



NEWSLETTER

“We Can Change Your Life Forever” Spring 2014 Volume 12, Issue 3



Message From the Director By Gary Schwartzwald

It is the time of year when we have a lot to celebrate.

I sent you each a letter just after the WASC visit and Jennifer will be sharing the Visiting Committee report and other WASC updates with you. We should know the term of our accreditation sometime in late May or June. Once again I would like to thank you for all your hard work on a daily basis, and especially for showing the WASC visiting team what a strong, accomplished, successful family Grossmont Adult School is!

Andy Peifer was recognized as the Grossmont Adult Education **Golden Apple Award** winner on Monday, April 28th at the GUHSD Golden Apple Awards Ceremony. Please make time to congratulate Andy on this honor for his dedication to teaching and to his students.

Over 150 people attended the OASIS (Outstanding Adult Students, Instructors, and Staff) Awards Ceremony on May 2nd at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon. This year we were proud to induct the next member into the Grossmont Adult School Hall of Fame, **Mary Louise Ross**.

The 2013-14 OASIS winners are:



Student Award Recipients

- * Mercedes Bennett
- * Kaylia Davis
- * Malek Djebari
- * Oksun Gotowala
- * Sandra Renfro
- * Natheer Salem
- * Jared Scannell
- * Rose Smutko
- * Lillian Tonda



Instructor Award Recipients

- * Patricia Andersen
- * Shama Lyons
- * Karen Northrup
- * Monica Reilly
- * Matt Russo
- * Susan G. Taylor
- * Renee Turchin
- * Rae Woolrich



Community Member Award Recipients

- * Esther Beish
- * Sebastian Gonzalez
- * Marlene Ruiz

Hall of Fame Award Recipient

- * Mary Louise Ross



Staff Award Recipients

- * Maria Mejia
- * Carol Quijano
- * Bao To
- * Kelly Warren



The 2014 Excellence in Support Service Award went to **Vicki Gagliardi**.

This year at the State CCAE Conference three of our Grossmont Adult School staff were honored. There are more details in Vicki's CCAE article. Please be sure to congratulate our winners.

The 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award went to **Jennifer Owens**.



Congratulations to Vicki, Jennifer, and Phyllis!

As many of you know, **Phyllis Ruth** will be retiring at the end of June. Phyllis began her career as a Parent Education teacher for Grossmont Adult School in 1980. Phyllis began her administrative assignment supervising Parent Education teachers. Through Phyllis' leadership, the Grossmont Adult Parent Education Program has been recognized by the State as a Program of Excellence in 2004 and 2007. Phyllis has served successfully as Principal of El Cajon Adult Center (ESL program) and East County Career Center (one-stop career center). She has been a great leader for us. Please take time to congratulate her before she retires. Steve Niemeyer will be the next ECCC Manager, so please welcome Steve back to Adult Ed.

The 2014-15 school year calendar is attached and your Principals will be working with you to help us plan next school year.

Thank you for all your hard work. We value you and the work you do to bring Adult Education to the community. Thank you for your dedication and for another great year for Grossmont Adult Education. Finish strong.

 **Foothills Adult Center**
By Jeff Meredith



Anna Lancia's Quilting class that meets at Foothills and the Santee Civic Center participated in the 29th annual Woman's Club of Lakeside Quilt Show. The show was held at the VFW Post in Lakeside on March 7th & 8th, 2014. Anna's students were able to show more than 65 of their quilts and students were also able to sell several of their quilts.

This may seem hard to believe but graduation is right around the corner. Tuesday, June 10, 2014 the front lawn at Foothills will be transformed to a graduation center for about 100 students celebrating the passage of the GED or the completion of their High School diploma. All staff is invited and welcome.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of two Foothills Adult School instructors, **Hedy St. John** a longtime GED/HS Diploma teacher who began her career in Correctional Education and had been with the district since 1975. Hedy put in over 35 years helping students get their HS diplomas and GED certificates. She was involved heavily with the administration and fundraising for CCAE (California Council for Adult Education). The annual scholarship offered to a high school graduate from Foothills Adult Center has been renamed to the Hedy St. John Memorial Scholarship.

Carol Ireland had been teaching since 2000. She had quilting classes at La Mesa Adult Enrichment Center and at Foothills along with a Sewing

Machine Techniques class at Foothills. Both ladies were dedicated Adult Education Instructors and both had a passion for their students learning.

Carol and Hedy will both be missed.



Health Occupations Center
By Carol Otjens



The Health Occupations Center is striving to give all of our students in our medical CTE classes as many real world experiences as possible. Although many of our programs include internships in local medical facilities, recently we had the opportunity to listen to an awesome guest speaker! Special Agent Rocky Herron from our local DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) office spoke to several classes recently. His dynamic presentation educated the students about how employees in the medical field often give in to the temptation to abuse drugs that are common in the workplace. Because all of our students will soon be employed in a healthcare facility, it is important that they are aware of this trend and the DEA's role in ensuring it does not happen.



Guest Speaker
Rocky Long,
DEA Agent



A field trip to Balboa Park's Museum of Man was enjoyed by our Pharmacy Technician program as well as several medical classes at HOC. Students visit 2 exhibits: Kumeyaay: Native Californians and Footsteps through Time. These exhibits inform students about the

development of traditional medicine from years past to the drugs we utilize today. Students then participate in a Scavenger Hunt throughout the whole museum to find answers to medical questions geared specifically for them.

These experiences and many more, give HOC students a vision of the real-world they will soon be employed in.



**A Climate of Caring at
El Cajon Adult Center**
By Sheila Davis



Receiving donations of toys, books, crayons, other children's items, and cash has now become the norm at El Cajon Adult Center. In April, volunteers – including teachers, students, and community members from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society – gathered at Foothills Adult School to assemble Jared Boxes. This started with a shoebox-sized clear, plastic box which was stuffed to the brim with a variety of items, labeled with the appropriate gender and age group, and then finally decorated with stickers. In total, 170 boxes were made. We certainly exceeded our goal of 100 boxes! The boxes were delivered to Rady's Children's Hospital on April 22 and put smiles on many young patients' faces.





El Cajon Adult is taking on a new community project called “Relay for Life,” which is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Participants will register at www.relayforlife.org/elcajonca to walk on the El Cajon Valley High School campus track. The website states: “The Relay for Life movement offers an inspiring opportunity to honor cancer survivors, promote how individuals can reduce their cancer risk, and raise money to help end cancer.”

Toni Gagliardi is the captain of our “El Cajon Adult School” team. The walk starts on Saturday, May 31 at 9:00 am and continues through Sunday, June 1 at 9:00 am. If you are interested in participating, please go to the website and pay the \$10 registration fee. Otherwise, consider sponsoring a student to walk, assisting a student in registering, or making a separate donation online. All staff is encouraged to follow our administrator’s lead as **Robyn Wiggins** will also be walking “Relay for Life.”

Please note: ESL classes will continue this summer. Classes are free for non-native English speakers. Summer session is July 1 – 31. Summer Registration will be held at Foothills Adult

Center (1550 Melody Ln) on Saturday, June 21 from 8am – 10am. As usual, we are soliciting volunteers to help make the process go smoothly. Call 619-401-9750 if you’d like to volunteer or have questions about this.



**Spring Happenings at Steele
Canyon Adult Center**
By Tim Lindley



Spring has “sprung” and the students and the staff at Steele Canyon Adult Center are “springing” into action out in the community again.

Drew Bandish (Art teacher at La Mesa Enrichment Center) this past spring in March had several Watercolor students from his class display their work at the Visions of Peace 51st Annual Art Exhibition. The students took home a third place prize and two honorable mention awards for their efforts. Drew’s students always represent Grossmont Adult School at a high level.

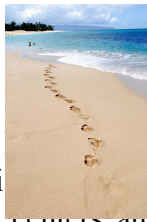
Barbara Peterson (Art teacher at La Mesa Enrichment Center) took First Place for her floral painting at the 28th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Pastel Society of San Diego during April at the show in Balboa Park. Barbara is not only a good instructor, but also an excellent painter herself.

The Correctional Education program is always expanding. This past winter is no exception. A familiar face was added to the program **Bill Moberly**. Bill is teaching a CTE class at East Mesa Re-entry Detention Facility in Landscaping and Agriculture. Welcome back Bill.

More good news in the Correctional Education Program. **Lena Ledbetter** has been selected to represent the Grossmont Adult School Correctional Education Program at the University of Phoenix’s Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in May as a guest panelist. She will be answering questions during the session on Women in Criminal Justice Careers. Nice job Lena!



I Retirement June 30th, 2014 By Phyllis Ruth



to

THANK YOU to everyone in Adult Ed. I have enjoyed my 21 years with this program. I have worked at several centers and know so many of you. You are a great group of people and I will miss each of you. Go forward and keep Adult Ed strong.

I plan to spend lots of time with my husband and family. My husband is the primary care giver to our two grandsons and I look forward to joining their many adventures.

I plan to travel a bit but I love San Diego and want to enjoy the many sites around here...plus I live near the beach and want to enjoy walks and stay healthy.

Best wishes to you all and hope to see you now and then!

appreciated the enthusiasm that everyone has shown. I think it has been a valuable experience that has enabled us to reflect on our strengths, areas for improvement, and most importantly our collective commitment to helping our students meet their personal, academic, and workplace goals.

Attached to this newsletter is the final report written by the visiting committee of their findings during their visit. If you didn't get an opportunity to read the full report, this report by the committee is a synopsis of the full report that is interwoven with their observations.

Our next step is the Action Plan. The Action Plan consists of five areas of focus. At our next Leadership Team meeting, we will address the items in the Action Plan and begin to develop the committees that will address the items on the Action Plan. If you would like to be involved in this process, please feel free to contact me via email and/or your site administrator. We would love to have a broad cross-section of individuals from all sites, off sites, and program areas, as well as a mix of classified and certificated staff. You're thinking, "I don't have much extra time." The good thing about how we're proceeding forward is that we are well organized and you can plan on about 3-4 meetings that will be held throughout the entire school year. We really want everyone's input as we go forward with our Action Plan and we know you have some great ideas, suggestions, and ways to help make Grossmont Adult School the best it can be.

Again, please email me if you'd like to be on a committee and an integral part of the future of Grossmont Adult School.



WASC Update By Jennifer Owens

Happy Spring!!

I am finally breathing – just a little – since the WASC accreditation visit. On a personal note, I would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” for showing the visiting committee that we really are amazing – and then some!! Everyone and everything was perfect!! All teachers, staff, and students put their best foot forward (which is what we always do) and the visiting committee noticed!! They were impressed with the breadth of the programs we offer, as well as the quality of instruction. They commented repeatedly on how friendly the staff was and how much they enjoyed talking with the students.

As we discussed at the meeting on March 6th, our goal to make Grossmont Adult School meet the needs of our community members means that we are fully committed to making the Action Plan we developed, and the visiting committee revised, a regular part of our school culture. During this school year, in preparation for the WASC accreditation visit, I have observed and

CCAE Update By Vicki Gagliardi



I cannot believe this school year is almost over. Where has the time gone? Our chapter has done so much this past year. As your president I am very happy that we were able to fund educational scholarships for students, classroom scholarships for teachers, and conference scholarships for our members. We rocked it this year!

The CCAE State Conference was held April 26-28 at the Bahia Resort in San Diego. There were a total of 456 participants from around the state in attendance including many members from the Grossmont Chapter. I feel safe in saying that everyone had a wonderful time. Dawn Koepke was the keynote speaker and shared what has been happening in Sacramento. Our funding is looking better but by no means are we guaranteed funds until the ink is on the paper! The workshops were great and **Gary Schwartzwald** was a surprise presenter! The presenter for the workshop he attended could not be there so Gary stepped up and addressed the topic of multimedia in the classroom. Thank you, Gary.

One of the highlights of the conference was the awards. **Phyllis Ruth** received the Lifetime Member award. Phyllis has held a variety of leadership roles in CCAE throughout the years. Thank you, Phyllis. We will miss you.

Jennifer Owens won the State Excellence in Teaching award. Jennifer is a wonderful example of how to teach and motivate students that haven't always been successful in the past. In addition to teaching and chairing WASC, Jennifer is very involved in CCAE Grossmont Chapter. She is my right hand woman and our chapter would not be as active and fun without her involvement. Congratulations, Jennifer. You are very deserving.

I won the Excellence in Support Services award. In addition to being Administrative Secretary for Grossmont Adult School, I have been actively involved in CCAE for a number of years. I've been secretary, vice president, and

president of the Grossmont Chapter; vice president/president elect for the Southern Section; and a member of the State Board. I am honored and very pleased to be recognized for such a prestigious award.

We are hosting our **2nd annual fundraiser at Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant** at both locations: 221 E. Main Street in El Cajon and 7005 Navajo Rd in San Diego. We hope you can attend Tuesday, May 13 any time between 11:30 am and 8:30 pm. Flyers are posted in each of the Adult Center offices. Don't worry about your diets for this one day! Have lunch with your colleagues *and* dinner with your family and/or friends. Proceeds are used for student and teacher scholarships. I hope you can join us.

Nominations for the 2014-15 Grossmont Chapter have been received and a ballot will be in your mailbox later this week. Please vote and return your ballots to me.

I have enjoyed being President of the Grossmont Chapter CCAE for the past couple years. I want to thank everyone on the Board for their participation. You have all been awesome. I hope you had as much fun as I did. I am moving up to President of the Southern Section beginning July 1. My work now begins at the Section level! I look forward to the new challenge before me.

Grossmont Adult School Important Dates	
Date	Event
May 13	CCAЕ fundraiser at Nicolosi's Restaurants
May 26	Memorial Day Observance
June 4	Summer schedule is bulk mailed
June 6	Spring session ends
June 10	Graduation ceremony
June 11	Summer registration begins
June 28	Super Saturday
June 30	Summer session begins
July 4	Independence Day Observation
Aug 2	Summer session ends
Aug 8	Fall schedule is bulk mailed
Aug 20	Fall registration begins

Aug 27	Back-to-School meeting
Sept 8	Fall session begins



Fundraiser

CCAE provides scholarships annually to

- One high school diploma graduate to further their education goals
- Many students for GED testing fees
- Several teachers for classroom supplies

COME DINE WITH US!

Invite your friends and family!

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

11:30 am to 8:30 pm

Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant

Present this flyer or mention CCAE/Grossmont Adult School and **15%** of your food purchase will be donated to CCAE.

It can't be any easier! You eat and CCAE earns money to help support students and teachers.

- Pizza
- Pasta
- Salads
- Sandwiches
- Oven-baked specialty dishes
- Gluten-free dishes
- and much, much more!



Two convenient locations!
7005 Navajo Road
San Diego, CA 92119
(619) 461-5757

NEW LOCATION

221 E. Main Street
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 444-0303



Support CCAE and Adult Education.

Bring your family, friends,
neighbors, coworkers!