

Spring 2006

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LIBRARY FOCUS

University Libraries The University of Southern Mississippi Spring 2006

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The Gift of Time... de Grummond's 40th Year

--Ellen Ruffin, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

It all began forty years ago with letters written to friends who happened to be children's literature authors and/or illustrators. She had come to Hattiesburg after retiring from her position in Louisiana as the State Supervisor of School Libraries, to teach children's literature at the School of Library Science at the University of Southern Mississippi. She wanted more than a "textbook experience" for her students, more than the books themselves. She wanted her students to have the opportunity to examine children's books through studying original manuscripts and illustrations, typescripts, dummies, publisher correspondence—anything that allowed her students to see how an idea becomes a book that instructs or entertains children.

So...she wrote letters. She wrote them all in "longhand," sometimes four or five hundred at a time. As a result of her efforts to extend her students' education, Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond began what would become the "jewel in the crown" of special collections in the McCain Library at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Berta and Elmer Hader, the husband and wife author-illustrator team were the first to respond. They sent manuscript materials, dummies and illustrations for their 1957 picture book, *Ding, Dong, Bell*. Following that first donation, others began to respond to Dr. Lena de Grummond's requests. Authors such as Lois Lenski, Elizabeth Coatsworth, Betty Cavanna, Tasha Tudor, and Scott O'Dell were among some of the earliest contributors to the collection.



De Grummond collection logo



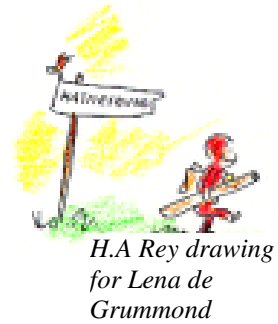
Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond.

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Spurred on by her successes, Dr. Lena de Grummond continued to write. Now, forty years later, the collection houses over 1200 original works from authors and illustrators, as well as a collection of historical and contemporary books numbering over 100,000.

H. A. and Margret Rey were also among the early contributors to the collection. H. A. Rey drew an illustration of Curious George taking his papers and portfolios to Hattiesburg in the letter he wrote to Dr. de Grummond. Bits and pieces continued to arrive in



*H.A Rey drawing
for Lena de
Grummond*

Hattiesburg over the years, but it was not until the death of Margret Rey in 1996 that the remaining literary estate became a permanent part of the collection.

Personal accounts and memories of Lena Y. de Grummond do not depict her as the sweet southern belle. Widowed at a fairly young age, and left with two young children to raise, Dr. de Grummond *could* be considered the prototype for the steel magnolia, the velvet glove of iron; in other words, she was a strong woman. She poured much of her personal energy and resources into the development of the collection.

Apparently, Dr. de Grummond had strong powers of persuasion in that she could convince Dr. William D. McCain, the president of the university, to let go of funds for the collection that he might not have otherwise relinquish. Authors and illustrators became her personal friends; she mourned with them if they lost spouses, and she rejoiced in their successes. She stayed closely connected to and involved in the collection, even after she retired. An early riser, it was not uncommon for the de Grummond staff to find her there at 7:00 a.m. Only when she moved to Williamsburg, VA, to live with her daughter did she totally gave up the reigns.

That determined dedication is what began the respected reputation the collection enjoys today. Dr. de Grummond nurtured her dream along, and as a result, authors felt confident in turning over their literary works, assured they would be safe in the capable hands of the de Grummond Collection's staff.

The de Grummond Collection is also the sole repository for the Ezra Jack Keats archive. Keats, the 1963 Caldecott Award recipient, was the 1980 recipient of The University of Southern Mississippi's Medallion for children's literature. When Keats came to the Children's Book Festival, he was so impressed with the university and with the de Grummond Collection that he left an endowment for the book festival. The endowment serves to fund the Keats Lecture that is presented every festival.

After Keats died in 1983, Martin and Lilly Pope, directors of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, decided that de Grummond would be a good place for Keats' original works. Along with his actual Caldecott medal, the Keats Collection contains personal memorabilia, personal and professional correspondence, examples of his art, and the manuscript and typescript for his

Caldecott Award acceptance speech.

The Keats and Rey Collections are not the only treasures in de Grummond. There are several rare historical collections as well. There is a complete set of hand-colored page proofs for *The Queen of Hearts* (1881) by Randolph Caldecott. Notes to the printer from the illustrator's own hand can be found in those proofs.

The Kate Greenaway Collection is even larger than the Caldecott Collection. There are nearly three hundred original illustrations in the Greenaway Collection. Watercolors, pencil sketches, and drawings document Greenaway's technique and creative process.

It is difficult to believe that this all began as a result of one woman's resolve to bring her students to a full understanding of children's literature and publishing. Her vision gave students and scholars of children's literature a lasting legacy. After forty years, that commitment to providing students, historians, children's literature scholars, and other researchers with a deep reservoir of materials continues. The collection continues to grow and evolve. The gifts continue to pour in—furthering Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond's dream.



Jae Rossman (Photo by Diane Ross)

Book Arts Lecture Series

--Jennifer Brannock, Special Collections Librarian

Yale Special Collections Librarian Jae Rossman was the first lecturer of 2006 for the Book Arts Lecture series sponsored by University Libraries' Special Collections. During Rossman's lecture, "Campus Collaborations: The Book Arts at Yale University," she discussed the

collections of the four areas at Yale University that collect book arts and how the units work together to collect and display items. These include the Arts Library, Yale Center for British Art, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and the Yale University Art Gallery. Some of the collections that she spoke about included the Faber Birren Collection of Books on Color, artists' books at various locations, the Bibliographic Press, the Fritz Eichenberg Collection, and the Bookplate Collection.

The next book arts lecture will be in March. Jamie Runnells, a graphic design professor at Mississippi State University, will give a lecture on artists' books titled "A Love of Artists Books; a SUPER brief history and why I love making them." More information on this lecture will be released in early March. For more information, contact Special Collections Librarian Jennifer Brannock at Jennifer.brannock@usm.edu or 601-266-4347.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

BrownBagIt@TheLibrary.FUN series

Tuesday, March 7th
Clayton Sullivan Speaks...
12 noon, Cook Library
Hear Dr. Sullivan speak about Why Beulah Shot Her Pistol Inside the Baptist Church as well as his new book. Check out one of the four copies of Beulah, available on 3-day reserve in Cook Library. Rumor has it Beulah is being made into a movie!

Tuesday, March 14th
Pieces from the Past
12 noon, Cook Library
This presentation is a real blast from the past and one you don't want to miss. Join Yvonne as she traces Southern Miss' roots from its founding in 1910 to the 21st century using historical documents, photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia preserved in the William D. McCain Library and Archives.

Tuesday, March 21st
Back to the Garden
12 noon, The Courtyard
Well known on the Hattiesburg music scene, Cook Library's own Suzy Elkins and David Sumrall will perform songs from the 60's and 70's, plus some original works in The Courtyard. Hey! Who says people who work in the library aren't cool?

Tuesday, March 28th
Rails to Trails – Past, Present, and Future
12 noon, Cook Library
Learn about Longleaf Trace, the Rails to Trails project, and future plans to extend the trail east from the Southern Miss Gateway.

Bring your lunch. Cookies & lemonade will be provided.

Book Arts Series:

Jamie Runnells, Professor of Graphic Design, Mississippi State University. **A Love of Artists Books - A SUPER Brief History and Why I Love Making Them**
Time and Place to be announced

Celebrating 40 Years: The deGrummond Children's Literature Collection

Ribbon cutting for new exhibit space
Wednesday, April 5th
1:30 p.m., Cook Library

Southern Miss Libraries Complete Successful Book Donation Drive for Coast Public Libraries Damaged by Hurricane

--David Tisdale, Assistant Director News & Marketing

HATTIESBURG -- In the same way they assist library patrons, it's a tradition for librarians to help each other out in times of need, said University of Southern Mississippi's University Librarian Kay Wall.

That tradition sparked a recently completed book drive for Gulf Coast libraries affected by Hurricane Katrina that netted donations of more than 4,500 books.

"We just wanted to do something to help out our colleagues on the coast, who have endured incredible hardships and are working hard to get back on their feet," Wall said. "I thank everyone who came forth with donations of books. Libraries are important in so many ways and having those that have been severely damaged back up and running will go a long way toward the recovery of our region."

Kaylene Behm, associate professor in University Libraries at Southern Miss, was impressed by the outpouring of support for the book drive, which included donations not only from the university community but from across the country.

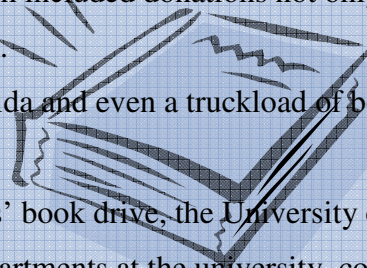
"Word spread and we had donations from Florida and even a truckload of books from the University of South Dakota," Behm said.

After hearing about the Southern Miss libraries' book drive, the University of South Dakota's School of Education and library, among other departments at the university, collected more than 4,000 pounds of books for delivery to Southern Miss libraries for its book drive.

The donations will be delivered to affected coast libraries once they are able to resume normal operations and house materials.

The Long Beach Public Library is one of the coast libraries that will benefit from the book drive. With its facilities battered by Katrina, the Long Beach library moved into a double-wide Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer, according to library director Jeannie Ripoll.

The storm destroyed collections and other materials, furniture and equipment on the library's bottom floor and in the new children's wing. "The city has no money right now to purchase new books, so this donation is a godsend," Ripoll said.





A Different Light: USM Libraries Creates New Exhibit Space for the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

--Peggy M. Price, Head, Special Collections

Forty years ago, Lena de Grummond began building what would become one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of children's literature in existence. The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection carefully preserves the history of children's book writing, illustration, and publication by housing materials in a special collections environment in McCain Library.

Research collections, like museum artifacts and art, must be stored in archival quality containers and climate-controlled, closed stack areas in order to protect the pieces from ultraviolet light, hungry bugs, humidity, mold, sticky fingers, sharp objects, and other dangers. Such limited access benefits researchers. Libraries may maintain original drawings, notes, galley proofs, periodicals, books and ephemera in as close to their original states as possible for decades and even centuries. Sound preservation practices often conflict with convenience, though, and discourage the accidental encounter, the curious browsing, the unexpected glimpse.

Fortunately, exhibits offer library patrons the opportunity to view special collections in a different light. Rather than searching online catalogs, clicking through websites, or reading collection inventories to select materials for research, casual visitors may browse through beautiful illustrations, original typescripts, letters, sketchbooks, and photographs on display. The Fairy Tales, complicated pop-up books, manuscript pages with scribbles and notes, and vivid images of the de Grummond Collection make delightful and engaging exhibits for a diverse audience.

Until recently, the exhibits were presented on the 4th floor of McCain Library. In celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the de Grummond Collection, the University Libraries carved out a more prominent and appropriate space for de Grummond exhibitions. Located on the 2nd floor of Cook Library (room 203), the de Grummond Gallery will open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 5, 2006. The exhibit will showcase original drawings of Curious George from the H.A. and Margret Rey Collection, brilliant collage work from Ezra Jack Keats (*Snowy Day*), a 1530 edition of Aesop's Fables printed in both Latin and Greek, and other significant pieces from the Collection. Exhibit items and topics will change periodically, but we hope the gallery will continue to offer a refreshing component to campus life. Whether the visit is merely a pleasant diversion for weary students, a Sunday out for Hattiesburg pals, or a slightly adventurous break in the day for University employees, the gallery offers everyone the opportunity to share and appreciate the wonderful vision of Lena de Grummond.

For more information about the de Grummond Collection, visit our website at:

<http://www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum/>

“Curious George Goes Hollywood” – A Success!

--Ellen Ruffin, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

Bouts of torrential rain did not dampen the spirits of the Curious George partygoers on Saturday, February 25. The party actually began at 3:00 p.m., but excited children and their parents began arriving at 2:00 p.m. Thanks to the Curious George exhibit in the Curriculum Materials Center,



Photo by Barton Spencer

parents and children could peruse various books while the “ad hoc Curious George Committee” put finishing touches on the refreshment table and the photo spot.

The new de Grummond exhibit space in Cook Library gave attendees a spacious venue to examine the original artifacts of the Rey Collection. Children's pictures were taken with the six-foot stuffed Curious George, who sat at the top of the stairs in Cook, sporting sunglasses (glamorous) and boasting an Oscar at his side. Each child (including the “child at heart”) received a Curious George bookmark with a lollipop attached, a banana, a handful of animal crackers and some lemonade.



Photo by Barton Spencer

Four “celebrity” storytellers donned a yellow hat and read a Curious George book to the audience. Colleen Donovan, a WDAM newswoman, read *Curious George Visits a Toy Store*, followed by Dr. Shelby Thames who read *Curious George Visits the Library*. Brenda Parker, former Midday host at WDAM, read *Curious George Takes the Train*, and the finale was Paul Vanzandt's oral interpretation of *Curious George and the Birthday Surprise*. Following the individual readings, there were drawings for door prizes such as Curious George books and movie tickets.

The overall response to the event was very positive. There were approximately 125 people in attendance—a surprisingly large crowd. Whether it was due to suffering from “cabin fever,” or whether parents were interested in exposing their children to the original work of H. A. and Margret Rey, the participants in the event took away a good feeling about USM and the library.

HURRICANE KATRINA RESEARCH CENTER ESTABLISHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

--David Tisdale, Assistant Director News & Marketing

GULFPORT – University of Southern Mississippi officials believe the school’s newly established Hurricane Katrina Research Center will provide researchers and others with a definitive source for information about the worst natural disaster to hit the United States.

The Katrina Research Center will serve as a repository that collects, preserves and provides both

physical and virtual access to documentary evidence related to Hurricane Katrina. Faculty and staff at the university are already working to build a comprehensive archive of research materials in a variety of formats, including photographs, oral histories, architectural records, and storm and recovery video, among others. The Katrina Research Center is actively seeking donations of the aforementioned items and others to house in the center, which will be located in University Libraries.

“There’s a lot of information being produced every day and all the time about the storm and its effects,” said University Librarian Kay Wall, who will serve as the center’s first director. “We would lose a lot of this information if we didn’t make efforts now to capture it.”

Wall said the university’s establishment of the center will help in providing leverage for external research funding, as well as provide a clearinghouse for Katrina-related information.

“The Katrina Research Center offers the university a unique and extraordinary opportunity to both preserve artifacts and narratives associated with the storm and to give research faculty a conduit to share their Hurricane Katrina-related research with a broad audience,” said Dr. David Butler, a Southern Miss assistant professor of economic development who is helping with the development of a business plan for the center.

The Katrina Research Center will also sponsor traveling exhibits and conferences, as well as provide researchers the opportunity to examine documentation that captures the event from a personal standpoint. It will also provide faculty and staff who may be developing research with a vital collection of resources.

The storm’s impact on Mississippi will be the primary focus of the center, although other information about Katrina’s effects on the Gulf South will be available.

Wall said that the university’s library facilities, staff and resources are an appropriate fit for the center. “Documentation and arrangement and access of these kinds of materials, including printed paper as well as digital, is what we do, especially in special collections,” she said.

Those interested in making contributions are asked to also consider donating such items as

- Scientific data
- government and planning documents
- before-and-after (storm) photos
- art
- organizational records
- literary works
- sound recordings
- Web site information, including message boards, Weblogs, etc.; journals or diaries; and printed items such as flyers or posters.

For more information, contact University Libraries at Southern Miss at 601.266.4241 or visit Katrinaresearchcenter@usm.edu



at University Libraries!

American Chemical Society Electronic Journals Available

Online access is now available to 35 journals produced by the American Chemical Society. The ACS, founded in 1876, is the world's largest scientific society, with over 158,000 members. Its Publications Division "strives to provide its members and the worldwide scientific community a comprehensive collection, in any medium, of high-quality information products and services that advance the practice of the chemical and related sciences."

ACS electronic journals can be accessed through the University Libraries' database drop down box. For more information, contact Ask-A-Librarian at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/askalibrarian/index.php>

American History & Culture Online: Sabin Americana, 1500-1926

Sabin Americana online provides access to full-text works written from the 16th through the early 20th centuries about life in North, Central, and South America, as well as the West Indies, the Arctic, and Antarctica. Such items as original accounts of exploration, settlement, and military campaigns are included. The Library's access begins with materials added in 2006. Materials added to the *Sabin* collection prior to 2006 are available on microfiche in the Reading Room on the second floor of Cook Library.

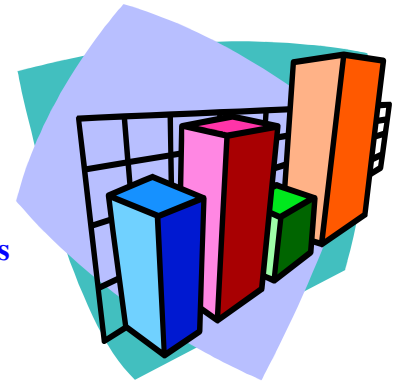
The online service, Sabin Americana, can be accessed through the University Libraries' database drop down menu. For more information, contact Ask-A-Librarian at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/askalibrarian/index.php>

Library Summit Report

-Kay Wall, University Librarian

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries held its first Library Summit on October 31, 2005. There were forty-five students and faculty members in attendance.

Participants at each table were led through a series of questions from the four dimensions of library service outlined in the Libqual+ survey.



1. **Affect of Service.** The use of the dimension Affect of Service focuses on employees who instill confidence in users, readiness to respond to user's questions, a willingness to help, dependability on handling user's service problems, giving users individual attention, being understanding, caring, and courteous. Thus the terms to describe this dimension are Empathy, Responsiveness, Assurance, and Reliability.
2. **Personal Control.** While the term seems nebulous, the concepts center on easy to use access tools, convenient access to collections, the library website, making information easily available for independent use, modern equipment, and making electronic resources available from home or office.
3. **Access to Information.** While access to information seems to be a simple concept, this dimension not only focuses on what the resources are but how are they provided. Questions in this dimension include having print and/or electronic journal collections, printed library materials (books), service hours, electronic information resources, and document delivery which includes commercial products and traditional interlibrary loan.
4. **The Library as Place.** This dimension centers on quiet space for individuals, comfortable space, inviting space, space that inspires learning and study, community space for learning and group study, and a getaway for study, learning, research, and recreation.

The Libqual+ instrument and its four dimensions have been proven a useful assessment tool, one of its goals is to foster a "culture of excellence" in providing library service by helping libraries better understand user perceptions of library service quality.

After a brief presentation on the purpose and guidelines for the Summit, discussion sessions were held at each table. Each table had representatives from the student body, faculty, staff, and

administrators to bring all perspectives to each topic. The sessions consisted of a series of questions that addressed one of the four dimensions of library service. Comments, complaints, suggestions, and solutions were recorded and reported for all Summit participants to hear by library personnel who guided the discussion at each table. After the Library Summit, the Library Management Group reviewed the data, consolidated the issues, and formulated a strategy to address issues and solve problems.

Summit participant Dr. Charles Sawyer commented after the Summit that many of the issues were not necessarily constrained by finances, and would not require a tremendous amount of work to accomplish.

After the library managers worked with the issues, actions were formulated to address needs presented. Shortly after the beginning of spring semester in January, the issues have been addressed:

- Cook 'Book checkout period extended
- University Police began more patrols of Cook Library
- The 5th floor and 2nd floor stacks were designated as quiet zones
- Changed policy to allow 3hour reserves to leave the building
- Work began on a Presentation Room for practicing PowerPoint presentations
- Microsoft Office was installed on all public PCs that could accommodate it
- SPSS was installed on all public PCs that could accommodate it
- A student representative was added to the University Librarian Advisory Committee
- Now accept .pdf files from faculty to place on EReserve
- Cultural events planned for March 2006
- Food for Fines week planned for spring

Other comments focused on the need for increased library materials, particularly for books and new journals. The library managers have begun to formulate a strategic plan to address these needs. The plan will be presented to the University community and administration this spring. The strategic plan will focus on physical, financial, human, and information resources needed to address the needs of students and faculty while reinforcing the values and mission of the University.

University Libraries is accepting requests for book and media purchases. Faculty should submit requests through their departmental library liaison. Other requests may be submitted via the library's Request a Book form on the library website at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/contact/bookrequest.php>.

Speaking Center Opens in Library

-Adrienne Lee, Information Services Librarian

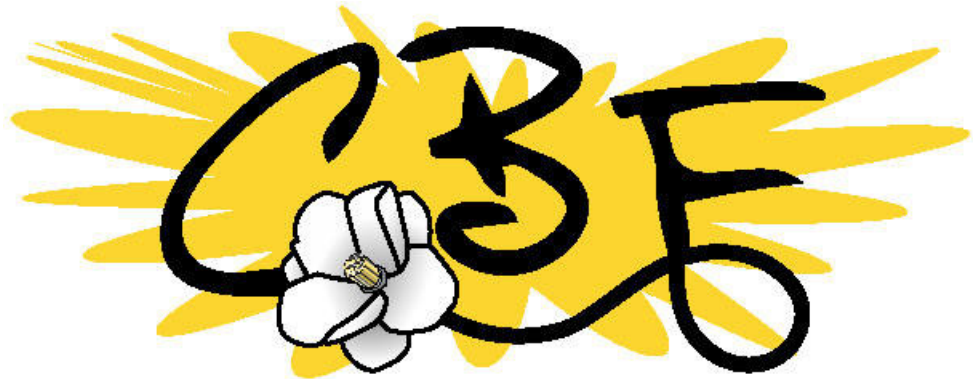
Students already use Cook Library for reading, studying, drinking coffee, hanging out with their friends, typing papers, doing research and surfing the Internet but now there is a new reason to drop by! The new University of Southern Mississippi Speaking Center has opened up in room 120 in the Information Services area. That's right, not only will you not be shushed in the library, you are actually being encouraged to come speak there!

As part of the reaccreditation process for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) the University has created the Quality Enhancement Plan, "Finding a Voice: Oral and Written Competencies." Select Capstone courses will integrate outcomes to improve writing and speaking skills in students. The Speaking Center has been created to assist students with their speaking projects. The center will also strive to help faculty members design speaking assignments as well as give classroom support to prepare students for their assignments.

The Center is equipped with a computer, a projector, and video feedback equipment so that students can tape and then view their speeches. It is staffed by the coordinator as well as Capstone student peer consultants who will gladly help students at any point during the creation of their presentations. Appointments can be made early in the writing process to receive help with generating topics or later to get feedback on delivery of the speech. Students will receive support with revising their speech, with stage fright issues, and in using the elements of effective speaking.

Similar successful centers at other institutions, such as the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, were kept in mind in while developing the center and there are plans for the services and hours to expand. According to Dr. Tardy, chair of the Speech Communications department, "We are excited about our new Speaking Center, the goal of which is to foster the development of students' oral communication skills. Initially our services will be focused on helping students prepare and deliver presentations for Capstone classes. However, we intend to expand what we do for students and faculty. Right now we are working diligently to prepare our staff and get all the procedures and materials in place. We are especially pleased to be able to offer this service in the library as students will no doubt be utilizing its information resources in their research for their presentations."

Appointments can be made by e-mailing speakingcenter@usm.edu. Consultation sessions will be one hour and students should bring their assignment instructions with them.



The 39th Annual Children's Book Festival

--Ellen Ruffin, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

The mission of the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi is to recognize excellence in the field of children's literature and to provide librarians, teachers, researchers, and community members the opportunity to learn about and appreciate children's literature.

Initiated by two professors in the School of Library and Information Science, the first book festival was held 39 years ago to celebrate the opening of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. As de Grummond celebrates its 40th year of existence, the Children's Book Festival will begin preparing for the 40th annual meeting, which will take place next year. The presentation of The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion to outstanding authors and illustrators enriches the festival's celebration of literature for youth.

This year's Fay B. Kaigler Annual Children's Book Festival is scheduled for April 5-7, 2006, at the Hattiesburg Convention Center. The medallion recipient for this year's festival is Walter Dean Myers, author of more than fifty books for children and young adults. Myers is also a recipient of the Coretta Scott King Medal, a Newbery Award honoree, the winner of the Michael L. Printz Award, and a finalist for the National Book Award.

Along with Walter Dean Myers, this year's slate of authors and illustrators is truly a notable group. Patricia and Frederick McKissack, winners of multiple Coretta Scott King Awards, will speak following the medallion session on Thursday morning. Mo Willems, Caldecott Honor recipient for *Knuffle Bunny* and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* will be the luncheon speaker on Thursday, April 6. Deborah Wiles, National Book Award finalist, will give the evening lecture at the dessert session.

On Friday, "Keats Day" will begin with illustrator Kevin O'Malley. O'Malley has illustrated *Cinder Edna*, *Humpty-Dumpty Egg-Splodes*, and the *Miss Malarkey Series*. The Ezra Jack Keats

lecture will be presented by Dr. Floyd Dickman, from the Ohio State Library. The luncheon speaker for Friday will be Pam Munoz Ryan, author of *Esperanza Rising*, the 2002 Pura Belpre Medal winner.

Along with the authors and illustrators, sessions will be held on programs for summer reading, teen reads, Children's Choice Awards, writing poetry for children, emergent literacy, and storytelling. Former School of Library and Information Science professor, Dr. Rosemary Chance, will conduct a workshop on Newbery Award Books.

Autograph sessions will be held following each general session. For more information about the festival, go to the following website: <http://www-dept.usm.edu/%7Eslis/bookfest.htm>, or contact Dr. Catharine Bomhold of the School of Library and Information Science at 601-266-4228 or at Catharine.Bomhold@usm.edu.