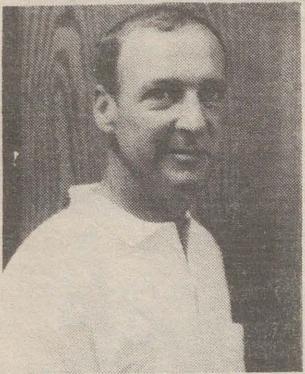


# ACC a great place for opportunity, success

There are a lot of good reasons why Alpena Community College is a great place to start ... or start again! Several current students and recent graduates offer the following thoughts.



**Joe Senchuck**

Looking back to three years ago, Joe Senchuck now says he had become "dormant" until the closing of the plant where he had worked for a number of years forced him to grow.

"I never realized my potential until I was forced to go back to school. Once you get the books open, it's a whole new world," Joe explains. Based on his own experience, he has some advice for those who may hesitate at the thought of attending classes or pursuing a new career.

"Don't fear the course work or titles; don't fear the equipment. They (instructors) talk and walk you through it until it becomes second nature."

Joe hadn't been inside a classroom since graduating from high school in 1963 and says he's grateful for the advice given by Dr. Curtis Davis, ACC's Dean of Academic Instruction and Student Services.

"He told me to 'lay a good, solid foundation.' I spent a year building the basework — English, algebra and some electives." He needed that base to be prepared for the two-year concrete technology associate degree program. Joe believes ACC is a great place for returning students like him to start again because the help needed to succeed is available.

**A**lpena Community College students Joe Senchuck, Laura Gouin, Ben Scheuner and Diana Lombard are pictured on the cover as they enjoy a visit outside the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center. While all chose ACC for a variety of reasons (see related story, this page), Laura and Ben agree that it's a great place to start your college education after high school. For Joe and Diana, ACC is a great place where they were able to start again when they found themselves having to prepare for new careers.

Like thousands of Northeast Michigan residents, these students find programs and services meet their needs at ACC. You can, too!

**Alpena Community College is a great place to start ... or start again!**

ACC's concrete tech program may be the only one of its kind in the country and graduates can be found nationwide working in all phases of the industry. Right now, Joe's favoring research or management. He points out that although he has sacrificed materially, "...not a nickel has been wasted. I've developed a new career offering the security of a growing field."

When he graduates next year, Joe will carry with him highly marketable concrete credentials and a well-deserved sense of accomplishment.

**Laura Gouin**



For Laura Gouin, Alpena Community College was a great place to start college after high school graduation in 1988.

"I wasn't really sure what I was going into. I was interested in business and accounting; from taking classes, I find that I enjoy them." Coming to ACC helped her decide on a course of study and after one year, she is transferring to Michigan State University with the goal of becoming a certified public accountant.

She says ACC was a "middle step" between high school and university work and she recommends it to "anyone who isn't yet sure what career to pursue as well as anyone interested in a program offered here."



**Ben Scheuner**

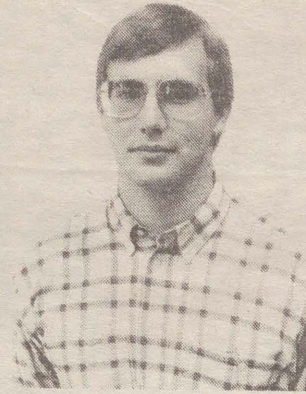
Ben Scheuner is a 1986 high school graduate who also needed some time to chart his career course. He knew that he wanted "a job that pays well," and that means additional education.

"ACC is affordable. I didn't want to go to a four-year university not knowing what to do; you lose money changing programs," Ben says. He has attended ACC both as a part-time and full-time student and has been able to get some work experience that has "helped clarify the type of job I DON'T want!"

Visits to ACC's Career Planning and Placement Office (Besser Technical Center Room 100) were also helpful, he adds. The computerized career exploration programs identified areas of interest and he has targeted the world of business.

Ben will complete an associate degree in general studies and transfer the basic course work to Ferris State University. He'll study business management.

**Lance Abbett**



Lance Abbett says he's well-qualified to talk about good reasons to attend ACC. The 1982 Alpena High School honors graduate tried a four-year school first and found it lacking.

"The biggest difference is in the attitude of instructors. Both care, but at four-year colleges, they can't reach out. Here, they're accessible. At the freshman and sophomore levels, four-year schools are in a process of weeding out students; at ACC, people want to help students succeed."

After working seven days a week for minimum wage and still not breaking even, Lance says he began to think about his future and looking for ways to improve his earning ability.

"It took me a while to wise up. Going to ACC was not about fun and games; it was to be able to make a living. I put a lot of effort into my classes here."

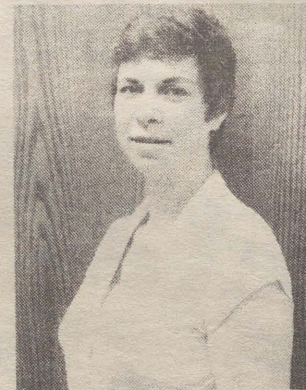
After earning an associate of arts degree in business management, cum laude, Lance stayed on for the pre-engineering program because he had found he really enjoyed math during his business courses.

"ACC provided a wide foundation on which to continue my education. Here I've taken business, engineering, math, computers, electronics — it's going to get me some place ... The opportunity is here for students to establish themselves and get started, to grow and to learn."

Lance completed a second associate degree in pre-engineering during spring semester and will pursue a bachelor's degree this fall at Michigan Technological University. He said that during admissions interviews, he found ACC's programs are "well-respected" at MTU.

After completing his studies, Lance intends to utilize his business and engineering background for a career in the aerospace industry.

**Diana Lombard**



When her husband died two years ago, Diana Lombard realized that she would have difficulty continuing the mental health-licensed foster care home they had operated together for nine years. And she had "always wanted to be a nurse."

Because of Alpena Community College and its nursing program, she'll be

able to realize a dream and have a secure future, too. But starting again was challenging for the 1961 high school graduate.

"I came back not knowing a thing about college. I've attended full time the last two years to get the classes I didn't have in high school to fill the prerequisites for the nursing program."

She finished the final prerequisite during summer semester and begins the Level I practical nursing program when fall classes start August 28.

Her recommendation for those considering returning to school after a long absence: Give yourself time to become familiar with the college, its programs and services. Ease in with just a few classes to learn how to study and adjust to your life as a college student.

"I know nursing is a demanding career, but I also knew that I didn't want to start from scratch after my husband died." So she started again, picking up on a lifelong interest along with her experience in foster care and adding nursing education available at her local community college.

Interest, experience, education — that's a winning combination for students of all ages!

**Julie Rouleau**



Julie Rouleau, like many Alpena Community College students, was enrolled part time to work on career advancement while holding down a full-time job.

She spent a lot of lunch hours and numerous evenings at ACC between 1980 and 1988. "Summa cum laude" distinction rewarded the hard work by which she earned a perfect 4.0 grade average and an associate degree in math and data processing.

During those eight years, she took just two semesters off — one each for the births of her two children.

Julie's broadened education has already proven valuable. Instead of being left jobless when a merger sent her employer's main frame computer operations downstate, the one-time computer programmer successfully transferred into an accounting department position. She's such a natural math whiz that one of her ACC instructors has encouraged her to consider teaching.

Julie says she'll probably look into that option when her children are a little older.

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