

Alumnus dissects teaching style

by Yvonne LaFave

Corienne Williams, the new instructor of ACC's Medical/Surgical course, hopes to use this position "to provide others with the opportunities that were given to me here at ACC."

Williams was born in Detroit, but has also lived in Texas and Puerto Rico, her father sold Ford cars internationally. Williams moved to Michigan in 1968, and she attended Alpena High.

Williams graduated from ACC's LPN program in 1982 and ACC's RN program in 1984. She also obtained a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. "I plan to get my Master's, but a shoulder injury has forced me to postpone those plans," says Williams.

Williams also worked at Alpena General Hospital and began "relief" teaching at ACC in 1986.

Williams says, "I began filling in when needed. I just fell into teaching. After Carol (Hart) retired, I was offered the position." Williams also feels she has now found her "niche", and points out that ACC has made her feel very welcome and at home.

Williams credits her husband with her success, "My supportive husband really helped me through the craziness of getting settled and adjusted."

Williams' shoulder prohibits her from returning to hospital nursing, but she finds teaching a challenge. She says, "I'm developing my own teaching style. I had some wonderful teachers when I attended ACC, so I hope to model my strategy after the strong points that helped me learn. I guess the LPN board tests will tell how effectively I've taught the course."



Williams models teaching style after strong points of teachers in her past.

Garlitz gives students the total picture

by Frank Krist

Ever wish your textbook had more and better pictures? Or that you could see the places and things your instructor is talking about so you could better understand them? I'm sure you have and you do not have to go to Michigan State or U of M to take a class that allows you to see everything the instructor is talking about. Russ Garlitz's Botany and Biology classes at ACC, with the use of 17,000 slides, give you a picture of what he and the text are talking about.

Garlitz is a veteran botanist. His specialty is the classification of rare grasses. He has three

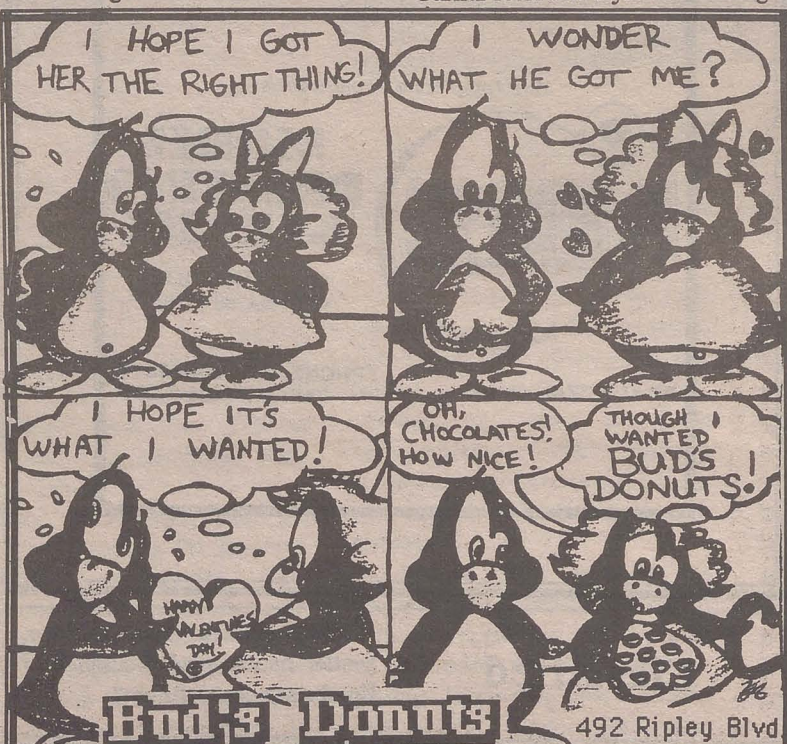
publications on this subject and several more in the making.

He is also working with Dr. Edward G. Voss at the University of Michigan on the Michigan Floral Project categorizing wildflowers in the state. So far, 25,000 varieties have been identified.

It all started 28 years ago when Garlitz first started teaching. After lecturing from the chalkboard for two years he felt his instruction was ineffective. Garlitz thought if he used slides instead of the chalkboard to communicate his ideas and the text, that the students would better understand them. Garlitz feels this style of lecturing

has been successful in better educating his students. He also mentioned that many instructors at Michigan State and U of M incorporate slides into their lectures. A main factor in the success of his lectures is that one of every eight slides shown are photocopy. (Garlitz supplements slides of diagrams, charts, etc. out of the class text, with slides of the actual thing.) Photocopy slides put the text right in front of the students and then it can be associated with the real thing. For example, Garlitz will show a slide of a diagram of moss from the text book. After discussing its labeled anatomy he will show several slides of actual moss in its surrounding habitats. This way the student is not left wondering what real moss is like because of lack of data supplied by the book. The slides also enable Garlitz to spend more time explaining his subject material, time normally spent on drawing and writing on the board.

There are setbacks for the instructor. It takes a great deal of time and money to take all the slides necessary, but Garlitz says he enjoyed taking most of them. Also a great deal of time is needed to prepare and load nearly 80 slides for each lecture. But Garlitz feels it is worth it because his students will get more out of the class. Garlitz says he will probably give most of his slides to his daughter who also plans to be a biology instructor.



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