Nearly 150 ABC students so far. As a group, families. They have provided a home away from all students.

My hat is off to the all-important ABC host home for each ABC girl. They have become part of their immediate family. When understanding or to facing problems their host students may be experiencing. The host families often remain in their lives for years.

AHS’s academic leadership is the result of administrators, counselors, staff, and many people, including generous and dependable contributors, deserve praise for the successes that ABC has realized during its 50-year existence.

Thanks to Andover High School teachers, administrators, counselors, staff, and especially local students for serving as host to nearly 150 ABC students so far. As a group, you all have learned much from each other. AHS’s academic leadership is the result of academic success, teamwork, acceptance and community involvement. I am pleased that the teachers, in turn, expect the above from all students.

My hat is off to the all-important ABC host families. They have provided a home away for each ABC girl. They have become part of their immediate family. When necessary, the adult hosts have had that conversation that is important to mutual understanding or to facing problems their host students may be experiencing. The host families often remain in their lives for years after they leave the program.

As for the Board of Directors and house supervisors, each brings to the table a sincere caring for each of the girls and the ABC house. I remember the long, late hours, telephone calls, time spent discussing the issues, and dealing with how to fix the problems.

Working as a team, all of these dedicated supporters have made sure that the program succeeds despite many challenges. The students of color that ABC sponsors come to Andover from minority groups with different backgrounds in many locations to gain a better education than their community’s public school offered. They were chosen by the program because of the conviction that they were capable of meeting the program’s demands.

ABC enabled them to get into excellent colleges, giving them a chance to become leaders of tomorrow. In today’s society, with a college education, one’s options are unlimited. That’s why ABC graduates return to give gratitude to the town of Andover for its belief in them and for its ongoing generosity," states Mary Prichard, past president and chair of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee. ABC of Andover has much to celebrate. It is the oldest, continuously run ABC Community School Program in the country and has graduated 1,373 students, with 100 per cent going on to four-year colleges. A majority have continued on to impressive professional careers and leadership positions, says Susan Connolly, board president and head of Alumni outreach.

Take Wildilfo Arvelo, Ed.D., Andover High School ’79, the focus of our alumni story (see inside). Born in Puerto Rico, Dr. Arvelo was one of the early ABC grads, when the program had male and female students. He went on to earn a doctorate in higher education administration. Now president of Great Bay Community College, he has devoted his career to championing access to education and raising money for scholarships.

... (continued inside)

Attention: Facebook users

Follow us on Facebook, where we post news and photos of all the latest events as they happen! facebook.com/ABCandover

Editor’s note: Marjorie Byers is a former ABC vice president and volunteer.

I welcome this opportunity to express my feelings about ABC because I am very proud of the successesthat A BC has realized during its 50th anniversary celebration in 1967.

In March 1967, funding for A BC in Andover was approved at Town Meeting – via secret ballot, the only one in the Town Meeting’s history – by 82 percent. This overwhelming support – of a controversial program to bring students of color to Andover and its high school in the midst of post-civil rights social and cultural upheaval – will be featured in ABC’s observance next year.

“What we have that will run throughout our events is gratitude to the town of Andover for its belief in the mission of ABC and for its ongoing generosity," states Mary Prichard, past president and chair of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.

ABC of Andover has much to celebrate. It is the oldest, continuously run ABC Community School Program in the country and has graduated 1,373 students, with 100 per cent going on to four-year colleges. A majority have continued on to impressive professional careers and leadership positions, says Susan Connolly, board president and head of Alumni outreach.

Take Wildilfo Arvelo, Ed.D., Andover High School ’79, the focus of our alumni story (see inside). Born in Puerto Rico, Dr. Arvelo was one of the early ABC grads, when the program had male and female students. He went on to earn a doctorate in higher education administration. Now president of Great Bay Community College, he has devoted his career to championing access to education and raising money for scholarships.

... (continued inside)
And then there is Laurin Banner, AHS ’72, who went on to graduate from Northeastern University with a BA in Political Science and an MBA in Finance as well as a Master’s of City Planning from M.I.T. Currently a senior advisor at Westnet Mid-Atlantic in Baltimore, MD, he also has overseen economic development programs for USAID in Afghanistan and Africa, and been a leader in the fields of female empowerment and micro-finance. “It’s exciting to find our alumni doing amazing things, particularly with social justice and education,” explains Connolly. “They are ready to tell their stories and are eager to be involved in our celebrations.”

“I would love to attend,” posted Sheila Wright, AHS ’04, currently a nurse at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, OH. “I’ve been meaning to make it back for some time!” That sentiment was echoed by Shaunette Martin, AHS ’09, senior program manager for family engagement at MyPoverLearning, New York, adding, “it’s been far too long.”

50th Anniversary events in 2017

• Scholars Speak from the Pulpit: The 50th Anniversary celebration will kick off in January and/or Martin Luther King Day, when ABC Alumni return to Andover to partner with faith communities and thank them for their role in the founding of the ABC of Andover program and their 50 years of supporting our programs.

• Andover Historical Society Exhibit: In March through early summer, an exhibition entitled “ABC, Yes or No?” in partnership with the historical society will be on display at the society on Main Street. The exhibit will tell the story of ABC, starting with a seed sown by Phillips Academy and other prep schools as a call to arms for educational equity, then to the efforts by a small group of individuals to convince Andoverites to take the historic vote despite controversy, the purchase of the ABC house for $40,000 in 1967, and finally to today and the impressive and growing outcomes of our ABC alumni.

• Phillips Academy and ABC Presents: The two will collaborate to create an educational event for the public on topics such as educational inequity in America, etc. On March 31, Dr. Mae Jemison, the first black female astronaut to travel into space on the NASA Endeavor flight of 1992, will speak at Phillips Academy.

• Founders Reception: On April 2, ABC will hold a Founders Reception honoring the courageous individuals who were needed to make ABC a reality. This event is scheduled to coincide with the 1967 March Town Meeting, which voted to bring the program to Andover.

• Andover High School Commemoration: In September, Andover High School and ABC will honor their partnership with a banner and ceremony at the high school.

• Alumni weekend and ABC 50th Gala Celebration: The year will culminate in a fun-filled Alumni weekend with opportunities for alumni to reconnect with old friends, hosts families, teachers and fellow students. The weekend highlight will be a gala celebration held at The Barn at Arden for over 200 supporters and alumni.

Our goal will be, as 2017 wraps up, that every Andover citizen whose life has been touched by ABC in some way—and those who just want to learn more—will have had an opportunity to engage with ABC,” states Pritchard. “It’s really coming full circle with our alumni and showing our gratitude to the town that took a chance on our these outstanding scholars 50 years ago emulated.

Events to honor Andover (continued from page 1)

“One of my concerns after leaving Andover was how I was going to direct my life to give back,” plates Dr. Wildolfo Arvelo, AHS class of ’79. “Education was a natural pathway for me to help others because I saw it as a transformative experience in my life... My experience in Andover was part of that transformation.”

Arvelo has made more than good on his word, becoming a powerhouse for the cause of educational access. Today, as the president of Great Bay Community College (GBCC), he has led the design and construction of the college’s two campuses that educate more than 5,000 students a year. The college works with 50 to 70 companies annually to help meet their workforce needs by designing curriculum or training programs. And finally, he raises close to $500,000 annually for scholarships.

In 2012 Arvelo was selected as the City of Portsmouth Business Chamber Citizen of the Year, and is a member of the board of directors of United Way of the Greater Seacoast.

ABC alumni became college president

ABC this fall welcomed two 9th-grade students—Leanne Garcia and Mafoudia “Dia” Keita—into our program. Leanne, who moved with her mother from the Dominican Republic to the Bronx when she was 5, says she applied to ABC because she “wanted to get out of the city and get a better education, a better life. I knew that Andover would be a better environment for me, more enriched, and that it was a safe place.” As for her AHS teachers, Leanne gives an As: “I like the teachers, especially my English teacher because she was very helpful and by the book.”

At AHS she has joined the Dance Club and volunteered at Girls for Girls.

Dia sought out ABC because she wanted to be challenged to “get outside of my comfort zone.” She was born in Guinea, West Africa and coincidentally also moved to New York City when she was 5.

Dia says that, once she was accepted by national ABC, Andover’s program “was my first choice because it was so organized and welcomed the community.” Already Dia has volunteered at the Bread & Roses soup kitchen in Lawrence.

Of course, as with Leanne, the move has been an adjustment. When Andover “is very, very different” compared to bustling New York City, she notes, “the [ABC] girls here are the sweetest people ever.”

Two students join ABC

President’s view (cont. from page 1)

emphasized that access to education and professional opportunity were life-changing and that they were considerably shaped by their ABC experience.

We also spent a day with early founder Charles Dey, listening to the fascinating story of how a Better Chance’s community school program was founded in response to John F. Kennedy’s challenge and how the local program was established with overwhelming community support in the town of Andover. Such bold foresight and bravery was shown by the founders and scholars in that first class!

These stories, photographs and recollections will be shared next spring in our Andover Historical Society exhibit.

We’re looking forward to celebrating with all of you—students, alumni, volunteers, friends and community!

It is a far cry from his early years. Arvelo was born in Puerto Rico and moved as a young boy to Spanish Harlem in New York City. A door to opportunity opened when his family discovered a Better Chance.

At the University of Massachusetts, Boston, he earned a B.A. in history, a Master of Public Policy and a PhD in Education Administration. He began his career in 1985 at Bunker Hill Community College. He continued to serve in admissions and managerial positions at additional greater Boston area colleges until 2007, when he joined GBCC.

Today he also partners with the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health to increase undergraduate research at GBCC and other community colleges in a collaboration with Dartmouth College and the University of New Hampshire.

“A few of us who have come from socioeconomically poor communities are lucky to be exposed to a wonderful education, but many within our communities, even in New Hampshire, still are not,” he says.

So this son of Puerto Rico and Spanish Harlem finds himself enjoying life in semi-rural New Hampshire with his wife, Linda, and daughters, Jack Russell Terrier. “There is a bit of me that has always felt guilt about not returning to Spanish Harlem, communities in need exist everywhere and I am fortunate to be a part of creating change in those communities.”

ABC Board Members

Susan Connolly President

Mary Pritchard Vice President

Noreen Marton Co-Treasurer

AndoverABC.org

Kelly Mahoney

Carlos Cedeño

Cynthia Marsh

Gabby Nosfalt Secretary

Lori Banalou

Julie Ireland

Diane Costagliola

Donna Croxther

Linda Cribb

Dan Hull

Nancy Kendrick

Kate Margolies

Mary Beth Noon

Lisa Maue

Nicki Wiggins

President

Gabby Nossiff

Ruthy Olney

Dianasay that, once she was accepted by national ABC, Andover’s program “was my first choice because it was so organized and so welcoming—the community.” Already Dia has volunteered at the Bread & Roses soup kitchen in Lawrence. For information about becoming an ABC host family, contact Nancy Kendrick, host family co-coordinator, at kendrickn@verizon.net. Board changes

Nicci Wiggins, a volunteer last year on ABC development-related projects, has joined the Board of Directors. Her professional background is in marketing, sales forecasting and strategic planning, particularly at startup companies.

ABC is a family affair for the Wigginses, since husband John tutors ABC students in math.

Meanwhile, Kate Margolies has returned to the board but will continue to contribute to ABC as a volunteer for the communications committee. In addition to fulling her volunteer role over five years on the board, she took photographs, created slide shows and led strategic planning sessions for ABC.

Thank you

ABC is grateful to the following companies for services they donated to ABC:

• DS Design Studio of communion for designing this newsletter issue.

• Michael R. Pierce C.P.A., P.C.

• Retelle Tree Corp.of Andover for tree care on Arbor Day of Service.
And then there is Laurin Banner, AHS ’72, who went on to graduate from Northeastern University with a BA in Political Science and an MBA in Finance as well as a Master’s of City Planning from M.I.T. Currently a senior advisor at Weston Mid-Atlantic in Baltimore, MD, he also has overseen economic development programs for USAID in Afghanistan and Africa, and been a leader in the fields of female empowerment and micro-finance.

“It’s exciting to find our alumna doing amazing things, particularly in social justice and education,” explains Connolly. “They are ready to tell their stories and are eager to be involved in our celebrations.”

“I would love to attend,” posted Sheila Wright, AHS ’04, currently a nurse at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, OH. “I’ve been meaning to make it back for some time!” That sentiment was echoed by Shaunte Martin, AHS ’09, senior program manager for family engagement at MyPowerLearning, New York, adding, “it’s been far too long.”

50th Anniversary events in 2017

• Scholars Speak from the Pulpit: The 50th Anniversary celebration will kick off on January 15th and 20th with public programs, followed by the release of a special issue of this newsletter, highlighting the remarkable efforts of Andover’s alumni.

• Founders Reception: On April 2, ABC will hold a founders reception honoring the courage and vision of the founders who helped make Andover a reality. This event is scheduled to coincide with the 1967 May Town Meeting, which voted to bring the program to Andover.

• Andover High School Commencement: In June, Andover High School and ABC will honor their partnership with a banner and ceremony at the high school.

• Alumni Weekend and ABC 50th Gala Celebration: The year will culminate in a fun-filled alumni weekend, with opportunities for alumni to reconnect with old friends, host families, teachers and fellow students. The weekend will be a gala celebration held at The Barn at Arden for over 200 supporters and alumni.

ABC this fall welcomed two 9th-grade students – Leannette Garcia and Mafoudia “Dia” Keita – into our program. Leannette, who moved with her mother from the Dominican Republic to the Bronx when she was 5, says she applied to ABC because she “wanted to get out of the city and get a better education, a better life. I knew that Andover would be a better environment for me, more enriched, and that it was a safe place.” As for her AHS teachers, Leannette gives them an “A.” “Like the teachers, especially my English teacher because she was very helpful and by the book.” At AHS she has joined the Dance Club and volunteered at Girls for Girls.

Dia sought out ABC because she wanted to challenge herself to “get outside of my comfort zone.” She was born in Guinea, West Africa and coincidentally also moved to New York City when she was 5.

Dia says that, once she was accepted by national ABC, Andover’s program “was my first choice because it was so organized and so welcoming – the community, too.” Already Dia has volunteered at the Bread & Roses soup kitchen in Lawrence. Of course, as with Leannette, the move has been an adjustment. When Andover “is very, very different” compared to bustling New York City, she notes, “the [ABC] girls here are the sweetest people ever.”

**Thank you**

ABC is grateful to the following companies for services they donated to ABC:

- **DS Design Studio** of Rockport for designing this newsletter issue.
- **Michael R. Pierce C.P.A., P.C.**
- **Retail Tree Corp.** of Andover for tree care on Mars, Arboretum Assn.’s Arbor Day of Service.

9th-graders’ hosts

Two families have volunteered to host the two newly arrived ABC 9th-graders.

Eric and Luiza Pellegrin and their young son will be Dia Keita’s host family. Eric teaches English at Andover High School.

John and Sheila Graham will host Leannette. They have three teen-aged daughters and live in Andover.

For information about becoming an ABC host family, contact Nancy Kendrick, host family co-coordinator, at kendrickn@verizon.net.

Board changes

Nicki Wiggins, a volunteer last year on ABC development-related projects, has joined the Board of Directors. Her professional background is in marketing, sales forecasting and strategic planning, particularly at startup companies.

ABC is a family affair for the Wigginses, since husband John also sits on the board, in much the same role.

Meanwhile, Kate Margolese has retired from the board but will continue to contribute to ABC as a volunteer. She will serve on the new ABC Communications Committee.

Its 50th anniversary is around the corner, and the five-year milestone on the board, she took photographs, created slide shows and led strategic planning sessions for ABC.

President’s view (cont. from page 1)

emphasized that access to education and professional opportunity were life-changing and that they were considerably shaped by their Andover experience.

We also spent a day with early founder Charles Dey, listening to the fascinating story of how a Better Chance’s community school program was founded in response to John F. Kennedy’s challenge and how the local program was established with overwhelming community support in the town of Andover. Such broad foresight and bravery was shown by the founders and scholars in that first class!

These stories, photographs and recollections will be shared next spring in our Andover Historical Society exhibit.

We’re looking forward to welcoming all of you – students, alumni, volunteers, friends and community!

ABC alumni became college president

It is a story from his early years. Arvelo was born in Puerto Rico and moved as a young boy to Spanish Harlem in New York City. A door to opportunity opened when his family discovered A Better Chance.

At the University of Massachusetts, Boston, he earned a B.A. in history, a Masters of Public Policy and a PhD in Education Administration. He began his career in 1985 at Bunker Hill Community College. He continued to serve in admissions and managerial positions at additional greater Boston area colleges until 2007, when he joined GBCC.

Today he also partners with the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health to increase undergraduate research at GBCC and other community colleges in a collaboration with Dartmouth College and the University of New Hampshire.

“arvelo has made more than good on his word, becoming a powerhouse for the cause of educational access. Today, as the President of the GBCC Community College (GBCC), he has led the design and construction of the college’s two campuses that educate more than 5,000 students a year. The college works with 50 to 70 companies annually to help meet their workforce needs by designing curriculum or training programs. And finally, he raises close to $500,000 annually for scholarships. In 2012 Arvelo was selected as the City of Portsmouth Business Chamber Citizen of the Year, and is a member of the board of directors of United Way of the Greater Seacoast.

Two students join ABC

ABC this fall welcomed two 9th-grade students – Leannette Garcia and Mafoudia “Dia” Keita – into our program.

Leannette, who moved with her mother from the Dominican Republic to the Bronx when she was 5, says she applied to ABC because she “wanted to get out of the city and get a better education, a better life. I knew that Andover would be a better environment for me, more enriched, and that it was a safe place.” As for her AHS teachers, Leannette gives them an “A.” “Like the teachers, especially my English teacher because she was very helpful and by the book.”

At AHS she has joined the Dance Club and volunteered at Girls for Girls.

Dia sought out ABC because she wanted to challenge herself to “get outside of my comfort zone.” She was born in Guinea, West Africa and coincidentally also moved to New York City when she was 5.

Dia says that, once she was accepted by national ABC, Andover’s program “was my first choice because it was so organized and so welcoming – the community, too.” Already Dia has volunteered at the Bread & Roses soup kitchen in Lawrence.

Of course, as with Leannette, the move has been an adjustment. When Andover “is very, very different” compared to bustling New York City, she notes, “the [ABC] girls here are the sweetest people ever.”

**Thank you**

ABC is grateful to the following companies for services they donated to ABC:

- **DS Design Studio** of Rockport for designing this newsletter issue.
- **Michael R. Pierce C.P.A., P.C.**
- **Retail Tree Corp.** of Andover for tree care on Mars, Arboretum Assn.’s Arbor Day of Service.
nearly 150 ABC students so far. As a group, families. They have provided a home away from all students. My hat is off to the all-important ABC host president and volunteer. Since opening doors, Andover High School to better prepare for college. Thanks to your generosity, we provide the students with a house on Main Street and a complete network of support and love. Our 137 graduates have been accepted by highly selective colleges and universities. A Better Chance of Andover has much to celebrate. It is the oldest continuously run ABC Community School Program in the country and has graduated 137 students, with 100 percent going on to four-year colleges. A majority of these students have continued on to impressive professional careers and leadership positions, says Susan Connolly, board president and head of Alumni outreach. Take Wildfelio Arvelo, Ed.D., Andover High School '79, the focus of our alumni story (see inside). Born in Puerto Rico, Dr.