



# ARS

Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall 2004

## *connect*

Association of Recovery Schools

## ARS Marks Milestones in New Jersey

The Association of Recovery Schools held its third annual conference in July with the help of a grant from CSAT, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The conference, titled "Future Solutions Now" and hosted by Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, saw many firsts for the organization.

Attendance reached new heights for an ARS conference with more than 60 participants. Attendees included professionals and students from thirteen states and the District of Columbia.

This year's conference was the first ARS gathering to offer a wide array of breakout sessions where professionals shared their



*Dr. Kitty Harris of Texas Tech University talks about relapse prevention.*

experience and expertise. Presenters addressed such topics as fund development, data collection, relapse prevention, and restorative justice techniques.

*continued on page 2*

## *School Spotlight:* PEASE Academy

For 15 years, PEASE Academy (Peers Enjoying A Sober Education) has been a haven for recovering teenagers searching for a safe, sober place to finish their high school education. An affiliate of the Holos Foundation, the program began as a residential program serving about ten students. Though the residential component of the program was short-lived, the school rapidly evolved into an alternative school for young people who wanted to remain sober.

Currently serving 65 students, PEASE Academy has grown into an established recovery school with a full-time staff of four teachers, a chemical dependency counselor, two part-time teachers, an executive director and an executive

assistant. In 2002, PEASE became part of a pilot state grant for restorative justice practices. PEASE incorporates this philosophy into its recovery community which emphasizes academic achievement and encourages each student to pursue post-secondary education.

Students may enter PEASE Academy at any point during their high school career provided they are stable in their recovery and working an active program. Members of the student population are required to maintain a positive attendance record and earn credits toward a high school diploma. They participate in a Peer Support Team on a daily basis and have the opportunity to meet once or twice a week with the

*continued on page 3*

# From the Chair



*Executive Committee  
Chair, Kellie Winter*

Hello. I'm very excited about our first ARS newsletter! I'd like to welcome all new members of ARS to our dynamic association. I'd also like to thank all renewed members for your continued support. We need everyone connected, which is why we came together in the first place. We've come a long way in three years!

We had an excellent conference at Rutgers in July. Many thanks again to all who helped contribute to that awesome

experience. It was wonderful seeing old friends and making new ones. We all learned so much from one another and, most importantly, continued to support one another in our pioneering work in recovery schools.

Prior to the conference, the executive committee spent time discussing our vision—our future plans and dreams for ARS. We will continue that discussion and come to some consensus on our vision this year. I am honored to be part of the executive committee with such fine people, and am hoping to contribute good leadership during my year as the Chair of ARS. I am grateful for the opportunity to have an impact in this way. As for our vision, I hope that the term "recovery school" becomes as common in our culture as the term "treatment" is now. I hope that every school district not

only has a recovery school to support its students, but has fully integrated that school into their district.

This year we hope to improve our communication with each other and expand our presence internationally. There is a recovery school in Russia we hope to include in our network! We hope to improve our web site and create an ARS brochure for us all to give to people who show an interest in our organization. We hope to raise money to present another excellent conference and to reach out and grow in new ways. We hope to begin collecting data that will objectively demonstrate the positive impact we know we have in the lives of our students. We hope to gain more clarity about how students want to be involved with ARS and to begin bringing that about.

As you can see, we have a lot to do. At the conference we began requesting your involvement. This organization will only be as strong as the combined efforts of all its members. We need your energy, time, skills and talents. Please consider serving on the Development, Student, Conference, Communications, or Cooperative Projects committees. If you are unable to do committee work, you can still have an impact on our mission by spreading the word about ARS to everyone you know and helping us to continue growing the many vital connections we have with experts in many fields. Please let me know what I can do best to serve ARS. I look forward to working with you!

*Kellie Winter is the 2004-2005 Chair of the Executive Committee of ARS and welcomes your feedback:  
h2owoman@aol.com.*

## Milestones, continued from page 1

"I don't know what my expectations were," said Lyle Taipale, Chief Academic Officer for Sobriety High School, which operates three campuses in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. "I was hoping to find some networking and find some other people who were like-minded. I surely have found that. I've been really energized."

Juli Ferraro, Principal of Serenity High in McKinney, Texas said, "I think it's been very well organized. I loved the breakout sessions and it's just been fun. I had a great time."

## *Let us hear from you!*

*Do you have ideas for articles you'd like to read in ARS Connect? We'd like to hear from you. Send your suggestions and comments to:  
Larry.Schmidt@sobrietyhigh.org*



*Participants experience Dennis Rozema's counseling techniques.*



*Professionals find time to network between sessions.*



*Dr. Lyle Taipale gets serious about data collection.*

ARS Connect is an official publication of the Association of Recovery Schools, produced by Judi Hanson, Larry Schmidt, and Amanda Baker. Association of Recovery Schools, Post Office Box 158429 Nashville, TN 37215  
www.recoveryschools.org

## PEASE, continued from page 1

school's chemical dependency counselor for additional recovery support.


PEASE offers course work in all core academic subjects as well as Tae Kwon Do and other opportunities for physical activity. In addition PEASE supports a Gay Straight Alliance and offers classes in human rights, tobacco cessation and other electives. In the summer, students can enroll in a two week intensive summer course at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Therapeutic Horticulture program.

Through participation in the Association of Recovery Schools, Minnesota Chapter, PEASE Academy collaborates with four other recovery schools to host a spring prom, a winter snow-tubing event, and the spring recovery school picnic. In the fall, PEASE hosts the Harvest Festival which invites friends and family of the student body to celebrate the successes of PEASE Academy in helping recovering students to achieve academic success.

Indeed, academic success for recovering students is what PEASE Academy has accomplished. PEASE plans to pursue a future goal of becoming a charter school making it possible to increase enrollment and services for the recovering population of high school students in Minnesota.

PEASE Academy is located at 601 13th Avenue, SE in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The school is housed in the education wing of the University Lutheran Church of Hope in Dinkytown near the campus of the University of Minnesota. For more information on this program, contact Kellie Winter at [h2owoman@aol.com](mailto:h2owoman@aol.com) or Angela Wilcox at [angelamwilcox@earthlink.com](mailto:angelamwilcox@earthlink.com).

# Student Viewpoint



3

My name is Chris Johnson. I am a senior at Sobriety High School, West Campus, in Edina, Minnesota. I joined the executive committee of the ARS in July as the student member at large. In the first few meetings that I attended I saw so much enthusiasm. I am happy to be asked to be part of the executive committee. I believe it is very important to bring a student's perspective to an association whose main objectives so closely affect students.

At Rutgers I had the opportunity to stay at the Recovery House on campus and I had a lot of fun hanging out with the students there. It gave me the chance to see what it would be like to live with sober people at college. The Rutgers students took us to New York City and showed us how being sober in the big city is different from being sober in the smaller towns I know.

At the ARS conference in July I saw a dedication and enthusiasm in the participants that made me excited to be a part of this organization. I witnessed love and passion for students in recovery in the people I met there. As a student, it makes me grateful. I'm grateful because I know that many kids coming into recovery do not know where to turn. ARS is putting out a hand to these kids. The people in ARS are ready and willing to do what it takes to expand these programs because it is something they believe in.

## Reflections of a Conference Planner

I think I might remember the moment I volunteered to look into having the 2004 ARS conference at Rutgers. It was one of those life-changing moments that you wish you had more vivid memories of but, despite that, the moment gets embellished over time each time the story is told. Being the Chair this year as part of the executive committee of ARS has been a very different experience than being part of the executive committee of others groups in my career. Planning this conference, while stressful at times, was a real team effort: a theme that repeats itself in many aspects of our organizational planning and conference preparation and then finally our conference.

Andy Finch has articulated a clear vision and offers incredible organizational skills, but many others, including Dave Hadden and the executive committee, conference presenters and other individuals, provide so many thoughts, ideas, support, understanding, and compassion that it is both an intellectually stimulating and emotionally fulfilling experience to be part of this organization—a rare combination.

Many of us bring years of experience being care givers, people who nurture young people, teachers, counselors, administrators but also personal and professional experience with twelve-step programs, addiction and recovery. We have a term—Recovery Based Education—which brings

together the best of our work, providing young people with not only the support to be in recovery but also the support to challenge them into becoming fully functioning adults.

In Minneapolis in July 2003, we heard the message that the 2004 conference needed to provide people with teaching sessions and opportunities to share the different models of Recovery Based Education with each other and with newcomers. This year there were many themes. We were able to hire an evaluator who was able to help us collect our thoughts in an organized fashion. In the coming weeks we will be collecting more of those thoughts in the one month follow-up and then share those themes and goals to get us ready for the 2005 ARS conference.

I came back to work on July 12th physically tired but amazingly rejuvenated. The work continues—kids who are struggling with calling their sponsors, not going to enough meetings, getting an A in a summer class, celebrating 90 days clean, interviewing a young person in a treatment program who wants to return to college and live in the Recovery House. It's a great feeling to remember what we learned at our conference and to know that we are doing this together. Good luck to all of you and enjoy the 2004-2005 school year!!

*Lisa Laitman recently completed her term as Chair of the Executive Committee of ARS, during which she hosted the 2004 ARS Conference.*

ARS 2004-2005 Executive Committee

**ANDY FINCH**  
DIRECTOR

**DAVE HADDEN**  
ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR

**LISA LAITMAN**  
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

**JUDI HANSON**  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**BETH SAMUELSON**  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**LARRY SCHMIDT**  
PROFESSIONAL AT LARGE

**CHRIS JOHNSON**  
STUDENT AT LARGE

**KELLIE WINTER**  
CHAIR

**KITTY HARRIS**  
VICE CHAIR

**TRACI BOWERMASTER**  
SECRETARY

**LYLE TAIPALE**  
TREASURER

**BRAD KRAUSHAAR**  
STUDENT COMMITTEE

**DENISE MARTINEAU**  
COOPERATIVE PROJECTS  
COMMITTEE

**PATRICE SALMERI**  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*The Association of Recovery Schools brings together students, secondary and post-secondary schools, and helping professionals to support students in recovery from alcohol or other drug dependence.*

*As components of the recovery continuum of care, ARS members advocate for the strengthening and expansion of high school and college programs dedicated to achieving both academic and recovery goals.*



Association of Recovery Schools  
Post Office Box 158429  
Nashville, TN 37215

