

Ben There offers back to school advice

"Don't make the same mistakes I did," is a statement that we've all heard before. Parents say it. Aunts, uncles, neighbors, even older brothers and sisters sometimes say it. Although well meaning, we often greet this advice with a "yah, yah, you don't know how things are now" kind of attitude. Well, as a 35-year-old student returning to college to finish my bachelor's degree, I hate to say it again, but I've been there, and don't make the same mistakes I did!

1. Choose a major that you feel passionate about and can envision yourself working happily in that field - not a career field that your parents or other well wishers want for you. Remember that you're the one who has to live it. (My parents wanted me to take business courses and go into sales. I should have known it wasn't for me - I had always sold the least amount of candy bars during school fundraisers!)
2. Try not to change your major often! You'll end up with many, many credits but not the right ones for any one degree. (I changed mine three times and have over 150 credits!)
3. Try not to change colleges too often either. Classes don't often transfer - see number two! If you do want to transfer, check with both colleges to make sure you are taking classes that will be transferable. (I've been to five different colleges!)
4. Do not get married and have a baby/babies thinking, "Oh, I'll finish later." Believe me, it's much easier and more enjoyable to attend classes and study without the pressures of raising a family. Instead of worrying about your next test, you'll be worrying about finding a babysitter and buying diapers on the way home from school! (That reminds me, I have to buy milk and bread on the way home today!)
5. Talk to your professors. If you're struggling, tell them. If you feel like you can't handle it, tell them. If you have a question, ask them. They're caring professionals who have been there too and they want you to succeed. (I used to fear my professors - scary!)
6. Live to achieve your goals, not to party! Doing well in school should be your main concern not seeing how many beers you can drink each weekend! There's a lot of time ahead for your social life - now is the time for all good men (and women) to study. (To this day I am embarrassed by my freshman year GPA because of too much partying. Remember, your transcripts will be with you for the rest of your life!)
7. **Don't quit!** If you do quit, you'll regret it forever! Hang in there - dig your heels in, tough it out, and as Nike says, "Just do it!" What are the alternatives? Work in a job for minimum wage and hope to work your way up? (Do you want to be my age when you graduate?)

So, as you begin this new school year remember that hard work equals success and keep your eyes on the prize - graduation day! Don't forget, the sooner you graduate the sooner you can move out of your parents' house and begin a career and a life you can be proud of!

Wishing you all A's and homework-free weekends,

Ben There

* If you'd like further advice from Ben There, e-mail your questions to:

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New Faces at ACC: Bazzett wants to make English "more bearable" for her students

By Maggie Carps
Staff Writer

Denise Bazzett, a new English teacher here at ACC, comes with a lot of experience from all sorts of places.

Originally from Traverse City, Bazzett has done most of her schooling and volunteer work near Lansing. Between 1991-96, Bazzett taught writing at Michigan State University, worked at a battered women's shelter, and even sat in fields and taught Mexican field workers to speak English

with only one book.

These experiences have taught Bazzett about different cultures and

kinds of oppression.

After all these adventures, Bazzett comes to ACC to educate students

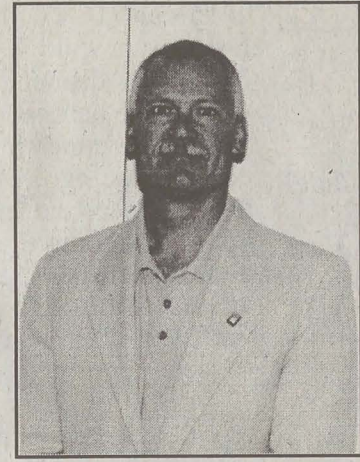
and maybe make English/Writing class "more bearable" for students who don't like it.

Bazzett (who tells her students to call her Denise) started her education at Northern Michigan College and transferred to Central Michigan University for her bachelor's degree. She earned her master's from MSU in 1992.

Bazzett thinks that teaching is challenging and knowing that a student has learned something is rewarding. "Satisfaction comes from my students' success," says Bazzett.



Denise Bazzett



Dr. Philip Jordan

... and Alpena community leader Dr. Jordan named Educational Talent Search advisor

By Seon Clarke
Staff Writer

Dr. Philip Jordan joined the ACC faculty in August as career advisor in Educational Talent Search, replacing Mickey Strong, who retired. Educational Talent Search is a fully scholarship program of the U.S. Department of Education which urges students to be more successful in schools, and to pursue post-secondary opportunities.

According to Dr. Jordan, his main reason for coming to ACC is that he likes communicating and being around young people and children. He passes along this advice to freshman, and other college level students:

"Be patient! Going to college takes a lot of work and time. You don't see the results of that quickly. It takes patience to go through all the work. To miss your family and borrow money without seeing the result. That's difficult. So just be patient. It's worth it. You'll finally realize that."

Dr. Jordan was born on August 9, 1950. He is from Alpena, Michigan. He loves Alpena and likes snowshoeing. His wife, Christy, and he have two sons, Nate and Ben. Nate is 25, and Ben is 22 years old.

Jordan has been active in the community for a number of years. For more than two decades, he was a Lutheran minister. He was president of the Alpena Rotary club between 1997-98. Rotary is a service club

that helps people in communities and throughout the world. During Jordan's tenure as president, one of the Alpena Rotary club's more successful projects was the restoration of Island Mill Park, located downstream from the Ninth Avenue bridge.

From 1988 to 1992, he was on the school board of Alpena Public Schools, and was president in 1991-92.

Last year, Jordan and his wife volunteered as teachers in an Eastern European country known as Bratislava, Slovakia. They taught British Literature and African Literature to high school and college students. Among the lessons he learned from his experience abroad was that while communism has some positive benefits for the people, they didn't outweigh the negative. He said he also learned more about his culture by seeing it through the eyes of his students.

Dr. Jordan majored in Theology throughout his college years. He received his associate's degree from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan; earned his bachelor's of arts from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and obtained his master's of divinity from Christ Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his doctorate from the Graduate Theological Foundation of Notre Dame.

Jordan has been a Lutheran for 46 years. He was a pastor for 22 years, up until last year.

For more information, visit Educational Talent Search at Besser Tech 108 or call 356-9021 extension 328.

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