



A number of kids went home happy after Family Bingo Night in Amherst last month. Nearly 100 small and large prizes were awarded to winners at the Wilkins School event on October 23rd.

The Amherst Junior Women's Club would like to thank the following donors: casting director Sarah Dalton Skinner, C.S.A., Amherst Police Lt. James Brace, school librarian Kathleen McIntyre, WMUR television meteorologist Josh Judge, Riverbend School of Theater Arts, Junior Service League of Concord, The Toadstool Bookshop, Sal's Pizza and Conway Arena.



Susan M. Gorman
 President, American Society of
 Professional Estimators

Late Start Vote

The proposal to change the start time of all SAU#39 schools failed in a vote of the combined district boards at their October 29th meeting. The proposal which called for all schools to start one-half hour later was a result of the work of the Alternative Start Study Committee.

The committee found research showing that even one half hour more sleep for adolescents significantly affected their performance in schools. Pubescent youngster's circadian sleep patterns physically prevent them from going to sleep earlier or waking earlier in the morning, resulting in sleep-deprivation for most teenagers.

The vote on the proposal was split among the three Districts that comprise SAU#39. The Amherst School Board, representing 3 votes, voted against the proposal; the Souhegan Cooperative School Board with 3 votes voted for the proposal; and the Mont Vernon School Board with 3 votes was split in their votes. If the voting had been weighted according to district size, the proposal would have been defeated.

The SAU Board did not feel that there was enough backing for the proposal among the three districts to move forward with the plan. All three Districts needed to be in agreement because of busing schedules for elementary and secondary schools. The Board thanked Alternative Start Study Committee members Jeanne Ludt, Mary Lou Mullens, Howard Brown, Colleen Meaney, Peg Bennett, Pam Coughlin and others for their exhaustive research on the subject.

The Board sponsored two public hearings on these proposals, October 1st and October 20th and considered this public input, plus feedback from faculty and bargaining units in its decision.

“Going Public”

BY PEGGY SILVA, DEAN OF FACULTY

Social Studies' teacher Chris Brooks lived every aspect of our Mission Statement's commitment "to challenge and expand the comfortable limits of thought, tolerance and performance," as he taught Business Ethics and Leadership Development courses for six weeks last summer at Swinburne University in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. As an adjunct professor in the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University, Chris was selected to join the faculty of Northeastern's Global Leadership Graduate Program three years ago.

“This international program, analogous to an MBA, is popular with students from India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Lebanon, Brazil, Nepal, Bangladesh, Germany, and England. They are eager to experience the American stance on leadership and ethics,” says Brooks. “This opportunity to work with adults of vastly diverse backgrounds afforded me a perspective of many different cultures and their worldview. This opportunity was a life-changing one for my students, and a defining moment in my teaching.”

One reason that Northeastern cited for selecting Chris was the style of teaching and learning that Chris models at Souhegan. "They very specifically did not want someone welded to a lectern," says Chris. They wanted someone to connect several academic disciplines, to personalize the learning for program participants. They wanted to promote the use of small groups. This does not happen in many international universities. For instance, I had a German student who was shocked that I would answer his questions. That is not a style with which he was familiar. The deans at Northeastern are very familiar with the need to engage students in differing ways, and knew that I would use that background to connect with students who represented a wide diversity of skills and knowledge—not to mention differing degrees of comfort with the English language."

Chris was fascinated by some of the goals expressed by his students. "Some of my students were extremely poor, and would be the only members of their families to attend university. Others came from great wealth. I became friendly with a graduate student from India, who plans to build a progressive school in his country. He was mesmerized that our high school had such a forward-thinking philosophy. After I introduced him to the principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools, he said that he always knew deep down that schools could change. We have made tentative plans for him to visit the United States and our high school."

Chris says that several of the ideas he and his students discussed challenged him in ways he had not anticipated. "To raise ethical questions about choice and how we question our world took on new meaning when discussing a student who does not have the right to choose her spouse. Her brother will make that decision for her. My role was to ask questions that would allow her to ask her own questions. I recognize that I have a Western model of ethical considerations, and ethics is particular to culture. I had to navigate many worlds in that one international classroom."

Chris has been invited to return to Australia, but he will delay another visit until summer of 2011. His work in Souhegan's Summer Institute is vital to him. Chris says, "I want to expand the world for my students in Amherst. I want to link my students to the questions being asked by students of the world. The future depends on the questions we pose. It is my job to help my students pose questions that will lead them to their futures."

RINDGE – Area high school students and their families are invited to the Fall Open House at Franklin Pierce University on Saturday, November 14. Our campus in Rindge is situated on 1,200 acres, against a backdrop of mountains and lakes, with easy access from Massachusetts Route 2 and NH Route 202. Visitors will discover

the warm welcome we are known for as they attend presentations, tour campus and meet with our exceptional students, faculty, coaches and administrators. Questions about financial aid, career planning, transfer student information and academic support can also be answered by the university's helpful faculty and staff.

Check-in for the event begins at 8 a.m. at the Northfields Activities Center. For further information and to reserve your spot, contact Franklin Pierce University by e-mail at admissions@franklinpierce.edu, call 800-437- 0048 or visit www.franklinpierce.edu.



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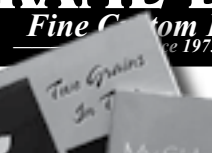
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*Cover art by Amherst artist,
Michael Everett*

Martha Deborah Hall will give poetry readings and sign her new book, "My Side of The Street", 11a.m.-12Noon, November 14th.