

**Middletown
Adult
Education**

Adult Talk

**May
2007**

**2007
Graduation Class
Speaker**

By Barbara Novak



“Education is the only thing that can make one a better person in life.”

Benjamin Cedeno is a very determined young man. Once he decided to return to school nothing was going to get in his way.

He had no car, so he rode his bicycle or walked through all types of weather, from Westbrook to Old Saybrook, rarely missing class and earning as many credits as possible. He took regular classes, online, Independent Study Projects, Curriculum Packets and earning Work Experience Credit!

He never gave up, but became an outstanding example and role model for his classmates of what can happen with steadfast work and perseverance.

2006-2007: Fast, Fun, Rewarding James G. Misenti—Director

The 2006-2007 school year at Middletown Adult Education was filled with excitement, new programs and most of all successful students. One of our new programs was the state sponsored Young Adult Learner Initiative. Through this grant we were able to foster partnerships with area businesses as well as the Portland Public Schools, Vinal Technical School, Middlesex Hospital and Middlesex Community College.

Our Even Start program once again pro-

vided childcare for students in our programs, as well as parenting skills and educational support.

The ESL department served well over 300 students from 50 countries! Also, our always popular enrichment program offered in excess of 400 courses to more than 4,000 residents in the Middlesex County.

Finally, hard work really does pay off at MAE! We anticipate that 125 students involved in our Credit Diploma, External Diploma and GED pro-

grams will successfully complete all their requirements to receive their high school diplomas.

Congratulations to all of these great students as they complete their next step on their life-long journey!!



Highlights of Enrichment's Fall 2007 Bus Trips



San Gennaro Italian Festival—September 15

NASCAR —September 16 and September 23

Broadway Show Color Purple in NYC—October 6

Boston Trip / Chocolate Buffet at the Langham Hotel—October 20

Cirque de Soleil (Wintuk) Madison Square Garden—November 18

Radio City Music Christmas Show—December 8

Visit us on the web.

www.maect.org

GED Class Speaker

By Michael Fortuna

This quote is from Michael Bailey who earned his GED diploma in December 2006. While preparing for the GED examination, Michael developed a sense of his own strengths, and through practice, improved his ability to learn. He challenged himself in advanced mathematics and problem solving techniques. Always attend-

“Dream big, what we once thought unreachable, is reachable.”

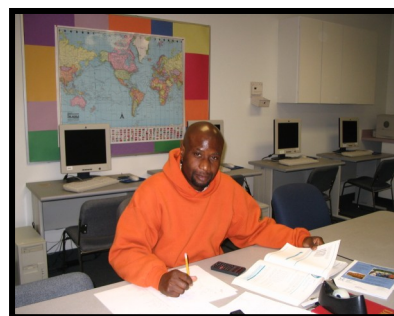
ing school regularly, Michael maintained a positive attitude and believed in achieving his goals.

In January, Michael enrolled in a degree program at Middlesex Community College to pursue a career in human services.

Today, Michael has completed his first semester of college and realizes the enjoyment of learning at the college level. Soon, the hard work and perseverance will be rewarded as he begins his new career.

Michael’s maturity level and life experiences enabled him to become a positive role model for

other students in the class. He already realizes the sacrifices that are necessary to be a good role model to his children, and tonight, Michael is an exceptional representation of Middletown Adult Education’s Class of 2007!



Middletown Adult Education Class of 2007 Graduation Singers

By Sharon Muldowney

The National Anthem

In February, Maritza Delgado walked into Room 207 for a singing audition and sang her heart out. Those of us in the room were wowed! She has a beautiful voice and will share her gift tonight by singing the national anthem before she receives her high school diploma.

As a mother of six, Maritza was anxious to provide a positive role model for her children, and so, she enrolled in the External Diploma Program (EDP) and Even Start. In the Even Start program, Maritza was always supportive and encouraging to the other students. She is also very involved with her children’s education and has a great concern for her extended family.

Now, through hard work and perseverance Maritza has completed all her academic requirements for graduation and will celebrate that achievement tonight. She will sing

“The Star Spangled Banner” and walk across the stage as an EDP graduate and Even Start participant.



America the Beautiful

Margaret Ford is singing for joy tonight. She is receiving her high school diploma through the External Diploma Program (EDP). This achievement means more to her than anyone could know. She grew up in South Boston, Virginia as the fourth of seven children. During that time, she attended a segregated school and completed ninth grade. Because of

this she says, “My biggest accomplishments were raising my two children and having them get their high school diplomas.” One day she realized that it wasn’t too late and decided to earn her own high school diploma. That’s when she enrolled in the External Diploma Program.

Margaret showed a love and enthusiasm for learning that was contagious. In her quiet manner, she encouraged other students by never letting anyone give up or get discouraged. She feels she had a wonderful opportunity and tonight she will be one of our graduate singers. Margaret Ford, '07 sings “America the Beautiful.”



The Family Literacy Program

By Sheila Farrell

The Family Literacy Program at Middletown Adult Education is a program that supports family-centered educational and parenting activities. The program provides adults with ABE instruction as well as enrollment in the EDP – External Diploma Program. Parents who enroll in this program are mature, hardworking adults but underemployed because they lack a high school diploma.

One of the many successes of the Family Literacy Program is the support system. Even though there are usually a wide range of ages, ethnic diversity, and a variety of occupational skills, the students bond as a family. The camaraderie that is fostered through the Family Literacy program is invaluable!

Adults, who enroll in the Family Literacy Program, attend classes on Monday through Thursday after-

noons and become full partners in their child's development as well as learn how to communicate and strengthen relationships with the staff at their child's school. Class time is augmented with exciting family literacy activities. Students also experience civic engagement.

This year, nine moms and dads from this program will graduate on May 31st. Our graduates will move on to better jobs and higher education. Most importantly, they will walk across the stage with higher self-esteem and confidence not only in their own eyes, but in those of their family and friends.



Student Wins State Honor

By Linda Johnson



In March, the Connecticut Association for Adult Continuing Education honored one of our students, Fatima Haddadi, as an out-

standing learner in the state of Connecticut. Over 300 educators were at the conference, many of them her teachers from Middletown Adult Education. In her honor, she received a cash prize and a plaque.

Since coming from Morocco, Fatima has not let her language or religious beliefs be a barrier to her dreams. Wanting a career in the nursing profession, she worked hard in all her academic classes, ESL, ABE, and EDP, in order to pursue her ambition. Fatima demonstrated diligence, motivation, and

a clear focus in regards to her goals. Not only has she received her high school diploma, she has recently become a U.S. citizen as well. Fatima truly made doorways out of differences. Her dedication to a religion unfamiliar to her peers provided multiple learning opportunities. She sought to bridge the culture gap by creating more of an awareness of the similarities and differences existing between her and her classmates. In turn, her peers responded favorably.

Fatima is married and has a young daughter. Enrolled in the Even Start program, Fatima loved the Parent and Child Together (PACT) time as it gave her a chance to interact with her daughter in new situations. Her husband is supportive of Fatima's dreams and helps out when he can. Having a family is a full time job, as is coming to school five days a week. Fatima savored her time at Middletown Adult

Even Start Family Literacy



By Cindy Capetta

The Even Start Family Literacy Program welcomed a new staff member at the end of January. Claudia Velasco, a new paraprofessional, joined Kim Bowker in the Young Toddler room. Georgie Tine moved into the Older Toddler room with Lina Kronenberger.

Claudia was born in Columbia and attended high school and college in Puerto Rico. She has a B.S. Degree in Early Childhood and has worked at Head Start in New Haven and Meriden. She is enjoying her work with younger children at Even Start and is very helpful in providing Spanish translation services when needed.

Claudia lives in Meriden with her husband and two sons, ages 6 and 10. She and her sons enjoy playing soccer together in their free time.

Education learning along with her daughter and demonstrated an effective balance between her differing responsibilities.

Fatima has such a thirst for knowledge. She is inquisitive and recognizes the value of education. Fatima, as a non-traditional student, is also a good role model for so many seeking to improve their lives. Helpful and supportive to others, she embodies what all teachers want in a student. Teachers uniformly refer to her as "Wonderful!" Given Fatima's motivation and determination to learn, CAACE and Middletown are proud to honor her commitment to education.

"The sign on the door of opportunity reads PUSH."

Unknown Author

Adult High School Credit Diploma Program—Class 2007

By Barbara Novak

This has been a very busy and exciting year! The Middletown Adult High School Credit Diploma Class of 2007 has almost 90 graduates, making it the biggest class in the past 5 years! Each graduate has completed a minimum of twenty-one required Adult High School credits including English, Social Studies, Math, Science and Electives required by the State of Connecticut and Middletown Board of Education.

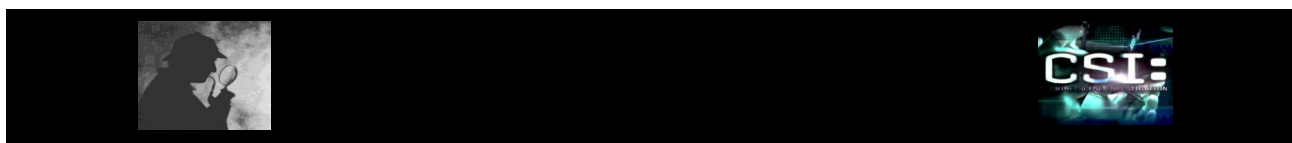
Each student has followed a different trail to Adult Education and has varied learning needs. To best meet these needs, classes are held at several locations both day and evening. Our teachers are committed to pro-

viding the best instruction possible and use a variety of teaching strategies to provide the best service for our students. Classes are very innovative and most incorporate the use of online components which have been constructed by the teachers. This allows the students to access the class schedule and assignments at any time from any computer. Some students have completed Online Courses taught by teachers in other Adult Education Programs. Each graduate has worked diligently to earn credits, taking advantage of classes, Independent Study Projects, Curriculum Packets and experiential credits such as work experience.

Students have completed many 'fun'

lessons in their classes, such as painting in English, solving a CSI "crime" scene in science, interviewing ESL students in History and many other innovative instructional strategies to keep the students interested!

The Adult High School staff is dedicated to educating students and has worked hard to make classes interesting through the integration of new ideas. The graduates tonight show the rewards of this energy as they graduate and move on to pursue continued education at a variety of colleges and training schools.



By Linda Schroeder

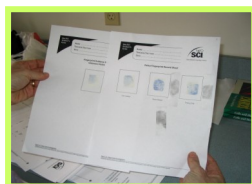
Science Class can be fun!!! One recent activity for the students in the Life Science 2 class at Middletown Adult Education involved a crime scene investigation.



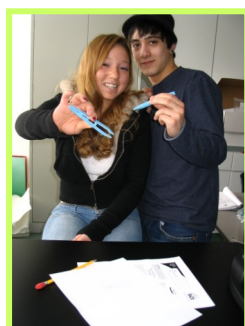
The objectives of this lesson included: implementing the scientific method, forensic analysis of evidence, and development of problem-solving skills.

Students were "let loose" to investigate a mock crime scene. They observed the scene and responded to

guiding questions. A sketch of the crime scene was drawn and students speculated as to what may have occurred.



The students then did fingerprinting, hair, and karotyping analyses in order to identify the victim and the perpetrator.



Do you like puzzles?

Then forensic science would be right up your alley. All the crime scene investigation television shows have made forensic science very popular. My students were well versed in many of the terms and in the basics of many of the techniques that forensic scientists use.

Needless to say a fun and educational time was had by all!!

Credit Diploma Program Young Adult Literature

By CDP Instructor Joe Lawler

The Adult High School students read the award-winning novel *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson. In the book, the main character Melinda must create a piece of artwork that, according to her art teacher Mr. Freeman, will allow her to “find her soul” and “touch that part of [her] that [she] never dared look at before.”

To appreciate the complexities of self-expression and creativity, our CDP students also undertook her assignment. Like Melinda, they had to take one word and make it art. The word was “**Tree.**”



Renne Decker



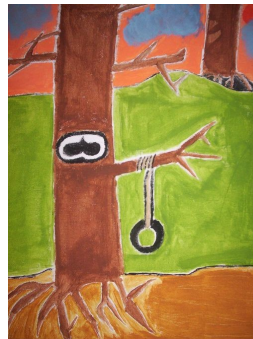
Rachel Manecke



Breana Haris



Caitlin Brennan



Brian Genevesio



Sam Kirkendall



Brian Masse

Flaws are interesting. “**Art is about** making mistakes and learning from them...You must figure out how to make your object say something, express an emotion, speak to every person who looks at it...

Make it bend...Scar it, give it a twisted branch-perfect trees don't exist.

Nothing is perfect. Flaws are interesting.

Be The Tree.”

- Mr. Freeman, the art teacher

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson



New Database Manager

Welcome, Pam Mac Duff, who for two years was a teacher's aide at Methodist Church and is now the new Database Manager here at Middletown Adult Education. The database office is busy trying to prepare for Graduation and she thanks everyone for being so helpful during her transition.

Pam received her associate's degree in retailing from Bay State Junior College in Boston, MA. She currently lives in Durham with her husband and two children Molly 10 and Brian 14. In her free time she enjoys cooking, skiing, and vacationing on the Cape.

