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LOIS LOWRY PRESENTS THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY DE GRUMMOND LECTURE

Ellen Ruffin, Curator of the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection

Fifty years ago in 1966, Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond came to The University of Southern Mississippi to teach children’s literature to graduate students in the library school. Finding interested and dedicated students, she wanted to extend their learning, to create more than a textbook experience. She decided to contact authors and illustrators of children’s books, asking them for sketches, dummies and galleys—anything that showed the creative process of bookmaking. So she began writing letters, as many as 300-400 a month, telling the authors and illustrators of “the little children’s collection” she was developing.

Responses began pouring in, and Dr. de Grummond would share what she was receiving with her classes. Each week she would unveil some new treasure: an illustrated letter from Berta and Elmer Hader, a handwritten letter from H.A. Rey, sketches from Roger Duvoisin. When Dr. Warren Tracy, chair of the library school, saw what was coming into the library, he convinced de Grummond to develop an idea of a venue where the materials could be accessed by an appreciative public.

Now, 50 years later, that “little children’s collection” is one of the foremost research centers in the field of children’s literature. Boasting original papers of over 1,300 authors and illustrators, there is also a complementary book collection of over 180,000 volumes of historic and contemporary titles. The venue for accessibility is now the renowned Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, hosted by the School of Library and Information Science, which annually hosts the best and brightest “stars” of children’s publishing.

Librarians, scholars, students and researchers travel to Hattiesburg to learn from and to celebrate children’s literature. Lectures and presentations are given by National Book Award winners, Caldecott Award-winning artists, Newbery authors, poets and storytellers. Along with general sessions, scholarly lectures and breakout sessions are delivered, and all of this began with one woman’s vision.

On the 40th anniversary of the Collection, the de Grummond Lecturer was added to the book festival lineup. This year’s de Grummond Lecturer was Newbery Award-winning author, Lois Lowry. Author of *The Giver* and *Number the Stars*, Lowry’s work consistently appears on both popular and required reading lists. Her work examines difficult topics such as death, loss, disease and war. While she does not hedge from difficult topics, Lowry also embraces humor. Her *Gooney Bird Green* books present a lively, spunky protagonist, who is loved by her teachers and peers.

Lois Lowry is no stranger to Hattiesburg. In 2003, she was awarded the silver medallion from The University of Southern Mississippi for her lasting contributions to the field of children’s literature. Her work continues to ignite lifelong readers. There was no better way to commemorate Dr. de Grummond’s legacy than to have heard Lois Lowry as she wished de Grummond growth and success for the next 50 years.
Each year, a new writer and new illustrator are selected to receive the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award. The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in partnership with the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi, presented the winners of the 30th annual Ezra Jack Keats Book Award on April 7, during the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival. The winners received a gold medal award, as well as an honorarium of $1,000.

“We are proud to present the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award to the best new talents in children’s illustrated literature each year. These are writers and illustrators whose books reflect the spirit of Keats and, at the same time, are refreshingly original,” said Deborah Pope, executive director of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation. “This year is Ezra’s 100th birthday! So we are especially delighted to celebrate him by honoring those whose books, like his, are wonderful to read and look at and reflect our multicultural world.”

The Keats Archives at the de Grummond Children’s Collection are a happy reminder of the joy that Ezra’s books have brought to readers and the impact they have had on children’s bookmakers. Once again, we see that influence in the work of this year’s EJK Book Award winners.

We are confident that they’ll join the long list of illustrious past winners whose books continue to delight and make a difference,” said Ellen Ruffin, curator of the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection.

Lois Lowry, two-time winner of the Newbery Award for Number the Stars and The Giver, presented the year’s Ezra Jack Keats Book Awards, and Michael Cart, a reviewer for Booklist and a leading expert on young adult literature, delivered the Keats Lecture.

The 2016 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award winner for new writer is Don Tate for Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton, published by Peachtree Publishers.

In the South before the Civil War, it was illegal to teach slaves to read, but George Moses Horton loved words too much to be stopped. He taught himself to read as a child and grew up to be a published poet, while still a slave. Writing about slavery for young adults, the St. Katherine Drexel Award and the 2012 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Children’s Literature, he is known for his realistic portrayal of teens of color. Williams-Garcia’s works have been recognized by the Coretta Scott King Award Committee, PEN Norma Klein Award, and Parents’ Choice, among others. Rita recently served on the National Book Award Committee for Young People’s Literature and is on faculty at Vermont College MFA Writing for Children and Young Adults.

The 2016 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award winner for new illustrator is Phoebe Wahl for Sonya’s Chicks, published by Tundra Books.

Sonya’s dad presents her with three baby chicks to care for, and she does her job well. “It’s just Sonya, and she and her family and lots of love as they grow into hens. Then one night, Sonya discovers that one of her hens is missing. But as her father explains, the fox stole the hen because he loved her.”

The circle of life is gently and exquisitely depicted in Wahl’s rich and colorful watercolor and collage illustrations of a multicultural family’s life on a farm.

Wahl said, “Keats’ work stands out as some of the most important of my childhood. I can directly trace the roots of my obsession with pattern, color and my use of collage to my affinity with the lazy baby blanket in Peter’s Chair. Keats inspired me to create stories that are quiet and gentle, yet honor the rich inner lives of children and all of the complexity that allows. I am humbled to be associated with Keats’ legacy in being presented with this award, and I am so grateful to the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation and the children’s literature community for this show of support and encouragement.”

The 2016 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award honor winners are as follows:

2016 New Writer Honor
- Julia Sarcone-Roach for The Bear Ate Your Sandwich (illustrated by Julia Sarcone-Roach, published by Knopf Books for Young Readers)
- Megan Don Lamin-Deloney for Drown (Illustrated by David Hyde Costello, published by Charlesbridge)

2016 New Illustrator Honor
- Ryan T. Higgins for Master Bruce (written by Ryan T. Higgins, published by Disney • Hyperion)
- Rowboat Ranch for Rude Calie: Joventino (written by Rowboat Watkins, published by Chronicle Books)

To be eligible for the 2016 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award, the author and/or illustrator had no previous children’s picture books published prior to the year under consideration.

The selection committee was comprised of nationally recognized early childhood education specialists, librarians, illustrators and experts in children’s literature. Carolyn Brodie, chair, Rita Auerbach, Jason Chin, K.T. Hornig, Angela Johnson, Claudette McClain, Sean Gailus, Caroline Ward and Pink Z. Paizs. Ex-officio members were Deborah Pope, executive director, Ezra Jack Keats Foundation; and Ellen Ruffin, curator, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection.

For a complete list of past award winners, visit www.ezra-jack-keats.org/ezra-jack-award-awardwinners/. For information about submissions, visit www.ibs-umc.edu/degrummond/ezra-keats.html.

Debuts of children’s literature from across the country and beyond are celebrated at The University of Southern Mississippi’ annual Ezra Jack Keats Book Festival, which marked its 49th year in 2016 as one of the most important events connected to the literary genre.

Each year, more than 400 teachers and librarians from across the country come to Southern Miss for the festival to hear speakers and participate in concurrent sessions and workshops as authors, illustrators and experts in the field share their knowledge and experience. This year’s three-day event included the presentation of the final of the 2016 Southern Miss Medal to author Jacqueline Woodson. Woodson served as a keynote speaker, along with children’s literature authors and illustrators Michael Cart, George O’Connor, Joyce Sidman, Michael Ian Black, Peen Hammer, children’s literature authors and illustrators Michael Cart, George O’Connor, Joyce Sidman, Michael Ian Black, Peen Hammer, Joyce Sidman is the winner of the 2013 NCTE Award for Excellence in Children’s Poetry and author of many award-winning children’s poetry books, including the Newbery Honoring De Garmo’s books, director of the Festival, to work toward increased diversity in children’s literature and enriching the quality of public education. Through her efforts, the Ezra Jack Keats Book Awards is recognized internationally as an important event for quality children’s books for a multicultural audience.

Pope came to the Foundation after an extensive career in theater and arts in education. Pope delivered the De Garmo Lecture on the festival’s opening night.

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Since entering the world of children’s books with illustrations for the first of James Howe’s Pink and Rex easy reading series, Melissa Sweet has illustrated many children’s books, from board books to picture books and nonfiction titles. She received a Sibert Medal for Balloons Over Broadway and Caldecott Honors for A River of Words by Joy Hakim, among others. Melissa’s newest book, Some Writer: The Story of E.B. White (Viking), is a biography of America’s beloved author, to be published in fall 2016.

For more information about the festival, visit www.ezra-jack-keats.org/
Cafes are focusing on birds and birding as part of the Audubon Bird Lecture Series. The GCRL Science Cafe is part of the national Science Cafe program and a member of the NOVA mini-grant network developed by NOVA and was started with a NOVA mini-grant awarded in spring 2011. The GCRL Science Cafe program is managed and hosted by Joyce Shaw, head of the Pass Christian Public Library, to create a collaboration between the Gulf Coast Library, the Pass Christian Public Library and the Orange Grove Public Library and covered topics such as girls in STEM, wetland preservation, and the decline in the honeybee population.

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This spring, the series kicked off by partnering with the 2016 Audubon Bird Lecture Series to present a talk on “Building Bird-Friendly Communities” by Erin Parker, the outreach and education manager at the Pascagoula River Audubon Center. In March, the series partnered with the South Mississippi Audubon Society and offered a special Saturday Science Cafe called “Free as in Speech: Linux, Liberty and Why You Should Care.” The event included hands-on demonstrations, and all attendees received a free Linux distribution. The St. Louis Public Library also hosted a panel on climate change in March, and the series wrapped up in April with a talk from Betty Sue O’Brien, a heath вал and a naturaphil, on medicinal herbs.

Science Cafe on the Coast is held at a participating library location each month with rant sessions taking place each year and renewable up to three years, from May and August through November. The first grant, awarded in December 2015 to Joyce Shaw, head of Gunter Library, and Peter Dean, assistant professor of marine sciences, provided funding to purchase award-winning children’s books that portray Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in a realistic way.

The Friends not only provide monetary support for University Libraries but also provide an avenue for members of the community to be involved. Friends members receive circulation privileges on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses, member discounts at local businesses, and information about special events and programs.

There are a variety of membership levels and many different ways to show your support for University Libraries. Membership forms are available online at lib.univ.edu/ustore at any branch of University Libraries. You can also make a donation through one of several endowed funds.

We invite you to become a Friends member:

Thank you to our members at the Contributor, Sponsor, Life, and Honorary Life levels.

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Sara Warren

Book Review: Yes, My Account is Real, and Some Other Things I Haven’t Told You by Kunal Nayyar

Chelsea Brown, Circulation Specialist

Kunal Nayyar’s latest book, Yes, My Account is Real, and Some Other Things I Haven’t Told You, is a collection of stories, thoughts and advice published in a relatable, funny and entertaining way. Anyone looking for a hint of comedy and a whole lot of fun, swing by the Popular Reading section in the Cook Library lobby and check out this new book by Kunal Nayyar.

The Friends of the University Libraries received requests for a book subscription service for library patrons to read new and popular publications. This collection includes materials covering ancient art, Renaissance art, 20th-century art, American art, Asian art, sculpture, techniques and elements of art, art for young audiences, programs about the National Gallery of Art, and seasonal programs, such as the Christmas story in art and the Easter story in art.

This collection covers a variety of subject areas such as art, history and history, as well as having materials for younger audiences. These learning resources help broaden and enhance the collections at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries and enrich the programs offered by the University. These materials are available to University Libraries as a subscription service that enables the collection to grow over the course of time, and has grown to over 70 titles that include bestsellers and other “just for fun” books in a variety of fiction and non-fiction genres. This collection is conveniently located in the Cook Library lobby, just outside of Starbucks. Books from this collection are available to all students, staff, faculty and community members and can be checked out for two weeks at a time. If you’d like to request a new release, email Jennifer Culley at Jennifer.Culley@usm.edu.

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EXHIBIT FEATURES MISSISSIPPI PULP AUTHORS
Jennifer Brannock, Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana

From the 1930s to the 1950s, hard-boiled fiction from writers like Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler exemplified the unsentimental masculine fiction of the time. The straightforward, plain-speaking characters brought to life suspenseful stories of tough men and even tougher women. Mississippi authors figured prominently in this crime genre, but they also contributed greatly to additional paperback subjects, including science fiction and erotica.

Mississippi Pulp: Paperback Origins from Southern Miss’ Special Collections features examples of novels by Mississippi authors produced for the paperback market. This exhibit, curated by Andrew Rhodes and Jennifer Brannock, includes mid-century publications by Elliott Chaze, John Faulkner, George H. Smith, Con Sallas, Carl Orlof Knowles for his gay pulp novels and others.

Mississippi Pulp: Paperback Origins from Southern Miss’ Special Collections will be on display on the third floor of McCracken Library and Archives until August 21, 2016. If you have questions about the exhibit or the collections, contact Jennifer Brannock at Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu or 601.266.4347.

SOUTHERN MISS LIBRARIANS RECEIVE MLA AWARDS

In October, three librarians received awards at the Mississippi Library Association’s (MLA) annual conference held in Natchez. Access Services Librarian Sarah Mangrum was awarded thepegawai May Award. This honor recognizes a librarian who honors May’s legacy of excellence in library development and recruiting people to librarianship.

MLA awarded a number of public relations awards to two librarians. Elena Azadbakht and Jennifer Brannock were awarded the Best Effort by an Individual Library to Publicize Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event for their work on promoting the Librarians’ Edible Book Festival. Brannock also received this award for her online exhibit on the Mississippi Community Cookbook. Project feature featuring a reception prepared from a vintage cookbook.

Brannock and Sean Farrell from the Hattiesburg Public Library received an award for their efforts in publicizing events associated with the Created Equal grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. They were awarded the Best Coordinated Effort of Several Libraries to Publicize Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event for the promotion of lectures and films about the African-American civil rights movement.

THE SECOND ANNUAL SOUTHERN MISS EDIBLE BOOK FESTIVAL: A SCRUMPTIOUS SUCCESS
Elena Azadbakht, Health and Nursing Librarian

In the Cook Library Learning Commons. Prior to the presentation of awards, contestants and visitors had time to walk around and admire all of the creative entries on display while enjoying cake provided by University Libraries. Students from the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems, who were heavily represented among both the contestants and attendees, incorporated nutritious information into their edible books. Awards were given to the Best in Show, the Most Nutritious, the Most Creative and the Best Professional entries. Each winner received a gift card, certificate and a fun, food-related trophy (e.g., Gold Medal brand flour). Although it is the first of its kind in Mississippi, the Edible Book Festival concept has been around for 17 decades. Its inception in 1999, the International Edible Book Festival is held annually on or around April 1, the birthday of Jean-Antoine Brillat-Savarin (1755 - 1826), the French author of a witty book on food titled Physiologie du goût. Dozens of libraries and cultural organizations around the world have held their own festivals since then. A more detailed description of Edible Book Festivals can be found online at Books2eat.com.

Pictures of entries from the 2015 and 2016 festivals are available in the university’s Aquila Digital Community and on the Libraries’ Pinterest page. For more information, contact Elena Azadbakht at Elena.Azadbakht@usm.edu.

FALL BOOK SALE DATE SET
University Libraries held its spring book sale at Cook Library March 9-11. Items for sale included textbooks, cookbooks, religious texts, nonfiction, fiction and romance, representing all reading levels from children’s books to college level. VHS tapes were also sold. Paperback books sold for $.50, while hardback books and VHS tapes sold for $.10, unless marked otherwise. This sale was made possible by donations, and all proceeds went to the University Libraries to assist with operational costs. The fall book sale for the Hattiesburg campus will be September 28-30, in the Cook Library Art Gallery. To make a tax-deductible donation to any of our libraries or for future book sales, contact Jennifer Culley at Jennifer.Culley@usm.edu or 601.266.6209.

NEW ROLES FOR GULF COAST LIBRARIANS
Adrienne McPhail, Science, Health and Nursing Librarian

The Gulf Coast Library has joined Cook Library in offering support to students, staff and faculty through subject liaisons. Each college at the University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Park campus now has its own librarian for instruction, collection development, consultations and other research services. The Gulf Park librarians have also partnered with their Cook Library counterparts to provide online assistance to their colleges through subject-specific research guides.

Peter Dean is the liaison for the College of Education and Psychology, Alisia Beck supports the College of Arts and Letters, Jorge Brown is the liaison for the College of Business, and Adrienne McPhail provides support to the Colleges of Science and Technology, Health and Nursing. The response from students and instructors has been enthusiastic as the librarians work to educate the campus about their new roles and the new level of service that has been added at the Gulf Coast Library.

The librarians will continue to work closely with the subject liaisons for their colleges in Hattiesburg under the supervision of the head of public services for the University Libraries, Tisha Zeller. Gulf Park librarians meet with Zeller every two weeks and attend Cook Library Research Services meetings via conference call in an effort to bring the University Libraries together in providing the best possible support for the Southern Miss community.

EAGLE ART EXHIBIT AT GULF COAST LIBRARY
Betty Shaw, Access Services Financial Coordinator

Art created by students, faculty and staff was recently on display at the Gulf Coast Library. The exhibit, Eagle Art, was co-sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs.

Students with pieces on exhibit included Brandon Diesch, whose hobby is pottery, Johnny Layner, photography, and Gillian Fowler, mixed-media photography. Original paintings by Markasha Hinton and James Leatherman, as well as handcrafted jewelry and knitted items by Melisson Ritson, were displayed throughout the building. Rebecca Biggs’ ‘cement planters and bead art by Bianca Stewart were also part of the exhibit.

16MM FILM FESTIVAL
Michelle Frasier-Robinson, Education and Psychology Librarian

Cook Library hosted its first 16mm Film Festival on February 18. The film festival provided an opportunity to relive the charm of 16mm film with its scratches, faded color and uneven sound quality. For others, it was an opportunity to experience the kind of old school technology with its scratches, faded color and uneven sound quality. For others, it was an opportunity to experience the kind of old school technology that existed before video.

The two films shown during the festival were discovered when the University Libraries Preservation Committee began assessing the film collection. The first, Better You, Better Us! (1956), is a 15-minute tutorial illustrating the ways in which a well-designed and

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SPOTLIGHT ON ... AMONDA ALVILLAR

Amonda Alvillar joined the Gulf Coast Library as the circulation specialist after being on the coast for 10 years. She began work at Southern Miss as a switchboard operator at the Gulf Coast Student Service Center following Hurricane Katrina, and a year and a half ago, she began volunteering at GCRL’s Gunter Library and was brought on as a part-time employee soon after. In September of 2015, she left Gunter Library to join the Gulf Coast Library.

Amonda’s primary responsibility at the Gulf Coast Library is to ensure the smooth flow of materials at the Circulation Desk. In addition, she assists the assistant to the dean for publicity and outreach with public relations for the Gulf Coast Library. In her role, she coordinates social media and says her favorite part of her job is the opportunity to meet new people and to participate in the library programing. One such program Amonda recently planned and organized was the Blind Date with a Book event, which took place near Valentine’s Day.

Education is important to Amonda. She is currently studying psychology at Southern Miss, working toward a Bachelor of Arts. When asked her reason for studying psychology, the answer is strikingly similar to why she enjoys working at the Gulf Coast Library. She says, “People are so diverse. It’s amazing to hear their stories and understand why they make the choices that they do, whether it be because of cultural or personal reasons.”

A big fan of all types of anime, manga, cosplay and television shows, when asked if she had a favorite among these, her reply was that it would be too many to list. She enjoys traveling, and some of her favorite places that she has visited include Singapore, Australia and England. Amonda would eventually like to travel to Spain, Germany, Japan and the Philippines.