

Alpena native returns

By Jessica Rutan
Staff Writer

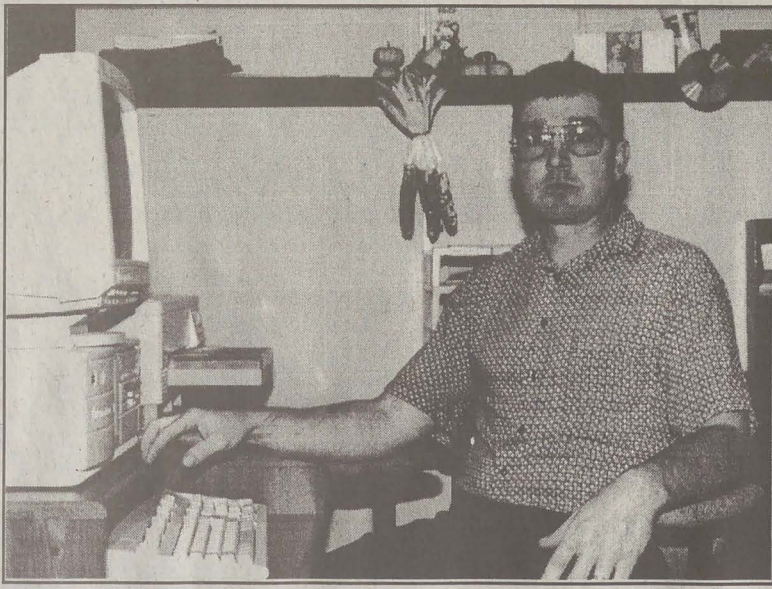
Mike Kelley, the new instructor for calculus I, elementary algebra, and intermediate algebra at ACC, had a rather interesting approach to his own education.

Kelley is originally from this area. He grew up on a farm in Herron and attended Alpena High School. After graduation, he decided that he wasn't ready to jump into college. Kelley said, "I knew that once I graduated from college and got a job, I wouldn't be able to make my own schedule for the next 40 years."

So Kelley instead went into an early retirement, as he calls it. He held various jobs, including working at the Alpena Livestock Auction, farming, and working construction in Alaska. Kelley knew that he should return to his education, though. "I was hungry to go back," he said.

At the age of 25, he enrolled at ACC. After receiving his associate's in arts degree, he went on to Northern Michigan University, where he earned a bachelor's in science degree. After that, he attended Michigan State University to get his master's in science degree.

"The reason that I went beyond ACC was the instruction I got here. It was such a good experience for me. He hopes he can inspire his students in the same manner.



Photos by Don MacMaster

Mike Kelley, who joined the faculty to teach algebra this fall, collects model John Deere tractors.

"When the opportunity arose to teach in Alpena, I took it. It's home."

Mike Kelley,
Math Instructor

Kelley decided to become a teacher in part because his oldest brother was a high school biology teacher. "The reason that I decided to teach at college was I liked the caliber of the students. They have more academic freedom. They choose the classes and therefore are here to learn," he explained.

He spent some time as a student teacher at NMU and MSU. Kelley has spent the last six years at Finger Lakes Community College in New York. "When the opportunity arose to teach in Alpena, I took it. It's home," he said.

Kelley and his wife, Brenda, have a two and a half year old son, Patrick. He is in the process of finishing their home. This allows him to do one of his hobbies, woodworking. He also collects John Deere tractors and has just discovered E-Bay, the website where you can buy, sell, and trade items. He also enjoys spending time outside.

When asked if he had any advice for college students, Kelley responded, "Don't go unless you're serious. Work hard, but have fun. Talk to your instructors for direction. And most importantly, never look at education as something that will end."

Putkamer joins full-time faculty

Melisa Colon
Staff Writer

Carol Putkamer, one of the new full-time instructors at Alpena Community College, teaches business and medical information systems courses. She has been teaching at ACC on a part-time basis since 1995.

When asked if teaching was something she had planned on doing, she replied, "No it just sort of fell in my lap."

She is very enthusiastic about teaching, and says that it is very rewarding. She said, "It is reassuring and a wonderful feeling when I walk into a medical facility in town and see a student I once had."

She went on to say that it gives her a sense of pride to know that she prepared that person for a career and they were succeeding partly because of her.

Putkamer continues to work a few hours a week at one of the local medical facilities to help stay in touch with the ever-changing medical administration field. Some of the courses that she teaches change constantly, and she says this helps her keep up with these changes, to help ensure that her students are receiving the best possible training she can provide.

She says that her colleagues and students have made her feel very welcome and comfortable, and gives her students a lot of the credit for her success and theirs.

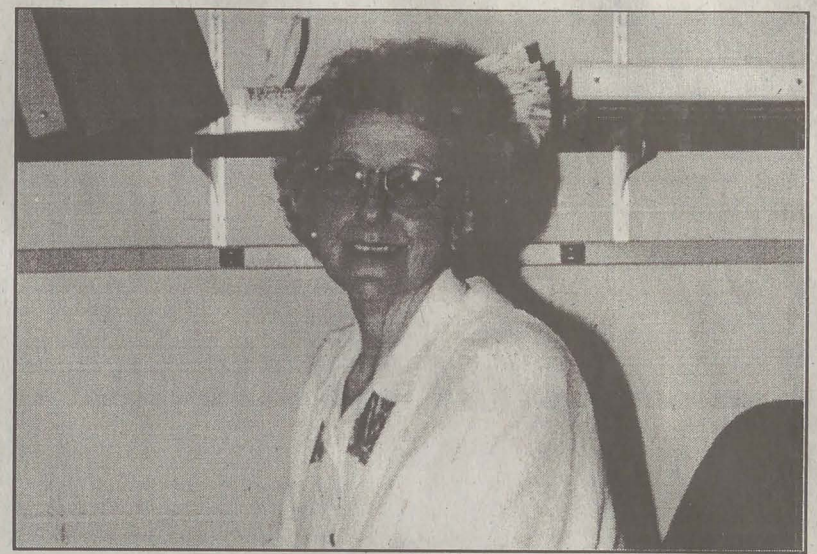
Putkamer was born and raised in Alpena, and in 1978 she received an associate of commerce degree from ACC. She then relocated to the Lansing area where she attended Lansing Community College and obtained her medical assistant's certification.

Then in 1991, after completing Ferris State University's medical record administration program, she returned to Alpena to be closer to her family.

Putkamer said that returning to Alpena had been a difficult transition, explaining that

it was due to the difference of living in a city compared to living in a small town. She stated that it had nothing to do with the natural beauty that Alpena has; instead it revolved around the slower pace of life, things like less traffic, the lack of cultural diversity, and having anything you might want close at hand. All in all, she says she is very happy here and feels very welcome.

Putkamer is not married and doesn't have any children. In her spare time she enjoys doing crafts, going for nature walks, and in the winter she likes to cross country ski. While on her nature walks she likes to gather things to take back home and use on her crafts.



Carol Putkamer teaches courses in business and medical information systems at ACC.

Peasley shares experience with students

Kate Splitt
Staff Writer

Joining the Alpena Community College faculty this year as a full-time instructor is Cecilia Peasley. Mrs. Peasley teaches psychiatric nursing in the registered and licensed practical nursing programs. Psychiatric nursing teaches the prospective nurses the skills that enable them to cope with mental health clients.

Peasley was a graduate of a three-year nursing program and then went on to earn her bachelor's degree at Saginaw Valley State University. She then received her master's degree from Michigan State University.

She grew up in Lorraine, Ohio, and worked in several health facilities in the Cleveland area. She moved to Alpena in 1981 and in 1984 joined the staff of Alpena General Hospital. Although

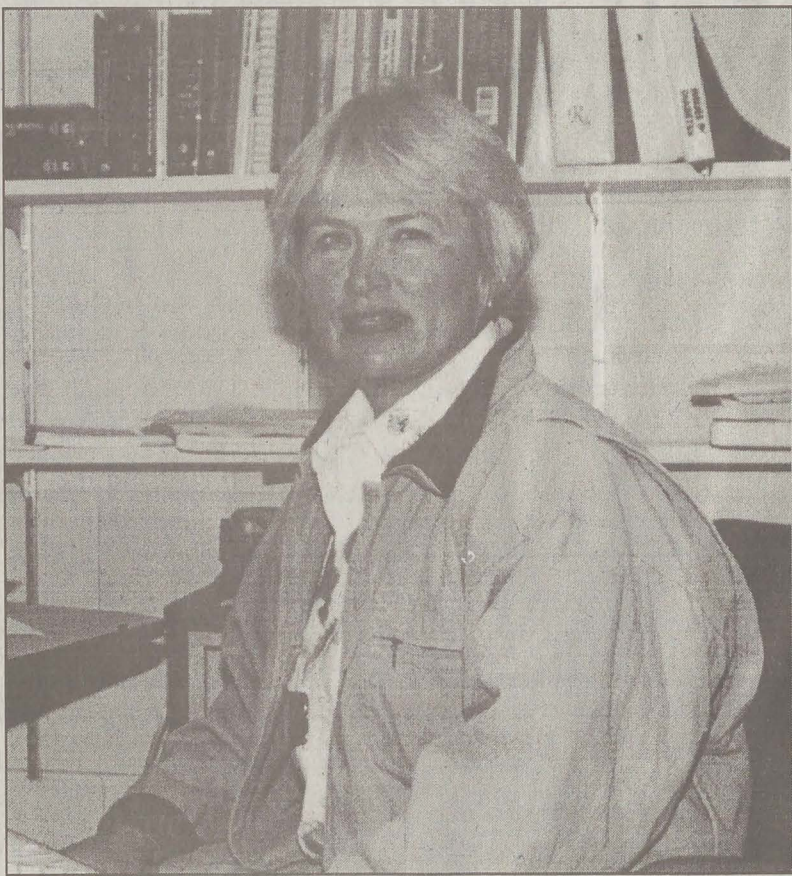
Peasley is new on the full-time staff at ACC, she has been a part-time instructor here since 1984.

Peasley and her husband have three children and live on a 200 acre farm. They own horses and enjoy riding. She also enjoys gardening and canning the food that she grows, but admits that she doesn't have as much time to enjoy these activities as she would like. She is a member of the League of Women Voters, 4H and an active member of her church.

Peasley is also employed by Thunder Bay Community Health Services in Hillman as a nurse practitioner and treats patients in Atlanta, Hillman, and Rogers City.

Her goal as an educator is to bring knowledge and experience to her students. "My goal is to stimulate the students so that they want to learn," she says.

According to Peasley, the focus of nursing is learning to evolve. Because of rapidly changing medical technology, nurses need to evolve with that technology. "Flexibility is the key to survival," says Peasley. "I try to teach my students to take advantage of everything that they can learn and then grow from that experience. Nurses have to be mobile and flexible."



Cecilia Peasley brings clinical experience to her classes in practical nursing.

McIntyre heads Huron Shores Campus

Melinda Yax
Staff Writer

There is a new face replacing Gene Edwards in the Director's office at the Huron Shores Campus in Oscoda. Her name is Dawn McIntyre, and her aim is education.

However, McIntyre isn't new to the ways of ACC at all. Before taking on the responsibility of Campus director, McIntyre graduated from ACC with her associate degree in Art in 1987, and has been an instructor at the HUSH (Huron Shores Campus) since 1991, teaching computer and business math classes. She has also been a secretary at Oscoda High School since 1990. Then in 1997, McIntyre obtained her master's degree in Business Administration from Lake Superior University. Talk about busy!

Why did she want the position? McIntyre said that she enjoyed teaching at the campus, and the staff is just like family to her. She figured why not take on a new challenge. She also said that she would like to see more classes offered at the HUSH. To accomplish this goal, the second Friday of every month there will be a meeting held in Oscoda, at the Huron Shores campus. McIntyre and staff will be there. She strongly encourages students to take part in

these meetings, and express what classes they would like to see offered in Oscoda.

Even though the student enrollment numbers have decreased dramatically from approximately 800 to 230 since the closing of Wurtsmith Air force base in 1993, McIntyre still feels Oscoda is the perfect location for the Campus to be. She understands that many of the students, like herself, attend HUSH because they are not ready to leave the small town atmosphere, or cannot afford to go running off to

an overwhelming university just yet.

What exactly does the director do on a normal day? McIntyre answered that there is a wide span of tasks in a normal day at the office for her. She is everything from the postman to a guidance counselor for students. However, she is still very happy with her occupation, and her co-workers. She said that "ACC is a good place for students to start their college education, and offers a great educational program."

"ACC is a good place for students to start their college education and offers a great educational program."

Dawn McIntyre,
Huron Shores Campus Director

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