

Briefs

Spotlight Series shines again

The Western Jazz Quartet, pictured below, will appear at Granum Theatre on Friday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m. The group is a Western Michigan University resident faculty ensemble that has received national recognition and a Five Star review in Down Beat magazine for their CD "Firebird." The musicians will be holding a free student workshop from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in CTR 107 before the concert. For more details, contact Mark Breckinridge at extension 279.



Jazz Ensemble catches the beat

The 21-member ACC Jazz Ensemble will be holding a free concert on Tuesday, November 4 at 8:00 p.m. in the Granum Theatre. The Ensemble will be playing big band standards, plus latin tunes and ballads, featuring many soloists and a vocalist. Come on out and support our jazz brethren.

Get involved in volunteering

The Volunteer Center and ACC is sponsoring the Student/Community Action Fair on Wednesday, October 29, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. inside Park Arena. Many community organizations will be represented at the Fair, offering students and staff a wide range of volunteer opportunities.

United Way and the Power of "U"

The ACC United Way campaign fund drive went over the top late last week, surpassing this year's \$4100 campaign goal. Thanks to all the staff who participated in making this year's campaign a success. Stay tuned to your phones for details regarding the raffle drawing, open to all who contributed to the campaign, scheduled for Friday, October 31, at noon in the Lumberjack Shack. Top prize is a \$100 dollar gift certificate to the French Quarter. Also available will be an ACC sweatshirt from the bookstore, a set of passes to the Royal Knight Cinema, and a jar of lottery tickets.

See you there

ACC's single parent support group will meet every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. - noon in Van Lare Hall 103. All students are invited to attend any Wednesday. For more information, contact Bonnie Urlaub in VLH 107.

Senate makes plans

By MISSY PORTER
STAFF WRITER

This year's ACC Student Senate has a lot planned.

The Senate began the year with a camping trip to Oscoda. This trip was used as a leadership seminar where they went over their constitution.

There will be many dances throughout the year. The next is the Halloween dance on October 31 at East Campus gym. Students are encouraged to dress up. There will be prizes given for best costume and other categories. The Homecoming dance is scheduled for February 14.

ary 14.

There will also be many different speakers coming to the campus to discuss important issues such as AIDS awareness and domestic violence. As yet, there have been no dates set for these events.

The Senate holds open forum meetings for students to attend to bring up concerns they have about the school or to give their ideas.

Student Senate President Leonard Thomas said, "I encourage students to get involved with the open forum meetings so they can voice their opinions." The next meeting is October 28 at 5:00 p.m. in CTR 106.

THE WORKPLACE

ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

National project ends after six years

By ERIN BRUSKI
STAFF WRITER

After six years of providing educational programs adapted to the specific needs of various workplaces in the community, the Workplace Partnership Project has come to an end.

The program, which was funded through the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., was first funded at ACC in 1991. The first project lasted 18 months. In 1993 the college applied for funding again and received a second 18-month grant. Then in 1994, there was a three-year grant opportunity, the last funding cycle available. The WPP was funded again, one of just a handful of projects to receive funding over three grant cycles. Funding ran out on October 1.

The focus of the WPP was to identify what employees at companies really needed to know, and to develop courses based on that. These courses involved constant curriculum development and were not textbook oriented. The idea behind the program was to see if commu-

nity colleges could bring customized education to the workplace.

ACC staff involved in the project included WPP director Don MacMaster; communications instructor Dr. Richard Lessard, math instructors Kendall Sumerix, Tom Gougeon and Charley Rosebush; business instructor Lois Darga; language instructor Priscilla Homola; computer technician and newsletter editor Frank Przykucki; and office managers Katherine Meharg and Ann Schultz.

"A big enjoyment for me over the past six years has been the opportunity to work with some really committed professionals," MacMaster said. "I think that the project had some risk for all of us, because in many cases we were working outside our comfort zone and had to be fast and responsive learners ourselves."

"We realized that the credibility of the college was at stake to a degree and that if we did a poor job, it could reflect negatively on the professionalism of everyone at ACC. We didn't want that to happen and I don't think it did. It was a great group to

work with, very creative yet very professional. I miss having them around," he added.

According to MacMaster, the need for instructors to constantly involve the student in the development of authentic teaching materials was a key factor in the project.

One of the most successful projects was a sequence of two 15-hour farm accounting classes, developed and taught by former Math and Sciences chair Gary Sparks.

everyone on the shop floor, including some of the managers, went through three levels of math—general math, trigonometry, and Introduction to CAD. They were taught on site, using laptop computers.

Richard Lessard did some very strong applied communications work in team building, most notably at Besser Company, where a new department was created and still effectively operates as a self-directed work team.

Yet another program offered reading skills and comprehension to AIS home care workers across Alcona, Alpena and Montmorency counties, again using laptop computers with authoritative software. Care plans for the clients in AIS homes are often written by clinicians with advanced professional degrees, but the workers in charge of carrying out the plans often have limited educational attainment levels, resulting in a wide literacy gap. A 24-hour reading comprehension course was designed by Janet Fulton to narrow that gap.

"I think the Workplace Partnership Project really enhanced the college's outreach to business and industry," MacMaster. "And I think that a vibrant community college always needs to be thinking about how it can help the local workforce not only stay current but prepare for the future. These are our neighbors, after all. They support us when we support them."

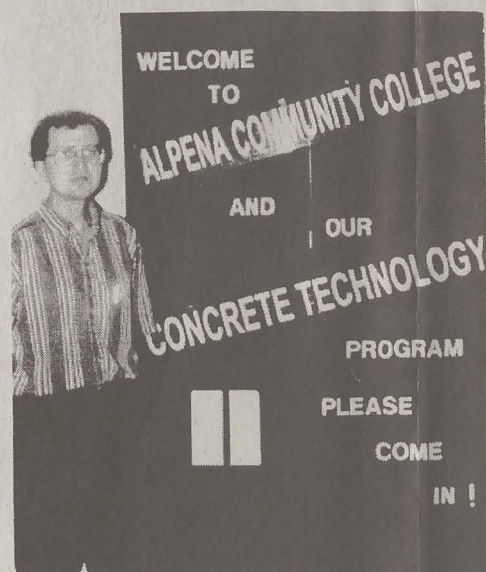
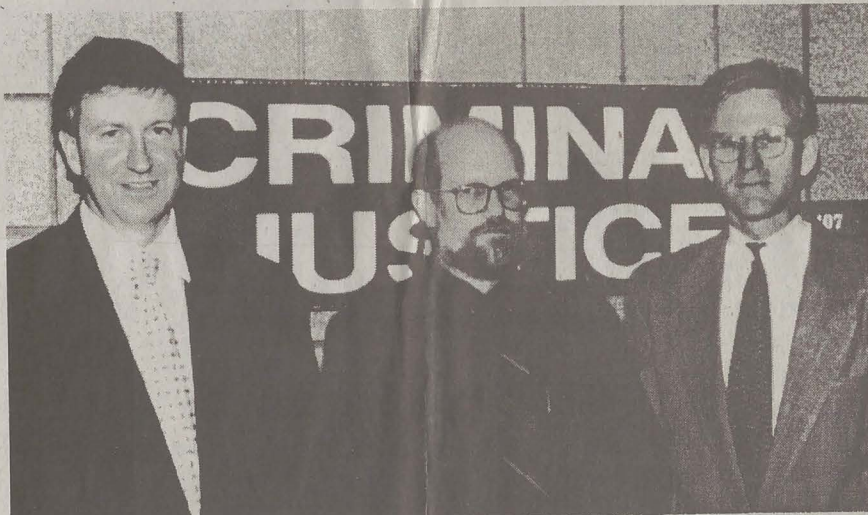
"It was a great group to work with, very creative yet very professional."

- Don MacMaster

Today's farmers need to keep accurate and thorough records. Feed ratios, pesticide application rates, breeding records, depreciation on capital equipment are just a few examples. Although this is easier to do now with new technology, many local farmers were not accustomed to using computers. By taking this course, they learned how to use a computer and Quicken software to track a number of variables—variables specific to their own operations.

A shop math program developed by Kendall Sumerix for Baker Enterprises was also highly successful. In this three-course sequence,

Open House '97



Above, three prominent members of the law enforcement community appeared at the Open House to discuss criminal justice as a profession. From left: William Lauman (Secret Service), Dennis Roy (Courts) and Walter Reynolds (FBI). At left, concrete tech instructor Pete Alexander greets a visitor.

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