



# YA ROUND-UP



Young Adult Special Interest Group: A unit of MLA

March 2004

YASIG online: <http://molib.org/yasig/>

YASIG

## 2004 Missouri Library Association Conference

October 27th – 29th, 2004  
Sheraton West Port Hotel Plaza,  
St. Louis, Missouri

### Time is running out!

If you have an idea for a program that you want to host get your program request form in ASAP! You can download and print out the form from:

[www.molib.org/conference.html](http://www.molib.org/conference.html)

### Interview with Nancee:

So just exactly who is Nancee Dahms-Stinson? That's what YASIG wanted to know and share with our readers. This month we interviewed Nancee about her position as youth and senior services consultant at the Missouri State Library and what she does for Young Adults!

What are some of your daily duties?

As youth and senior services consultant, I split my time evenly between projects focused on both of those age populations. The youth services area includes programs and services focusing on early childhood to teens. Many of my daily tasks involve activities relating to the statewide summer library program; one or more of the federal grant programs I administer (for youth, these include After School Connections and Spotlight on Library Programs); the early childhood training we are co-sponsoring with other agencies (Winning Teams); or upcoming continuing education events.

*Continued on the next page.*

## YALSA News & Briefs

The Young Adult Library Services Association is a division of the American Library Association and serves as a clearinghouse for those who work with teens! The association can help with fostering relations among staff working with teens, gives ideas for programming and collection development, facilitates the Edwards and Printz awards and creates the Teen Read Week themes. Listed are some YALSA updates.

- YALSA has a new logo and web page: [www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsa.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsa.htm)
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries* by Michelle Gorman, Patrick Jones & Tricia Suellentrop will be published in August by Neal-Schuman for more info visit: [www.connectingya.com](http://www.connectingya.com)
- YALSA is looking for a new YAttitudes editor. If interested go to: [www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/newsandeventsb/editor.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/newsandeventsb/editor.htm) to submit your information!
- Teen Read Week is scheduled for Oct 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. This year's theme is *It's Alive @ Your Library*, contact Nicole Gilbert at [ngilbert@ala.org](mailto:ngilbert@ala.org) for more information or visit the TRW site: [www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/trw/teenreadweek.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/trw/teenreadweek.htm)

## 2004 Award Winners

Recently ALA announced the winners of the Margaret Edwards Award and the Michael L. Printz award. Both of these awards are well known young adult award categories and are facilitated by YALSA.

The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature. It is named after a Topeka, Kansas school librarian who was a long-time active member of YALSA. This year's winner is: **The First Part Last** by Angela Johnson, the following are recognized as honor books: **A Northern Light** by Jennifer Donnelly, **Keesha's House** by Helen Frost, **Fat Kid Rules the World** by K.L. Going and **The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things** by Carolyn Mackler.

The Margaret A. Edwards Award, established in 1988, honors an author's lifetime achievement for writing books that have been popular over a period of time. The year's recipient is Ursula K. Le Guin, author of **The Tombs of Atuan**; **The Farthest Shore** and **Tehanu**.

Check out YALSA on the web for other book recommendations. Each year YALSA publishes the *Best Books for Young Adults* and *Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults*. You can get involved and make nominations for this year's BBYA and PPYA lists at:

[www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/nominatetitle.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/nominatetitle.htm)

[www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/popularpaperback/nominatetitle.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/popularpaperback/nominatetitle.htm)

## Extra, Extra, read all about it! News and notes for YASIG members!

- Interested in becoming a reader for the Gateway or Mark Twain award? If so please contact: [www.maslonline.org](http://www.maslonline.org) or [www.gatewayaward.missouri.org](http://www.gatewayaward.missouri.org)
- Minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 & March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 YASIG officers meetings are posted on the YASIG web site. Also updated are the 2004 goals and the duties for each YASIG officers. Go online to view: <http://molib.org/yasig/>

Questions or comments about the YASIG newsletter *YA Round-up*? Or if you have something you want added. Please contact Kimberlee Ried at: [libraryladie2000@yahoo.com](mailto:libraryladie2000@yahoo.com)

In addition, I maintain the MOYAC electronic discussion list, disseminating information about trends, programs, legislation, and training opportunities that might affect or be of interest to librarians serving youth.

How did you end up working in your current position?

After working in a variety of library settings and positions (including youth services in three libraries), I held a position similar to this one in a Tennessee regional library. I worked with a smaller number of libraries, so I had more direct involvement with the library staff, library collections, and training. To be perfectly honest, my husband and I wanted to return to Missouri, where both our parents lived. When I saw a posting for this position at the state library it seemed to be a good match, since I could use my training and planning skills.

What is your role in servicing the needs of Young Adult librarians?

I see my role as determining what those needs are and finding ways to satisfy them with the tools I have. This is probably the most difficult part of my job, because few of the individuals in Missouri who serve young adults have the title “young adult librarian.” More often, they are the children’s librarians, who also have the responsibility of serving young adults (in addition to working the reference and/or circulation desk). In many cases the person who serves young adults is also the library director or branch manager, who is also juggling policy creation, staffing issues, collection development, trustee meetings, and doing some part-time plumbing on the side when a joker stuffs the latest issue of Wall Street Journal in the commode of the public restroom! Primarily, I strive to:

1. Help raise awareness at all levels of the importance of providing young adult services and the vital difference libraries and library staff can make in the lives of teens.
2. Help library staff struggling to serve this population recognize that they are not alone, and that sharing resources, knowledge and experiences will make all of our jobs easier and more effective.
3. Help library staff understand the importance of being advocates for young adults and of working with schools and agencies in the community to serve the population more effectively and raise awareness in those agencies about the role the library can play.

I see communication, continuing education and program development as the tools I have to help me achieve these goals.

What do you see happening in the future regarding the Young Adult librarian profession?

Growth and challenges. The profession has made terrific advances in the past 10 years. The number of young adult advocates has grown, and they have become more vocal. They promote themselves more – they’re certainly among the most tenacious populations of librarians! YA librarians will continue to promote themselves and the population they serve to other librarians and to other professionals who serve youth. YALSA now has about 64 Serving the Underserved (SUS) trainers who conduct workshops and spread their knowledge and expertise about young adult literature, services, programming, and more. I hope the next SUS train the trainer institute will see some Missouri librarians in attendance, so we can add our state to YALSA’s list. Missouri has a greater number of library staff gaining knowledge and expertise about young adult services and programming, and programming and services for young adults have increased considerably in the state. I credit the work of the team that put together and launched the statewide teen summer reading program for much of that growth. They initiated a movement that continues to grow.

I also see some challenges. In 2000 and 2001, we saw some growth in the number of library positions focused on teen services in Missouri. Unfortunately, we have lost some YA positions in Missouri, and most importantly, some vocal YA advocates. However, I see this as a temporary concern and I believe we will see it turn around. YASIG and its members play a key role in keeping YA services and programs at the forefront of people’s minds. And, while it is a serious concern, I believe the economic status of our state is also a temporary challenge. Unfortunately, many libraries already operate with very small budgets, and loss of funding almost always impacts teen services. As the economy stabilizes, I believe we’ll see more growth in teen services, collections, and positions.

What do you consider to be the biggest challenge in working with the YA population?

This is a hard question. I can think of several challenges, but I think the most difficult one is serving the underserved young adult population. Attracting teens who don’t, can’t or won’t visit the library is largely an issue of promotion and outreach. Promoting our libraries in a variety of ways and venues can take a great deal of time. Likewise, providing outreach services is staff-intensive and can be costly. Like young children, the majority of the teen YA population we strive to serve cannot get to the library by themselves. We have to bring our programs, resources, and services to them. I think collaborating with schools and community agencies is essential for success. We have to establish ourselves as key players to other agencies that serve teens. Fortunately, most of the people I’ve met around the state who serve teens in libraries are charismatic and creative, which are key qualities for developing cooperative relationships!

#### 2004 YASIG Officers

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