

# Focus On: Mark Rosenthal—Passion for excellence

BY SUSAN CASE

If you're looking for passion in a teacher go and spend time with Mark Rosenthal who has taught in AHC's automotive technology program for the last 14 years. "My job is to excite students about working on cars," says Mark, and judging by enrollments and positive comments by his fellow teachers, he is a solid success.

Born and raised in Rhode Island and southern New England, Mark completed his undergraduate work at Boston University and the University of Rhode Island. After his arrival in California, he earned his MA and Lifetime junior college credential, taught high school and began a lifelong occupation of repair and restoration of classic cars, boats, and high-end acoustic guitars. When conversing with Mark you learn how important ambition, quality, and pride in workmanship is to this man whose restoration projects required 14 garages in the Long Beach area.

He came to SLO with his wife Marilyn on vacation in 1991. She was offered a job in San Luis Obispo, and they've been on the Central Coast since then. Mark has seen many changes at AHC. "The classes have become more diverse. We've always had women in the program but now they want to get into the industry and they

## Students, cars and acoustic guitars – all wrapped up in one inspiring teacher – Mark Rosenthal.

do well when they come here to Hancock."

In addition to teaching, Mark participates in the Independent Auto Professional Association, which helps support the local high school and community college programs reaching from San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara Counties.

Mark has high standards for his work and for how people should treat one another. That's



Mark Rosenthal (blue coat), Automotive Technology instructor, with students.

why he was one of the first part-timers who got involved in creating a charter for what became AHC's Part-Time Faculty Association. "Part-tim-

ers should be given a lot more credit for keeping AHC afloat. There is little recognition or public acclaim for what they do." Mark appreciates the changes brought about by the new people coming to our college, but he still looks forward to the time when respect for part-time teachers will be campus wide.

As a seasoned teacher, Mark remarks on

some of the changes in his field. "To work on a car today, you need more education. It's gone from a procedure, to a science." Of the many benefits of his job, Mark loves meeting former students out in the workforce and having both fathers and their sons and daughters in his classes. When you stand in the middle of the gigantic automotive technology classroom, you admire the professional and spotless facility that houses thousands of tools and parts required for teaching in this field. But it is Mark's friendly face and encouraging words that make you want to sign up for a course and show up for class. Students, cars and acoustic guitars—all wrapped up in one inspiring teacher—Mark Rosenthal.

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