

Beloved professor taught unity of ideas

By Tim Richard
staff writer

At Harvard Divinity School, his doctoral adviser in 1959 said James A. Vendettulli might not become a famous theologian but "would undoubtedly be a good and beloved teacher."

The prophecy came true for 17 years at Oakland Community College where Professor Vendettulli taught some of the Orchard Ridge Campus's most popular humanities courses. It was still true on Dec. 4, the day he died.

Vendettulli had had heart surgery several years ago, said colleague Arlen Schroeder, social sciences chairman. He used a wheelchair in recent months to meet his classes. Feeling ill that Friday afternoon, he left his class, wished them "a merry Christmas" and said they should remember every day should be a Christmas.

He wheeled to the restroom, where he was found a few minutes later, and was pronounced dead on arrival at Botsford Hospital. He was 59.

"HIS CLASSES changed students' lives," said OCC spokesman George Cartsonis. "Young people came to college full of questions about themselves and their place in the universe."

Not only 18-year-olds but middle-aged students admired his opening up of the ethical world to them.

Two of his more popular classes were World Religions (Humanities 171), a study not only of their doctrines but the cultural, social and ethical milieu in which they developed, and Bible (Humanities 272), studies of Hebrew and Christian texts and cultural influences on them.

His interests were broad. He held a membership in the American Society of Planners, a professional city planning group, and was interested in inner city problems.

WHAT MADE Vendettulli such a beloved teacher, said Schroeder, were "his absolute love for what he was teaching and an equal concern for his students."

Vendettulli wrote three books — "Understanding," a study in philosophy; "Values," the philosophy of ethics; and "Religions Alive."

"A theme running through them is the absolute acceptance of other people, their philosophies, religions and theologies. He had a great knack of showing the unity that existed among a diversity of ideas. He recognized these unities. He said that to recognize differences, you don't have to go to college," Schroeder said.

BORN FEB. 28, 1928, in Providence, R.I., Vendettulli grew up there and in 1950 earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and world religions from Brown University.

At Harvard Divinity School, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in theology in 1952 and '53. His doctorate in 1959 came in philosophy, history and theology. He did post-doctoral research at Oxford University in England and at an ecumenical school in Geneva, Switzerland.

Vendettulli taught at Groton School, a preparatory school in Connecticut, where he was department chair of philosophy and religious studies. He was assistant to the dean of Harvard Divinity School from 1952 to 1956 and assistant to president of Michigan Lutheran College and director of development and public relations until 1969.

He joined the OCC social sciences faculty Sept. 1, 1970. His home was on 14 Mile Road in West Bloomfield Township, a short drive from campus.

Surviving are two sisters, Virginia Clark and Marjorie Julian. Arrangements were by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills. Burial was in Providence.



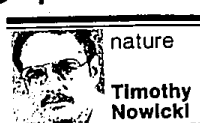
Dr. James Vendettulli was a popular professor on the Orchard Ridge Campus, and this classroom photo was featured in the OCC catalog.

Painting preserves peregrine

PEREGRINE falcons are majestic birds of prey. They have been revered by man since the time of the Egyptians.

Last summer many people in southeastern Michigan had opportunities to see this rare and regal raptor.

Thanks to concerted efforts by Robert Healy of Grosse Pointe Park, president of the Detroit Audubon Society and chairman of



nature

Timothy Nowicki

Peregrine Return, and Richard Zemin of West Bloomfield, president of the MichCon Foundation, and many

others, peregrines were brought to downtown Detroit. They survived.

Their efforts put to use the pioneering research on peregrine breeding conducted by Dr. Tom Cade of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in New York.

THESE PEOPLE, with many volunteers who helped in 1987's first phase of the peregrine return project in Detroit, recognize the value of wildlife. They have seen the pen-

trating look and the mastery of flight displayed by the peregrine.

Robert Perrish of Livonia has created a painting of a peregrine that captures the qualities of this bird.

His painting of an adult perched on a ledge of the Pictured Rocks on Lake Superior reflects a historic breeding site of the peregrine. Fixed in his sight are two birds flying low to the water.

Capturing the essence of wildlife is not new to Perrish, a graphic artist for MichCon. Perrish has been painting wildlife for many years, but last year was a particularly successful period.

He finished in the top 10 of the federal duck stamp competition and was named decorative carver of the year in an international competition of decoys sponsored by the Ward Foundation.

During the past three years, Perrish has placed either second or third in the Michigan duck stamp competition.

WILDLIFE PAINTINGS, like the peregrine by Perrish, manifest the artist's reverence for the bird and for all wildlife. It is also the unique ability of an artist to elicit those feelings in others.

For those who admire the peregrine, as Robert Perrish does, you can obtain a limited edition print (21 inches by 14 inches) of his painting for \$75 plus \$5 for postage and handling.

Make your check payable to Peregrine Return and send it to Peregrine Return, P.O. Box 505, Detroit 48231.

Proceeds from the sale of this print will go toward funding future phases of the peregrine return project here.

OCC doubles computer stock

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Each of Oakland Community College's four campuses will receive 37 new personal computers for classroom use. Total pricing: nearly \$355,000.

"This almost doubles the number of stations," chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson told the board of trustees last week.

"But we're still very far behind," Nicholson said, citing needs in accounting and sociology laboratories.

THE BOARD approved purchase of 148 work stations, furniture, printers and installation at a net cost to the college of almost \$199,000.

Two federal vocational grants pared \$156,000, or 44 percent, from the total price.

"Now that we have completed the installations of a new central processing and operating system, we need to proceed to the next step," Dorothy Hopkin, vice president for data systems, said of the new IBM Personal System/2 workstations.

The new equipment was picked for price, suitability for classroom use and productivity. "It is small, recent technology, and more than twice as fast as the IBM PC," she said.

"Although this represents only a fraction of the workstation needs of the college, it is a first and positioning step to make workstations available to faculty and students," Hopkin said.

OCC'S GOAL is "systematic addition of 750-plus workstations over five years," she said.

The new purchase will replace equipment in four instructional laboratories.

It will free 65 IBM-compatible terminals and 71 Apple IIe computers for redistribution to laboratories, individualized instruction centers, libraries, and departmental clusters of instruction and counseling offices.

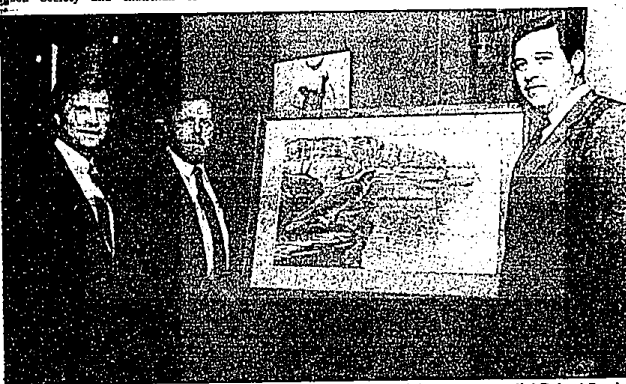
IN OTHER business, the OCC board of trustees

● Heard Nicholson report that an across-the-board state budget cut of 0.75 percent will reduce the college's appropriation by \$102,000 — three-fourths in the current fiscal year, one-fourth next fall. OCC's total budget is \$47.6 million.

"We'll be able to absorb this loss, though we regret it," the chancellor said. "We lose some options." He made no immediate request for budget adjustments.

● Approved a contract with the governor's job training office for work already performed and paid for. OCC's Business and Professional Institute trained 81 workers for E-tech Co., a Troy-based engineering firm which does product design and prototype production for auto makers.

The BPI trained them for nearly two months in personal computers and design. Vice chancellor Anthony Jarson said the college had been paid its \$29,150, and only paperwork on the contract was slow.



This painting of the peregrine falcon will help raise funds to bring the species back to Michigan. From left: Richard Zemin, Bloomfield Hills, president of the MichCon Foundation, a

supporter of the program; artist Robert Perrish of Livonia; and William Weatherston, Birmingham, a vice president of Stroth Brewery, an industrial supporter of the project.

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