ALAN Online News June 2017

Featured Author at 2017 ALAN Breakfast: Rick Riordan

It's not the Handing Over of the Gavel, but it is the Handing Over of the Constant Contact account. We have a new editor of the ALAN Online News! Helene Halstead will be familiar to many of you from ALAN Workshops, where she's volunteered in practically every possible capacity. Helene brings an enthusiasm for connecting young people to books, a gift for writing, and a strong background in technology. I have no doubt the newsletter is in good hands. Many thanks to Helene for her willingness to take this on. We have worked together on this issue as she gets ready to solo in the future. You can find out more about Helene in her introduction below.

I'm not going away. I'll be working with ALAN in other roles because this organization is simply the best. I applied for the editor's job because I wanted to get in the ALAN loop, to find out more about what was happening in the organization. The more I learned, the more I came to appreciate how special our members are and how devoted ALAN's leaders are to making sure young people have access to authentic literature that speaks to them.

Thanks to James Blasingame and Teri Lesesne, cj bott, Jeffrey Kaplan, Walter Mayes, Daria Plumb, Jennifer Buehler, and Laura Renzi, plus all the Board members who took me in as a newbie to ALAN.

The editorial board of TAR, Wendy Glenn, Dani King, Ricki Ginsberg, like Steve Bickmore, Jackie Bach, and Melanie Hundley before them, have been incredibly supportive of the newsletter. The Barbs - both Barb Dean and Barb Ward, for
Thanks for the editorial assistance, encouragement, and book reviews, Kacy Tedder, Joan Kaywell (whose emails full of ALAN and YA news first inspired me to get involved), Dawn Martelli, Kellee Moye, Melinda Wallace, and more people than I can name here.

Still here's one more name: Don Gallo. When he emailed me after I sent the first newsletter out back in 2011, I felt a little faint. As in, wait, what? THAT Don Gallo? Don, thanks for your comments and suggestions along the way. You helped me stay on track, and I appreciate your wisdom.

Thanks, ALAN! Now enjoy your summer, read some good books, and I hope I'll see you all in St. Louis this November.

- Anne McLeod, Editor
ALAN Online News

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**Rick Riordan to Speak at ALAN Breakfast**

Bestselling author Rick Riordan will be the featured speaker at this year's ALAN Breakfast. Hear the creator of the Percy Jackson, the Heroes of Olympus, the Kane Chronicles, Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard, as well as other much loved series on Saturday morning, November 18th.

Please note that the breakfast is a separate registration from the workshop. If you've never attended before, it's always an exciting preview of the ALAN festivities to come.

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**September Deadline for Grant Applications**

As many of us are enjoying a summer break, out a least a lull, it may be difficult to trade your sun visor for your ALAN membership hat. And yet I ask you to do so for just a few moments. Think, for a minute, of the wonderful and dedicated individuals you work with to positively impact young adults. Think of the media specialist who always has that perfect book for your student. Picture the new teacher on your hallway who has a growing library of diverse books for students to explore. Consider the graduate student whose research interests lie in young adult literature or who plan to work with pre-service language arts teachers.

Do you have someone in mind? Can you picture how excited they would be to receive one of the grants ALAN offers to support its members? Wonderful! Now, please forward this newsletter to them and in the subject line type, "you'd be perfect for one of ALAN's grants."
Grant applications are due by September 1st or September 15th. While a brief outline of the guidelines follows, additional information can be found on the ALAN Grants and Awards page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALAN Foundation Grant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Up to $1500.00</td>
<td>September 15th</td>
<td>Research in field of YA literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallo Grants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Up to $750.00 plus workshop registration</td>
<td>September 1st annually</td>
<td>New educators who are first time workshop attendees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith/Carlsen Grant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$500 and workshop registration</td>
<td>September 1st annually</td>
<td>In-field graduate students who are first time workshop attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart/Campbell Grant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$500 and workshop registration</td>
<td>September 1st annually</td>
<td>Librarians/media center specialists</td>
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</tbody>
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**Give Your Support to ALAN's Grant Campaign**

Dear ALAN Friends,

We are writing to enlist your support in an important, and fairly new ALAN endeavor. As you may know, in 2015 ALAN established two new grants to honor luminaries in the field of young adult literature and to help graduate students and librarians discover the joys of attending the ALAN Workshop. It all began with an anonymous donor approaching cj bott with a contribution, saying "Do whatever you think needs to be done. After much thought cj decided there needed to be a way to involve more librarians, and so—why not have a grant in the names of our two former ALAN Presidents, Patty Campbell and Michael Cart, both of whom came from the library world. Chris Crowe and Wendy Glenn soon came on board and suggested also honoring pioneering university people who were and will always be part of ALAN's beginning, and so these two wonderful grants were born.

Many thanks to the grant committees who worked so very hard to create the specifics of these grants, as we now seek contributions to help sustain these awards now and in the years to come.

And here's a shout-out to our anonymous donor, who continues to make a generous contribution every year!! Thank you, kind member, for starting all this.

The Cart-Campbell Grant honors the contributions of former ALAN presidents and librarians Michael Cart and Patty Campbell, both long-time ALAN members and passionate contributors to the study of Young Adult Literature. Applicants must be a librarian working with teens in a high school, junior high school, middle school, or public library. The winner of the grant will receive financial support to attend the ALAN Workshop.

The Smith-Carlsen Grant honors Dora V. Smith and G. Robert Carlsen, whose knowledge of and passion for teacher education contributed to the field of Young Adult Literature. It is awarded each year to a full-time graduate student in a program focused on English Education, Literacy Education, and/or Young Adult Literature and who has not previously attended an ALAN Workshop.

For more information about these two grants and the folks they honor, you may go to [Smith-Carlsen grant](#) and to [Cart-Campbell grant](#) on the website.

If you would like to donate to the Smith-Carlsen Grant and/or the Cart-Campbell Grant, ALAN now provides two ways for you to do so: online by PayPal.
or through USPS or the delivery service of your choice by check.

For the online procedure, go to the ALAN website donations link, fill in the form and click "submit," which will take you to PayPal. You do not have to have a PayPal account to use this secure site. Upon making a donation, you will immediately receive two receipts, one from Jotform and one from PayPal.

To contribute by check, make the check payable to The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE and designate the intended grant fund (Smith-Carlson or Cart-Campbell) on the "For ___" line. Mail your contribution to ALAN treasurer Marge Ford at ALAN PO Box. ALAN, PO Box 234, Campbell, OH 44405.

We hope you’ll be able to support one or both of these important grants.

- cj bott, Chris Crowe, Wendy Glenn, and the ALAN Executive Committee

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**Introducing Newsletter Editor Helene Halstead**

There is no way I can take the place of our online newsletter editor Anne McLeod. What I can do, however, is aspire to continue to bring you a newsletter of the same caliber; one that is as informative and engaging as those you’ve been receiving over the past six years.

Meanwhile, I’d like to introduce myself so that you will have a picture of person sending you your online ALAN newsletters. I have been a member of ALAN for six years, and you may have seen me at the workshops handing you your box of books, helping out at the ALAN booth in the NCTE Convention Center, or being the timekeeper during our fantastic author panels.

I, like Anne, live in Athens, Georgia, and I taught middle school students for eight years. I just completed my Ph.D. at UGA; my focus was on reading comprehension through student discussion groups in an in-school book club. My passion is sharing my love of books and reading with K-12 students in addition to supporting children and young adults as they build their home libraries. I strongly believe that book ownership supports a reader identity that is necessary to be a life-long reader.

I currently work in UGA’s College of Education in the Office of Information Technology’s Innovation in Teaching Initiative. It is a mouthful! I am also involved with a community based program, Reading for Success, that hosts a book club with residents of one of our housing communities. Other random facts you may find interesting is that everything I own has at least one cat hair on it; that I recently learned I should no longer attempt somersaults; and that despite my continued efforts to grow flowers in my yard, my thumb is more a nightshade black than a chlorophyll green.

I greatly look forward into stepping into Anne’s shoes in order to bring you the ALAN Online News.

- Helene Halstead, Editor
ALAN Online News
Update on Membership Renewals by Credit Card

Would you ever spend $5 for $3 worth of merchandise or services? That doesn’t seem like a sound investment – and ALAN doesn’t think so either. For that reason, ALAN will no longer accept credit card payments with mail in memberships.

Credit card processing companies charge a monthly fee for the privilege of enabling credit card payments whether the service is used or not. In addition, each transaction triggers an additional fee. In the last 6 months, only a few credit card payments were processed. The fees take a big chunk out of the funds collected that make offering mail in credit card payment not very cost effective, especially since credit card payments are accepted online. So, from this point on, credit card payments that are mailed in will no longer be processed.

**Credit cards can still be used, as always, for online membership.** You can find that link at http://www.alan-ya.org/join/

-Marge Ford, Treasurer

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**ALAN Real Quick Picks June 2017**

*The You I’ve Never Known by Ellen Hopkins (Simon & Schuster, 2017)*

For as long as Ariel Pearson can remember, she has been with her slick-talking, drunk, and sometimes abusive father because her mother abandoned them both to pursue a relationship with a lesbian lover. They are never in one place long enough to establish roots, but this year Ariel wants to stay because she has two new love interests of her own for the first time in her life: Monica and Gabe. In true-to-form, classic narrative poetry form, Hopkins weaves a complicated tale that involves two narratives that collide head on when the reader least expects it. When Ariel is forced to come face-to-face with her true identity, it is questionable she will even recognize the person she meets.

- Joan Kaywell

*Posted by John David Anderson (Simon & Schuster, 2017)*

*Posted* is a story about a middle school that bans cell phones yet learns that the technology is just the means for words and that middle schoolers will find other ways. There are books that I read that just feel true to me, and *Posted* fits that. Middle school is all about finding your tribe. So many kids are trying to find their identity and are influenced by so much which sometimes leads to mean kids;
however, there are really awesome middle schoolers as well which you can also see in this book. I love these middle schoolers (Frost, Rose, Wolf, Deedee, and even Bench), and I know you and any kid you share this book with will as well.
- Kellee Moye

**Someone Else’s Summer** by Rachel Bateman (Running Press Kids, 2017)

Storm was Anna's sister and her best friend, no matter how much they'd grown apart in high school, so when Storm dies, Anna knows she has to do something to honor their friendship. Because Storm liked to make to-do lists, Anna decides she needs to complete the last list for her, resulting in a road trip with the boy next door, Cameron. **Someone Else’s Summer** has everything: searching for identity, mishaps, high jinx, romance, and unexpected twists.
- Kellee Moye

**Framed!** by James Ponti (Aladdin, 2016)

Florian is twelve and a normal middle schooler who is mostly worried about starting at a new school. Oh, and he works for the FBI. Florian is one of the best kid detectives that I've read. His use of TOAST, the Theory of All Small Things, is so admirable and is something that kids could definitely learn from since they so often ignore the small things and focus on the obvious. I also really enjoyed the mystery that James Ponti set up for us. I am always in total awe of an author's ability to craft such a complicated mystery and how it all comes together. I also loved that the story was mutli-faceted and will teach the readers as well as entertain them.
- Kellee Moye

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**Calls for Manuscripts**

**The ALAN Review**

"All" in the Family: Conceptions of Kinship in Young Adult Literature

*Volume 45: Issue 2 (Winter 2018)*

The idea of family is complicated by the reality of life. While some may envision family as consisting of those to whom we are related by blood, others might hold a more inclusive definition. Family might be associated with home and safety and tradition and love or connected to feelings of betrayal and loss and loneliness and anger. Although our unique experiences with family might conjure differing definitions and perceptions along the continuum, we all likely have some type of emotional response to the concept. We wonder how YA literature might influence how young people make sense of their own families. How is family perceived and depicted—conventionally? contemporarily? What roles do parents and guardians, extended family members, siblings, neighbors, teachers, caregivers, etc. play in defining family? How and why have you valued and celebrated the funds of knowledge and lived experiences of those in our students’ families? As always, we also welcome submissions focused on any aspect of young adult literature not directly connected to this theme. All submissions may be sent to editors of The ALAN Review prior to July 1, 2017. Please see the ALAN website for submission guidelines.

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provide resources, insights, and information about young adult literature in the classroom and beyond. Click here to join.

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- Institutional ($50/year*)
- Student ($10.00/year*)

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