



Christ Vest: Photographer

Student and faculty protesters line up along Superior Street to verbally oppose President Trump's anti-immigration executive orders and rhetoric.

VEE club leads protests against ban, wall

MICHAELA HOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Considering the controversy and coverage of President Trump's travel ban, it's unlikely that you haven't heard of it. While Alma College does not have any students from the seven countries named in the order, there is still concern for those effected in any way.

Last Wednesday, a "No Ban, No Wall" rally and march were held on campus, sponsored by Voices Enabling Equality (VEE) Club.

"[Despite the] violation of international and American constitutional law, this is still happening in front of our eyes," said **Audrey Karr ('18)**, founder of VEE club.

"We decided to organize this to make sure that everybody knows on this campus that we stand with Muslims and we stand with refugees."

A crowd of approximately 30 agreed with her and showed up to march and line up on Superior Street. Signs were provided to those who did not bring their own, with lines like: "All are welcome here," "Solidarity with Muslims and Refugees," "Trump

"No Trump,
No KKK,
No Fascist
USA."

Out, Immigrants In" – and of course, a couple that featured memes, such as "Welcome ALL

the people!"

Dalia Barghouty's ('18) father is from Jordan. She shared about who her dad is and how the bans and walls have stripped people of their humanity. "This ban has been shown to be unconstitutional, but the Trump administration is still enforcing it," said Barghouty. She also said that, in spite of the fact that Alma College does not have any students from the seven countries, "we stand here today to show the rest of Alma's campus, as well as the Alma community, that we will not stand for bans and we will not stand for building walls, metaphorical or literal."

Barghouty emphasized the humanity of these refugees and immigrants, some of which she said "are refugees who have suffered atrocities in their home countries," and would not

have left if they had any other options.

"In the last few days we have seen doctors, researchers, scholars, students, writers, like ourselves, banned from entering the United States

"Welcome
ALL the
people."

– many of which are already legal residents and green card holders," said Barghouty. "These travelers and immigrants are our mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts, uncles, neighbors and best friends, but more importantly, our fellow human beings."

"It's our job to highlight their stories and their voices, because they're being silenced by white supremacy and racism and capitalism," said Karr. "It's becoming apparent that something needs to be done. So we're going to have this small march to line up, say a few chants and get some bad looks from the community."

So they marched, chanting these statements: "No Ban, No Wall," "No Trump, No KKK, No Fascist USA," "From Palestine to Mexico, the Walls Have Got to Go" and "Say it Loud, Say it Clear, Refugees are Welcome Here."

"Today we are here to resist the current authoritarian administration, today we are here to emphasize the humanity," said Barghouty. "That is why we rally here today."

Mailroom makes packaging changes

ALINE BATAWI
STAFF WRITER

For Alma College students and some community members, the mailroom located on Superior Street is a primary resource for packaging, shipping and printing services. It has recently changed some of its policies, affecting Alma College and the surrounding community.

Some of these revisions include new pricing for packaging materials, drop off fees and the way employees recycle used boxes.

"Every year we have to evaluate our procedures and prices," said Ashley Strawn, manager of general merchandise and auxiliary services.

The policy changes that have been made affect the pricing of packaging and shipping. According to Strawn, there has been no significant increase in pricing for students, faculty, or staff on campus and that the hikes apply primarily to the public.

"We are a retail operation for the community," said Strawn. "There are fees and charges for our services."

Among them are drop off fees—waived for students, faculty,



Aaron Leonard: Photographer

Mailroom specialist Linda Collins helps implement mailing procedures.

and staff. For the surrounding community, these fees are nominal, but not waived.

"The drop off fees help cover our costs from the carrier, because we are a pick-up location," said Strawn. "These fees have always been in place but recently were posted because of the increase in foot traffic from the community."

According to Strawn, these fees should not be a problem for the surrounding community, because most customers already have the

materials needed for packages.

"After a brief study, we found that approximately 90 percent of the public already had their items packaged and were ready to be shipped," said Strawn. "We also looked at how other retail operations such as FedEx, USPS, and UPS charged for shipping and materials."

Other price increases that have been made are for envelopes and padded envelopes.

The cost of shipping has also

increased.

"Shipping prices have increased because all carriers like USPS, UPS and FedEx have increased their rates this year by about 5 percent," said Strawn. "This is out of our hands, and we can't control those prices."

Taylor Thompson ('18), a student mailroom employee, believes that these changes should not have a significant effect on the community, because community residents have continued to use

the services despite the higher rates.

However, some of the changes in policy will affect students.

"If a student needs to ship something and we do not have a used box, then a box will have to be purchased," said Strawn.

According to Thompson, if the box needed by a student is larger than the premeasured size, the mailroom will charge them for the box.

"We premeasure the boxes to be about the size of a textbook," said Thompson. "We don't charge students for those boxes, only if they need larger boxes."

According to Strawn, the mailroom is limited on the size of boxes due to space concerns. Due to the growing services and packages delivered to the mailroom, they are unable to dedicate the space to used material.

"Our solution was to downsize the used box pile and to keep a few used boxes for the students when they are returning rental books at the end of the semester, at no cost," said Strawn.

Continued on Page 2

Administration plans against shooters

MONICA KUNIVSZKY
WEB EDITOR

A few months ago, the knife attack at Ohio State University sparked news coverage and a wave of safety concerns for campuses across the nation, including Alma College.

There had previously been attention given to improving the safety of campus, but this process has been expedited with the realization that unpredictable safety concerns could arise at any moment.

The safety committee at Alma College met in November to address and discuss issues regarding student, faculty, staff and community safety.

Ann Hall, vice president for planning and communication, discussed the editing and revamping of an emergency response plan.

“Originally there had been a comprehensive plan never made available to students, only administrative staff,” said Hall. “[We] didn’t apply too much of how the average person could respond.” The original draft was said to be far too long, at 100 pages or more.

“What we want to do is try

to get it down to a readable document,” said Hall. “We want to make it quick but try to cover as many parts as we can. Situations are so different, it’s hard to cover all. But taking a different approach intended for quick looks to see what to do in a certain scenario can help.”

Examples of these included chemical spills during class or health issues that could sweep across campus in an epidemic. The goal for this emergency response plan is to cover real emergencies.

“Calling 911 and then calling security might pertain to a situation,” said Nick Piccolo, vice president for student life. “It’s best to let people who are trained take care of situations.” Piccolo also mentioned focusing on certain expertise to help flexibility in situations.

The group also looked at ways to have better communication with those on campus, using Ohio State as an example of quick response time to an emergency.

“These [emergency] situations take 10-15 minutes on average to respond to,” said Piccolo. “The average time for campus shooters is 3-7 minutes. Although at Alma, we’re small enough that it takes

two minutes for police to come. We still want to have proper communication with people.”

Piccolo said that there should be good communication with campus during emergencies to “keep us moving along in a way that’s productive for all.”

The standard procedure for dealing with on-campus shooters is Run, Hide, Fight. According to this policy, it is best to have an escape route and plan in mind, leave your belongings behind and keep your hands visible. Hiding out of view of the shooter, and blocking entry of the place where you’re hiding is advised. As a last resort, fight the perpetrator, but only if your life is in imminent danger.

The policy guidelines also suggested that if in a room while a shooter is on campus, it is better to lay on the floor and put a table by it with your feet against in order can minimize the chance of being an open target.

Topics that were also covered were emergency shelters in case of a tornado and how to respond if there’s an issue during an athletic event.

Security Manager Toby Pickelmann also touched on the

ACTIVE SHOOTER
RESPONSE



RUN

HIDE



FIGHT

Marcella Flurry: Photo Editor

The standard procedure for handling a campus shooter is to run, hide and fight if necessary.

campus lighting concerns that have been circulating. Steps are being taken to measure how many lumens are actually being emitted and how well the lights actually illuminate an area.

Pickelmann said, “we’re all part of the safety team. If you see something, you can put in a work order.”

Overall, safety concerns are being taken into account and

being worked on to improve upon. Hall said, “It’s a safe campus, but any emergency could happen anywhere.”

This emergency response plan is in its fifth or sixth draft. More campus policies have been under review, in addition to the emergency plan. There’s also been talk of adding Title IX policies and a revised alcohol poisoning procedures.

Continued from Page 1

Mailroom makes packaging changes

“Keeping a set of standard size boxes eliminates the accumulation of unneeded boxes taking up space,” said Strawn.

According to Thompson, previously, the mailroom had a large storage room full of used boxes. All of them had to be disposed of when the new policies

were enforced at the beginning of this semester.

With the limited amount of space available for keeping boxes, the mailroom is unable to reuse all the boxes they are given.

“We try to recycle the overabundance of boxes as much as possible,” said Strawn. “Boxes

are picked up by facilities when we put them out and some boxes are disposed of in the dumpster depending on the weather and space.”

However, there are concerns that the new charges for boxes will prevent people from using the mailroom’s used boxes.

Trump’s Islam misconceptions denounced

PAIGE DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump on Jan. 27 signed an executive order halting immigration from seven Middle Eastern and predominantly Muslim countries: Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Syria.

Legal citizens traveling from the seven countries back to the U.S. were detained in airports across the nation; legal green-card holders were targeted and detained as well, causing more confusion.

In response to this executive order, protestors flocked to airports to speak out against the actions of the current administration. Lawyers rushed in to help detainees, camping out in airports as organizations offered donations to fund their work.

This swift response to the order is reflected in the opinions of students and professors alike on campus, as they believe that the executive order is informed by fundamental misunderstandings on President Trump’s behalf.

“I think there are strong anti-Islamic sentiments in the U.S. right now,” said **Dalia Barghouty (’18)**. Barghouty’s father immigrated from Jordan and was raised Muslim. Though Barghouty herself does not practice Islam, she expressed personal concerns about this executive order.

“Islam, to me, is something that I haven’t viewed simply on television; my aunt read the Quran to me when I was young,” she said. “I’ve seen the actual Islam not the Islam often portrayed in the media.”

Barghouty argued that by Trump’s logic in the executive

order, Saudi Arabia or Egypt would be included in the ban as citizens from those countries carried out the 9/11 attacks.

“I feel like Trump is saying [the executive order] is to protect us, but I think it’s more about Islamophobia and a strong belief that Christianity is under threat,” she said.

She also brought up ISIS and its possible connection to this immigration ban.

“[Trump] may be looking at ISIS as the current threat, but what Americans have to understand is that ISIS is a threat to Arabs more than Americans,” said Barghouty. “The refugees are fleeing partially because of ISIS; ISIS is in Syria and Iraq. Yazidi people were killed by ISIS – Trump doesn’t talk about that though.”

Professor of Religion Kate Blanchard mentioned misconceptions about Islam in the West, even as Christianity and Islam are both Abrahamic religions.

“The biggest falsehood is that Islam is somehow essentially different than Judaism or Christianity, that it is ‘more violent’ or ‘more misogynist,’” she said. “Muslims revere the Bible as a prologue to the Quran, and the God of the Quran is no more violent or vengeful than the God of the Hebrew Scriptures.”

“Another important falsehood is that Islam is monolithic, as if somehow 1.5 billion human beings are all exactly alike,” continued Blanchard. “Before he was elected, Trump once said, ‘I think Islam hates us;’ this is a staggeringly ignorant statement, and he’s not alone in this type of thinking.”

Blanchard suggested that the U.S. should deal with domestic terrorism first, if Trump is looking to tackle the problem.

“Consider the different responses to violent criminals in this country: white men and boys go on shooting rampages at least monthly—I think the mosque in Quebec is the most recent—and the media and politicians attribute the violence to an individual case of mental illness or bad parenting,” she said.

“Meanwhile, seven entire nations of immigrants and refugees are banned, including Syrians. There’s no rhyme or reason to it, which is why I think it’s a visceral, gut-level response to unchecked racism and fear of ‘the other.’”

Jabar Haydar (’20) practices Islam and shares similar feelings in terms of domestic terrorism in the U.S.

Haydar felt that it was necessary to dispel misunderstandings about the religion. “Islam is a religion of peace; there is no relation between terrorism and Islam,” he said. “Islam is just like Christianity – we practice serenity, peace, love and loyalty.”

This executive order has resulted in significant acts of violence against the Muslim community in both the U.S. and Canada, said Barghouty.

“It clearly has affected individual people who have been able to legally be here before, leaving actual citizens with nowhere to go,” she said.

Blanchard expressed gratitude for former Assistant Attorney General Sally Yates, who called the executive order illegal and was then fired by President Trump. “I hope the president learned an important civics lesson about how democracy works; it’s nothing like a family-owned business and he’s not the CEO of the United States,” she said. “The nation’s laws preceded him, and he has to play by the same rules as the rest of us.”

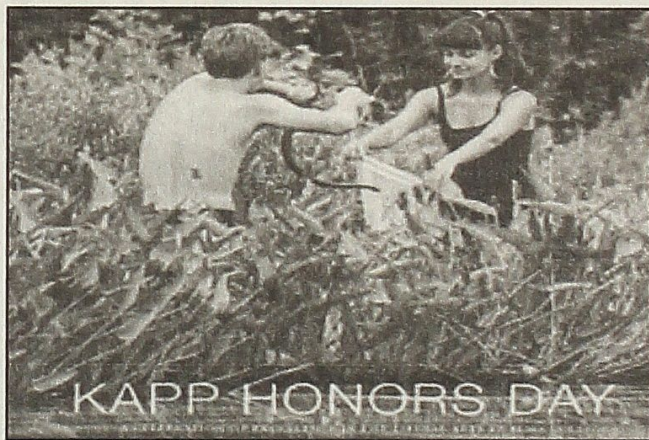


Photo courtesy of alma.edu

Students reflect on Honors Day

MARGARET RAUSCH
STAFF WRITER

Honors Day 2017 is set for April 6, but there are plenty of presentations from years past that we can still learn from.

“In 2014, my project was about the murder trial of a governor in Idaho who was blown up at his residence,” said **Mackenzie Kalisiewicz (’17)**. “The presentation covered background information about the Miner’s Strike of 1899 and the court case against those who hired an assassin to kill the Idaho governor.”

Honors Day does not limit students to independent study projects or summer research experiences. If a student has completed original work, they are welcome to submit.

Presenting not only benefits those sharing their work, but the audience as well, explained **Deve Wishart (’18)**. Her project focused on the psychological effects of the language people use to describe gender in order to express the idea that there are more than two genders.

“My hope was that my presentation would teach others about the importance of becoming conscious of our own

internalized prejudices and how they influence the way we think,” said Wishart. “Language is extremely important; it can provide legitimacy to a cause or make it so that no one can take a cause or person seriously.”

Participating as a freshman, her experience helped to develop her skills as a writer and a presenter and to build her academic confidence.

“It taught me that if my material is strong, I do not have to be anxious about how people will judge me,” said Wishart.

“After my presentation, I got a message from someone I did not know who said they really enjoyed my presentation and that it was the first Honor’s Day presentation they ever got to laugh at,” said Kalisiewicz. “I felt honored at that comment. It turned out to be Marcus Richter.”

Honors Day provides students with a safe environment to share not just their work but their voice, and in just a couple months, the campus will be filled with new and experienced ones.

“[Honors Day is] important because even though I was fresh into Alma College, I still had something to say and believed it was interesting enough to be heard,” said Kalisiewicz.

Trump has executive disorder

Hannah King’s breakdown of the president’s activity

By HANNAH KING
CAMPUS EDITOR

Things have certainly not slowed down during President Trump’s second week in office. Although he may not be troubled by his decisions at present, as he has spent a luxurious weekend in Palm Beach, the rest of America seems to be very uncomfortable.

This week’s list of executive orders are a continuation of those a reviewed last week.

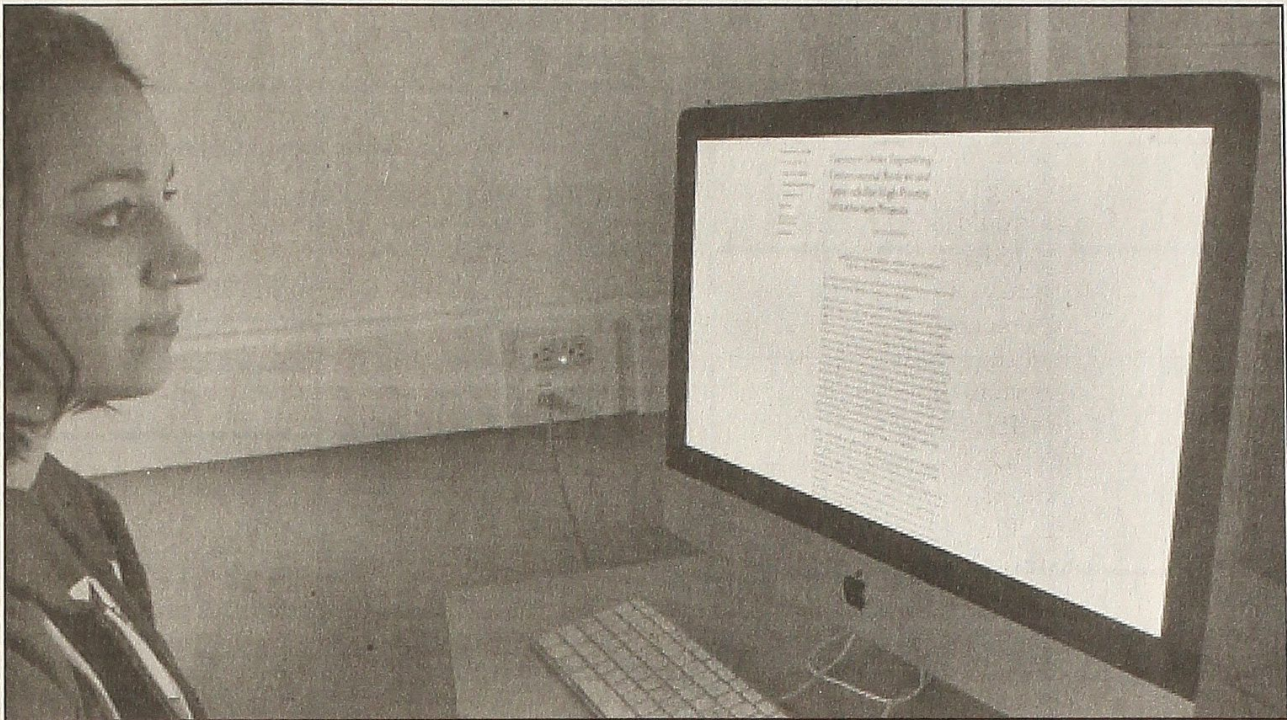
No. 5. Protecting the nation from foreign terrorist entry

This executive order prevents all refugees from entering America for 120 days. The number 120 seems to put people at ease, for some reason.

For an immigrant undergoing the intensive process of entering America, four months is an extremely long time. This is four months of innocent people unable to see their families, unable to move forward after waiting up to two years to get this far and four months without a real, safe home.

The executive order caught the country off guard and created chaos in airports. Due to the lack of preparation for such a massive change confusion led to extremely unfair treatment.

Many immigrants with green cards, including those who were



Abigail Fergus: Editor-in-Chief

Hannah King (‘17) explains and criticizes President Donald Trump’s executive orders.

already living in the country, were barred from entering or re-entering the U.S. Individuals in the process of obtaining visas were unable to continue or even enter embassies to complete their interviews.

Federal Judge James Robart has announced his attempt to halt the travel ban. It is still unclear which aspects of the ban will be halted, and if Robart’s order will even be properly applied.

No. 6. Ethics commitment by executive branch appointees

This is the executive order that will “drain the swamp,” one of Trump’s very popular campaign

messages. What it means? That is the tricky part.

What the order essentially says is that Trump’s cabinet members will have to create new ethics agreements that will prevent them from having financial ties between companies and the departments in which they hold positions. Basically, the cabinet members will not be involved in any lobbying activity, they are not to act as lobbyists or interact with lobbyists.

No. 7. Reducing regulation and controlling regulatory

costs

For every new federal regulation submitted, two regulations are to be removed. The costs of these regulations are to be budgeted and reduced.

Trump’s argument: this executive order will help small businesses take off and be successful without being held back by regulations.

My argument: this order will allow business owners to not be restricted in terms of treatment and pay of employees, harm to the environment whether through pollution and of honest communication to the public.

Migos officially break through

New album “Culture” is an exciting example of the group’s talent

By ZAC CAHILL
THOUGHTS EDITOR

Migos have been around for a while now, releasing two full length albums and many more mixtapes and singles. While they have had a few smash hits—I still love “Versace”—and even many iconic deep cuts (“Wishy Washy” is a personal favorite), the Migos have had a hard time solidifying themselves in the ever-changing competitive world of hip-hop.

Capitalizing off of their No. 1 smash hit “Bad and Boujee” (which appears on this album), Migos, comprised of rappers Quavo, Takeoff and Offset, have released their attempt at breaking into the zeitgeist once and for all.

Going into the album, I didn’t know what to expect, and I will admit that I did not have incredibly high hopes going into “Culture.” All that I wanted was to be surprised and to have a reason to listen to the album, which clocks in at just under an hour, all the way through without getting bored.

Even despite having no formal expectations from this record, it still managed to surprise me quite a bit. “Culture” is an album bursting at the seams with personality, showcasing the Migos’ distinct style and putting them above many mainstream rappers today.

The record opens with “Culture,” the first sound being DJ Khaled introducing the song, saying in part: “this the intro, for all you f*ckboys that ever doubted

feel fresh and exciting in a mainstream dominated by mumble rap (sorry Lil Yachty).

Tracks such as “T-Shirt”—with a killer repeated line

a verse which is instantly above the others; they are all presented as one fluid aspect of the song.

The album does slip up towards the end, with the over six minute



Migos’ new album “Culture” is fresh and exciting hip hop. Use this QR code to listen to lead single “Bad and Boujee.”

Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

the Migos.” The song serves as a great introduction, it’s exciting yet relatively instrumentally sparse, showcasing the rhymes, which are self-confident and brimming with personality.

The record develops from there, getting more adventurous here and there, yet always remaining comfortably consistent. This is classic trap music, and does not stray far from the formula already set in place.

What “Culture” does exceedingly well, however, is

referencing Dr. Suess’ “There’s a Wocket in my Pocket”, “Call Casting” and “Slippery” (featuring a great verse from Gucci Mane) all feature great recognizable trap beats, with enough instrumental personality to carry them someplace further, someplace special.

The same can be said of many of the songs here, each also featuring each member trading rhymes and ad-libs so seamlessly that they all sound absolutely on the same page. Nobody delivers

“Kelly Price” (with a verse from Travis Scott that leaves a lot to be desired) and a closing track that meanders along a little too much (despite its triumphant “we did it” attitude).

All in all, the Migos do not disappoint. They have propelled themselves, in my eyes, from an Atlanta group that had a few songs I liked, to releasing a solid album with song after song that I want to play often. Migos have broken through; here’s hoping they stay for a while.

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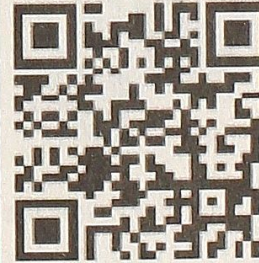
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HOROSCOPES

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

Quotes for the signs

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



“When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on.”—Franklin D. Roosevelt

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



Keep your friends close—and only friends. Don't listen to that advice about keeping enemies closer: just get rid of them all together.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.”—Dr. Seuss

LEO (July 23- August 22)



“There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self.”—Aldous Huxley

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



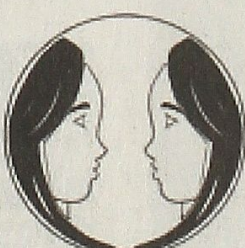
“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”—Eleanor Roosevelt
Aim higher and don't give people a reason to try and bog you down.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



There's a quote that goes, “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it,” so make sure your reaction is a good one.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Tomorrow is another day. So don't get too hung up on the problems of yesterday; you will find a solution to your problems, and there will be a way to fix them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



“Being entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise.”—Sigmund Freud
So don't beat around the bush and kid yourself; make sure you're being realistic and honest with yourself about your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



“You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.”—Indira Gandhi
Make the first steps to mending broken friendships, or at least the first steps in moving forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



“Keep your face always toward the sunshine—and the shadows will fall behind you.”—Walt Whitman
Cheer up buttercup.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



“Do not mind anything that anyone tells you about anyone else. Judge everyone and everything for yourself.”—Henry James

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



“But man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated.”—Ernest Hemingway
Don't let any setbacks get to you. Use it as fuel to restart and be better than you were before.

Alma grad teaches intersectionality

By **MONICA KUNOVSKY**
WEB EDITOR

Phiwa Langeni ('04) came back to Alma and described the ambiance of being back in its “sacred halls”—where Langeni began the journey of finding who they were supposed to be.

Langeni is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ denomination. Langeni is a transmasculine genderqueer person and the pronouns they use are they/ them.

They described themselves before students at a talk last Thursday:

“I am Phiwa, a reverend, a Christian..., a pastor, black, South African to be more specific, parent—a single parent, child, and sibling.”

Langeni explained that those are only a few of their characteristics and identities. Langeni made sure to comment, “I speak for Phiwa and only Phiwa. Not on behalf of my race or gender.” They explained that the presentation for that night would explain and share only their experiences.

By sharing these identities, they would like to lead an example to use as an opportunity to let people explain what their identities

mean to them. From the beginning, it was made explicit that the stories they told should not leave the room, for that is Langeni’s story to tell, and others could do no justice to retell a tale that is not theirs. “Honor and keep these stories here, but take the learnings with you.”

Langeni created a conversational environment where audience members could engage in dialogue with one another, ask questions directed to them and feel safe.

They also expressed their position on safe zones. “I’m not about it,” said Langeni. “I’ll tell you why. What’s safe for you might not be safe for me. And what’s safe for me, you might not feel okay with.”

Langeni asked that those in the room step into a “brave space.” This meant listening to someone else’s truth—inviting discomfort, because that’s where growth happens and sharing your own discomfort to teach others about your perspective. They also invited anyone in the room to contribute any rules for the conversation to follow.

Students were able to relate Langeni’s experiences to their own lives.

“The conversation with Reverend Phiwa Langeni was very enriching,” said **Jose**



Domenica DallaVecchia: Photographer

Phiwa Langeni ('04) discusses the intersections of identifiers such as race, class and religion.

Maldonado ('17).

“As a queer person, I find it very difficult to connect my faith with my sexuality, but yesterday Phiwa himself demonstrated to all of us in the room that intersectionality is the answer to find a balance between the different identities of each person. Thank you Alma College for opening such an inclusive space to access and learn about what actual diversity is.”

Adeeje Chamas ('20) had similar views on the speaker.

“The presentation for me was a valuable learning experience,”

said Chamas.

“One part that particularly stood out was when Rev. Phiwa spoke about [how differently] they were treated by others depending on whether or not they were perceived as male or female, and that in the case of the latter, others felt that they could touch Phiwa’s body more freely. That hit close to home for me.”

Langeni brought topics that reminded privileged individuals to mind their privilege and that “being nice keeps this system in place. Being kind is a different story.”

They explained that being nice encourages negative behaviors, such as touching without consent.

Their call to action included challenging audience members to engage and speak up: call each other out and advocate. “Speak regardless of if people in the target area are in that space,” said Langeni.

A privileged person speaking up could save the life of a targeted person, according to Langeni. Those who are targeted have lost their lives for defending themselves, said Langeni.

Art students showcase work on women’s issues

By **HANNAH KING**
CAMPUS EDITOR

Seven seniors will exhibit their work this spring at the annual Senior Art Show. Three specialize in drawing, painting and handcrafting. They have been working on their collections all year and are now in the final stages of creating.

All three of their collections share one thing in common: women. Despite the common subject matter, they all convey very different messages in varying mediums, sizes and styles.

Reilly Gordon ('17) is painting a collection of colorful depictions of women dressed in medieval and renaissance garb and in fantasy settings.

“My work is placing strong warrior women in fantasy worlds to show women in the traditional heroic roles of men,” said Gordon.

Some of the characters Gordon paints are fighting beasts or are dressed for battle to address “fighting your demons.”

“The message that I hope to send to my viewers is a sense of uplifting peace and inspiration and I hope that they feel a connection to



Zack Baker: Photographer

Sarah Bishop ('17) paints her message on women and sex with watercolor.

the characters I portray,” said Gordon.

Annamarie Williams ('17) tells stories of women disregarded and abused through her art.

“My hope is that my drawings can add to the ongoing and important conversation of abuse” said Williams. Although

I am motivated by an array of social injustices, I try and embrace various forms of visual expression through illustrative language as well as subtle hints at versions of inequality and abuse.”

While Williams draws and paints, she has also combined the art of sewing and making

tea and coffee to create an original medium.

“I use teabags to create a kind of cloth,” said Williams. “I quilt them all together using a sewing machine and then make them into dresses.” One of Williams’ dresses is made from over 200 teabags.

“I use teabags and coffee

filters as a reference to the domestic woman, who is traditionally depicted in the kitchen, preparing food or beverages such as tea and coffee,” said Williams.

“Each of my dresses represents a person who has told me their story of abuse. Each one is unique to that individual.”

“My show is about sex,” said **Sarah Bishop ('17)**, who uses watercolor to create poster-like portraits of women making history. “My show is specifically about the double standard placed on women for having sex. When men have sex, it is celebrated, whereas when women have sex they are shamed.”

Bishop touches on women playing sports, obtaining their voting rights and expressing their sexuality.

“Women don’t have a freshness seal that says ‘if broken do not consume.’ I just want people to come to terms with the fact that a woman having sex is the same as a man having sex.”

All students are welcome to visit the gallery as soon as the show is hung, which is set to be towards the end of May, with exact dates to be announced. The Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery invites you to come enjoy a show of feminine power.

Women’s basketball honors Coach Brown

By **EMILY KROLEWICZ**
SPORTS WRITER

The women’s basketball team hosted Kalamazoo College last Wednesday in its annual Pink Game (80-78). The players paid tribute to former women’s head basketball coach, Keisha Brown.

“My freshman season with Coach Brown was the best season of my basketball career,” said **Tara Padgett (’17)**. “She truly cared about her players as individuals and wanted to see us reach our potential both on and off the court.”

Brown died in 2014 from breast cancer but not before leaving her legacy at Alma and in the players she coached—as well as in a foundation she created called The Keisha Brown Angel Wings Fund.

According to angelwingsfund.org, its mission “is dedicated to making a difference for any individual that loses a parent to cancer through financial scholarship, to raising awareness about cancer through education and

service and to make a positive impact on the life of someone with cancer or someone directly affected by cancer.

“I think we raised over \$600 to donate to the fund,” said current head coach Kris Johnson. “The parents and Alma community were so helpful. Sororities brought baked goods to sell and the parents provided the themed baskets to be auctioned off.

“The JV men’s basketball team helped man the tables during our game. The collaboration between everyone was great.”

Seniors and alumni honored Coach Brown during halftime by presenting her husband Damon and daughter Angel with a pink No. 15 Alma jersey.

“That was such an emotional moment, because without Coach Brown, I’m not sure if any of us would be at Alma College,” said Padgett. “With everything the family has done for us, it was a great way to say thank you and honor Coach Brown.”

The Keisha Brown Angel Wings Fund, represented by Damon and Angel, presented



Zack Backer: Photographer

Tara Padgett (’17) drives to the hoop. She remembers former coach Keisha Brown as a caring person.

a \$25,000 check to President Abernathy and athletic director Steven Rackley during halftime, in memory of Coach Brown.

The team also honored other friends and family who have battled or are currently battling cancer by putting the last name of their loved ones on each of their jerseys.

“My person was in the stands, so it was very cool to be able to ‘play’ the game for them,” said Johnson.

“The Pink Game is special for the girls who knew Coach Brown because this [team] meant a lot to her while she was battling breast cancer,” said Padgett. “For everyone on the team, I believe

it gives us an extra spark to play for those who can’t, and honor them the best way we can.

“To play for Coach Brown is one of the best feelings ever. She believed in me, and every game I step on the court and try to give it my all and make her proud.”

Program celebrates softball coach’s success

By **JOELLE FISHER**
SPORTS WRITER

Whenever you need a smile, good advice or a helping hand, Dennis “Denny” Griffin will be there to make it happen.

“Denny stands out in many different aspects. If you have a conversation with the man, you instantly are aware of his authentic, corky and old fashioned personality,” said **Erin Lee (’18)**. “You never know what is going to come out of his mouth, but 50 percent of the time it makes you laugh.”

Griffin started his Alma College career as the head athletic trainer. When there was an opening for the assistant coaching position for the softball team, he took the opportunity without hesitation. Two years passed and Griffin moved up into the head coaching position slot.

Through his 27 years as head coach, Denny has accumulated an overall record of 807-298, which ranks him as one of the most successful Division III coaches.

“I admire Coach Griffin’s aspirations, vision and fire for the game,” said **Anna Couture (’17)**. “He knows what it takes to make it all the way and will never settle for middle-of-the-road.

“He is patient, yet competitive. He is a contiguous learner of himself and his experiences. Coach can be extremely stern at times, but he truly is a kid at heart.”

Griffin ranks at 48th for All Divisions in winningest coaches of all-time and is ranked second in Division III for victories as an active coach. Griffin’s teams have won 13 MIAA championships, making him the highest-ranking MIAA softball coach

for conference titles.

“Denny stands out from other coaches I’ve had because he really tests my limits and pushes me out of my comfort zone,” said **Kelsey Spencer (’17)**. “He has made me into an overall better person and given me another family through this program.”

With Griffin’s success as the head coach, the Scots have advanced to the nationals six times (1994, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005, and 2015). Among his many athletes, 74 were named to the All-MIAA, 12 were named MVPs and 13 were named All-Americans.

“My goal is to teach the kids everything I know and get the most out of them on and off the field,” said Griffin. “I want this to be a memorable experience for all of them.”

“I think Denny’s success has come from his passion for the game along with enforcing the

importance of tradition,” said Lee. “He coaches the person, not just the athlete, and tries to make us successful, well-rounded, good people—not just good softball players. He puts his heart and soul into this program, and it shows.”

Griffin dedicated his team’s success to their hard work and his long-term staff. Assistant coach Phil Hanson is on his 20th year and assistant coach Mike Dorn is on his 24th year, while Brandee West begins her 17th year as the head junior varsity coach.

“Longevity in the coaching staff gives you quality players,” said Griffin.

In the 2016 season, the team finished its season 33-10 overall and 14-2 in the MIAA. It split the MIAA conference championship and won the MIAA tournament championship title before falling to Benedictine University in the NCAA Regional Tournament.

In the 2015 season the Scots concluded with a trip to Salem, VA., in which they were able to participate in the 2015 NCAA Softball Finals for the sixth time in program history. The team was 30-17 overall and 12-4 in the MIAA conference.

“It’s been a fun ride and I don’t plan on it stopping any time soon,” said Griffin.

This season, the Alma College softball team is slated as 12th best team in Division III according to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. Pitcher **Morgan Stratton (’17)** has been named to the Fastpitch Nation (FPN) Preseason All-American Team.

The softball season begins Sunday, Feb. 26 in a doubleheader against Hanover and Otterbein in Clermont, Florida.

Student athletes showcase team talents

By **BRIANNA ZIMMER**
SPORTS WRITER

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) held its 7th annual Jock Rock last Friday.

“Jock Rock is a performing opportunity for the student athletes,” said SAAC advisor Michelle Sabourin. “It’s five-minute skits, music parodies and comedic routines—basically anything entertaining.

“It’s a chance outside of sports to get out of your comfort zone and have some fun as an athletic department.”

The tradition began seven years ago as a SAAC initiative primarily based off of Division I schools that hold a similar event.

“This has been a tradition at Alma, it gives the athletes a chance to showcase other talents they many have and provides a much needed break from the grind of being a student-athlete,” said

SAAC president and Women’s Lacrosse player **Miranda Kruse (’17)**.

“At our last SAAC meeting we voted for who we wanted to judge and chose the order the teams will perform in,” said Kruse.

Jock Rock is full of live music and an assortment of talented performances by the student athletes, with scores given by members of the Alma College community.

“We always try to get judges who are outside the athletic field

and will be unbiased towards a certain team,” said Sabourin. “This year we have Pete from maintenance, Zack from sports information and Nancy from Hamilton Commons.”

The judges do their best to make objective decisions based on the team’s participation, choreography, costumes, originality, entertainment and the audience’s reaction.

Nancy, from Sodexo, said, “I had to forget all the pre-formed biases and opinions I have on students I know, which was

really difficult. I wanted to give really good scores to all of the teams. I can’t believe the talent all these students have.”

The three judges chose the top five teams—men’s basketball, women’s lacrosse, volleyball, Football and baseball.

A winner will be chosen and presented with “bragging rights and a large trophy at the Scotty Awards when the winner is announced on March 31,” said Kruse.