From the Editors

As the song says, “School’s out for the summer,” and summer has truly been a great time to load up on the latest in young adult literature, grab a frosty glass of iced tea, and settle into that comfortable chair by the pool.

OK, maybe your summer hasn’t been as tranquil as all that, but YA lit can certainly take you miles away from the syllabus begging for revision, lesson plans needing to be written, books waiting to be catalogued and filed, and all the around-the-house chores, as well.

And, while you’re thumbing through the great young adult literature that is hitting the shelves, we hope you will enjoy our issue, which focuses on the past, present, and future of young adult literature.

Speaking of the future of young adult literature, we feature an extensive interview with a rising star in the field, Kevin Brooks, as well as reviews of his most recent books, *Kissing the Rain* and *Lucas*. You’re also welcome to dive into our wide array of articles dealing with the past—from Debra Seely, author of books set in 19th century Kansas ranching country, discussing the role of historical fiction, to Eleanor Ramrath Garner sharing her insights into the use of memoirs in adolescent literature, including her notable autobiographical work, *Eleanor’s Story: An American Girl in Hitler’s Germany* recalling her time as a young girl in Hitler’s World War II Germany. We also include features on both award-winning authors.

In this issue’s Library Connection, we welcome guest columnist Karen Peterson, who provides ample information about an outstanding city library’s web page designed to link teens with books. She details the teen web page created by the City of Mesa, Arizona, in an effort to encourage other cities and schools to generate their own web pages. We also welcome the first column from our Middle School Connection columnist, Claudia Katz, and her co-author, Karen Boran.

And then there’s our focus on African American mothers and daughters. KaaVonia Hinton-Johnson’s article examines mother-daughter relationships in contemporary young adult novels, through black feminist theory.

Pam B. Cole’s article demonstrates the current and future uses of young adult literature, and the genre’s abilities to help teenagers, especially boys, maneuver through their first relationships.

Truly, young adult literature has a rich past, a robust present, and an ever-expanding future. We’re excited about where the genre has been, its current vitality, and the unlimited possibilities that loom in the future.

Yes, summer is ending, but we hope you’ll agree that there are plenty of lessons within the pages of this issue. Grab a chair and enjoy.
The fall 2004 ALAN Workshop is scheduled for Nov. 22 and 23 in Indianapolis, Ind., and the lineup is filled with well-known authors, publishers, and experts in the field of young adult literature. The activities actually kick off with the annual breakfast featuring author E.L. Konigsburg on Saturday, Nov. 20.

But, before you head to Indianapolis, we’ve provided this workshop preview to give you a sampling of what to expect. Then get your suitcase out and start packing.—JB & LG

The Art of Young Adult Literature:
A Welcome from ALAN President, Michael Cart

Welcome to the 2004 ALAN Workshop. The theme I’ve selected—“The Art of Young Adult Literature”—reflects my long-held belief that YA has come of age and that if the term “Young Adult Literature” might once have been regarded as an oxymoron (like “jumbo shrimp” and “military intelligence”), that surely is no longer the case. For the genre is now arguably the liveliest in publishing, enriched and informed by so many dynamic trends, artistic innovations, and examples of creative risk-taking that I do not hesitate to call this a new “Golden Age” of young adult literature.

I hope you’ll find proof of this extravagant claim in the workshop that has been assembled for you. More than fifty authors, editors, and experts in the field will participate in an extraordinarily content-rich conference, the tone of which will be set by keynote speaker Stephen Roxburgh, the distinguished publisher of Front Street Books and staunch advocate of literary fiction. Other speakers include the likes of Printz Award-winner An Na, Printz Honor Award recipients Jennifer Donnelley, Garret Freymann-Weyr, Helen Frost, Jan Greenberg, Terry Trueman, and Ellen Wittlinger; National Book Award-winner Han Nolan, Newbery Medalist Christopher Paul Curtis, 2004 ALAN Award recipient Jacqueline Woodson, two-time Eisner Award-winner Eric Shanower, and many, many more. They will address an array of topics that range from “The Art of Story” to “Discovering Sexual Identity in Literature,” from “The Art of the Graphic Novel” to “The Art of Poetry” and from “The Art of the Short Story” to “The Art of the Novel.” Indeed, virtually every aspect of the now artful and newly expansive field of young adult literature will be addressed.

As a result, the conference is, admittedly, an ambitious one and one that is very, very tightly scheduled. It will invite your patience and occasional indulgence with the briskness of its pace and the—well, ampleness of its content. To accommodate that, please note that we will be starting at 8:00 both Monday and Tuesday mornings.

If it all seems, from time to time, a bit overwhelming, it will, I promise you, never be dull. And it will also be a continuous exercise in intellectual excitement and personal and professional growth.

I look forward to sharing this excitement and to greeting each of you in Indianapolis!

Michael Cart, ALAN President
2004 ALAN WORKSHOP (TENTATIVE) SCHEDULE

Monday, 11/22/04:
8:00-8:10: Welcome and a Few Words about ALAN
Michael Cart, ALAN President

8:10-8:20: A Few Words about the ALAN Review
James Blasingame and Lori Goodson, Co-Editors

8:20-8:50: KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Stephen Roxburgh, Publisher, Front Street

8:50-9:40: THE ART OF FICTION. I
Carolyn Coman
Garret Freymann-Weyr
An Na
Han Nolan
Ellen Wittlinger

9:40-10:20: THE ART OF FANTASY
L.G. Bass
Steven Gould
Edith Pattou
E. Rose Sabin

10:20-10:35: COFFEE BREAK

10:35-11:00: ADULT AUTHORS FOR YOUNG ADULTS. I
Clive Barker

11:00-11:40: ART IN LITERATURE
Jan Greenberg
Kathe Koja
Tracy Mack

11:40-12:00: THE ART OF POETRY
Paul B. Janeczko

12:00-1:00: LUNCH

1:00-1:40: THE ART OF THE NOVEL IN VERSE
Helen Frost
Paul B. Janeczko
Sonya Sones

1:40-2:30: THE ART OF FICTION. II. New Narrative Strategies
Terry Davis
Jaclyn Moriarty
Lauren Myrae
Terry Trueman
Hilary Frank

2:30-2:50: COFFEE BREAK

2:50-3:40: BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Steven T. Beckmore: YA Literature and the Pre-Service Teacher
Jim Blasingame: The Art of Humor in YA Books
Lois Buckman: Beyond Prose
Lisa A. Hazlett: Examining Artistry in YA Literature
Ted Hipple: How Do We Evaluate Young Adult Novels
Teri Lescene: Art and YA Literature
Walter Mayes: The Best New YA Books
John Noell Moore
M. Jerry Weiss: All the World’s a Stage—or Is It?

3:40-4:20: THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY
Sharon Flake
Marilyn Singer
Ellen Wittlinger

4:20-5:00: THE ART OF MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERATURE
David Lubar
Gerald Morris
Rod Philbrick
Sarah Weeks

Tuesday, 11/23/04:
8:00-8:40: ARTFUL NEW YA IMPRINTS
Patty Campbell. Moderator
Eden Edwards (Graphia)
David Levithan (PUSH)
Sharon November (Firebird)
Susan Van Metre (Amulet)

8:40-9:05: THE ART OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
Eric Shanower

9:05-9:55: THE ART OF TEACHING YA WRITING
Ann Angel
M.T. Anderson
An Na
Anita Riggio
Jackie Woodson

9:55-10:10: COFFEE BREAK

10:10-10:50: THE ART OF HISTORICAL FICTION
Julie Chibbaro
Jennifer Donnelley
Kelly Easton
Trudy Krishes

10:50-11:15: ADULT AUTHORS FOR YOUNG ADULTS. II
Joyce Maynard

11:15-11:55: THE ART OF GENRE FICTION
Carl Deuker
Lynne Ewing
William Sleator

11:55-1:05: LUNCH

1:05-1:30: THE ART OF HUMOR AND HEART
Christopher Paul Curtis

1:30-2:10: FINDING SEXUAL IDENTITY IN YA FICTION
Brent Hartinger
David Levithan
Jackie Woodson
Sharon Dennis Wyeth

2:10-2:30: COFFEE BREAK

2:30-3:20: BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Pamela Sissi Carroll: The Art and Science of Young Adult Literature
Kristin Fletcher-Spear: Graphic Reads
Wendy Glenn: Hole in My Life (and Theirs)
Lori & Todd Goodson: The Art of Performance
Jeff Kaplan: Looking on the Inside
Joan Kaywell & Neil Shusterman: What Daddy Did—What Teachers Do
Lois Stover: The Art of Jacqueline Woodson
Alan B. Teasley: Out of the Closet and Onto the Shelves!

3:20-3:55 Panel: HEARING NEW VOICES
Mark Delaney
Brian James
Patrick Jones
Ned Vizzini

3:55-4:00: Patty Campbell, A Preview of ALAN 2005 & Farewell
Call for Manuscripts

The Art of Adolescent Literature

Winter 2005. The theme for our 2005 winter issue, *The Art of Adolescent Literature*, is intended to accompany and develop the theme of the 2004 ALAN Workshop and to provide a means for examining the artistry inherent in adolescent literature and its teaching, in any form that bears examination or discussion. This theme is meant to be broad enough to cover a wide range of topics and flexible and open enough for many different interpretations. Some ideas for manuscript topics might be found in the titles of author presentations at the 2004 ALAN Workshop in Indianapolis, which include: New Narrative Strategies, The Art of the Novel, Adult Authors for Young Adults, Art in Literature, The Art of Poetry, The Novel in Verse, The Art of Fantasy, The Art of the Short Story, The Art of Middle School Literature, The Art of Teaching YA Writing, The Art of Historical Fiction, The Art of Horror Fiction, Sexual Identity in YA Fiction, and New Voices in YA Literature. Manuscripts dealing with the artistry of the authors (listed below) appearing at the 2004 ALAN Workshop are also welcome. The deadline for manuscripts for the winter 2004 issue is October 15. Please see the Instructions for Authors page for specific instructions about submitting manuscripts.

M.T. Anderson    Lynne Ewing    Trudy Krisher    Anita Riggio
Ann Angel        Sharon Flake    David Levithan    E. Rose Sabin
Clive Barker      Hilary Frank    David Lubar     Eric Shanower
L.G. Bass         Garret Freymann-Weyr  Tracy Mack    Marilyn Singer
Julie Chibbaro    Helen Frost      Joyce Maynard   William Sleator
Carolyn Coman     Steven Gould     Jaclyn Moriarty  Sonya Sones
Christopher Paul Curtis Jan Greenberg  Gerald Morris  Terry Trueman
Terry Davis       Brent Hartinger  Lauren Myracle  Ned Vizzini
Mark Delaney      Brian James      An Na         Sarah Weeks
Carl Deuker       Paul B. Janeczko  Han Nolan      Ellen Wittlinger
Jennifer Donnelley Patrick Jones    Edith Pattou    Jacqueline Woodson
Kelly Easton      Kathe Koja       Rodman Philbrick  Sharon Dennis Wyeth

2005 Spring/Summer theme: A Road Less Traveled (Deadline February 15)

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature and its use that examine people or paths in young adult literature that differ from the norm or majority. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics, but some possibilities include examination and discussion of innovative authors and their work, pioneers or turning points in the history of the genre and new literary forms. We welcome and encourage other creative interpretations of this theme.

2005 Fall theme: Finding My Way (Deadline May 15)

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature and its use dealing with the search for self. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics, but some possibilities include examination and discussion of the approach an author or group of authors take to leading protagonists down the path to self discovery, comparisons of how this is accomplished across subgenres of young adult literature, or how young adult literature compares to developmental or adolescent psychology. We welcome and encourage other creative interpretations of this theme.