

ABSE News

May 2016

Adult Basic and Secondary Education at Lane Community College

Volume 2

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Hello,

*I hope you enjoy this second edition of the ABSE Newsletter. The purpose is still the same; to improve and enhance communication within the ABSE department and its campus partners. The improvement and enhancement are from a perspective of learning more about the things we often do not have time to share or reflect upon. And we have a new canine friend that has worked hard to create a special message for you on **dogTube**.*

We provide courses in Basic Skills, Reading, Writing, Math fundamentals, GED Prep, and College Prep. In addition to the four campus locations pictured above, we also have classes in Junction City, Springfield, and Lane County Corrections. The students, who come from diverse backgrounds, are hard working, resilient and persistent. You can learn more about them on the next page.

Amy

ANNOUNCEMENTS and MEMORIAL

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For ABSE News information contact Amy at 541-463-6184 or gaudiaa@lanecc.edu

Supportive Peers

Connect2Complete Team at Your Service

Serving ABSE students

Throughout the 2015-2016 academic year, Connect2Complete Peer Advocates have provided an extra layer of on-going support for ABSE students at the Main Campus and in Junction City (as well as at the Downtown Center in Fall 2015 and in Springfield in Spring 2016). The Peer Advocates have assisted ABSE students both inside and outside of the classroom and have helped increase students' engagement in their own learning, assisted students in accessing resources, and helped several GED students take steps towards becoming credit students.

The five Peer Advocates are all current students at Lane in the Human Services and Education programs, who serve between 5 and 15 hours per week as part-time AmeriCorps members. In the classrooms, Peer Advocates have role modeled effective learning and study skills, helped students with classwork, assisted students in using computers, and offered encouragement and empathy when students have struggled. Additionally, they have assisted several instructors with in-class service learning projects, led field trips to different campus resource offices, facilitated ice-breaker activities, and have collaborated with the Student Resource Advisor in offering workshops to help students apply for scholarships, financial aid, and degree / certificate programs at Lane.

Outside of the classrooms, Peer Advocates have helped ABSE students connect to resources and student services, trouble-shoot barriers to personal and academic success, and talk about educational and career goals. A big thank you goes to all of the Peer Advocates as well as the faculty and staff that have collaborated with them.



*Front: Program Leader Josh Mann,
Back row from left to right: Peer Advocates Rosella Cobiskey, Maggie Goodling, Kathleen Elligsen, and Katie Brown. Peer Advocate not present for the photo is Shelley Bradfield.*

[Connect2Complete](#) program is managed by Oregon Campus Compact with funding from AmeriCorps and Lane.

Extraordinary Volunteer Tutors

Ainsley Saffell

Ainsley has been a volunteer tutor for over 5 years and she has been very committed to students who are working hard to make progress in basic reading skills. Her expertise has contributed to students who have shown significant progress gains measured by post-testing. She has also given her time by assisting two instructors with a specialized fluency assessment, which provided a better understanding of students' learning needs.



I taught third grade for three years in Minnesota and first grade for one year in Ohio. While our children were in school, I did volunteer adult tutoring (literacy and ESL), which led to a job in adult education at the Ford Engine Plant in Lima, Ohio. That, in turn, led to a job as Academic Skills Center Coordinator at Northwestern College also in Lima. When my husband chose Oregon State for his sabbatical, I got my Masters in English with an Emphasis in ESL and then taught ESL at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

In our small town of Ada, Ohio, I was asked to tutor a Chinese woman. Her amazing focus was the reason for my ESL degree later. Working with immigrants allows me to experience other cultures. Also, I feel an empathy for Americans who have struggled with school, and tutoring allows me to help by using my previous experience.

I like working with one student and addressing specific needs. Of course, seeing a student's progress is very rewarding. I also enjoy getting to know each student and deciding together the best approach.

Volunteer tutoring encompasses the best parts of teaching without the stress. My commitment to tutoring was reinforced by reading *Coming Up Short: Working Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty* by Jennifer M. Silva. I recommend this book for teachers and tutors.

Don Hedden

Don joined the Volunteer Tutor program in 2012 and has regularly committed his time to about 5 – 10 students each term. He tutors mostly at the Main Campus with individual students as well as assisting with classroom instruction. He has given close to 1,000 hours of his time to help ABSE and ESL students achieve their goals.

I am a chemical engineer, now retired. For ~40 years I worked for the same research and development company in technical services, new business development and petrochemical sales areas. The company develops process technology which is offered for use under licenses acquired by companies in the oil refining, gas processing and petrochemical manufacturing



industries around the world. The early part of my career with the company was spent traveling to a variety of global locations to commission the operating units employing the technologies, a task which included training the in-country personnel how to use the technology. The job was a perfect introduction to "tutoring".

Shortly after settling into retirement and moving to Eugene from the Midwest, I was strongly encouraged by both my wife and daughter that, rather than sitting around reading and relaxing, it was time that I gave back to the community by volunteering my time and energies to tutor students who need math, science and/or writing assistance. Most important for me was to be part of a volunteer tutor program in which the students are strongly motivated to advance their education to achieve personal goals, namely a community college.

There are two aspects of being a volunteer tutor at LCC that I find enjoyable: (i) the positive education environment created by the programs' teaching staffs and the teachers' sincere interests to see students be successful; and, (ii) the excitement and pleasure students exude when they finally grasp a difficult concept or successfully move up to the next level in a program's ladder. The students' smiles when successful are great, as are the thanks that they always gratefully offer.

Recent Professional Developments

Both Amy and Alise will be attending an OER workshop today.

The Open Textbook workshop is a project of the University of Minnesota's [Open Textbook Network](#). Amy and Alise will let you know about this learning experience, reviewing Fundamentals of Mathematics and Math in Society.

The 2016 Employee Recognition Gala



Guess who got this?



Gail Hemsoth retires after 39 years of dedicated service to ABSE students and staff.



TED Talks, YouTubes and other good sites, recommended by...

Karen:

1. [iCIVICS](#)
2. [ReadWorks](#)
3. [read,write,think](#)
4. [Barney Fife: The Preamble to the Constitution](#)
5. [Famous Failures](#)

Alise:

1. [Lawrence Lessig: We the People, and the Republic we must reclaim](#)
2. [Eleanor Longden: The voices in my head](#)
3. [Emile Wapnick: Why some of us don't have one true calling](#)
4. [Susan Cain: The Power of Introverts](#)
5. [Sugata Mitra: New Experiments in Self-teaching](#)
6. [Shane Koyczan: Remember How We Forgot](#)
7. [The hip-hop of Shakespeare: MC Lars at TEDxUSC](#)

Amy:

1. [Randy Pausch Last Lecture: Achieving Your Childhood Dreams](#)
2. [Crash Course](#) (History, Science, Economics, Government & Politics, and more...)
3. [Kathryn Schulz: On Being Wrong](#)
4. [Math is Fun](#)

What do teachers REALLY do? (when they're not teaching)

Keren Levine

Over the past few years some of you may have caught glimpses of Karen Schaefer and me plotting to help build a program at Lane that combined ABSE forces (Supported ABE, Fundamentals, Pathways) with Specialized Support Services, Cooperative Education, Continuing Education and others. Dawn dubbed us an "envisioning" team and sanctioned our building a work-ready certificate program. We shared a concern about our students, many with cognitive disabilities (learning, emotional, developmental) who aim for but just do have the ability to attain GEDs or manage a Lane Pathways program. What could Lane do to support their quests for gainful employment? Karen and I sought out program models such as the Life Skills A.A. degree program at Bellevue Community College. A year ago our team hit a funding roadblock and the "envisioning" fizzled. Meanwhile, Supported ABE classes were integrated into ABSE and Fundamentals classes continue to funnel students onward toward their academic goals; but the absence of a material outcome remains a real concern for some of our students. What happens to the ones who don't make their academic goals?



Some ideas take on a life of their own. This past February I was contacted by [Pearl Buck Center](#). They are in the process of transforming their sheltered workshop into a vocational academy aimed at people with disabilities (and as an integrated institution, open to all). I was hired as director of post-secondary education and have been getting acquainted with the players and parameters of the project for the past couple of months. This summer I'll take a reprieve from teaching to help them write the substantial licensing application which will take about a year to process. Assuming we meet with success, we'll have a place to refer our students who, though unable to attain their GEDs--even if unable to read or write, can pursue satisfying careers in some shape or form. Some dreams are just worth pursuing.



Hats off to Rosa Lopez (Pathways) with Aliscia Niles (Fundamentals/GED) who responded creatively to the need in our department by creating the Business Office and Early Childhood Education PASS certificate programs here at Lane.



Please read more about PASS on the [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#) page

Continued... What do teachers REALLY do?

They take classes!

Alise Lamoreaux

Life at Lane

With the thought of pushing my boundaries of discomfort, Winter Term I took a poetry writing class at Lane from Sandy Jensen Brown. Since she officially retired last year, I figured it was a now or never moment. In addition to learning about poetry, the class was also a chance to see what it's like to be a credit student at Lane right now. A class from Sandy would be challenging, but a safe place to try my hand at the "art of the word." In class we wrote and shared on Moodle a different form of poetry each week. Sandy prided herself on how much she could challenge the class. We wrote: a sestina, a villanelle, a ballad, a parody, and the dreaded Shakespearean sonnet!

The Shakespearean sonnet nearly sent me running to drop the class! A couple of days before it was due, I was sitting in my cube at the DCA grumbling about hating Shakespearean Sonnets. Grumbles do not go unnoticed in our open workspace. Immediately, Kevin and Amy came to my rescue. Kevin proceeded to boom out the beats of the sonnet, so I could virtually feel the rhythm of the poetry. Amy started chanting words that fit the beat. I was still not convinced I could write such a poem.

Amy would not give up on me getting the poem done and turned in on time. She came to my cube to help me hammer out the sonnet. We played with words and beats and my theme of horses until the poem was done. Since everyone hears everything in our workspace, participation was not limited to just us. During a break from his class, Kevin provided a reading of the poem to demonstrate the correct presentation.

At the end of the day, as I was leaving, Debbi Tallman was at the front desk. She had a smile on her face and commented, "I enjoyed hearing you guys write that poem. It was really fun." *RIP Debbie. Here is to the fun times we shared!*

The Leprechaun

I galloped off into the woods,
Through tree lined curves and dusty swirls,
With saddlebags all filled with goods,
To share as lunch with other girls.

Arriving at the gathering spot,
Shared words and whinnies and swirling tails,
The ride starts in an up beat trot,
Then canters over hills and dales.

The path turns back to forest green,
Twitching, turning, forward ears,
Horses have sixth sense so keen,
Screeching halt! Leprechaun appears!
Alarm! Chaos! Then sweet relief,
All is well, it's just a leaf.



Efforts from my poetry writing class can be found at: <https://poesyhorse.wordpress.com/>

And take photos, and write more poems...

When I Am An Old Woman

When I am an old woman I shall wear plaid,
 One color will not be enough
 With a hat to shield my eyes
 From the sun or the rain
 And I shall spend my pension
 On Bourbon, apples and carrots
 And fancy saddles, bridles, and blankets
 And say we've no money for bread
 I shall sit in my pasture or on a fence
 And photograph horses
 I will spend hours with my camera
 Just watching
 And trek to the racetracks
 To hear thunderous hooves of joy
 I shall wear elegant dresses
 Big brimmed hats and cowboy boots
 I shall blow kisses to the jockeys
 And horses as they parade by me
 And make up for the temperance
 Of my youth

 You can ride along with me
 And choose your own drink



Collect programs from the races
 So we remember where we were
 Or buy souvenir shot glasses and t-shirts

 But now we must wear clothes for work
 Pay the mortgage, save for retirement, and mow the lawn
 Follow the newest wrinkle
 And remain pertinent, useful
 We must watch the Kentucky Derby on TV

 But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
 So as not to end up in a "home"
 Because I have become too "peculiar"
 When suddenly I am old
 And start to wear plaid.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone who was part of celebrating my "40" years at Lane Community College and for the very generous gift. As of now, I don't own any cowboy boots, so I will try to use the gift to change that. But for now as the poem says, I will still wear work clothes and save for retirement! The poem is a parody of a classic, but I it was fun to write my own version. Once again, thank you very much for your thoughtfulness! ~Alise

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM...

Scott Bell

Welcome, Zsuzsanna Fleming, our new Student Services Specialist

My name is Zsuzsanna Fleming, and I was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary. I moved to the United States 2.5 years ago. Currently, I live in Corvallis with my husband, Dave, my 17 year old stepdaughter, Lily, and our cat, Momo. My parents, two sisters and a brother still live in Hungary. I am the proud aunt of 10 nieces and nephews and a great aunt to 3 toddlers.

In my spare time I enjoy taking road trips with Dave and Lily, going for walks, hiking and hanging out at home and chatting with just about anyone, including the cat.

In high school I was an exchange student in Wyoming, then I went on to get my bachelors from College of the Ozarks in Missouri. Later on I went back to school for my masters in Hungary.

I have worked in office administration since 2001 at various institutions in Budapest, including a Business School and a private British school that went from kindergarten through 12th grade. Administrative work is right up my alley as I get a kick out of organizing, making processes more efficient and problem solving.

I am excited to be part of the Adult Basic and Secondary Education department.



Rosa Lopez

What is PASS Lane?

"PASS" or Pathways, Academic Skills, and Services targets students in ABSE, ESL, GED, Guided Studies, or other "under-prepared" students interested in transitioning to credit classes. Students admitted to PASS Lane options are given the opportunity to take specific credit level Career Technical classes and integrated non-credit ABSE or ESL classes simultaneously, regardless of if they have passed the college placement test. We are now actively recruiting students into PASS Lane programs for the 2016-17. The following programs are available:

Business Office (full time- day)

Early Childhood Education (part time -evening)

**Admission into these process requires career development, assessments, time management and budget planning. An advisor will help student through this process but the earlier students are referred the better. We will also have student success workshop preparing incoming students throughout the summer.*

For more information see: <https://www.lanecc.edu/pathways/pass-lane>

Submit your news for the next edition by October 31, to: gaudiaa@lanecc.edu

MEMORIAL

Debbi Tallman

Debbi Tallman passed away on Monday, May 9th, 2016. She did have family and friends at her side at the time of her passing, which is fitting because Debbi was always willing to be at our sides during difficult times in our lives both professionally and personally. Those of who had the opportunity to know Debbi were blessed to know a person with a truly nice soul.

Debbi was a person who valued her privacy, was often too proud to ask for help, but was the first to offer it to any living being that needed it. It really helped if that living being happened to be cute, furry, and smaller than she was, but that didn't preclude her from helping anyone else who was vulnerable and needed her guidance. Debbi loved her cats, her fish, her dogs, and any animal that she had contact with throughout her entire life. In addition to the animals we all know she loved, Debbi also enjoyed gardening. Her backyard most recently was filled with the most beautiful shrubbery and flowers and she also loved growing her own fruits and vegetables.

Debbi treated every student who walked through the doors at Lane Community College like they were family to her and that is what made Debbi so special. There was never a sense about her that this was just a job to her. She was passionate about the work she did and the work that this department does for students. Debbi always strived to treat each person with respect and dignity. This poem was in Debbi's possession when she was taken to the hospital.



The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket, A simple reminder to me, Of the fact that I am a Christian, No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic, or is it a good luck charm, It isn't meant to protect me, From every physical harm.

It's not for identification, For all the world to see, It's simply an understanding, Between my Savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket, To bring out a coin or a key, The cross is there to remind me, Of the price he paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful, For the blessings day by day, And to strive to serve him better, In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder, Of the peace and comfort I share, With all who know my master, And give themselves to his care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket, Reminding no one but me, That Jesus Christ is lord of my life, If only I'll let him be.

Debbi started working at Lane nearly 25 years ago and was a valued and loved part of Adult Basic & Secondary Education and Lane Community College. During her stay in the hospital it was very apparent to nurses, doctors, and other professional staff just how beloved Debbi was to her friends, family, and co-workers as literally dozens of people visited her. She will be missed.

~~ Scott Bell

