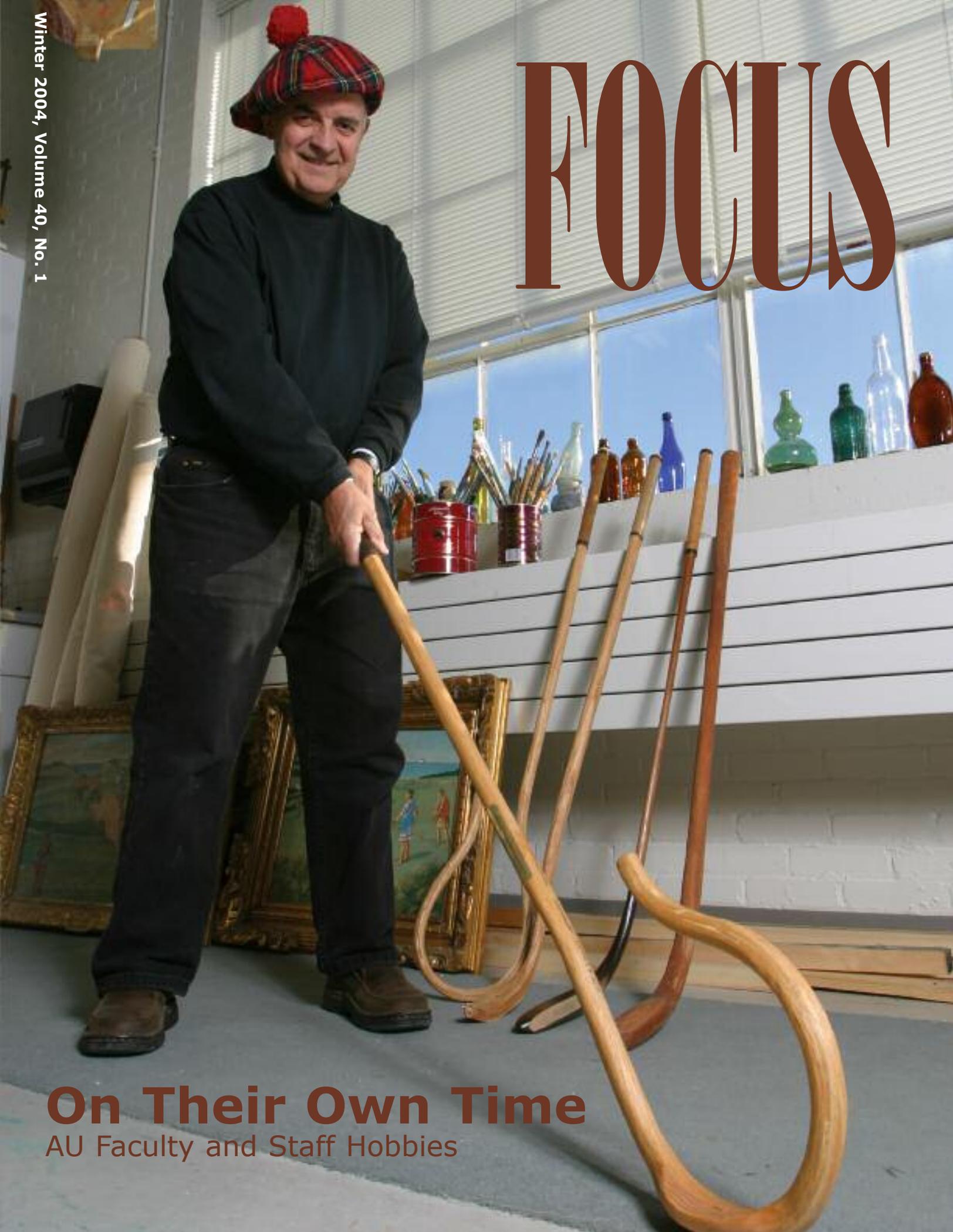


FOCUS



On Their Own Time
AU Faculty and Staff Hobbies

IN FOCUS

WARNING: Close Cover Before Striking



I've never really had any great hobbies, or even average ones for that matter. Growing up, I tried collecting stamps and coins, but was generally more successful collecting bruises and scrapes while playing whichever sport was in season.

I did collect matchboxes for a few years during my childhood. Not Matchbox Cars. That would have been too cool and so mainstream. Instead, I collected matchbooks, the little disposable kind that restaurants and hotels give to patrons—and apparently to the children of patrons, who might be inclined to torch the family dining room or their nearest sibling. Fortunately, I never showed these instincts

and, in fact, rarely lit the matches. I credit Smokey the Bear.

After a time, some friends of my parents began to hunt matchbooks for me. They'd bring me matches from exotic places like China and India, Germany and France. Las Vegas. It was nice for a while, staring at the foreign words and pictures, and smelling (when I would occasionally light one) the strange chemicals on these imported matches.

But it was about this time that I tired of matchbox collecting. I guess I'd really come to think that the matchbooks should represent places where *I'd been* and things that *I'd done*, like eating at nearly all the House of Flavors restaurants in Michigan. I hadn't been to China or Germany and the collection didn't quite seem like mine anymore. So I gave it up.

Oh, I still have the matches, but now I use them for fairly practical purposes—campfires, candles and bathroom odors.

Given my own shoddy-hobby life, I was amazed at the number of interesting and impressive hobbies that came to light when we put out the word that we were going to feature the leisure pursuits of our faculty and staff in this issue of Focus. Folks from all over campus were sharing their interests—various needlecrafts, wide-ranging artistic endeavors, and unusual collections of all types.

In the end, we settled on six of these hobbies, showcasing those that are either particularly unique and/or generally rise above the level of the average “hobbyst.” In most cases, these individuals have achieved true expertise.

And not a matchbox among them.

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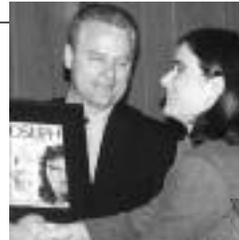
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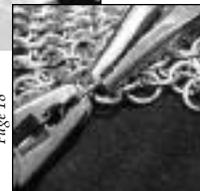
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ON THE COVER: Greg Constantine (BA '60), Artist in Residence and Professor of Art, wielding one of his handcrafted shepherd's crook "golf clubs." Photographed by Erin Heldstab.