



David Diaz



Sid Fleischman



Cynthia Kadohata

Francis Clarke Sayers Lecture Brings Children's Authors and Illustrators to UCLA

by Megan Linford

The Frances Clark Sayers Lecture Fund was established by friends and colleagues to pay tribute to Frances Clark Sayers (1897-1989) and her lifelong dedication to children and early literacy. Sayers was a member of the UCLA faculty from 1954 to 1965, first in the Department of English and later at the new School of Library Service. Ongoing contributions to the fund make possible the Sayers Lecture as an annual children's literature event for the region.

Last year a distinguished panel of three award-winning children's authors and illustrators spoke to an audience of more than 100 alumni, students, faculty, and friends of GSE&IS and members of the general public at the 2008 Frances Clarke Sayers Lecture on Sunday, February 10, 2008.

Billed as a "Celebration of Award-Winning Southern California Authors and Illustrators", the panel featured Caldecott Award winner David Diaz (*Smoky Night*), Newbery Award winner Sid Fleischman (*The Whipping Boy*), and Newbery Award winner Cynthia Kadohata (*Kira-Kira*).

Dean Aimée Dorr welcomed the crowd and Information Studies Professor Virginia Walter introduced the panel members. Information Studies graduate student Ashley Burdick introduced moderator Michael Cart, a noted children's literature expert. The panel engaged in an hour-long conversation about their careers, work habits, and advice to aspiring writers and artists.

The traditional book signing and reception immediately followed the event. Diaz, Fleischman, and Kadohata signed their books for the crowd. Delighted fans had photos taken with one or another of the panelists.

Kadohata shared that she always works from an outline and her work mantra is "finish what you start." Fleischman told the audience that once he has an idea for a story, he tries to settle on a title right away and then "instinct takes over." Much to the delight of the audience, Diaz created an illustration on-stage while describing his artistic techniques and work habits. When asked by an audience member for his advice to aspiring illustrators, Diaz replied, "Don't just be yourself – be your best self!"

The 2009 Frances Clarke Sayers Lecture will feature Brian Selznick, the 2008 Caldecott award-winning illustrator and author of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. The lecture will be held on Sunday, April 5th with a book signing and reception to follow.

Annual giving to UCLA and the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies can be directed to the Frances Clark Sayers Fund. For more information on this giving opportunity or other opportunities, contact Laura Lindberg, GSE&IS director of development, at 310-206-0375. *

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appointment in the Information Studies Department. Her research interests include American Indian tribal museums and how museum staff define cultural preservation; the effects of environmental agents on ethnographic and natural history materials; introducing context into cultural materials' conservation education, and curriculum development.

Pearlstein holds an MA in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia University, an Advanced Certificate in Conservation from The Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, and a BA from Brooklyn College. *



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