The 47th Annual Conference on Children’s Literature

March 18-19, 2016
UGA Hotel and Conference Center
at the Georgia Center
Athens, GA

Sponsored by
The Department of Language and Literacy Education
The University of Georgia
Friday, March 18

7:30-9:00  Registration

8:00-5:00  Bookstore and Exhibits Open

8:15-8:30  Welcome: Dean Craig Kennedy, College of Education, University of Georgia
           Introduction by Joanne Ratliff, University of Georgia

           Announcements

8:30-9:30  First General Session:  Becoming an Illustrator
           Eric Velasquez, Illustrator and Author
           Introduction by Marianne Snow Campbell, University of Georgia

           This presentation will share my most recent books, including OL' CLIP CLOP and my best selling GRANDMA'S RECORDS and the award winning GRANDMA'S GIFT. Attendees will be introduced to the culture by hearing music, as well as seeing photos and video of the actual band mentioned in these books. I will explain and show my process from rough sketch, to book dummy, to finished art for the book OL' CLIP CLOP.

9:30-10:00  Break: Authors Signing and Exhibit Visits

10:00 -10:45  Concurrent Sessions One

1- Author Workshop:  Patricia McKissack  (NOTE: requires separate registration)
           Start to Finish

           Looking at a blank screen (or sheet of paper) can be frustrating. During this workshop participants will use the key elements of story--characters, action, setting and idea--to develop a concept from start to finish. They will look at various ways to write a beginning, how to develop an idea, and how to end without being didactic and preachy.

2- GCBA (2016-2017) Book Nominees: Classroom Applications and Standards Connections
           Georgia Book (Gr. 4-8) Award Committee Members:
           Denise Davila, University of Georgia
           Traci Blackstock, P.B. Ritch Middle School
           Terrie Gribanow, Dearing Elementary
           Donna Jones, Avondale Elementary
           Bev Kodak, Ola Middle School
           Leslie Olig, Cedar Ridge/North Harlem Elementary
           Erin Rehberg, Thomas County Upper Elementary and Middle Schools
           Julie Stokes, Dalton Middle School

           In this interactive session, Georgia Children's Book Award (GCBA) Book Award committee members will share how you can easily integrate the 2016-2017 book nominees into your curricula! A range of standards-based classroom ideas and creative applications will be highlighted. Handouts of the instructional ideas will be available for all session attendees.

3- Read-Alouds That Rock Across the Curriculum!
           Diane Shore, author

           Rhyming read-alouds aren’t just for storytime. They’re great for introducing new concepts and theme units in all subjects, including language arts and math. Learn how to use rhyming read-alouds to increase students' vocabulary, stimulate imaginations, develop attention, listening, communication/writing, and cognitive skills, and build background knowledge, all of which leads to independent learning.

           Handouts included.
4- Making Reading Workshop Manageable in the Classroom  
*Anthony Tumolo, Whitehouse Elementary School*  
Is the idea of reading workshop getting you overwhelmed? Join me in a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere to discuss your personal vision of reading workshop, common concerns, time management strategies, mini-lesson topics, and motivating your students. We will also discuss The Daily Five and Daily Café as well as strategies for conferencing with students.

5- Multicultural Literature for Children: Exposing Infants and Toddlers  
*Darius Phelps, McPhaul Child Development Lab, University of Georgia*  
This presentation will help young children realize that people have many differences but also share many similarities. The stories used describe how people live in different parts of the world and how children from different cultural backgrounds live together. They can be fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, but above all they must be accurate and portray characters in positive, non-stereotypical ways. This session will help parents, teachers, and others find bibliographical lists of high quality multicultural materials for children of all ages.

6- Integrating Diverse Literature in Grades 5-8  
*Tiffany A. Flowers, Georgia Perimeter College*  
The purpose of this presentation is present strategies, resources, and seamless ways to select compelling, well-written, and diverse books to use in the classroom Grades 5-8.

7- Muggles Can Make Magic, Too!--Turning Non-Readers into Readers and Writers in the Classroom  
*Dennis Jolley, Cherokee High School and Kennesaw State University*  
How many times have you heard a kid say they don't like to read? If you're like me, too many. This practical session will illustrate how one local has used YA Literature to create a culture of literacy. YA Literature, author visits, and creative writing have transformed our school.

8- Troubling Gender Roles in YA Literature  
*Margaret Robbins, University of Georgia*  
This session will discuss novels that challenge traditional gender roles, including Every Day and Another Day by David Levithan, If I Stay and Where She Went by Gayle Forman, and Isla and the Boy Next Door by Stephanie Perkins. I will also discuss literacy lesson plans related for these novels.

10:50-11:50 Second General Session: Make learning about History fun!  
*Michael Dooling, Illustrator and Author*  
*Introduction by Courtney Shimek, University of Georgia*  
In 2013, author and illustrator Michael Dooling was selected to a Top Ten List of Great Author Visits by the Pennsylvania School Library Association. Michael makes learning about History fun in the January issue of Story Monsters Ink magazine. His book, Fossil Hunter, brings to life the story of the dinosaur that changed the world.

12:00-1:00 Luncheon and GCBA Award presentation  
*Presentation of GCBA Award to Patricia McKissack and Eric Velasquez*  
*Jennifer M. Graff, University of Georgia*  
*Announcement of the 2016 GCBA Book Award Winners*  
*Denise Davila, University of Georgia*

1:10-1:55 Concurrent Sessions Two

9- Author Workshop: Carmen Deedy (NOTE: requires separate registration)  
*It's Storytelling, Not Rocket Science*  
Join children's author and storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy in this 45-minute crash course in the art and craft of story. Ms. Deedy believes human beings are hard-wired for storytelling and that any one of us can tell a story with just a handful of skills and a smattering of practice. Come prepared to *have fun* as well as to acquire a few new techniques!
10- Let’s Talk: Using expressive engagement with traditional and fractured fairy tales in the primary grades.
Nicole Clark McGowan, Newton County Theme School
First grade students are invited to participate and respond five different ways as they listen to two traditional fairy tales and two with a southwestern twist. Students will talk back to characters in Cinderella, dramatize the adventures in Bubba the Cowboy Prince, insert themselves into Little Red Riding Hood, and critique in a way that allows them to be expressive and control story elements in Little Red Cowboy Hat. This workshop demonstrates how literature can invite students to develop a deeper understanding of stories, taking ownership over their engagement while empowering students to work creatively.

11- Hot books for Middle Grade readers and what we can do with them
Julie Stokes, Dalton Middle School
SR Johannes, author
What books are middle grade readers fighting over? How can we use their love for books to drive them in their writing? Come see how we can use the books they cannot put down as mentor texts for multi-genre writing.

12- Little House Lessons…80 Years and Going Strong!
Ann T. DeRosa, Whitehouse School
Do you have an interest in crafting cross-curricular experiences for your students? See how one elementary school approached a school-wide, thematic unit as everyone celebrated the life and works of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The principal will describe each aspect of how the school community brought the Little House on the Prairie back to life!

13- Literature-Based Collaborative Writing in the Primary Grades
Diane Mergele, West Jackson Elementary School
Bronwyn Sheffield, West Jackson Elementary School
Can even the youngest writers be successful working in collaborative groups to complete creative, literature-based writing projects? Absolutely! Two kindergarten teachers host a workshop demonstrating how this can be achieved, while increasing student engagement, motivation, and self-confidence. Participants view authentic student work and receive lesson plans with suggested literature lists.

14- From School Hallways to Neighborhood Streets: Using Children’s Literature to Empower Communities in the Fight for Social Justice
Mario Worlds, University of Florida
Xiaochen Du, University of Florida
For minority students and families, school and home can be viewed as mutually exclusive spaces with competing ideologies, rather than two spaces that inform one another. This presentation will discuss the power of community based reading programs to promote conversations about issues facing minority communities, while developing valuable literacy skills.

15- Diverse (Auto)Biographies as Counternarratives
Marianne Snow Campbell, University of Georgia
Jennifer K. Allen, University of Georgia
How can teachers and students challenge cultural biases present in many social studies textbooks and other educational materials? In this interactive session, we will discuss the benefits of confronting biased historical narratives by reading picturebook (auto)biographies about diverse historical figures and encouraging students to create their own (auto)biographies.

16- Breaking the Boundaries: New Voices, New Formats and New Ideas in Today's Nonfiction
Heather L. Montgomery, author, McDowell Environmental Center
From outrageous illustrations to irreverent voices, today’s boundary-pushing books are chipping away at the confining walls of humdrum nonfiction. Examine how nonfiction is breaking boundaries, compare and contrast texts on the same topic, and explore how authorial voices are coming into their own. Plus, practice engaging exercises for your students.
Third General Session: Choose Your Own Speech  
Alan Gratz, author

Introduction by Margaret Robbins, University of Georgia

Join Alan Gratz, the author of the middle grade and young adult novels Prisoner B-3087, Code of Honor, The League of Seven, and more, for an interactive presentation where YOU get to decide which direction the speech goes! Want to hear about his disastrous Little League adventures, or his abject failure as a youth soccer player? Want to hear about Samurai Shortstop, or The Brooklyn Nine? It's up to you!

3:00-3:25 Break: Authors Signing and Exhibit Visits

3:25-10 Concurrent Sessions Three

17- Author/Illustrator Workshop: Michael Dooling  (NOTE: requires separate registration)

Doodle With Dooling


18- GCBA (2016-2017) Picturebook Nominees: Classroom Applications and Standards Connections

*Georgia Children’s Picturebook Award Committee Members:*
  Jennifer M. Graff, The University of Georgia
  Evan Bush, Athens Clarke County Library and Regional Library System
  Eric Carpenter, Fred A. Toomer Elementary School
  Melissa Castle, Parkwood Elementary
  Michelle Fitzgerald, Hightower Trail Elementary
  Tonya Grant, Barksdale Elementary
  Jennifer Lewis, Indian Knoll Elementary
  Lindy Moore, Dog River Public Library
  Courtney Smith, Tybee Island Maritime Academy

In this interactive session, Georgia Children’s Book Award (GCBA) Picturebook Award committee members will share how you can easily integrate the 2016-2017 picturebook nominees into your curricula! A range of standards-based classroom ideas and creative applications will be highlighted. Handouts of the instructional ideas will be available for all session attendees.

19- Picturebooks for Community Development in Bulgaria

*Ivan Botev, Toyo University*

In this audience-engaging presentation we will look at several great examples of picturebooks and how they can teach young learners about their own hometown and local community, as well as introduce more distant ones; how picturebooks can instill in children pride in their roots and stronger sense of belonging.

20- The Science All Around You—The Way a Non Fiction Author Sees the World

*Jennifer Swanson, Author*

In this interactive program, attendees will peek inside the mind of a science author to see how they get ideas. Using vivid images and examples from my NGKids book, Brain Games, attendees will learn how science and writing intersect to create nonfiction that is both informative and leap-off-the-page exciting!

21- Exploring Selections of Children’s Books for Diverse Learners

*Soowon Jo, University of Florida
Rongrong Dong, University of Florida*

In this presentation we take a close look at selection of children’s literature. Presenter 1 highlights strategies for coaching preservice teachers in discerning high-quality children’s books. Presenter 2 explores overt and covert values that the selection of exemplar books included in Common Core State Standards English Language Arts may convey,
22- Literature as Mirrors and Windows: Seeing Ourselves in Books and Learning about Others Through Books
Lesley Roessing, Armstrong State University
Books allow adolescents to discuss problems in their lives and become more empathetic of issues faced by others by talking about characters and the problems they face. Books not only demonstrate how adolescents cope with problems in their lives—in constructive and detrimental ways—but also facilitate safe discussions about those choices, leading to positive attitudes towards reading. Books appropriate for Grades 4-8 readers that focus on issues in young teen lives and engage even reluctant readers, written in a variety of genres will be shared.

23- Pop Culture: Putting the Pizzazz in Library Programming!
Jessica Osborne, Davis Academy
Wendy Cape, Woodstock Middle School
Looking for programming that resonates with students in different age groups? Is it hard to compete with Taylor Swift and Adventure Time for student engagement and creation? In this session, we’ll talk about lessons and strategies that incorporate pop culture to our advantage in the media center.

24- Books for Thought, Not Work: One Student’s Journey to Becoming an Avid Reader
Rachel Sanders, University of Georgia
Rhia Moreno Kilpatrick, University of Georgia
A true love for reading is often hard to find, especially inside the parameters of school. Too often an association is formed between work and reading. This presentation will describe one student’s journey to becoming an avid bookworm and how a non-traditional literacy activity influenced this development.

25- Toward a more just community: Promoting social justice and critical literacy through children’s literature
Deborah Harris, Florida Atlantic University
Traci Baxley, Florida Atlantic University
Are you interested in promoting social justice in your classroom? Do you want to inspire children to create a better community through understanding and action? Come discover how to engage K-5 students in developing critical literacy action plans through the thoughtful use of children’s literature. Book recommendations will be provided.

4:15-5:00 Concurrent Sessions Four

26- Author Workshop: Alan Gratz (NOTE: requires separate registration)
Using Books by Alan Gratz in the Classroom
Join Alan Gratz, the author of the middle grade and young adult novels Prisoner B-3087, Code of Honor, The League of Seven, and more, for examples of how his books have been used in middle school and high school classrooms.

27- How the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Can Better Support GCBA
Barbara Hallstrom, Georgia HRRB State Steering Committee
Mary Etta Thomas, Co-Chair Georgia HRRB
Sue Ann Prigge, Co-Chair DeKalb County HRRB
Donna Jones, Co-Chair DeKalb County HRRB
Wendy Smith, Fulton County HRRB
This interactive presentation will demonstrate the deep relationship between the Georgia HRRB and the GCBA. The selection of GBA nominees from titles recommended by educators throughout the state and how each nominee is selected will be discussed and the role of HRRB to support the final list.

28- Children’s Authors in Your Own Backyard!
Authors: Sara Lynn Cramb, Faye Gibbons, Kami Kinard, Heather Montgomery, Diane Z. Shore, Jennifer Swanson, Jodi Wheeler-Toppen, Lisa Lewis Tyre, Shelli Johannes-Wells
You might just have a children’s author around the corner from your library! Come meet these SCBWI Southern Breeze authors who’ll be signing their books at the SCBWI reception, and find out how you can get them out of their backyards and in front of your readers!
29- The Stealthy Storyteller: How to Sneak the Five Practices of Every Child Ready to Read into your Preschool Storytime
Teresa Jones, West Georgia Regional Library
This session will give the basics of a 30 minute storytime for preschoolers, demonstrating how to use reading, writing, singing, playing, and talking in a fun way.

30- Making Classic Authors Appealing to Middle Schoolers
Stephanie Singer, Readington Middle School
This session will look at the introduction of classic authors and literature to 6th graders through the Classic Author Series, a monthly author and book talk that encourages reading classic novels.

31- Human Rights in Children's Literature
Sarah Higinbotham, Georgia Tech
How can children grow to realize their inherent human rights and respect the rights of others? This presentation will explore the question through both human rights law and through the texts much closer to young people's lives: children's literature.

32- Crafting Poetic Gems: Science and the Language Arts
Judith Rypma, Western Michigan University
At first glance, it might seem odd to combine the teaching of two challenging subjects: poetry and science. Yet this multi-visual presentation explores ways to do just that, encouraging young readers and writers to expand their poetic horizons while simultaneously bridging the seemingly wide gap between literature and science.

33- Do Nonfiction Picturebooks have Synergy?
Courtney Shimek, University of Georgia
Ever struggle to find nonfiction books to read aloud? Synergy (the relationship between illustration and text) in picturebooks provides a complex, but beneficial element to any read aloud. Come explore current award-winning nonfiction books for evidence of synergy and discuss how these books contribute to our classroom curriculum!

5:00-6:30 Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI Southern Breeze) Reception
All conference attendees are welcome.
Reception in the Magnolia Ballroom with SCBWI authors and illustrators who will be signing their books (available in the bookstore). Cash bar (wine and beer). Light hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Saturday, March 19

7:30-8:30 Registration

8:00-12:00 Bookstore and Exhibits Open

8:30-9:30 Fourth General Session: Spotlight on a Local Author: On Owning the Written Word
Carmen Deedy, Author
Introduction by Chelsey Bahlmann-Bollinger, University of Georgia
New York Times best-selling author Carmen Agra Deedy, will speak on the topic of generational literacy. Her keynote will include stories of her own path to literacy—most significantly that of her ninety-two-year-old father, who learned to read at fourteen at the hands of a most unlikely tutor.

9:30-10:00 Break: Author Signing and Exhibit Visits

10:00-10:45 Concurrent Sessions Five

34- Author/Illustrator Workshop: Eric Velasquez
(NOTE: requires separate registration)
Creating a Picture Book Cover Sketch with Eric Velasquez
In this workshop Eric Velasquez shares the experience of the creative process for creating the cover art of a picture book. During the workshop he will show his own sketches as well as guide the participants in creating a sketch for the cover art of a picture book. Furthermore, he will discuss the importance of the image and how it should impact the reader. Eric Velasquez will also explain the various book dimensions and how much room should be allowed for the title. Ultimately, the workshop will be a great exercise for participants to share with their own students, with an emphasis on the students creating their own narratives. Materials will be available.

35- Breaking the Cycle of Crime and Incarceration through Literacy
_Andrea Shelton, HeartBound Ministries
_Adrienne Mills, HeartBound Ministries_
An estimated 72,000 Georgia children are separated from a parent due to incarceration (not including children of parents in jails/detention centers). These children are some of the most vulnerable in our communities. This presentation will explore the use of children’s literature in reaching children and families separated by incarceration.

36- Digital Stories using Q&R Codes
_Mileeka Frank, Whitefoord Elementary School_
Let’s make reading interactive and exciting. As mobile learning and technology is more readily integrated within classroom settings, QR codes can be used as an interesting method to capture a student’s attention and make lessons more interactive.

37- How to get students into the media center and motivate them to read
_Martha B. Williams, Goodyear Elementary School_
Do you want to see your students “on fire” to read? Do you feel that electronics/television out shine the love of books? This presentation is practical advice on how to entice your students and staff into the media center to get them reading.

38- Bats, Bubbles, and Boogaloo: Fully-Engaged Learning with Camp Read-a-Rama
_Michelle Martin, University of South Carolina_
_Rachelle Washington, Allen University_
_Clayton Copeland, University of South Carolina_
_Kayla Washington, University of South Carolina_
Move, groove, sing and dance while learning with the staff of Camp Read-a-Rama, a summer day camp based in South Carolina for 4-11 year olds that uses children’s books as the springboard for all camp activities. Participants will receive a music CD, helpful handouts, and an experience of a lifetime.

39- Shaking Up Shakespeare: Classic Literature with a Modern Twist
_Margie Longoria, Mission High School_
_Araceli Chapa-Leija, Mission High School_
YA literature is filled with so many retellings of classic literature. This will be a Book Talk and presentation of many YA novels that can be used as paired reading or as supplemental reading in the classroom alongside their classic counterparts.

40- Using Novels to Reinforce Common Core Standards in the Middle School Classroom
_Kami Kinard, author_
Having trouble finding engaging ways to address Common Core Standards? Children’s authors are here to help! In this session the presenter will explore novels by authors who have incorporated Common Core Standards into their plots, settings, or themes and will offer ways to utilize these novels in instruction.

41- Building Literacy Boards with Discovery Education_
_Tomiko Cobb-Jean, Dunbar Elementary School_
Explore innovative ways for students to demonstrate an understanding of literacy concepts. Board Builder engages your students in higher levels of thinking as they create online posters (Board Builder) to show their level of understanding about the content under investigation. In this session, participants will learn to combine text, images, audio, and video to tell stories that make information “stick.”
11:00-12:00  Fifth General Session: Building Bridges With Books
Patricia McKissack, Author
Introduction by Rachel Sanders, University of Georgia
An overview of McKissack’s beginning readers, picturebooks, novels, biographies, and other nonfiction, and how each can be used to help children learn about a culture different from their own—different not meaning wrong. Children, ages 4 to 14, can also learn the important contributions made by African Americans to the growth and development in this country.

11:00-12:00  Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl
Elementary School Finals
Middle School Finals
High School Finals
Awards