

World Center for Concrete Technology: ACC Students Learn at One of the Best Facilities in the Nation

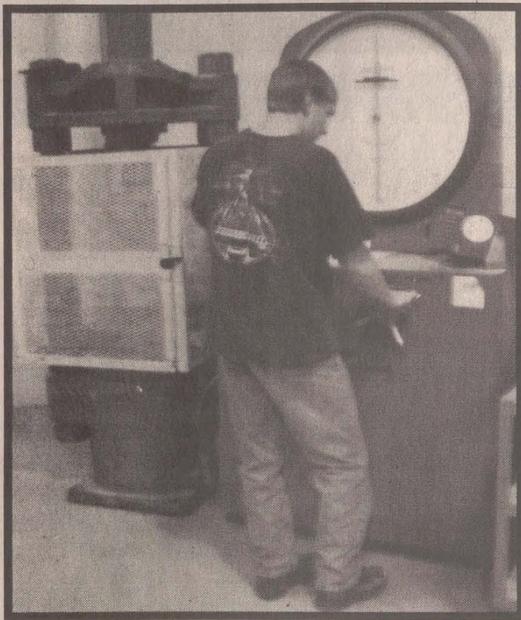


Photo by Sara Lyon

Nicholas Zdybel works on a concrete testing machine.

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The World Center for Concrete Technology offers an associate in applied science that is one of its kind in the nation. Many people may be unaware of how special this program is, and what it has to offer.

Students in the program have the opportunity to learn through a comprehensive curriculum that includes working on mechanical and electrical components that are exactly identical to the equipment in a company's facility.

The curriculum includes a great deal of hands-on technology. A combination of on the job training and traditional classroom time, give the students a great opportunity to learn while having a simulated work environment.

Started in 1966, the WCCT has been around for 36 years. It was only until August of 2000 that the new, \$8 million center was finished. Harris Hall furnishes WCCT students with a complete working model of a concrete production plant. This allows students to graduate with sufficient skills and training needed to make a transition, from classroom

to work environment, with little or no additional guidance.

Students also have the opportunity to help research various methods to continuously better concrete technology. In addition to helping inventors with new concrete products, students also assist in recycling waste materials into concrete.

Block-makers' Workshops are offered throughout the year for people who are already in the industry to advance their skills and help climb the corporate ladder to success. Also, when the employee returns to work, they can share the learned information and help other

employees in the plant.

The Concrete Technology Program at ACC has been hailed by many industries as number one in concrete education throughout the nation. "Students who graduate have 100% job placement rating from WCCT," said Jim Hayford, the Executive Director of WCCT.

"Students from all over the United States come to Alpena just for our program," Hayford also said. "There aren't many programs out there like ours. We focus on specialized areas. When a student graduates, job opportunities are everywhere."

Community College and University, Parallel Worlds

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Another difference between academic life at ACC and academic life at a university is the use of the syllabus. At a university, professors may only refer to the syllabus during the first week of classes. Students must remember to consult their syllabi for upcoming due dates of papers, quizzes, presentations, and exams. The professors will expect students to be prepared for all assignments, even when reminders are not given in class. On the other hand, most instructors at

ACC will remind students of approaching deadlines and will often give them time in class to work on assignments.

Student life outside classes is very different at a university than here at ACC. Universities have many organizations in which students can become involved. Students can join groups demonstrating their interests in: politics, academics, their future profession, religion, or their ethnic heritage, to name just a few. "At MSU there are numerous activities to be involved in, allowing students to individually tailor their level of

involvement in specific activities to improve their resumes," said Kyle Gobrogge, former ACC student and current Michigan State University student. Ellis said at SVSU there are after-hours events hosted by the university that provide alternatives to drinking. For instance, there is a rec center/game room open until 2 a.m. in which students may play games or use computers. Because of its smaller enrollment, ACC does not have the large number of extracurricular opportunities offered by a university, which leads

to "decreases in research opportunities and networking," said Gobrogge, but it does offer some organizations that students may join, such as Student Senate, the Bike and Boot Club, and Phi Theta Kappa.

Again, because of enrollment size, a university offers more cultural events that students may attend than does ACC. Events at a university may include: a poetry reading at a café, musical and theater productions, visiting art and historical museums, or taking a walk in the gardens. ACC, while small, does bring

many worthwhile cultural events to its campus: the Spotlight Series, theatrical productions, and concerts featuring the ACC Jazz Band, for example.

Tradition is a major aspect of university life. Waking up at 6 a.m. to go tailgating at football games and cheering your team to victory with the school's fight song are memories shared by current and past students of universities. "There's a lot more tradition at State," said a former ACC student and current Michigan State University student. Even though ACC is a smaller

school, it also has strong traditions. For instance, the events surrounding the annual homecoming: the games, the crowning of king and queen, and the dance.

Students transferring from a smaller college, like ACC, to a larger university will find many changes in their lives both academically, such as larger and more impersonal classes, and socially, like the availability of nearby concerts. For those of you planning to transfer to a university, remember that ACC is a stepping-stone to prepare you for those changes.

Meningitis Invades Student Living

KARA EUBANK
Features Editor

Meningitis strikes about 3,000 Americans and claims 300 lives every year. Out of these cases, 100-125 of them occur on college campuses.

Meningitis is the infection of fluid that surrounds the brain or a person's spinal cord. It is caused by a viral or bacterial infection.

Viral meningitis is less severe and usually follows an uneventful course. The bacterial meningitis can be life threatening. Although not highly contagious some forms of bacterial meningitis are. It can be spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions (coughing, kissing).

The Saint Mary's College Health and Wellness Services stated that college freshmen, those who live in dormitories are at higher risk for meningococcal disease than most people. College living

in behavioral and social aspects is a major factor.

Some symptoms include, high fever, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and discomfort looking at bright lights and sleepiness. Meningitis is often confused with the flu because the symptoms are very similar.

Students should seek medical care immediately if two or more symptoms occur at one time. The infection progresses quickly. If untreated, it can be fatal within hours of first symptoms.

There are vaccinations against meningitis. The vaccination can prevent against four strains of the disease that causes about 70% of the cases in the U.S. The vaccine is safe with mild and infrequent side effects.

Other ways to maximize your body's immune system is to eat a balanced diet, get rest and exercise. Also, avoid making a habit of sharing drinks and cigarettes.

Students and Staff Donate Their Time and Blood

Recently the Red Cross held a blood drive here on ACC's campus. The goal was to have 40 people donate blood. The total that showed up for the event was 51 and 45 were able to give blood.

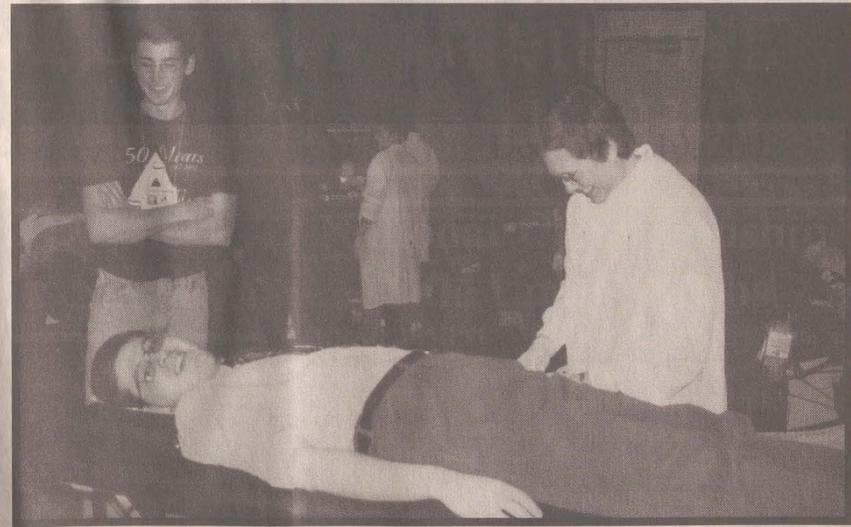


Photo by Israel Munsey

Dan Rothe, math instructor at ACC, entertains Red Cross staff, onlooker as he donates blood.

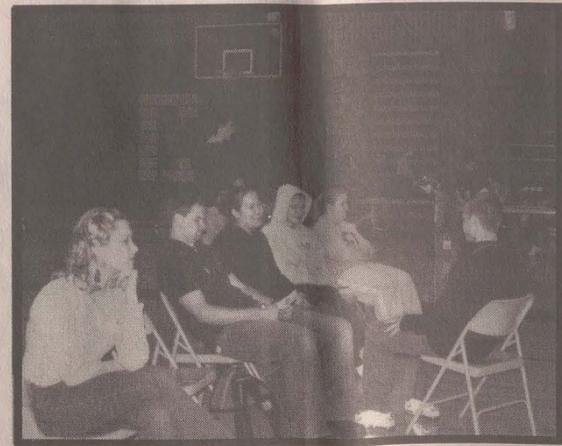


Photo by Israel Munsey

Student Senate President Jonathon Brege gives fellow students a few words of encouragement before donating blood.

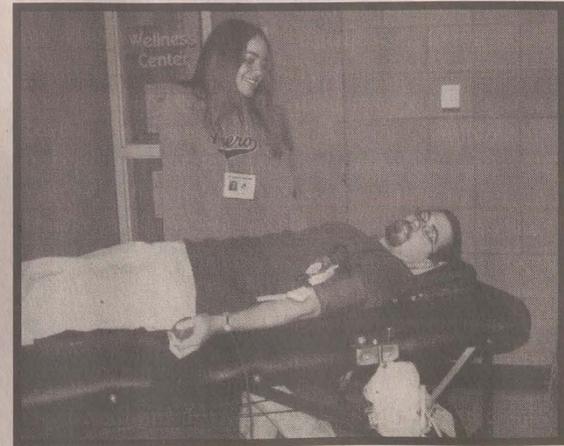


Photo courtesy Israel Munsey

Israel Munsey, feeling a little faint, gives a precious donation.