



## From the Editors

**A**s we write this column, we find ourselves doing a challenging balancing act.

On one side, we're elated with the success of the fall workshop in Indianapolis, which featured outstanding authors and experts from the field of young adult literature. On the other, we're forced to deal with the fact that, only days after the conclusion of the workshop, we lost one of those experts and friends we've come to depend upon for so long, Ted Hipple.

In this issue, besides the regular columns, we feature some of the finest in our field who took to the microphone at the ALAN workshop.

With his sense of humor and intelligent style, editor Stephen Roxburgh focuses on what truly makes a young adult novel. Clive Barker, who has taken a unique road to young adult literature audience by way of Hollywood and horror, explains his writing and its connection to the subconscious mind and the human experience. And, while Barker's elaborate artwork adds to his young adult novels, another of today's leading authors/artists, Eric Shanower, shares insight into his work. Shanower discusses his immense project, *The Age of Bronze*, a story of the Trojan War told in graphic novel form. Librarians Kristin Fletcher-Spear, Merideth Jenson-Benjamin, and Teresa Copeland then provide a primer on graphic novels. Their annotated list of titles, as well as suggested uses for them in the classroom, will not only help those experienced in using graphic novels, but also the novice who is interested in finding such novels' place in their own professional efforts. Mark Vogel suggests an analogy between animal totems and adolescent psychology, an interesting approach.

We continue with an article by award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson, who provides details of how educators can use young adult literature to influence and educate teen-agers, while also entertaining and engaging them. Elizabeth Levy shares memories of her close friend, author Paula Danziger. Danziger offered a career filled with novels that held her young readers captive with their lively action and strong characters.

Two experts in YA literature, Holly Blackford and Myrna Dee Marler, examine how popular adult novels deal with becoming a woman and how those effectively speak to the young women who read them.

Regular column editors Jean Brown, Jerry Weiss and Jeffrey Kaplan present some great resources for YA aficionados in the Nonprint, Publishing Connection and the Research Connection columns.

And, finally, Melissa Comer, a former student of Ted Hipple, details what he meant to her and so many other students and colleagues. We also feature a myriad of thoughts and remembrances from those whose lives he touched.

The most uplifting part of our balancing act is that not only can we delve deeper into the heart and soul of those fall workshop presentations by hearing more from the presenters through their articles and interviews, but we also have an opportunity to pay tribute to a gentleman who took a great leading role in his efforts to promote the use of young adult literature.

To those who helped make the fall workshop such a success and to Ted Hipple, who has helped us all succeed in our love of young adult literature, we say thank you.