

Photos by Linda Simpson

Gary Sparks helps a student with his studies.

Retirement brings Sparks a chance to be more physically active

BY PETER COLE, SHAWN DEHRING & GARY PINGEL

"I love my job. If I had the opportunity to choose all over again, I would make the same choice," says Gary Sparks, ACC physics instructor.

Sparks has 24 years of college instruction and three years of high school teaching under his belt and is retiring while he has the physical vigor to do things. Some of the things he plans to do are hiking, camping, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. He wants to see places he hasn't had time to see because of his work schedule, for example, the mountains in the fall and the desert flowers in the spring.

"I was kept here by the colleagues I work with. Students and colleagues affect you... you change your style because of the interaction," said Sparks.

Changes in the administration have also been significant to Sparks. There is now more power and choice at the departmental level which allows you to be much more effective. "The dean gets the money so I can do my job," says Sparks.

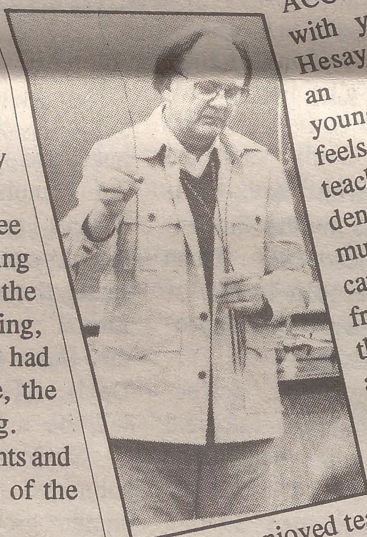
One of the highlights of his career was sometimes seeing a group of students who worked exceptionally well together. They focused on the group and the common goal rather than on the individual. "There was a camaraderie you don't usually have."

Sparks says he will miss not being here and the lack of contact with his colleagues, but he doesn't want to disappear. "I intend to be involved. I live here so I want to be involved with the college."

Garlitz is to become fulltime botanist

BY DAN SMITH

After teaching at ACC for 28 years Russ Garlitz will be leaving the faculty to pursue studies in taxonomic botany (the classification and collection of plants). What Garlitz has enjoyed most about his teaching experience at ACC is the contact with young people. He says, "It helps keep an older person young." Garlitz also feels that over his teaching career, students have become much more sophisticated and liberated from their parents, though high schools are not preparing students as well as in the past.



Garlitz has enjoyed teaching, now that he has become eligible for retirement, he really "wants to do biology rather than teach it."

A high point in his career was two summers spent at the U of M biological station on Douglas Lake. It was there that Garlitz developed his interest in taxonomic botany. This involves a lot of field work. Garlitz says that he has always been a field man and in the past has spent at least sixteen summers photographing and collecting specimens, work that has brought his slide collection to seventeen thousand slides.

Garlitz will relocate to lower Michigan or possibly the western United States in order to do full time field work. Garlitz says that his teaching career is not necessarily over. In fact, he may teach again to support this time consuming botanist hobby.

'One big family' loses a cherished member

BY TOBY KUZNICKI & KELLY O'NEIL

Retiring this month is Gayle Marshall, who has been with the school system for thirty and a half years. Starting at age seventeen, she has been secretary for the likes of interim President Terry Meeder, President

Dr. Charles and our current Dr. Donald Marshall was school during the next two decades in the 1960's.

"It is exciting to be behind the wheel," she recalls. She finds driving, relishes having



materials prepared for his busy agenda. Her talents earned her the honor of lumberjack of the month in October of 1992.

Marshall feels a very strong loyalty to ACC and defends it against criticisms. She really enjoys her working environment.

"The staff is one big family," says Marshall.

Marshall can be seen driving to work in her '85 Trans-Am. Her love for cars is reflected in her involvement with the Alpena Ramblin Rods car club. Marshall and her husband are active "Ramblin Rodders" with their '31 model A and their '34 Plymouth Coupe, which they drive every day during the summer. At one time the Marshalls, along with their children [who all attended ACC], owned a total of 9 cars.

Rest and relaxation are on Marshall's agenda upon retiring on February 28th. She plans to remain in Alpena and hopes to do a little traveling. Marshall hopes to develop new interests and intends to get involved with church activities along with some volunteer work. She's also considering returning to ACC to work part-time.

She'll miss ACC and will leave behind some very close friends. She'll also miss being around the students. "They keep you young," smiles Marshall.

Many administration, staff and students alike will miss the sight of Marshall and her Trans-Am rolling into ACC's parking lot.

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