



# MAEA MEDIA



Volume 2, Issue 7

## July 2006 What's Inside:

Page 1  
Letter from the Editor

Page 2  
Adult Scholars and Scholarships

Page 3  
Career Development Facilitator

Page 4  
Student Stories

Page 5  
Mental Health Tuition

Page 6  
out CAST Players

Page 7 and 8  
Our Learners

Page 8  
Important Dates



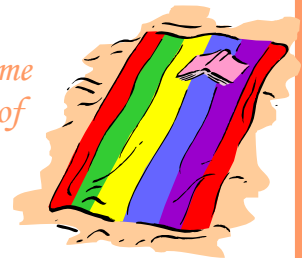
## NEWS FROM THE MAINE ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

*I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your assistance this year as you helped me to prepare the MEDIA for the field. In my role as editor and publisher of the MAEA Media, I have had a chance to speak with many of you about the progressive and inspirational work teachers, students, and administrators are doing across Maine and beyond. This issue is dedicated to our students and their success stories are contained herein for your pleasure. I hope this issue is a true reminder of why we do what we do: our students!*

*I have happily accepted MAEA's offer for me to continue as the producer of the MEDIA next year and I look forward to working with you all yet again. In September, our issue will focus on innovative and unique partnerships and/or collaborations which help to sustain and expand adult education programming. There are a lot of exciting opportunities in the Creative Economy model showcased by Jeanne Waite at the Director's Academy and I think the MEDIA is a good way to share what is working and what is not – as well as possibilities for the future.*

*In the meantime, enjoy your summer. Take time for yourself, your family and enjoy the glory of Maine under a full sun.*

*Thank you again,  
Shannon*



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207.875.2722  
[maea@megalink.net](mailto:maea@megalink.net)  
[www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org)

The Maine Adult Education Association is a professional organization that advocates for adult education locally, statewide, and nationally and supports its members in order to meet the educational needs of Maine's adults.

## MAEA Scholars

The scholarships from MAEA have been awarded to Sadie Chretien of Bangor and Jessica Anderson of Sanford. This year saw 11 applications for the \$500 scholarships which are awarded upon successful completion of the first semester.

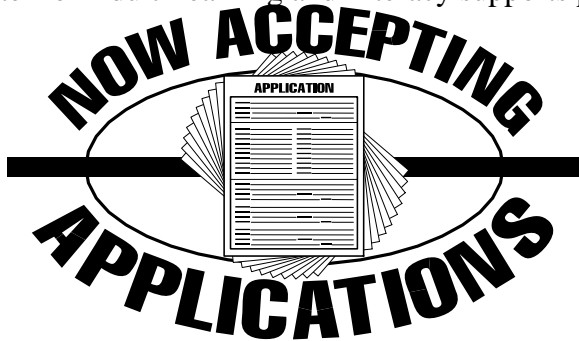
Suzanne Rojas of Newport chaired the Scholarship committee this year.

2007 applications will be posted on the MAEA web site in the fall. They are due in April with notification by May 1.



## CALL Scholarships

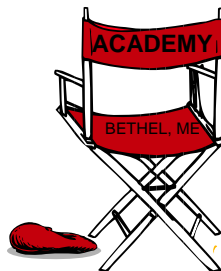
Center for Adult Learning and Literacy supports professional development opportunities nationwide:



Applications for scholarships to practitioners to attend a national conference related to adult literacy or family literacy are available through the Center for Adult Learning and Literacy, Staff Development Advisory Council.

It is required for the adult education practitioner to report back on the conference in person and disseminate information in a written form to the Center for Adult Learning and Literacy.

Please revisit your CALL Professional Development Handbook or go to:  
<http://www.umaine.edu/call/pubs/documents/CALL05-06Handbook.doc>  
for more information and view the application and guidelines.



## DON'T FORGET!

We think the Director's Academy in Bethel was a great success. Don't forget to get your evaluation forms in to Cathy Newell so we know for sure!

Images from the Academy: Envisioning the Future & Brochures the Sizzle!

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT FACILITATOR National Certification Available!

A new credential has been developed for those who provide career development services to youth and adults: **Global Career Development Facilitator**. The Career Development Facilitator course is a pre-requisite for this global certification. The course covers twelve competencies identified by the National Career Development Association as important to master in order to provide quality services to clients/students.

# 12

The twelve competencies are:



Helping Skills

Ethical and Legal Issues

Assessment

Technology

Training Clients and Peers

Promotion & Public Relations

Working with Diverse Populations

Career Development Models

Labor Market Information / Resources

Employability Skills

Program Management / Implementation

Consultation.

Many career advisors have good training and skills in some of these competencies but few would be skilled in all twelve. Because the course is interactive and typically has a cross section of people who take the course (see below for the variety of participants who have taken this course) the discussion is rich and often enlightening for all participants. Cathy VanDyke and Jim Peacock, who have over 40 years experience in career development and are nationally certified instructors for this curriculum will be offering this course for the **fourth** time in Maine and for the **third** time in a new format where about half of the 120-hour course is delivered on-line.

Our next Career Development Facilitator course begins September 15 and 16, 2006 and is conducted with a combination of face-to-face classes and Internet/email assignments. The eight live classes are spread out between September and March. You can check out our website at [www.MaineGCDF.com](http://www.MaineGCDF.com) to learn more about the course, the specific class dates, and to register for the class.

**Previous class participants class include:** Adult Educators from Biddeford, Gray-New Gloucester, Norway, York, and Newport; Guidance Counselors from Winslow, Erskine, Mt. Blue, Lawrence Messalonskee; Tech Prep instructors from Erskine Academy and Lawrence High Schools; College Career Counselors from U.M.A, College of the Atlantic, UMF, UM-Machias, Unity College & Thomas College; Dept. of Labor Career Center staff; college academic advisors; Vocational Rehabilitation employees; Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) staff; Coast Guard Career Development Advisor; Job Clubs , UNUM; and Maine Medical Center employees.

Feel free to contact Cathy VanDyke or Jim Peacock with any inquiry at:

Jim Peacock [jim1@peak-careers.com](mailto:jim1@peak-careers.com)

52 Riva Ridge Rd Vassalboro, ME 04989

453-5082 (w) 873-1907 (h) [www.MaineGCDF.com](http://www.MaineGCDF.com)

Cathy Van Dyke [cathy@peak-careers.com](mailto:cathy@peak-careers.com)

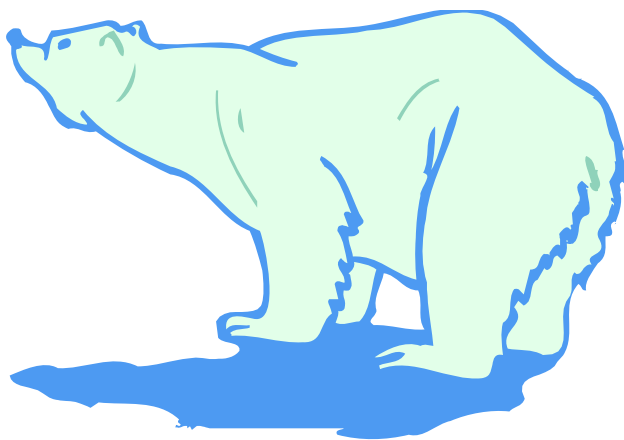
204.236.8463

## THE BEST PLACE EVER

Once I've been to the Best Place in the world – Archipelago Spitsbergern. I was with my parents on a business trip and had the best time of my childhood. Now this place is forgotten and no people go over there. Everything is completely empty.

Sometimes, when I feel really bad or even sad, I want to go to this far away place. I always imagine myself standing in the middle of my snow white settlement of Pyramid. The weather is freezy, a slow wind blows into my face and there is just deep silence. I can even hear the sound of the Artic Ocean a couple of miles away. Suddenly, all those people come to my mind.

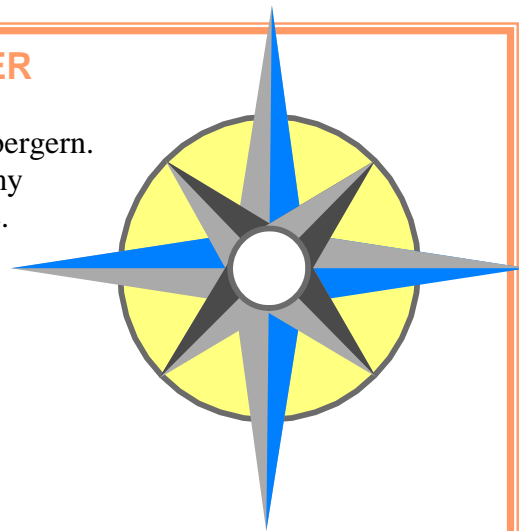
My first teacher, an interesting and incredibly kind woman with the most open and the fair heart I have ever know. There was a woman from the dairy farm with such a soft and simple smile who gave me my first try of fresh warm cow's milk; my father's workmates who were the funniest men in the world. Finally, there were my first best friends – not just boys, but my team where I was an unchangeable part of something honest and sincere.



I can feel an atmosphere simplicity, trust and understanding. It seems like all the good feelings of the world are gathered in one place, here around me.

I believe there will be a day when I'll have a chance to be there again. If only for just on small moment, but there.

*Submitted by Roman Mokry, ESOL Student from the Ukraine. Roman attends Gail Bentley-Dresser's ESOL class in Rockland.*



## MENTAL HEALTH TUITION REIMBURSEMENT SERVICE\*



The Mental Health Tuition Reimbursement Service is a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funded tuition payment service for individuals with severe and prolonged mental illness living in Maine who want to participate in an academic program, but have exhausted all other potential funding resources. The following are the guidelines and steps to complete the application procedure.

**Part A:** In order to be eligible for the mental health tuition assistance service, the student must be living in the state of Maine and not have any alternative financial resources to pay for tuition. The student must have applied to the Office of Rehabilitation Services (VR), applied for federal financial aid through the Education Institute and provide documentation that they are not currently eligible for full funding through these services. If employed, the student may be asked to apply for a P.A.S.S. work incentive through the Social Security Administration. When appropriate, DHHS shall encourage individuals with disabilities to participate in the cost of attendance through the use of college Work Study and/or student loan.

**Part B:** The student must be eligible for a DHHS funded mental health service program (supported employment, community support, residential supports, etc.) If the student is currently receiving community supports or case management from a DHHS funded mental health program, please complete DHHS' release of information and attach a copy of the ISP with the current Educational Goal. The Student's Community Integration Worker/Case Manager may be able to assist with this activity. If the student has not been previously found eligible for a DHHS funded mental health program, the Coordinator of this program may contact the student to verify eligibility. Eligibility will be verified utilizing DHHS' Client Certification for Services Form. Please complete DHHS' release of information form, identifying the person and information to be released to determine eligibility.

**Part C:** The student must have applied and been accepted into a program of study at an academic institution at the time of application to the MH Tuition Reimbursement Service. A copy of the acceptance should be included with the application. The program of study must lead to a degree, certificate or license relating to the individual's vocational / career goals. The student must demonstrate academic progress, maintain eligibility for financial aid, and continue to make progress toward meeting their vocational / career goals. If the student is placed on academic probation, he/she has one grading period in which to attain good standing. DHHS sponsorship may terminate after that grading period unless the client achieves good standing.

**Part D:** This service does not pay for fees, books, supplies, etc. The amount requested should be only for the actual amount of tuition not provided for by other potential funding resources. DHHS participation will be based upon the institution's Financial Aid Office (FAO) needs analysis, and the DHHS Tuition Reimbursement Coordinator's examination of the actual cost. Unless there is a less costly student-identified option, the current rate for tuition at the University of Maine system will be considered the maximum DHHS tuition support.

**The Deadline for applying for this scholarship is 30 days prior to your school or class registration.**  
Please forward to:

**Region I:** York & Cumberland Counties, to DHHS/Kate Duncan/175 Lancaster Street/Portland, ME 04101

**Region II:** Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo Counties to DHHS/Elaine Sewall/11 State House Station/Greenlaw Bldg, 2nd floor/Augusta, ME 04330

**Region III:** Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington Counties to DHHS/Brent S. Bailey/176 Hogan Road/Bangor, ME 04401

**\* PDF application is mailed as an additional attachment to newsletter**

## out CAST Players

What do you think of when you read the word “outcast”? Perhaps you think of a pariah, an outsider, a person living on the margins, someone who is often invisible to mainstream society. Imagine if “outcast” took on a whole different meaning and changed the way you looked at words, learners and speech.

That is exactly what the **out CAST players** do every time they perform. The self-named **out CAST players** chose this title as they were teaming up to become a “CAST” -a theatre cast- who would be “OUT” in front of audiences across the state. This was no small commitment for any of the **out CAST players** as many of them had spent their lives hiding from the public, ashamed of their low literacy skills. They had learned ways to hide their illiteracy:

**“carry a newspaper wherever you go”**

**“say I forgot my glasses and couldn’t read without them”**

**“act rushed so I could take an application home to have help filling it out”**

**“say, ‘I don’t speak English well”**

Whatever their former excuses were, they now proudly announce to their audience that they no longer need to hide behind excuses. They have all learned to read, to feel good about their voices and share their success stories because of their incredible commitment to learn to read -once and for all- as adults.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> Literacy Volunteers of Mid-Coast Maine held an annual meeting to honor the Board members, dedicated community members, learner and tutors. Below is a photo of the **out CAST players** in their performance entitled, “How do you hide?” This still picture captures one brief moment in the performance where the actors demonstrated how a chain of support is generated by attending Literacy Volunteers and how one person is helped by all those who surround her in her goal of literacy. If you have not seen these inspirational performers live, I urge you to do so. Prepare to laugh and cry!



***out CAST players: Nancy Kimball, Rosemary Moody, Amy Joy, Wes Knight, Linda Knight, Ivy Lebatto, Mary Seavey, Delores Demmons, Estelle Rackliff***

The **OUTcast players** theatre group are ending their 3<sup>rd</sup> year and will continue to practice and perform into their fourth year thanks to generous funds from Maine Community Foundation and LVMCM Board of Directors. The tireless dedication of Beth A. Gifford, Director of Literacy Volunteers of Mid-Coast Maine helps learners find their voice on and off stage. To speak with Beth about scheduling a performance for your graduation, special ceremony or an inspiration to your everyday learners, please call: 207.594.5154 or email her at [bgifford@midcoast.com](mailto:bgifford@midcoast.com).

## OUR LEARNERS

I learned that no one had the right to treat me badly because I had trouble learning and doing things. I may not understand things the first time, but I am still a man; like every other man. And I deserve to be treated like one... Yes, right now I am working a temporary job. I want a full time job because I want good benefits. I want to know I have a job and that I can pay my bills. But it is more important that I have my self-respect. I never knew what that felt like before. For this, I thank Literacy Volunteers and everyone who has supported me.

- John L'Heureux, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Sanford adult learner

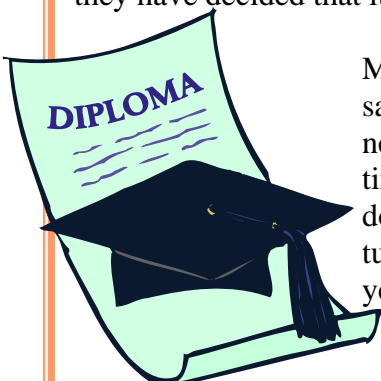
John and his tutor Linda Gulnac recently received *Star in Literacy* awards at the 2006 annual meeting of Literacy Volunteers of Maine. For any of us who take for granted the role of literacy in our lives, John's words stand to remind us of just how important it is – not only for employability but for the preservation of self-esteem and quality of life.



For over 35 years, Literacy Volunteers affiliates throughout Maine have provided one-on-one confidential tutoring to thousands of adults through trained volunteer tutors. In Maine, these dedicated tutors donated services valued at nearly one million dollars last year. John and the 11 other students who were honored, along with their tutors, are prime examples of the ability of literacy to change lives.

Another student, Randy Muir, initially came to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor nearly two years ago, motivated to learn how to read his Alcoholics Anonymous materials and the newspaper. Randy, with the help of his tutor Sally McManus, has improved two reading levels since then, has become a library patron, and discovered a passion for reading historical biographies. He is now working on getting his GED through Bangor Adult Education and continued partnership with Literacy Volunteers. Randy used his new literacy skills to reconnect with family and friends over the holidays by writing letters – an exhausting and rewarding process. As a result, he has reconnected with his grown son, who may now move to Bangor in the near future.

Asha Garrett's goal is to pass the citizenship test. She and her tutor, Lin Maria Riotto, meet for two hours every week. Asha keeps up with her homework despite having a job and four children (ages 1 – 13) at home. In listening to Asha talk about how much she wanted to learn to read and write, Lin was reminded of Abraham Lincoln's love of reading. As a result, she and Asha went on to read a Lincoln biography, and when Rosa Parks died, read hers as well. Lin has read the Gettysburg Address to Asha several times, and they have decided that it is their favorite prose to date.



Mina Chadwick arrived at Literacy Volunteers of Androscoggin six years ago saying, "Working on my education is going to turn my life around. This is what I need to do." After working with her tutor, Linda Connelly, for three years, it was time for her to move toward adult education classes. To help Mina overcome her doubts, Linda went with her until she had the confidence to go on her own. Another tutor, Linda Duarte, helped Mina during her three years in adult education. This year, after all her hard work, Mina obtained her High School Diploma!

## OUR LEARNERS, Continued

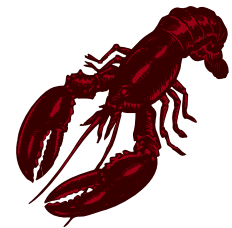
There are many more wonderful stories to tell, and each year we are surprised and delighted by the successes of our students. However, while organizations like Literacy Volunteers and adult education programs are making a difference, there is more we can do. We must, through advocacy and public outreach and education, make it easier for adults to access services, expand the availability of services and, most importantly, help to remove the stigma associated with low literacy.

The learners I have been privileged to know are some of the most courageous people I have ever met. They have persevered, overcome barriers, and reached goals that were once unthinkable. In this season of graduations, let's honor those among us, like John, Randy, Ash, and Mina, who have tackled incredible challenges to take the next step in their education – and their lives – by improving their literacy. They, too, deserve our respect and congratulations along with all the other graduates celebrating this season.

*Submitted by Stella Hernandez, Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers of Maine. Stella can be reached at: [www.lvmaine.org](http://www.lvmaine.org)*

### Sounds of the Breakwater

A cold, noisy wind make me shiver  
Many kinds of boats rumble in the distance.  
Whispered voices greeting other,  
The wings of water birds –  
Ducks that cry like an infant learning to speak,  
And the silence of serenity that takes you far away.



*Submitted by Gail Bentley-Dresser, ESOL Instructor in Rockland. Gail is working on poetry with her students and this class poem was created by her students after their class trip to Rockland's Breakwater Lighthouse. Gail can be reached at: [gdresser@msad5.org](mailto:gdresser@msad5.org) or by phone at 594.9764.*

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**CASAS Training**  
**Real Series**  
**EMPower Math**  
**MAEA Board Meeting**  
**GED Examiner's Meeting**  
**Family Literacy Fair, Madison High School**  
**COABE Institute by the Bay**  
**MAEA Conference:**

August 18, 2006  
August 21-24, 2006  
August 24-25, 2006  
September 15, 2006  
September 29, 2006  
September 30, 2006  
October 23-24, 2006  
October 25, 2006

