

40th Anniversary Dinner Draws Raves!



The achievements of Andover *A Better Chance*, in the four decades since its founding, instill “a renewed sense of enthusiasm,” Sandra E. Timmons, president of ABC’s national organization, said in her keynote address at the 40th anniversary celebration. Ms. Timmons (pictured left) headed a long list of speakers at the May 5th event who saluted a full-house of ABC alumni, current scholars and supporters. She praised the program—the longest-running ABC community program in the nation—for contributing to the “tremendous, unbelievable, amazing work” that ABC has done over the years.



A number of returning Andover ABC alumni confirmed her claims. Among them was Clayton R. White, one of the initial ABC scholars who entered Andover High School in 1967. After graduating two years later, he entered Bowdoin College.

Another returning alumnus from those early years was Dr. Carnell Cooper, (left, with School Board member Dick Collins), a trauma surgeon recently featured in *People* magazine for creating a youth rescue program in Baltimore. “ABC was the most important experience in my entire life,” he told the audience at the Andover Country Club.

Nearly 120 students have taken advantage of the opportunities provided by Andover ABC in the past 40 years. Among those who have made an impact in many and varied ways are:

- Ellis Rowe, '70 AHS graduate and outstanding student and football player at Dartmouth, who currently heads a division of Mars, Inc.
- Anita Pace(left), who graduated in 1979 after the program became coed, is now a Financial Aid official at Vanderbilt U., where she has given a helping hand to incoming ABC students.
- Ian Dowe, '84, who chaired the 40th celebration, and Joseph Smith, '82, are successful businessmen who have returned to the Merrimack Valley and are on the Andover ABC Board of Directors.

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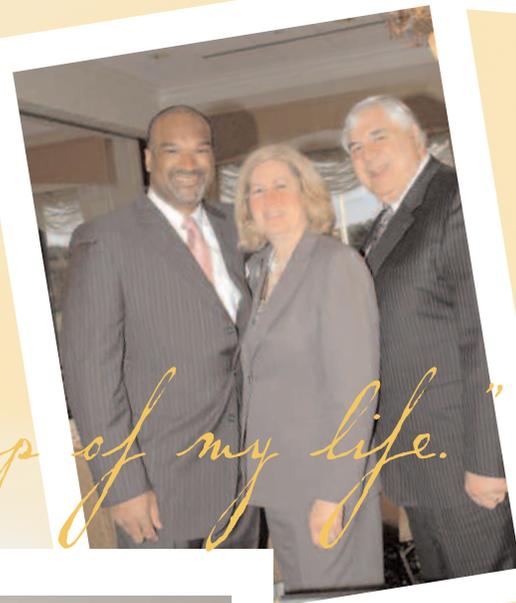
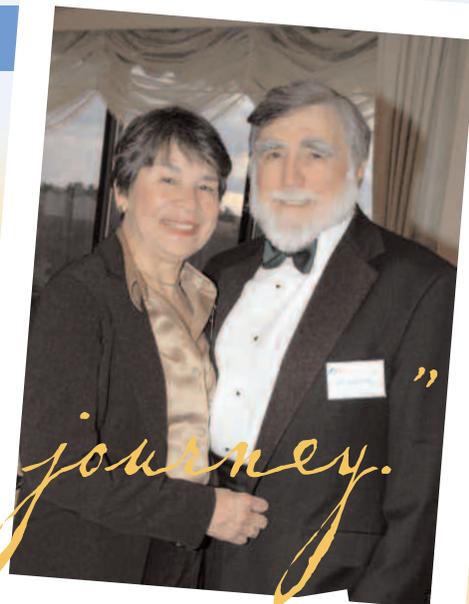
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The program's president, Dr. Joel H. Parks, (right, with his wife, Erlinda), who stepped down this spring, credited the Andover community for making the program a success by supporting the ABC students as their mentors, host families, teachers, supervisors, donors and friends—"individuals who contribute your time, your dollars and your love and caring." He also presented a thank-you gift to outgoing resident director Stephanie Ragucci, for her many years of supervising and befriending ABC scholars.

"An incredible journey."

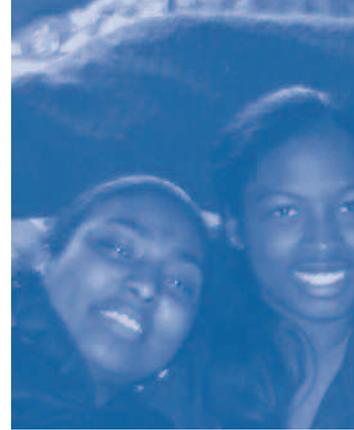
School Board member Dick Collins, former AHS coach and history teacher, focused on today's nine ABC scholars and their predecessors who returned to urge them on. "The real ABC is you kids," he said. "How hard you work. There's no group of people who I am more proud of."

The evening was capped off with Sen. Susan Tucker delivering a citation from the Massachusetts Senate recognizing Andover ABC's 40-year milestone.



"The most important step of my life."





College Bound

Helping Students and Their Families Prepare

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Andover ABC supplements Andover High's guidance services by offering the ABC students tutoring for scholastic-aptitude testing and guiding them and their families through the college-application process, including requests for financial aid.

"Financial aid increasingly is a major consideration for our students," said Eileen Reilly, academic chair. "The Academic Committee will intensify its efforts to help students identify and compare the schools that offer generous aid early in the application process."

The committee will also ensure that students have an opportunity to visit those schools before a final decision is made. The reality today is that each student's college choice is often determined by the financial package available to them. Despite these hurdles our students have been able to attend many fine institutions including: Holy Cross College, Oberlin, Tufts University, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Bowdoin, Smith, Barnard, Case Western, American University and Brown University.

What is Andover ABC?

Since the 1967 founding of Andover A Better Chance, our mission has rested on a single goal: to substantially increase the number of well-educated minority youth capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society.

Our nonprofit organization offers exceptional students from under-performing urban high schools the chance to attend Andover High School. An overwhelming majority of our alumni go on to graduate from highly selective colleges, graduate programs, and professional schools and include community leaders and professionals in business, law, medicine, government, education, and the arts.

Key facts about Andover ABC:

- We are the oldest continuously operating ABC public school program in the nation with 121 graduates
- We are operated by a volunteer board made up of community members
- Support comes from private contributions and local businesses
- Town of Andover sponsors each scholar to attend Andover High School



As the 2007-8 school year approaches, Andover ABC counts on a continuation of the generous community, business and individual support that helped us meet our budget last year.

Although our program expanded from eight to nine students last year as energy and food costs were rising sharply, we were able to meet expenses and increase our contingency fund, thanks to the contributions from many people and organizations.

“Without that broad-based support, it would be impossible to reach our goal of putting a top-level college education within reach of our deserving scholars,” said Dr. Joel H. Parks, who completed his three-year presidency of Andover ABC in May.

Extending a helping hand were scores of people, ranging from volunteers who made many enriching activities available to the nine ABC scholars, to the ABC host families, to a young girl in town who asked her friends and family to donate to ABC rather than buy gifts for her birthday.

Grants were received from the following: Foundation M and Bilezikian Family Foundation which gave grants of equal size; The Putnam Foundation, Fleetwing Charitable Foundation Trust and Digital Federal Credit Union.

Important support also came from our business sponsors: Blackdog Builders, Fairview Capital Partners and Friend Lumber & Building Centers.

Within the Andover community, South Church contributed funds and volunteer help, and the Smith-Purdon Fund at West Parish Church also provided funding. Girl Scout Troop 423 contributed money and supplies, while South and High Plains elementary schools and Phillips Academy held fundraising events for ABC.

While space is too limited to list all our supporters here, Andover ABC’s leaders want to thank everyone who helped us give our scholars “a better chance.”

fundraising

You can help

In the past two years, Andover ABC has grown—and so have its expenses.

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed envelope and make your contribution to ensure that the nine outstanding scholars in our program get the chance they deserve to get a top-level college education.

It’s their entrée to the leadership position they seek in order to make a difference in the world.

*Note: If you make a three-year pledge, a Friend of ABC will match your gift.
If you have already made a three-year pledge, we THANK YOU and will send you a separate reminder.*

An increased effort was made this year to widen the range of educational, cultural and entertainment experiences for our Andover ABC students.

A face-to-face meeting with Gov. Deval Patrick—formerly an ABC scholar at Milton Academy—was arranged by Resident Director Stephanie Ragucci as part of the governor’s Youth Inaugural celebration, which included students from throughout the state.

Arts and cultural events included a visit to the Fashion Exhibit at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts as well as:

- Blue Man Group, an innovative theatrical performance
- Complexions Contemporary dance performance
- Boston Arts Festival (visual and performing arts)
- Tour of Boston’s Freedom Trail and other historic sites

A focus on health brought an African-American nutritionist to help educate the students on healthy eating and living habits.

And to keep things entertaining the students were whisked to Six Flags amusement park in Agawam and a weekend on Martha’s Vineyard, courtesy of Brenda and Dave Bryan, host parents of junior Jessica Spates.

This fall, the program will add a team-building event designed to help the three incoming 9th-graders get acquainted with the other ABC students and the program’s routine, according to Vice President Lynn Eikenberry.

ABC LEADERS: COMINGS & GOINGS

Amy Joyall is the new president of the Andover ABC Board of Directors, succeeding Dr. Joel H. Parks. Completing three years’ services as president, Joel will remain on the board.

During her 15 years on the board, Amy has served as vice president and has chaired several committees. Ian Dowe replaces her as vice president. Returning officers are Lynn Eikenberry, vice president; Candy Dann, treasurer; and Eileen Reilly, secretary.

Joining the board are

- **Rita Casper**, Director of Nursing for the Andover Public Schools who, on weekends, is an RN Triage Nurse for Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates. She has a child in Andover High and has volunteered at Andover ABC in the past.
- **Joan Cohen**, co-founder of Kelleher Cohen Associates, where she helps high school students identify and pursue their interests and talents, and then guides them through college selection and application. She has two grown sons.
- **Lanita Foley**, Associate Director of College Counseling at Phillips Academy. An ABC graduate from the Brentwood School, she has held several college-admission-related jobs and a committee position at a national college-admission association.

- **Christopher Grant Jr.**, a lawyer and founder of Salix Ventures, which invests primarily in healthcare-related companies. He also serves on the boards of seven companies. Chris and his wife have three children.

- **Kristine Stone**, whose experience with nonprofits includes four years with the Girl Scout Council of Southeastern Massachusetts recruiting volunteers and designing leadership programs. She is director of the Commissions Department at Mac-Gray Services, Inc.

- **Pam Wilkie**, host parent with her husband to Gloria Rosario, a ‘99 ABC graduate. She also served on the 40th Anniversary Committee. Pam works at Airvana, a Chelmsford company. The Wilkies have two grown sons.

Departing from the board after long and distinguished service are Marjorie Byers and Peter Jeton, both former vice presidents; Lisa Eustis, who most recently chaired the Activities Committee; and Jen Arundale, who was a resident assistant before she joined the board.

★ ABC Scholars Head for Higher Education ★

ABC's three graduating seniors have chosen to pursue their college education at three fine institutions on the East Coast. **Lydia Bailey** will enter Temple University in the fall, **Nacasi Green** chose Loyola College and **Andrea Hall** picked Ithaca College.

Lydia said that getting a better education has been her goal since she entered Andover ABC 3 years ago. "I knew that, if I wasn't here, I wouldn't have gotten into a good college." She is considering a career in business management and will get some early experience as a summer intern at Pershing LLC, a financial services company.



Nacasi said she chose Loyola College in Maryland because it offered a generous scholarship and it recently added some impressive new buildings. The college also has a good communications program that covers, among other things, TV production, one of her career interests.



At Ithaca College, **Andrea** initially will be in the Exploratory Program, which will give her insights about several professions, including one of her interests, health sciences. She added that she also is considering work in the area of youth development.



Other schools that accepted one or more of the three students were American University, Drexel, Fairfield, George Mason, Hofstra, Rutgers and the University of Maryland.

All three scholars said they will miss their host families and plan to keep in touch with them—Andrea's host family were the Eustises; Nacasi, the Shields, and Lydia, the Morrrows.



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