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 Hull joined Hooza 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.

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Andover Committee for A Better Chance

40th Anniversary Dinner

Drums Rave!

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) headlined 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 E. 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 alumna 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 Ross, ’75 AHS graduate and outstanding student and football player at Dartmouth, who currently heads a division of Mars, Inc.
• Anita Pascali, who graduated in 1979 after the program became coed, is now a financial 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, '92, are successful businessmen who have returned to the Merrimack Valley and are on the Andover ABC Board of Directors.
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The achievements of Andover ABC and its alumni are on the Andover ABC Board of Directors. They have provided significant monetary support and personal guidance during the school year.

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.”

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The program’s president, Dr. Joel H. Parks, (right, with his wife, Erinda), 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, doctors 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.

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"Financial aid increasingly is a major consideration for our students," said Eileen Reilly, academic chair. "Including requests for financial aid, scholastic aptitude testing and guiding them and their families through the college-application process, students are being prepared for 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 means 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, Fidelity Charitable Foundation Trust and Digital Federal Credit Union.

### Key facts about Andover ABC:

- **Number of students**: 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.
- **Number of graduates**: According to a recent study by the College Board, blacks in the past three decades have made the most gains in college graduation rates among minority groups, and nearly 1 in 4 blacks age 25 today have a bachelor's degree. Andover ABC has already reached a significant milestone: In the past 40 years, Andover ABC has graduated 321 students.
- **Number of colleges**: The Andover ABC scholars have been accepted to many fine institutions including: Holy Cross College, Oberlin, Tufts University, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Bowdoin, Smith, Barnard, Case Western, American University and Brown University.
- **Number of scholarships**: Andover ABC has received grants from a variety of sources. Since 1990, Andover ABC has received over $5 million in grants and contributions.
- **Number of volunteers**: The Andover ABC scholars have been the beneficiaries of the efforts of hundreds of volunteers.
- **Number of events**: Andover ABC has organized and sponsored many events for ABC.
- **Number of scholarships awarded**: Andover ABC has awarded scholarships to 600 students.
- **Number of ABC scholars**: Andover ABC serves 12 children at a time.
- **Number of ABC host families**: Andover ABC has 24 host families.

### ABC LEADERS: COMINGS & GOINGS

Amy Joyal is the new president of the Andover ABC Board of Directors, succeeding Dr. Joel H. Parks. Completing three years as president, Joel will remain on the board. During his 15 years on the board, Amy has served as vice president and has chaired several committees. Joel replaced her as vice president. Returning officers are Lynn Eikenberry, vice president; Candy Dann, treasurer; and Terrie Wimmer, secretary. Joining the board are:

- Rita Casper, resident director of the Andover Public Schools, who, on Wednesday, June 14, is an RN Nurse for Harvard Vanguard Medical Services. She has an ABC child in Andover and has volunteered at Andover ABC in the past.
- Jean Cohen, co-founder of Kinder Carol Associations, where she helps high school students identify and pursue their interests and talents, and then guide them through college selection and application. She has two grown sons.
- Lanita Foley, treasurer and a member of the ABC Board of Directors, succeeding Amy Joyal. She has served as vice president and has chaired several committees. Joel replaced her as president. Joining the board are:

- Stephanie Ragucci, resident assistant before she joined the board.
- Peter Jetton, both former vice presidents; and Eileen Reilly, secretary. A face-to-face meeting with Gov. Deval Patrick—formerly an ABC scholar at Milton Academy—was arranged by Resident Director Phoebe Ragucci as part of the governor’s Inaugural celebration, which included students from throughout the state.

### Arts and cultural events included

A focus on health brought Andover ABC’s efforts to help educate the students on healthy eating and living habits. And to keep things entertaining the students were scheduled to visit the Flag-smart park amusement in Flagstaff and to attend a Chelmsford company. Pam works at Airvana, a Chelmsford company. The Williams have two grown sons. Depainting from the board after long and distinguished service are Marjorie Rivers and Peter Jost, both former vice presidents; Lisa Bels, who most recently served the Activities Committee; and Jan Arcandale, who was a resident assistant before she joined the board.

### Student News

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

### College Bound

Helping Students and Their Families Prepare

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 most our budget last year. Although our programs 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. Also, the ABC Board of Directors, succeeding Amy Joyal as president, has called a meeting of the board to do business and discuss the future of the organization.

#### What is Andover ABC?

Andover ABC supplements Andover High’s guidance services by offering the ABC students tutoring for academic aptitude testing and guiding them and their families through the college-application process, including requests for financial aid. The committee will also ensure that students who apply to such schools where financial aid is available are not footing the bill for the entire cost of college.

#### College Bound: Helping Students and Their Families Prepare

In the past two years, Andover ABC has grown and so has 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 to develop to the top-level college education. It’s their entry to the leadership position they seek in order to make a difference in the world.

#### Future plans

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

### You can help

If you have already made a three-year pledge, see THANK YOU and will send you a separate reminder.

### ABC Board Members

- Joel Parks
- Lynn Eikenberry
- Amy Joyal
- Candy Dann
- Brenna Lally
- Amy K. Jones
- Dan Hall
- Peter Jetton
- Mary Beth Nason
- Amy Joyal
- Marjorie Rivers
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Students and Their Families Prepare

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“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 institutions including Holy Cross, Oberlin, Tufts University, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Bowdoin, Smith, Barnard, Wellesley, and Brown University.

Students and their families are also supported in the college-application process by the Andover ABC Parents’ Association, which contributes more than $25,000 a year to the program. Just being part of a national college-admission network at Andover ABC brings great value to our families. The parents who have been part of the program recognize the tremendous benefits that the ABC program brings to their students and their families.

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"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 contributions to our scholars, to town officials who went to bat for Andover ABC with the officials of many fine institutions including: Holy Cross College, Oberlin, Tufts University, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Brandeis, Smith, Barnard, Columbia, American University and Brown University.

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

Within the Andover community, South Church contributed funds and volunteer help, and the Smith Fund, at First 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 sponsors here, Andover ABC counts on everyone who helped us give our scholars "a better chance." The Academic Committee will intensify its efforts to help students identify and compare the schools that offer education, business, and the arts.

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Andrea Hall, a senior majoring in economics, said she chose Loyola College and University of Maryland because of her interests, health sciences. She added that she also is considering a career in public relations.

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 Temple University.

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 Morrows.

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