ALAN Mission Statement

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the
National Council of Teachers of English

- Defines young adult literature as works in a wide variety of genres and forms, including multi-media formats, with topics relevant to the interests and needs of young people in middle and high school.
- Promotes the inclusion of young adult literature as a bridge to other curricular works and as a stand-alone curricular selection in both the English language arts program and across the curriculum.
- Supports educators and librarians in their use of the literature, advocates the right to read the literature, and defends freedom of choice for independent reading, inclusion in classrooms, presence in library collections, and in book clubs.
- Provides opportunities for teachers, librarians, teacher educators, and others involved in the use of young adult literature to enhance their practice and teaches the educational community and general public about the value of this literature.
- Celebrates the ever-changing nature of the field and welcomes artistic innovation, experimentation, and risk-taking by authors, publishers, and others involved in the creation of young adult literature.
- Evaluates young adult literature on its individual merits and in the context of larger bodies of literature as appropriate and engages in ongoing rethinking of the literary canon.
- Cooperates with other organizations that advocate similar goals and objectives.

Innovators, Visionaries, and Rebels:
Celebrating Risk Takers in Young Adult Literature

The ALAN Workshop
November 21 and 22, 2016
Atlanta, GA

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE
Innovators, Visionaries, and Rebels: Celebrating Risk Takers in Young Adult Literature

ALAN Workshop 2016  Atlanta, GA

Innovation, vision, risk, rebellion—these distinguish our most noteworthy young adult books and our most effective ways of promoting and teaching them. They pave the way for literary excellence, creativity, and resistance to the status quo. Over the next two days, we’ll celebrate authors, editors, teachers, librarians, critics, and teen advocates who have pushed our field forward through their risk-taking work with YA literature.

Welcome to ALAN!

Share your experience at the workshop on social media! Use hashtag #alan16.

Shipping Services

Wondering how to get all of these marvelous books back to your classroom? Take advantage of FedEx shipping services! They will be available at the workshop during the following times:

Monday, Nov. 21, 2:30 pm–5:30 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 22, 10:00 am–1:00 pm
Program Consultants

Patty Campbell
Scarecrow Studies in Young Adult Literature

Michael Cart
Booklist magazine

Scott Filkins
Central High School, Champaign, IL

James Blasingame
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Marge Ford
Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH

Daria Plumb
Traverse City West Senior High School, Traverse City, MI

Laura Renzi
West Chester University of Pennsylvania, West Chester, PA
Monday, November 21, 2016

All sessions except breakouts are being held in B312–B314.

7:15–8:00 Registration

8:00–8:10 Welcome
Jennifer Buehler 2016 ALAN President

8:10–8:40 Keynote Speaker
A. S. King (Penguin Young Readers Group)
Introduced by Jennifer Buehler, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO

8:40–9:00 Individual Speaker
Matt de la Peña (Random House)
Introduced by Daria Plumb, Traverse City West Senior High School, Traverse City, MI

9:00–9:20 Intersections between Fiction and Nonfiction
Ali Benjamin (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
Sy Montgomery (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
Chaired by Gary Salvner, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH

9:20–9:45 Rape and Healing
Laurie Halse Anderson (Penguin Young Readers Group)
E. K. Johnston (Penguin Young Readers Group)
Amber Smith (Simon & Schuster)
Chaired by Ricki Ginsberg, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

9:45–10:05 Writing and Talking about Sex: The Oral History Podcast
Christa Desir (Simon & Schuster)
Carrie Mesrobian (HarperCollins)
Chaired by Andrew Karre, Dutton Books for Young Readers, New York, NY

10:05–10:20 BREAK

10:20–10:40 Authentic Urban Fiction
Jason Reynolds (Simon & Schuster)
Ibi Zoboi (HarperCollins)
Chaired by Beth Shaum, St. Frances Cabrini Middle School, Allen Park, MI

10:40–11:00 New Territories in Diverse Books
Christine Kendall (Scholastic)
Andrea Davis Pinkney (Scholastic)
Chaired by Jim Blasingame, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

11:00–11:25 Re-Presenting Native Americans in YA Lit
Eric Gansworth (Scholastic)
Patti LaBoucane-Benson (House of Anansi/Groundwood Books)
Marcie Rendon (Cinco Puntos)
Tim Tingle (Cinco Puntos)
with support from Arizona State University RED INK Indigenous Initiative
Chaired by Angie Manfredi, Los Alamos County Public Library System, Los Alamos, NM

11:25–11:30 Presentation of the Nilsen-Donelson Award for best article in
The ALAN Review
Chaired by Alan Teasley, Duke University, Durham, NC
11:30–12:25 Breakout Sessions

SESSION 1
Room B207
A Risky Business—Speaking Up for Coming Out: LGBTQ Resources for the Classroom and Library
Sarah Ressler Wright, RB Hayes High School, Delaware, OH
Becky Woodruff, Delaware County District Library, Delaware, OH
Amy Ellis Nutt, author/narrator of Becoming Nicole, Listening Library/Penguin Random House
Tim Federle, narrator of Stonewall, Listening Library/Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster Children's Books

SESSION 2
Room B208
From Activists to Zealots: Best Book Sets Featuring Innovators, Visionaries, and Rebels
Jennifer Shettel, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Millersville, PA
Lesley Colabucci, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Millersville, PA

SESSION 3
Room B209
Risking a Closer Look: The Constructions of Women in Graphic Novels
Laura M. Jiménez, Boston University, Boston, MA

SESSION 4
Room B210
Honoring Everyone: How We Approach Religion and Spirituality in YA Literature
Deborah Vriend Van Duinen, Hope College, Holland, MI
Bill Boerman-Cornell, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL
Kristine Gritter, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA
Xu Bain, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA

SESSION 5
Room B211
Risk-Taking in the Classroom: Using Lit Theory to Discuss Society, Sexuality, and Community
Laura Renzi, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, West Chester, PA
Gabrielle Halko, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, West Chester, PA

SESSION 6
Room B212
Waking Up from the American Dream: How Young Adult Literature Speaks to Class and Poverty
Crag Hill, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
Anne McLeod, Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle School, Athens, GA

SESSION 7
Room B213
Respect for Readers, Teachers, and YA: Common Core and Text Complexity
Angie Beumer Johnson, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
Ellyn Shellhaas, Tri-County North High School, Lewisburg, OH
AJ Ricker, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
E. K. Johnston, Penguin Young Readers Group

SESSION 8
Room B214
Literature as Advocacy: Selecting, Discussing, and Defending Diverse Young Adult Literature in the Classroom
R. L. Oviatt, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Ashley Johnson, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Davena Jackson, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

SESSION 9
Room B215
Lifeblood of Rebellion: Teaching Poetry from YA Literature to Engage Teens
E. Katherine Kottaras, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA

SESSION 10
Room B216
Youth Perspectives on the Empowering Effects of Risky Literature
Mary M. Neville, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
12:25–1:10  LUNCH on your own

1:10–1:30  **Inspiring Boys with Guys Read**
Jon Scieszka  (Abrams & HarperCollins)

*Introduced by Chris Crowe, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT*

1:30–1:50  **Innovations in Nonfiction**
Candace Fleming  (Random House)
Deborah Heiligman  (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)

*Chaired by Lois Stover, Marymount University, Arlington, VA*

1:50–2:15  **Caught between the Family You Want and the Family You Have**
Bonnie Sue Hitchcock  (Random House)
Lisa Moore  (Groundwood Books)
Robin Roe  (Disney-Hyperion)
Sara Zarr  (HarperCollins)

*Chaired by Kevin English, Wayne Memorial High School, Wayne, MI*

2:15–2:40  **Stories of Death and Grieving**
Tim Federle  (Simon & Schuster)
Kristin Lenz  (Elephant Rock Books)
Adam Silvera  (Soho Teen)
Len Vlahos  (Bloomsbury)

*Chaired by Cindy Minnich, Upper Dauphin Area High School, Elizabethville, PA*

2:40–2:50  BREAK

2:50–3:10  **Breaking All the Rules**
M.T. Anderson  (Candlewick Press)

*Introduced by Wendy Glenn, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT*

3:10–3:30  **Publishing as a Small Press**
Lee Byrd  (Cinco Puntos)
Phillippe Diederich  (Cinco Puntos)
Jessica Powers  (Cinco Puntos)

*Chaired by cj Bott, Educational Consultant, Solon, OH and host of Under the Radar*

3:30–3:50  **Collaborations and Partnerships: YALLFest and YALLWest**
Kami Garcia  (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
Margaret Stohl  (Disney-Hyperion)

*Chaired by Hannah Ekren, Mary Anne Thompson Associates, New York, NY*

3:50–4:10  **The Past and Future of YA Lit**
Patty Campbell  (Scarecrow Studies in Young Adult Literature)
Michael Cart  (Booklist)

*Chaired by Diane Tuccillo, Poudre River Public Library District, Fort Collins, CO*
4:10–4:30  **Literary Rebels: Join Get Lit’s Youth-Led Revolution**
Get Lit Players (Simon & Schuster)
*Introduced by Jennifer Ansbach, Manchester Township High School, Manchester, NJ*

4:30–5:00  **Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award**
Winner
*All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely (Simon & Schuster)

Honor Books
*Wolf by Wolf* by Ryan Graudin (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
*All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven (Random House)
*Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Perez (Carolrhoda Lab)
*Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman (HarperCollins)

*Chaired by Mark Letcher, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL*
Tuesday, November 22, 2016

All sessions are being held in B312–B314.
Please note: There is no lunch break today. We end at 2:00 pm.

8:00–8:05 ALAN Membership
Suzanne Metcalfe Dimond High School, Anchorage, AK

8:05–8:15 The ALAN Review and Editors’ Award for Column Excellence
Wendy Glenn University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
Ricki Ginsberg University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
Dani King University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

8:15–8:35 Individual Speaker
Maggie Stiefvater Scholastic
Introduced by Steve Bickmore, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

8:35–9:00 Life after High School: Teens Seeking New Lives and Worlds
Kayla Cagan Chronicle Books
Benjamin Alire Saenz Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Jeff Zentner Random House
Chaired by Betty Bayer, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

9:00–9:25 Literary Allusions and Genre Mashups
Zoraida Cordova Sourcebooks
Jennifer Mason-Black Abrams
Sarah Porter Tor Teen
Chaired by Renee Stites, Parkway Southwest Middle School, Ballwin, MO

9:25–9:30 BOOK TALKS

9:30–9:50 Feminism and Girl Heroes
Frances Hardinge Abrams
Chaired by Barb Ward, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

9:50–10:10 Editorial Imprints
David Fickling David Fickling Books/Scholastic
Peadar O’Guilen David Fickling Books/Scholastic
Chaired by Donalyn Miller, Scholastic, New York, NY

10:10–10:25 BREAK

10:25–10:45 The Risks of Writing Teens of Color
Rahul Kanakia Disney-Hyperion
Randi Pink Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group
Chaired by Edith Campbell, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN

10:45–11:05 Expanding Visions of African American History
Jennifer Latham Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
Patricia Hruby Powell Chronicle Books
Chaired by Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
11:05–11:25  New Takes on World War II
Ryan Graudin  (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
Patricia McCormick  (HarperCollins)
Chairied by Jennifer Hubert Swan, Little Red School House & Elisabeth Irwin High
School, New York, NY

11:25–11:30  BOOK TALKS

11:30–11:55  Human Monsters
Justine Larbalestier  (Soho Teen)
Mindy McGinnis  (HarperCollins)
Kara Thomas  (Random House)
Chairied by Joni Richards Bodart, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

11:55–12:20  Teens Saving Others and Themselves
David Arnold  (Penguin Young Readers Group)
Mary Lou Hall  (Penguin Young Readers Group)
Sonya Sones  (HarperCollins Children's Books)
Chairied by Lee Ann Spillane, Cypress Creek High School, Orlando, FL

12:20–12:40  Individual Speaker
Neal Shusterman  (Simon & Schuster)
Introduced by Nancy Johnson, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

12:40–12:45  BOOK TALKS

12:45–1:10  New Stories of War, Intrigue, and Dystopia
Leigh Bardugo  (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
Brian Conaghan  (Bloomsbury)
Veronica Rossi  (Tor Teen)
Chairied by Brian Wyzlic, Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, Marine City, MI

1:10–1:35  Reimagining Love Stories
Kristin Clark  (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
Brendan Kiely  (Simon & Schuster)
Bill Konigsberg  (Scholastic)
Kenneth Oppel  (Simon & Schuster)
Chairied by Kellee Moye, Hunters Creek Middle School, Orlando, FL

1:35–1:55  The Past and Future of ALAN
Joan Kaywell  (University of South Florida, Tampa, FL)
Gary Salvner  (Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH)
Chairied by Laura Renzi, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, West Chester, PA

1:55–2:00  The Handing Over
Jennifer Buehler, 2016 ALAN President
Laura Renzi, 2017 ALAN President
Acknowledgments

The ALAN Workshop is made possible each year through the patience, hard work, and good will of countless people. First among these are the publishers, whose generosity sustains us. Heartfelt thanks to the following houses for sponsoring authors for our program and donating books for our boxes:

- Abrams
- Bloomsbury
- Candlewick
- CarolrhodaLab
- Chronicle Books
- Cinco Puntos
- Disney-Hyperion
- Elephant Rock Books
- Groundwood Books
- HarperCollins Children's Books
- Holiday House
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- House of Anansi
- Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
- Macmillan Children's Publishing Group
- Penguin Young Readers Group
- Random House Children's Books
- Scholastic
- Soho Teen
- Sourcebooks
- Tor Teen

In addition to the workshop, the publishers also sponsor our annual ALAN Author Reception on Sunday night. Special thanks to Lizette Serrano and Lindsey Johnson from Scholastic for organizing this year’s event and to Beth Eller from Bloomsbury for ongoing consultation and advice.

To spread the word about ALAN during NCTE, we staffed an ALAN booth in the NCTE Exhibit Hall for the second year this year. Thanks to Daria Plumb for the initial vision, Cindy Minnich for coordinating booth volunteers, and the following publishers for providing a terrific array of author signings and book donations:

- Candlewick
- Elephant Rock Books
- HarperCollins Children's Books
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Penguin Young Readers Group
- Scholastic
- Soho Teen
- Sourcebooks

Each year it is the responsibility of the ALAN President to develop a workshop theme and then work with the publishers to create a lineup of authors whose books fit that theme. Fortunately, the president assembles a team of program consultants to assist in this process. What a privilege it has been to have Michael Cart and Patty Campbell, two legends of the field, serving as consultants on this year’s workshop along with Scott Filkins, classroom teacher and long-time producer of the Text Messages YA podcast on ReadWriteThink. Additional support came from members of the ALAN Executive Committee: Jim Blasingame, Marge Ford, Daria Plumb, and Laura Renzi. I am grateful to all of you for your steady encouragement and wise advice.
Though he did not serve in an official capacity during the planning process, Gary Salvner was present behind the scenes, offering feedback and lending moral support. Six years after Gary stepped down as Executive Director, ALAN continues to be graced by his intelligence, compassion, and kindness.

Emily Nafziger at NCTE headquarters oversaw every logistical detail for the workshop from the packing of the book boxes back in Urbana to the coordination of the on-site Fed Ex shipping station here in Atlanta. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, Emily asked smart questions, made thoughtful suggestions, and served as a wonderful advocate for ALAN. Thank you, Emily, for everything you’ve done for us.

Thanks to the following program consultants, board members, and executive committee members who reviewed this year’s breakout session proposals: Michael Cart, Scott Filkins, Marge Ford, Susan Groenke, Mark Letcher, Kellee Moye, Lisa Muller, Daria Plumb, Lee Ann Spillane, and Rick Williams.

Thanks to Ricki Ginsberg and Kellee Moye for promoting the workshop on social media throughout the fall and to Anne McLeod for doing the same in the ALAN newsletter.

Thanks to Mark Letcher and Ricki Ginsberg for coordinating volunteers for the workshop.

It is the role of the panel chairs to bring the workshop theme to life by introducing authors and setting them up for conversation. This year’s panel chairs represent a mix of teachers, librarians, graduate students, professors, consultants, publishing industry representatives, and even YA editors. Many are chairing sessions for the first time. Huge thanks to each one of you for accepting my invitation to bring your expertise and passion to this year’s workshop.

Thanks to the following ALAN members—drawn from the board of directors, the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee, and our pool of workshop volunteers—for fueling our reading appetites through your book talks: Jenny Broach, Barb Dean, Scott Filkins, Marshall George, Helene Halstead, Dani King, Suzanne Metcalfe, Sarah Ressler Wright, Beth Scanlon, Lisa Scherff, Jennifer Walsh, and Rick Williams.

Thanks to Ethan Patrick, a teen reader himself, for serving as Special Assistant to the President.

On a final note, when I attended my first ALAN Workshop in Nashville in 1998, I never dreamed I would one day serve as ALAN President. Only when Joan Kaywell recruited me to be a state membership representative (by cornering me in the NCTE Exhibit Hall in Pittsburgh in 2005) did I begin to see a path toward greater involvement in ALAN. Thank you, Joan, for believing in me.

Jennifer Buehler, 2016 ALAN President
ALAN Executive Committee

Jennifer Buehler
President (2015–2016)
Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO

Laura Renzi
President-Elect (2016–17)
West Chester University of Pennsylvania, West Chester, PA

Daria Plumb
Immediate Past President (2014–2015)
Traverse City West Senior High School, Traverse City, MI

James Blasingame
Executive Director
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Margaret Ford
Treasurer
Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH

ALAN Board of Directors

Term ending 2016
Marshall George
Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, NY

Susan Groenke
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Lisa Muller
Castle High School, Newburgh, IN

Term ending 2017
Dani King
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Lee Ann Spillane
Cypress Creek High School, Orlando, FL

Rick Williams
Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH

Term ending 2018
Bryan Gillis
Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

Cindy Minnich
Upper Dauphin Area High School, Elizabethville, PA

Kellee Moye
Hunters Creek Middle School, Orlando, FL

ALAN Appointed Officers

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Coeditor, The ALAN Review
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Wendy Glenn
Coeditor, The ALAN Review
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Danielle King
Coeditor, The ALAN Review
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
ALAN Membership

In addition to all the books, conversations, and connections you’re taking home from the ALAN Workshop, did you know you’re also taking home a membership in ALAN? By registering for the ALAN Workshop, you automatically receive a one-year ALAN membership. This includes a subscription to *The ALAN Review*, the flagship journal of young adult literature teaching and scholarship; monthly editions of *ALAN Online News*, our email newsletter; and voting privileges in the annual ALAN election, held in September.

Encourage your colleagues and friends to join ALAN! Direct them to the ALAN website (http://www.alan-ya.org) where new members can join online, or invite them to contact ALAN Membership Secretary Suzanne Metcalfe at alanya.membership@gmail.com.

Stay connected with ALAN!

- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

- Submit reviews of your favorite current YA reads for ALAN Quick Picks, a regular feature in *ALAN Online News*. Send your work to ALAN Newsletter Editor Anne McLeod at cannemcleod@outlook.com.

- Submit a breakout session proposal for next year’s workshop. Send proposals to Laura Renzi, 2017 ALAN President, at larenzi@yahoo.com.

- Become an ALAN State Representative. Recruit 10 new members to join ALAN each year and help spread the word about young adult literature. For more information, contact Suzanne Metcalfe at alanya.membership@gmail.com or Renee Stites at renee.e.stites@gmail.com.
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