



Hollins To Launch M.F.A. In Children's Literature

Roanoke, Va. – Hollins University, one of the first schools in the country to offer a program devoted exclusively to the study and writing of children's literature, will begin offering a master of fine arts (M.F.A.) degree in the genre in the summer of 2005.

Graduate students will now have the option of pursuing an M.F.A. or a master of arts (M.A.) degree in writing for children over a period of three to five summers.

Forty-eight credits are required for the M.F.A. degree (as compared to 40 credits for the M.A. degree), made up of ten four-credit courses and a thesis, which will consist of a book-length original work in poetry, fiction or drama for children. Students must also pass a comprehensive final examination.

The concurrent programs are closely associated with Hollins' nationally-recognized creative writing program, with faculty made up of Hollins writers and professors as well as other leading scholars from the field of children's literature.

The study of children's literature as a scholarly experience was initiated at Hollins in 1973 by the major American poet and children's poet William Jay Smith. The graduate degree in children's literature began in the summer of 1992.

Possibly the most widely known and read alumna of Hollins is Margaret Wise Brown, a 1932 graduate, among whose many books for children are the classics *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*. Among the many other Hollins students who

have written for children are Hillary Homzie, A. LaFaye, Lee Robinson, Karen Adams Sulkin, and Willie Wilson.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate education for women, selected graduate programs for men and women, and community outreach initiatives. In addition to children's literature, Hollins will begin offering M.F.A. degrees in dance and screenwriting next year.

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