

The Center for Children's Books

July/August 2010 Newsletter

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What's New on the CCB Website

Bibliography: Royalty Rocks: Kings, Queens, and Everything In-between

http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/bibliographies/royalty_2010.html

Created July 2010 by Ayanna Coleman

Every month, the CCB creates an annotated bibliography of good books on a specific subject. In order to be eligible for the list, the books must be recent (within the last five years) and Recommended (R or R*) by the Bulletin. To suggest a subject for a future bibliography, email ccb@uiuc.edu. All requests will be considered.

News

Congratulations to our Colleagues

The Center would like to say warm congratulations to Betsy Hearne, Kate McDowell and the past Center for Children's Books Graduate Assistant Kelley Anne Johnson. Betsy won the 2010 Anne Devereaux Jordan Award from the Children's Literature Association. This annual award recognizes significant contributions in scholarship and/or service to the field of children's literature. Kate McDowell won the Donald G. Davis Article Award which is presented every two years to recognize the best article written in the field of library history. Last, but certainly not least, Kelley Anne will be starting her new job as the Children's Department Manager of the Brentwood Branch of the Springfield-Greene County Library in early July.

Welcomes and Farewells

Some of you may have noticed that there are a few new faces in the CCB! That's right; we have three new Graduate Assistants; Laurel Halfar, Miriam Larson, and Claire Gross. Laurel is the new CCB Staff Graduate Assistant. She hails from Mahomet and graduated from Illinois State University in 2009. Our new Outreach Graduate Assistant is Miriam Larson who is an Urbana native and a second year GSLIS student. Claire is from Boston, Massachusetts and has taken over the Bulletin Graduate Assistantship. Don't hesitate to stop in and introduce yourselves to all of our wonderful additions!

This fall the CCB will also be welcoming a new faculty director, Deborah Stevenson, and saying goodbye to our fabulous Christine Jenkins, who concludes her 3-year term as CCB faculty director in August and resumes her position as full-time youth services faculty member at GSLIS.

July/August Calendar

Monday, August 24 — Fall Semester Hours Begin

Monday, 10 AM – 5 PM

Tuesday, 10 AM – 7 PM

Wednesday, 3 PM – 7 PM

Thursday, 10 AM – 7 PM

Friday, 10 AM – 5 PM

Free parking is available after 5:00 PM and on weekends in the parking garage across the street from the GSLIS building.

To see a complete calendar of events, visit our website (<http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu>).



Message from the Director, Dr. Christine Jenkins

Summer on the University of Illinois campus may be a slow-moving time for some, but at GSLIS the activity level revs up to high. In addition to the 39 classes offered during May, June, and July, this summer saw the largest class ever of entering LEEP students as three 60-student cohorts came to campus for their first GSLIS course. Summer here at the CCB has been lively as well. At the same time, the end of the 2009-10 academic year provides an opportunity to consider the past year's activities as we look forward to 2010-11.



The end of the 2009-10 academic year brings to a close my three-year term as Director of the Center for Children's Books. With the start of the 2010-2011 academic year Deborah Stevenson, who has served as Editor of the Bulletin since August 2001, will don an additional hat as she moves into the Director's chair of the Center for Children's Books. So first, I want to extend a warm welcome to incoming CCB Director Deborah Stevenson!

LOOKING BACK:

Each spring the hard-working CCB Graduate Assistants compile the CCB Annual Report documenting the Center's many ongoing activities. This past year the Center hosted 2300+ visitors who used 3700+ items from the CCB collection. The Center fielded 1300+ reference questions via phone, email, and in person and hosted more than 30 meetings, programs, and other special events. The CCB's Annual Book Sale raised close to \$20,000, a sum that fully funds the Bulletin's half-time Graduate Assistant position for 2010-11.

Youth services students receive a rich and varied education at GSLIS. During the 2009-10 academic year GSLIS course offerings included a total of 23 online and on-campus sections of 12 youth-related courses. This level of activity continues into the future. At the moment we have 13 sections of 5 different youth services courses scheduled for Fall 2010. A number of GSLIS courses are also open to non-degree-seeking ("Community Credit") students. If you think that you might be interested in taking a GSLIS course as a Community Credit student, full information is available at: <http://www.lis.illinois.edu/academics/programs/cpd/communitycredit>

The CCB sponsored and hosted presentations on a broad array of youth-related topics in 2009-10, ranging from Dr. Allison Druin's Gryphon Lecture describing her work with children as co-creators of library websites, to Dr. Andrea Immel's illustrated account of the history of Aesop's fables. The CCB was featured in presentations at the annual meetings of ILA (Illinois Library Association) and ISLMA (Illinois School Library Media Association), as well as more locally in Champaign County's Youth Literature Festival and the annual CCB Storytelling Festival.

As I wrap up my term as CCB Director, I've been reviewing our Annual Reports for 2008, 2009, and 2010 and reflecting on the many Center activities during that time. The CCB is both a physical space and an intellectual space. As such, it lends itself to many activities, from providing reserve readings and a look at the books reviewed in the latest Bulletin, to a collaborative space for group meetings. Some groups have monthly meetings (e.g., the GSLIS student-led Youth Lit Book Club, the Youth Literature and Culture Interest Group, and Story Coach), while others meet once per semester (e.g., informational meetings for students selecting youth services courses, sessions for K-12 students on creating electronic portfolios, on-campus meetings of online [LEEP] courses). The CCB is also a congenial space for special events (the CCB Fall Open House, research-based lectures by visiting scholars) and for informal meetings of students, educators, LIS professionals, and scholars of youth literature and librarianship.

I want to conclude my final "From the Director" column by focusing briefly on two of our best-known activities—the Gryphon Award and the Gryphon Lecture—and the ways in which they represent the overall mission of the Center for Children's Books, which is described on the CCB home page (<http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/>). The final sentence of the mission statement reads: "The Center sponsors activities and hosts interdisciplinary research projects involving both theory and practice. In its dual role as research collection and educational community, the Center has national impact on the future of reading and readers."

A Tale of Two Gryphons

The gryphon is a powerful mythological creature with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. The gryphon is known for guarding treasure, so its image is an apt one for the Center for Children's Books. Annual events sponsored by the Center include the Gryphon Lecture and the Gryphon Award. To me, the two events, taken together, exemplify the Center's commitment to interdisciplinary research

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involving both theory and practice.

The Gryphon Lecture

The CCB's support of theory-based interdisciplinary research is amply demonstrated by the CCB's annual Gryphon Lecture, a presentation of research in youth, literature, and culture by a scholar from LIS, English, Education, or related discipline. In 2008 Professor Lynne McKechnie (Faculty of Information and Media Studies, University of Western Ontario) shared her investigation of teens' public library use based on interviews with teen readers and inventories of their personal collections of books and informational media. In 2009 Professor Karen Coats (English Department, Illinois State University) explored children's developing understanding of humor based on her analysis of texts for young readers. In 2010 Dr. Allison Druin (Director of the Human-Computer Interaction Lab, College of Information Studies, University of Maryland) presented her research on children's online information search strategies based on home studies of 83 children aged 7, 9, and 11. Taken together, these demonstrate the range of questions asked and research methods used by scholars who investigate young people, youth literature, and the cultural contexts in which young readers may (or may not) make connections with texts.

The Gryphon Award

The CCB's annual Gryphon Award puts theory into practice for young readers. First awarded in 2004, this annual prize goes to books for young readers that "best exemplify those qualities that successfully bridge the gap in difficulty between books for reading aloud to children and books for practiced readers." Just as a musician develops the requisite skill through years of practice, the lifelong reader develops literacy as a sequence of skills that begins with letter recognition and simple decoding and ends with fluent reading. A book that children find engaging is a book to which they return again and again; this voluntary repetition provides children with the practice needed to become fluent readers. The Gryphon Award is given to books that children will want to pick up on their own. Taken together, Gryphon Award winners and honor books demonstrate the broad range of children's reading interests.

Recent Gryphon Award winners have included a lively tale of knights and dragons that is also a helpful guide to aspiring cartoonists (*Adventures in Cartooning*); an album of stunning color photographs of frogs accompanied by a simple yet fact-rich text (Nic Bishop's *Frogs*); and a quirky account of a mischievous boy's attempts to enliven school picture day, told in graphic novel format (*Billy Turtle in "Say Cheese"*). Recent Gryphon Honor books have included realistic and fantastic stories based on familiar experiences and interests in the lives of primary school age children: a birthday party (*Nikki & Deja: Birthday Blues*), a new school (*Kit Feeney: On the Move*), a camping trip (*Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters*), the tribulations of a world class klutz who wants to play football (*Rufus the Scrub Does Not Wear a Tutu*), a superhero fantasy adventure (*Traction Man Meets Turbo Dog*), a how-to book on the perilous process of bathing a cat (*Bad Kitty Gets a Bath*); and a colorful collection of arresting arachnids (Nic Bishop's *Spiders*).

LOOKING FORWARD:

Looking forward to the upcoming academic year, I have the twin pleasures of anticipating my own return to full time teaching and the Center's ongoing and new activities under the creative and capable guidance of Deborah Stevenson. The Center for Children's Books continues to thrive! We hope to see you soon!

New Books We Just Had to Read

Every month, the CCB Graduate Assistants highlight books reviewed in the most recent issue of the Bulletin that we were very excited to read. These decisions are based on personal preference, but all books listed are Recommended by the Bulletin. The goal is to introduce you to brand-new books. For complete reviews, visit the Bulletin website (<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu/>) to learn how to subscribe.

Ayanna's Choice:

Tomlinson, Heather. *Toads and Diamonds*.
Henry Holt, 2010 278p R
Gr. 7-10 ISBN 978-0805089684 \$16.99

The classic Cinderella tale is retold within the fictional Indian land of Hundred Kingdom. There are no evil stepsisters and the fairy godmother that is known for showering the protagonist with gifts and magic is actually her and her stepsister's initial downfall and later savior. With an underlying story of Christianity coming into India and how the citizens of Hundred Kingdom react to two conflicting religions, this tale touches both the readers' senses and emotions.

Laurel's Choice:

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *The Dreamer*. Scholastic,
2010 372p R Gr. 5-8
ISBN 978-0-439-26970-4 \$17.99

Ryan's fictionalized biography explores the young life of the Nobel-Prize winning poet Pablo Neruda. Throughout the story Neruda struggles to overcome his domineering father in order to pursue his passions. Ryan focuses on events, both small and large, that shape Neruda's life. Poetry and thought-provoking questions are inserted throughout Ryan's prose. The unique writing style coupled with the fanciful illustrations of Peter Sis makes for a fantastic book. The major theme that resonates, to pursue what you love, is sure to inspire readers of all ages.

Corrie's Choice:

Bell, Cathleen Davitt. *Little Blog on the Prairie*. Bloomsbury, 2010 288p R
Gr. 7-10 ISBN 978-1-59990-286-9 \$16.99

When her Little House on the Prairie-obsessed mom decides to enroll the family in a two month long historic farm camp, 14-year-old Gen finds herself stuck in 1890 playing the role of dutiful farm girl (complete with endless lifestyle limitations). Her only comfort comes through using her contraband cell phone to send undercover texts about her new life, including her attempts to milk cows, churn butter, win at kick the can, and impress the cute neighbor. When her best friend publishes her texts on a blog that instantly goes viral, life at Camp Frontier starts to get complicated. This is a definite must read for Farmville addicts.

General CCB Information

The Center for Children's Books (CCB) houses a non-circulating research collection of over 16,000 trade books for youth, birth through high school, and over 1,000 professional and reference books on the history and criticism of literature for youth, literature-based library and classroom programming, and storytelling. The collection includes prominent displays of Blue Ribbon Books (titles chosen by Bulletin reviewers as the best of the previous year's children's books), current award winners, books reviewed in the current issue of the Bulletin, and monthly thematic displays. The CCB also houses a growing collection of storytelling audio and video recordings.

We ensure all materials are available to patrons whenever the CCB is open - this means no materials leave the collection. Although the collection is non-circulating, it is available for examination by students, scholars, teachers, librarians, and other educators.

Our research collection emphasizes contemporary works, especially books from the last five to seven years, as well as titles of historical and critical significance.

The Center for Children's Books is located in Room 24 on the ground floor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. GSLIS is located at 501 E. Daniel Street in Champaign.

Enter GSLIS through the building's main north entrance. Go up the stairs to your left (through an arched wooden doorway) and turn left. You will see another set of stairs. Go down to the lower level. Turn right to enter the Center.

How can the CCB assist you?

Meeting Location

Looking for a place for your group to meet? If your purpose is related to children's literature or libraries, contact us to reserve space.

Research Collection

Do you want to see a book before you purchase it? The CCB has a copy of every book reviewed by the Bulletin in the past 5-7 years!

Reference Services

Are you really stumped? The CCB will guide you to reference solutions. Call (217) 244-9331 or email ccb@illinois.edu.

Center for Children's
Books
501 E. Daniel St.
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 244-9331
ccb@illinois.edu
<http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu>

Hours
Monday: 10 am - 5 pm
Tuesday: 10 am - 7 pm
Wednesday: 3 - 7 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 7pm
Friday: 10 am - 5 pm



Graduate School of Library
and Information Science

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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Highlighted Book from Our Wish List

MacDonald, Margaret. Shake-It-Up Tales!. August House, 2000. ISBN 978-0874835700

This is a great book for librarians that include 20 tales from all over the world. The activity book also provides tips for audience involvement and a brief background for each tale.

For more information about the CCB Wish List or how to donate books to the CCB, please visit <http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/wish-list.html>.