

## ACC News You Should Know



ACC Retirees Solve World's Problems



Face Your Sphere



ACC Bookstore Hidden Gem



Looking for Lumberjacks

## ACC All-Star Coffee Klatch



ACC Brain Trust

If you've ever visited Cabin Creek Coffee in Alpena on a Friday morning, you may have seen some familiar faces that remind you of your time as a Lumberjack.

For a decade, a group of ACC retirees has been meeting at Cabin Creek most Fridays to solve the world's problems over coffee, having first met as a group in the fall of 2010.

Coffee enthusiast Elbridge Dunckel, who taught at ACC for 32 years, says the group's name is the ACC Brain Trust, a claim that is at least partially supported by former instructor Rick Engstrom, though retired comptroller Tom Brindley and others claim the coffee klatch has no name.

Roger Phillips, whose career with ACC spans over 23 years, said, "My wife calls us 'The Lads,' which implies that only men show up. The group has always loved having new people show up, especially our women colleagues. Several have braved it over the years."

The group shares a loose affiliation with the ACC Retired Employees and generally consists of ACC Board of Trustees President John Briggs; retired ACC comptroller Tom Brindley; former instructors John McGill, Roger Phillips, Richard Lessard, Richard Engstrom, Charlie Rosebush, Richard Matteson, John McGill, Richard Clute, and Elbridge Dunckel; and retired ACC Dean of Student Affairs Max Lindsay.

Closeted in the meeting room within Cabin Creek Coffee, the men discuss myriad subjects, ranging from women to politics and religion—all the taboo cocktail chatter most safely discussed sober.

"The conversation and the camaraderie are unlike anything else in my life. We enjoy each other's company, I think. The conversation ranges from incidental to silly to newsy to profound, depending on who is there and what anyone of us wants to talk about," Phillips shares.

Max Lindsay says the relationships formed over coffee have proven to be even stronger than the ones formed while the retirees were at ACC.

"After working at ACC for 35 years, the idea of meeting for an hour or so with old colleagues seemed like a natural. I feel that I know many of the people in our group better now than when working at ACC. It is difficult to have a meaningful conversation with someone who spends their life in NRC teaching when I am trying to help students in Van Lare Hall!"

When COVID-19 put a stop to in-person meetings, the group moved their discussions to Zoom so the conversation could continue. Collectively, the men carry around hundreds of years of ACC history and memories, making for interesting, lively conversations. With so much in common, the Brain Trust has become close.

"We are a family. Some I love, some I admire, some I like, some I tolerate, some I occasionally abhor," said Dunckel.

Phillips acknowledges the differences that once may have distanced them from each other now draw them closer.

“The relationships we had as professional colleagues have matured in many ways. Since it’s a mixture of faculty, staff, and administration, it is interesting how any tensions which may have existed when working in sometimes adversarial roles matter little or none. One of our most stalwart members is a member of the Board of Trustees, for heaven’s sake,” Phillips says, speaking of John Briggs, Chairperson of the ACC Board of Trustees. “Everybody is on an equal footing: we’re all old, eager to have friends as we age, and more tolerant than ever of many of the differences we had and may even still have.”

What draws each member back, week after week, year after year? According to Phillips, it’s all about the conversation.

“Everybody still has their marbles! Everybody is still paying attention to what’s happening in civilization, and many are still avid readers. We have pretty full-throated conversations about provocative political, religious and social issues. We also like to talk about what’s happening at the college and in education in general. We are all quite different in our backgrounds and areas of expertise, but we also have a lot in common. I don’t think I can imagine another group of people I would enjoy being with any more than these.”

Lindsay cites the feeling the fellowship of the group provokes.

“I return because these are caring people who are thoughtful, good friends, and very funny. I very seldom leave a cabal without remembering laughter and good stories being shared. Our group is lucky to have Tom Brindley, who is our glue that holds the group together. Tom makes sure we Zoom each week now that the pandemic has stopped our in-person meetings.”

The brotherhood the group displays is indicative of ACC retired employees as a whole. Brindley notes that the retired employees of ACC are not just a force of institutional knowledge, but also a mighty fundraising source.

“The ACC Retired Employees raised over \$50,000 for Van Lare Hall and have endowed many scholarships,” he said.

The coffee group—and retired employees as a whole--doesn’t just still support the college with their money, though. When all is said and done, the common thread weaving the ACC coffee group together is the college and the people who have given it its identity since 1952. Phillips notes that the group keeps those former ACC employees and their family members alive in the group’s memory.

“Occasionally, we have had to reflect on the death of one of our numbers or a spouse or a child or a grandchild, all of which have occurred. Those are sad conversations, but they draw us together and deepen memories we have. They also give us opportunities to express empathy based on experiences we hadn’t previously known we shared. Our group sometimes is a memorial service, ex-officio.”

As long as there are ACC retirees, there will likely be a Friday morning coffee klatch. Around the table you’ll find a ready supply of hot takes, hot coffee, and, according to Phillips, some hot air.

“We all enjoy opining as experts about many subjects about which we know next to nothing. It’s creative and completely irresponsible, and we have no intention of reforming.”

Spoken like a true Lumberjack.

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## Facing Your Sphere



Global Collaboration Awareness

A project planned almost 45 years ago to carve a path through Alpena dotted with public art started at Alpena Community College.

The Alpena Bi-Path was conceived as a lasting celebration of the nation’s bicentennial in 1976. The Thunder Bay Arts Council (TBAC) spearheaded this ambitious project and worked closely with the college, on whose property the Bi-Path began and where many of the sculptures along the path are placed.

According to TBAC, sculptures were always in the plan for the Bi-Path, though many other art installations and artifacts have been added throughout the years. With so many of those sculptures placed on the ACC campus, we will feature one ACC art installation on the path each month for the next few months to highlight the integral role the college has had in

developing Alpena's burgeoning public art plans.

Greeting passers-by and visitors alike, the Global Collaboration Awareness sculpture stands at the mouth of ACC's west campus. Comprised of seven concentric, staggered aluminum rings representing the seven continents and seven seas, the Global Collaboration Awareness sculpture catches the attention of passersby. Each ring is staggered on a central axis, creating an open-air globe that promotes worldwide awareness and collaboration in educational endeavors. The sculpture is a true ACC creation, with students Stephanie Richards and Brittany Worth collaborating with faculty members Jim Berles, David Cummins, and Tim Kuehnlein, plus fabricator Scott Stevens, to conceptualize, design, construct, and erect the sculpture. Standing 14.6 feet in height and measuring 7.8 feet in diameter, the sculpture is hard to miss if you're passing through or visiting campus.

The Global Collaboration Awareness installation is a key feature of the Alpena Bi-Path and was placed in its current spot during the 2016/2017 school year. It was created with funding from the Russell H. and Fromilda Y. Wilson Endowed Teaching Chair Award. You can visit it anytime in front of Besser Technical Center.

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## Bookstore Best-Kept Secret on Campus



Stop by the ACC Bookstore!

As students, staff, and faculty begin preparing for fall classes at ACC, the college bookstore is suddenly in the spotlight. It's not just the new Lumberjack t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats that are creating a buzz (though you should really check them out—there's some cool stuff).

With campus having been closed to the public since March, students are understandably unsure about how to safely navigate getting books and supplies now that they are welcome to come back on campus. The good news is that the

ACC Bookstore is now open and is ready to help you find whatever you need for fall—anything from books and fine art supplies to a cozy pair of Lumberjack sweatpants in which to knock around the house. There are several ways to get what you need from the bookstore:

- If you prefer to shop in-person, the bookstore is happy to host you, as long as you're wearing a mask and there are no more than four customers in the store at one time.
- Bookstore staff is also making it easy to shop online for everything you need for class or to support the Lumberjacks. Head to <http://bookstore.alpenacc.edu/Home> and shop for course materials, gifts, apparel, and more.
- Books and merchandise can be shipped UPS to customer address for \$15.00.
- Items can also be paid for in advance and collected at the bookstore pickup window.
- You can also elect to have curbside delivery at the Besser Technical Center parking lot.
- If you're more comfortable talking to a real live person, you can shop by phone by calling (989) 358-7274

Not just a bookstore, the ACC Bookstore offers a wide range of ACC Lumberjack gear; gift ideas (and free gift-wrapping); greeting cards; utility technology, World Center for Concrete Technology, and nursing apparel; a large selection of bargain books in a variety of genres; a big clearance section; and gift cards.

The ACC Bookstore is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday. While Fridays have a shorter window in which to shop, wearing ACC gear that day gets you 25% off regularly-priced apparel.

For more information about the ACC Bookstore and all that they offer, [click here to visit the bookstore website.](#)

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## Looking for Lumberjacks!



Kaiser Paul

ACC alumni are some of the most interesting, accomplished people in our community—and in the world! From Wall Street in New York City to Third Street in Rogers City, Lumberjacks are making their mark on their respective communities and we want to share their accomplishments with our current students and the world.

Did you attend ACC and just get a new job? Are you a graduate who started his or her own business? Do you know of a Lumberjack who's carved out an interesting life more people should know about? We want to hear about it! More importantly, we want to celebrate the cool things our

Lumberjacks for Life are doing with and in their lives.

Tell us about a promotion, career change, retirement, new business, or milestone in your life or in the life of a Lumberjack you love. ACC's alumni community is an accomplished, interesting bunch that spans a wide range of professions and lifestyles. Each month we'd like to tell you about at least one Lumberjack for Life who is noteworthy. Email the ACC Director of Alumni Relations, Mary Eagan, with stories, news, and accomplishments at: [alumni@alpenacc.edu](mailto:alumni@alpenacc.edu).

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