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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 Awards. The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi’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 talent 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 their impact they have had on children’s bookmakers. Once again, we are happy to announce this year’s办法 and illustrate stories of the rich 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
- Julianne Swartz for The Bear Ate Your Sandwich (illustrated by Julia Sarcone-Roach, published by Knopf Books for Young Readers)
- Megan Donohue O’Neill for Dot (Illustrated by David Hyde Costello, published by Knoppridge)

2016 New Illustrator Honor
- Ryan T. Higgins for Mother Bruce (written by Ryan T. Higgins, published by Disney Hyperion)

To be eligible for the 2016 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award, the author and/or illustrator had no more than three 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 Brodkin, chair; Brian Auerbach, Jason Chin, K.T. Hornig, Angela Johnson, Claudette McClain, Sian Gallus, Caroline Ward and Paul Z. Ossowski. Ex officio members were Deborah Pope, executive director, Ezra Jack Keats Foundation; and Ellen Rufkin, curator, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection.

For a complete list of past award winners, visit www.ezrajackkeats.org/ezra-jack-keats-award-awards. For information about submissions, visit www.lib.usm.edu/degrummond/ezra-keats.html.

Devoid of children’s literature from across the country and beyond and Keats’ story “The Snowy Day” as well as his love for children and young adults. She is the author of more than 40 books and has sold millions of books worldwide, twice winning the prestigious Newbery Medal Number the Stars in 1990 and The Giver in 1994. For his contributions as a children’s writer, Lowry is the U.S. 2016 nominee for the biennial, international Hans Christian Andersen Award. She was a finalist in 2000 and nominee in 2003. In 2007 she received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for her contribution to young adult literature.

George O’Connor’s first graphic novel, Journey into Moonlight Country, is the tale of a 19th century historical journal of the 17th-century Dutch trader Harm Meyerdrietz van den Vloogd, and told the true story of how he fell in love with the beautiful wife of Peter Hammert; the first novel written by playwright Adam Hemp, a starkly dystopian view of a society’s collapse as intimately viewed by four lost souls. Now he has brought his attention to Olympean, an ongoing series retelling the classic Greek myths in comic form. In addition to his graphic novels, he is a member of several children’s picture books, including the New York Times bestselling Kapo; Sally and the Same Thing and Uncle Bigfoot.

As executive director of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, Dr. Deborah Pope works to increase the diversity of children’s literature and enriching the quality of public education. Through her efforts, the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award is recognized internationally as an important celebration of 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 2011 Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival.

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 Adam Everett and Other Poems and The Night, and two Caldecott honor books: Storie of the Baerm and Other Stories and The Helen of the Times (which won the Claudia Lewis Poetry Award). Her recent book, What the Heart Knows: Chans, Dharma, & Blessings, has been critically acclaimed and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award.

Since entering the world of children’s books with illustrations for the first of James Howe’s Pox and Renny 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 Ballons Over Broadway and Caldecott Honor for A River of Words by Joy Cowley, and was shortlisted for the Pura Belpré Honor and Newbery Honor also by Jen Bryant, as well as two New York Times Best Illustrated titles. Melissa’s newest book, What the Heart Knows: Chans, Dharma, & Blessings, has been critically acclaimed and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award.

Tim Tingle is an Oklahoma Choctaw and an award-winning author and storyteller. Responding to a scarcity of Choctaw lore, Tingle began collecting tribal stories in the early 90s. In his latest book, Crossing Biloxi (Cinco Puntos Press, 2005), garnered over 20 state and national awards, including Best Children’s Book from the American Indian Library Association and Parents’ Choice, among others. Tingle recently received the National Book Award Committee for Young People’s Literature and is on faculty at Vermont College MFA Writing for Children and Young Adults.

For a complete list of past award winners, visit www.ezrajackkeats.org/ezra-jack-keats-award-awards. For information about submissions, visit www.lib.usm.edu/degrummond/ezra-keats.html.

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Cook Library Science Café

The Science Café at Cook Library is an opportunity to participate in lively and engaging conversations about science in a casual, welcoming and informal environment. Three events took place this spring that highlight environmental literacy and stewardship, geology and earth sciences, and the role ticks can play in the development of life-threatening allergies.

In February, Dr. Sherry Hamron, associate professor of biological sciences, presented on "A Natural History of Ticks and Their Diseases." The March café, Rock the Café, featured Alan Nolan, a doctoral student in the Center for Science and Mathematics Education, who highlighted the importance of geology and geoscience in helping us to understand the world we live in and our future. This was a collaboration with NOVA and part of a national geography-themed Science Café campaign inspired by Nova’s Making North America series. Finally, in April, Greg Crispell, a graduate student in biological sciences, gave a discussion on the role ticks play in the development of red meat allergies.

The Cook Library Science Café is part of the national Science Café program and a member of the NOVA National Science Café network developed by NOVA and was started with a NOVA mini-grant awarded in spring 2011. The GCRL Science Café program is managed and hosted by Joyce Shaw, head of Special Collections, with help from Tracy Englert, Anthony and Martha Brown, Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Coastal Fusion and Gunter libraries are sponsors of the GCRL Science Café. GCRL Science Café is held the last Tuesday in January through May and August through November.

Science Café on the Coast

In fall of 2015, the Gulf Coast Library joined Cook Library and Gunter Library in presenting a Science Café series. Adrienne McPhaul, the new science, health and nursing librarian, partnered with Wendy Allard, the head Librarian at the Pass Christian Public Library, to create a collaboration between the Gulf Coast Library, the Harrison County Library System, the Long Beach Public Library and the Hancock County Library System called Science Café on the Coast. Events were hosted at the Gulf Coast Library, the Pass Christian Public Library and the Orange Grove Public Library and covered topics such as climate in STEAM, wetland preservation, and the decline in the honeybee population.

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 moved to the South Mississippi Coast and presented by the St. Louis Public Library. The spring series wrapped up in April with a talk from Betty Sue O'Brian, an herbalist and author of the book. "Making Peace with the Plants: A Guide to Herbal Healing from Around the World." The Science Café on the Coast can be found at https://sciencecafeonthecoast.wordpress.com or www.facebook.com/sciencecafeonthecoast.

Cook Library receives educational art resources on loan from the National Gallery of Art

Jennifer Culey, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian

Cook Library received numerous educational art resources, on loan for a year and renewable up to three years, from the National Gallery of Art. This collection includes over 120 DVCs, CD-ROMs, slides, transparencies, booklets and teaching packets. The materials are housed in the media collection in Cook Library. A slide project is available at the Circulation Desk of Cook Library for viewing the slides.

The National Gallery of Art is located in Washington, D.C. Created in 1937, it now has over 130,000 pieces of art. The loan program is provided free of charge for educational purposes and was created to make gallery collections available to a larger audience than just those who visit the gallery and to bring awareness to visual arts.

This collection includes materials covering ancient art, Renaissance art, baroque and rococo art, neo-classicism, modernism, 20th-century art, 21st-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, art history and history, as well as having materials for younger audiences. Learning resources help broaden and enhance the collections at The University of Southern Mississippi, we are very grateful to The National Gallery of Art for loaning us these collections. We have endeavored to match the materials here at our library and appreciate the generosity of the National Gallery of Art.
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 colleagues 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 Zalner. Gulf Park Libraries meet with Zalner 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 Dierscher, whose hobby is pottery, Johnny Lawyer, photography, and Gillian Fowler, mixed-media photography. Original paintings by Makhaya Heron and James Leatherman, as well as handcrafted jewelry and knitted items by Melysion Ritson, were displayed throughout the building. Rebecca Biggs’ ceramic planters and bead art by Bianca Stewart were also part of the exhibit.

16MM FILM FESTIVAL

Michelle Fraser-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 before video. The films shown were a mixed bag of news reels, shorts and features 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, Both Division Boards (1956), is a 15-minute tutorial illustrating the ways in which a well-designed and well-placed bulletin board can enhance the mid-century classroom. Much to the delight of the film festival crowd, BryiGrom, buddy socks, and space age themes were prominently featured. In the second film, Marijuana (1968), entertainer and politician Sonny Bono caution viewers about the risks of “dropping grass.” The film successfully illustrated the growing angst of young people against the establishment, while the multiple references to images of “the war” is a reminder that the United States was firmly entrenched in Vietnam during this period.

With a large collection of 16mm films, the event organizers, Jennifer Brannock and Michele Fraser-Robinson, plan to see the film festival become an annual event.

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 the Pegge May Award. This honor recognizes a librarian who honours 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 Library’s Edible Book Festival. Brannock also received this award last year for online content related to the Mississippi Community Cookbook Project. The award was presented at this year’s MLA conference.

EDEMBED DISPLAYS MISSISSIPPI PULP AUTHORS

Jennifer Brannock, Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana

Mississippi Pulp: Paperback Originals from Southern Miss’ Special Collections will be on display on the third floor of McCain 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.

THE SECOND ANNUAL SOUTHERN MISS EDIBLE BOOK FESTIVAL: A SCRUPULOUS 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 along 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 nutritional 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 gold 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 years. It was 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 ElenaAzadbakht@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 $5.00, while hardback books and VHS tapes sold for $1, 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 material donation to any of our libraries or for future book sales, contact Jennifer Culley at Jennifer.Culley@usm.edu or 601.266.6209.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES / www.usm.edu
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.