

# Big changes in housing, staffing policies



**RA Alexis Blakely ('19) adjusts posters on an information board on South Campus.**

*Sarah St. Arnold: Photographer*

**ALINE BATAWI**  
STAFF WRITER

Beginning in fall 2018, several changes in housing and its staffing will be enacted in what administrators say they hope will make every aspect of living on campus easier.

Karl Rishe, vice president of student affairs, says the effort will make the campus “current” with normal student housing practices.

According to Rishe, he and the Student Life Department have been working for the past 5 months on a plan that hopes to make every aspect of living on campus easier.

“There will be many different changes within housing and

resident life,” said Rishe, Vice President of Student Affairs. “We are bringing ourselves current.”

According to Rishe, the first step in the plan is to move to an online housing system and away from the current paper method.

“It’ll run online, on your phone, and a little bit like eHarmony,” said Rishe. “If you’re an incoming freshman looking for housing, the app will ask you a few questions and pair you with your best roommate match.”

The goal with this new program is to make it more interactive for incoming freshman. Students will even get the opportunity to look at the dimensions of their dorm room before they choose it online.

“All first-year freshman and sophomores will live together on North Campus and everyone else on South Campus, apartments and small housing,” said Rishe.

Gelston and Bruske will be exclusively for freshmen and Newberry and Mitchell will be for sophomores. However, there will be some overflow of juniors and seniors placed in Newberry and Mitchell, but not many.

In addition to the housing system being online, students will be able to put in work orders, check in and out of their rooms and receive notifications regarding room-cleaning—all online.

Along with the changes in distribution of students living on

campus, changes in housing staff are planned. Currently, halls are staffed with hall directors who have ancillary positions.

“We’re moving to Assistant Directors that will be in the halls more,” said Rishe. “Their offices will actually be in the residence halls.”

With upcoming renovations, set to begin in summer 2018, offices will be built within the residence halls to provide services to students closer to where they live.

“Offices that are in the CSO will also have satellite offices in the residence halls,” said Rishe. “With that, students won’t need to travel to the CSO or the student life office.”

According to Alice Kramer, the new director of residence life, the ultimate goal is to bring more resources to students.

“There will be three assistant directors, one for first year, second year, and upperclassmen students,” said Kramer. “Their offices will be in the halls where they are available for students.”

“I think that having living learning communities benefit students,” said **Paige Emerson ('18)**. “As an RA, I see how a student easily copes and makes friends when the people who live near them take the same classes as them.”

According to Kramer, being focused on the needs of each age group is important. Freshmen need a different level of care than upperclassmen. This will be reflected in the number of RAs in each building.

“There will be more RAs for freshman and fewer for sophomores,” said Kramer. “Freshman require more mentorship and sophomores are more future focused.”

On South Campus, where only juniors and seniors will live, the RA

position will be removed entirely.

“Graduate assistants from Central Michigan University for higher education administration will be on South Campus,” said Kramer.

“Research shows that a lot of times juniors and seniors don’t need RAs,” said Rishe. “Having graduate students live with juniors and seniors will give them a higher and more relatable level of service.”

According to Rishe, RAs were informed about these changes before they came back to campus. Some RAs have mixed feelings about this new system.

“As of now, I’m not a huge fan of the changes, but I’m open to them,” said **Allison Fox ('20)**, an RA on North Campus. “I’m excited to see what will come.”

Current RAs were given the choice of whether they would like to continue with their RA position.

“Technically, jobs are being eliminated on South Campus, but we have all been given the choice to return,” said Fox. “I’m returning and I’m really excited.”

“It’s a drastic change, but I’m not sure how to feel about it yet,” said **Alexis Blakely ('19)**, an RA on South Campus. “I still have some questions about it and I’m trying to keep an open mind.”

“I think some of the changes will be beneficial for the school, but others will be really hard (for students) to cope with,” said Emerson. “I think it’ll be hard for students in different years to not be allowed to live together in the same room.”

Ultimately, the goal with these changes is to cater to the specific needs of each class on campus. With these changes, the hope is for residence life to improve and for services offered to be more accessible to students.

# College welcomes new chaplain and director of spiritual Life

**CASSIE FLORIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the college introduced a new Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life to campus, Rev. Andrew Pomerville.

“Returning to Alma College [was] truly a dream come true,” said Pomerville, who was an Alma College graduate in 2001.

“The opportunity to serve as the chaplain and director of spiritual life is a lifelong dream and a true calling.”

Along with this familiarity and love for the college, Pomerville also cites his past experiences in ministry as vital for his success here at Alma.

“Looking back on my career in ministry, I believe all my experiences have been preparing me for this particular opportunity,” said Pomerville. “I most recently served as the senior pastor for the multi-denominational Peoples Church of East Lansing, whose diverse population drew heavily from Michigan State University students, faculty, staff and alumni.”

On March 16, Keith Wise, who was appointed in August as the interim chaplain after the

resignation of Rev. Noel Snyder, will officially hand over the position to Pomerville.

“Although I haven’t met him in person, by reputation he is very good” said Wise, professor of history and religious studies. “I had complete confidence in the selection committee [for the position].”

Wise said he would greatly miss meeting prospective students as well as his interactions with students beyond the classroom, however he said he realizes that soon it will be time for him to step down.

“I’ve served in interim positions before in my ministry and from that I’ve learned the ways of temporary service,” said Wise. “You have to be willing to give it away and you need to have the mindset to be able to function well in a temporary capacity.”

Students have also shown much excitement for the arrival of the new chaplain and for what they believe he can bring to spiritual life on campus.

“I am beyond excited [for the new chaplain] ... each time [I’ve

talked to him] I have been blown away by this crazy energetic vibe he gives off,” said **Holly Zuiderveen ('18)**. “He seems truly passionate about his role as a mentor and spiritual counselor, and ready to run with the job description and tailor it to his own gifts and students’ needs. As with any small, close-knit group on campus, chapel can be intimidating or just plain unappealing to students,” said Zuiderveen.

“However, I think having a chaplain [who is] more dedicated to just having conversations with people outside of the traditional Sunday worship time is a great goal, and one that he wants to accomplish.”

“I’ve met [Rev. Pomerville] a couple of times through church conventions and am very familiar with his name,” said **Libbey Jones ('18)**. “Although we were all very excited for Noel when he got a new job, I think we are all ready for a new, permanent person. I definitely think that it is important who gets chosen to be chaplain,” said Jones. “They will all have their own style of



**Libbey Jones talks about the importance of the relationship between the chaplain and students.**

*Isaac Tessman: Photographer*

preaching and it is important that we find someone who is young, has an exciting outlook and will [meet] our students where they are.” These are all qualities that Jones said she believes Pomerville possesses.

“The opportunity to serve as the chaplain and director of

spiritual life is [a] lifelong dream and a true calling,” said Pomerville. “The chance to serve during this amazing moment in Alma’s history is beyond my greatest expectations and I look forward to joining this outstanding community.”

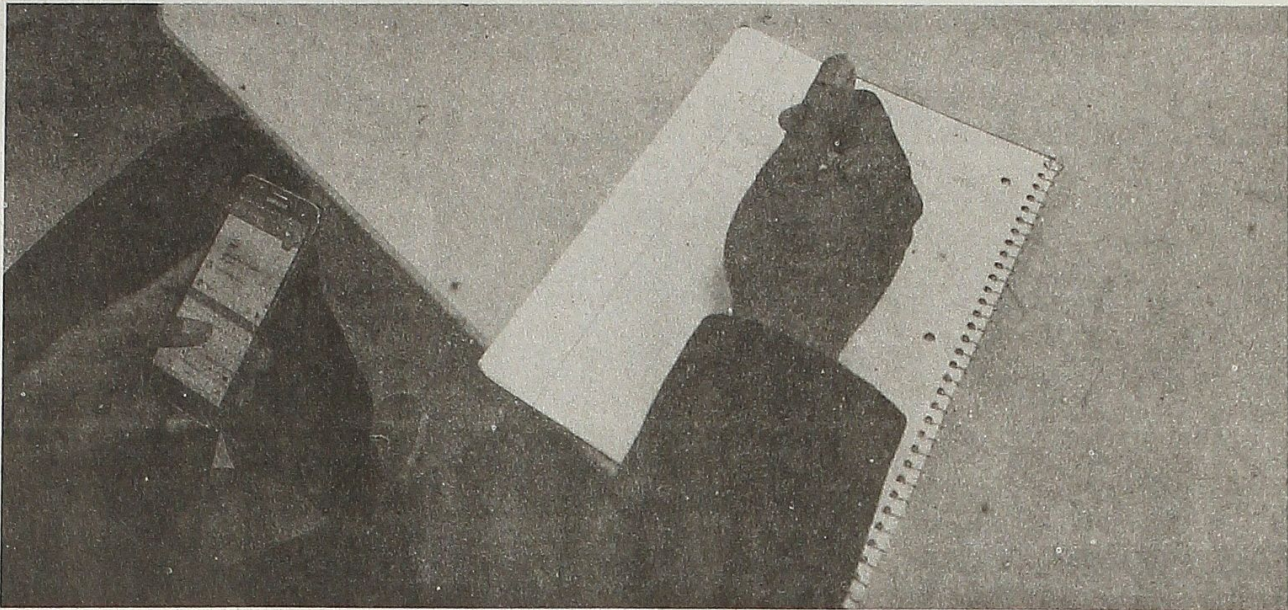


## Students, faculty share thoughts on cheating

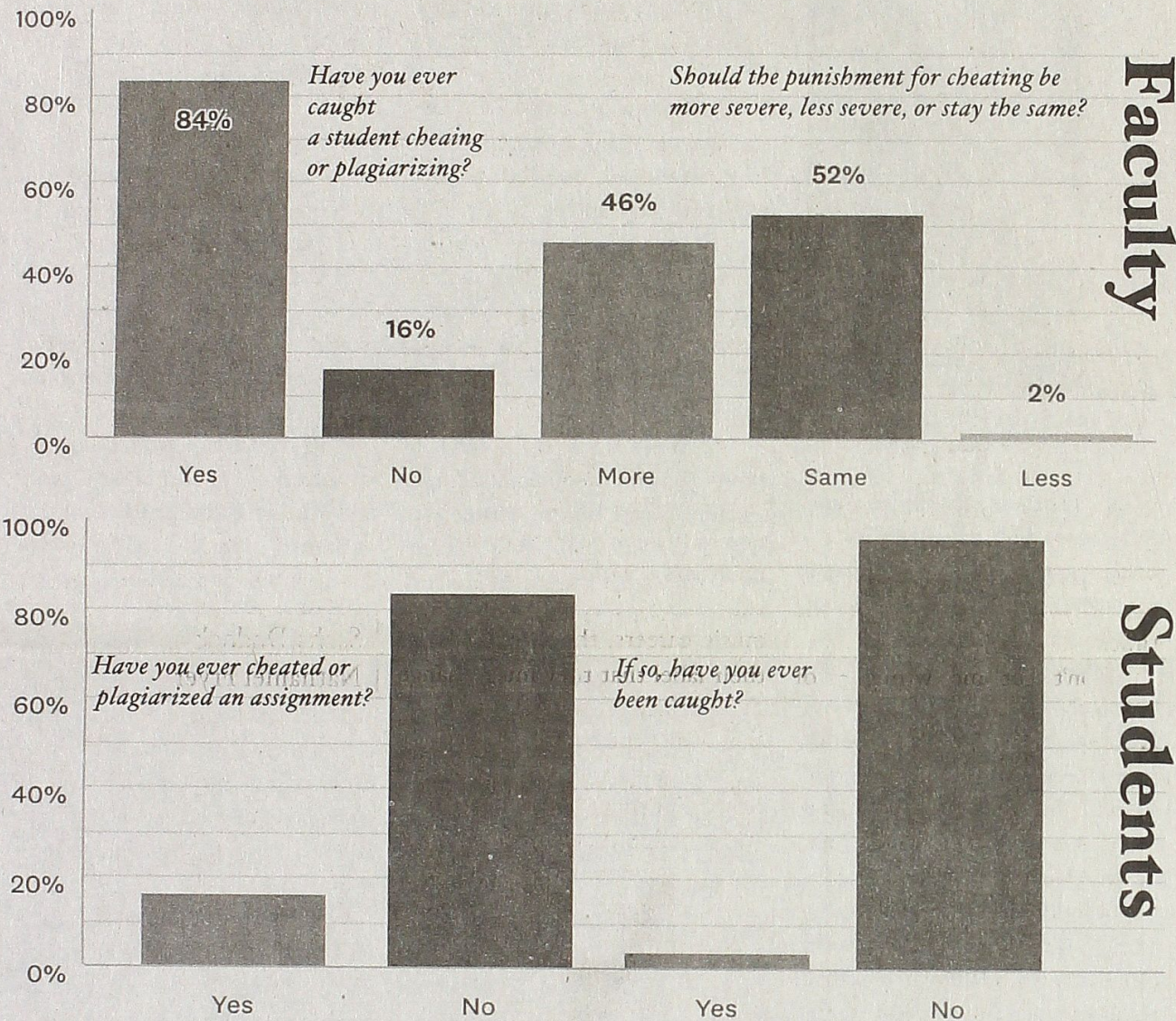
CADEN WILSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Sunday night is usually the busiest night of the average college student's weekend. Whether Friday and Saturday are for friends and family, homework isn't always put first. By the time the early hours of Monday morning roll around, people can get desperate and cheat.

Three-hundred and thirty-six current students and 62 members of the faculty responded to an anonymous Almanian survey, in which 16 percent of the students stated they had cheated, plagiarized or copied other's work at least once. Of the faculty, 84 percent confirmed having caught a student cheating.



With all the stress of college life, some students may choose to cheat when times get tough.  
Ruochen Ding: Photographer



Responses from the student survey summed up three major categories explaining why students cheat.

Primarily, there are the students who were concerned

about the negative effects of a low grade on their GPA. In response to the survey, some students stated that they had cheated as a result of being in a prerequisite class or class that wasn't required for their

major.

As a result, they simply needed the class to fill a credit to graduate and placed importance only on their letter grade. For many campus programs and groups,

that they did not have time to complete the assignment they cheated on, in addition to other reasons.

No responding faculty believed that there was any time where cheating would be acceptable.

Cheating and plagiarism are covered by the college's Academic Dishonesty policy. This also includes the act of assisting someone in doing either, which 30 percent of the surveyed students admitted to doing. Students who are caught cheating face consequences designated by the provost, which may result in failing the class in question or even a hearing with the campus conduct committee, which could lead to expulsion.

A minority of faculty members believed that punishments for cheating should increase in severity, encompassing 46 percent of those surveyed. 52 percent believed that the current system is effective as is and 2 percent of the questioned faculty agreed that punishments should be less severe, with most agreeing that the punishment should be based on the actions of the student in question.

"Can there be situations where a professor makes unreasonable demands of their students? Absolutely!," said Steuard Jensen of the physics department.

"We're human, we're enthusiastic about our subjects, and we can misjudge things. We probably misjudge things more often than we'd like to admit. But those are reasons for a student to contact the professor about the issue and look for some way of resolving it.

"As a professor, I've definitely made changes to assignments after conversations like that, often for everyone in the class. Nothing that a professor can do is worth giving up your honor for."

Some responses stated that cheating had been the result of an information gap, where students claimed either that the questions on tests were more difficult than the covered material or simply hadn't ever been addressed by the professor.

In an anonymous response to the survey, several professors stated that while students may be put into a position where cheating is tempting, it is ultimately their choice to break student conduct policies.

"They are pushed to the limit, often in terms of time and stress, and just want to, or need to, get the assignment done in a hurry. They willingly take the risk of being caught and either don't think they will or don't care if they do," said one faculty member.

On the other hand, some students admitted that often it was simply a matter of what was easier. While a few simply didn't study or do the assigned work, many others felt so overwhelmed with their homework that they felt it was their only option.

Roughly one-third of all student responses stated

## Best of both worlds {How Greek life and athletics mix

BRITTANY PIERCE  
COPY EDITOR

With rush week ending, the buzz on campus has turned to the difficulties students face who want to pursue both Greek life and athletics.

According to a random survey of students, many feel that if they are participating in a sport, then they cannot participate in Greek life as well because of schedule conflicts or from possible coach discouragement.

"Most students and coaches would be worried about the time commitment if a student wishes to participate in both. Greek life isn't as big as a time commitment as people think it is," said Alpha Gamma Delta member **Alexia Miller ('20)**.

Because of the misconception that students have to choose between one

or the other, some students may be missing out on opportunities.

"I do believe it is possible to join a Greek life organization and participate in a sport," said Miller. "I know of at least one person [who was discouraged from participating in Greek life]. She talked about how her coaches strongly advised players to not join a Greek organization."

However, some of the coaches have different views.

"If one of my players came to me with a desire to join a fraternity, we would have a discussion about making sure he can balance and fill the requirements between school, basketball and the fraternity," said Head Men's Basketball Coach Samuel Hargraves.

"If he felt he could, I would fully support his desire to be a part of the Greek system. I wish there were more athletes

in the Greek community at Alma. Of course, the coaches and athletes like it when students attend our games, it makes for such a better atmosphere.

"The Greek system can be the most influential part of that student atmosphere. Also, and this is the main benefit, I think it would bring our campus and students even closer together. There are so many life-long relationships that would come from athletics and Greeks getting to know each other better.

"Sometimes we tend to just stay within our group or team in college. A couple of my current best friends from college were guys that I didn't play basketball with, and I was fortunate to get to know them another way. That is what can come from more of a joint relationship between

Greeks and athletes," added Hargraves.

However, Head Softball Coach Dennis Griffin has an opposing view.

"I discourage it during the season. If they want to pledge I tell them to do it in the fall. In my opinion it is a time issue. My players are here to get an education and graduate. In the spring semester, my players have their classes and 2-3 hours per day of practice. Adding another time-consuming event like Greek life is too much," said Griffin.

Discouraging participation does not mean that the person does not like Greek life or find it invaluable.

"I think Greek life is a great opportunity for students to build an even stronger network with other students and alumni," said Head Football Coach Jason

Couch.

"It (whether or not an athlete should participate) depends on the individual student athlete. In most cases, I would support it, as long as they are able to balance all of their responsibilities," said Couch.

On the other hand, some coaches are completely neutral.

"Greek life is an excellent way to build a support group in college, to give back to the community and to have a network of friends both on the local and national level for life," said Head Men's Lacrosse coach Michael Kinney.

"I'm neutral on it (participating in both athletics and Greek Life). It's an individual choice for a guy, but lacrosse comes first, and my guys understand that," said Kinney.



Grammy Awards receive backlash over snubs

By PAIGE DANIEL  
THOUGHTS EDITOR

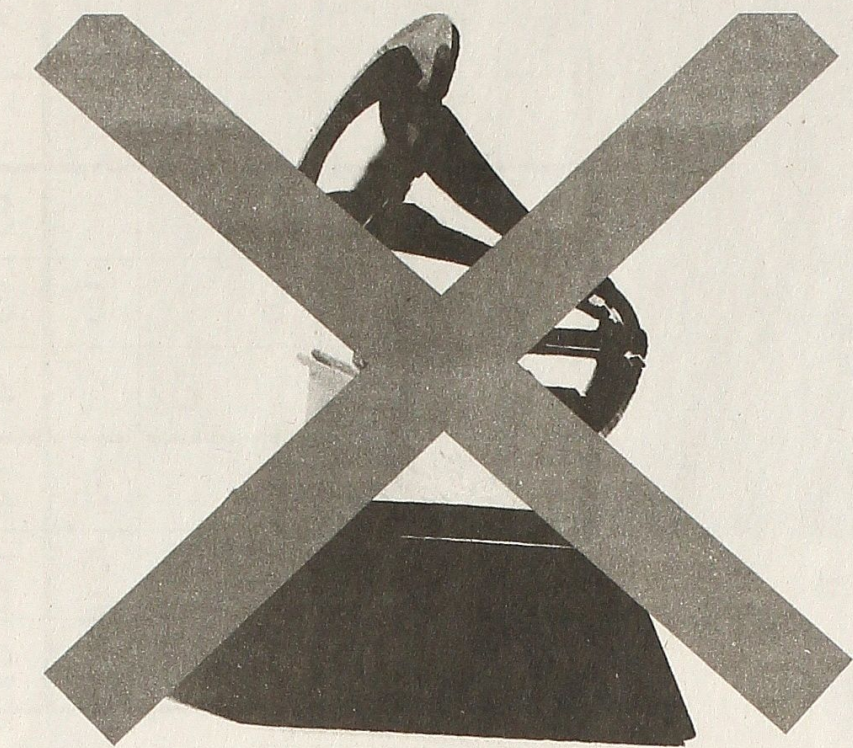
In case you don't exist somewhere on the internet where people talk about music, collective heads rolled in outrage after the 60th annual Grammy Awards were held on Jan. 28. Usually I concede and watch the ceremony despite its continuously disappointing three hours of television. This year, however, I abstained from watching it at all.

I could not have known that this would end up being more an act of rebellion than the act of laze that it was initially. It is hard to care about the Grammys when its praise has been misplaced time and time again. Even Adele acknowledged how out-of-touch the awards had become when she won the Grammy for Album of the Year last year, expressing a sentiment shared by many: that Beyoncé should have won the very Grammy Adele was holding.

Then again, perhaps it is silly to put faith in a ceremony that gives its biggest awards to the most financially successful mainstream pop music. It has always been an issue that the ceremony just takes itself too seriously – why pretend that the interests of the Grammys lie outside of chart popularity when most of their logic around naming nominees and giving awards is based on that system?

There is a certain attitude amongst particular groups of music listeners and critics that the Grammys are rigged, but nonetheless they still view and participate in discussion about them in the hopes that maybe, things will be different next time. The backlash against the Grammys this year, however, was tinged with the politics of an issue currently garnering attention.

In light of the recent #MeToo movement attempting to confront the widespread issue of sexual assault in various industries, artists at the Grammys wore white roses to signal their alignment with the cause. This proved to bleed through to what viewers had expected of the awards ceremony; there were a wealth of women nominees – but only three women ended up going home with an award from the main award categories



Thoughts editor Paige Daniel brings attention to the controversy surrounding the 2018 Grammy Awards. As they lose their credibility with certain audiences, backlash against the lack of women winning Grammys was a hot topic and catalyzed a direct response from the Recording Academy.

Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

presented on the televised show.

Watching the backlash unfold on Twitter was basically like viewing the show itself with an endless commentary loop, and people vocalized their discontent about the Grammys snubbing almost all of the women who had been nominated in their respective categories.

There was an expectation amongst the audience pooled on my own social media that this year had to be different – that the considerations of gender and diversity as of late would have to have some bearing on the outcome of the awards ceremony.

Tweets about these snubs and the outrage that followed racked up hundreds of thousands of engagements in the form of likes and shares.

How could Kesha, a woman who had just recently confronted her abuse by pop producer Dr. Luke both in court and in song form (which was Grammy-nominated), lose to Ed Sheeran, an artist that admitted his winning song was created specifically for the charts?

How could only three women (Alessia Cara and the country group Little Big Town) win Grammys when many women had been nominated in all of the categories? These types of questions were asked at length by the audience I witnessed online.

It was in the shadow of these considerations that my choice to not invest time or energy in either watching the Grammys or caring

about them took on a pallor of protestation. One question from the audience I follow was louder than the rest: Do the Grammys have a gender problem?

It seems odd to ask for an award show to dole out justice in the form of shiny gold trophies. Should we expect these institutions in media to reflect perfectly the concerns of the time?

Don't get me wrong – of course, women should be nominated for and win awards. But should hopes for gender parity be rested on or expected from an institution like the Grammys, one that has been losing its cultural credibility slowly for a while now?

I don't think there is an easy answer. There is a counterargument, too: the Grammys are supposed to award the "best" music in each category. Are the Grammys truly "snubbing" women artists if they awarded the "best?"

Is it possible that none of the women nominated had music worth awarding? A rebuttal to this would take some time to flesh out the dynamics of the issues women have faced in the music industry, and we would be here for far longer than the space allotted. It would also have to be a given that the Grammys' criterion for what is worthy of an award are completely sound and fair (which I am sure can be contested).

The outrage had something to do with the taste of the audience I saw responding; they clearly skew toward women artists in general, but that doesn't discount the fact that there were viral tweets about the problem perceived. This suggests a wider audience online than reflected in my relatively small sample size.

This response showcased the Grammys' audience – but what about the people running the Grammys? What did they have to say to that audience? Neil Portnow, president of the Recording Academy in charge of the Grammys, definitely had something interesting (or rather, ridiculous) to say.

His response to questions of why so few of the nominated women were awarded goes like this: "It has to begin with... women who have the creativity in their hearts and souls, who want to be musicians, who want to be engineers, producers, and want to be part of the industry on the executive level," he said. "[They need] to step up because I think they would be welcome."

This quote exemplifies a fundamental misunderstanding of the very industry Portnow has a prominent position in.

Do we want to get into how women have been explicitly discouraged from becoming music producers? Do we want to get into the testimonies from countless women that upon expressing the desire to start their music careers, they were told by their label that they must change their image or appearance? And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

It is not a question of wanting or not wanting on women's behalf, and to pinpoint that as the issue is profusely ignorant.

Following his statement, 20 women from the music industry penned a letter calling for Portnow's resignation from his position. Before their letter, though, the outcry from others had caused Portnow to issue an apology for his statement.

Their letter was released around the same time that Portnow announced a new initiative at the Recording Academy – a task force for the advancement of women in the music community.

Hopefully this is not just lip service, but I don't think anyone should hold their breath. In the meantime, I will continue to care less about the Grammys.

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Sudoku

Sudoku is a type of number puzzle. If you're not familiar, here are the rules:

- Each 3x3 square can contain each number (1 through 9) no more or less than once.
- Each row and column can contain each number no more or less than once.
- The puzzle is complete when all spaces are filled in.

Sudoku difficulty is determined by how many numbers are initially filled in. This sudoku is considered "medium."

There are many different types of sudoku, so if you like this, try out some more!

1		9	7		3	6	4	
	4	3	8		9			
	5		6		1	2	3	
			5					4
	1						9	
		7			4			
	8	4					2	7
2	7	6		3		9		1
	9		2	8		4	6	3

2		6			7			
9	8		2			1	3	
					8		2	7
		1				8		
		2	9		5	3	7	1
3	9	8		6	1	4		2
		5	8		3	2		
8					9	7	1	3
	3	9				5	6	



HOROSCOPES

By MONICA KUNOVSKY  
WEB EDITOR

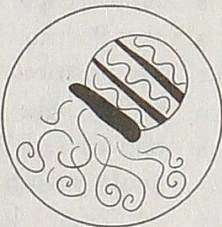
The signs as types of desserts

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



Apple cinnamon flavored rice cakes. You don't expect much from them, and they are quite flakey BUT are surprisingly good (only on some days, not always).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



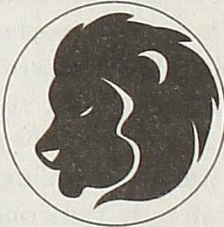
Unicorn themed anything. Just colorful, and a little cliché at this point but the die-hard fans of unicorn themed things cannot be swayed! Much like an Aquarius, who goes against the curve of things quite often.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



Peanut butter cookies. Just because taurus' are nutty.

LEO (July 23- August 22)



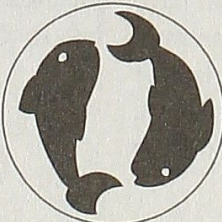
Pancakes in the design of famous people. It's a lot of extra, unnecessary work that makes you ask yourself, "is it even worth is?" Not sure if it tastes good, but it is kind of impressive.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



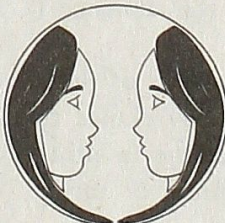
Apple pie. An excuse to eat healthy (because who said apples AREN'T HEALTHY?) which is often a flaw of the health centered Aries. Although often they watch what they eat, there's always room for negotiation and exceptions.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



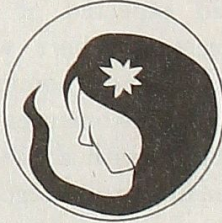
Japanese style pancakes. They're just giant SOFT PILLOWS!!! So nice.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Gushers. They're fun. A classic, but something your mom always told you not to have too much of because once you do it's the gateway snack to potential unhealthy habits (Gemini's and wild times with symptoms of mild regret often happen).

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



Dairy alternative ice cream. A twist on the old classic of ice cream, but made in a more environmentally conscious way! Most Virgos are just allergic to dairy, to be honest...

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



Tuxedo cookies. Black and white, classic colors. Some see it as boring but others see it as a timeless necessity!

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



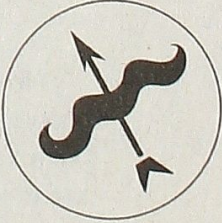
Triple decker strawberry shortcake. Made with only real ingredients and designed in the cutest way possible. Sure to show up every other dessert on this list, only the best of the best for Libras.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



Dark chocolate lava cake. A guilty pleasure you can't have too much of because you could get SICK--but when you have it, there's nothing else quite as satisfying and grand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



Fruit Tart. Colorful and good for you (kind of...it's really debatable actually).



Piloted Google technology allows for interconnectivity courses

By ALINE BATAWI  
STAFF WRITER

New technology pioneered by Google was used for the first time this semester by faculty and students at Alma, Albion and Calvin. It allows for classes to be taught across the three campuses.

“This technology enables Alma to reach students on other campuses and for students to take classes not offered at their institutions,” said Justin Fonley, learning technology coordinator.

The three colleges are the first to pilot some aspects of this technology.

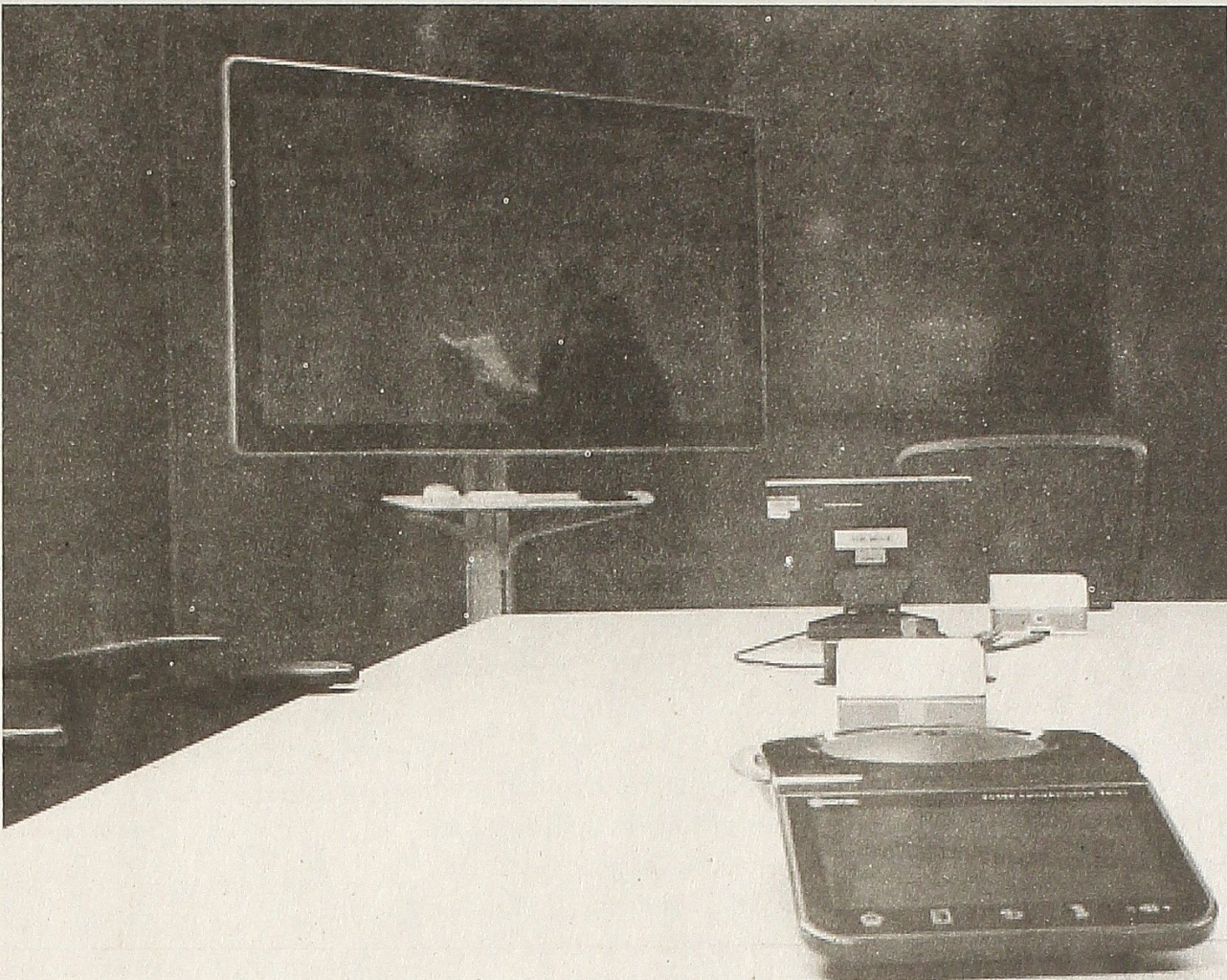
The courses offered are all 300 level classes and include “Earth, Art, and the Environment” offered through Albion, “Visual Sociology” at Calvin and “Media Theory and Culture” taught on Alma’s campus by New Media Studies Assistant Professor Anthony Collamati.

“Especially with advanced subject matter it’s hard to offer a class as often as it needs to be offered because faculty are trying to cover the basics for students,” said Collamati. “This is a way for students here to take courses that aren’t offered at Alma.”

This pilot technology was coordinated through the Michigan Colleges Alliance. With Google support, this is the first time this technology has been piloted in education.

“This is a first,” said Fonley. “Alma hasn’t often gotten to be a first in working with new technologies and the technology is unique which makes it exciting.”

“To be the very first to be piloting Google technology at Alma College of course, is exciting,” said Andrew Bare, assistant director of instructional technology. “For



New technology is being used for interconnecticity courses on campus.

Sarah St. Arnold: Photographer

someone who works every day with technology in teaching and learning it doesn’t get more exciting than being able to test new Google technology.”

The most unique aspect of this how the classes function is an interactive whiteboard called Jamboard, developed by Google. This is the first time the Jamboard has been used in an education setting.

“What makes this whiteboard special is you can connect it to other Jamboards at the other schools,” said Bare. “So we have our Jamboard connected with a Jamboard at Albion and Calvin during classes: you can have someone write something on the screen at Calvin and it appears here at Alma.”

“You can connect the Jamboards through an app and you can use that app on tablets, touchscreen computers, and Chromebooks and you can connect into the same session that the Jamboard is in,” said Bare. “From those tablets

you can add things on to the Jamboard.”

“The Jamboard brings so many advantages of digital instruments,” said Collamati. “It can archive things, it can connect to the internet, you can clip images and pages and drag them in, the ability to do more hands-on exercises is easier.”

According to Bare, that aspect of the Jamboard is what has never been piloted before. Other institutions have purchased Jamboards and may or may not be using them but Alma, Albion and Calvin are the very first pilot of the Jamboard in education.

According to Fonley, the three schools are able to connect via Google Hangouts, which is a communication platform developed by Google that acts much like FaceTime.

So far, the execution of the technology has been smooth and with the help of Google Support has been an easy use.

“We’re in contact regularly with the Google techs who are

working with us and they’re looking for our input and feedback on this,” said Bare. “They’re looking for feedback from our students and I feel the excitement from the students who are in the class because I think they’re getting the idea that this is something big.”

According to Fonley, there have only been minor glitches and no major issues. The fluidity of the classes has not been effected and has been executed seamlessly.

Although this technology is still in the early stages of use, there is an air of promise that surrounds it.

“I think everyone sees potential in it,” said Collamati. “I want to give the best shot I have of trying to bring out the best that it has to offer. We want to use it to enrich the time students have here and to give them more options.”

“I think faculty and students have a lot of ideas about how they can use this

technology in different courses and that’s exciting,” said Collamati

“I think one goal with this is strengthening course offerings,” said Bare. “It is a way of sharing strengths between campuses.”

According to Fonley, the classes right now are small but in the future, it could expand across campuses.

Ultimately, this new piloted technology could change the way education is approached and hopefully create a more interactive and diverse way of learning for students and faculty.

Message from the Provost

Student Barlow Trophy Award invitation letters were sent out to qualifying students (top 10% seniors GPA) on January 29 to their campus email address, commuter address, or to their home address. If you did not receive a letter and believe you should have, please notify Jodie Reeves in the Provost’s Office (reeves@alma.edu or x7176) as soon as possible. The faculty nomination deadline is Monday, February 5 and the self-nomination deadline is also Monday, February 5, 2018.

Students and staff reflect on Black History Month

By NATHANIEL FRYER  
STAFF WRITER

Black History Month was first celebrated in the United States on February 1970, at Kent State University in Ohio. Six years later, it was given federal recognition by President Gerald R. Ford.

Black History Month has been celebrated at Alma College now for several years. Black History Month is the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which happened on January 15.

Over Martin Luther King Jr. Week, presenters such as Naomi Tutu (daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu) were invited to speak at the college, and the Alma Choir

and a few dancers performed in the chapel.

Over the course of this month, there will be a number of student-led events that will be held on campus. The Multicultural Student Union, in collaboration with the Psychology Club, will be showing “For Colored Girls”, on February 15 at 7:30pm.

In addition, the Diversity and Inclusion Office will be holding a series of events throughout the month, including two movie screenings on February 13 in SAC 113 and DOWL4 at 6:30pm. There will also be Black History Trivia on February 7 in the Thistle Room in SAGA from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Many people know about important black leaders like

Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King Jr., but not many know about people like George Washington Carver, Sojourner Truth or Congressman John Lewis. For that reason the Center for Student Opportunity will have a display case that will feature less known (but equally as important) black politicians, artists, painters and athletes. This display will be up up throughout the month.

“I feel like in today’s society, you have to have recognition for the events that blacks have participated in. Regardless of your race, it is a good idea for people to take a step back and look at our collective history as a nation,” said **Khalee Simpson (’20)**. “Celebrating this month allows for people to take a minute and think about

black history.”

In the past, the advertisement of Black History Month was lacking. Since the new Diversity and Inclusion Director, Candy McCorkle, took office around a year ago, the advertisement has increased.

“When I came last year, I don’t think [Black History Month] received the advertisement it should have gotten. Since then, I’ve been able to develop relationships with the local paper, and advertised about it,” she said.

“In my role, I am working to make these events inclusive to everyone on campus, which is important because black history is America’s history.”

Since the advertisement of these events has increased,

attendance has been up. Some professors have been giving their students extra credit to attend these events, and athletes have also been encouraged to attend by their coaches.

“I think that considering we go to a predominately white college it’s important to celebrate Black History Month so that people of color can celebrate their history,” says **TiKilah Turner (’19)**, the Vice President of the Multicultural Student Union.

“Black History Month is about unity within the black community, and giving recognition to our blackness. Our blackness is beautiful.”



# Winning is right up the bowling team’s alley

By **HANK WICKLEY**  
SPORTS WRITER

On Jan. 28, the women’s bowling team won first place at the American Heartland IV tournament in Kent, Ohio.

The team put up a total of over 7,000 points in the tournament, beating three of the top 15 teams in the country.

“This is a very young team but a very good team,” said head coach Kyle Woodcock.

“They have been bowling with these higher ranked teams all season,” he said.

Woodcock continued by saying, “On Sunday they maintained the level necessary to get the win for the entire day.”

The girls also recognize how big of a deal it is to beat teams of that caliber. “As a team, finishing first is a big deal because we have such

a young team compared to others,” said **Brianna Pitre (‘18)**. “We never focus on who were bowling, only our own performance.”

Focusing on themselves seems to be working, considering this significant team win.

Another significant aspect of the bowling team’s win was the performance of two bowlers.

Freshman **Kasidey Easlick (‘21)** surpassed her previous season-best average of 174.8 by scoring an average of 213.25. When asked how she accomplished this feat, Easlick said “I’ve been working on a lot during practice, helping with consistency and balance.”

Easlick continued to say, “This tournament made me feel more confident in my skills.”

Pitre also put up a new

season high at the tournament with a score of 233.

“Putting up season highs is always a great feeling,” said Pitre.

When asked about her individual preparation, Pitre said, “Like any athlete, my practices consist of making adjustments to my game and performance.”

As far as what is to come next, the team has hopes to continue winning as much as possible.

“As a team, we have been progressively finishing higher in tournaments and team bakers,” said Pitre.

She continued, “With our biggest tournament, the Hoosier Classic, approaching, we need to stay focused and keep our team energy up.”

Sometimes the little things make a huge difference.

“Now that we have done what we’ve been working



**Freshman Kasidey Easlick beat her previous best average of 174.8 by scoring a 213.25.: Alma College Sports Information**

*Photo courtesy of Alma College Sports Information*

to do all season, we can see that the simple things like communication between the team and coach helps give us the boost we need,” said

Easlick. “Going forward, the ladies now know that they can bowl with the best in the country,” said Woodcock.

# Student Athletic Advisory Council hosts Jock Rock

By **JOELLE FISHER**  
SPORTS WRITER

Students, faculty and friends gathered together for an evening of laughter and self-inflicted embarrassment in the Hogan Center for the 7th annual Jock Rock this past weekend. Jock Rock is an event that is organized and hosted by the Student Advisory Council (SAAC).

The acts during the events are put on by student-athletes and the athletic department faculty; however, anyone in the community is welcome to attend.

“Jock Rock is a great time for athletes to get together and have some fun, and enjoy a night of great laughs,” said Michelle

Sabourin, head cheer and stunt coach. “It’s always a blast to see student athletes out of their normal roles and this event really serves as a great event for all involved,” said Sabourin.

The rules of Jock Rock have been quite the same over the years. All participating sports teams are required to put on a skit and/or music parody in under 5 minutes. Three judges will score each routine based on its creativity, costumes, audience response and overall impression.

The winning team will receive a trophy to hold onto for the year as well as bragging rights.”

My freshman year we got everyone from our team involved which was an

awesome excuse for more bonding time together,” said **Kristina Berklanz (‘19)**.

“We had so much fun the whole time while choreographing a dance and even ended up getting placed in the top five,” said Berklanz.

The judges this year were Nancy Gager from Hamilton Commons, Pete the custodian and John from the Registrar’s office.

SAAC picks these individuals based on a voting system within the club. Judges are typically chosen because of their presence on campus and impartiality to the event.

“I love that Jock Rock is embarrassing, but in a funny, nonjudgmental way,” said Miller. “My

favorite memory from last year was when one of the baseball players serenaded Nancy,” said Miller. This year’s Jock Rock was hosted by **Katie Bush (‘19)** and **Laura Kastler (‘19)**.

This is their second year in a row hosting together, and their third year involved in SAAC.

“Jock Rock is one of my favorite events that SAAC runs every year,” said Bush.

“Student athletes are given a chance to compete in a new atmosphere that is based more on creativity and humor rather than skill and strength,” said Bush.

“Thinking of something creative as a team and going through the process of putting it into a skit is my favorite part of Jock Rock because you get to see a side

of your teammates that you don’t normally see on the field,” said **Ally Ray (‘20)**.

The top five spots this year were dominated by women’s teams. Women’s lacrosse, soccer, basketball, softball and Cheer & STUNT were among the top five.

The winning team will be announced in the weeks to come and will be able to pick where they wish to sit at Scotties.

“Win or lose, this is always such a fun time for our student athletes on campus,” said Bush. “We love to see how involved everyone can be and how enjoyable it is to come together as a community,”

# Wrestling coach inducted in to National Hall of Fame

By **JOHN DURGA**  
STAFF WRITER

Alma College Wrestling is a decades old program that has seen vast amounts of success through the last 10 years. Many of those years were coached under Alma wresling coach Todd Hibbs.

Hibbs built Alma’s wrestling program up to a frequent top 25 team in division three peaking in sixth in 2016 according to djwrestle.com.

Hibbs also molded his team in to an elite program academically. The Scots were recognized three times by the NWCA with a team grade-point average of 3.5 or higher under his coaching.

As a former assistant

coach under Coach Hibbs I was able to observe the ins and outs of building and maintaining a successful program,” said Jeremiah Tobias. “I feel fortunate to have him as a mentor and friend.”

Throughout his coaching career, Hibbs posted a dual-meet record of 106-53-2, only posting a losing record in his first season at Alma College.

“Coach Hibbs was able to truly put himself in his athletes’ shoes,” said **Taylor Mcphail (‘18)**. “Having been a Division 3 wrestler, he knew what I was going through in my highest and lowest points of the season.”

Hibbs also played a big part in Alma College’s

athletic facilities advancing. He worked with the Alma College Advancement Office raising nearly \$4 million for the new additions to Alma College’s athletic facilities. It included the Hatcher Wrestling Room, the Sherman Strength and Conditioning Facility, a new area for the cheerleading and STUNT team, as well as new coaching offices and a coaches’ locker room.

“Coach Hibbs has spent many years supporting the sport of wrestling through his coaching, writing and announcing,” said Tobias.

“He has helped rebuild and re-establish a program here in the state of Michigan. By doing this he was able to provide

guidance for many young men as they transitioned into adult hood.”

Coach Hibbs was a success at other schools as well. His career at Mount Union College produced two NCAA Division three All-Americans as well as three Ohio Athletic Conference Championships. He was also inducted in to Mount Union’s Hall of Fame.

Hibbs has coached at conference rival Olivet College. He rebuilt their program to a top ten team nationally. He was also a candidate for NCAA Coach of the Year in 2006 when his team notched a 16-1-1 record. He was eventually promoted to the vice president for institutional development from 2009-2011.

Hibbs is to be inducted in to Michigan Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and has been awarded the Lifetime Service Award. He has received numerous other awards from the individual colleges that he has coached at.

“Regardless of coach being in the hall of fame,” said Mcphail, “he will always be on my personal wall of fame of people I want to be like.”

For those wanting to attend the ceremony it will occur during the chapter’s annual banquet at Weber’s Inn in Ann Arbor on May 20. Anyone is welcome to attend.