Children's Book Writing & Illustrating M.F.A.

Hollins University offers a summer M.F.A. program devoted exclusively to the study, writing, and illustrating of children's books, leading to an M.F.A. degree earned over the course of four to five summers, during six-week sessions held from mid-June through July.

This degree represents a marriage of courses offered through the M.F.A. in Children's Literature and the illustration courses offered for the Certificate in Children's Book Illustration.

Designed as a summer graduate program to run concurrently and in collaboration with the M.A./M.F.A. courses in Children's Literature and the Certificate in Children's Book Illustration, this M.F.A. in Children's Book Writing & Illustrating will require a total of 60 credits. Graduate students will complete the degree requirements over a period of four to five summers. The concurrent programs offer a uniquely diverse community of writers, scholars, and artists learning from each other on Hollins' historic and beautiful campus, visits from a nationally known writer-in-residence, an exceptional array of visiting speakers and artists; and the chance to participate in an annual student organized Francelia Butler Conference on Children's Literature.

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE AND VISITING SPEAKERS

A writer-in-residence and a scholar-in-residence visit each summer and consult individually with students on their manuscripts and scholarly papers. In addition, many other visiting writers, scholars, and artists lecture each summer. Our writers-in-residence in summer 2016 will be Cece Bell, Newbery Honor winning author of the graphic novel *El Deafo*, and tom Angleberger, creator of the bestselling *Origami Yoda* series. Our scholar in residence will be Roberta Trites, author of *Disturbing the Universe: Power and Repression in Adolescent Literature,* winner of the Children's Literature Association's Book Award.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREES

M.F.A. Degree

M.F.A. students will be required to take four 500-level art courses of 6 credits each, an independent study in art based on the student's specific focus, six 500-level English courses of 4 credits each, plus 8 thesis credits for a total of 60 credits to obtain the degree. The English courses will be a combination of writing and critical study of children's literature and children's book illustration. All students in their final semester will receive a review of their portfolio and personal feedback from an art director in a major New York publishing house.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Tuition for the 2016 summer term is $830 per credit hour or $8,300 for the normal load of one four-credit course and one 6-credit course. Student loans and scholarships are available. Applicants should indicate their financial need on the application for admission.

A nonrefundable deposit of $400 is due from new students. This deposit will be credited to the student's account and reflected on the summer term billing.

A nonrefundable deposit of $200 is due from returning students by May 15. This deposit indicates the student's intent to enroll for the coming term and will be credited to his or her account.

Students withdrawing prior to the beginning of the term do not incur tuition charges. However, the nonrefundable enrollment deposit will remain as a credit on the student's account and may be used during the subsequent summer term for future tuition charges. Refunds will not be issued.

Courses in Children's Book Writing & Illustration

ART 523: CHILDREN'S BOOK MEDIA (4) **Sanderson**
Today's book publishing technology allows for huge variety in approaches to illustration. With lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on practice, students will be introduced to a range of historical and contemporary children's book media, including both traditional, digital, and mixed media techniques. The media choices and techniques of a variety of published illustrators will be examined in detail. *Prerequisites: ART 527 and ART 568.*

ART 523S: STUDIO: CHILDREN'S BOOK MEDIA (2) **Sanderson**
Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to more advanced approaches to image making using various media. By the second half of the term, students will focus on their medium of choice and create three finished illustrations for a professional portfolio. Every class will include critique and discussion time. All students will give a detailed presentation on the techniques of a children's book illustrator of their choice. *Prerequisites: ART 527S and ART 568S.*

ART 527: CREATING PICTURE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN (4) **Wolff**
The emphasis in this course will be on the importance of visual thinking in writing and illustrating for the picture book genre. Students will write two picture book stories of one to six pages each, created for this class only. Simple storyboards and/or mind-mapping will be utilized to help with the process of thinking about writing and revision. One of the manuscripts will then be revised and polished. A 32-page book dummy will be created with the type placed on the page, with the emphasis on pacing the story for appropriate page turns. Students will then create a cover design and one full-color double-page spread.

ART 527S: STUDIO: CREATING PICTURE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN (2) **Wolff**
Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to color theory and basic media skills for creating picture books for children. Both black-and-white and color media will be covered, such as pen and ink, watercolor, gouache, collage, simple printmaking, and an introduction to digital techniques. Class time will include critique and discussion time.

ART 568: CHILDREN'S BOOK DRAWING FUNDAMENTALS (4) **L. Mills**
Drawing is the most important skill to develop in order to become a working children's book illustrator. This course will ground students in basic drawing skills as they first work on their powers of observation and the craft of drawing in light and shade. Through a variety of class exercises, the students will learn about form, value, texture, quality and styles of line, perspective, drawing architecture and interiors, drawing people, animals, nature, and landscapes. Students will work mainly in graphite pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, and colored pencil, and will explore drawing in a variety of styles, using perspective, exaggeration, and learning how to develop their own "signature" style. The drawing styles of a variety of published illustrators will be examined in detail.

ART 568S: STUDIO: CHILDREN'S BOOK DRAWING FUNDAMENTALS (2) **L. Mills**
Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to basic and more advanced drawing techniques. Every class will include critique and discussion time.

ART 578: CHILDREN'S BOOK DESIGN (4) **Dulemba**
This class will cover the theory and practice of 2-D design for children's book illustration, using both traditional and digital methods. The elements of successful design in a wide variety of published picture books will be examined. Students will build on the skills they have developed in the classes of Drawing and Creating Picture Books for Children in a variety of challenging exercises and assignments to solve problems of visual organization while considering the interplay of text and pictures. *Prerequisites: ART 527 and ART 568.*

ART 578S: STUDIO: CHILDREN'S BOOK DESIGN (2) **Dulemba**
Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to basic and more advanced approaches to 2-D design. Every class will include critique and discussion time, and students will be expected to participate in critiques in a constructive manner. Perry Nodelman's *Words About Pictures* will be required reading, and students will be asked to do an in-depth presentation on the design of a picture book of their choice. *Prerequisites: ART 527S and ART 568S*.

ENG 528: CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS (4) **Ransom**
The role of art in children's literature; a survey of traditional and contemporary works emphasizing but not limited to the European and American tradition; an examination of how artists interpret and reinterpret the text. Offered in 2016.

ENG 542: HISTORY AND CRITICISM OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (4) **Pfeiffer**
An introduction to British and American literature for children, from its roots in the oral tradition and medieval literature through 20th-century works. *Required for all students; offered every year.*

ENG 560: THE CRAFT OF WRITING FOR CHILDREN (4) **Department**
Creative writing of any kind is a bit like a magic trick. The writer is attempting to trick the reader into thinking the text is portraying a fully dimensional physical world with tiny little things called words. This class is intended to help both writers and readers discover how published authors pull off this grand illusion. We will examine the forms of several genres of writing for children to uncover exactly how each writer pulls off the trick of representing the "real world" in creative writing. This process gives writers a "behind-the-scenes look" at the "tricks of the trade" giving them insight into how to apply the same approaches in their own writing.

ENG 561: GENRE STUDY IN THE CRAFT OF WRITING FOR CHILDREN – TIME AND PLACE IN HISTORICAL FICTION (4) **Cockrell**
Where are you when you aren't here? Historical fiction and time-slip novels demand particular attention to detail, voice, and sense of place. Characters, for instance, are constrained by their culture, whether it's first-century Rome or the 1930s Dust Bowl. Time-slip adventures are in a universe they can't immediately understand but the author has to. World-building is crucial and research may take you down strange paths you would not have thought of. In this course you'll study some examples of historical and time slip fiction for children and teens and try your own hand at choosing a time and place that calls to you out of the past and reconstructing it as a three-dimensional world. Offered in 2016.

ENG 562: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (4) **Homzie**
A workshop course in the writing of imaginative literature for children. Genre focus will develop out of student and faculty interests. Offered in 2016.

ENG 583: ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING TUTORIAL (4) **LaFaye, Patterson, Sanderson**
Graduate tutorial seminar in the generation, examination, and interpretation of texts in children's literature in the light of literary history and theory with attention to the writing of the students in the class. The exact contents of any given seminar will be determined by the needs and interests of its members. *Offered every year*. *Prerequisite – ENG/ART 527 and ENG 560 or 561.*

ART/ENG 599: THESIS (8)
The thesis will consist of text and complete sketch dummies for either three picture books, two easy readers, one chapter book, or one graphic novel, plus six finished illustrations, accompanied by a 10-15 page critical essay situating the student's creative work in the historical and critical context of children's literature.

ENG 5XX: Elective critical course related to the genre of the student's work (4)

Faculty

Brian Attebery, professor of English and director of American studies, Idaho State University; Ph.D., Brown University. He is the author of *Decoding Gender in Science Fiction, Strategies of Fantasy, The Fantasy Tradition in American Literature: From Irving to Le Guin,* and the *Teachers Guide to the Norton Book of Science Fiction,* and coeditor, with Ursula K. Le Guin, of *The Norton Book of Science Fiction*.

Rhonda Brock-Servais, professor of English, Longwood University; Ph.D., University of South Carolina. Her work has appeared in *Children's Literature in Education* and *The Encyclopedia of American Children's Literature*. Besides children's literature, her interests include literary horror, Romantic and Victorian literature, and fairy tales.

Amanda Cockrell, director, graduate programs in Children's Literature and co-director, graduate program in Children's Book Writing & Illustrating; M.A. Hollins College. Her newest book is the young adult novel *What We Keep Is Not Always What Will Stay*. She is also the author of *The Legions of the Mist*, *The Moonshine Blade*, *The Deer Dancers* trilogy, *The Horse Catchers* trilogy, and *Pomegranate Seed*.

Elizabeth O. Dulemba, B.F.A., University of Georgia. She is an award-winning author/illustrator of 15 books including: *The 12 Days of Christmas in Georgia*; the bilingual Jack Tale adaptations *Paco and the Giant Chile Plant* and *Soap, soap, soap*; and one of the first children's books apps, *Lula's Brew*. Her newest book is the forthcoming novel, *A Bird on Water Street.* She is the illustrator coordinator for the southern region (Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi) of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and a Board Member for the Georgia Center for the Book. She teaches "Creating Picture Books" at various venues and taught Beginning and Advanced Illustration at the University of Georgia. Her Coloring page Tuesdays have garnered over a million visits to her website annually and over 3,000 subscribers to her weekly newsletter.

Renée Englot, M.A. in children's literature, Hollins University. She is a professional storyteller working with schools, libraries, and corporations. Her storytelling has taken her across Canada and the United States, and her stories can be found on the recordings *Tales on the Wind*, *World of Story 2009*, and *Undaunted Enchantments.* She is also the author of *The Stranger Who Snored: An intercultural Folktale Exploration.*

Lisa Rowe Fraustino, professor of English, Eastern Connecticut State University; Ph.D., Binghampton University. Among her books are *I Walk in Dread: The Diary of Deliverance Trembley; Witness to the Salem Witch Trials*, part of Scholastic's Dear America series; the critically acclaimed picture book *The Hickory Chair*, and *Ash*, as ALA Best Book for Young Adults. She has edited several young adult short story anthologies including *Don't Cramp My Style: Stories About That Time of the Month* and *Dirty Laundry: Stories about Family Secrets.* In 2006 she was a Fulbright Scholar teaching and consulting in children's literature at Mahasarakham University, Thailand.

Hillary Homzie, M.A. Hollins University; M.Ed., Temple University. She is the author of *Things are Gonna Get Ugly, The Hot List,* and the chapter book series *Alien Clones From Outer Space*. Her short stories have been published in anthologies and numerous children's magazines.

Ellen Kushner is the author of *The Golden Dreydl, Thomas the Rhymer,* winner of both the World Fantasy Award and the Mythopoeic Award; *The Privilege of the Sword,* winner of the Locus Award; *Swordspoint;* and with Delia Sherman, *The Fall of the Kings.* Stories for younger readers have appeared in anthologies including *The Beastly Bride* and *Troll's Eye View.* Her newest book is the anthology *Welcome to Bordertown* (coedited with Holly Black). She is also the host of PRI's award-winning National Public Radio series *"Sound & Spirit"* and a cofounder of the Interstitial Arts Foundation, an organization encouraging work that falls between genre categories. She was writer-in-residence in 2011.

Alexandria LaFaye, professor of English, Greenville College; Lee University; M.F.A., University of Memphis; M.A. Hollins College and Mankato State University. Her newest book is *The Keening*. She is also the author of *Worth*, which won the 2005 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, *Water Steps, Stella Stands Alone, The Year of the Sawdust Man, Edith Shay, Strawberry Hill,* and *Nissa's Place.*

Claudia Mills, associate professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado Boulder; Ph.D., Princeton University. She has published numerous essays on philosophical themes in children's literature and is the author of over 50 books for young readers, including picture books, easy readers, chapter books, and middle-grade novels. Among her most recent books are the *Mason Dixon* "Disaster" books, *Fractions = Trouble,* and *One Square Inch*, all Junior Library Guild selections, *Being Teddy Roosevelt*, *The Totally Made Up Civil War Diary of Amanda McLeish*, and *How Oliver Olson Changed the World,* an ALA Notable Book.

Lauren Mills, M.A. in illustration, San Jose State University. She has illustrated the children's classics, *At the Back of the North Wind, Anne of Green Gables,* and *Thumbelina*, and is also the author of several original tales including *The Rag Coat*, which has been performed as a ballet by the University of Utah and received the Charlotte Award, 13 state award nominations, and the Smithsonian's "Season's Choice" award. *Fairy Wing*s, co-illustrated with Dennis Nolan, won the SCBWI Golden Kite Award.

Nancy Ruth Patterson, M.A.T., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Three of her novels for children (*The Christmas Cup, The Shiniest Rock of All,* and *A Simple Gift*) have been adapted as plays and performed professionally. Her latest works are *the Winner's Walk* and *Ellie Ever*, published fall of 2010. Her work has been honored on Master Lists in 10 states. Retiring after 33 years as a teacher and administrator with Roanoke City Schools, she joined the adjunct faculty of the University of Virginia, teaching graduate courses in children's and young adult literature.

Julie Pfeiffer, associate professor of English, Hollins University; Ph.D., University of Connecticut; editor of the annual of the Children's Literature Association, *Children's Literature* (Johns Hopkins University Press). She has published on Charlotte Brontë, gender and children's literature, and on 19th-century revisions of *Paradise Lost* for children.

Candice Ransom, M.F.A., Vermont College, M.A., Hollins University. She is the author of over 100 books for children of all ages, including the novels *Finding Day's Bottom* and *Seeing Sky-Blue Pink*; picture books including *Tractor Day, I Like Shoes, Liberty Street,* and *The Promise Quilt*; and Time Spies books, among dozens of others.

Ruth Sanderson, co-director, graduate program in Children's Book Writing & Illustrating; author and illustrator, is a graduate of Paier College of Art. Among her many books for children are *The Nativity, The Enchanted Wood, The Twelve Dancing Princesses, Papa Gatto, Rose Red and Snow White, The Night Before Christmas,* and *Tapestries: Stories of Women from the Bible.*

Delia Sherman, Ph.D., Brown University. Her newest young adult novel, *The Freedom* Maze, won the Andre Norton Award and the Mythopoeic Award. She is also the author of *Changeling* and *The Magic Mirror of the Mermaid Queen*, and with Ellen Kushner, *The Fall of the King*s. Her short stories have appeared in the young adult anthologies *The Green Man, Troll's Eye View, Firebirds, The Faery Reel, A Wolf at the Door,* and *Coyote Road*. Her adult novel *The Porcelain Dove* won the Mythopoeic Award.

C. W. Sullivan III, professor of English, East Carolina University; Ph.D., University of Oregon. He is a full member of the Welsh Academy, author of *Fenian Diary*: *Denis B. Cashman on Board the Hougoumont,1867-1868* and *Welsh Celtic Myth in Modern Fantasy,* and editor of numerous books including *The Mabinogi: A Book of Essays, Science Fiction for Young Readers,* and *Young Adult Science Fiction*.

Ashley Wolff, B.F.A., Rhode Island School of Design. She is the author and/or illustrator of over 40 children's picture books including *Baby Beluga; Stella and Roy Go Camping; Me Baby, You Baby; Who*

Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?; Mama's Milk; and the beloved *Miss Bindergarten* series. Wolff's books have won numerous state and national awards. She lives and works in San Francisco.