



CONFERENCE FACULTY

Kevan Atteberry is an award-winning illustrator of books, magazines, greeting cards, packaging, games, software, etc. He is also a character designer and animator for a variety of publishing and corporate clients. He is the illustrator of *FRANKIE STEIN* (Children's Book Council's 2008 Children's Choice, Book of the Year Award, K-2), *TICKLE MONSTER*, *LUNCHBOX AND THE ALIENS*, and *FROONGA PLANET*, among others. He is currently working on a sequel to *FRANKIE STEIN* for a 2010 release. Kevan is 6'2" and a Pisces, and his favorite dessert is banana cream pie.



Bonny Becker is winner of SCBWI's first Crystal Kite Regional Award for *A BEDTIME FOR BEAR*, the third in her series of best-selling Bear and Mouse picture books. *A VISITOR FOR BEAR* won the E.B. White Read Aloud Award and was Amazon's Picture Book of the Year. Her middle-grade novel, *THE MAGICAL MS. PLUM* won the 2010 Washington State Children's Book Award. In all, she's published 12 books for children. Bonny lives in Seattle with her husband and gets to bounce between Hawaii and New York to visit her two daughters.



Jenny Bent founded The Bent Agency in 2009, after 15 years of experience in agenting, most recently as a Vice President at Trident Media Group. Her authors include **Brent Crawford**, **Tera Lynn Childs**, **Amanda Ashby**, **Mark Steensland**, **Sandy Rideout**, **Yvonne Collins**, **Lynda Sandoval** and **Stephanie Hale**. She is actively looking for new clients across all categories of middle grade and young adult. Her website is www.thebentagency.com and you can find her on Twitter @jennybent.



Martha Brockenbrough is the author of four books, including two forthcoming titles for children: *DEVINE INTERVENTION* and *THE DINOSAUR TOOTH FAIRY*, both to be published by Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic. She teaches Writing for Children at the University of Washington, founded the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar and National Grammar Day, and writes for a variety of online and print magazines.



Susan Chang is a senior editor at Tor Books. She acquires and edits books for the Starscape middle grade and Tor Teen young adult imprints. She began her publishing career at HarperCollins Children's Books, where she worked for nine years before moving on to shorter stints at Hyperion Books for Children and Parachute Publishing, a book packager. Susan joined Tor in 2004.



Nancy Conescu is an Executive Editor at Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of the Penguin Young Readers Group. Prior to returning to Penguin where she began her career, Nancy was a senior editor at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers where her titles included *New York Times* bestseller *NUBS: THE TRUE STORY OF A MUTT, A MARINE & A MIRACLE* by **Major Brian Dennis**, **Kirby Larson**, and **Mary Nethery**; and *THE MOCKINGBIRDS* by **Daisy Whitney**. Her first list at Dial includes *REMARKABLE* by **Lizzie Foley**, *A TEMPTATION OF ANGELS* by **Michelle Zink**, and *WHEN BLUE MET EGG* by **Lindsay Ward**.



Lucy Ruth Cummins is an art director with Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers and Paula Wiseman Books. She handles everything from picture books to young adult novels. Several of her titles have appeared on the *New York Times* Bestseller list. As an illustrator, she made her picture book debut with *THE TAKING TREE* written by **Shrill Travesty**. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. Visit her at www.lucyruthcummins.com.



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.



Eddie Gamarra is a former college professor and currently a literary manager/producer at The Gotham Group, a management and production company that represents screenwriters, directors, animators, authors, illustrators, publishers, and animation studios around the world. Eddie specializes in children's & family entertainment, including animation, live action and literature ranging across picture books, novels, anthologies and graphic novels. His client roster includes numerous *New York Times* best-selling authors and illustrators as well as Oscar, Emmy, Caldecott, Newbery, and Geisel award winners. In addition to his work at The Gotham Group, he has consulted for magazines and TV shows. He has a BA in psychology from Vassar College, a masters in cinema studies from NYU, and a PhD in psychoanalysis and film from Emory University.



Bruce Hale, an Edgar-nominated author, is passionate about inspiring reluctant readers to open books (and read them). He has written or illustrated more than 25 seriously funny books for children, including the award-winning *CHET GECKO* Mysteries series. An actor and Fulbright Scholar in storytelling, Bruce is in demand as a speaker, having presented at conferences, universities, and schools all across North America – from Alaska to Florida, and from the Maui Writers Conference to the Surrey (BC) International Writers Conference. His acting resume includes regional commercials, theater, and an independent film, *The Ride*. Bruce also sings with the VocalPoint jazz group of Santa Barbara.



Andrew Karre is the editorial director of Carolrhoda Books, Carolrhoda Lab, and Darby Creek, divisions of the Lerner Publishing Group. Before joining Lerner in 2008, Andrew was the acquiring editor for Flux, the YA imprint of Llewellyn Worldwide. Andrew works on books for all ages, from picture books to YA, fiction and nonfiction. He's had the pleasure of working with authors like **Maggie Stiefvater**, **Vaunda Michaeux Nelson**, **Sally M. Walker**, **Blythe Woolston**, **Steven Gammell**, and many others. He lives in St. Paul, MN with his wife and son. Read his blog at www.carolrhoda.com, and follow him on Twitter @andrewkarre.



Helen Landalf's debut YA novel, *FLYAWAY*, released from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in December, 2011. She is also the author of two picture books including *THE SECRET NIGHT WORLD OF CATS* (Smith & Kraus, 1998), which was illustrated by her autistic brother, **Mark Rimland**, and received a 1998 National Parent Publishing Association Honor award. Helen lives with her husband in Seattle, Washington, and has two stepsons. When not writing, she works as a Pilates instructor and teaches creative dance to preschoolers.



Tricia Lawrence, the new associate agent for Erin Murphy Literary, spent 16 years editing picture books all the way up to college textbooks before joining EMLA as a social media strategist. Tricia represents middle grade and young adult fiction and nonfiction. She's looking for strong worldbuilding, wounded narrators, and stories that grab a reader and won't let go in a variety of YA and MG subgenres from fantasy to historical to contemporary to paranormal and thriller/mystery. You can find Tricia writing about blogging, tweeting, Facebooking, and other social media topics (for authors and the publishing industry at large) at <http://www.authorblogger.net>.



Deb Lund is best known for her celebrated dinoseries, including *ALL ABOARD THE DINOTRAIN*. The *Publishers Weekly* starred review of *MONSTERS ON MACHINES* says it has "...just about everything a child could hope for..." Deb, who frequently presents at conferences and schools, is a teacher of teachers, students, and writers. Find out more at www.deblund.com.



Scott Magoon, when he's not writing and illustrating picture books, is the art director at Houghton Mifflin Children's Books in Boston. There he art directs and designs books for **Steve Jenkins**, **Barbara Lehman**, **Bernard Waber**, **R.L. LaFevers**, and **Arthur Geisert** to name a few. He's illustrated books for, among others, **Amy Krouse Rosenthal** (*SPOON* and *CHOPSTICKS*) and **Tammi Sauer** (*MOSTLY MONSTERLY*) and writes his own books including *Hugo & Miles in I'VE PAINTED EVERYTHING*, *MYSTERY RIDE* and the forthcoming *THE BOY WHO CRIED BIGFOOT* to young readers' wide acclaim. He lives in the Boston area with his two boys and wife. Visit him at www.scottmagoon.com.



J. Elizabeth Mills (or Liz, as she likes to be known) was a children's book editor at Scholastic in big, bad New York for eight years until she realized she was happier climbing mountains than the steps of the subway. She moved to Seattle and worked as toys and games editor at Cranium for two years. Now she is a freelance writer and editor, with many work-for-hire publications and a new trade picture book, *THE SPOOKY WHEELS ON THE BUS*, just out from Cartwheel Books. She loves hiking, rock climbing, reading anything and everything, and waking up to a view of the Cascades every morning.



Rubin Pfeffer is a veteran of the children's and adult trade industry. He has served as President and Publisher of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, SVP and Chief Creative Officer of Pearson, and as SVP, Publisher of Children's Books for Simon & Schuster. Pfeffer joined the East West Literary Agency in December 2009 as a partner and established the Boston base of the agency. He works with such luminary talents as **Patricia MacLachlan**, **Susan Cooper**, **Judy Sierra**, **Richard Jesse Watson**, **Jesse Joshua Watson**, and a host of other published and new talents. Pfeffer serves as a judge for NAPPA's (National Parenting Publications Awards) annual round up of best books published each year. He consults regularly on digital content for the Ruckus Media Group.



Chris Richman received his undergraduate degree in professional writing from Elizabethtown College, and an MA in Writing from Rowan University. A former playwright, contributor to *The Onion*, and sketch comedy writer, Chris started with Firebrand Literary before joining Michael Stearns in the creation of Upstart Crow Literary. His list includes **Jacqueline West**, **Matt Myklusch**, and Seattle's own **Helen Landalf**. Chris enjoys working with debut writers, and is primarily interested in middle grade and young adult fiction, with a special interest in books for boys, books with unforgettable characters, and fantasy that doesn't take itself too seriously.



Tammi Sauer has sold twelve picture books to a number of major publishing houses. One of her latest books, *MOSTLY MONSTERLY*, illustrated by **Scott Magoon**, was named a Scholastic Parent & Child Best Book of 2010 and won the 2011 Oklahoma Book Award and the 2011 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award. This spring, Tammi has two new releases. *BAWK AND ROLL*, illustrated by last year's keynote illustrator, **Dan Santat**, and *ME WANT PET!*, illustrated by **Bob Shea**. *OOGA!* Visit her at www.tammisauer.com.



Jolie Stekly is a writer, teacher, former SCBWI Regional Advisor, and the 2009 Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Member of the Year. She's a member of SCBWI Team Blog which offers live blogging at the organization's annual summer and winter conferences, and maintains her own blog at www.cuppajolie.blogspot.com.



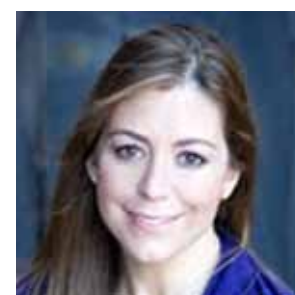
Caroline Sun is a Senior Publicity Manager at HarperCollins Children's Books. Her recent campaigns include the *New York Times* bestselling titles *EVERY THING ON IT* by **Shel Silverstein**, *BUMBLE-ARDY* by **Maurice Sendak**, and *WILDWOOD* by **Colin Meloy** and **Carson Ellis**. She also worked on the widely-covered and highly-praised titles *HEART & SOUL* by **Kadir Nelson** and the National Book Award Winner *INSIDE OUT & BACK AGAIN* by **Thanhha Lai**. Previously, Caroline was a Senior Publicist at Penguin Young Readers and Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.



Melissa Sweet has illustrated nearly 100 children's books from board books to picture books and nonfiction titles. Her collages and paintings have appeared in the *New York Times* and *Martha Stewart Living*, on Madison Park Greetings and Smilebox cards, and on a line of eeBoo toys. She received a Caldecott Honor Medal for *A RIVER OF WORDS* by **Jen Bryant** and two *New York Times* Best Illustrated citations. Visit her at www.melissasweet.net.



Rachel Vail's books have received numerous awards, been translated into more than a dozen languages, and sold hundreds of thousands of copies worldwide. *JUSTIN CASE: SCHOOL, DROOL, AND OTHER DAILY DISASTERS* won the 2011 Kiddo Award, was a Junior Library Guild Selection, and was chosen on numerous state lists as well as the Bank Street Bookstore and Kirkus lists of Best Books of 2011. 2012 will bring two new picture books from Rachel Vail: *PIGGY BUNNY* and *FLABBERSMASHED ABOUT YOU*. Her novel *IF WE KISS* will be re-released in anticipation of the 2013 follow-up title *KISS ME AGAIN*. Catch *JUSTIN CASE: SHELLS, SMELLS, AND THE HORRIBLE FLIP-FLOPS OF DOOM* this spring. Rachel lives in New York City with her husband and two sons, and welcomes visitors to her website: www.RachelVail.com.



Andrea Welch is a Senior Editor at Beach Lane Books, a San Diego-based imprint of Simon & Schuster. She has the pleasure of working with a long list of wonderful authors and illustrators, including **Douglas Florian**, **Ashley Wolff**, and **Angela DiTerlizzi**. Recent books she has edited include the *New York Times* bestselling *LMNO PEAS* by **Keith Baker**, the multiple-starred-review recipients *RAH, RAH, RADISHES!* by **April Pulley Sayre**, and *SOPHIE PETERMAN TELLS THE TRUTH* by **Sarah Weeks**. Andrea acquires projects ranging from very young picture books to middle-grade and teen novels—especially those that are filled with heart, humor, and irresistible characters.

