

Steinman to advise the Polemic spring 2000

By Lora Bauer
Staff Writer

As the season changes and brings in a new semester so does the Polemic. Colleen Steinman will be stepping into the role of advisor for the Polemic this spring.

Steinman brings a lengthy journalistic background with her to ACC. In August 1989 Steinman graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Then, in 1999 she earned her Master of Arts in English with emphasis on Professional Writing from Western Michigan University.

While an undergraduate student, Steinman was employed as a reporter and section editor for The State News, MSU's daily newspaper. In addition, she fulfilled professional internships at the Grand Rapids Press and the Battle Creek Enquirer.

After college, she was a night police reporter for the Lansing State Journal, a freelance reporter for the Traverse City Record Eagle and shared responsibility for publishing a monthly trade magazine Enterprise.

Most recently, Steinman has been teaching composition and literature at community colleges around Michigan as her husband's career advanced and his promotions moved the family. Married for ten years to her husband Paul, she has one son named Ethan, who is eight years old.



Photo by Lora Bauer

Colleen Steinman (right) works with Co-Editor Heidi Skuse on a story for the Polemic.

Steinman and her family moved to Alpena, from the Kalamazoo area so her husband could accept a promotion. It turned out that ACC had a need for part-time instructors as well. Working as an adjunct has both pros and cons, Steinman remarked.

"As a part-time instructor I am not here day in and day out, but it does allow me to focus on the Polemic," she said. "I am excited for the opportunity, but am a little leery as an adjunct instructor. It's tough to be plugged into a system."

Part-time instructors' contracts are considered each semester and renewed based on past performance and need, which can be a intimidating position to hold.

So far Steinman is enjoying her new life in the community and at ACC.

"Alpena has a lot of pluses," she said. "It's a small town, very friendly. Its educational support is phenomenal both in the public schools and at the higher education level. The down side is that I miss shopping."

This semester, Steinman and Don MacMaster, the previous Polemic advisor, acted as co-advisors for the paper. Along with teaching English

253 Newswriting, Steinman also taught two sections of English 111 while MacMaster taught the first semester of journalism English 125.

"It's been wonderful to have this transition period because there has been sharing of responsibility," Steinman said. "I had someone to guide me through to learn how it all works."

Steinman's teaching philosophy tends to be student directed. She asks herself how she as a teacher can best serve the students and meet their learning needs. She encourages students to take risks when writing and to have confidence in their abilities and knowledge. Steinman wants students to feel comfortable expressing their ideas in the classroom.

"If you don't make mistakes, you never learn anything new," she said.

Steinman has two main goals for next semester: increasing student involvement and incorporating additional available technology to produce the paper.

Steinman is anxious for spring semester. She anticipates an exciting new era in her career and is ready to grasp it with energy and enthusiasm.

ACC students thank scholarship donors

By Seon Clarke
Staff Writer

The ACC foundation launched its third annual Donor Recipient activity in the Besser Technical Center lobby on Thursday, November 11. ACC President Dr. Don L. Newport was the chairperson for this event. He introduced some prominent people that are attached to the ACC Foundation as well as the college itself. Among them were the vice president of ACC Foundation, Christopher B. McCoy, Roger Bauer, chairperson for the ACC Board of Trustees, and dean of student affairs, Max Lindsay.

McCoy remarked that the mission of the foundation is to seek financial support from private sources to provide scholarships for the the students at ACC.

The foundation currently has 33 endowment scholarships. Endowed scholarships are scholarships where a gift is given, the gift is invested, and only five percent of this gift and its interest is given as scholarship; that way the fund is there to give a scholarship or perpetuity. Endowed scholarships provide \$87,000 per year in scholarship funds.

The foundation also has 30 pass-through scholarships, gifts that are not invested but rather pass through to the student's account. Pass through scholarships provide \$15,000 per year in scholarship funds, and five new scholarships per year. McCoy also remarked in his closing presentation that you should give until it feels good, in that he knows that the donors feel good about what they've done and the foundation certain feels good and appreciates the contribution.

Foundation Executive Director Catherine Rogg then introduced ACC scholarship students to their donors. Among them Student Senate President Jessica Brege, the Edward Adams Memorial Scholarship; Seon Clarke, the Marie Sexsmith Griffin Scholarship; Jocelyn Haske, the ACC Faculty Council Scholarship; and Chris Tanks, the Edward Adams Memorial Scholarship; plus other recipients and donors.

ACC freshman Jocelyn Haske said that she went through the booklet and choose a few scholarships she thought she was eligible for, applied, and a few days later she received the scholarship in the mail.

"I need the scholarship and it really helped," Haske said. "It definitely was a good opportunity."

As the recipient of the Marie Sexsmith Griffin Scholarship, I was interested in meeting the donor that has helped me out so much. Unfortunately, Mrs. Sexsmith Griffin recently passed away. With the assistance of the foundation, I was able to speak with her daughter, Dr. Patricia Griffin, and learn something about this donor.

According to Dr. Griffin, her mom's dad had grown up in Alpena, and her mom's dad would take her mom to visit her grandparents in the summer. Throughout the years, she still had relatives living in Alpena. So her mom had felt a connection to Alpena, and this was one of the reasons her mom opened a scholarship at the ACC Foundation in her name.

The other reason, according to Dr. Griffin, was her mom was a strong believer in education. It brought her great satisfaction that she was able



Catherine Rogg

to provide an opportunity for someone to benefit from a community college, just as she did 65 years ago.

Marie Sexsmith Griffin was born in Flint, Michigan on June 2, 1914, the daughter of Walter and Elda Evans Sexsmith. She was a life-long resident of Flint and Grand Blanc, Michigan, and retired to Scottsdale, Arizona. Surviving are her daughter, Dr. Patricia Griffin of San Mateo, California; sons Walter and wife Britany, and Richard, all of Grand Blanc; and grandsons Adam and Grant Griffin.

According to Rogg, Mrs. Griffin died on August 10, 1999. Two years earlier, Mrs. Griffin had established the scholarship in her name and insured that an additional gift of \$10,000 was made at the time she passed away. This endowment fund provides an annual scholarship of \$750 to \$1,000 (2000-2001) to students who are working toward an associate's degree with the intention of pursuing a four year degree in their field of study.

I think all recipients should be grateful to the donors and the ACC foundation and other organizations that make this possible. I thank my donor deeply and sincerely for her kindness.

Though she is not here to read these few lines, I know her children will be able to and will be proud to know that they had a great mom. She is a hero in other's sight because she has paved a way for others to follow through this exemplary deed.

LESSARD cont. from Page 3
coached track and cross country.

Lessard had an interest in running and ran in two marathons. During his 22-year stay at Rogers City High School, he returned to CMU and received his master's degree in guidance and counseling.

In 1990, Lessard left Rogers City to attend the University of Michigan. He received his doctorate there and also taught freshman composition. But teaching in a big college was not for him.

"I didn't like it," he says. "That's like one extreme to the other. They only take the top three percent, so you get the

best and the brightest and the wealthiest. They had so much going for them."

Lessard left U of M and began teaching at ACC in the fall of 1992.

"I also taught off-campus courses in things like team management, self-managed work teams, problem solving, communication classes," Lessard said.

According to one of Lessard's colleagues here at school, he is also a great actor.

"You haven't lived until you have seen him on stage," said Sonya Titus. "He appeared in the first fundraiser that we had for scholarships for drama students. He played the most

incredibly wonderful villain. The production was a series of scenes and songs. He appeared in a melodrama and he also directed the melodrama. I won't say that it was the highlight of the show, 'cause I was in it, too, but it was certainly one of the special moments of that show."

Titus thinks highly of Lessard as an educator as well.

"I have great respect for his teaching abilities and his knowledge of the field," she said. "I also admire his creativity and I enjoy his very dry sense of humor."

Won't Lessard miss all of this?

"The only thing I've ever had trouble with was being bored," he said. "I'm not the least worried about being

bored. I've got a lot of things that I like to do. I haven't run in the last couple of years and I may start again.

"After spending 35 years trying to motivate others, I'm having trouble motivating myself. I've had a good ride here

at ACC and I'm grateful for the opportunity. I'd like to leave with a positive attitude.

"Do you want to know what I'm the proudest of in my career? In 35 years I haven't lost my keys."

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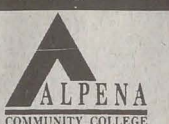
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