

Bill Bailey received his BA from Davidson College in North Carolina and his MA in English from Ole Miss.

After teaching English to grades 7-9 in Ozark, Mo., he was educational services coordinator at The Commercial Appeal in Memphis for eight years.

Bailey left The Commercial Appeal to purchase the DeSoto Times in Hernando, Miss., where he was editor for 17 years. In the 1980s, he created a Mississippi History page, which ran in most of the daily – and several of the weekly – newspapers in Mississippi. It told the story of a funny, old-time traveler named Finny who took a boy back in time to help him get a feel for how exciting history could be. It included illustrations and activities on the page and was unusual for its time, but similar to the serialized stories that run in newspapers today.

He sold the newspaper and returned to The Commercial Appeal, where he has served as educational services manager since August 2000. After running NIE story serials in the paper for several years, he decided to try one himself. The result was “The Ghost in the Courthouse Statue,” published in The Commercial Appeal in spring 2011.

Michelle Duckworth received her BFA in illustration from the Memphis College of Art and lives and works in Memphis. Since graduating, she has illustrated several children's books with independent authors and shown her work in a variety of galleries and spaces. She has worked on projects for various clients, including The Commercial Appeal, and the Dixon Gallery and Gardens. She also currently teaches in the illustration program at the Memphis College of Art.