

ALAN Online News: 2020 ALAN Election Results, The ALAN Book Box, NCTE Scholarships, and a Tribute to Margo Sacco

In this issue: Election results, looking inside the ALAN book box, information about NCTE convention scholarships, and a tribute to Margo Sacco

2020 ALAN Election Results

President



Dani King-Watkins has been a proud member of ALAN since 2006. She has been an Assistant Editor and reviewer for The ALAN Review, as well as a Board member, and has served on and chaired the Nilsen-Donelson Committee. During the annual workshop, Dani enjoys moderating author panels, volunteering in the ALAN booth, and assisting with the author reception. Dani began her career teaching high school English, where she also had rewarding experiences mentoring student teachers. This motivated her to begin teaching university courses for pre-service teachers as she pursued her Ph.D., which she earned from the University of Connecticut. She has presented at both NCTE and ALAN, as well as at AERA and state conferences. Her work focuses on YA literature, specifically as it relates to the intersection of disability and sport, as well as to student readers in alternative school settings. Dani's passion for the power of YA literature has grown each year through her interactions with her ALAN colleagues and friends, and she is dedicated to continuing the important work of ALAN.

Board of Directors



Shalonda Foster is currently the principal at Western Middle School for the Arts in Louisville, Kentucky. She has also been a middle school Language Arts teacher, resource teacher, and assistant principal in Louisville, Kentucky and ELA teacher and professional development instructor in Gwinnett County, Georgia. As a strong advocate for equity of students of underserved populations, Shalonda's passions include helping educators build inclusive classrooms and school libraries (including her own school's Project Lit chapter) and student choice. Shalonda has been a member of NCTE/ALAN over the years and presented a session entitled Integrating the Arts to Raise Student Voice at the 2018 NCTE Annual Convention in Houston, Texas. She is eager about the opportunity to become more active in ALAN. Outside of NCTE/ALAN, Shalonda was the Wiseman Group 2017 Multiplier of the Year in Education/Non-Profit.



Keisha Rembert is an Assistant Professor of Teacher Preparation at National Louis University (NLU) and a former 15+ year middle school English and History educator. Her passion for equity, social justice and youth literature coalesce in her membership and work on the National Council for Teachers of English's Committee Against Racism and Bias, as a member of ALAN's Committee for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and in her service on the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center's Educator Advisory Board. In 2019, Keisha was named Illinois History Teacher of the Year as well as the 2019 National Council for Teachers of English Outstanding Middle-Level English Educator. As an ALAN Board member, Keisha will bring a commitment to equity and advocacy along with a reflection of how adolescent literature impacts and can free all students, especially students who exist on the margins.



Julia E. Torres is a veteran language arts teacher-librarian in Denver, Colorado. Julia works with students and teachers locally and around the country with the goal of empowering them to use literacy to fuel resistance and positive social transformation. Julia has been a member of NCTE since 2009 and has previously served as the Colorado NCTE affiliate Vice-president and President. Julia currently serves on several local and national boards and committees promoting educational equity and progressivism. She is a current ALAN Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee Member, NCTE Secondary Representative-at-large, Book Love Foundation board member, The Educator Collaborative Book Ambassador, and Educolor Collective Steering Committee member.

What's in the ALAN Book Box?

Good news!

Because we were almost sold out of ALAN Book Boxes, we were able to increase the number to 600 boxes! There are now just over 100 boxes left. If you haven't registered yet and want a book box, please register soon! If you see an option for a box on the NCTE registration page, then we still have boxes left!

What's in the ALAN Book Box?

This year, we have a lot of new attendees who have never attended ALAN before. We've been asked frequently, "What's in this book box?"

Each year, the publishers graciously donate copies of the titles on the ALAN program for attendees to have and keep. This year, because of the inconsistencies of warehouse shipping, many of the books in the box will be advanced reader copies. These are new books for you to read, enjoy, and share with young people.

No two ALAN Book boxes are the same. Each box will contain an estimated 35 books or about 40 pounds of new young adult books. There are 218 titles across the boxes (program books and book talked books). If you choose the option "with books," you'll get the box shipped directly to your door. Once these boxes sell out, the option will no longer exist on the registration page.

If you don't want a box, we have a lot of space available for people to enjoy some of the greatest young adult voices and some of the best new books of 2020. We'd love to "see" you there!

More information about the ALAN Workshop: <http://www.alan-ya.org/workshop/>

NCTE Convention Scholarships Available

The ALAN Workshop scholarship deadline has passed, but we recently learned of a new opportunity that we wanted to share from NCTE:

NCTE recently announced a call for scholarship applications to cover the registration fee for the 2020 Virtual NCTE Annual Convention. Early career educators, teachers from under-represented groups, non-tenure-track faculty, unemployed NCTE members, and educators who do not otherwise have the funds to pay for registration are encouraged to apply. We encourage you to share this opportunity with your assembly members. Please follow this [link](#) for all of the details and to submit an entry form; submitting applications as soon as possible is preferred. Scholarships will be given on a rolling basis as long as funds are available.

Saying Farewell to Margo Sacco



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Gazette

As we bid farewell to Margaret (Margo) T. Sacco, Professor Emerita at Miami University, Ohio, we cannot help but think of how her charity, courage, and kindness will be missed. She was a fierce champion against censorship and worked tirelessly for both NCTE and ALAN to provide materials for teachers and librarians who might find the very best books challenged for the very worst reasons. Margo was not about to let that happen, and she created a bank of written rationales for using hundreds of books and worked to “have your back” before that was even a saying.

In the words of a few of her students at Miami, she was “great, great, great! An interesting professor, and a very strong woman who made learning fun!” She was also “. . . hard, but you will learn so much. . . . Do the work, meet with her, and listen in class and you will do fine. Hers was one of the best classes I’ve had at Miami.” One student also correctly claimed that, “She knows everyone in the field, and is a very caring, cool lady with a great sense of humor. I just love her gorgeous clothes and stylish hats!”

And about those hats! As her NCTE and ALAN friends know, somewhere at the beginning of every conference, in a hotel lobby, there would inevitably be a large cluster of people laughing and excited to see each other again, and in the center would be a woman dressed to the nines and wearing a large hat, a hat as glamorous and gorgeous as the wearer’s personality. Under the hat was Professor Margaret Sacco, aka Margo. And once Margo knew you, she was as generous as she was gregarious. If you were ever going near Martha’s Vineyard over a summer and she knew it, she would invite you to come for a visit, “I’ll give you a key to the house in Edgartown, and you can do your own thing,” she would say.

A great professor, a great champion for literacy, and a great friend. Margo, you will be missed.

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NEED TO JOIN OR RENEW? You can do this online at <http://www.alan-ya.org/join/>. You’ll find your expiration date on your mailing label right above your name.

Supporting ALAN

There are so many ways to support ALAN...coming to the workshop, voting, running for the Board, volunteering...and donating. Please support ALAN's Grant Projects by donating. Just click the button!

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