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The Alpena Community College newspaper, 666 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707

Center nears completion

By HOLLY MACE
STAFF WRITER

According to Alpena Community College President Dr. Don Newport, there are two significant ongoing projects that will develop facilities to better serve the students.

One of these projects is the large \$8.2 million construction project on campus. The construction is now seventy percent complete, said Newport, and pieces of the new building will start to become occupied this spring. By the fall semester the new building will be completely finished, and some of the existing facilities will be remodeled.

"For example," said Newport, "when the library moves into the new facilities the Health Occupations classes will be moving into that existing space which will be remodeled to fit their needs."

According to Newport,

eventually, East Campus will be closed and all activities there will be moved to the main campus.

"Everything will be more centralized, and students will be able to access spaces more conveniently. It will be in a more compact, integrated kind of fashion," explained Newport.

The other project is the development of a permanent home for Huron Shores campus activities on the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in the old headquarters building.

Newport said that this is a much smaller project. It involves about 10,000 square feet of remodeling to accommodate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The project also includes a heating and ventilating system for the entire facility, and is scheduled to be complete for the summer session.

Funding for this project comes from three different sources: \$311,000 is from state

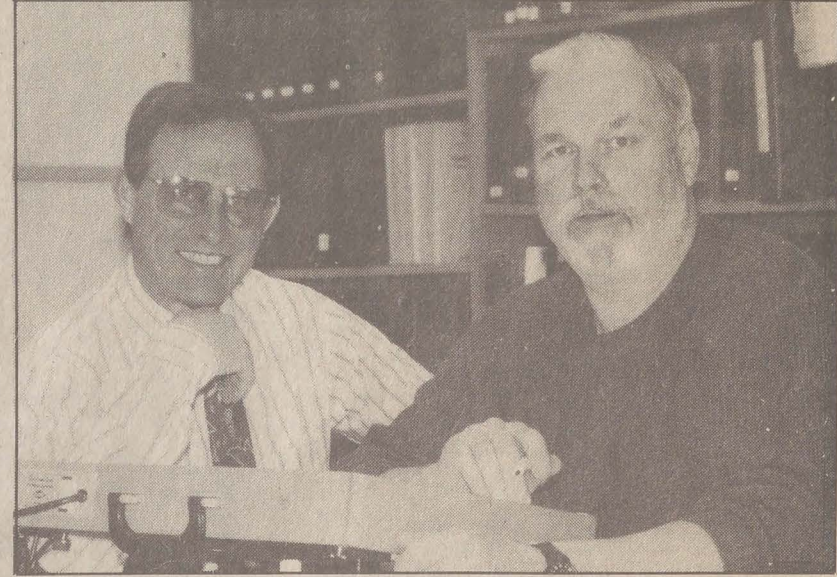
appropriation, \$112,000 is from the Base Conversion Authority, and \$239,000 comes from the college's capital budget, which will be repaid from the rental income that other services, such as the Iosco Intermediate School District, pay to use portions of the building.

Another type of project that affects the college, but is more widespread, is the GI Bill of Rights for Workers that President Clinton mentioned in his State of the Union address.

According to Newport, there are well over 100 fragmented job training programs across the country that aren't linked very well. This bill will bring coordination to these programs.

This project will provide assistance for the individual that has a need for skill development.

"The major reason for community colleges to exist is to provide those job training



ACC President Dr. Don Newport and Henry Lyngos, construction coordinator, review construction project.

activities for the health and growth of the state of Michigan," commented Newport.

"If you want to get trained to be a welder, a machinist, a computer operator, or a nurse, you will probably attend a community college."

Recently, Alpena's new mayor, Camille Nerkowski, said that her dream was to see Alpena Community College become a four-year institution.

"I don't see us within the state plan to have a new, 'stand alone' four-year institution in Northeastern

Michigan," responded Dr. Newport.

Newport said that, instead, the college will engage in a lot more partnerships with four-year institutions such as Lake Superior State University and Central Michigan University.

"These partnerships include graduate programs with other partners that have those facilities and faculties to deliver those services to Northeast Michigan," commented Newport.

Internet services arrive at ACC

By CELESTE KASKY
STAFF WRITER

The internet is a very interesting way to interact with many people from around the world. Imagine talking to someone in another state, or even in another country. Well, it's going to happen, right here at ACC.

Mr. Carl Bourdelais, the leader of the internet installation, is very excited to see this happen at ACC. Every student and faculty member will be able to tap into the internet from any computer in Van Lare Hall, Room #110, the student lab at Besser Tech, or from their own office.

Options available to ACC include everything from the World-Wide Web, which will be available in approximately 30-45 days, catalogue browsing, and even the ability to "chat" to someone from far away.

There are many advantages to the internet. It gives research capabilities that weren't there before, so it saves time. Instead of borrowing a book, which may be either out-dated or not available, the internet allows you to receive data almost instantaneously.

In the fall semester of 1996-97, a couple of classes, credit and non-credit, will be available to not only the students interested in the internet but also the community. The classes will be broken down into lessons that are about an hour in length. The classes will teach the students how to send and receive E-mail and how to browse through the web. The students will also be able to have "live conversations" with people from around the world.

E-mail requires a separate computer called a "server," which is currently in the process of

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Plans for the new World Center for Concrete Technology were unveiled in VLH 120 on Friday, February 19. Pictured from left are Jim Park, CEO of the Besser Company, Dr. Don Newport, President of ACC, Representative Bev Bodem and Michigan Jobs Commission CEO Doug Rothwell.

ACC gets World Center for Concrete Technology

By KENT ANDERSON
NEWS EDITOR

ACC and the Besser Company recently announced plans to construct a World Center for Concrete Technology, to be located just north of the Natural Resources Center on a previously undeveloped nine-acre site. The proposed \$6 million

project will bring together concrete technology research and training to help job development in the area.

Half of the expected cost will be funded by a State of Michigan capital outlay. The other half is slated to come from the Besser Company, Lafarge, Presque Isle Corporation and industry suppliers from out of state.

This proposed structure, expected to be a 40,000 square-foot facility, housing six state-of-the-art classrooms, a complete laboratory, and testing areas, will be geared toward researching concrete production. A world-wide computer hook-up for communicating with others in the concrete industry will also be available at the new site.

Project seeks zero unemployment

By KELLY MARTINSON
STAFF WRITER

Alpena was recently chosen to be one of six communities as a test sight for Project Zero, intended to help all welfare recipients to gain employment. Governor John Engler says he will put \$40 million into the plan for child care and transportation. He also says there will be more effort to enforce child support collection.

According to Department of Social Services supervisor Harold Corless, many changes intended by Project Zero have already been made, due to the efforts

of the MOST and Work First programs, which have gotten dependent people involved in programs at ACC, adult education, job search and community service. Corless says people involved in the MOST program are "hustling and highly motivated." Alpena already has 50 percent of 441 welfare recipients working, above the state average of 30 percent.

Currently, low income families can receive financial aid for child care while working.

A major concern to welfare recipients is whether they will lose their medical insurance, currently provided

under medicaid, if they return to work. According to Corless, Governor Engler has mentioned a plan for transitional medicaid up to one year after a family gets off welfare. Corless is concerned about what will happen after the first year. He says there has been mention of a plan to allow low income families the opportunity to buy low cost insurance from the medicaid program.

Corless says at first the MOST program presented difficulties to recipients who wanted to receive higher education, but has since been

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPENA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Connie Schoon will be remembered with a scholarship.

Schoon will be missed

By JENNIFER DONAJKOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Alpena Community College part-time instructor Connie Schoon passed away of a sudden death of unknown cause on Saturday, January 20. She taught Medical Terminology and Medical Office Procedures, both classes in the medical assistant program.

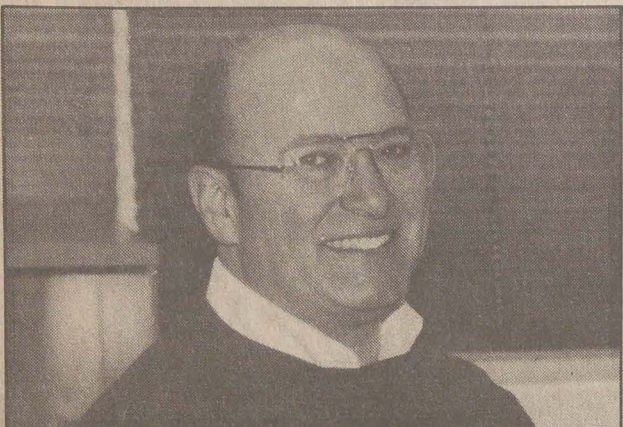
Connie also worked at Alpena General Hospital doing utilization review, and worked independently doing transcription for various health professionals.

When not working, Connie sat on the Advisory Board of the Medical Assistant program, and helped students having difficulty in her courses. She was also active in her church women's group, and enjoyed sewing.

As a momento of Connie Schoon's importance at ACC, the medical assistant students are developing a scholarship in her name. The scholarship will be offered to second year medical assistant students only, to guarantee their commitment to the program.

As a part of this scholarship a plaque will be hung in the Health Science building. Each year, the student awarded the scholarship will have their name added to the plaque.

According to the Assistant Dean of Health Occupations, Kathleen McGillis, "Connie will be missed, especially by her students." The scholarship ensures she will not be forgotten.



Carl Bourdelais pauses to chat about E-Mail.