

ACC Students, Faculty Bid Mr. Phillips Final Farewell Phillips Leaves Lasting Impression on Students, Staff, and Community

NICOLE HATCH
Staff Writer

After thirty-one and a half years in the education profession, Mr. Phillips says goodbye to ACC as students and faculty bid him a final farewell. Teaching English composition and literature courses at ACC for the past 15 years has given Roger Phillips an extraordinary fondness for the college.

"The students are pleasant because they are products of a pleasant community. Staff and faculty are hard working and have a good sense of humor," said Phillips.

The variety of Phillips' teaching experiences has challenged him to grow and adapt throughout his career. It is through these experiences that he claims the re-

spect of staff, faculty and students. He leaves behind a lasting impact. His teaching career started with a full-time teaching position at Bentley College in Lavonia. However, within weeks, he and 267 other new teachers were pink-slipped. That is when he and his wife, Sue, headed north to Alpena, where he taught English, speech, and theater arts at Alpena High School for ten years.

The lay-off axe struck again, and following the infamous "Black Friday" semester, Phillips left Alpena Public Schools forever. He then arrived at ACC and greeted students with positive and effective teaching methods.

His teaching methods include a balanced mixture of teacher talk and student activity.

He gave individuals clear ex-

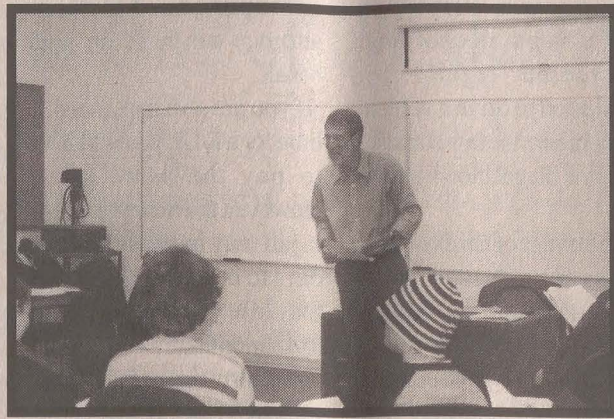


Photo by Sara Lyon

Mr. Phillips leans into an English Lecture.

pectations by teaching them how to think below the surface of things, more deeply than what popular culture encourages them to.

He also believes that teachers are only effective if students respond to their methods.

According to Kristen Pilarski, an ACC student, Mr. Phillips not only demands ex-

cellence of himself as a teacher, but he draws excellence from his students. Many students benefit from having a class with Mr. Phillips; he is a master of his subject.

Kelly Boldery, a current student of Phillips added, "he is very thorough in that he makes you want to achieve

more."

Mr. Phillips' intellectual knowledge has not only had a positive impact with the students, but with faculty also.

Nan Hall, who has worked with Phillips for many years, describes him as a hard working, funny, intelligent, kind, charming and loyal person.

"He is a good friend. He is such an asset to the department and his leaving is an extraordinary loss to this institution" Hall added.

Although Mr. Phillips is reluctant to give advice, he encourages new teachers to face students with confidence, but to stay humble, especially about methods.

"What works for one student may not work for another. Most of all, keep focused on students' long-term needs. Never cave into the temptation

to sacrifice their needs for your own popularity."

Mr. Phillips has been a very positive role model and it is surprising to some that he is retiring at all.

Ginger Davis commented that Mr. Phillips loves teaching and students love him so much that she thought he would be walking the halls of ACC forever.

When asked about what his plans are for retirement, Phillips says, "Well, at least for one week, I want to sleep in." He welcomes the break from those early sections.

He will have more time to devote to reading, wood-working, and his exercise regimen to stay fit.

Beyond that, who knows? He may just start another career. Good-bye, Mr. Phillips. You will truly be missed.

Good Samaritan's Act of Kindness Possibly Saved Stranger's Life



Photo by Sara Lyon

Lisa picks out a free sweatshirt, courtesy of the bookstore staff

RON LANCEWICZ
Staff Writer

Quick reactions by two ACC students and a friend may have saved someone's life recently. ACC students, Lisa Dahm and Ashley Yarrington, along with their friend Andy Groters, were on M-32 on their way to Gaylord from Alpena. At 1:30 a.m. on a mid October morning, they observed a truck that was traveling ahead of them at a high rate of speed. Suddenly the truck went off the road onto the gravel and lost control. The taillights disappeared

were two men involved in the accident and both were thrown from the vehicle. One was lying on the ground with head injuries, and the other was walking around with numerous cuts and a busted up knee. Dahm and her friends had a cell phone so they immediately called 911, reported the accident, and then they went back to the injured and asked how they could help. The man that was walking around had only a t-shirt on. Dahm offered her ACC sweatshirt that she had in her car to him. Meanwhile

the other man was covered with blankets.

The ambulance arrived and transported the injured to Alpena General Hospital. Several weeks after the accident, Dahm discovered that the man that was lying there with a head injury had a to be taken to a hospital in Saginaw and is still there receiving rehabilitative care. The other man that tore up his knee, had to have surgery, and is doing fine now.

Eventually Dahm returned to the ACC bookstore to purchase another sweatshirt, the staff that was working

that day asked what happened and when the incident was explained to them, they replaced her sweatshirt free of charge.

Dahm is from the Upper Peninsula and is a pitcher on the women's softball team here at ACC.

She is currently taking classes to be an elementary School teacher and is in the first semester of the program.

Yarrington is from Gaylord, an ACC student, and plays on the women's softball team as a catcher. Groter is Yarrington's boyfriend.

Alpena Feels the Wonder of Gift Giving

KATIE PIZZA
Staff Writer

This season, at some point between the holiday shopping and feasts, a thought should be given to the less fortunate..

Luckily, for those short of time and strapped for cash, there are ways to show the community that you care. To find an example, one does not have to venture off campus.

The Volunteer Center organizes an event called "Christmas Wish" every year for the holidays.

This event focuses on children and young adults that could possibly receive nothing for Christmas.

Names are taken from community schools and other areas. The young people are asked to create a small list of items that they would like to see

under the tree.

This list is put on file and those who wish to contribute can donate one or all of the items on the child's list.

The items are as varied as the children themselves, ranging from dolls to sports equipment and winter clothes.

The potential Santa can then purchase the gift that will be promptly wrapped and delivered to the child in need.

It is not just students that get involved with these charities; many local businesses are also feeling the Christmas spirit. The businesses contribute in "a big way" according to Katie Bruski, a volunteer coordinator from the Volunteer Center. They often donate because they may not have a program of their own, but still would like to help make a difference. Besides "Christmas

Wish," there are many other local charities that students can participate in.

One such charity is The Salvation Army, which collects both toys and food for those in need.

An example of these holiday collections is the Angel Tree. This tree is located in the Alpena Mall and is composed of the names and Christmas wishes of local children in need.

To participate in this program, all you need to do is purchase the gift from a local retailer and present it to one the Salvation Army offices, which are located in the mall and across the street from the mall.

The toys are then wrapped other Salvation Army branch.

These baskets are distributed at East Campus to needy families on the 20th of December.

The purpose of charities is to assist the less fortunate in the area.

"If young people know and understand the cause, they will support the cause," according to Major James Mungai, of the Salvation Army.

There are people in the community that need assistance year round, and the holiday season is a good time to be aware of and respond to this fact. There are many ways to show that you care this season.

Most of these ways are inexpensive and take little time, yet can brighten someone's holidays.

For information about "Christmas Wish," contact Katie Bruski or Elaine Rudolph at the Volunteer Center at 358-7335. To reach Major James Mungai of the Salvation Army call 358-2769.

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