

Homola returns from Bulgaria with much to share

By JEN GOODBURNE
Co-Editor

Dr. Priscilla Homola, English and writing instructor, has returned to ACC after a year in Bulgaria.

Funded by a federal Fulbright scholarship, Homola spent the year teaching Bulgarian students in Sofia, the country's capital. The courses were taught in English to students with a strong English background.

Bulgaria has been free of communism for a mere three years; democracy is present in the country, but the system has yet to develop into something an American could relate to.

"It's an empty hole of needs. They just need, need, need," said Homola. "The people look like they might be homeless . . . in fact, those people who look so much like that are just regular population. The average wage is maybe \$100 a month, and this is with incredible inflation. How they manage, we do not know."

Amidst the poverty of a nation struggling to rebuild, Homola was able to share the enrichment of education.

Bulgarians, unlike Americans, stress learning through groups. The same group of students is likely to go through our equivalent of junior and senior high, as well as college, together. According to Homola, "The individual student has a much worse

time than here. They aren't into the concept of individual performance."

"At the final exam, I saw a good example of this. They were all cheating . . . they all had crib sheets. One hundred students! I never saw anything like that. [Stopping them] was like putting ants back into a bag."

Contrary to this, Homola holds the students in high regard.

"[They] were well prepared and very, very bright . . . the best students I've ever taught. The quality [of their English] was very high."

The high level of education is not a coincidence. When entering the eighth grade, Bulgarian students are put through what is called a preparatory year. They must study a specialized curriculum, such as English language or Russian language. All classes are taught in this language, with the exception of Bulgarian and classes like math that are nearly impossible to learn in a foreign language.

Homola took her two children, Roland, 14, and twelve-year-old Heidi along with her. The change proved to be too much for Roland, who went home after only five months. "He was depressed every day," said Homola. She later learned that four other teen-aged children of Fulbright scholarship winners in Bulgaria went home early.

Heidi, who unlike Roland had the opportunity to study in an international school, had a different experience.

She met many friends of several nationalities, and spent weekends skiing in the mountains and taking pictures of the sights and people.

In the months prior to the trip, Homola spent much time researching Bulgaria. Unfortunately, what she found when she got there prepared her. "You couldn't prepare for this," she said. "It's like preparing for childbirth. I was in shock for about a month."

When she noticed that none of the cars had windshield wipers on them, she was told that they were all stolen. Anything manufactured outside of Bulgaria (including windshield wipers) is considered a luxury item. "The result is that at every street corner, there is someone waiting to squeegee your windshield for you."

"Their type of poverty is not as sophisticated as ours, where we actually steal cars, but they have little beggar kids wandering around. I'm talking about a little four-year-old sitting there crying on a street corner, collecting money."

This extreme and widespread level of poverty in Bulgaria is apparently new, brought about by the fall of Communism and the lack of a pre-fabricated government to step in and take over. "The Bulgarians are just as shocked by [the poverty] as we are," said Homola.

"The people are proud, they're intelligent, but their system has just collapsed on them."



Photo by Linda Simpson

Priscilla Homola and her daughter Heidi pose with artifacts brought back from Bulgaria.

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TOP TEN

By SCOTT REED
STAFF WRITER

TOP 10 GOOD THINGS ABOUT ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#10. Goose poop blends in nicely with the grass.

#9. Ross Perot does not endorse ACC.

#8. You can get all the free books you want because library's alarm system has been broken for years.

#7. Telling your instructor you missed class because you were watching *Beavis and Butt-head* is a valid excuse.

#6. Ex-Bulls star Michael Jordan will sign to the ACC men's basketball team.

#5. Besser Tech pool table dispenses Gummy Bears when "rubbed the right way."

#4. East Campus building will be the sight of the 2012 Olympics.

#3. Free tuition next semester.

#2. The campus actually looks like the pictures in the brochure.

And the number one good thing about Alpena Community College . . .

ACC is the geographic center of the universe.

TOP 10 BAD THINGS ABOUT ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#10. Goose poop does not blend in nicely with the sidewalks.

#9. Some students confuse the parking lots with the Inly 500.

#8. Bookstore will not special order anything written by Madonna.

#7. The NRC is really a landing pad for space aliens.

#6. The campus address is 666.

#5. No Elvis look-alike contests.

#4. There really is a tunnel connecting Besser Tech and Van Lear Hall, but it is off limits to civilians because it ends up in Atlantis.

#3. Computers in computer labs don't have Pac-Man.

#2. Student use of faculty bathrooms is punishable by death.

And the number one bad thing about Alpena Community College . . .

Snack bars do not sell powdered toast.

By SARAH EDWARDS
STAFF WRITER

"I always thought Biology was interesting and I liked things which were more of a challenge," said Deborah Hautau laughingly.

Coming in on the heels of ACC's retired professor Russ Garlitz, she continued to add life for a greener greenhouse and the enhancement of the botany room.

Hautau comes to ACC after being an instructor at a private institution in Ohio. She began her education at a community college in Tennessee. After two years, she transferred to the University of

Tennessee in Knoxville where she received her Bachelor's Degree. Then she returned to her Detroit home and to Wayne State to finish her Master's of Science. Though at this moment she doesn't plan to pursue a higher degree, Hautau would like to eventually take classes for personal enhancement.

Even outside of her labs and lectures, you will find a pretty down-to-earth, energetic woman. Between mite collecting, baking, and pattern-free sewing, Hautau enjoys doing many hands-on indoor and outdoor activities.

And when the day draws to an end, you may find her reading some

science fiction/fantasy book or listening to soft chords of her favorite New Age music with her two cats, Mini and Rumbunctious, nearby.

Though her life is filled with many activities, she plans to wander through Montana, Hawaii, and Alaska because they are the three remaining states she hasn't been to. And then she's off to explore New Zealand, the Amazon, and the Galapagos Islands.

But in the mean time this soft spoken woman with a cheerful disposition, who feels, "unless you've been away from Alpena you can't hardly appreciate it," hopes to establish her roots in the area.



Photo by Linda Simpson

Deborah Hautau, shown watering flowers, enjoys the time she spends in ACC's greenhouse. The Detroit native has replaced Russ Garlitz as biology instructor.

Terry Hall expands studio into art gallery

By SCOTT REED
STAFF WRITER

Art is more than just a hobby for Humanities Instructor Terry Hall. It is soon to become part-time work.

On November 15, Hall will be opening Windcrest Gallery, located

two miles north of Alpena on US-23.

Windcrest came about because of an offer received from Jesse Besser Museum.

JBM asked Hall to do an art show in September and October, 1995.

There was only one problem: Hall's basement was too small to do the kind of large-scale work he wanted to

display in his upcoming show. That was when he decided to rent a studio.

The building he found was perfect for his needs. Not only does he now have enough studio room to do his large format paintings, but he now has enough room for display as well.

Hall said it was then that he decided to open a gallery to allow himself and some of his friends "a chance to display their work and probably make enough money to pay the rent." The latter is not the main reason for the gallery, however, because as Hall says, "It's not a money-making activity."

Hall has made some money in his brief days as an artist. He says he has only been doing art for about two to two-and-a-half years and has sold, so far, approximately thirty paintings.

The type of art on display in Windcrest will be kept exclusively to pottery, fine art glass, oil paintings, acrylics and possibly some steel and wood sculptures.

Once the gallery opens, it will be in operation Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturdays and Sundays during the day, probably year-round.

Potent Quotables

"I knew I was home when I got off the bus and saw someone get mugged." —ACC Student Jeremy Williams upon his arrival back to Flint.

Remember President of PTK Shawn Dempsey, our ace reporter who said one ACC instructor attended "Suck" Community College? Here's the latest: Shawn's friend Rachel, N.P. of PTK says, "I'd like to take a course for fun . . . maybe sign language, but could I use it?" Shawn's reply: "Of course . . . you might get a job at the school for the blind."

"To compare concrete to cement would be like comparing bread to flour. You wouldn't go into a grocery store and ask for a loaf of flour—would you?" —Concrete Tech, Instructor Bob Eller, putting things in perspective.

"It is wise to know that you know not everything but recognize that you have much to learn." —ACC Student Stephen M. Stevenson.

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BY BRIAN SHUSTER

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