

The Lumberjack

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

All of the news that affects the students at Alpena Community College

Pathways to the Future receives \$1.6 million boost

By Dominick Miller
Managing/Sports Editor

The future of Pathways to the Future just got a little bit brighter.

Alpena Community College recently learned, that as part of an executive order passed down by the Michigan House and Senate Appropriations Committee, ACC will be receiving planning grants leading to \$1.66 million as the state's match for the Pathways to the Future projects.

In a campus-wide e-mail, President Dr. Olin Joynton

thanked staff members and supporters of the school for their hard work and diligence in seeing the project through. He went on to thank Senator Tony Stamos and Rep. Matthew Gillard for their support to ACC on the school receiving the state award.

With the state's match, the Pathways to the Future project is now a \$3.3 million project.

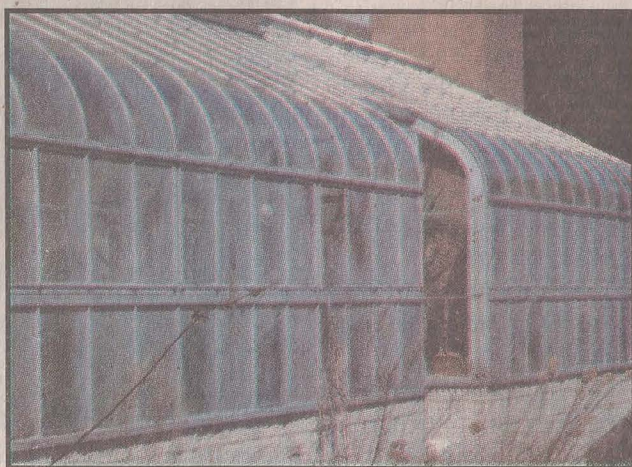
With the money secured, the question arises as to what to do in improving the school. Some of the ideas

suggested include a complete renovation of Van Lare Hall; changing the use of Van Lare Hall from a classroom setting to more of a discovery/theatre type use, or other developments; renovating and updating to various areas of campus, including the Natural Resource Center, to include more smartrooms, and updated signage, and improvements to landscaping; a co-operative agreement between ACC and Alpena Regional Medical Center; and Centers of Excellence

for specific programs such as utility technician or healthy professions.

Before any of those updates take place, Joynton said that he will be arranging meetings with college architect Paul Dickinson for faculty and staff members through the school so Dickinson can make working drawings.

Joynton hopes that improvements to the natural science lab will begin as soon as possible to cut down on any disruption to instruction.



The ACC Greenhouse. Natural Sciences are one area that will be updated by the Pathways to the Future (photo by Dom Miller).

Future Concrete Tech. grads travel to Detroit seeking future work

By Kara McDonald
Photo Editor

On Thursday, March 31, twenty May graduates of the ACC Concrete Tech. Program boarded a bus to Ford Field. This trip was sponsored by NTH Consultants Ltd. Of Detroit, who will be picking students from the group as possible future employees.

NTH conducted interviews with forty students earlier in the year, and narrowed them down to the twenty they will be presenting this opportunity to. NTH Consultants Ltd. was founded in 1968 and is a major infrastructure and environmental engineering

firm with six offices in Michigan and numerous nationwide. NTH provides many services in both design and construction needs.

Students departed at 3 p.m. Thursday to Detroit where they had a dinner reception on arrival with consultants from NTH. They were then provided with lodging for the night and the next day introduced to employment opportunities with NTH. Students were also able to talk with representatives about their individual branches. Many graduates will receive full-time jobs, and freshmen will also be provided with a summer co-op position.

Open Mic Night planned

By Angela Smith
Staff Writer

Interested in reading, listening and/or sharing poetry? If so, Open Mic Night is an evening you will not want to miss. Help celebrate National Poetry Month Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m. in the Alpena County Public Library.

Sponsored by the ACC Department of Art and Humanities, Open Mic Night is free to the public. The Academy of American Poets started National Poetry Month in 1996, in an effort to bring together poetry lovers, librarians, publishers, booksellers and schools. April was the chosen month because the academy wanted a month during the school year that schools could participate, and April was one of the few months during the school year without much else going on.

The purpose of National
Please see Open, page 2

INSIDE THE LUMBERJACK:

News:

Alcona Health Center is offering is offering the chance to have medical bills reduced. Interested? Look ahead to page 2.



A&E: Is *The Flight of the Phoenix* worth seeing? Nope. Find out why on page 7.

Sports:

The ACC men's basketball team was host to the Pied Piper Falcons in a charity game. Page 5.



The Last Word:

Alpena has a new tattoo artist. Check out some of his work, page 8.



Moving on up

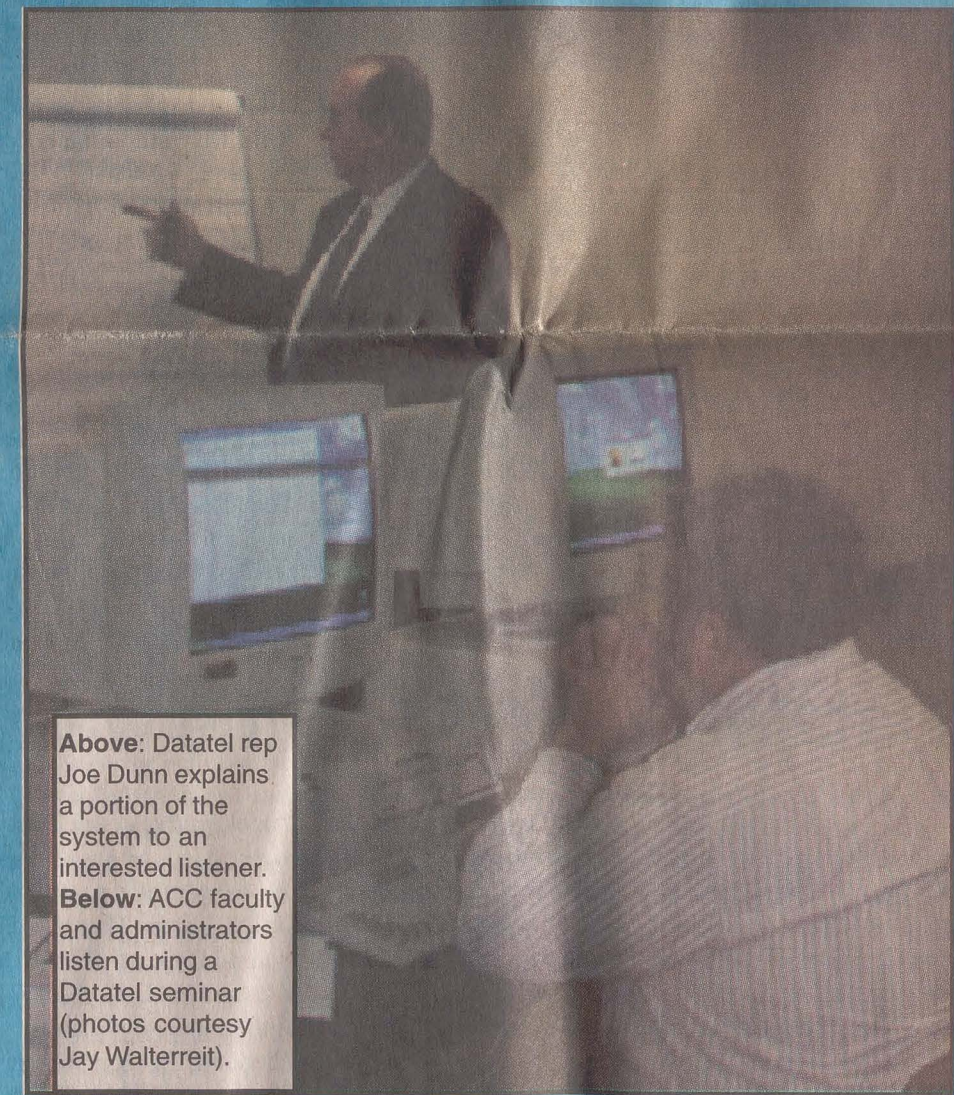
New Datatel system will benefit ACC students, faculty

By Dominick Miller
Managing/Sports Editor

Starting in April, 2006, students and faculty will undoubtedly notice a change for the better in the online services available at Alpena Community College.

After two years of researching and testing different programs, the ACC Board of Trustees finally approved the purchase of associated hardware and Datatel Colleague software during the fall of 2004.

As stated on the ACC website, the mission of the Datatel implementation project is to move, within time and budget constraints, to an integrated information system that supports the mission and goals of Alpena Community College. The goal of installing the new system is to replace the current Administrative/Student Information system and implement the new system that will increase college staff, faculty and



Above: Datatel rep Joe Dunn explains a portion of the system to an interested listener.

Below: ACC faculty and administrators listen during a Datatel seminar (photos courtesy Jay Walterreit).

student productivity, improve the college's recruiting and marketing efforts and greatly improve the accessibility of information.

Implementing the system will

take 16 months, as every staff member of the school will be taking part in courses designed to prepare them for use in the new system. Plus, the system is much more

advanced than the infrastructure that is currently at the school. The implementation began in December, and will continue throughout the year.

Some of the immediate benefits of having the new Datatel for students will include an online registration service, the ability to search for available classes online, the ability to audit program progress and identify requirements online, the ability to generate unofficial transcripts, the choice of making tuition payments online, plus enhanced communication, news and an improved online calendar.

The current system the school uses is a customized software package running on

Please see Datatel, page 2

