

Tenured teachers work both sides of "moat"

DEB HASKE
STAFF WRITER

In August of 1963 when Gerald Hardesty, Chairman of the Industrial Technical Department, started working at ACC, Johnson Street was called the "moat." It not only separated Van Lare Hall from Besser Technical Center, it separated the liberal arts from the technical programs.

Along with his students, Hardesty spent the first semester setting up the machines in the machine shop and assisting in starting and refining the programs.

Many of the tech programs that are now two year degree and certificate programs and apprenticeships started out as one year "man power" programs. Hardesty is proud of assisting in the upgrade and development.

For a period of time these jobs were shipped out to foreign countries but they are now being brought back. There is a boom in manufacturing areas because our economy would not survive without them.

Hardesty is most proud of developing good tech programs and teaching with a "good bunch of guys." He doesn't enjoy the paper work.

A change which Hardesty strongly influenced was the de-

velopment of the remedial math, English and reading classes. Once these classes were developed and implemented, they became a benefit to everyone at the college.

Although Hardesty has seen no increase in the percentage of tech students needing remedial classes, he has seen the general student population change. Hardesty commented, "I see young people less committed to studying and really doing something with their lives."

"Over the years my teaching technique has improved but I have become less tolerant," commented Hardesty. "Maybe it is the greater generation gap."

Another change Hardesty has observed is an increase in the number of women taking tech classes and students seeking to upgrade their skills.

One change Hardesty would like to see at the college is a full time job placement and recruitment program. "It would sell the college and all its programs," commented Hardesty. "It would be a way to best serve our students."

"A community college is meant to serve the community and in order to do this, we must have people who produce goods," commented Hardesty.



Buchner and Hardesty were honored at ACC's Third Annual Staff Retirement and Recognition Dinner.

Teaching has been a consuming job for Hardesty. Most days are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., which has not left him with enough time for his family. His wife Ann Hardesty also teaches in the Alpena Public School system and they have a son and daughter in college.

Hardesty plans to teach one more year and the first thing

he will do when retired will be his "honey dew" projects. "Honey do this... Honey do that..."

Between these jobs, he hopes to enjoy fishing, hunting and reading. Hardesty is also planning to spend two or three months cruising the coast of British Columbia with his wife.

MacMaster to advise *The Polemic*

By SCOTT REED
STAFF WRITER

This fall, *The Polemic* is going under new management. Donald MacMaster, director of the Workplace Partnership Program, will be replacing Sonya Titus as adviser of the newspaper.

MacMaster has a lengthy and interesting background in the field of journalism.

Around the age of twenty, he earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. Afterward, he got a job writing for *The Alcona County Review*, a weekly newspaper out of Harrisville, where he received a salary of one cent per word.

Afterward, MacMaster spent one year as a sports editor

on a daily newspaper in Marshall.

MacMaster says he then needed more of a challenge, so he went free-lance, which he now thinks was "probably a rash move to make." But during this time, he wrote several cover stories for *The Detroit Free Press* Sunday magazine, which were published in the mid-1980s.

He then went on to work for seven years at *The Ann Arbor Observer*, a city feature magazine that MacMaster found very demanding.

"Sometimes it would take a month to write a story," he says.

During his stay at the *Observer*, MacMaster wrote a number of features, including a story on the homeless problem.

For this, he spent time in a shelter to get a feel for what goes on in the lives of the homeless.

He worked at the *Observer* on a free-lance basis and got paid by the story.

"I didn't live high on the hog," he says, "but I learned a lot."

MacMaster has been at ACC for three years and accepted the adviser position because he sees all the effort that goes into the paper and he would like to be involved in the process.

He feels the responsibilities of an adviser should be to keep the paper on target, to make sure the copy is fair to who writes it and to who is being written about, to make sure there are no glaring errors, and to sup-

port the students in producing something that is theirs.

Writing for a newspaper, he adds, can be "a good learning experience because you can learn a lot about a lot of things."

Thus, current *Polemic* adviser, says of MacMaster, "In looking around for someone who could fill the position, I looked at his Workplace Partnership publication and was very impressed. His training, practical experience, and enthusiasm for newspaper writing were strong points in his selection. He'll be a great adviser."

MacMaster will still keep his current position with the Workplace Partnership. He begins as *Polemic* adviser officially in September.

DEB HASKE
STAFF WRITER

Business Instructor Brenda Buchner, the other 30 year veteran at ACC, began working on the other side of the "moat" in Van Lare Hall in January, 1994. She had been an instructor at Munising and a substitute teacher at Alpena Catholic Central prior to her ACC hiring.

Buchner also has witnessed a number of changes in her tenure here including the addition of a large support staff and work study for students. ACC's first President Stanley Van Lare had the only secretary on campus when Buchner was hired.

In the Business and Human Service Department where Buchner teaches most of her classes, dramatic changes have occurred, notably and most recently, the advent of the computer programs.

With all the changes in the business field, Buchner is assisting in developing a new curriculum, office technology, to replace secretarial science, which better describes what is now taught at ACC.

At the beginning of her career, teaching was stimulating and fun but it has become "... rather a burden," commented Buchner. "It is a seven day a

week job because of preparation and correction for five different classes, and I now have to go to summer school to just stay current."

Teaching keeps Buchner, a single mother of four, busy, but she realizes the value of a profession for financial stability. She empathizes with students who are single mothers seeking a secure financial base.

She also enjoys watching students blossom with increased self confidence as they become aware of their abilities to improve their lives. Buchner is a teacher who becomes involved with students, encouraging them to be their best.

"We [teachers] are here to serve our students, to support them, to help them make the best they can of their lives," comments Buchner, "not discourage them."

These rewards are part of the reason Buchner will not retire for a while. When she retires she plans to experience all the things she has been too busy to do because of work and family.

This semester Buchner is learning to play golf. With her other interests, needle point, reading, gardening, cross-country skiing and travel, Buchner will probably be as busy when she retires as she is now.

Bushey competes in Boston Marathon

By SHAWN DEMPSEY
NEWS EDITOR

Not too many years ago when 38-year-old Monica Bushey had just started running, she listened to friends talk about marathons and thought, "No way!" And now, she chuckles, "Here I am, talking about those marathons."

Bushey, a counselor in The Learning Center, just returned from competing in her first Boston Marathon along with friends Stan Mischley and Wayne Christopherson. Both of the men had completed in the race before.

The trio ran for different reasons. Christopherson ran for a good time - to do well in the race, that is. Mischley and Bushey also ran for a good time - to have fun with no particular pace. Bushey says, "I didn't even turn on my watch."

Running for fun really allowed her to enjoy the race. She met and talked to people from Ireland, Japan, and various parts of the United States. "It was the first time I've ever really run a race that I haven't raced."

Taking an easier pace also let her check out the crowds. Mischley, she says, estimated there were 3/4 of a million people along the sides of the course. "It's a really big party for them," Bushey explains. "It's a state holiday in Massachusetts so there are folks all along the course who are barbecuing, beering, and partying."

The crowds were cheering for the average, middle of the pack runners, which surprised Bushey. To stand out in the race, the runners wear special things like t-shirts with their names on them. Her favorite shirt said, "My teacher ran the Boston Marathon," and it was signed by all of her students. "You don't see that in most races."

The Boston Marathon is the standard length of 29.2 miles, and Bushey finished in

about 3 hours and 45 minutes, which is about 15-20 minutes longer than she would normally run. She didn't even check to see how she placed among the 9,000 official entries. An additional 5-6,000 handily - people who didn't qualify - also raced.

Enjoyment is the reason Bushey runs. She learned by seeing the stress in others that she doesn't want to become caught up in racing and become too competitive. She feels "There are enough things in life that are really difficult that we have to do. Why take something that one does for pleasure and turn it into an experience that's not pleasurable?"

Bushey only returned to running a year ago after being diagnosed three years previously with Degenerative Disc Disease and a congenital abnormality. Most of her doctors had told her she wouldn't run again, but one gave her some exercises and told her to try them if she wanted to run again. After two years, the exercises worked.

When first diagnosed, it was very difficult for Bushey to talk about her illness because, she explains, "I want people to know me for my ability and for what I can do rather than what I can't do."

Before her illness forced her to stop, Bushey ran for three years. At first, not running was difficult; she missed the friends she had made. But taking up biking and swimming and making new friends made her realize that if she couldn't run, there were things she could do.

Bushey does plan to continue running. In May, she will compete in the Bayshore Marathon in Traverse City. Next year, she plans to run in the Big Sur Marathon which runs along the California coast. And of course, Bushey hasn't seen the last of Bushey. In two years, the Boston Marathon will be celebrating its hundredth running and Bushey hopes to be there - running and having fun.



Dot Gonia, Jason Harris and Drew Downs pause to talk at the Alpena Mall's kickoff to Volunteer Week. Photo by Linda Simpson

ACC volunteers present workshop in D.C.

By MELODY SHARP
STAFF WRITER

Chosen from a field of 200 applicants, an eight member team of the Youth Volunteer Corps presented a workshop at the National and Community Service SuperConference '94 held April 20-23 in Arlington, Virginia. The Alpena team joined 89 other selected presenters.

The team consisted of five teenagers from the YVC, Joel Kaiser, Drew Downs, Stacy Black, Melissa Brown and Jason Harris; YVC program director Dot Gonia; VOLUNTEEN coordinator Merrill Downs; and YVC team leader Gwen Downs.

The workshop presented was a high-energy, interactive, youth-led session focusing on a project last summer in the flood ravaged Midwest. Developed during a service-learning reflection period, this youth initiated collaboration involved the YVC of Alpena, the YVC of the Quad Cities (Illinois and Iowa) and several agencies in both communities. Role plays and a skit centered on the cooperation necessary, obstacles faced and the skills required to organize a project of this magnitude.

While at the conference, there was time for the group to visit several memorials and monuments. One of the most moving experiences, according

to Gonia, was watching Joel Kaiser make a paper etching of his uncle's name on the Vietnam War Memorial.

Also, presentations by Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy and Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford and Youth Service America Co-Founder Roger Landrum were attended by the team.

"This was an experience the group will not soon forget," said Harris. He further commented, "I believe that it not only was an educational experience for us, but also for those that we could help understand that volunteering could be an enjoyable and rewarding experience."

Does volunteering make a

difference? Black stated, "The people I met will be valuable resources in my future as a volunteer and the friendships I acquired will last a lifetime."

The highlight of the trip for Gonia was, "Standing back and proudly watching our youth volunteers present their program, being creative, humorous and real crowd pleasers." She also stated, "I survived the 1,600 mile round trip in a mini-van on the insane Pennsylvania turnpike, under major construction."

Future plans for the YVC include an intensive summer program for teens ages 11-18. These teams of teens will perform service projects throughout the community.