

## WCCT Expands Enrollment, Reputation Beyond Alpena

**H. APRIL WATSON**  
*Staff Writer*

Enrollment is up at the World Center of Concrete Technology (WCCT) this semester. Instructor Bob Eller says this is because they are starting to get better known outside the Michigan area.

He adds, "A vast majority of students, [who are in the program,] are there because of another student." Eller thinks this is good but unless they get more assistance, as far as faculty, they really cannot handle any more students.

He states that it is hard to find adjunct faculty because of the "uniqueness of what a person has to know."

The job placement rate after graduating from the two-year concrete tech program is exceptional. With an average of 20 to 25 graduates per year, there are about 200 job openings for them. That's 6 to 10 job offers from across the country for each graduate. Some companies have standing job openings for ACC Concrete Tech graduates. In-

terviews have already begun here on campus for the spring graduates.

In order to help insure success after graduating from the two-year concrete tech program a combined class project was done to give the students the hands-on opportunity and experience to test concrete on sight. The result is a new sign and a couple of new concrete picnic tables in front of the concrete tech building.

In addition to the two-year program, companies from

all over pay to come here to do special projects and tests to see if their new ideas will work.

This year's Block maker's Class is going slower than expected due to the events of September 11th; however, this is expected to change. Development of an interactive CD on concrete technology is in the making. This CD will be for employers; it would show how to use our facilities here, and to help recruit graduating high school students. The plan is for it to

have a video game-like concept.

Some of WCCT's coming events include:

**February** - Cemex will be here. Cemex, formerly Mexican Cement, bought a company called Southdown. They are bringing some of their tech service people here for a four-day school. Two of the people coming are past ACC graduates. Their objective is to show them what we have to offer here.

**March** - Con/Agg Show in Vegas. Bob Eller and Kevin Sylvester will be

the ones primarily running the booth they have reserved at the Con/Agg (Concrete/Aggregate) Show in Las Vegas.

**April** - First Annual Concrete Reunion. Past graduates from ACC's Concrete Tech Program will be invited to a fun barbeque and see what's new and different here at WCCT. The purpose is to encourage the past grads to be supportive of the program by helping with recruiting, hiring, and financing. For more information you may contact Bob Eller at 358-7220.

## Vegetarians Encounter Difficulties in Fight to Beat the Meat Addiction

**BEN PADUA**  
*Staff Writer*

It is hard to escape the fact that most Americans are plant-rights activists, as opposed to animal-rights activists. The world has conditioned us to think that eating other living things is a necessary human function.

Vegetarians, people who don't eat meat, are often left with little food choices, especially in a town this small.

While I myself enjoy a juicy T-bone now and again, I attempt to make meat consumption a once-a-day habit, if even that much. And unfortunately, most of the world's plant-rights activists don't realize the repercussions that meat and dairy addiction has on your health, the environment, and our fellow living creatures.

The main problem lies in factory farms. Every year in

the U.S., more than 25 billion animals are slaughtered for food. Before they wind up between a bun with fries, they live in crowded, disease-ridden conditions where they can't even turn around. The only fresh air they get is during the ride to the slaughterhouse, always without food and water. When they get there, the animals are hung upside down and sliced open, all while fully conscious.

In addition to these gory details, raising animals for food requires more than half of America's water and at the same time is its biggest polluter. People who eat meat are 40% more likely to get cancer, and an increased risk for heart disease, stroke, obesity, arthritis, diabetes, and food poisoning among other things. Meat also contains up to 14 times more pesticides and

chemicals than plant foods.

So after reading this, you're a vegetarian now, right?



For me it's not that easy. While the mayhem of the meatpacking industry is unnecessary, I am a firm believer in the existence of a food chain. But a lot of our meat addiction has to do with convenience. By convenience, I'm talking about fast food.

Sometimes it's your only choice, especially on road trips where our neighboring



towns don't have vegetarian diners.

As of September 13<sup>th</sup>, the animal-rights organization, PETA, got McDonalds, Wendy's, and Burger King to agree to follow certain animal welfare commitments in their corpo-

rate slaughterhouses. Some of these basic guidelines were more living space for animals as well as unannounced inspections of slaughterhouses. This was actually a good public relations move for the fast food giants, even though they won't admit that PETA influenced them at all.

The question in my mind was "why doesn't PETA just opt to shut them down?" But they won't do that, because they realize that our meat addiction recovery is a slow process. In turn, all places must make it more convenient for vegetarians. A lot of area food markets are attempting to cater to vegetarians by carrying non-meat chicken, beef, and sausages, as well as tofu and alternative dairy products.

I've tried becoming vegetarian many times. While I like vegetables, I still

enjoy meat, so I just stopped trying.

English instructor Denise Bazzett, who grew up in a hunting/farming family, is now a vegetarian. A good way to test your meat addiction, as she brought up to me, is to kill your meat naturally: go hunting. If you can kill it, you can eat it. If you can't, then it's still your choice.

If you're still not convinced, go to [www.peta.org](http://www.peta.org) and watch some of the slaughterhouse videos they have available. If you enjoy *Faces of Death* videos, you'll enjoy these. Some other good sites for plant-rights activists are [www.factoryfarming.com](http://www.factoryfarming.com) and [www.eatthewholes.com](http://www.eatthewholes.com).

Someday, I hope I can put my convenience behind me, but right now, being a broke college student, I'm just waiting for Big Mac Monday.

## Student Calls for Diversity in ACC Staff, Students Alike

**JOSHUA KUMRITS**  
*Staff Writer*

This year, ACC's students include many different cultures and ethnicities. We have Mexicans, African Americans, Latinos, and even some from Germany, Bosnia, and Slovakia. Does the college faculty have enough diversity to properly support and represent our student body, or is there room for improvement?

ACC is home to a faculty full of caring individuals. Our faculty works hard to make this college a unique place. They do a great job of providing students with all different types of resources and learning opportunities here on campus. But when it comes to representing our students and their cultures, how equipped is our faculty, and how effectively are they doing their jobs?

While interviewing Miss Bazzett, an English

professor here at ACC, we had a chance to talk about faculty representation. She shared an interesting theory: "Our student's cultural diversity and the different minority groups should be equally represented in the college's full time staff."

For example, if 6% of our student body were African American, than about 6% of our full time staff would be African American. In our situation, we would have African American teachers, Spanish or Latino teachers, and maybe some European teachers.

The idea is to have people on staff that can directly relate to different cultural backgrounds. It also allows students to feel more comfortable knowing there are mentors who understand where they are coming from.

Step back for a

moment and ask yourself: what is the overall purpose of a college or educational institution? Bazzett commented on how education is supposed to broaden student's perspectives on the world and its many cultures but more importantly to bring those cultural perspectives into the classroom. And we do this through staff and students.

Jesse Christopherson is a 19-year-old sophomore majoring in Engineering. He was born and raised in Alpena, Mi. He shared how Alpena is a predominantly white community with relatively few minority groups living here.

"All though there are a few, for the most part, kids grow up here and have little interaction with a variety of different cultures. In Alpena, people don't get exposed to different viewpoints, ideas, and approaches that come with having a culturally diverse

faculty."

Many kids who grow up in Northern Michigan, and attend ACC, will likely be transferring to a bigger school down state or even out of state. The fact is, in a school like U of M, there are huge amounts of students from all over the world. This means a students body full of different backgrounds, lifestyles, ways of doing things, languages, and ways of living life. Having a culturally diverse faculty here at ACC would help students become aware of all together.

Lacking diversity in school has an effect on students transferring from larger cities, or from areas with more diverse populations. Two African American students were able to share their thoughts and feelings on the issue at hand.

Matt Harrington is from River Rouge, Mi. He's

a freshman majoring in Electrical Apprenticing. Broderick Knight is from Detroit, Mi. He's a freshman majoring in Auto Engineering.

When asked what their initial reactions were after being here for a couple of weeks, Matt described it as being very different from back home.

"In River Rouge, the majority of people were African American, and then all of a sudden, there's not as many."

Broderick just thought of it as a whole new experience, something that would be completely different from back home. While chatting with these two, they shared how easy it is to see the surprise in people's eyes and facial expressions. Although there has been no real discrimination they've faced at school, they still notice

some people are still just a little hesitant at first, before saying hello or talking. It's almost like there's a natural pause at the time of initial contact. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. It's primarily due to the limited exposure and interaction most people have had with African Americans, here in Alpena and surrounding areas. It's still a rather new site to see African Americans at school.

Bobby Allen is the only African American on staff. He's the Men's Basketball Assistant Head Coach and is involved in helping students on and off the court. Matt commented that having a more diverse staff would provide teachers who would understand them in a more personal way.

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