continue to be loved by children of all ages.

The university is very proud that Ezra Jack Keats was the 12th recipient of its medal awarded for outstanding contributions to children's literature. In 1985, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation established the Ezra Jack Keats Lectureship. Lectures have been given by the following individuals: 1

1987 Betsy Hearne 1993 Anita Moss 1999 Susan Hirschman
1990 Michael Patrick Hearn 1996 Leonard Marcus 2002 Barbara Elleman
1991 Dorothy Butler 1997 Ann Lundin 2003 Eliza Dresang
LOIS LOWRY BIBLIOGRAPHY


Workshop Presenters

Mary Beth Applin, information services librarian, USM Libraries

Kathy Barco, youth services coordinator, New Mexico State University

Dr. Eliza Dressang, professor, Florida State University, and 2003 Keats Lecturer

Sean George, youth services coordinator, Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center

Mary Hamilton, professional storyteller, recording artist, and workshop leader, Kentucky

Dee Jones, curator, de Gammond Children’s Literature Collection, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Teri Lesesne, associate professor, Department of Library Science, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Catherine Orenstein, author, New York City

Coleen Salley, professor emerita and author, University of New Orleans

Deborah Taylor, coordinator of school and student services, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland

Members of the Medallion Selection Committee, 2003

Chair. Dee Jones, curator, de Gammond Children’s Literature Collection, The University of Southern Mississippi

Brian Alderson, scholar, critic and former editor for children’s books, The Times (London)

Dr. Kay Bishop, associate professor, SUNY Buffalo, New York

Dr. Carolyn Brodie, associate professor, Kent State University, Ohio

Dr. Rosemary Chance, assistant professor, The University of Southern Mississippi

Irene Cooper, editor, Children’s Books, Booklist, Chicago, Illinois

Floyd Dickman, specialist in children’s literature, Columbus, Ohio

Sean George, youth services coordinator for Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center

Dr. Elizabeth Haynes, assistant professor, The University of Southern Mississippi

Deborah Taylor, coordinator of school and student services at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. Maureen White, associate professor, University of Houston, Clear Lake, Texas
Children's Book Review Center

More than 3,000 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 center is open at selected times during the Children's Book Festival.

Participating Publishers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abrams</th>
<th>Frederick Warne</th>
<th>McElderry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aladdin</td>
<td>Greenwillow</td>
<td>Morrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcade</td>
<td>Harcourt Brace Jovanovich</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athenaeum</td>
<td>Harper Kepoint</td>
<td>North-South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradbury Press</td>
<td>Harper Trophy</td>
<td>Peacable Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolrhoda</td>
<td>HarperCollins</td>
<td>Pelican Publishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarion Books</td>
<td>Henry Holt</td>
<td>Picture Book Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin</td>
<td>Puffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crestwood House</td>
<td>Joy Street/Little, Brown</td>
<td>Putnam &amp; Grosset Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowell</td>
<td>Knopf</td>
<td>Random House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowell/Abelard-Schuman</td>
<td>Knopf/Ballseye</td>
<td>Scholastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown</td>
<td>Knopf/Dragonfly</td>
<td>Scribners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del/Laurel-Leaf Book</td>
<td>Lerner Publication</td>
<td>Seaver Books/Henry Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dial Books</td>
<td>Lippincott</td>
<td>Simon and Schuster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EZ Nature</td>
<td>Little, Brown</td>
<td>Sports Illustrated for Kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farrar, Straus &amp; Giroux</td>
<td>Lothrop, Lee &amp; Shepard</td>
<td>Viking Kestrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Winds</td>
<td>Macmillan</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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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 University of Southern Mississippi campus. The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection is named for Dr. Lera 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. More than 1,200 people have generously donated 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 artwork, 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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Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival

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Special Thanks

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Dr. Shelby Thames, president, The University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Jay Grimes, provost, The University of Southern Mississippi
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Ruth Lamont, retired school librarian, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
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Dee Jones, curator, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, McCain Library, The University of Southern Mississippi
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Members of the faculty and staff of the School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
Students from the School of Library and Information Science, for assisting guest speakers
Southern Style, USM Freshman Year Experience
Wendell’s, Ramsey, Minnesota, for creating and casting the USM Medallion