

42nd Annual
Fay B. Kaigler
Children's Book
Festival

2009 Program



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI MEDALLION

Presentation of The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion is the highlight of the Children's Book Festival. Awarded annually for outstanding contributions in the field of children's literature, this year's recipient is Judy Blume. Silver medallions are cast for the recipient, for the president of The University of Southern Mississippi, for members of the medallion selection committee, and for the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection's permanent display. In addition, silver nickel medallions are cast and are available for purchase during the festival.



RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDALLION

1969	Lois Lenski	1990	Charlotte Zolotow
1970	Ernest H. Shepard	1991	Richard Peck
1971	Roger Duvoisin	1992	James Marshall
1972	Marcia Brown	1993	Quentin Blake
1973	Lynd Ward	1994	Ashley Bryan
1974	Taro Yashima	1995	Tomie dePaola
1975	Barbara Cooney	1996	Patricia MacLachlan
1976	Scott O'Dell	1997	Eric Carle
1977	Adrienne Adams	1998	Elaine Konigsburg
1978	Madeleine L'Engle	1999	Russell Freedman
1979	Leonard Everett Fisher	2000	David Macaulay
1980	Ezra Jack Keats	2001	Virginia Hamilton
1981	Maurice Sendak	2002	Rosemary Wells
1982	Beverly Cleary	2003	Lois Lowry
1983	Katherine Paterson	2004	Jerry Pinkney
1984	Peter Spier	2005	Kevin Henkes
1985	Arnold Lobel	2006	Walter Dean Myers
1986	Jean Craighead George	2007	Eve Bunting
1987	Paula Fox	2008	Pat Mora
1988	Jean Fritz	2009	Judy Blume

Judy Blume

42nd Southern Miss Medallion Recipient



It cannot be denied that Judy Blume has had an indelible impact on children's and young adult literature over the past four decades. Her books have sold over 80 million copies, been translated into in 31 languages, won countless awards and been adapted to all manner of media. Her popularity is often attributed to her realistic yet compassionate discussion of topics relevant to her target audience. That these books are still popular to succeeding generations of readers attests to this.

Her frank content and language, lack of moralizing or prescribed solutions disturb some; however, Judy's ability to normalize the feelings of her characters, as well as those of her readers, irrevocably raised the bar for writing realistic fiction for children.

Judy's writing career began with publication of *The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo* (1969) about a middle child who feels invisible stuck between his older brother and younger sister. *Iggie's House* (1970) was next, and *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* (1970) soon followed. By the mid-1980s she had produced more than 15 books and become one of the most recognizable names in literature, but the recognition was not always favorable. During this same time her books became some of the most contested titles for children in American literary history.

Publication of *Margaret* gave Judy her first taste of censorship. The principal at her children's school would not allow copies of the book in the school library because it discussed menstruation, and an unidentified woman phoned her home and called her a communist. (What the connection between *Margaret* and communism was, Judy admits, she never quite understood.) During the 1970s efforts to restrain access to books were scattered and isolated, but in the 1980s attempts to stifle not just her books, but any book deemed potentially troublesome, became organized and dogged. Many of Judy's titles, including *Then Again, Maybe I Won't* (1971); *Deenie* (1973); and *Blubber* (1974) were challenged, some on such vague accusations as having a 'lack of moral tone.' When her editor pressured her to change text so as not to draw ire, Judy decided it was time to take a stand and speak out against censorship. With the support of Judith Krug of the ALA Freedom to Read Foundation and the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC), she became an active voice in the fight against limiting children's choice of reading material. She still works closely with both organizations, speaking out and getting involved when needed to support the freedom to read. In 1999 she edited an anthology of short stories, *Places I Never Meant To Be: Original Stories by Censored Writers*, which brought together a number of characters in remarkable situations. All the contributors, who had some of their work challenged or banned in the past, donated their royalties to the NCAC. Her concern, however, is not just an author's freedom to write, but the freedom of young people to read and think. Judy says she laments the books that will never be written, much less read, due to the fear of ideas and a desire to control everyone's access to information.

The Southern Miss Medallion is not the first acknowledgment for her work that Judy Blume has received. She has been recognized for her contributions to literature with the 1996 Margaret A. Edwards Award from the American Library Association, named a Library of Congress Living Legend in 2000, and in 2004 received the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters from the National Book Foundation. She advocates tirelessly for intellectual freedom through national organizations and outreach to writers, as well as founding The Kids Fund, a charitable and educational foundation. She assures aspiring writers there are “no hard and fast rules for writing, and no secret tricks... the best books come from someplace deep inside.”

For all her life, Judy Blume has been a storyteller, writing from her personal experiences and feelings. She does not try to provoke responses, but uses an honest voice to address issues and situations that she believes are important to children and teens. This voice, so elegantly stated and poignantly used, as well as her fight to preserve everyone’s right to read, is why Judy Blume is being honored with the 2009 Southern Miss Medallion for contributions to the field of children’s literature.

Judy Blume Bibliography

- Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* (Bradbury, 1970)
BFF: Best Friends Forever: Two Novels (Delacorte, 2007)
Blubber (Bradbury, 1974)
Cool Zone with the Pain and the Great One, ill. James Stevenson (Delacorte, 2008)
Deenie (Bradbury, 1973)
Double Fudge (Dutton, 2002)
Forever (Bradbury, 1975)
Freckle Juice, ill. Sonia O. Lisker (Four Winds, 1971)
Fudge-a-mania (Dutton, 1990)
Going, Going, Gone! With the Pain and the Great One, ill. James Stevenson (Delacorte, 2008)
Here's to You, Rachel Robinson (Orchard Books, 1993)
Iggie's House (Bradbury, 1970)
It's Not the End of the World (Bradbury, 1972)
Just As Long As We're Together (Orchard Books, 1987)
Letters to Judy: What Your Kids Wish They Could Tell You (Putnam, 1986)
The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo, ill. Lois Axeman (Reilly & Lee, 1969)
Otherwise Known as Shelia the Great (Dutton, 1972)
The Pain and The Great One (Dell, 1974)
Places I Never Meant to Be (editor) (Simon and Shuster, 1999)
Smart Women (Putnam, 1983)
Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One, ill. James Stevenson (Delacorte, 2007)
Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself (Bradbury, 1977)
Summer Sisters (Delacorte, 1998)
Superfudge (Dutton, 1980)
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, ill. Roy Dotty (Dutton, 1972)
Then Again, Maybe I Won't (Bradbury, 1971)
Tiger Eyes (Bradbury, 1981)
Wifey (Putnam, 1978)

Note: Only first editions are listed.

2009 SPEAKERS

Ashley Bryan



Some books are best read in a quiet corner. Ashley Bryan's books seem to demand a stage, at the very least an audience. In his stories, Ashley recaptures an oral tradition by developing and giving new life to the tales and motifs collected by linguists and anthropologists around the world. He uses folk tales and spirituals to express the contributions of people of color around the world, demonstrating how cultures share similar stories. These tales bring people together, bridging the past to the present, one culture to another. Literary devices such as rhyme, rhythm, syncopation, and repetition are used to recreate the voices and music of traditional storytelling. His bold use of line and color in vibrant artwork capture the spirit and energy of his tales, while the movement and rhythm of music influence the language.

Born in 1923, Ashley is the son of Antiguan immigrants. He grew up in the Bronx during the Great Depression in a large family with two very musical parents. They welcomed friends who had also immigrated from the Caribbean and West Indies into their home, and there they would gather to play music, sing, dance and tell stories. Neither a great musician nor dancer, Ashley preferred to draw the dancing and absorb the stories and music. He created his first book in his kindergarten class at the age of five. Encouraged by his family and teachers, he chose to turn his passion into a career. He attended New York's Cooper Union Art School, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, earned a degree from Columbia University, and was a Fulbright Scholar. He taught art for many years and eventually became the head of the art department at Dartmouth College.

Ashley Bryan has received numerous recognitions for his work. He has received three Coretta Scott King Awards for illustration, and five Coretta Scott King honors, four for illustration and one for writing. His lifetime achievement honors include an Arbuthnot Lecture, the Virginia Hamilton Award, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, and the Southern Miss Medallion for contributions to the field of children's literature (1994).

Retired from Dartmouth College, Bryan continues his work on Little Cranberry Island in Maine. His autobiography, *Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life's Song*, was released in 2008. A natural and energetic performer, he still enjoys entertaining children and adults with his stories and favorite poems, and he actively promotes the importance of connecting children with books worldwide.

Jan Spivey Gilchrist



Jan Spivey Gilchrist's passion for painting and education has guided her career as writer and illustrator of children's books for over a quarter of a century. A life-long resident of Chicago, she has traveled throughout the world and received national and international acclaim for her work.

As a child, Jan's family recognized her talent for art, and she was encouraged to visit museums to help develop her art abilities. She was an art educator and painter for many years before she illustrated her first children's book, *Children of Long Ago* (1988), by Lessie Jones Little. Since that time Jan has illustrated or written over forty-seven books for children. Being of African descent, she recognizes the need for children of color to be presented in a positive light in the medium. Through her illustrations her books focus on self-esteem for African

American children and their families. She has illustrated many books with Eloise Greenfield and together they have produced over fifteen award-winning titles. She has also worked with numerous other authors such as Lucille Clifton, Tynia Thomassie, Sharon Bell, and Rebecca Kai Dotlich.

Jan has received many accolades for her illustrations and paintings. She is the recipient of both a Coretta Scott King Award and an honor for her book illustrations. She was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumni for her contributions to children's literature by Eastern Illinois University, and was named Illustrator of the Year by the Chicago Black Book Fair. She was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent, received the Purchase Award from the DuSable Museum, and awards from the National Academic Artists Association for her paintings. Her art has been exhibited widely, including one-man exhibitions at the Art Institute of Chicago; the St. Louis Museum of Art; the Museum of the National Center of African American Artists, Boston; and the Ward-Nasse Gallery, New York.

Jan has a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University in art education, a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in painting, an MFA in writing for children from Vermont College, and doctoral degree from Madison University. She is married to Dr. Kelvin Gilchrist and has two children and a granddaughter.

Eloise Greenfield



Eloise Greenfield has touched more than one generation of children with her sensitive and compelling portrayals of loving African American families, communities, and all children's life experiences. Family solidarity, relationships, black heritage, and everyday situations all contribute to her soulful writings. Her voice has led the way to meet the needs of children of color to read about someone like them. She is a prolific author, publishing an average of a book a year since 1973. She writes in multiple genres, including picture books, biographies, poetry, and novels.

Eloise was born in North Carolina, the second of five children, and grew up in Washington, D.C. She was a shy child, preferring reading and music to group activities. She played the piano, sang in various groups, and loved to attend concerts and shows. As an adult, she planned to become an elementary school teacher, but instead took a job as a clerk-typist at the U.S. Patent Office and later became a supervisory patent assistant. As a wife and mother, Eloise began writing whimsical verses and rhymes in her spare time. Rejections did not discourage her, and after five years of determined efforts, she succeeded in having a poem published.

Eloise joined the District of Columbia Black Writers Workshop in the early 1970s and found camaraderie with other writers as well as information about publishers who might be receptive to her work. Her first picture book, *Bubbles*, was published in 1971. Her next book, *Rosa Parks* (1973), a biography of the civil rights activist for children, won the Carter G. Woodson Book Award from the National Council for the Social Studies.

Her work has earned her many other awards and honors throughout her illustrious career. This includes a Coretta Scott King Award for writing as well as four Coretta Scott King honors, a New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year citation, a Jane Addams Children's Book Award and the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children by the NCTE. Lifetime achievement recognitions include the Council on Interracial Books for Children Award, the National Black Child Development Institute Award, and the Mills College Award. She was also inducted into the National Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent.

Eloise still resides in Washington, D.C., and continues to participate in school and library programs and workshops for both adults and children. She is committed to provide a true account for black children, of their heritage and history, and to inspire them with resilient characters they can emulate.

John Green



John Green has followed an interesting, albeit brief, path to becoming an author. He attended Indian Springs School, an independent coeducational high school in Birmingham, and graduated from Kenyon College in 2000. After commencement he worked with teens as a chaplain at a children's hospital and then held a series of positions at Booklist, the American Library Association's book review journal. Eventually he began writing humorous pieces for WBEZ radio in Chicago and National Public Radio's All Things Considered. His life experiences have not gone to waste; they provide John with ample insight and material for his novels. Just like E.L. Konigsberg, who received both a Newbery Medal and Newbery Honor for her first two books, John's first novels also met with wide acclaim. *Looking for Alaska* (2005) was awarded the American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature, and *An Abundance of Katherines* (2006) received a Michael L. Printz honor and was named a Horn Book Fanfare Book of the Year. *Alaska* has been translated into 13 languages, and the movie rights have been purchased by Paramount. His third book, *Paper Towns*, which debuted in October, 2008, has received multiple starred reviews from industry publications.

John also maintains a lively online presence. In 2007 he and his brother Hank embarked on a year-long project in which they only conversed through daily video blogs posted to the public on YouTube. The project became a cultural phenomenon and the brothers developed a large, vocal, online following. When the project ended on January 1, 2008, they took their online conversation to nerdfighters.ning.com, a virtual community created by Hank. John's personal website, www.sparksflyup.com, is full of his characteristic wit and elaborates on his personal interests, such as last words and anagrams, which you can find in his book characters. The site archives a wealth of John's writings and has its own active community of followers. He regularly posts blogs (including video clips) to both sites. Born in Alabama, John now resides in Indianapolis, "by way," he says, "of New York and Chicago."

Louise Borden



Louise Borden is the author of 25 picture books, with three more currently in production. A history major in college, Borden attended Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Some of her books are nonfiction, including the biographies *Sea Clocks: The Story of Longitude* (2004), and *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman* (2001), co-authored with Mary Kay Kroeger.

A recent nonfiction title and ALA Notable, *The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey* (2005), involved detective work in France and three trips to the de Grummond Collection. The illustrations by Allan Drummond in *The Journey that Saved Curious George* are a vibrant echo of the artwork of Hans Rey.

A lifelong reader, Louise has spoken about the writing process in over 600 schools across the country as well as universities and conferences. In 2008, she appeared in a documentary on Dunkirk that aired on the Weather Channel. She has also been interviewed by the New York Times, USA Today, the BBC and NPR. A forthcoming interview will appear in the May, 2009, issue of *The Writer* magazine.

Contemporary school classrooms, the winter landscape of Holland, Boston on the eve of the American Revolution, a submarine lost on patrol in the Pacific, and the rescue of soldiers at Dunkirk appear in Borden's books about ordinary people who become heroes. Imagination and authentic detail frame these texts of historical and contemporary realistic fiction. *Good Luck, Mrs. K.* (1999), the story of a third grade teacher and her class, won a Christopher Award in 2000. *The Greatest Skating Race* (2004), illustrated by Niki Daly, was honored with an Ohioana Award. Louise has also received an Alumni Citation from Denison and other awards in Ohio in recognition of her contributions to children's literature.

Louise and her husband Peter have three grown children and two Colorado grandchildren. They live in Cincinnati and the Washington, D.C. metro area. Her most recent book, *Off to First Grade*, illustrated by Joan Rankin, was released in 2008.

Yuyi Morales



The captivating artwork of author and illustrator Yuyi Morales (pronounced ju-jee) can be described as a kaleidoscope of colors and textures. Born in Xalapa, Veracruz, the "Flower Garden of Mexico," she grew up surrounded by beauty and a strong, loving family. There were magical stories told at her house and she spent hours drawing, copying family portraits and images from graphic novels, and sketching her face in front of the mirror. Despite this, she did not see herself as an artist. As a teen, her talent for swimming replaced drawing as her pastime. She trained as a competitive swimmer, earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Psychology from the Universidad Veracruzana and worked as a swimming coach. In 1994 she immigrated to the United States with her newborn son, Kelly, and her husband, Tim. The transition was lonely as

Yuyi, who spoke very little English, moved in with her mother-in-law who spoke no Spanish. She found that children's books from the public library offered her an opportunity to practice English, and she enrolled in writing classes so she could write stories like the ones she enjoyed reading. She also bought art supplies and learned to paint by studying the picture books from which she and her son took so much pleasure.

Her literary career began in 1998, when she and a small group of friends founded the Revisionaries writers group. In 2000 she won the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Don Freeman Grant for promising artists, and she began illustrating her first picture book, *Todas las Buenas Manos*, written by Isabel Campoy. She attained national recognition in 2004 when she won both a Pura Belpré honor (for illustration in *Harvesting Hope, the Story of Cesar Chavez*, by Kathleen Krull) and the Pura Belpré Medal for *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*, which she also wrote. Her work has received numerous other accolades including The Américas Award from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, two Tomás Rivera awards from Texas State University, and placed on multiple best books lists. In 2008 and 2009, respectively, she was presented with two more Pura Belpré Medals for *Los Gatos Black on Halloween*, written by Marisa Montes, and *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*. Yuyi now has the distinction of being the first person to be recognized four times by the Pura Belpré Committee. Her new book, *My Abuelita*, written by Tony Johnston, is due out in September, 2009.

Arthur Yorinks



Arthur Yorinks began drawing as a young child with his mother, Shirley, who was a fashion illustrator. By the time he reached junior high school, he was collaborating with friends on comic books, an early example of his extraordinary ability to work with others to create seamless works of literature, music, and theater productions. He also studied classical piano and credits his piano instructor, Robert Bedford, with teaching him what it means to be an artist. After high school, he took up ballet and theater and became a member of the American Mime Theater, where he wrote, acted, and taught for ten years. He says that writing for the mime theater taught him to write picture books because it required him to create a story without depending upon dialogue.

Though he refers to himself as shy, Arthur was courageous enough at the age of sixteen to show up at the home of Maurice Sendak. He never actually knocked, but had turned away just as Sendak opened the door. Arthur boldly asked Sendak to read and comment on his stories, and the two eventually became friends. It was Sendak who recommended that Richard Egielski illustrate Arthur's first picture book. Yorinks and Egielski published *Sid and Sol* in 1977, and went on to collaborate on many other titles, including *Louis the Fish* (1980), *It Happened in Pinsk* (1983), and *Hey, Al* (1986), which won a Caldecott honor. He has also written stories illustrated by Sendak, William Steig, Mort Drucker, and David Small, among others. His wife is also an artist and together they published *Quack! To the Moon and Home Again* in 2003.

The scope of Arthur Yorinks's artistic ability extends well beyond children's books. In addition to writing over thirty books for children, Arthur has had nine one-act plays produced, written three opera librettos, and created a screenplay for *Sid and Sol*. He is the director of and a writer for the Yorinks theater group (formerly The Night Kitchen Radio Theater), a venture inspired by his fascination with the relationship between sound and live performance. In pursuit of what he calls "a new theater of sound," Arthur has written and directed numerous original audio plays that have been performed at the Kennedy Center and the New Victory Theater in New York City, as well as being broadcast nationwide over XM Radio.

Arthur's most recent children's books include the 2006 bestseller *Mommy?* and *What a Trip!* (2008), another collaboration with Richard Egielski. He still lives in New York City and divides his time between his theater group and serving as the artistic director for The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WNYC radio.

The Ezra Jack Keats Lecture

Ezra Jack Keats (1916-1983) 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 *The Snowy Day* (Viking, 1962) was revolutionary by sympathetically dealing with the experiences of an African-American child. A multi-racial 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 Ezra Jack 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	1998	Roger Sutton
1987	Betsy Hearne	1999	Susan Hirschman
1988	Nancy Hands	2000	Richard Peck
1989	Ellin Greene	2001	Patsy Perritt
1990	Michael Patrick Hearn	2002	Barbara Elleman
1991	Dorothy Butler	2003	Eliza Dresang
1992	Ann Thwaite	2004	Eric Kimmel
1993	Anita Moss	2005	E.B. Lewis
1994	Anita Silvey	2006	Floyd Dickman
1995	Selma Lanes	2007	Leonard Marcus
1996	Leonard Marcus	2008	Barbara Immroth
1997	Ann Lundin		

Pat Scales



President of the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) Pat Scales has spent her career working with children in libraries and as a fierce advocate for children's freedom to read. Pat received her undergraduate degree from the University of Montevallo in Alabama and her MLIS from the George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt University. She worked as a middle school media specialist in South Carolina for 28 years and served as the Director of Library and Information Services at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities until her recent retirement. Throughout her career she has been active in ALA and served on multiple committees including the Committee for Intellectual Freedom. She has been on the ALSC Board of Directors, the chair of the 1992 Newbery Committee and the chair of the 2001 Laura Ingalls Wilder Committee, among many other appointments. Pat is also on the faculty of ALA's Lawyers for Libraries program, which is designed to build a nationwide network of attorneys who are committed to the defense of the First Amendment, and has served as an expert witness for ALA in First Amendment cases. She received the 1983 AASL/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award for her work defending the principles of intellectual freedom, and the 1997 Grolier Foundation Award for her exemplary professional contributions to the "stimulation and guidance of reading by children and young people." She is the author of *Teaching Banned Books: 12 Guides for Young Readers* (2001), which has a foreword by Judy Blume. *Library Journal* named Pat a 2002 "Mover & Shaker" in the library profession for her work defending the Library Bill of Rights, and for her creation of the oft-imitated school program "Communicating Through Literature," which encourages parents to read what their students read and talk about it at home.

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
- 2009 **Linda Perez**, *Elementary Librarian*, Madison Station Elementary

2009 Concurrent Session Presenters

Rick Anderson is a professional speaker and literacy advocate. He conducts school visits throughout the United States and is often a featured speaker at reading conventions, children's book festivals and fairs and literacy events. He is a member of the International Reading Association.

Ann Mulloy Ashmore is an Assistant Professor of Library Services at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Her interest in African American children's literature began when she worked at USM in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection from 1998-2003.

Kathy Barco is a Children's Librarian with the Albuquerque Public Library. Her book, *READiscover New Mexico – A Tri-Lingual Adventure in Literacy*, won a 2008 New Mexico Book Award. Her latest publication, co-authored with Valerie Nye, is *Breakfast New Mexico Style*. Kathy is a graduate of the Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science.

John Bishop* is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at The University of Southern Mississippi. His interests lie in the ways that reading, writing and technology intersect, particularly with online tools becoming increasingly available for publishing and consuming information on the Internet. He is a member of the National Writing Project and believes strongly in the mantra that teachers are the best teachers of teachers.


Dianne Butler, National Board Certified Librarian/Media Specialist, tells stories to children of all ages, including public libraries during their summer reading programs. She has been in education 25 years, 14 of those as a librarian. Currently she is at Magee Middle School, utilizing storytelling to teach library skills. She is a member of the Central Mississippi Storyweavers Guild.

Sarah C. Campbell is a writer and photographer from Jackson, Mississippi. Her first children's book, *Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator* (Boyd's Mills Press) was named a 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book by the American Library Association. Photographs from *Wolfsnail* are included in the Southern Arts Federation's traveling exhibition *Storybook Look: Illustrations by Southern Artists*.

Rosemary Chance was an Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Southern Miss from 2000-2004 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 an Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Floyd C. Dickman, is a freelance specialist in children's literature. Currently he is an adjunct professor at Kent State University School of Library and Information Science at the Columbus (OH) campus. He is an active member of the Ohio Educational Library Media Association, the Association for Library Services to Children and REFORMA. He has served as a member of the Caldecott Committee in 1986, 1994 and 2002 and was on the 2009 Newbery Committee.

Freddi Williams Evans is a native of Madison, Mississippi. She is the author of three books: *A Bus of Our Own* which received the 2004 Mississippi Library Association Juvenile Book Award, a 2002 Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Book Award, and a 2002 Notable Social Studies Trade Book Award; *The Battle of New Orleans – the Drummer's Story*; and *Hush Harbor: Praying in Secret*, which was released in November 2008.



Laurie Fowler is the owner of Ready, Set, Think!, a professional development company that provides high-quality professional learning in technology, reading, and school improvement topics. She holds a master's degree in Educational Administration and a Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of West Alabama.

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 Advisor 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.

Tania Hanna* has 17 years of experience in K-8 schools and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education at the University of Southern Mississippi. Tania received her doctoral degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in reading from the University of Southern Mississippi.

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 49 years combined. They estimate that they have designed and implemented 586 summer reading programs in their combined careers.


Sandra Manning is currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at The University of Southern Mississippi and Vice-President for the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children. Her research interests include using books to meet the social and emotional needs of gifted students.

Jamie Naidoo is faculty at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Science. His primary research areas are multicultural/international children's literature and library services to Latino children and young adults. He just finished serving on the on the 2009 Caldecott committee.

Valerie Nye is Head of Public Services at the College of Santa Fe, NM. She is a trustee on the New Mexico Library Foundation board and has co-authored three books, the latest of which (written with co-presenter Kathy Barco) will be sold to raise funds for the New Mexico Library Foundation.

Nancy Opalko has been the Children's Librarian at the Lafayette County-Oxford Public Library for fifteen years. During her time there, she has implemented Toddler Times, Family Storytimes, literature-based puppet shows, and book clubs for children of all ages. She holds a master's degree in English from the University of Mississippi and received her MLIS from the University of Alabama in 1998.

Victoria Penny is Early Childhood Services Coordinator at First Regional Library, where she has worked since 2000. She has recently helped launch the Words on Wheels BookWagon, a mobile library service to preschool children in First Regional's five-county area. She received an MLS from Texas Woman's University in 1998 and a B.A. in English from Vanderbilt University. Previously, she was a Children's Librarian at the Fort Worth Public Library and the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Library.



Daniel Powers is an award-winning illustrator of more than twenty books for children. *Jiro's Pearl* was named an ABA "Pick of the List" and *Dear Katie, the Volcano is a Girl* won him an artist-in-residency at the Kalani-Honua Institute for Cultural Studies in Pahao, Hawai'i. His work is included in the Southern Arts Federation's traveling exhibition *Storybook Look: Illustrations by Southern Artists*. Powers is a professor of illustration at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Stacy Reeves* is Associate Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at the University of Southern Mississippi and a founding member of the Magnolia Award Committee.

Ellen Ramp* has over 20 years of experience as a school library media specialist and reading specialist in K-8 schools and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at The University of Southern Mississippi. Her doctoral degree from Southern Miss focused on literacy development in elementary school populations.

Beth Richmond* is currently an Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Accreditation in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at The University of Southern Mississippi. Beth's wide range of experience covers classroom teaching, assessments, and college level teaching. Her doctorate is from The University of Southern Mississippi in the area of literacy.

Pokey Stanford is an Associate Professor of Education at The University of Southern Mississippi, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. She has worked with inclusive settings for the past 12 years as a faculty member and consultant for local school districts, and has many years of classroom teaching experience.

Alicia Westbrook and **Nicole Briceno** work with the Institute for Disability Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi. They are Early Interventionists and provide direct services to families with children with special needs. They also provide training and technical assistance to early childhood educators throughout the state.

Shawn Niolon White received a Bachelor's in Social Science from Mississippi University for Women and a MLIS from the University of Alabama. She has been a High School Library Media Specialist for 8 years in at Velma Jackson High School in Madison County Mississippi. Mrs. White is currently a member of the Madison Reading Council, ALA, and AASL.

**These presenters appear in conjunction with The Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education at The University of Southern Mississippi.*

Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival Tentative Schedule

Thad Cochran Center • April 1, 2 and 3, 2009

Wednesday, April 1st

9:30 A.M. - 2:15 P.M.
Workshops and sessions

2:30 - 3:30 P.M.
Autographing
Location: Barnes & Noble

3:45 - 5 P.M.
de Grummond Lecture with Louise Borden
Location: Ballrooms

7:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Jan Spivey Gilchrist
Location: Ballrooms

Thursday, April 2nd

8:30 - 9:30 A.M.
Ashley Bryan
Location: Ballrooms

10:00 - 11:00 A.M.
Eloise Greenfield
Location: Ballrooms

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.
Keats Luncheon with Pat Scales
Location: Ballrooms
Ticket Required

1:30 - 3:00 P.M.
Medallion session with Judy Blume
Location: Bennett Auditorium

3:30 - 5:30 P.M.
Autographing
Location: Barnes & Noble

5:30 - 6:30 P.M.
Yuyi Morales
Location: Ballrooms

7-10 P.M.
Coleen Salley Celebration at
The Bottling Co.
126 Mobile St.
Downtown Hattiesburg

Friday, April 3rd

9 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Workshops and sessions

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.
Arthur Yorinks
Location: Ballrooms

10:00 - 11:30 A.M.
Autographing
Location: Barnes & Noble

12:45 - 2:15 P.M.
Luncheon with John Green
Location: Ballrooms
Ticket Required

Children's Book Festival Speakers, 1968-2008

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
Vicki Cobb
Esmé Codell
Evelyn Coleman
Carroll Coley
Bryan Collier
Pam Conrad
Scott Cook
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
Denise Fleming
Paula Fox
Russell Freedman
Barbara Freeman
Jean Fritz
Chuck Galey
Patricia Lee Gauch
Jean Craighead George
Charles Ghigna
Faye Gibbons
Ellin Greene
Bette Greene
David S. Halacy
Gail Haley
Mary Hamilton
Virginia Hamilton
Nancy Hands
Gerald Hausman
Michael Patrick Hearn
Betsy Hearne
Kevin Henkes
Susan Hirschman
Tana Hoban
Will Hobbs
Bonnie Holder
Kimberly Willis Holt
Lee Bennett Hopkins
Robert Hubbard
Sylvia Hubbard
Irene Hunt
Trina Schart Hyman
Barbara Immroth
Anne Izzard
William Joyce
Jean Karl
Erza Jack Keats
Steven Kellogg

Eric Kimmel
Margaret Mary Kimmel
Debra King
Elaine Konigsburg
Joseph Krumboltz
Karla Kuskin
Barbara LeCroy
Loris Lesynski
Betsy Lewin
Ted Lewin
E.B. Lewis
Robert Lipsyte
Anita Lobel
Arnold Lobel
Lois Lowry
Anne Lundin
David Macaulay
Patricia MacLachlan
Leonard Marcus
James Marshall
Jill May
Ann McConnell
Emily Arnold McCully
Barney McKee
Pat & Fred McKissack
Bruce McMillan
May McNeer
Milton Meltzer
Eve Merriam
Pat Mora
Barry Moser
Anita Moss
Walter Dean Myers
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Elizabeth Nichols
Kevin O'Malley
Iona Opie
Peggy Parish
Laurie Parker
Katherine Paterson
Kate Pearce
Richard Peck
Patsy Perritt
Peggy Pfeffer
Mary Anderson Pickard
Jerry Pinkney

Lillie Pope
Martin Pope
Jack Prelutsky
Robert Quackenbush
James Ransome
James Rice
Bruce Roberts
Evester Roper
Pam Muñoz Ryan
Robert Sabuda
Rose Anne Saint. Romain
Coleen Salley
Jan Scott
Anita Silvey
Peter Sis
Esphyr Slobodkina
Sonya Sones
Frances Lander Spain
Peter Spier
Jay Stailey
Janet Stevens
Whitney Stewart
Eric Suben
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Roger Sutton
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Alan Tiegreen
Tim Tingle
Jeanne Titherington
Chris Vinsonhaler
Will Weaver
Rosemary Wells
Irving Werstein
Maureen White
Nancy Willard
Deborah Wiles
Mo Willems
Garth Williams
Vera Williams
Kathryn Tucker Windham
Diane Wolkstein
Jane Yolen
Herbert S. Zim
Paul Zindel
Charlotte Zolotow

Members of the Medallion Selection Committee

Dr. Elizabeth Haynes (chair), *Associate Professor*, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Catharine Bomhold, *Assistant Professor*, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Pamela Barron, *Associate Professor (ret.)*, The University of North Carolina- Greensboro

Dr. Rosemary Chance, *Assistant Professor*, Sam Houston State University

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Floyd Dickman, *Children's Literature Specialist*

Dr. Barbara Immroth, *Professor*, University of Texas School of Information

Sharon McQueen, *University of Wisconsin- Madison*

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

Melissa Wright, *Instructor*, The University of Southern Mississippi

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection is one of North America's leading research collections 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 2nd 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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de Grummond Children's Literature Collection
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The University of Southern Mississippi
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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 – 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 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.

CREDITS

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Special Thanks

The University of Southern Mississippi Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival expresses appreciation to the following for contributions to the success of the 2009 festival.

Dr. Martha Saunders, *President*, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Wanda Maulding, *Interim Dean*, College of Education and Psychology

Dr. Aubrey Lucas, *President Emeritus*, The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Jay Norton, *Director*, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi

Fay B. Kaigler, McComb, Mississippi

Ruth Lamont, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dr. Martin Pope, Dr. Lillie Pope, Dr. Deborah Pope, and the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation

LISSA, *the student association of the School of Library and Information Science*, The University of Southern Mississippi

Members of the Medallion Selection Committee

Members of the Kaigler-Lamont Award Selection Committee

The faculty of the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education at The University of Southern Mississippi

Wendell's Inc. of Ramsey, Minnesota, for creating and casting the Southern Miss Medallion

Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission and Mississippi College

Faculty, staff, and students of the School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi.

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