

Instructor on team for licensing questions

Colby Community College nursing instructor Tina Schrick was recently selected as an item writer for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing in Chicago is responsible for developing and administering the licensing exams for registered nurses and practical nurses.

Schrick is an instructor and Level 1 Coordinator for the practical nursing program at Colby. She was approved by the Kansas Board of Nursing and selected by the national group to participate on

the exam items development panel of subject matter experts that was held in Chicago April 16 to 19.

Schrick was one of 12 nurses from across the nation to be selected for this assignment. She was nominated on the basis of clinical specialty and nursing expertise.

All nurses in the United States and its territories must take the exam, which identifies those candidates who demonstrate minimal competence to practice nursing at the entry level. Passing the national exam is one of the requirements necessary for a nursing license.



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Colby grads elected

Two Colby students and one from Selden have been elected as senators to serve next year with the Student Government Association at Fort Hays State University.

The association represents the interests of students to the administrators, the Legislature and the state Board of Regents. It comprises the Student Senate, the Student/Faculty Court and the executive staff.

The senate has four standing committees, appropriations, legislative and political action, senate

affairs and student affairs.

Ryan Baalman, a Colby senior, was elected to represent the College of Business and Leadership. Anthony Rohr, also a senior, will represent the College of Health and Life Sciences.

From Selden, Isaac Broeckelman, a sophomore, was elected from the College of Health and Life Sciences.

For information, contact Andrew Dempewolf, legislative affairs director, at (785) 628-5311 or sga@fhsu.edu.

Votes are in for top kid's books

Two books about young girls dealing with growing pains have been judged the best by Kansas schoolchildren.

"11 Birthdays" by Wendy Mass (Scholastic Books) and "Confetti Girl" by Diana Lopez (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers) are the recipients of the 2011 William Allen White Children's Book Awards.

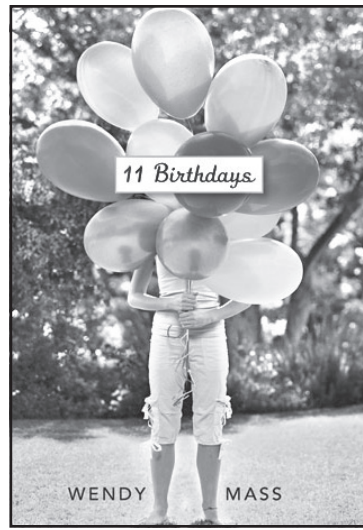
The William Allen White Children's Book Award program was founded in 1952 by Ruth Garver Gagliardo, a specialist in children's literature for Emporia State University. One of the few literary awards that asks young readers to choose the winners, the program is directed by Emporia State University and supported in part by the Trusler Foundation.

Both authors have been invited to the awards celebration, set for Saturday, Oct. 6, in Emporia.

"11 Birthdays," selected by voters in grades three through five, is the story of Amanda, who is excited to celebrate her 11th birthday — except everything goes wrong, starting with not celebrating with her best friend, Leo. They've shared every birthday of their lives, but are on the outs.

When Amanda goes to sleep that night, she's just glad the day's over. But, the next morning, her birthday starts all over again.

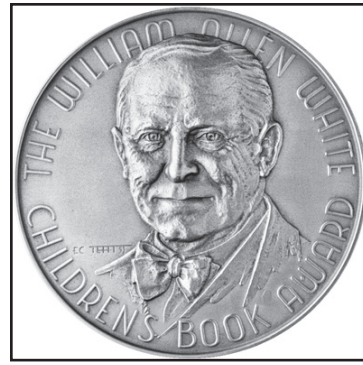
"I was really thrilled and honored to learn that '11 Birthdays' had won the William Allen White Children's Book Award," said Mass. "I had so much fun writing this book about friendship,



forgiveness, and second chances (and third, fourth, fifth chances). It means a lot to me to know that the children of Kansas had fun reading it. What more could a writer ask for?"

Mass is the *New York Times* best-selling author of 12 novels for young people, which have been translated into 14 languages and nominated for 50 state book awards. Her titles include "A Mango-Shaped Space," which was awarded the Schneider Family Book Award by the American Library Association; "Leap Day," the "Twice Upon a Time" fairy tale series, "Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall," "Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life" and "Finally." Her most recent books are "The Candymakers" and "13 Gifts."

Mass writes more than books — she wrote the storyline for an episode of the television show

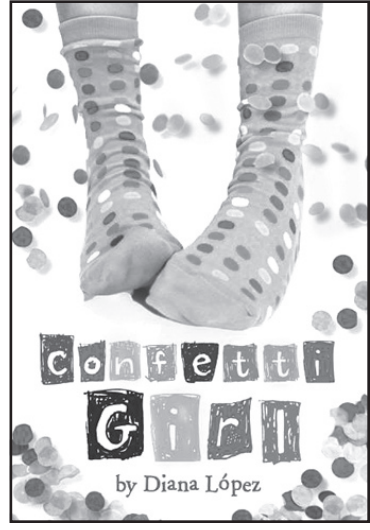


"11 Birthdays" was chosen by voters in third to fifth grades for the 2011 William Allen White Children's Book Award, while "Confetti Girl" was chosen by voters in sixth through eighth grades.

"Monk," titled "Mr. Monk Goes to the Theatre," which aired during the show's second season. She tells people her hobbies are hiking and photography, but really they're collecting candy bar wrappers and searching for buried treasure with her metal detector. She lives with her family in New Jersey.

"Confetti Girl," chosen by readers in grades six through eight, is a clever and honest story of a young Latina girl navigating growing pains in her South Texas city. Apolonia "Lina" Flores is a sock enthusiast, a volleyball player, a science lover and a girl who's just looking for answers.

Even though her house is crammed full of books (her dad's a bibliophile), she's having trouble figuring out some very big questions, like why her dad seems to



care about books more than her, why her best friend's divorced mom is obsessed with making cascarones (hollowed eggshells filled with colorful confetti), and, most of all, why her mom died last year. Like colors in cascarones, Lina's life is a rainbow of people, interests and unexpected changes.

"What makes winning the William Allen White Award so special is that students select the winner," Lopez said. "I used to teach middle school, so as I wrote 'Confetti Girl,' I kept thinking about my students. I wanted to write a book that they would like. That's why I got so excited when I heard I won the award. Thank you, Kansas!"

During the October awards celebration, schoolchildren from across the state of Kansas travel to Emporia for special events including lock-ins, author readings and book signings.

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