



Adult Learning Center News

Spring and Summer 2016

Volume XIII, Issue 2



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

Director's Message

Deanna Strand

This year 171 students in total earned their high school credential. On Tuesday, June 21, about 60 attended the ceremony at Dover High School where we shared their pride and their joy, and as a community, we applauded their accomplishments.

For many of our graduates, getting to this day was not easy. The path was not straight or predictable. They had to overcome many obstacles ... juggle children and work, housing and transportation challenges, family and health problems.

Our graduates were joined by the friends and family members who supported and encouraged them, and by the teachers and



staff at DALC who welcomed them into their classrooms and into their hearts.

Each year students are challenged to write an essay to define what they learned about themselves during the time at DALC. The 2016 winners are Casey Miller and Tyler Merrihew.

Miller wrote that his equivalency certificate means so much more than just a piece of paper, "I'm getting my HiSET® for



my mother, so I can make her proud. Growing up my mother was my inspiration. She was a single mother raising three kids by herself ... I promised her she would be able to see me walk in my cap and gown."

Merrihew wrote that the main thing he learned throughout his adult education was never to give up on his goals in life, "Anything is possible with hard work and dedication. I would like to thank the staff members of this program for pushing me and guiding me through it all. The experience has changed my life."

Guest speaker for the evening was Kenneth Cunningham, who was a DALC graduate in 1991 while he was an inmate of the Strafford County Jail. Cunningham attributed much of his rise to eventually becoming a PhD to the lessons he learned from his DALC mentors.

Cynthia Imbro, Dover Rotary Club presented a \$500 scholarship to Kerissa Atherton, Courtney Morin and Alexandria Kenney.

DALC Counselor, Tracey Donaldson presented the Helen Phipps/Debbie Tasker scholarship to Julia Caple and the Betsy Hackett scholarship went to Jasmine Arabia.

Donna McAdam, Former Counselor at DALC, presented a scholarship in her honor to Sarah Murley-Main.

Minnett Induisi, DALC Counselor, presented a scholarship in her honor to Haleigh Yole.

The Andrew Aimesbury Memorial scholarship was presented to Edward Deal, III by Karen Kelsey, who founded the scholarship in memory of her son.

Michelle Eusebio, of Empire Beauty School presented scholarships to three of their students.

Congratulations to all.



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In Their Own Words...**A Bright Memory from My Childhood**
by Tatiana Romanyuk

At the age of five or six, I dreamed about having a dog. One night my mom read me a book called "The Flower with Seven Petals." It was about a girl that one day found herself far away from home. She had lots of adventures finding her way home, and finally she found a magic flower that could make her wishes come true.

After reading, I took one petal from our home flower, threw it to the window, and made a wish (which was about the dog). Next morning, a small puppy was waiting for me to wake up. It was like a small miracle, and I still remember it, although it happened more than 30 years ago.

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.

Spring -by Daisy (XiaoXia) Ding

Spring comes.

The warm air touches the ground.
 The green grass smiles toward the sun.
 The gentle raindrops kiss the buds of the branches.

The happy birds sing love songs.
 I like spring because it's cool when the breeze sweeps.

I like spring because it's a good smell when the flowers bloom.

Spring is a season full of vigor.

It's a colorful one.
 It's a beautiful one.

2016 Friends of the Center**Founder's Circle (\$500+)**

Mr. & Mrs. Duffy
 Phil Hatcher & Peggy Kieschnick
 Measured Progress
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**Helen Phipps Heritage Society:
members have remembered
DALC in their estate planning**

Ann Schultz
 Martin and Pat Sorenson
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**Donations Received
In Memory Of:**

Adrienne Day-Cuff
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**Donations Received
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Randy came to the Center saying, "I need to get re-educated. I need to come up to speed on academic stuff." Due to head trauma in the past and incidents of amnesia, Randy has memory problems. He has accepted the fact that he needs to use lots of repetition and hard work in order to remember things. It also helps to have good people behind him; he appreciates Denise, Jill, Pam (both of them), Craig, and

Vocational Rehabilitation for helping him.

Randy wants to be financially independent in the future. He thinks he would like to get into the Advanced Composite Program at Great Bay Community College in Rochester, if he is physically able to do the work. In the past, Randy took jobs that he didn't like; he doesn't want to keep doing that.

"That's why now I take my education seriously. That's why I'm glad my tutor Craig is beating algebra into my head!" Randy says, "It's been slow." First he was in a basic math class, then Algebra class, then tutoring. To address his weakness in computer literacy, he is scheduled to take a computer class soon. As long as Randy perseveres to reach his goal, DALC will be right there with him.

Jun bin He - Ben to most of us - is from Guangzhou, a city in the southern part of China near Hong Kong. In November 2015, Ben came to the United States because the woman he loved lived here. He met Aimin Tan, now his wife, through a mutual friend when she came back to China for a visit. For six years they had a long-distance relationship before they got married.

For four years in China, Ben was a teacher; he taught high school students how to build a car engine. Now, at 30 years old, Ben is the student, coming to classes here at Dover Adult Learning Center four days a week. His plan is to concentrate on learning English for a few years before getting a machinist job or something to use his mechanical engineering degree. Currently, he works at the Asia Chinese and Japanese Restaurant on Third Street in Dover.

Ben has lots of phone apps, like Duolingo and Busuu, that help him learn English. He says the teachers here are a great help, too.



Ben likes watching NBA basketball games, especially when Stephen Curry plays. He hopes to travel to New York City soon to visit the Museum of Natural History. But he's quite happy right here in Dover where, he says, "The sky is very beautiful here."

Sabine is from Germany, where she worked in a tax consultant office for 20 years. In 2010, when Sabine's husband told her that his company was sending him to Mexico to work, she said, "Couldn't you get a job in America?" Well, in 2013, that's just what he did. Sabine and her husband relocated to the New Hampshire Seacoast. After becoming fluent in Spanish, Sabine finally could practice speaking English, a subject she had studied in school for many years.



Many times, at first, Sabine's brain jumbled German, Spanish and English all together. Sometimes she could think of only the Spanish word when she needed the English equivalent. However, now, almost three years later, her English vocabulary is excellent, as well as her grammar and pronunciation.

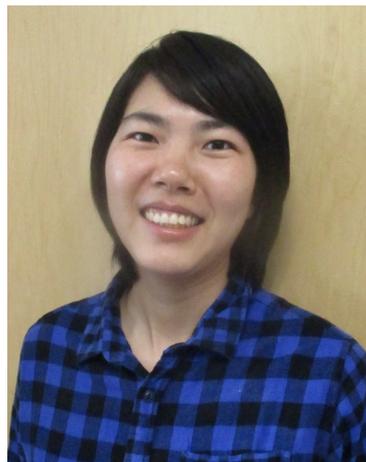
Sabine says, "It was the best decision I ever made to come to school." She can't say enough about how much she has enjoyed meeting people from other countries and learning from them. "To live abroad is always a challenge, starting with the language." Yet, the friendships and human connections make the experience meaningful and fun. This spring, when Sabine and her husband relocate again, this time back to Germany to Hannoversch Munden, she says she will miss living so close to the ocean. She has grown to love the beautiful beaches in the area. She also will have fond memories of her classes here at DALC.

Faith Wang was excited when a company asked her husband to leave China and come to work in America. She and her husband looked forward to a new life. She says, "We love new stuff." Now, three years later, Faith and her husband have a sixteen-month-old son and are in the process of buying a house in Madbury. They have also learned how to cook Chinese food--from YouTube videos--since they choose to eat at home more than they did when they were in China.

Faith has a master's degree in Electrical Engineering, but because of the type of visa she has, she cannot work. That means lots of time with her son Elisha and lots of time to study English. Even though she had studied English every day since middle school in China, her initial experience here shook her confidence.

Americans couldn't understand her and she struggled to understand them. That's because she learned English primarily through reading and writing, not speaking and listening.

Classes at DALC have given Faith plenty of practice in English pronunciation. Much more confident now, Faith has become a volunteer proctor in the computer lab, and in April, she volunteered to captain a Red's Race Team for DALC. True to her word--she loves new stuff!





Dover

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Strafford County

61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820
www.doveradultlearning.org
603-742-1030

What's happening at DALC?

Keep in touch between our print newsletters by signing up for our emails at

www.doveradultlearning.org

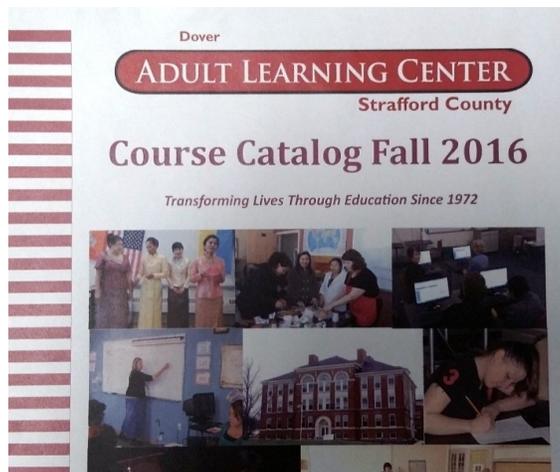
You can also check out our Facebook page:
facebook.com/DALCNH



Be a part of our success:

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- ◆ Join our Board of Directors
- ◆ Take an enrichment class
- ◆ Teach an enrichment class
- ◆ Become a Friend of the Center by making a donation
- ◆ Include DALC in your estate planning and become a member of the Helen Phipps Heritage Society
- ◆ Become a corporate or event sponsor

We are adding new classes all the time for a great fall lineup. Registration begins on Aug. 22, but you can browse online now. Our fall catalogs will be mailed Aug. 19.



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.