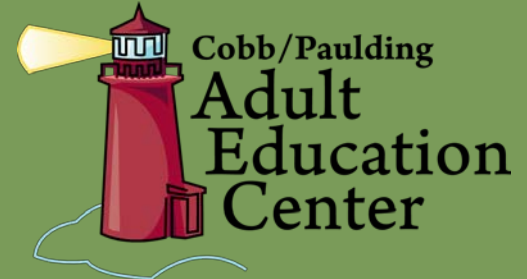




# The Lighthouse Ledger



## From the Director

By Ms. Francia Browne

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter News

#### Special points of interest:

- From the Director
- Graduation
- Student Achievement
- Impact Grant

As the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of FY2017 approaches, the faculty and staff at Cobb/Paulding Adult Education program is getting prepared for another challenging, yet exciting session with our students. We recap with pride our accomplishments during the past two quarters - we have established a new class at the Work Source Center (formerly Cobb Works) in Cobb, expanded our promotional efforts with an approved advertisement at the Department of Motor Vehicles, and was an Impact Grant awardee from the Cobb Schools Foundation. These funds will be used as GED scholarships for our students.

During the upcoming quarter we will diligently continue:

- ❖ Working with Paulding County School District in securing a larger facility for our students in Paulding County.
- ❖ Working to meet the States FY2017 Negotiated Percentages.
- ❖ Relocating our students from portable classes to classes inside the building.
- ❖ Working with the Technical College of Georgia.

During my tenure as director of the Cobb Paulding Adult Education program, I have been privileged and humbled to work with advocates of Adult Education at the district and board levels who wholeheartedly support the program and its mission. One of those advocates was Dr. Greg Ewing. On behalf of the faculty and staff I send our profound 'thank you' to Dr. Ewing for his remarkable support over the years. We wish you the very best in your new endeavors.

## 2016 A Graduation Celebration to Be Remembered!

By Stacie Hayes



Robes adjusted, hats straightened and tassels untangled all for a good cause! An eagerness and a buzz was in the crowded room awaiting what for many felt like this was their time to shine and yet, it was their loved ones about to walk across the stage. The 2016 Cobb/Paulding program, Cobbworks, Center for Family Resources, and Paxen all had a great reason to remember such a wonderful day for the graduates of their programs.

The graduation was held June 1, 2016 at the Martha Bigham Auditorium located at Osborne High School in Marietta. Osborne High School's color guard began the day with the presentation of colors which led everyone in unison to recite

the Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag. A welcome was given by the Director of the Cobb/Paulding Adult Education program Ms. Francia Browne. Special recognition was given to the President and CEO of Cobbworks, Mr. John Helton, followed by students and representatives providing recognitions from Cobbworks, Paxen, Paulding ABE/ESL and Cobb GED/ESL programs.

Our graduation speaker, Mrs. Lisa Eason, Deputy Commissioner of the Purchasing Division for the State of Georgia was introduced by Ms. Stacie Hayes, the Coordinator, of the Cobb/Paulding Adult Education Program. Mrs. Eason shared her powerful story of how she earned her GED during a very stressful time in her life, and persevered to achieve the position she is in today. Mrs. Eason encouraged each and every graduate that regardless of what it might seem, you can and will achieve your dreams when you continue to persevere.

The platform panel awarded certificates, staff was recognized and closing remarks were given by the Cobb/Paulding director. Finally, the 2016 graduates celebrated as they exited the building during the recession!

#### Inside this issue:

Student Achievement	2
Paulding News	2
English Language Learners (ELL)	3
International Literacy Day	3
EAGLE Program	4
Impact Grant	4

## Student Achievement

By Lenora McCrea

Throughout the school year, Cobb County Adult Ed. teachers like to recognize student achievement. One very dedicated student in Lenora McCrea's morning GED class has accomplished much since she enrolled in early August of 2016. **Ava Dunton** entered with all her scores at the ASE2 level, so she quickly delved into studying for the four GED tests, Reasoning through Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Math. After dealing with what she termed "a



*GED Instructor, Lenora McCrea, and GED graduate, Eva Dunton, display Eva's certificates for passing all four GED tests.*

faulty computer program for online high schooling which threw me off track during my senior year," she determined her best alternative was to seek a GED. With the help of her grandparents for transportation and support, Ava recognized, "They fueled my determination to achieve a higher education. My sights have always been set on a career that needed a college degree, and my ticket to getting that is my GED diploma. Now that I have earned my GED, I am leaving knowing that the GED and the preparation for it is so much more than a ticket to college. It is a ticket with mentors and tour guides, no matter where you want to go. With my GED, I can finish enrolling at Chattahoochee Tech to begin courses in Network Security." After completing this two year program, Ava hopes to begin a career as a Security Specialist whose responsibility is to overlook online affairs for a business and create programs to protect information on a company's business computers.

In just four months, Ava diligently reviewed and studied math, reading, science, and social studies content using a variety of materials provided by her GED teachers, Lekendreon Neal and Lenora McCrea. That hard work, along with the benefits of a GED Rotary Scholarship, paid off, because she passed the math, reading, and science tests with the outstanding achievement of "College Ready + Credit," and the social studies test with the "College Ready" designation in late November. Ava will begin her classes winter quarter at Chattahoochee Tech in Marietta in January 2017. Ava is a prime example of what it takes to achieve success at Cobb Adult Ed. She attended class regularly, found out her areas of strengths and weaknesses in the core subjects, worked daily on her assignments both in class and at home, and thus diligently moved toward achieving her goal. She is the first person in Ms. McCrea's class for the 2016-17 school year to graduate with a GED diploma. She will now have the opportunity to become a productive and successful member of the Georgia workforce. Congratulations, Ava, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

## Paulding News

By Christine Hord

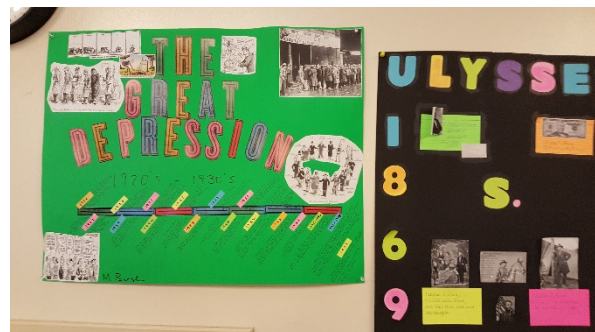
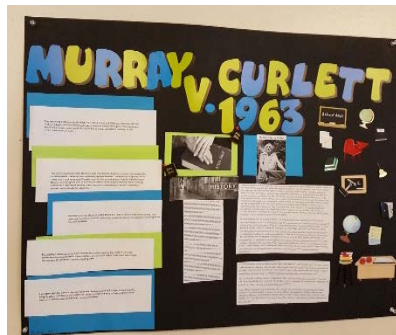


Students in the GED RLA (Reasoning through Language Arts) and Social Studies Class at the Paulding site do a social studies research

project each quarter. The purpose is to help students expand their knowledge by "drilling deeper" into important eras and issues in U.S. history.



Students are asked to use five sources to research the quarter's topic, write a 200 to 300 word report which answers five to seven assigned questions, and produce a poster that summarizes their findings. On the last day of class, students present their project to the class and answer questions from their classmates. Coffee and drinks are provided and students bring in refreshments, so it makes for a very festive end to the quarter. During FY 2016, the project topics were Landmark Legislation, Landmark Supreme Court Cases, U.S. Presidents, and Historical Timelines.



## English Language Learners (ELL)

By Maketo Moore

What do you call someone who speaks three languages? Trilingual. What do you call someone who speaks two languages? Bilingual. What do you call someone who speaks one language? American.

Hopefully, you did two things just now: 1) you chuckled, and 2) you realized the truth behind this classic joke. Yes, English is the only language you truly need in America, and yes, English is the universal language of the world itself...but could there really be any harm in learning a second or third language? So many Americans have tried and failed, or only slightly better, tried and forgotten. The truth is, learning a second language is one of the most mentally challenging things many of us may ever do. It literally requires us to rewire our brains. But ask anyone who's done it, and not one of them will say they regret having done so.

Here at the Cobb/Paulding Adult Education Center, specifically the ESL (English as a Second Language) department, we help adult immigrants from all over the world tackle the monstrous task of learning a second language as an adult. Our population is one of the most diverse groups in the world with students coming from over 60 different countries, speaking over 30 different languages and ranging from ages 18-80. Men and women alike, all sharing the same goal: to learn English. But for some of our



Martin Kunkle

students, interestingly enough, English is *not* their second language. For at least one student, it's not his third, fourth, fifth or sixth either! Our highlighted student of this quarter, Martin Kunkle, is well on his way to speaking his seventh language (Portuguese, Spanish, German, Italian, Latin, French). Born in South Brazil, Martin is now an international businessman dealing in medical and dental equipment around the world. After hearing about

our school from his friend, Naia, he quickly registered in hopes of furthering his command of English. Since starting classes in October, 2016, he has been pleasantly surprised, particularly by the variety of nations and cultures represented in his class.

As a matter of fact, sitting just across the room is a classmate named Rene Lopez. English is Rene's third language (Spanish, Russian), and he has either lived, worked or studied in at least eight different countries. So why have I chosen to share these tidbits about our program and our students?

First, I simply can't say enough about the respect I have for all adult immigrants who take up the challenge of learning English, added to the dozens of other challenges common to us all. But secondly, and more importantly, to encourage *you*, the reader! I challenge you to open the fascinating door of language, that magical conduit that flows with new insights, better employment, exciting cultures, international romance, and not to mention...envious friends.



Rene Lopez

## International Literacy Day

By Acacia Ingram and Patricia Procope

On September 8, 2016, Cobb County Adult Education Center held its most successful International Literacy Day to date!! International Literacy Day highlights the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and society as a whole. It strives to remind the world of adult learning. This year we aimed at providing our students and guests with a worldwide experience. Passports in hand, our Adult Basic Education



(ABE) students toured the four corners of the earth visiting countries like Russia, Vietnam, Columbia, Senegal, and Guatemala learning about their culture including; art, dress, music, dance, general greetings in their native language, and of course sampling popular dishes.

The ABE students gained stamps in their passports along the way. The

English Language Learners (ELL) hosted this portion of the event.

The ELL students crossed over into the U.S. with their visas to learn more about American culture. Their tour included learning about: literary works, geography, historical events, innovations, and government. The ABE students used costumes, songs, videos, skits, games, poems, and pictures to present their topics.

Both morning and evening students participated in this event along with their guests and guests from Cobb County School District. Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to working with you next year!

## The Exceptional Adult Georgia Literacy Education Program (EAGLE) Cobb Schools Foundation 2016 Teacher Impact Grant

By Petrina Baxter

The Technical College System of Georgia's Office of Adult Education has an annual EAGLE Leadership Institute that allows delegates from Georgia's Adult Education programs to come together to compete for an opportunity to become an Ambassador for the state of Georgia.

The Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE) Program honors adult learners who have achieved success in their educational process and who desires to continue pursuing their educational goals. The chosen EAGLE representative will become the state of Georgia's Advocate for the Adult Education program.

The Leadership Institute provides this recognition program to allow adult learners the opportunity to continue in their educational process and to advance in their career goals. The Technical College System of Georgia's Mission is to "Enable every adult learner in the state of Georgia the opportunity to acquire the necessary basic skills to help in the transitional process to postsecondary schools and to compete successfully in today's workforce."

Cobb County Adult Education Center is proud to announce our delegate, Mr. Frederic Mulika, a 2016 graduate of our program who will attend the 2017 Leadership Institute. We wish Mr. Mulika much success as he continues to work through his career and educational goals.

By Lenora McCrea and Christine Hord

At the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, the Cobb/Paulding Adult Education Center formed a Scholarship Committee with the purpose of seeking scholarship funds to assist our GED students in taking the four GED tests in the areas of Reasoning through Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Scholarship funds were needed for two reasons. First, this school year began with the Cobb scholarship fund almost completely depleted. Secondly, many of our students juggle the responsibilities of low paying jobs, of family responsibilities, and of attending school, and they need assistance in taking the GED tests. So very quickly, there was a backlog of students who had met the requirements of the necessary attendance hours, as well as, the qualifying score on the GED Ready Practice Test, who were unable to register for the tests due to lack of funds. Members of the Scholarship Committee were charged with finding sources that could donate funds to meet the needs of the qualified students. Two members of the committee, Chris Hord, GED Online Instructor, and Lenora McCrea, GED Instructor, became aware of the Cobb Schools Foundation Teacher Impact Grants. Working together, these teachers formulated the answers to the six question, four page grant and submitted it in early October.



The awards were scheduled to be announced by Dec. 1st. Much to our surprise, the "Prize Patrol" arrived on November 17, 2016, the last day of classes before Thanksgiving break. Natalie Rutledge, the Interim Director of Cobb Schools Foundation, along with the Cobb County Schools Videographer, and Francia Browne, Director of the Cobb/Paulding Adult Education Program, appeared with a huge cardboard check and balloons to inform us that Cobb County Adult Education Center's proposal had been selected as one of the 19 recipients of this year's grants. The Cobb Schools Foundation Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet was held December 6th at the Brookstone Golf and Country Club in Acworth, GA. At that event, the grant recipients were presented their grant checks, along with a plaque for their schools.

Chris Hord and Lenora McCrea want to thank the members of the Cobb Schools Foundation Committee for this wonderful award, which will assist 40 of our students to be able to take one of the four GED tests. It is our goal to assist students in attaining their GED Diploma, so that they can enter postsecondary training at the technical school or college level and/or join the work force with skills required by local businesses and companies to become productive members of society.



**Lenora McCrea, GED Instructor, and Chris Hord, GED Online Instructor, awarded Cobb Schools Foundation 2016 Teacher Impact Grant**