



Adult Learning Center News

Fall 2013

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Giving adults in Strafford County a second chance, a fresh start or a new opportunity.

Director's Message

Deanna Strand

And They're Off! ... to a Great Start

One month into the new school year, we are in full swing at the Adult Learning Center. So far this year, 114 speakers of other languages have enrolled in ESOL classes. They come from 44 different countries, with the largest representation from Indonesia and China. Sixteen ESOL students attend our new and highest level class, Level 4.



Many advanced ESOL students are pursuing their high school equivalency in our ABE classrooms with the hope of going on to college or advanced training. Two 8-week elective courses in pronunciation and grammar are turning out to be very popular, as well. These new courses help more advanced students refine their language skills, so they might return to career paths started in their native countries.

ABE classes in Dover also have 114 students enrolled: in Rochester, 63 and Strafford County House of Corrections, 70. Many of these students are eagerly working to complete the GED before it expires at the end of December. Others are preparing to take the new high school equivalency test, the HiSET, in the new year.

The HiSET, which will be offered on computer and on paper, offers an opportunity for adult learners to demonstrate their college and career readiness with a special endorsement in individual subjects for earning higher scores.

It is more critical than ever for adults to obtain the skills necessary for success in the world of work and post-secondary training. This year, 10 students who previously completed high school have returned to the adult learning center to boost their skills for college. Twenty-two students enrolled this fall in Algebra, Biology and Chemistry classes required for health career majors at the community college.

Our Adult Career Pathways program is receiving more referrals than ever from colleges, the community and area agencies, as more adults commit to obtaining the skills and training necessary for family sustaining careers in the modern economy.

In our Enrichment program, still others are taking CPR, First AID, or Being with Death and Dying in preparation for health occupations; Excel or MS Word for office work; and Return to the Workplace or Get ready to Retire to prepare for the next phase of their work life.

It is an exciting time in adult education! What an honor to be able to help so many adults acquire the skills they need to pursue their long term aspirations and goals!

Inside this issue:

In Their Own Words	2
Friends of the Center	2
Center Stars	3
Board Focus	4
A Donor's Tale	4

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In Their Own Words and pictures...

Revelations

By Amy Yeoman
 Tranquil sand below my feet
 deafening waves desperate to meet
 the sky lying awake like a black sheet
 mellow glimmering stars impulsively neat

The breeze slithering over my shell
 filling my soul with a dreamy spell
 the balmy smell of the sea will tell
 if a storm is brewing, if it will dwell

The naked land for miles around
 my thoughts aloud going unfound
 allowing my tears to billow down
 wanting answers, with no responding sound

My silhouette dancing as a fawn
 I stop and stare, my fears magically gone
 lithe in the moonlight, a distant song
 I discover, God was there all along.



In Our Own Words... is a collection of original writings. In poetry, personal reflection and artwork, they reveal their diversity, as well as their commonality as learners.

Friends of the Center

Founder's Circle (\$500+)

Barbara & James Bradshaw
 Abraham Burtman Charity Trust
 First Parish Church
 Kathryn Forbes
 Thomas F. Levasseur, CLU
 The Beacon Retirement Group
 Joe & Maggie Moore
 Renshaw Family
 Arthur & Deborah Tasker
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 Jim Verschueren & Carlo Nittoli

Advocate (\$250+)

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 Stephen Larson & Martha Bonney
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 Mary Churchman
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Matthew Costanzo

Gregg Cote

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Paula & John DePlanche

Nancy Dion

Andrea L. Dupere

Essential Energy/Maureen
Claussen

Karyn & Daniel Forbes

Don Foster & Muriel Farrar

Marsha Foster

Robert & Marjorie Goldberg

Brian & Susan Gong

Vera, Jeffrey & Dylan Haus
Peggy Kieschnick & Phil Hatcher

Larry & Sue Holman

Tony & Minnett Induisi

Richard & Jane Kaufmann

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Madbury Community Club

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Ann Schultz

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Martin & Pat Sorensen

Ronald St. Germain

Deanna & Paul Strand

Douglas S. Tarr

Douglas K. Wyckoff

Friend (\$50+)

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Dr. & Mrs. James Demopoulos

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 T. Gregory Smith
 Gail & Roy Tanner

Donations Received

In Memory of:

Jack Capelas, Esq.
 Roselyn Marcus

Donations Received

In Honor of:

Cam Dupere
 Margaret Moore

Center Stars - Natalie & Elizabeth & Hoanh

Natalie and Elizabeth lead very busy lives but yet make sure they attend Donna Shannon's Life Skills classes on Tuesday & Thursday mornings, plus Tiffany Brand's Monday night computer classes.



On the day they were interviewed, they were learning about beneficiaries and insurance in Donna's class. "She makes our brains hurt," one twin said of Donna. "She gets us thinking every day." They both enjoy Donna's classes. "I like Donna and the way she teaches," Natalie said. Right now they are learning the U.S. states and their locations. The goal is to be able to fill in a blank outlined map by the end of the year.

The twins have attended Donna's classes for the past two years. They both agree that they have become smarter as they have strengthened their multiplication, addition, and subtraction skills. They also read and write stories more than previously. They love the activities in class: word searches, Christmas balls, and Easter eggs.

And, they've become friends with others in the class.

In addition, the twins have attended three of Tiffany's computer classes. Presently, they are taking keyboarding to improve their speed. Previously, they took beginning computers and Excel. With Tiffany as their teacher, they said they have learned a lot, such as PowerPoint and spreadsheets. "I've learned so much that I've never done before," said one of the twins. Both are thinking of going on in school. Elizabeth would like to go to beauty school to learn cosmetology, and Natalie wants to be a prep cook or office worker.

When they are not in classes, they go to the UNH horse barn to ride as well as to The Works to exercise. When their neighbor or their friend is available, they go to the Mall, the movies, or out to eat. Then there are their three cats and new dog, Patches, at home. They got Patches in December. He is a Chiweenie which is a Dachshund and Chihuahua mix. It is hard to believe the twins have time for everything, but it is obvious they are immersed in living, learning, and enjoying life.



Yes, many people talk very fast, making it hard for Hoanh to understand what they are saying. Even her 9 year-old grandson, Andy talks very fast. But, Hoanh perseveres and continues to come to come to English classes at DALC to learn English. "I need things slow," she said with a smile. "I want to talk fast!"

Hoanh came to the United States from Tien Giang, Vietnam in 2005 to join her son, Dung and his family. She left one daughter, four sons, and another grandson in Vietnam. Every month she talks with her family back home.



Since 2005, she has come to DALC to take English classes with many of the ESOL teachers, including Thuy, Paula, Pam, and Bill. Now she is taking English classes with Joyce in the morning. She does not drive and relies on her son to drive her to class. Because of his job, she explained, the evening class is the option now. But, Hoanh is very happy in Joyce's class. She also meets with a volunteer tutor, Judi, one day a week. "I understand now," she said proudly. Hoanh is happy to learn English and be in the U.S. She said that she watches television, including the news and cooking shows. She does take walks alone, but when it snows, "I do not go out." Excitedly, she says that she likes the freedom in the U.S.

Board Focus...Welcome to our New Board Members

Vincent McGroary

Vincent McGroary works at Measured Progress in Dover. As chief reader, he is responsible for selecting, training, supervising, and evaluating personnel in the Measured Progress Scoring Division. McGroary is also involved in the review and preparation of training and scoring materials; he supervises and trains both readers and quality assurance coordinators. Acting as a liaison for clients, with state departments of education and Measured Progress curriculum and assessment specialists, McGroary continually promotes and achieves improved scoring accuracy and efficiency. McGroary holds the following degrees: M.A., Liberal Studies, and a B.A., English Literature from the University of New Hampshire, Durham.



Diane Lambert

Diane Lambert is the Rochester Center Director and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs: Advanced Technology & Academic Center (ATAC), at Great Bay Community College in Rochester. Lambert constructed the new (ATAC) center from ground up: guiding contractors over 6 months through framing, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, millwork, and finishing; procuring necessary janitorial, waste removal, furnishings, and supplies; examining processes of main campus in Portsmouth such that there is continuity of student and business services; and, hiring and training of new employees to perform necessary recruiting, customer service, office management, business, and advising services. Lambert's volunteer activities also include serving on the Community Emergency Response Team, Red Cross Volunteer and Blood Donor, Church Lector and Volunteer, and Parish Council Chairperson and Member.





Dover

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Strafford County

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Be a part of our success:

- ◆ Serve on a committee
- ◆ Become a volunteer tutor
- ◆ Join our Board of Directors
- ◆ Take an enrichment class
- ◆ Become a Friend of the Center
- ◆ Include us in your estate planning
- ◆ Become a corporate or event sponsor



A Donor's Tale... Tom Levasseur



Tom Levasseur, The Beacon Retirement Group
(www.thebeaconfg.com)

Tom Levasseur is not just a generous supporter of Dover Adult Learning Center, he is also a wonderful ambassador, spreading the word about the work we do. His son, Brent graduated with a Dover Adult High School Diploma in 2011. Tom was so moved by the experience of his son's success with DALC counselor, Minnett Induisi's support that he was inspired to create a \$500 annual scholarship in her name to honor her work with Brent and countless others. Brent had an opportunity as a nontraditional learner to get a high school diploma.

Through his firm The Beacon Retirement Group, Tom sponsored a booth for DALC at the Tri-Chambers Expo in Durham. The event was an excellent opportunity to recruit teachers and students, and to share information about the GED closeout.



Brent Levasseur
2011 Graduate

Tom says he has a passion for learning, a passion for teaching and a passion for this community. "I have a master's in education and was a teacher for 14 years. In my current profession, I teach people how to be financially successful. I believe that success is making more than you need for yourself, so that you can share it with others."

Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.