

ACC faculty showcased at Jesse Besser Museum



Painting instructor Joy Skiba welcomes the opportunity of the faculty art show to release her art spirit. Photo by Linda Simpson

By DEB HASKE
STAFF WRITER

Instructors get to critique, evaluate and comment on students' work daily. March 27 through May 1 students will have the opportunity to turn the tables. ACC art department instructors Joe Donna, Joy Skiba, and Laurie Wade, and Humanities Chairperson Terry Hall will be featured in the second annual Faculty Art Show at Jesse Besser Museum.

The show affords art instructor Skiba, who teaches drawing and painting classes as well as Art for the Class Room Teacher, "... a special awareness to collect, collaborate and cultivate my thoughts and expressions formed within my art spirit. Beyond this I welcome the opportunity to share..."

Skiba used water color, pencil, paint, and a printing technique to create new works for the show.

Ceramic pieces were created by Wade, ceramic instructor. On her work Wade comments, "The form is very important initially but then it instantly becomes a surface to put texture on and to draw on."

"The art show is a way to show what you are about to the students and community..." commented Wade! "It allows the community to come in and see what is going on in the art department. The show lets them know the really talented people they have working at ACC."

Hall, humanities instructor, contributes to the show "because it helps me focus and set goals. It is also good for the college, especially, to showcase the art and humanities program, to have

our work shown locally as well as around the state and nationally."

Hall painted new pieces for the show at his newly opened art studio and gallery, Windcrest.

Design and sculpture instructor Donna is contributing a piece which toured in a national exhibit. He is also showing clay structures and paintings.

"I figure I have to do it to stay fresh -- to show my students I can do it too," commented Donna. "It would be like having a creative writing instructor who did not creative writing. Why would this person be teaching it if he never did it?"

The show will be opening March 27 with a reception from 2 - 4 p.m. Wade said she hopes to see a lot of people there, "especially the faculty and administration."

From pop music to popcorn -- don't junk that mail

By SCOTT REED
STAFF WRITER

Junk mail is something we are all familiar with: Publisher's Clearing House, twelve CDs for the price of one, etc. But is it all really junk?

Recently, *The Polemic* office has been overrun with mail that some people might place into this category. Looking at it and taking the time to read it through, however, one might realize that there is some good in those envelopes after all. But some do sound a bit silly.

First of all, there's the Alpine Mint Total Yodol Contest. Sponsored by Care-Free sugarless gum, the Total Yodol is valid until April 30, 1994. Just call toll-free, 1-800-94ALPINE. Contestants will then have sixty seconds to give their name, address, phone number and best yodel.

The first 200 callers receive a free T-shirt and the first 100,000 are eligible for the

grand prize: a six-day, five-night vacation for two to Switzerland! If yodeling isn't your bag, then maybe video production is.

All college students are eligible to enter The Christophers' Video Contest. The Christophers is a New York-based international media organization which produces the syndicated TV series, "Christopher Closeup."

"The contest goes as follows: make a video, five minutes in length or less, based on the theme, "One Person Can Make a Difference."

The grand prize is \$3,000. Second prize is \$2,000. Third prize is \$1,000, and five contestants will receive honorable mention awards of \$500.

Deadline to enter this contest is June 10, 1994.

The Amy Foundation in Lansing is sponsoring a writing contest.

The Amy Foundation Writing Awards program is designed to recognize creative, skillful

writing that presents in a sensitive, thought-provoking manner the biblical position on issues affecting the world today.

First prize in this contest is ten thousand dollars! There are also fourteen other prizes ranging from one to five thousand dollars.

If you're 30 or older, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship from -- are you ready -- Orville Rodenbacher!

Orville's Second Star Scholarship offers everyone an opportunity. For the fifth year the program will be offering adults the chance to receive a scholarship for their efforts in obtaining a "second start" in life via higher education.

Scholarship applications for the 1994-1995 academic year will be accepted through May 1, and can be obtained by writing to: Orville Rodenbacher's Second Star Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 39101, Chicago, Illinois, 60639.

Rolling Stone magazine is offering \$2,500 to college journalism students. Entries may be submitted in three categories: entertainment writing (reporting on popular music and television, etc.); feature writing (narratives and profiles); and essays and criticism (commentary on any subject, including opinion and

humor).

Entries must be published in a college-student newspaper or magazine between September, 1992, and June, 1994.

Students are limited to one entry in each category. Entries must be received by July 1,

1994. Winners will be announced in September, 1994.

So maybe all that mail you receive isn't always junk. You never know what you can find until you look.

If you have any questions or interests about anything mentioned in this article, call *The Polemic* at ext. 264.

East meets West in reunion

By ANGELA BEATRICH
STAFF WRITER

parents was a trip back to the United States for a two-week stay.

Chika wanted to return to Alpha so she could visit students she met as an exchange student in 1991-92. But most of all, Chika wished to stay with a particular friend she met in Journalism class at Alpha High school, Jody Harris.

Chika Nakamii, previously a Japanese exchange student at Alpha High School, attended various ACC classes with host Jody Harris, February 28-March 4.

Before she arrived, Chika celebrated her twentieth birthday. At age twenty, the Japanese gain voting privileges and customarily travel. The birthday present Chika received from her

Chika and Jody built a lasting friendship during Chika's stay two years ago. Chika promised to visit someday but could not say exactly when that would be.

Through Chika's knowledge of the English language, the two have kept in touch over the past two years and will continue to do so.

The next time they meet will not be in Alpha, but Japan. Jody plans to travel there after she completes her Bachelor's degree.

Solutions to the problem are very simple

■ Instructors clue students for success

By JEN GOODBURNE
LAYOUT-EDITOR

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part three of a three part series dealing with the poor academic achievement of students during the fall 1993 semester. The instructors who took time to contribute their viewpoints did so out of concern and with the hope of solving the problem.

Complaining about students' academic performances and trying to guess the reasons behind the sudden drop in grades can do nothing to solve the problem. But once the situation is defined and potential causes determined, an effort can be made to offer solutions.

The following are suggestions made by some of ACC's faculty.

■ **Do your homework before you watch TV.** "Students are going to have to rearrange their schedules and set aside blocks of time that they are going to dedicate to these classes," began Kendall Sumexir, physical science instructor.

■ **Be accountable on a daily basis.** Once you fall behind, it's a losing battle. Complete all homework and reading assignments, on time, and stay ahead of the game. "If," according to Keith Titus, speech instructor, "there is nothing else that they are told that will make a difference -- that

they can do -- is to come to class."

■ **Take care of and be responsible for yourself.** "Society's not responsible. It [seems to be] our fault if they don't pass," said Gerald Hardesty, of the industrial technology department. "They're not taking notes or anything, but it's our fault if they don't pass. I don't think the young people are being responsible."

■ **Be happy.** "They think that self esteem has more to do with what they can acquire, or consume, or purchase," commented Roger Phillips, English instructor. Base your self esteem

on education -- what you know, not what you buy.

"I don't think, for most of my students, that ability is the limiting factor," said Sumexir. "They lack the motivation."

Hardesty agreed. "It's their work ethic. They lack self confidence in doing something on their own."

Study. Go to class. Take responsibility. Rid yourself of Depression Demons, Confidence Thieves, and Motivation Moochers.

"One thing we can't do is lower our standards," said Phillips. "I have felt that temptation in the past, but I don't

feel it anymore because there has been such a drop in student performance. If anything, we need to raise standards."

One asset of a community college is the faculty. They are much more accessible than university professors. Their advice is based on years of classroom experience -- and they are the ones who give the grades. The instructors who contributed to this series want their students to succeed.

"Universities should be safe havens where ruthless examination of realities will not be distorted..." -- Kingman Brewster.

There once was a pretty good student,
Who sat in a pretty good class.
And was taught by a pretty good teacher,
Who always let pretty good pass.
He wasn't terrific at reading.
He wasn't a whiz-bang at math,
But for him education was leading
Straight down a pretty good path.
He didn't find school too exciting,
But he wanted to do pretty well.
And he did have some trouble with writing,
And nobody taught him to spell.
When doing arithmetic problems,
Pretty good was regarded as fine.
Five plus five needn't always add up to 10,
A pretty good answer was nine.

The pretty good class that he sat in,
Was part of a pretty good school.
And the student was not an exception,
On the contrary, he was the rule.
The pretty good school that he went to,
Was there in a pretty good town.
And nobody there seemed to notice
He could not tell a verb from a noun.
The pretty good student in fact was
Part of a pretty good mob.
And the first time he knew what he lacked was
When he looked for a pretty good job.

It was then, when he sought a position,
He discovered that life could be tough.
And he soon had a sneaky suspicion
Pretty good might not be good enough.
The pretty good town in our story
Was part of a pretty good state,
Which had pretty good aspirations,
And prayed for a pretty good fate.
There once was a pretty good nation,
Pretty proud of the greatness it had,
Which learned much too late,
If you want to be great,
Pretty good is, in fact, pretty bad.

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College Wide Grade Distribution

Grade	Fall '92 %	Fall '93 %		Grade	Fall '92 %	Fall '93 %	
A.....	25.0	22.8	(DECREASE)	D +	0.9	1.3	(INCREASE)
A-.....	9.9	8.9	(DECREASE)	D	1.6	2.0	(INCREASE)
B +	9.4	7.0	(DECREASE)	D-.....	0.6	0.6	(NO CHANGE)
B	12.5	11.9	(DECREASE)	E	4.5	4.9	(INCREASE)
B-.....	5.9	6.0	(INCREASE)	S	3.5	6.6	(INCREASE)
C +	4.8	4.5	(DECREASE)	U	0.0	0.0	(NO CHANGE)
C	7.4	6.7	(DECREASE)	W	1.6	1.5	(DECREASE)
C-.....	2.7	3.0	(INCREASE)	AU/NG	0.1	0.2	(INCREASE)

Statistics courtesy of Dean Curt Davis