

Fundraising Underway for *Pathways to the Future* Project

GLENN LENARD
Staff Writer

Alpena Community College's Board of Trustees has recently decided on expanding the campus. This new project is called Pathways to the Future, and includes two major paths: Laboratories for the Future, and Arts Alive at ACC.

Under the Laboratories for the Future section, there are three sub categories. The Natural and Biological Science Laboratories, Telecommunication Technology Laboratories, and Computer Technology Laboratories. With today's growing need for technology, the Board of Trustees finds that each of these areas is needed to help improve ACC.

As you may already know, ACC's science labs are located on the first and second floors of the Natural Resources Center, which was built in 1972.

Improvement through renovation in the Natural and Biological Science Laboratories, is essential to meet the needs of the students at ACC. New technology is available for our students and faculty, plus new furnishings and equipment will be incorporated into the lab spaces to offer students the best services possible to achieve their academic goals.

As Telecommunication providers are expanding their networks to respond to customer's needs and demands, Telecommunications is becoming one of the more rapidly changing industries in the economy, making training and understanding of this technology more and more important to local and regional industry. Once this area is complete, Alpena Community College will be the only college in Michigan to offer a two-year Associate Degree in

Applied Science of Telecommunication. This Degree will be offering both Technician-Outside and Inside Plant Operations. The new classes will be located in the Besser Technical Center where approximately 6,000 square feet of existing space will be renovated. This will develop into five indoor instructional laboratories for the new program.

Finding ways to incorporate Computer Technology is the key. Computers are becoming teaching tools in the classes such as Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Humanities, Fine Arts, Health Sciences and Industrial Technology, English and so on. The goal is to upgrade, centralize, and expand the ACC's computer laboratories. The college will renovate existing space within the Besser Technical Center and add 4,000 square feet with three 900 square foot computer laboratories, each of which

will have 26 personal computer stations, a centralized printer station and a projection system.

Currently, Alpena Community College's Fine Arts program is located about one mile down the road at East Campus. Before it became home to ACC's Fine Arts programs, the building held Alpena Catholic Central High, and then Central Junior High. The East Campus building is 50+ years old and presently inadequate due to mechanical limitations and handicapped accessibility issues. Providing adequate space for ACC's vibrant arts program would require extensive renovation to the building.

Alpena Community College's Board of Trustees have determined that it would be best to relocate the fine arts program to Alpena Community College's main campus in the former Graphic Arts Building.

Renovation and expansion of the Graphic Arts Building is required to provide various art courses here at Alpena Community College. This new 12,000 square foot Fine Arts facility will include: Sculpture studio, Drawing and painting studio, Design studio, Ceramics studio (with an accompanying kiln room, glazing area and appropriate storage areas), Photography studio (with darkroom, film processing areas and portrait studio), Visual imaging and other Art education.

Alpena Community College puts on two well known and well attended art shows each year, which attracts numerous people from all over. Improving the student's work area will help more students become successful in the Art field. Some places that ACC fine arts students have received scholarships to are; The Art Institute of Chicago, Center for Creative Studies, Kendall School of Design, Michigan State

University, Western Michigan University and Northern Michigan University.

Fundraising for the Pathways campaign began January 7, 2003. To date, 85% of Alpena Community College faculty and staff members have pledged financial support to the Pathways campaign, for a total of \$46,000. This amount will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 by a generous personal pledge from recently retired Alpena Community College president Dr. Donald L. Newport.

The Pathways to the Future Campaign funds raised is currently \$715,000. The total completion cost will be around \$3,500,000. If you wish to donate, or have questions contact about the fundraising Executive Director Penny Boldrey at 358-7297.

Tai Chi Instructor Brings Unique Opportunity to the Community

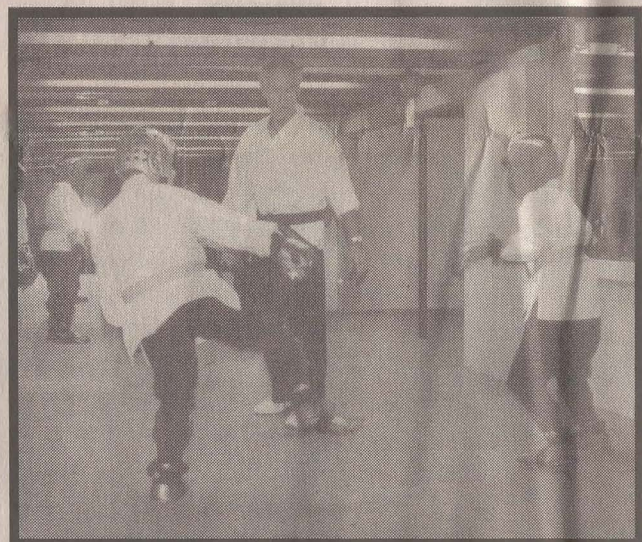
CONNIE IRLAND
Managing Editor

ACC Instructor Alan LaCross is teaching what he loves.

He received his first black belt in Japanese style Shoto Kan in 1964. He never advanced any higher in Shoto Kan because at the time he was a traveling musician. During his years with the band his interest in martial arts continued and he. He worked out where ever he could and gained experience in many forms of martial arts during his travels.

Then he took up Tang Soo Do, or "Way of the Chinese Hand," where he quickly advanced to a fourth degree black belt in 1973. Since then he has been teaching, and for the passed 20 years he has been certifying students through his own certification. This certification is recognized through the Asian American Fighting Federation. He holds a high standard for quality rather than variety.

He teaches Chi Kung to his Life Long Learners class of about 25 students. Chi Kung is a more of a holistic homeo-



Alan LaCross teaches sparring techniques to some of his young karate students. Classes are held in a studio inside LaCross's home.

pathic discipline something he taught at several hospitals while living in Nashville. LaCross said, "I was actually in on the ground floor of St. Thomas Hospital for their Integrated Medicine Center." There he taught Chi Kung and Tai Chi. Research is beginning to show the medical benefits to Tai Chi and Chi Kung. Some of these are lower blood pressure, heart rate, reduced stress, and strengthening the immune system as well as many other benefits. LaCross also said that a test group of seniors taking Tai Chi had 50% fewer

balance related accidents.

LaCross also expressed an interest in teaching advanced level classes as well as summer classes. Those who are interested in these possibilities should e-mail: acclumberjack@yahoo.com and we will pass on the information.

LaCross also teaches a variety of classes in a studio at his home. Some of these include Kickboxers' Workout Karate/Self-Defense, and Self-Defense Training. He offers these classes to college students at a reduced rate. For more information call: 354-5852.

ACC Student's Home Bombed

MATT GIBBONS
Staff Writer

January 7, 2004 Alpena tops the board for Crimestoppers when the home of an ACC student was firebombed.

Around 2:20 a.m. on New Years Eve, an unknown subject or subjects firebombed the house of a resident living on Tawas street in the 400block of Alpena. The bomb proceeded to set the house on fire, with a resident of the house receiving burns on his chest and on one of his arm, while putting out the fire. The resident was then brought to Alpena General Hospital where he was treated and released.

According to a statement from the Alpena Police Department, they are treating the incident as a "deliberate act." The Alpena Police Department is "taking this crime very seriously, with potential of additional property damage, personal injury or death being very high."

Anyone with information about is asked to contact the Alpena Police Department or Crimestoppers at 800-422-JAIL. There is a \$1000 dollar reward for information leading to an arrest.

Judy Beyer Retirement

(continued from Front)

As her time draws to a close at ACC, Beyer reflected on what one of her favorite parts of being at ACC. "I like the challenge of taking totally green people, and watching them struggle and then grow and develop into functioning nurses. That is one of the biggest rewards."

The thing she will miss the least? "Grading papers!" Beyer says with a laugh.

On top of taking the trip into the northeast upon retirement, Beyer plans to a lot more traveling. Along with her husband, she plans on traveling to China (hopefully this month), Mexico, and possibly a tour of Europe. "We would like to see as much as we can," Beyer notes.

Traveling is in Beyer's blood. Born to an Army sergeant, Beyer lived in many different areas in the United States. She even lived in Okinawa for a year

and a half.

In fact, when school starts in the fall of 2004, Beyer will be traveling in the northeastern part of the United States. There is a reason she will be traveling at that time of the years.

"It will probably be a bit of a let down (not being there for the start of the school year)," Beyer said. "All of a sudden I'll be done. That's why I'll travel when school starts."

Also, in her free time, Beyer hopes to get back to some of her favorite hobbies: sewing, crafts and arranging flowers.

It is still bittersweet for Beyer as she finishes her last couple of months at ACC. "I came in at the beginning of the program, and I see a lot of myself in the different programs we have now," said Beyer.

Beyer has touched the lives of many students hoping to make a difference in the world.

Phi Theta Kappa
is looking for new
members.
Contact Tom Ray for
more information.

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