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2008

Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival


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The University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Library and Information Science

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41st
Annual Fay B. Kaigler
**HILDREN'S BOOK
FESTIVAL**

Featuring the best in literature for children and young adults



PROGRAM
2008



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI MEDALLION

Awarded annually for outstanding contributions in the field of children's literature, the Southern Miss Medallion is the highlight of the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival. This year's recipient is Pat Mora. Each year, silver medallions are cast for the recipient, the president of The University of Southern Mississippi, members of the medallion selection committee and the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection's permanent display. Bronze medallions are also cast and are available for purchase during the festival.



RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDALLION

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1969 Lois Lenski | 1989 Lee Bennett Hopkins |
| 1970 Ernest H. Shepard | 1990 Charlotte Zolotow |
| 1971 Roger Duvoisin | 1991 Richard Peck |
| 1972 Marcia Brown | 1992 James Marshall |
| 1973 Lynd Ward | 1993 Quentin Blake |
| 1974 Taro Yashima | 1994 Ashley Bryan |
| 1975 Barbara Cooney | 1995 Tomie de Paola |
| 1976 Scott O'Dell | 1996 Patricia MacLachlan |
| 1977 Adrienne Adams | 1997 Eric Carle |
| 1978 Madeleine L'Engle | 1998 Elaine Konigsburg |
| 1979 Leonard Everett Fisher | 1999 Russell Freedman |
| 1980 Ezra Jack Keats | 2000 David Macaulay |
| 1981 Maurice Sendak | 2001 Virginia Hamilton |
| 1982 Beverly Cleary | 2002 Rosemary Wells |
| 1983 Katherine Paterson | 2003 Lois Lowry |
| 1984 Peter Spier | 2004 Jerry Pinkney |
| 1985 Arnold Lobel | 2005 Kevin Henkes |
| 1986 Jean Craighead George | 2006 Walter Dean Myers |
| 1987 Paula Fox | 2007 Eve Bunting |
| 1988 Jean Fritz | 2008 Pat Mora |



PAT MORA

40th Southern Miss Medallion Recipient

Born in El Paso, Texas, Pat Mora grew up in two cultures. At home, she lived with an extended family, including a Spanish-speaking grandmother, a bilingual aunt, and bilingual parents and siblings who embraced their Mexican and Mexican American heritage. At school, she was American and attended a Catholic school in El Paso with a Eurocentric curriculum. She did not discuss her Latino background at school since the Mexican American reality of El Paso was never mentioned. She lived, and continues to live, her life in two cultures.

This concept of borders, living in two worlds at the same time, is a recurring theme in Pat's work and has fueled the talent that has enriched the lives of children.

Pat graduated from college with a master's degree in English in 1967 and began a career as an educator and academic administrator. It wasn't until the 1980s that she decided to pursue writing full time and began to educate herself on her Mexican heritage. Reading about Mexico and Mexican Americans deepened her understanding of her cultural heritage and how her upbringing, family history and education shaped who she is as an adult. "I experienced that not uncommon transformation experienced by many whose pasts have been ignored or diminished. I began to see Mexico, to see its people, hear its echoes, gaze up at its silent and silenced grandeur. My Mexicanness became a source of pride."

This self-recognition as a Mexican American is a driving force behind her work as a children's author and literacy activist. She writes for children because she wants the Latina voice and many diverse cultures to be part of schools and libraries. Her books both embrace children who share her culture and reach out and invite those who do not. This vision of shared cultural heritage prompted her to establish the family literacy initiative *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* (Children's Day/Book Day) in 1996, a national celebration of childhood and of linking all children to books designed to spread what Pat calls "bookjoy" to people of all cultures. Now housed at the American Library Association, *Día* is celebrated all year long, culminating on April 30 with special events across the country to highlight the link between children, books and cultural heritage. The Estela and Raúl Mora Award, named in honor of her parents, is given annually in partnership with REFORMA for the most exemplary *Día* celebration in a public library.

Pat's books for children have received numerous awards and accolades. Most recently, *Yum! ¡Mmm! ¡Qué Rico! America's Sproutings* (2007) was named to the 2008 ALA Notable Book list. *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale of a Giant Woman with a Big Heart* (2005) received the Pura Belpré Award for narrative, as well as being an ALA Notable Book, a New York Public Library Book for Reading and Sharing; and the recipient of the Golden Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from State University of New York (SUNY) Buffalo in 2006.

"I write because I am a reader," Pat says. "I want to give others what writers have given me, a chance to hear the voices of people I will never meet." This has been the guiding principle of the author's body of work over two decades as a poet, writer and literacy activist. It is this desire, eloquently and successfully executed, for which Pat Mora is honored with the 40th Southern Miss Medallion.

Married to an archaeologist and professor at the University of Cincinnati, Pat lives in Santa Fe, N.M. She has three grown children, one of whom is a cat veterinarian who makes house calls. Her Web site is www.patmora.com.

PAT MORA BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Agua, Agua, Agua*, ill. by Jose Ortego (Lee & Low, 1994).
- The Bakery Lady/La Señora de la Panderia*, ill. by Pablo Torrecilla (Pinata, 2001).
- This Big Sky*, ill. by Steve Jenkins (Scholastic, 1998).
- A Birthday Basket for Tia*, ill. by Cecily Lang (Simon & Schuster, 1992).
- Confetti: Poems for Children*, ill. by Enrique Sanchez (Lee & Low, 1996).
- Delicious Hullabaloo/Pachanga Delicioso*, ill. by Francisco X. Mora (Pinata, 1998).
- Desert is My Mother/El Desierto es mi Madre*, ill. by Daniel Lechon (Pinata, 1994).
- Doña Flor: A Tall Tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*, ill. by Raul Colon (Dragonfly, 2005).
- The Gift of the Poinsettia/El Regalo de la Flor de Noche Buena*, ill. by Daniel Lechon (Pinata, 1995).
- Let's Eat! ¡A Comer!* ill. by Mirabel Suarez (HarperCollins, 2008).
- A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana Inés*, ill. by Beatriz Vidal (Knopf, 2002).
- Listen to the Desert/Oye al Desierto*, ill. by Francisco X. Maca (Clarion, 1994).
- Love to Mamá: A Celebration of Mothers*, ill. by Paula S. Barragan (Lee & Low, 2001).
- Maria Paints the Hills*, ill. by Maria Hesch (Musuem of New Mexico Press, 2002).
- ¡Marimba! Animales from A to Z*, ill. by Doug Cushman (Clarion, 2006).
- My Own True Name: New and Selected Poems for Young Adults* (Pinata Books, 2000).
- The Night the Moon Fell*, ill. by Domi (Groundwood Books, 2000).
- Pablo's Tree*, ill. by Cecily Lang (Simon & Schuster, 1994).
- The Race of Toad and Deer*, ill. by Domi (Groundwood, 2001).
- The Rainbow Tulip*, ill. by Elizabeth Sayles (Viking, 1999).
- The Song of Saint Francis and the Animals*, ill. by David Frampton (Eerdmans, 2005).
- Tomás and the Library Lady*, ill. by Raul Colon (Knopf, 1997).
- Uno, Dos, Tres: One, Two, Three*, ill. by Barbara Lavalley (Clarion Books, 1996).
- Yum! Mmmm! ¡Qué Rico! America's Sprouting*, ill. by Rafael Lopez (Lee & Low, 2007).
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VICKI COBB

Award-winning author Vicki Cobb has written over 85 books for children, sharing with readers her own lifelong enthusiasm and love of science and learning. From *Science Experiments You Can Eat* (1972) to her recent series, “Where’s the Science Here?” Vicki has taken an entertaining and unconventional approach to non-fiction subjects. She credits her style of writing to the joy of learning her mother instilled in her. Growing up in Greenwich Village, she attended The Little Red Schoolhouse, a progressive school where learning was always fun, creative and hands-on. She says she tries to recreate that thrill of discovery with every book she writes. “It is my intention,” she is quoted in *Contemporary Authors*, “that if my book is the first book on the subject that is read, it will definitely not be the last.”

This engaging approach has led to numerous citations and awards, including a New York Academy of Science Best Science Book of the Year award, the Eve Gordon Award for Contribution to Children’s Science Literature, the Washington Irving Children’s Book Choice Award (twice), ALA Pick of the List for Outstanding Science Trade Books and the SLMSSSENY Award for Outstanding Contributions to Children’s Literature. *I Fall Down* (2005), an introduction to gravity for preschoolers, was a Sibert Award honoree for best informational book in 2004. In addition to her books on experiments, Vicki has created a number of series on scientific principles for different age groups. “Science Fun with Vicki Cobb” includes four titles that investigate sound, force, water and motion. “Where’s the Science Here?” is a middle school series that surveys junk food, fireworks and stage effects, and “Vicki Cobb Science Play” (pre-K) explores gravity, light and water for the preschool set.

Vicki grew up in New York City, majored in zoology at Barnard College and earned a master’s degree in secondary science education at Columbia. In addition to writing children’s books, Ms. Cobb has worked in scientific research, as a teacher, and as a television host and writer. Her newest title, *We Dare You! Hundreds of Science Bets, Challenges and Experiments You Can Do at Home* (Skyhorse), is due out on May 1, 2008.



LORIS LESYNSKI

Author, poet and illustrator Loris Lesynski was born in Sweden to a Polish father and a Finnish mother and immigrated to Canada with her family when she was still a child. From the moment she learned her letters, Loris knew that she loved writing and wanted to do it forever. She also enjoyed reading and drawing from the time she was a child and has been able to incorporate those passions in her professional life. Until she felt she was ready to be a writer, Loris engaged in a number of interesting and varied professions, including teaching, nursing and graphic design, which became a segue to her eventual career as a children’s author and illustrator. When asked about the book she enjoyed writing most, she says that she feels such a connection to

her stories and characters that they are all her favorites.

Though Loris did not begin her professional career as a children’s author and illustrator, she has made up for lost time by publishing a number of books in recent years. Her first book, *Boy Soup*, which she also illustrated, was published in 1996. Other story books include *Ogre Fun* (1997), *Catmagic* (1998), *Night School* (2000) and *Rocksy* (2002), all of which were met with critical acclaim. Best known for her strong rhythm and rhyme, Loris has also published several collections of poetry for young children, including *Zigzag: Zoems for Zindergarten* (2004), and *I did it because...* (2006), an explanation of poetic elements for kids based on her own poems. Her latest book, *Shoe Shakes* (2007), is intended for preschoolers and emphasizes the crazy sounds they love to hear and make.

A resident of Toronto, Loris is a member of the Canadian Children’s Book Centre, the Board of Directors of the Creche, the IBBY International Reading Association, and the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. She enjoys visiting kindergarten classes to soak up the culture of the students and learn the words and sounds they like best.

JAMES RANSOME



James Ransome was born in Rich Square, N.C., where there were no museums, art galleries or art classes; he wrote and drew simply to entertain himself. His first influences were from his grandmother's illustrated Bible and MAD magazine. When he was in high school his family moved to New Jersey and he was finally able to take art and film-making classes in high school. He developed an interest in sports illustration and eventually earned a degree in illustration from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

While at Pratt, James became acquainted with Jerry Pinkney, an instructor, and saw a copy of Valerie Flourney's *The Patchwork Quilt* (1985), which Jerry illustrated. He was inspired. Pinkney became a good friend and mentor and, soon after graduation, James was illustrating books for children.

One of his first endeavors, *Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)* (1990) has become a perennial favorite of librarians and children.

Since that time, James has enjoyed a prestigious career in art and illustration. He is the recipient of both a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor for *Uncle Jed's Barbershop* (1993) and a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award for *The Creation* (1994), which also won an IBBY Honor. The Children's Book Council has named James one of the seventy-five authors and illustrators that everyone should know, and several books that he illustrated have been featured on *Reading Rainbow* and *Storytime*. He received the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance Award for *The Wagon* (1996) and the NAACP Image Award for Illustration for *Let My People Go* (1998). In 2001, the School Library Media Specialists of Southeast New York awarded him the Rip Van Winkle Award for his body of his work.

Currently, James lives with his four children and his wife Lesa Cline-Ransome in New York state. He and his wife have collaborated on several titles, most recently *Pele* (2007) and *Helen Keller: The World in Her Heart*, due out later this year.

GERALD HAUSMAN



Although Gerald Hausman is often described as a folklorist and storyteller, he has always been an author, poet, editor and educator. Born in Baltimore, Md., Gerald has traveled to and lived in diverse locations around the world, which has contributed to his magnetic and award-winning storytelling abilities. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts from New Mexico Highlands University in 1968, Gerald remained in the Southwest for over 20 years, and many of his stories of Native American myth and folklore come from his knowledge of the area. He has also found significant influences in Jamaican and Caribbean culture where he and his wife Loretta established a school for creative writing.

Since the time he was in college, Gerald has been writing and publishing poetry, and he expanded his repertoire to include children's and young adult literature after graduation. He has published over thirty books in his career, often collaborating with other authors including Cedella Marley, the oldest child of Bob Marley. His children's books include *Duppy Talk: West Indian Tales of Mystery and Magic*, which won an Aesop Accolade Award from the Children's Section of the American Folklore Society in 1995. *Doctor Bird: Three Lookin' Up Tales from Jamaica* won the Notable Social Studies Book for Young People designation and was an Americas Award Commended Book in 1998. *The Jacob Ladder* was designated a Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People and a New York Public Library Best Books for the Teen Age. In 2003, *Escape from Botany Bay* received the Parent's Choice Silver Medal for Nonfiction and was designated both the New York Public Library Best Book for the Teen Age and a CCBC Choice book in 2004.

Gerald Hausman lives with his wife in Bokeelia, Fla., where he continues to write and tell stories for young and old alike. He frequently travels to universities as a guest storyteller in writer's programs and to young authors' conferences around the world.



WILL WEAVER

It is said that in order to write well, write what you know. Will Weaver has certainly done that. In his novels and short stories, Mr. Weaver clearly demonstrates his knowledge of sports, family and his native Minnesota.

Born in Parks Rapids, Minn., Will received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree from Stanford University. He grew up on a small dairy farm and was an outdoorsman from birth. His Billy Baggs series, *Strike Out*, *Farm Team*, and *Hard Ball* reflects his experiences as captain of his high school baseball team.

Will and his wife Rosalie returned to Minnesota from California to take over his father's dairy farm and raise their family. He had dreams of becoming a gentleman farmer/writer, but quickly remembered how much work farming was and began teaching writing and literature full time at Bemidji State University, a career that lasted twenty-four years. Retired, he now writes full time and enjoys traveling. All of his stories demonstrate an intrinsic understanding of teens, putting his characters in unique situations that have universal applications. His message that every person has exceptional qualities is demonstrated in his most recent novel, *Defect* (2007), the story of a teenage boy learning to accept himself physically, as he is.

True to form, Will's newest title is also a reflection of real-life experience. *Saturday Night Dirt* (2008) is the story of teens whose one connection is the world of stock car racing. At sixteen, the author participated in a demolition derby and won second place. He is currently the owner of a stock car cosponsored by his publisher, Farrar, Straus, & Giroux. The first of his Motor series, it is due out April 1.



KIMBERLY WILLIS HOLT *de Grummond Lecturer*

Though she grew up all over the world, Kimberly Willis Holt considers herself a true Southerner. Born in Pensacola to a naval family, Kimberly has lived in France, Guam and several naval bases across the United States. Throughout her nomadic childhood, her family always came back to Forest Hill, La., where her parents grew up.

As an adult, Kimberly was uncertain of her profession. She had wanted to be a writer since she was twelve, but early on an acerbic writing teacher made that dream seem untenable. She attended college, but quit before graduating to become a news radio director. There were other career attempts, ranging from selling radio ad time to being a "terrible" interior decorator. She did manage to fall in love with her husband Jerry and have a daughter named Shannon. They relocated to Texas when Shannon was young and Kimberly decided she was at a crossroads. She felt her choice was to either try writing or give up the dream completely. She started writing and has never looked back.

All of Kimberly's books are instigated by a memory or a family member. Her first book, *My Louisiana Sky* (1998), was inspired by a woman in Louisiana. Nine years old at the time, Kimberly's mother told her that the woman and her husband were mentally disabled and had many children. Kimberly wondered what that was like for the children. Her third novel, the National Book Award winner *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* (1999), is based on a recollection of going to the Louisiana State Fair when she was a teen. She paid to see "The Fattest Teenager in the World" and uncharacteristically struck up a conversation with him. In her newest book, *Piper Reed Navy Brat* (2007), she again takes from real experience and recalls life as a child of military parents.

On her Web site, www.kimberlywillisholt.com, Kimberly organized her biography by the food that evokes her memory, proof that no matter how far she has traveled in this life, she will always be a Southern girl at heart!

The Ezra Jack Keats Lecture

Ezra Jack Keats (1916-83) 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 book, *The Snowy Day* (Viking, 1962), was revolutionary by sympathetically dealing with the experiences of an African-American child. A multiracial and urban world was beautifully reflected in many of his other books. Although comfortable and adept with many mediums, Keats is justly 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 of Southern Mississippi is very proud that Keats was the 12th recipient of the Southern Miss Medallion for outstanding contributions to children's literature. In 1985, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation established the Ezra Jack Keats Lectureship at the annual Children's Book Festival. Since then, the lectures have been given by the following distinguished individuals:

1985	Brian Alderson	1997	Ann Lundin
1987	Betsy Hearne	1998	Roger Sutton
1988	Nancy Hands	1999	Susan Hirschman
1989	Ellin Greene	2000	Richard Peck
1990	Michael Patrick Hearn	2001	Patsy Perritt
1991	Dorothy Butler	2002	Barbara Elleman
1992	Ann Thwaite	2003	Eliza Dresang
1993	Anita Moss	2004	Eric Kimmel
1994	Anita Silvey	2005	E.B. Lewis
1995	Selma Lanes	2006	Floyd Dickman
1996	Leonard Marcus	2007	Leonard Marcus



BARBARA IMMROTH

Professor Barbara Immroth has dedicated her life to supporting and promoting children's librarianship. She began her career as a school library media specialist and received her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. On the faculty at the University of Texas, Austin, School of Information for more than two decades, she has been the president of both The Association for Library Service to Children (1989-90) and the Texas Library Association (1997-98), and served on the Caldecott, Newbery and the Notable Children's Books committees. She is a prolific writer and has published numerous works on children's literature and services to children, including *Library Services to Youth of Hispanic Heritage* (2000), which she edited with Katherine de la Peña McCook, and has been on the editorial boards of *American Libraries*, *CRITICAS* and *School Library Media Research*. Her newest book, *Health Information for Youth: The Public Library and School Library Media Center Role* co-authored with W. Bernard Lukenbill, was published in 2007.

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, Miss., 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. 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, La., 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 Mattie Rials, Children's Librarian, Pike-Amite-Walthall Public Library System, McComb
- 1999 Lawana Cummings, Library Media Specialist, St. Martin East Elementary, Ocean Springs and Charjean 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
- 2007 Ramona Barrett, Children's Librarian, Clarksdale Public Library
- 2008 Sally James, Children's Librarian, Pass Christian Public Library

2008 Concurrent Session Presenters

Joan Atkinson is a freelance specialist in children's literature. She is the former director of the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Science, where she was on the faculty for more than 20 years.

Kathy Barco earned her Master of Library and Information Science from Southern Miss in 1997 and is currently a children's librarian with the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System. She was Youth Services coordinator for the New Mexico State Library from 2001-06 and is the author of *READiscover New Mexico – A Tri-Lingual Adventure in Literacy*. She received the 2006 Leadership Award from the New Mexico Library Association.

Clayton Bess is the pen name of Robert Locke, an author and playwright who lives in Sacramento, Calif. Writing as Clayton Bess, he is the author of the picture book *Truth About the Moon*, and the novels *Story for a Black Night*, *Tracks*, and *Big Man and the Burnout*. *Story for a Black Night* was a 2002 Phoenix Honor Book. Locke was a member of the Peace Corps in Liberia, one of the first deployments of Peace Corps volunteers, and where two of his novels are set.

Sarah C. Campbell is a writer and photographer. Her first children's book, *Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator*, a fact-filled story about a day in the life of a tiny, and unexpected, predator will be published this year by Boyds Mills Press. An experienced journalist with multiple master's degrees, Campbell's writing and photographs have appeared in a wide range of publications, including *Highlights for Children* and *The New York Times*.

Rosemary Chance was an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Southern Miss from 2000-04 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.

Floyd Dickman is a freelance specialist in children's literature. In 2000, he retired from the State Library of Ohio and is currently an adjunct professor at Kent State University and Ohio Dominican University. He is an active member of the Association for Library Services to Children and REFORMA. A member of the Caldecott Committee in 1986, 1994 and 2002, Floyd was named the 1990 Ohio Librarian of the Year by the Ohio Library Association.

lori Easterwood earned her Master of Library and Information Science from Simmons College in Boston and holds a Master of Arts in American literature from Keele University in the United Kingdom. As a teen librarian at the Sacramento Public Library, she loves having a positive response to the frequently asked question, "do you rent video games at the library?"

Carrel Gueringer is a pre-/lower-school librarian at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans. She is a published author and Louisiana's regional adviser for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the organization that awards the Golden Kite Award. She also teaches writing children's literature at the University of New Orleans.

Brooke Quinn Howard is an early childhood music and movement specialist living in Hattiesburg, Miss. She is a voracious reader and enjoys passing on her love for literature to her students. An accomplished vocalist, Brooke holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Southern Miss in theater performance, and currently enjoys instructing children on music fundamentals - through play! - as the owner of Kidstunes.

Continues on following page

2008 Concurrent Session Presenters continued

Daniel A. Kelin II is the director of drama education with the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. He also serves as a summer drama director with Jodrikdrik Nan Jodrikdrik Ilo Ejmour, a Marshall Islands youth organization, a thespian group that uses Marshallese folklore to explore and teach about social issues through drama.

June Lacanski and Rochelle Sides-Renda are perennial presenters at the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival. They are graduates of the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Science and have worked as children's specialists in the Birmingham Public Library for more than 40 years combined. They estimate that they have designed and implemented over 500 summer reading programs in their combined careers.

Bettie McGiness is a third-year doctoral student at the University of Texas and recipient of the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, "Youth, Community, Libraries: Empowerment for Success." She taught fourth grade for 12 years and was an elementary school librarian for five years. Her research interests include school library services to marginalized groups, class and race representations in children's literature, and school librarians' roles as school leaders.

Jamie Naidoo is a faculty member at the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science. He just finished serving on the United States Board on Books for Young People's 2008 Outstanding International Booklist Committee and the 2008 Pura Belpré Awards committee and is currently serving on the 2009 Caldecott committee. His primary research areas are multicultural/international children's literature and library services to Latino children and young adults.

Ellen Ruffin is the curator of the de Grummond Children's Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi. The former librarian at Hattiesburg High School, she is a graduate of the Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science.

Karla Schmit is an education and behavioral sciences librarian and assistant director of the Pennsylvania Center for the Book. She holds a Master of Library and Information Science from The University of Southern Mississippi and a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in elementary education and reading from Minnesota State University. She is a doctoral candidate at Penn State in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in language and literacy and an emphasis in children's literature.

Lindsey Patrick Wesson is a children's librarian at the Sacramento Public Library and a recent graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science. Her greatest joy in her job is putting the right book in the right hand, especially when the owner of that hand would prefer to be holding a game controller.



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. While 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 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, who founded the collection in 1966. She assembled materials that were sent by contributors from around the world. More than 1,200 artists, illustrators and collectors have generously donated books and original materials to the collection.

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.

Please visit the de Grummond exhibit room, located on the second floor of Cook Library, which contains highlights from the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection as well as from the past 41 years of the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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Children's Book Festival Speakers, 1968-2007

Arnold Adoff
Jon Agee
Brian Alderson
Valerie Alderson
Aliki
Lee Ames
Berthe Amoss
Nancy Anderson
Kathi Appelt
Jose Aruego
Patricia Austin
Avi
Thomas J. Aylesworth

Molly Bang
Liz Ann Barber
Kathy Barco
Pam Barron
Caroline Bauer
Marion Dane Bauer
Kay Bishop
Quentin Blake
Elizabeth Bowne
Carolyn Brodie
Bruce Brooks
Ashley Bryan
Barbara Bryant

Judy Broadus Bullock
Dorothy Butler
Eric Carle
Carroll Case
Betty Cavanna
Tony Chen
Beverly Cleary
Esmé Codell
Evelyn Coleman
Carroll Coley
Bryan Collier
Pam Conrad
Scott Cook

Children's Book Festival Speakers, 1968-2007 continued

Floyd Cooper
Barbara Corcoran
Bruce Coville
Donald Crews
Chris Crutcher
Pat Cummings
Floyd Dickman
Tomie de Paola
Carol Doll
Sharon Draper
Eliza Dresang
Mary K. Eakin
Richard Egielski
Barbara Elleman
Ed Emberley
Carol Evans
Tom Feelings
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The History of the Children's Book Festival at The University of Southern Mississippi

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. Lena 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 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 – the 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 was presented 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. Onva K. Boshears served as director of the festival. Dr. Jeannine 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 dummies 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 artist honoree and Brian Alderson as the first Keats lecturer. In years since, the lecture has 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. Boshears, 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, an 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. 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.

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Special Thanks

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI FAY B. KAIGLER CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 2008 FESTIVAL:

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