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47th Annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival: April 9-11, 2014

The School of Library and Information Science is pleased to announce the 47th annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival, to be held April 9-11, 2014, at the Southern Miss Thad Cochran Center. The highlight of the festival is the presentation of the Southern Miss Medallion awarded to an author or illustrator for his or her body of work. The 2014 Southern Miss Medallion winner is **Christopher Paul Curtis**.

After graduating from high school in Flint, Mich., Curtis attended college at nights while working on an assembly line putting doors on Buicks. After working in the plant for 13 years, following another five years of menial jobs, he took a year off work to write his first book, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*. This book won several awards, and his second book, *Bud, Not Buddy*, became the first book to win both the Newbery Medal and the Coretta Scott King Awards. His latest title is *The Mighty Miss Malone*. Christopher enjoys playing basketball and collecting record albums, as well as writing. He lives in Detroit, Mich., with his wife, Habon, and their daughters, Ayaan and Ebyaan.

Other outstanding authors and illustrators scheduled to appear include:

M.T. Anderson has written stories for adults, picture books for children, adventure novels for young readers and several books for older readers (both teens and adults). His satirical book, *Feed*, was a Finalist for the National Book Award and was the winner of the L.A. Times Book Prize. The first volume of the *Octavian Nothing* saga won the National Book Award and the Boston Globe/Horn Book Prize. Both the first and second volumes of the two-part series were Printz Honor Books. He writes: "I love writing for younger readers. I love their passion. I love their commitment to stories. I love the way their heads are exploding will all the things they want to say and do."

Leda Schubert wrote her first children's book at the age of five or six, but unfortunately, that text has not survived. After working in the public school system for a number of years, Leda published her first books, *Winnie Plays Ball* and *Winnie All Day Long*. In 2004, she obtained an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and is currently serving on the faculty there. Her latest book, *Monsieur Marcaeau*, was featured on the cover of the spring 2013 Horn Book Guide; it and several of her other books have received numerous starred reviews. She lives in Vermont.

Ezra Jack Keats Lecturer **Karen Nelson Hoyle** spent more than 40 years as curator of the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota where she helped to preserve numerous manuscripts and items related to the writing and illustrating of children's books. She also served on the committee for the Newbery and Caldecott awards. She retired from the University of Minnesota in 2012 and that same year was honored as the Kerlan Award recipient. Karen has also received the the Bridge Award from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award of the Children's Literature Association.

Born in North Carolina in the front seat of her father's car, and brought up in Houston, de Grummond Lecturer **Kathi Appelt** is the author of a number of books for both children and young adults, including the Newbery Honor Book, *The Underneath*, which was also a National Book Award Finalist. She has garnered numerous other awards for both children's books and young adult books. Kathi still lives in Houston, Texas.

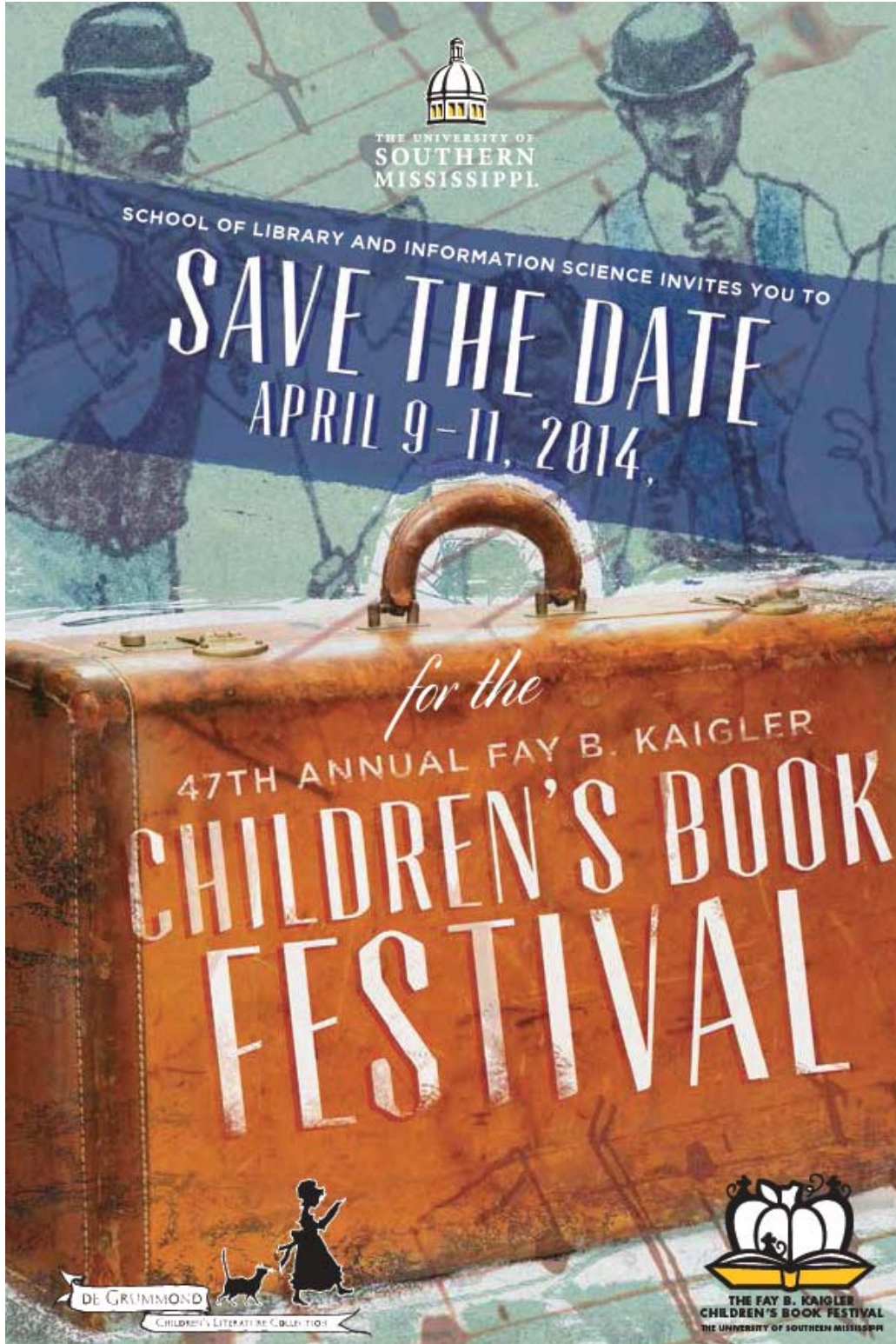
Coleen Salley Storytelling Award recipient **Mary Hamilton** hails from Kentucky and has been a professional storyteller since 1983. Several recordings of her stories have won awards, including a Parents' Choice Gold Award for *Sisters All... and One Troll*. Mary received a Circle of Excellence Oracle Award from the National Storytelling Network in 2009. Her first book of stories, including essays on the art of storytelling, was published in 2012.

David Small and **Sarah Stewart** reside in a historic home built in 1833 on a bend of the St. Joseph River in Southwest Michigan. After some friendly advice persuaded him to pursue art, Small obtained his MFA from the Yale Graduate School of Art and taught on the college level for many years. He has illustrated over 40 picture books and won numerous awards, including a Caldecott Honor in 1998 for *The Gardener*, written by Stewart, and a Caldecott Medal in 2001 for *So, You Want to be President?* by Judith St. George. Most recently, he received a 2013 Caldecott Honor for *One Cool Friend* by Toni Buzzeo. Stewart grew up in Texas and studied Latin and philosophy at many different colleges and universities. After working as a teacher, speechwriter and a number of other jobs, she turned her hand to writing and has written a number of children's books, as well as reviews of children's books for the New York Times. Stewart received the 2007 Michigan Author Award for her body of work.

The Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival continues to host the Ezra Jack Keats Book Awards.

Since 1985, the Ezra Jack Keats Book Awards have been given to an outstanding new writer and new illustrator of picture books for children who share Ezra's values: the universal qualities of childhood and the

multicultural nature of our world. Now in partnership with the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, the EJK Book Awards continue to encourage the next generation of talent who are committed to celebrating diversity through their writing and art.



For more information, including the tentative schedule and registration information, please visit www.usm.edu/bookfest or call 601.266.4228.