

Adult Basic Education

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"An employee newsletter"

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2012

Quarterly Newsletter

Celebrating Our Graduates

By Omideh Sloan
and Susan Wright



This issue we will be highlighting the accomplishments of two of our recent adult diploma graduates. It is always a pleasure when former students come back to fill us in on their accomplishments and allow us to celebrate their successes. The students profiled in this article are no exception and we applaud them for their hard work and dedication.

Vincent Tabuena and Christian Perez attended class at the same time and participated in the same graduation ceremony, but they did not actually meet each other until they enrolled in a credit course in Fall 2011. After realizing that they knew each other from ABE, they became fast friends. Coincidentally, they are both very interested in a career in a medical field. Christian is preparing to be a laboratory technician and Vincent is going to take on the world as a forensic expert and/or medical examiner "like on CSI".

Vincent immigrated from the Philippines in 2010 and, after attending a local high school, enrolled with us and completed five courses in five months with all "A"s.

Christian also completed many courses, including concurrent credit courses. He enjoyed the ABE Program because he could go at his own pace, which he likened to "freelancing".

Vincent and Christian took advantage of ABE counseling services in pursuit of their goals of working in the medical field. Christian remarked that ABE counselors "helped guide me towards my education" and Vincent said "for me they are great, awesome". Vincent was the recipient of the "Building on Excellence" Scholarship at the ABE graduation ceremony. Vincent says the scholarship "changed my life and it helped me get classes".

After earning their high school diplomas Vincent and Christian matriculated to the credit campus where they each received a 4.0 GPA in their first semester. Christian credits the Adult Diploma Program with helping him become more organized and showing him "how to become a great note taker".

Reflecting on their time at ABE, Vincent and Christian spoke highly of every person that helped them in their path to their diploma. Christian summed it up nicely, saying that "everyone at Mt. SAC is friendly" and Vincent pointed out that "the snacks were appreciated".

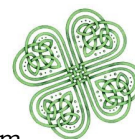
When asked what they would tell students working toward their diploma, Vincent and Christian were quick to offer sage advice:



Be organized, be positive and you will succeed. Don't think negatively or say that you're not going to pass this class.
-Vincent

Don't be shy. Stand out academically, speak up courageously, and stand up for yourself. I'm living proof that people can graduate from the high school program and succeed.

-Christian



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Dates to Remember

February 27

First Day of Spring 2012

March 30

César Chávez Day

May 28

Memorial Day

June 15

Last Day of Spring 2012

June 25

First Day of Summer 2012

July 4

Independence Day

August 3

Last Day of Summer 2012





In the Spotlight



Small, but Mighty: The Transcript Group *By Madelyn Arballo*

Sometimes big efforts and even bigger accomplishments come from a small but mighty force of people. That can be said of the ABE Transcript Workgroup, which formed in August 2011. Three ABE staff – **Gail Gilchrist, Diana Dzib, and Melissa Aguirre**, spent the past six months diligently reviewing and revising processes surrounding transcript evaluation for prospective Adult Diploma students.

Counselors, instructors, and support staff are often bombarded

with questions from students about their previous transcripts. Some of these questions are: “Which of my past credits apply? Can I use my international high school work? What if my school is not accredited? Can I use college classes for high school credits?” Since each student’s situation is so unique, it’s very difficult to answer these questions during orientation.

The Transcript Workgroup was responsible for putting all these processes in writing and

communicating the outcomes to staff. Some of their outcomes consisted of documenting the evaluation process for relevant ABE staff, identifying roles and responsibilities for the evaluation process, and determining the process for international transcripts and credits. Most importantly, they created a brochure for students that explains the transcript process in detail.

Please give a big “SHOUT OUT” to the Transcript Group for a job well-done!

Counselors’ Corner *By Susan Wright*

The ABE Counseling Dept. is off to a running start this New Year, planning and coordinating a variety of student support services and projects.

One-on-one Counseling & Educational Advising

The ABE Counseling staff provides personal, educational, and career counseling services to students as needed. Our goal, as counselors, is to facilitate students’ success in the classroom and in developing career goals and objectives. Our Educational Advisor is also available to assist students in the matriculation process and to provide academic advisement. The Counselors and Educational Advisor work in concert and collaboratively to provide comprehensive services to our students.



ABE Student Group

This group of Adult Diploma students will have the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback regarding Adult Diploma educational policies and guidelines. They will also liaison with the general Adult Diploma population to communicate program information.

College Days

Each semester we provide information to our students regarding application, assessment, registration, and the financial aid application process for enrollment into Mt. SAC college courses.

Scholarships

We are pleased to offer several scholarships to ABE students demonstrating excellence and outstanding achievement in their coursework. The scholarship

dollars are used to assist in paying for the student’s continued educational expenses in college or a vocational program.

Career Development Workshops

Susan’s series of Career Development Workshops helps students make career choices and prepare to look for employment.

Please feel free to refer students to any of the services listed above.



More information can be obtained by visiting the High School Office in Room 115 or by calling ext. 4937.

Counselors:

Jennifer Peiten
Susan Wright
Yvette Santillan

Educational Advisor:

Renu Katoch



Meet Your Continuing Education Neighbors: The Older Adult Program

By Erica Ledezma

Mt. SAC's Older Adult Program (OAP) demonstrates that the College is committed to fulfilling its mission of welcoming all students and supporting them in achieving their goals. OAP's course offerings represent the full continuum of education, from vocational classes to the pursuit of long-standing educational goals.

The Older Adult Program staff are highly knowledgeable of the needs of older adult learners and meet Title 5 minimum qualifications specific to older adult teaching. Their classroom approach is based on geragogy, which addresses older adults' learning styles and their rich life experiences. More than 50 Mt. SAC noncredit faculty teach

courses to OAP students. Classes are available both on campus with most being offered at over 25 off-campus senior center facilities throughout the Mt. San Antonio College District. Currently, there are more than 150 classes offered weekly and approximately 5,500 students enrolled. These courses are designed for older adults (age 55+ years). However, anyone 18 years of age and older may enroll.



With such a wide range of courses, there is something for nearly everyone's needs. Some examples of courses include computer skills, photography, skills to develop a retail "cottage business" from handcrafts, and healthy aging principles and practices. The Older Adult Program works diligently to bring together the local community with the Mt. San Antonio College campus. OAP students have been active volunteers on behalf of Mt. SAC, sponsoring athletic teams, collecting signatures in support of community college initiatives, and making phone calls and presentations in support of Mt. SAC bond measures.



WASC Watch

Lianne Greenlee



After two years of hard work the 2012 Continuing Education WASC ACS Self-Study Accreditation Report is finished. Fifty-nine Division faculty, staff, managers, and students worked on the over 200-page Report. We invite you to read all or portions of the Report and to take pride in the excellent job ABE and the Division is doing.

<http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/continuinged/accreditation/2012/>.

A few months ago faculty and staff throughout the Division were asked to reflect on the positive benefits provided by participation in the Self-Study. This is what was shared:

- Collaboration, teamwork, an improvement in working relationships, and a feeling of inclusion among employees has been fostered.

- It has been an opportunity for faculty and staff to affirm the Division's many strengths.
- There is a greater shared responsibility for communication and planning.
- The collection of evidence, increased availability of data, and focus on data-driven discussion has led to a better understanding of students' needs.

March will be a busy month as we prepare for the WASC Accreditation Visit. Upcoming activities include:

- Standards Teams meetings
 - Learning Resources – 3/13, 2:00 p.m.
 - Educational Programs – 3/15, 3:30 p.m.
 - Evaluation & Planning - 3/16, 9 a.m.
 - Student Support – 3/19, 1:00 p.m.
 - Outcomes – 3/19, 4:00 p.m.

- Official WASC Accrediting Team Visit – March 25-28
 - Please give visiting members a warm welcome when you see them in ABE

A big "thank you" to ABE faculty and staff who participated on one or more of the WASC Teams. Your input was invaluable. Special recognition goes out to Deanna Bowman, Erica Ledezma, Angelena Moore, Zee Wolters, and Madelyn Arballo who each spent countless hours leading a WASC Team. You are appreciated!



The Lighter Side of ABE

Communication Team

Diana Dzib
Angelena Moore
Denise Van Tilburg
Layout: Omideh Sloan



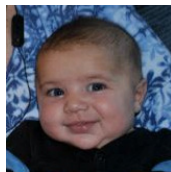
Exciting Accomplishments!

Maria Cardenas is happy to report that her son Julian returned home safely from a 7 month deployment to Afghanistan on December 2, 2011. He is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton where he will remain for the duration of his commitment to the U.S. Marine Corps. She is very proud of him but, most importantly, she is very grateful to have him back home safe and sound.

Abbey Howell has applied to be on Cupcake Wars on Food Network. Check out her application video [here!](#) In addition, Abbey was elected President of the Diamond Bar Women's Association for 2012.

Julia Martinez finished her BA in Sociology this December from Cal State LA.

The New Boys of ABE



Congratulations to Omi, Phil, and Zoey Sloan on the arrival of Andrew Mehdi Dana, born on September 15th.

Love is in the air



Finding no reason for a long engagement, Priya Chaplot and Mandeep Brahmabhath scheduled their wedding on a whim and told their families a few days before.

They were married on TWOsday, November 22, 2011 (11.22.11 - a lovely palindrome!) in front of their siblings and their parents in the gardens of the Santa Barbara Hall of Records. It was a handmade ceremony down to the origami garlands and soldered wedding rings and remains the best afternoon they have ever had.



On November 26, 2011, Audrey Arballo and Cory Shedden were married in the presence of family and friends at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas. Cory and Audrey

met three years ago and it was immediately evident to Audrey's mom (Madelyn) that he was a keeper. One of their first dates was when he flew her to San Francisco for a 49ers game (box seats)! The rest, as they say, is history. Congratulations to Cory and



Congratulations to Lisa Nguyen and her husband, Tommy, on the birth of Liam Alexander and Maxwell James! The twins were born on January 24th

at 4:52am and 4:53am. They are now at home and keeping their parents busy!

Happy Birthday!

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Alicia Story

Daniel Martinez

Elisha John

Matthew Hernandez

Tiffany Ma

Elsa Carrillo

Teaching Aide

Tutor

WIN Clerical

WIN Teaching Aide

Tutor

Computer Lab

Welcome to ABE!