

FACULTY

All faculty are available to work with Postgraduate Students

An Na was born in South Korea and grew up in San Diego, California. She is the author of three novels, *A Step from Heaven*, *Wait for Me* and *The Fold*. Her awards and honors include the Michael L. Printz Award, International Reading Association Award, National Book Award Finalist, ALA Best Books for Young Adults, New York Times Book Review Notable, and Junior Library Guild Selection. She lives in Vermont. Her website can be found at: www.AnWriting.com

Margaret Bechard is the author of eight middle grade and young adult novels, including *My Mom Married the Principal*, *If It Doesn't Kill You*, *Hanging On to Max*, and *Spacer and Rat*. Her books have been selected for such honors as *School Library Journal's* Best Book of the Year, ALA Best Books for Young Adults, and the Junior Library Guild Selection; they have also been nominated for several state children's choice awards.

Franny Billingsley writes middle grade and young adult fantasies. Her last novel, *The Folk Keeper* (Atheneum, 1999), won the Boston Globe-Horn Book and the Mythopoeic Awards. Her first picture book, *Big Bad Bunny* (Atheneum, 2008), was included in Oprah's [Online Kids' Books Reading List](#). Her young adult fantasy, *Chime* (Dial, spring 2011), received a PEN/Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Working Writer Fellowship. She has taught creative writing at the college level, and for adults, at the Ragdale Foundation and the University of Chicago Graham School. Franny lives in the Chicago area. Please visit her at www.frannybillingsley.com.

Tom Birdseye was decidedly uninterested in writing as a kid -- or any academic aspect of school, for that matter -- never imagining that he would eventually become a published author. And yet nineteen titles later -- novels, picture books, and nonfiction -- that is exactly what has happened. His work has been recognized for its excellence by the International Reading Association, Children's Book Council, National Council of Social Studies, Society of School Librarians International, Oregon Library Association, and Oregon Reading Association, among others. Combined, his books have either won or been a finalist for state children's choice awards forty-three times. Life, it seems, is full of who'd-a-thought-its. He lives and writes in Corvallis, Oregon, but launches mountaineering expeditions to his beloved Cascades on a regular basis. Visit his website at www.tombirdseye.com

Coe Booth is the author of three novels for young adults: *Tyrell*, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *Kendra*, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults; and *Bronxwood*, which was just released in the fall. Her short work has appeared in the anthologies *This Is Push: New Stories from the Edge*; *Does This Book Make Me Look Fat?*; and *A Family of Readers: The Book Lover's Guide to Children's and Young Adult Literature*. Coe received an MFA in creative writing from The New School in 2005. She lives in the Bronx, New York where she is currently working on her first novel for middle-grade readers.

Bonnie Christensen is the author and/or illustrator of fifteen books for children including *Woody Guthrie, Poet of the People* (a *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Honor Book and *New York Times* Notable Book and *Django*, winner of ALA's Schnieder Family Book Award. Her books are primarily picture books but she has also edited a YA anthology of memoirs. For fifteen years she has taught "Creating the Picture Book" at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT.

Alan Cumyn is the author of the beloved Owen Skye children's novels—*The Secret Life of Owen Skye*, *After Sylvia* and *Dear Sylvia*—which combined have either won or been short-listed for twelve national awards in Canada. He has also adapted *After Sylvia* for the stage and authored seven wide-ranging novels for adults including *Burrige Unbound*, a Giller Prize finalist, and *The Famished Lover*, longlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His first YA novel, *Tilt*, was selected by the Junior Library Guild as one of the top YA novels of 2011. Alan lives in Ottawa, Canada. He taught English in China and Indonesia, ran a group home in Toronto, and for eight years wrote on international human rights issues for the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. He has an M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Windsor and he has taught at the Humber School for Writers and the Banff Centre, and he has served most recently as writer-in-residence for the Vancouver International Writers Festival. Alan is also a recent past Chair of The Writers' Union of Canada. You can read more about Alan and his work at: www.alancumyn.com.

Sharon Darrow writes poetry, picture books, creative nonfiction, and novels. She received her MFA in Writing from Vermont College in 1996 and has been an editor for the poetry magazines *Rhino* and *Columbia Poetry Review*. Her short stories, essays, and poems have appeared in literary journals and anthologies, one of which is Lee Bennett Hopkin's *Home to Me: Poems Across America*. She is the author of *Old Thunder and Miss Raney* (D-K Ink), which was a finalist for the Western Writers of America Spur Award; *Through the Tempests Dark and Wild: A Story of Mary Shelley, Creator of Frankenstein*, a Junior Library Guild selection; a novel, *The Painters of Lexieville*; a narrative in poems, *Trash*, all from Candlewick Press. The novel was named to KLIATT's Editors' Choice-Best of the Year YA Fiction list and won the Oklahoma Book Award for Young Adult fiction. *Trash* was a Junior Library Guild selection, an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant YA Readers, and a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award. She leads writing workshops and retreats and speaks in schools. She lives in Vermont.

Matt de la Peña is the author of four critically-acclaimed young adult novels – *Ball Don't Lie*, *Mexican WhiteBoy*, *We Were Here* and *I Will Save You* – and the picture book *A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis* (illustrated by Kadir Nelson). Matt received his MFA in Creative Writing from San Diego State University and his BA from the University of the Pacific, where he attended school on a full athletic scholarship for basketball. de la Peña currently lives in Brooklyn, NY. He teaches creative writing at NYU and visits high schools and colleges throughout the country.

Susan Fletcher is the author of ten books for children and young adults, including the Dragon Chronicles series (*Dragon's Milk*, *Flight of the Dragon Kyn*, *Sign of the Dove*, and *Ancient, Strange and Lovely*); *Shadow Spinner*, *Walk Across the Sea*, *Alphabet of Dreams*, and a picture book, *Dadblamed Union Army Cow*. Her work has been translated into eight languages and has been included on a number of lists, including: American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults, ALA Notable Books, *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* Blue Ribbon, International Reading Association Young Adults' Choice, and Children's Book Council Notable Children's Trade Books. For more information, see www.susanfletcher.com.

A.M. (Amanda) Jenkins is the author of young adult novels *Breaking Boxes*, *Damage*, *Out of Order*, *Beating Heart*, *Repossessed*, and *Night Road*, as well as the co-author (with Tiffany Trent) of *Queen of the Masquerade*, a book in the Hallowmere series. Her short story "The Last Second" was published in *Rush Hour: Reckless*. Jenkins' work for educational publishers ranges from grades K-8, and includes original stories, retellings, and Reader's Theater. Honors include the Delacorte Press Prize for a First Young Adult Novel, California Young Reader Medal, BBYA Top Ten, ALA Quick Picks, L.A. Times Book of the Year Finalist, Michael L. Printz Honor, and a PEN/Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Working Writer Fellowship.

Mark Karlins is the author of five picture books, including *Music Over Manhattan* (hailed as a "new classic" on NPR), *Mendel's Ladder* (a Smithsonian Magazine Outstanding Book of the Year), and *Salmon Moon* (an American Bookseller "Pick of the Lists"). He has also written two poetry books for adults and founded a poetry magazine. In addition to teaching at VCFA, Mark teaches children's writing and literature at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts (as part of the degree program with Tufts University). A long time resident of NYC, Mark currently lives in an old farmhouse north of Boston and is working on a YA novel. He can be visited at his website: www.markkarlins.com.

Uma Krishnaswami is the author of picture books (*Monsoon*, *The Closet Ghosts*, and *The Happiest Tree: A Yoga Story*), middle grade novels (*Naming Maya*, *The Grand Plan to Fix Everything*), and easy readers (*Holi*, *Yoga Class*). In a starred review, *Publisher's Weekly* says of *The Grand Plan*, "An out-of-the-ordinary setting, a distinctive middle-grade character with an unusual passion, and the pace of a lively Bollywood "fillum" make this novel a delight." Uma's poems and short stories have been included in anthologies from HarperCollins and Simon and Schuster, and in magazines for young readers. She has middle grade novels under contract with Atheneum and Lee & Low. Uma's books have been picked for CCBC Choices, Parents' Choice, IRA Notable Books for a Global Society, Scientific American Young Readers' Book Awards, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, and the Paterson Prize. Her picture book, *Chachaji's Cup*, was adapted into an off-Broadway musical.

Julie Larios is the author of four books for children: *On the Stairs* (1995), *Have You Ever Done That?* (named one of Smithsonian Magazine's Outstanding Children's Books 2001), *Yellow Elephant* (a Book Sense Pick and Boston Globe–Horn Book Honor Book, 2006) and *Imaginary Menagerie: A Book of Curious Creatures* (shortlisted for the Cybil Award in Poetry, 2008). For five years she was the Poetry Editor for *The Cortland Review*, and her poetry for adults has been published by *The Atlantic Monthly*, *McSweeney's*, *Swink*, *The Georgia Review*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Field*, and others. She is the recipient of an Academy of American Poets Prize, a Pushcart Prize for Poetry, and a Washington State Arts Commission/Artist Trust Fellowship. Her work has been chosen for The Best American Poetry series by Billy Collins (2006) and Heather McHugh (2007) and was recently performed as part of the *Vox* series at the New York City Opera (2010.) Visit her website at <http://julielarios.blogspot.com>

Martine Leavitt has a Honors BA in English from the University of Calgary and an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She has written seven novels for young adults, including *Tom Finder*, winner of the Mr. Christie Award, *Heck Superhero*, a finalist for the Governor General's Award, and *Keturah and Lord Death*, a finalist for the National Book Award. Her eighth novel, *My Book of Life by Angel*, will be out in the fall of 2012. Her novels have been published in Japan, Korea, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands. She is a mother of seven and a grandmother of twelve—all of whom are critically acclaimed.

April Lurie is the author of four novels: *The Less-Dead*, *The Latent Powers of Dylan Fontaine*, *Brothers*, *Boyfriends & Other Criminal Minds*, and *Dancing in the Streets of Brooklyn*. Her books have been chosen for such honors as: an ALA Rainbow List Selection, a KLIATT Editors' Choice-Best of the Year YA Fiction list, an ALAN's Pick, a Teddy Award Finalist, a Texas Lone Star List Selection, and a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. Please visit her at www.aprillurie.com

Elizabeth Partridge is the author of more than a dozen books, from early picture books to young adult nonfiction to adult photography books. She is known for her YA photo biographies on Dorothea Lange, Woody Guthrie, and John Lennon. Her latest books include *Marching for Freedom: Walk Together Children and Don't You Grow Weary*, and the middle grade novel, *Dogtag Summer*. Elizabeth is a National Book Award Finalist, and has received the ALA Michael L. Printz Honor Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the SCBWI Golden Kite, and the Jane Addams Children's Book Award. She's served on the Los Angeles Times Book Prize Committee, and chaired the National Book Award Committee for Young People's Literature. www.elizabethpartridge.com

Mary Quattlebaum is the author of nineteen books for all ages, including picture books (*Pirate vs. Pirate*, *The Hungry Ghost of Rue Orleans*), poetry (*Winter Friends*), chapter books (the Jackson Jones series), and middle-grade novels (*Grover G. Graham and Me*). Mary's books have been selected for Delacorte/Random House's Marguerite de Angeli Prize, *Parenting* Reading Magic Award, Bank Street Best Books, Sugarman Award, Notable Social Sciences Trade Book, and a number of state children's choice lists. Her MA in English from Georgetown University focused on the teaching of writing, and she developed her thesis into a grants-funded creative writing program, which she ran for twelve years. She has served as a creative thesis advisor for the Johns Hopkins University writing program and taught creative writing at several venues. Mary also publishes frequently in children's magazines, reviews children's books regularly for the *Washington Post* and *Washington Parent*, and writes nonfiction online for Gale/Cengage, an educational publisher. She lives in Washington, DC. Website: www.maryquattlebaum.com Blog: <http://penciltipswritingworkshop.blogspot.com>

Leda Schubert is the author of *Ballet of the Elephants* (a Junior Library Guild and Texas Bluebonnet Masterlist selection, a NYTimes Editor's choice, and a best book of the year from Kirkus, Horn Book, Bank St., and the NYPL), *Feeding the Sheep, Here Comes Darrell*, and *Winnie All Day Long/Winnie Plays Ball*, which inaugurated Candlewick's Brand New Readers series. Forthcoming are *The Princess of Borscht* and *Monsieur Marceau* (both Roaring Brook), and maybe *Donna and the Robbers* (August House/Vermont Folklife Center). She has served on the Caldecott, the Boston Globe-Horn Book, and Vermont's Dorothy Canfield Fisher and Red Clover Awards Committees. For almost twenty years, she reviewed books as the school library consultant for the Vermont Department of Education. She received her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2004.

Shelley Tanaka is the author of more than twenty nonfiction books for children and young adults, including seven titles in the award-winning I Was There series (*On Board the Titanic*). Her books have won the Mr. Christie's Book Award, the Science in Society Book Award and the Information Book Award, and she has twice been nominated for the Deutsche Jugendliteraturpreis; other honors include Texas Bluebonnet runner-up, VOYA Nonfiction Honor List, SLJ Best Book, ALA Notable and IRA Young Adults' Choice. Her books have been translated into nine languages. Shelley is also the fiction editor at Groundwood Books, where she has worked with many of Canada's finest children's book writers. Her most recent book, *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator*, won the 2009 Orbis Pictus Award.

Rita Williams-Garcia, the author of seven award-winning novels including the 2009 National Book Award Finalist *Jumped*, *Like Sisters on the Homefront* and *Every Time a Rainbow Dies*, continues to break new ground in young people's literature. Known for their realistic portrayal of teens of color, Williams-Garcia's works have been recognized by the Coretta Scott King Award Committee, PEN/Norma Klein Award, American Library Association, and Parents' Choice, among others. She recently served on the National Book Award Committee for Young People's Literature, and she sponsors a short story contest for young writers.