The 39th Annual

CBE

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 5, 6 and 7, 2006
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 Walter Dean Myers. 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, for members of the medallion selection committee, and for permanent display in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. In addition, a number of bronze medallions are cast and are available for purchase during the festival.

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
2003 Lois Lowry
2004 Jerry Pinkney
2005 Kevin Henkes
2006 Walter Dean Myers
WALTER DEAN MYERS

The winner of the 2006 USM Medallion, Walter Dean Myers, is a legendary figure in the world of young adult literature. Raised in Harlem by his foster parents, Herbert and Florence Dean, he was a voracious reader as a child and often imagined that the world of books was more real than the world that surrounded him. This did not stop him from absorbing the daily sights and sounds of 125th Street in Harlem. After being discharged from the Army, Myers worked leading trucks and in the post office while writing at night. In 1969 he won a contest sponsored by the Council on Interracial Books for Children and published his first book for children, Where Does the Day Go? His first novel for young adults, Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff, was published in 1975.

Myers is not only the author of over 60 titles for children and young adults, but he is also one of the most honored contemporary authors. He is the 1994 Margaret A. Edwards Award recipient for lifetime contribution to young adult literature. He is a two-time Newbery Honor award winner for Scorpions (1989) and Somewhere in the Darkness (1993), and a five-time recipient of the Coretta Scott King Award for The Young Landlords (1980), Motown and Didi: A Love Story (1985), Fallen Angels (1989), Now Is Your Time: the African American Struggle for Freedom (1992), and Slam! (1997). Myers also is a two-time National Book Award Finalist for Monster (1999) and Autobiography of My Dead Brother (2003).

Beyond this amazing list of accomplishments, however, lies Myers’s largest contribution to the world of literature for young people. He is one of the first authors to bring a contemporary, realistic voice to the world of young adult fiction. When the genre itself was just being created, Myers used his talent to bring to life vivid portraits of the daily world of African-American teenagers and children living in Harlem. With an authoritative voice that never condescends or lectures, he creates an entire universe of stories where children and young adults are confident, united, determined, and resilient. The words “gritty” and “urban” are often applied to his narratives, but this does a disservice to the universality of his tales. It is his talent that reveals his work to be, ultimately, about teenagers and children figuring out their place in the world. These elements are hallmarks of Myers’s works. It is for these reasons, and for his contributions to the genre of writing for young adults and children, that we are honoring Walter Dean Myers with the 2006 USM Medallion.

Myers currently lives in Jersey City, New Jersey, with his wife, Constance. He is the father of three children, including the artist Christopher Myers, with whom he often collaborates. (AM/MT)

WALTER DEAN MYERS BIBLIOGRAPHY

145th Street: Short Stories, 2000
Adventures in Grenada (Arroz Series), 1985
Ambush in the Amazon (Arroz Series), 1986
Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom, 1998
Angel to Angel: A Mother’s Gift of Love, 1998
Antarctica: Journeys to the South Pole, 2004
Autobiography of My Dead Brother, 2005
Bad Boy: A Memoir, 2001
The Beat, 1993
The Black Pearl and the Ghost: or, One Mystery After Another, 1980
Blues Journey, 2001
The Blues of Pat Brown, 2000
Brainstorm, 1977
Brown Angels: An Album of Pictures and Verse, 1993
Crystal, 1987
The Dancers, 1972
Dangerous Games (18 Pine St. Series), 1993
Darrell Rock Reporting, 1994
The Dragon Takes a Wife, 1972
The Dream Weaver, 2001
Duel in the Desert (Arrow Series), 1986
Fallen Angels and Related Readings, 1998
Fashion by Telia (18 Pine St. Series), 1993
Fast Sam. Cool Clyde and Stuff, 1975
Fly, Jimmy, Fly, 1974
Glorious Angels: A Celebration of Children, 1995
The Glory Field, 1994
The Golden Serpent, 1980
The Greatest: Muhammad Ali, 2001
Handbook for Boys: A Novel, 2002
Harlem: A Poem, 1997
Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride Met Courage, 2006
Here in Harlem: Poems in Many Voices, 2004
The Hidden Stride (Arrow Series), 1985
Hoggs: A Novel, 1980
How Mr. Monkey Saw the Whole World, 1996
Intensive Care (18 Pine St. Series), 1993
It Ain’t All for Nothing, 1978
I’ve Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 2004
Jazz, forthcoming 2006

The Journal of Joshua Lopez: A Black Cowboy (A Dear America Book), 1999
The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins: A World War II Soldier (A Dear America Book), 1999
The Legend of Tank, 1981
Malcolm X: A Fire Burning Brightly, 2000
Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary, 1993
Me, Mom, and the Moondance Inn, 1988
Mojo and the Russians, 1977
Monster, 1999
Mop, Moondance, and the Nagasaki Knights, 1992
Motown and Didi: A Love Story, 1984
The Mouse Rap, 1990
Mr. Monkey and the Gojira Bad, 1984
The Nicholas Factor, 1983
One More River to Cross, 1993
The Outside Shot, 1984
A Place Called Heartbreak: A Story of Vietnam (Stories of America), 1993
The Righteous Revenge of Artemis Bonner, 1992
Scorpions, 1988
Shadow of the Red Moon, 1995
Shooter, 2004
Slam!, 1996
Smitty Blue: Ace Crime Detective: the Case of the Missing Baby and Other Stories, 1996
Somewhere in the Darkness, 1992
The Story of Three Kingdoms, 1995
Street Love, Forbidding, 2006
Sweet Blasions, 1987
Tales of a Dead King, 1983
The Test (18 Pine St. Series), 1993
Three Swords for Granada, 2002
A Time to Live: Stories from the Old Testament, 2003
Transaunt D’Ouvertur: The Fight for Haiti’s Freedom, 1996
USS Constellation: Pride of the American Navy, 2004
Victry for Jamie, 1977
Where Does the Day Go? 1969
Won’t Know till I Get There, 1982
The Young Landlords, 1979
Young Martin’s Promise (Stories of America), 1993
PATRICIA AND FREDERICK MCKISSACK

From her childhood in Nashville, Tennessee, Patricia McKissack saw the beginnings of change taking place in the South. Segregation was starting to crumble, and the Civil Rights movement was picking up momentum. During the latter half of the 1950s, the public libraries in Nashville began serving patrons of all colors. McKissack saw the library as a place where she could escape the challenges of life whether those were segregation, illness, disappointment, or loss. Books offered the means by which she could leave the present and travel through space and time. For the future author, the public library was a place where differences did not affect her.

As a child, McKissack saw little of herself in the stories she read. When she became a teacher and began looking for books about an African American author, she found none and decided to write her own. That decision began a long succession of biographies about African Americans and other nonfiction about events that changed society. McKissack’s husband, Frederick, is credited with the extensive research that goes into every work of nonfiction.

McKissack also began writing fiction featuring African American characters. During the many hours spent in the library with her three sons, McKissack found very few stories about African American children. Again, she chose to fill that void herself. McKissack credits her family’s talent for storytelling and her listening skills for her ability to write. Although she writes the fictional stories, she relies on her husband for input.

The numerous awards received by the McKissacks include the Coretta Scott King Author Award in 1990 for A Long Hard Journey: The Story of the Pullman Porter, a Newbery honor and Coretta Scott King Author Award in 1993 for Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural. Pat’s most recent titles include Away West and Porch Lies: Tales of Sticksters, Tricksters, and Other Wily Characters, both due out this year. (DB)

MO WILLEMES

Mo Willems has been heralded by the New York Times as “the biggest new talent to emerge thus far in the 00s,” but he is no stranger to writing for children. His success began in television when he worked for Sesame Street, where he earned Emmys for his writing. He then made the move to children’s books. Mo’s first picture book, Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! is the story of a very stubborn pigeon who will not “no” for an answer. Not only was this book critically acclaimed and loved by both children and adults, but it also received a Caldecott Honor in 2004. He repeated this achievement the next year by capturing his second Caldecott Honor for Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale.

“I like to write about characters who are unable to get what they want or are unable to get what they think they want and live through that frustration. I also think that it’s funny.” Although Pigeon has experienced his fair share of failure, Mo’s writing has not. He has continued winning even more fans of his pigeon by expanding on the series with The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog! (2004) and two board books, The Pigeon Has Feelings Too! (2005), and The Pigeon Loves Things That Go! (2005). There is also a musical currently touring the United Kingdom based on Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!. His other books include Leonardo the Terrible Monster (2005), Time to Say “Please!” (2005), and Time to Pee! (2003).

Mo Willems currently lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and daughter. He has two books coming out in 2006: Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late! in April, and You Can Never Find a Rickshaw When It Monsoons, in May. (NH)

KEVIN O’MALLEY

When Kevin O’Malley was just a young pup, he thought it would be funny to persuade one of his friends to bang erasers on another boy’s head. Thank goodness O’Malley’s childhood sense of humor landed him in the library as punishment; for it was there that he picked up a copy of Sendak’s Where the Wild Things Are and thought, “A guy who gets to draw monsters! That’s a marvelous thing!” O’Malley has been doing marvelous things for over 50 books including Cinder Edna by Ellen Jackson (1994) and Miss Malarky Won’t Be In Today by Judy Fincher (1998). He has written and illustrated a number of books, including Froggy Went A-Courtin’ (1992); Bruno, You’re Late for School (1993); Leo Cuckooch: Toy Tester (1999); and Humpty Dumpty’s Egg-Shakes (2001). O’Malley’s latest work is Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude and is every bit as clever as the title indicates.

Kevin O’Malley graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art. He has lived with his wife and kids in Baltimore, Maryland, for 22 years. Visit his Web site at booksonymalley.com. (UP)

DEBORAH WILES

Deborah Wiles was born in Mobile, Alabama, and although her father was in the military and her family constantly on the move, she spent many childhood summers with extended family in Louin, Mississippi. Through those hot Southern summers, she found a love of the South and an enduring source of inspiration. In her twenties she was bitten by the writing bug and worked hard to hone her abilities. Through writing essays for adults and freelance work, Deborah eventually found her way to children’s stories. Meanwhile she has experienced a full and varied life, including having four children and working at a wide variety of jobs including advertising salesperson, school bus driver, and burger chef at a fast food joint. Deborah is the author of two children’s novels: Love Baby Lavender, which is an ALA Notable Children’s Book, and Each Little Bird That Sings, winner of a Golden Kite Honor, the Bank Street Fiction Award and a 2005 National Book Award finalist. She has also written two picture books: One Wide Sky and Freedom Summer. Freedom Summer is a winner of the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award and the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for illustration. Deborah has an MFA in writing from Vermont College. (SP)
DIANE WILLIAMS

Diane Williams is often described as a storyteller and a griot, a storyteller in western Africa who perpetuates the oral tradition and history of a village or family. As such, she shares stories from books, history, myths, legends, and folktales. She has traveled to Africa, Europe, Canada, and throughout the United States to collect stories and to share her own.

Williams is a member of many storyteller associations including the National Storytelling Association and the National Association of Black Storytellers. In 1994, she founded the Mississippi Storytellers Guild. In 2002, she was a recipient of the Regional Leadership Award from the National Storytelling Network. She was a finalist in the 1999 National Storytelling Awards Contest, in which she performed her story Annie Mae Jumps the Broom. She also has several audiotapes available, including Mississippi Storytelling - A Heap of Comfort and Rabbits, Raccoons, Frogs, and More. (MM)

DIANNE DE LAS CASAS

Author and award-winning storyteller Dianne de Las Casas captivates adults and children alike with her lively and entertaining performances. 2006 marks her tenth year as a professional storyteller. De Las Casas is a popular national workshop leader and travels internationally to perform at libraries, schools, festivals, museums and special events. She is a fervent supporter of literacy and arts-in-education programming. She seeks to connect children with books through her interactive storytelling.

Her debut CD, Jambalaya - Stories with Louisiana Flavor captures the unique culture of Louisiana. It has been widely recognized, winning a 2004 Parenting Media Award, a 2004 Children's Music Web Award and a 2005 Storytelling World Honor. Her second CD, World Fiesta, was selected as "Audio of the Week" by School Library Journal. Her books include The Story Biz Handbook and Story Fest: Crafting Story Theater Scripts.

Dianne was born in the Philippines and has lived many places and traveled worldwide. She currently resides in Stafford, Texas, with her husband and daughters, Soleil and Elaina. (MM)

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 63 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 multicultural and urban world was beautifully reflected in many of his other books. Although comfortable and adept with many mediums, Keats is simply 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 medallion 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:

1990 Michael Patrick Hearn 1996 Leonard Marcus 2002 Barbara Elleman
1991 Dorothy Butler 1997 Ann Lundin 2003 Eliza Dresang

FLOYD DICKMAN

Floyd Dickman is an adjunct professor for the School of Library and Information Science Columbus Campus, Kent University, and for the Department of Library Science for Ohio Dominican University. He has been a member of A ALA's Caldecott Award Committee three times. He is an active member of the Association for Library Service and serves as a board member. He was a recipient of the Ezra Jack Keats Fellowship from the de Grummond Collection, served as the Coordinator for Library Development at the Ohio Center for the Book, and has thirty-seven years experience as a librarian and an educator. (NM)
10,000 BOOKS

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast and surrounding areas. Along with ruined homes and businesses, ten Mississippi public libraries and more than 40 school libraries were severely damaged or destroyed as a result of this disaster. In response to this crisis, the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, along with the USM student chapter of the ALA (LSSA), and the faculty and staff of the USM School of Library and Information Science, launched a book drive to help rebuild the children’s collections of these libraries. With a goal of 10,000 volumes, a call was circulated to publishers and other supporters of children’s literacy for new, hardback children’s books. The response was overwhelming. As of March 10, 2006, we have received over 12,000 volumes, and donations keep coming in. The recipients of the books have been overwhelmingly appreciative, and we would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their generous donations:

- Ezra Jack Keats Foundation
- Dr. Rosemary Chance, Jacksonville, Texas
- Floyd C. Dickman, Columbus, Ohio
- The Kid’s Directory, in honor of their clients
- Charlesbridge Publishing
- Scholastic Publishers
- BookPage: America’s Book Review
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Random House Publishers
- Holiday House Publishers
- Children’s Literacy Initiative
- Roaring Brook Press
- Bumble Bee Publishing
- Marshall Cavendish Publishers
- Chronicle Books
- Walker & Co. Publishers
- Farrar, Straus & Giroux Publishers
- Bloomsbury Books
- Kings Daughters Public Library, Haverstraw, New York
- Fireside Books and Gifts and Mary Reilly-Kliff, West Bend, Wisconsin
- Beech Hill School, Otis, Maine
- Alverno College Library staff, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Alumni Club of Mortar Board
- E.D. Arrington, Wilson North Carolina
- Carol Sailer, Chicago, Illinois
- Mr./Mrs. McCarthy, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania
- Sharon D. Os-Wing, Redwood City, California
- Lucien Stemmark, Boston, Massachusetts
- Jim Brennan, Stratford, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Ms. Jennifer Goldman’s 3rd grade class, Roosevelt Elementary School Santa Monica, California
- Mrs. Schneider’s Class, Roosevelt Elementary School Santa Monica, California
- Sharon Greech, Pennington, New Jersey
- Shirley Rauet, La Jolla, California
- Orange Grove Public Library, Gulfport
- Pass Christian Public Library
- Picasay Public Library
- Picasay Elementary Schools
- Pearl River Central Elementary School
- Quarrels Elementary, Long Beach
- St. Stanislaus College, Bay St. Louis
- Saucier Children’s Library

If you or someone you know has a need for new books for their library because of hurricane-related damage, please contact the USM School of Library and Information Science at 601.266.4228.

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 through. 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 – Nate Rials, children’s librarian, Pike-Amite-Walthall Public Library System, McComb
1999 – Lavana Cummings, library media specialist, St. Martin East Elementary, Ocean Springs
1999 – Charlene 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
2004 – Vickie Ross, branch manager of the Okolona Carnegie Library in the Dixie Regional Library System
2005 – Victoria Penny, Youth Services Coordinator at the First Regional Library System
2006 – Carol Phares, Assistant Director and Children’s Librarian, Pearl River County Library System

Concurrent Session Presenters

Elizabeth Beavers holds a Master’s in Special Education. She has worked for 12 years in the area of early childhood education and intervention. Most recently she has held the position of Literacy Specialist with the Institute for Disability Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi and is currently the Project Coordinator for a grant focused on increasing early learning opportunities in all preschool-aged children across the state of Mississippi.

Lois Buckman, who has been with Conroe (Texas) Independent School District for 12 years, is a librarian at Moorehead Junior High/Canyon Creek High School. Lois has previously served on the Lone Star Committee and the Tayshus Committee which reads and selects books for junior and senior high students. She has presented at the local, state and national levels. She is also an adjunct instructor with the Department of Library Science at Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Rosemary Chance was an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Southern Miss from 2000-2004 and directed the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival for three years. Currently, she has returned to her home state of Texas and is teaching part time (online) for San Jose State University in California and for Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.
Arnold Adoff

Jon Agar

Brian Alderson

Valerie Alderson

Alli

Lee Ames

Berthe Amoss

Nancy Anderson

Kathi Appelt

Jose Aruego

Patricia Austin

Avis

Thomas J. Aylesworth

Molly Bang

Liz Ann Barber

Kathy Barco

Pam Barron

Caroline Bauer

Marion Dane Bauer

Kay Bishop

Elizabeth Bowne

Carolyn Brodie

Bruce Brooks

Barbara Bryant

Judy Brodous Bullock

Dorothy Butler

Carroll Case

Betty Cavanna

Tony Chen

Esme Codell

Evelyn Coleman

Carroll Coley

Bryan Collier

Pam Conrad

Scott Cook

Floyd Cooper

Barbara Concoran

Bruce Coville

Donald Crews

Chris Crutcher

Pat Cummings

Carol Dull

Sharon Draper

Eliza Dressang

Mary K. Eakin

Richard Egigebis

Barbara Elenman

Ed Emberley

Carol Evans

Tom Feelings

Denise Fleming

Barbara Freeman

Chuck Galey

Patricia Lee Gauch

Charles Ghigna

Faye Gibbons

Bette Greene

David S. Halacy

Gail Haley

Mary Hamilton

Kevin Henkes

Tana Hoban

Will Hobbs

Bonnie Holder

Robert Hubbard

Sylvia Hubbard

Irene Hunt

Trina Sacht Hyman

Anne Izard

William Joyce

Jean Karl

Steven Kellogg

Eric Kimmel

Margaret Mary Kimmel

Debra King

Joseph Krumpold

Karla Kunkin

Barbara LeCroy

Betsy Levin

Ted Levin

E.B. Lewis

Robert Lipsey

Anita Lobel

Anne Lunden

Jill May

Ann McConnell

Emily Arnold McCully

Barney McKay

Pat and Fred McKissack

Bruce McMillan

May McNeer

Milton Meltzer

Eve Merriam

Barry Moser

Walter Dean Myers

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Elizabeth Nichols

Kevin O'Malley

Jona Opie

Peggy Parish

Laurie Parker

Kate Pearce

Patsy Pittett

Peggy Pfeiffer

Mary Anderson Pickard

Lillie Pope

Martin Pope

Jack Prelutsky

Robert Quackenbush

James Rice

Bruce Roberts

Evee Roper

Pam Munoz Ryan

Robert Sabuda

Jan Scott

Peter Sís

Esphyr Slobodkina

Sonja Sones

Frances Lander Spain

Rose Anne St. Romain

Jay Staley

Whitney Stewart

Eric Siben

Zena Sutherland

Alan Tignor

Tim Tingle

Jeanne Titherington

Chris Vinsonhaler

Irving Werstein

Maureen White

Nancy Willard

Deborah Wiles

Mo Willems

Garth Williams

Vera Williams

Kathryn Tucker Windham

Diane Wolkstein

Jane Yolen

Herbert S. Zim

Paul Zindel
Members of the Medallion Selection Committee, 2005

Dr. Elizabeth Haynes (chair), Associate Professor, USM School of Library and Information Science
Wii/ Ash-Geisler, Children's Services Coordinator, San Antonio Public Library
Dr. Catharine Bomhold, Assistant Professor, USM School of Library and Information Science
Dr. Mary Cissell, Assistant Professor, The University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science
Floyd Dickman, Board Member, Association for Library Service to Children
Erlene Killeen, District Library Media Coordinator, Stoughton (WI) Area School District
Barbara Immeroth, Professor, University of Texas School of Information
Dr. Teri Lescse, Associate Professor, Department of Library Science, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas
Anne Morrison, Librarian, El Paso School District (ret.)
Melissa Wright, Instructor, USM School of Library and Information Science

Children's Book Review Center

More than 2,500 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.

PARTICIPATING PUBLISHERS

Aladdin Books
Alfred A. Knopf
Amstad
Anvil
Anchor
Arthur A. Levine
Atheneum
Avon
Ballantine
Bantam
Blackbirch Press
Bloomsbury
Blue Earth Books
Blue Sky Press
Boys' Mill Press
Bridgestone Press
Broadway Books
Byron Books
Capstone Books
Clarion Books
Clarron Potter
Cliff Street Books
Circlet Books
Crown Publishers
David Fickling Books
Delacorte Press
Delacorte Press
Dell Yearling
Dial Books
D nicely Press
Dorling Kindersley
Doubleday
Dutton Children's Books
Farrar Straus and Giroux
Fitzhenry & Whiteside
Free Spirit Publishing
G. P. Putnam's Sons
Greenwillow
Greenglow Press
Gulliver Books
Grosset & Dunlap
Harcourt
Harper
Harry N. Abrams
Henry Holt & Company
Holiday House
Houghton Mifflin
Hyperion Books
Innovative Kids
Joanna Coyer Books
Katherine Tegen Books
Kid Haven Press
Laura Geringer Books
Laurel-Leaf Books
Lee & Low Books
LifeMatters
Little, Brown & Co.
Magic Carpet Books
Mellie Kroupa
Metropolitan Books
Michael di Capua Books
Morrow Junior Books
Oddysey Young Classic
One World
Orchard
Pantheon Books
Parachute Press
Pebble Books
Puffin Books
Puffin Books
Qual Ridge
R & S Books
Random House
Regan Books
Richard Jackson
Scholastic
Sea Star Book
Shambala
Silver Whistle
Simon & Schuster
St. Martin's Griffin
Stewart, Tabori & Chang
Sunburst
The Modern Library
Thistledown Press
Thomson
Three Rivers Press
Tom Doherty Associates
Viking Press
Villard
Voyager Books
Walker & Company
Walter Lorraine Books
Warner Books
Watson-Guptill
Wendy Lamb Books
Windsong
Winston Press
Worldsong

Members of the Advisory Board, 2005

Dr. Catharine Bomhold, Assistant Professor and Festival Director, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
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Pamela Pridgen, Director, Hattiesburg Public Library
Ellen Ruffin, Curator of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi

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. 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

Ellen Ruffin, curator
de Grummond Children's Literature Collection
McCain Library and Archives
The University of Southern Mississippi
de Grummond Children's Literature Collection
118 College Drive #5148
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
601.266.4349
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. Lera 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, held 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 Lander 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 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 Southern Miss 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. Orva K. Boshers served as director of the festival. Dr. Jeanine 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 Southern Miss 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 dummy pages 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 lectures have 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 Southern Miss Medallion honorees.

Dr. Boshers, 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 as director until his retirement in 2001. Dr. Rosemary Chance, assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science, became the director of the festival in 2002. Upon Dr. Chance's retirement in 2004, Dr. Catharine Bomhold became the director of the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival.

In 1998, Miss Fay B. Kaigler, a retired elementary school teacher and native Mississippian, generously funded the first Kaigler-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 Kaigler, who contributed a planned gift to the festival in excess of $1.1 million. Miss Kaigler, 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 Kaigler'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 22 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

Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival Credits

Director
Dr. Catharine Bomhold, Assistant Professor
School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi

Assistant Coordinator
Sharon Davis, Manager, Margaret Sherry Library, Biloxi Public Library
Ginamarie Pugliese, Director of Education, Naples (Florida) Art Association

Assistant to the Director
Heather Weeden

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

Registration
Jim F. Clark, President
Clark Systems Corporation, Fayetteville, Georgia

CBF Store Manager
Rek Bomhold II
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Dr. Jay Norton, Director, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
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Ruth Lamont, Retired School Librarian, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
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