From the Director

The Network Makes the Difference

What does it mean to be part of an extended network that is working toward social change through education, a network in which teachers, families, schools, youth organizations, and individuals are producers rather than consumers of public school reform? As revealed in this newsletter, it means collaboration, inspiration, action, and impact.

Network members are acquiring a new literacy, which includes designing, planning, reading, and writing stories, reports, poetry, arguments, and public documents that reach many audiences. As teachers and students, we’re taking those skills and abilities into classrooms, enriching in- and out-of-school learning, and acquiring the passion for civic engagement and social change.

Technology is a boon to the Andover Bread Loaf network. Young network leaders, mentors, and organizers are using social media, mobile technology, and digital tools to connect, collaborate, and take collective action. ABL’s Facebook page, “Voices of Bread Loaf,” is a platform where we document our work and inform people of new developments. The education conference in Haiti (see page 2) was planned by teachers and youth over the wires as well as through face-to-face meetings. Locally, we use technology to keep our constituents abreast of workshops, plays, open mics, Family Literacy Nights, and other programs and events of interest.

ABL is a global network. We have colleagues—adult and youth—in El Salvador, Haiti, India, Pakistan, Nairobi, South Africa, and the Navajo Nation who join us in our efforts. Many do not have the resources to travel to other cities or countries, but, as members of the ABL network, we find ways to work together all year round in classrooms and communities in the United States and around the globe.

Lou Bernieri

What’s Inside?

| Writing Leaders share skills | 2 |
| ABL conference in Haiti | 2 |
| New HLL partnership | 3 |
| Our generous donors | 4 |

Photographers: Gil Talbot, John F. Hurley, and Jill Clerkin

Although they are young, ABL students are a sophisticated spoken word poetry audience. Finger snapping while hearing a poem allows the audience to affirm the writer’s words without drowning out his or her voice.

Fun Things I Would Love To Do

I would love to poder topar el cielo azul.
(be able to touch the blue sky)
I would love to plantar la flor mas grande del mundo.
(plant the biggest flowers in the world)
I would love to poder topar el agua.
(be able to run into the water)
I would love to poder ser una Precesa.
(be able to be a princess)

—Emy, 3rd-grader
Writing Leaders Share Their Skills in ALIVE Conference

Andover Bread Loaf’s college-age Writing Leaders led an ALIVE Professional Development Conference on October 18, 2014. The acronym stands for Academic Success, Language, Identity and Voice for Education. The conference was held at the request of several Lawrence teachers who had observed the talents and enthusiasm of ABL youth at various venues in the city. ALIVE has been approved by Lawrence Public Schools.

These education activists have developed the skills to teach teachers and professors ABL methods and approaches that can change students’ academic and personal trajectories. They have taught classes at Merrimack College’s graduate program in Community Engagement and for the Bread Loaf School of English’s master’s program, and also have worked with teachers and students in New York City; New Orleans; Tombstone, Arizona; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; and Mumbai, India.

During the school year and summer, Writing Leaders run student writing and arts programs in Lawrence schools, for community organizations, and at the El Taller bookstore and café in Lawrence.

In late April, Phillips Academy ninth-grader Grace Hannam and her new friend shared ideas at an ABL event at the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence.

Thanks to ABL, I now have the resources to help students unleash their natural, God-given talents to learn and create, and feel that what they have to contribute is important to me, the community, and the world.
—Tatiana Behrman, Haitian high school teacher

Enthusiastic international participants in ABL’s 2014 Writing Workshop for Teachers included, from left; Tatiana Behrmann (Haiti), Jennifer Coreas (El Salvador), Stephanie Haig (Haiti), Lee Krishnan (India), Patricia Kaniuki-Echessa (Kenya), and Mohson Tejani (Pakistan).

International Highlight
ABL International Conference IV: Haiti

Eleven U.S. teachers and youth from Andover Bread Loaf collaborated with nine ABL teachers in Haiti to offer a professional development conference for teachers and writing workshops for students from August 11 to 16 in Port-au-Prince; 35 Haitian educators and 30 students participated. The conference was led by Haitian school principal Chantal Kénol, an ABL alumnus and Bread Loaf School of English master’s degree candidate.

ABL’s conference goals were to strengthen the Haitian Bread Loaf Teacher Network (BLTN) and international BLTN, increase capacity among participants to serve students, develop replicable models for teaching, share teaching experiences from across the world, fuel the passion for teaching and learning, and celebrate the rich and vibrant culture of Haiti.

An excerpt from the daily reports of ABL Associate Director Rich Gorham provides insight into one of many powerful conference experiences:

Forty teachers and students sat on a ridge on the side of the mountain in the Wynne Ecological Reserve, overlooking the valley just west of Port-au-Prince, as they participated in art and writing workshops led by Lawrence teacher Marquis Victor and ABL writing leader Nate Baez. Several men [who worked on a farm in the area] sat nearby, observing what we were doing. When asked if they would like to participate, one said yes and jumped right in. Another man in his fifties said in Kreyol, “I would like to, but I do not know how to write.” Frederika Duval, one of our teachers, offered to serve as his translator and scribe. He accepted eagerly and wrote. When he finished, he shared this with the group: “I see trees and I see life. I see trees as life because trees provide water. I am very proud because I have been working here for twenty years.”

The Haiti Conference was the culmination of a generous four-year grant from the Abbot Academy Association.
New Partnership
ABL Teams Up with Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership

In summer 2014, Andover Bread Loaf began a collaboration with the Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership (HLL) program, a school-based nonprofit led by Phillips Academy alumni Charles ('82) and Christopher ('84) Gildehaus, and Charles's son, Arthur, a current PA senior.

HLL builds leadership skills and social responsibility through lacrosse, providing a safe and structured setting for at-risk youth. Frequent practices and games emphasize the importance of teamwork, aim to build self-confidence, and keep students engaged and active throughout the year.

Guidance is provided on and off the field through coaching, mentoring, academic intervention, and college tours, during which student-athletes learn how to overcome college admission and financial aid obstacles. By broadening players' experiences and skill sets, HLL also prepares these student-athletes to become effective leaders in the Harlem community.

Throughout the 2014–2015 academic year, ABL and HLL will be working on student writing exchanges and other projects focused on HLL youth.

A Memory
I'm about seven years old, wearing pajamas, padding down the creaky wooden steps. Virgin dawn air mingles with triumphant orchestral music, intensifying, engulfing me as I drift into the living room. There I see him, seated on his throne against a backdrop of robust mahogany walls and a majestic oriental rug—my father. His lips curve into a smile and he peers at me over his glasses, asks why I'm up so early. I crawl into his lap and my cheek brushes against his unshaven chin. He sets down his red pen, sighs. Papers are stacked in piles all around him, papers with numbers and letters and symbols, papers infinitely complex and mysterious that only he can comprehend.

I know I am safe.

—Rebecca, 9th-grader

Writing Is My Power

Writing is my power
With my words I will construct a new me

Paper told me that while I may crumble and crease
The words I've written will never be deceased

To not write is to not breathe
When I don't write my power leaves

There is a God in my thoughts
And He guides my pen

When I write
The world becomes my throne
And I become much more than a woman

I thought I told you
That writing is my power

—Amaryllis, 8th-grader
Support Andover Bread Loaf!

Help us make a difference in the lives of ABL students and teachers who participate in ABL activities. Please visit www.andover.edu/ablgiving to make your gift today.

Our Generous Donors

We gratefully acknowledge our 2013–2014 donors, whose generous contributions once again supported 100 percent of the Andover Bread Loaf operating budget.

Foundations and Organizations

Betty Beland Greater Lawrence Summer Fund
Cornerstone Literacy, Inc.
Edward S. & Winifred G. Moseley Foundation
Rogers Family Foundation
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Abbot and Dorothy H. Stevens Foundation

Individuals

Fred L. Adair Jr. ’69
Alexander D. Anderson ’02
Luis B. Andrade ’86
Amy S. Appleton ’79
Sharyn Bahn
Noelle B. Beatty ’50
Amanda C. Belichick ’03
Dorothy W. Bisbee ’82 & Michael B. Jacobs
Julie Beth Aronovitz Blencowe ’89
Philip J. Bond, P’10
Phoebe W. Brown ’84
Samuel C. Butler Jr. ’72, P’03, ’09
Michael T. Cahill ’84 & Hilary W. Addington
Jonathan S. Campbell
Charles W. Carl Jr. ’48
Jonathan A. Chacon ’14
Martin A. Clarke ’83 & Mediha Qureshi
Andrea R. Coravos ’06
Laura J. Cox ’88

Support

Rich Gorham, pictured above, received a surprise call in May from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan thanking him for his hard work as an educator. Gorham is ABL’s associate director and chair of the English department of the Lawrence Public High School campus.

ABL Advisory Board

Michael T. Cahill ’84, Chair
New York, N.Y.
Timothy P.F. Davenport ’80, P’17, ’17
New Canaan, Conn.
José A. Dobles ’98
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Ricardo Dobles ’85
Holden, Mass.
Richard B. Gorham ’86
Andover, Mass.
Cynthia L. Greene ’87
Newton, Mass.
Donald M. Kendall ’85
Weston, Conn.
Tucker Levy ’88
Charlestown, Mass.
Abby J. Shuman ’84
Cambridge, Mass.
Gabriela Poma Traynor ’88
Cambridge, Mass.
Scobie D. Ward ’84
Hong Kong
Sturgis P. Woodberry ’84
Darien, Conn.

Andover Bread Loaf

A Phillips Academy Outreach Program

Andover Bread Loaf
Phillips Academy
180 Main Street
Andover, Mass. 01810-4161
978-884-8452
www.andover.edu/breadloaf

Donor list reflects gifts received between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

P = Parent of current or former Phillips Academy student

If you would like to become an ABL volunteer, please e-mail lbernieri@andover.edu.