

Sodexo-Mancino's contract falls through

ALINE BATAWI
 STAFF WRITER

Since Sodexo ended its contract with Pizza One earlier this year, students have been waiting for a new partnership to emerge. It was announced earlier this semester that Mancino's Pizza and Grinders would replace Pizza One as the venue that would accept Munch Money.

With the semester ending in two weeks and Munch Money still not being accepted at Mancino's, students have been questioning what's going on. Gary Brown, operations manager of Sodexo, did not respond to a request for an interview this week. When asked about the Mancino's contract in a previous interview, he said that the partnership will no longer happen.

"Mancino's backed out of the contract because they did not want to pay for the Munch Money scanner," said **Jared Jacob ('18)**, president of Student Congress. Jacob had been requesting meetings with Brown regularly this semester in order to receive updates on the progress of the contract.

"President Abernathy is talking with Pizza One about a new negotiation last I knew," said Jacob.



Chris Vest: Photographer

Failed negotiations with Mancino's has led to talk of a renewed partnership with Pizza One.

In a previous interview, Brown said he had struggled to fill the contract since Pizza One left, it's owner dissatisfied with the payoff from his contract with Sodexo.

"We've tried to find a new restaurant to partner with us but unfortunately it hasn't worked out," said Brown. "We've reached out to several local businesses and we are still waiting to hear back."

Without Pizza One some students have more Munch Money piled up than usual.

"I haven't spent nearly as much of my Munch Money this semester because we don't have Pizza One as an option," said **Francesca Beningo ('18)**. "I sometimes get food from Joe's."

Starbucks has taken the place of Pizza One for some students.

"I only spend my Munch Money on Starbucks," said **Maya Keener ('19)**. "I don't really miss Pizza One because I never got food from there, but I wish we did have one more place to eat with our Munch Money."

"I use a lot of my money now to buy new cups and mugs at Starbucks," said **Paige Emerson ('18)**.

Many students believe that Mancino's would have been the best replacement for Pizza One.

"I love Mancino's and I would have definitely spent my Munch Money there," said **Zita Tranquilla ('20)**. "I only go to Joe's now."

Other's hope that Sodexo will work out another contract with Pizza One.

"I would rather spend my money at Pizza One instead of another restaurant," said **Danielle Boss ('18)**.

"I miss Pizza One," said **Allison Shoemaker ('20)**. "I go to Joe's a lot now, but I wish we had more places to eat."

Students said they would like to see the school create a contract with various other venues in the area.

"I really want to be able to spend my Munch Money at Jimmy Johns," said Boss. "I'm not sure if that's possible but I can dream."

"I hope that Great Wall downtown will start accepting Munch Money," said Keener. "I think that would be an excellent replacement for Pizza One."

According to Brown, Sodexo is working to find a new partner for Fall 2018. Until then, students can continue to spend their money at Starbucks, Joe's, and Dow Cart until a new contract is decided upon.

Abernathy and Student Congress prepare for next year

BRIDGET FLANERY
 STAFF WRITER

Students and the Alma community will have the opportunity to hear President Jeff Abernathy's State of the College address tonight at 7 in DOW LI.

Abernathy, meanwhile, gave the Almanian an overview of where the college stands, a wrap-up of Student Congress' work this year and a look to the future.

During the next five years Abernathy said \$65 million will be invested into the college. He said administration wants student guidance and input into the effort to transform the school.

Student Congress seeks to serve this need.

"This year, StuCo had the aim of being more [effective]," said **Jared Jacob ('18)**, current

Student Congress president.

"This has led to more being accomplished and more proactive involvement from students," Jacob hopes

that over the next year Student Congress will begin to assign more students to attend administrative committee meetings regarding a variety of campus issues so that the students' perspective is being wholly represented.

He also looks forward to seeing more students become involved with the higher

level of the college structure.

In response to Jacob's hopes, incoming Student Congress president **Tyler Eible ('18)** said that he hopes to follow the same

trend of opening up communication between the administration and the students. He hopes to improve the process by making sure that concerns are voiced to the correct administrator.

"I will hold President Abernathy to his word, [regarding] wanting student guidance and input," said Eible.

"I will do my best to find a common ground between the students and the administrators."

Abernathy said that during his talk tonight there will be discussion of the new initiatives for the college along with the hopes for growth, especially in terms of a continued trend of strong enrollment.

Jacob also mentioned initiatives, such as the new washing machine initiative,

which he says will be in place when students come back for the fall semester.

"The original plan was to have them installed during this winter semester," Jacob said. "Negotiations and contracts caused issues for the process to move along." Recent

conversations have been centered around liberal arts education systems and the value of such an education.

Abernathy said he realizes that the liberal arts education is what Alma does best and he is concerned with the image and

respect for the liberal arts. This will also be addressed further in his state of the college address, especially regarding the commodification of higher education.

Pizza will be available at the address and there will be opportunity to ask Abernathy questions. To students interested in getting more involved

with their class or Student Congress, Jacob recommends reaching out to class officers, or executive council officers, respectively.

Members of Student Congress "hand off" their duties and responsibilities to next year's officers.

Top Left: Monica Kunovszky ('18) and Megan Isom ('17)

Top Right: Tyler Eible ('18) and Deve Wishart ('18)

Bottom Left: Tyler Eible ('18) and Jared Jacob ('18)

Bottom Right: Abigail Fergus ('18) and August Tierney ('18)

Overstuffed washers leads to quarter-free laundry

MARGARET RAUSCH
 COPY EDITOR

In the hope that students will be able to do their laundry with greater ease, the campus will soon have some new washers and dryers that do not require an abundance of quarters to operate. Instead of carrying around a Ziploc bag of

change, the cost will be included in the price of room and board.

"This will not have a material effect on [costs]," said Nick Piccolo, vice president for Student Life.

Right now, the new vender is looking over the contract between itself and the college.

When it is approved, the process of replacing the washers and dryers can commence. Although the date is not definitive, it is hoped that students will be able to use them by the beginning of fall semester, explained Piccolo.

The process has taken longer than anticipated, because Piccolo

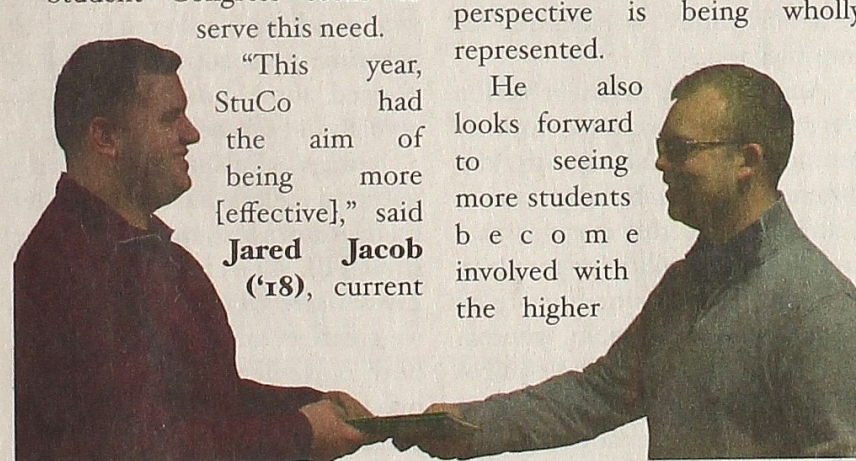
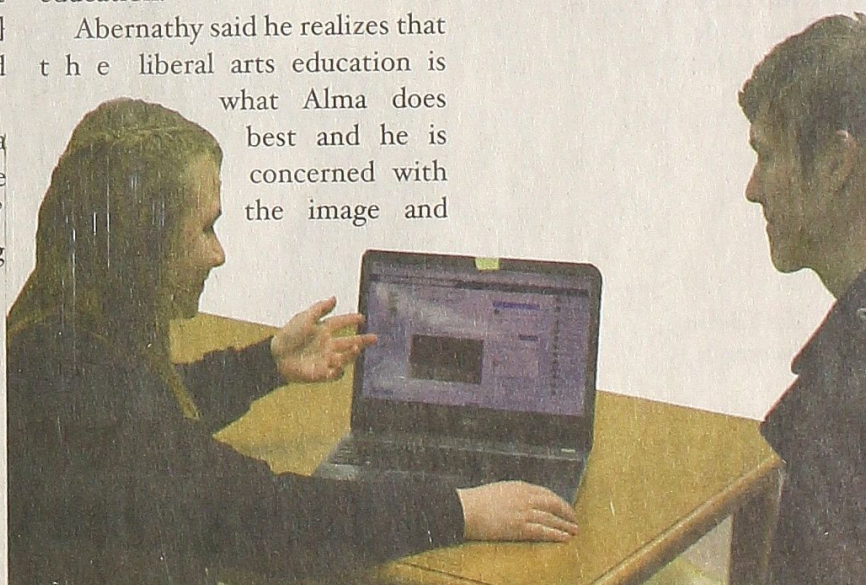
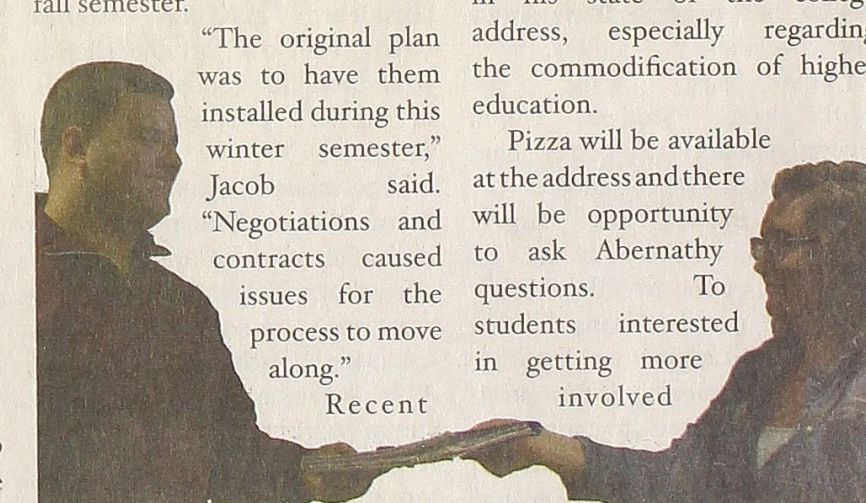
wished to insure the deal would benefit students and not raise tuition. The decision for this change was made between Student Congress and Piccolo.

"It seemed like it would be more convenient for the students," said Piccolo. "They often try to fit as many clothes as they can [in the

washers and dryers], and it clogs the system."

He said not only does this harm the machines, but the clothing is not thoroughly cleaned.

When fall rolls around, the smell of freshly laundered clothing will accompany the fresh, eager faces to those 8:30 a.m. classes.



RAs respond to large freshman class

MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

The class of 2020 set the record with most incoming freshman, at 491 students. Annalyse M. Hargraves, the senior assistant director for admissions, credits multiple factors with the successful recruitment.

“There have been several methods used to help increase our student population. For example, our campus visits have increased by 80 percent in two years, through a variety of efforts.

“We know that if we can get a family on campus, where they can meet with faculty and staff, see our facilities and learn more about the Alma experience, we have a very good chance of the student enrolling.

“We have also significantly increased some outreach programs and events (both on- and off-campus) such as local dinners with alumni and prospective students. The referral program has also helped generate more student interest through our partnership with the Alumni Office.”

The large class caused some new changes for housing, and according to some RAs, made their jobs more difficult. No longer is there ease with moving roommates out and

separating them, because of the lack of rooms forced roommate agreements are the only option.

“There were two roommates in my hall this year who were completely mismatched—I knew right from the start that we were going to have a conflict,” said one RA, who wishes to remain anonymous.

“I think the large class size made it difficult to place freshmen who committed late with compatible roommates, and I felt as if Alma College had not done these students a service by placing them together.

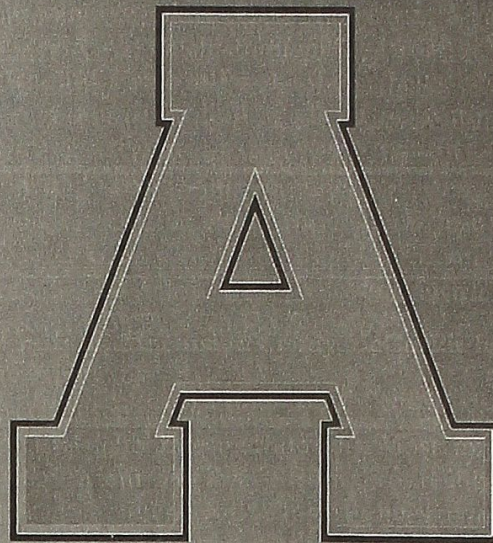
“I think the solution to large incoming classes is to give students the option of living off campus—especially upperclassmen. Alma College cannot continue to grow without creating new living spaces, and since that’s not happening quickly enough, there needs to be an easier route to off-campus living.”

“The increase in students has made it a little different for handling roommate issues,” said **Kelly LaPorte (’17)**, a Newberry Hall RA.

“Without open move week, some residents have had to work harder on the relationship with their roommate if things are not going as planned. It made my job a little more difficult in that I had more roommate

Incoming Class Sizes from 2012-2016

2016: 491
2015: 386
2014: 403
2013: 415
2012: 487



Class sizes have fluctuated for the past several years and the record was broken last year with an incoming class of 491.

Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

mediations to work through, but no serious difficulties or compromises had to be made for me, as an RA.”

Other RAs have hardly been affected by the increased amount of freshman.

“The increase in students hasn’t affected my hall in Mitchell personally, because there is a limit of how many people can live in a hall,” said **Allison Smith (’17)**.

“My residents were weirdly more independent this year, but I had one room with a pretty basic roommate conflict. Neither of them wanted to move, nor could find a place to move, so they were forced to work it out. And they did.”

Merice Raber (’18) is an RA in Gelston and had similar

views, saying that part of the job is dealing with residential conflicts.

“Solving roommate conflicts at the core is really basic,” said Raber. “The biggest thing in solving these issues is first getting to the root of what the issue is, and then allowing the residents to talk about how they want to go about solving the issue while having someone like me in the room to guide them to a solution, and to mediate if need be.”

Raber also has a positive outlook on the situation.

“I honestly don’t think that the increase in class size is what is creating roommate conflict, it rather is living in a new place and getting to know yourself in the process as well as learning

to live in close proximity with others is where conflict can arise. To solve the issue of housing space, I think we just need to create more housing options.”

LaPorte gave some more insight on how she remediates rooming issues.

“Managing roommate conflicts is always an ongoing process,” said LaPorte. “Different people have different confrontation styles and no situation is ever the same, so there is not quick-fix solve.

“Conflicts happen throughout life and it’s something we can all get better at dealing with. Down the road, additional housing will probably be necessary if enrollment continues to increase.”

Students discuss Black Lives Matter v. All Lives Matter

MICHAELA HOYLE
STAFF WRITER

You have probably heard of the Black Lives Matter movement, given its pervasive nature. The same goes for All Lives Matter, a response to BLM which has become increasingly controversial.

This past week, the Multicultural Student Union invited students to come share their thoughts on the subject.

The event was largely interactive, with most of the talk generated by the attendees rather than the people sitting behind the table. Rather than focusing on presenting information for the audience to consume, MCSU served as a neutral party facilitating discussion and

dialogue between the students and faculty members with their differing perspectives on these campaigns.

“We’re asking you to enter a brave space here rather than a safe space,” said MCSU vice president **TiKilah Turner (’19)**. “Feel comfortable sharing your thoughts and be respectful of other peoples’ different viewpoints.”

The session began with sticky notes and markers provided to the audience, in order for them to write down things they personally associated (or knew that others associated) with the BLM and ALM movements, as well as any common ground between the two. Afterward, they were separated into three groups, with each being

asked to synthesize the ideas placed into one category.

In the end, despite the event being framed as “BLM vs. ALM,” there was an overall lack of opposing viewpoints. The general consensus seemed to be that BLM is about creating a safe space, intersectionality, fighting the normalization or internalization of racism and promoting visibility and recognition of the persecution faced by black people in our society.

ALM was deemed to be a movement that undermines BLM by taking away the focus, ignores institutionalized racism and its history, refuses to acknowledge the struggle that black people face today and fails to recognize the concept of privilege

In short, the concept “All Lives Matter,” though holding the promise of inclusivity, was determined to



Zack Baker: Photographer

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Candy McCorkle helped lead the discussion at the event.

be largely used in ignorance, or worse, as a deliberate method of diverting attention away from BLM.

As far as common ground goes, rather than finding it in commonalities between these two campaigns, the attendees located it within future possibilities for improvement.

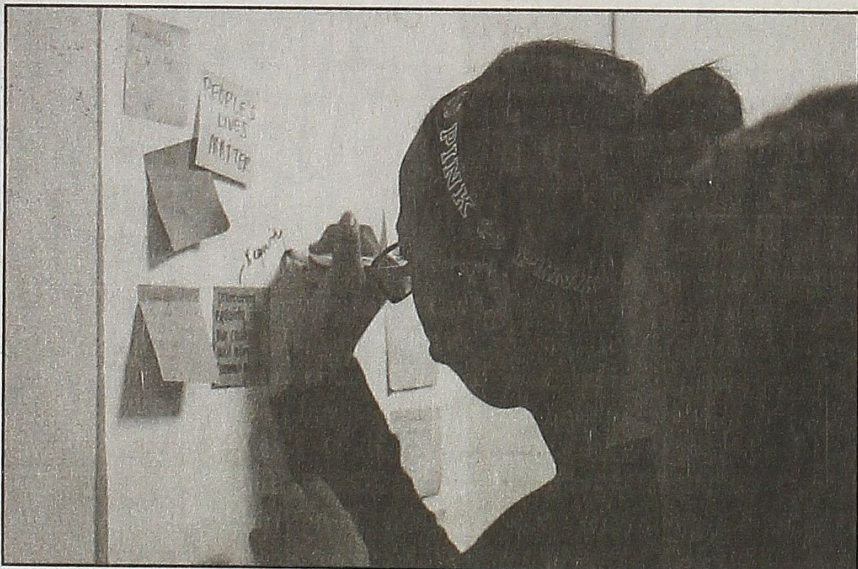
Among these paths of action were the following: to work to promote equity and equality (the difference between these two as defined during this event is that equality is the ability for people of different races or situations to all stand in the same room, whereas equity would be that their voices all had the same power), to stop violence and to acknowledge the reality of the racial situation both

in the past and in the present. Most importantly, to get people to realize that in order for all lives to matter, society must make sure that black lives (and other marginalized lives) matter.

Rather than a debate, the event largely became a space where individuals shared new, but agreeing, perspectives, as well as posited some possible ways to actually act on these ideas.

Things finished off with questions like these: “In order to cut down misunderstandings, should BLM be changed to ‘Black Lives Matter Too?’” and “How can we create common ground where both movements are inclusive to one another rather than mutually exclusive?”

One activity at the event entailed students writing about BLM and ALM as well as what commonalities might reside between them.



Zack Baker: Photographer

Gelston construction to wrap up this summer

ROSE CYBURT
STAFF WRITER

In the summer of 2014, Gelston’s east wing was newly renovated. The remodeling continued and the north wing was completed in the summer of 2015. Phase three is in the works: to complete the west wing, the main corridor, electrical wiring, plumbing and fire suppression.

“Gelston will be completed this summer,” said President Jeff Abernathy. “The only part we may do later is the exterior.” This

includes the outdoor corridor that connects the west and east hall.

According to Michael Silverthorn, associate vice president for communications, the college received generous gifts to finish the renovations. Abernathy has been starting to build up funding for other dorms’ renovations as well, using Gelston as the model.

Hall directors and resident assistants have been informed about the upcoming changes and are making sure the students in Gelston are aware of the

quick start to the construction. The process is planned to start immediately after winter semester and take place over spring term and summer. The intention is for the dorm to be ready by the fall term.

The RA staff has been told by facilities and resident life that the renovations will cover the rest of the unfinished halls, the lobby, and the basement. This includes a kitchen, laundry rooms for both the basement and the first floor north hallway, a glass study room in the lobby and a technology bar.

“The RA staff in Gelston is really excited,” said **Seth Davis (’18)**, a resident assistant in ‘old Gelston.’ “I think those in the basement will really appreciate the renovations.”

People who currently live in “new Gelston” prefer the hall for the nicer rooms and bathrooms. It is also convenient when going to Joe’s or the library.

“We live on the second floor and the vaulted ceilings make the room seem so much roomier,” said **Rachel Frisbie (’19)**. She and her roommate will be staying

in their current hall next year, but neither of them have to worry about the renovations since they will not be staying for spring term.

While many are looking forward to the new rooms and lobby, some are still hoping for simple issues in the previously renovated part too.

“I hope they work on the laundry room and the standing water issues in the bathrooms first,” said **Natalie Murrey (’18)**. “I do hope they address these problems while they are renovating ‘old Gelston’ too.”

Here’s to a good year and more learning

By Abigail Fergus
Editor-in-Chief

After a year as editor-in-chief of the Almanian, I learned that I need to improve my skills in delegation and motivation. I had set out to actually do these things, but I feel I learned how not to do these things. I’m still proud of what has been accomplished with the paper this year:

- Covering national news as it relates to campus;
- Developing a Code of Ethics;
- Revamping the application process;
- Attending a national college newspaper conference earlier in the year.

I will serve one more semester as the Almanian’s Editor-in-Chief before I graduate in the winter of 2018. While I train my replacement I also hope to do what I have not yet done:

- Host events to educate campus on the importance and function of journalism;
- Host events to educate on the importance of First Amendment rights;
- Conduct surveys to improve the paper by responding to student suggestions and needs;
- Empower my staff – especially editors – to lead more of these and other initiatives in running and improving the Almanian.

A student recently conducted a survey regarding campus media for a final project and she showed me the results from 119 respondents. This level of response enters into the 10 percent error level of significance given the size of Alma. It was shared through a campus wide email and the Almanian’s Facebook page.

Ratings of the Almanian’s content was across the board for 1, 2, 3 and 4 rankings out of 5. The only written feedback to infer the reason behind these marks was a comment on wishing we’d cover “less bias stories.”

If I were to guess the reason behind this comment, I’d say it is in response to the stories we’ve covered regarding progressive events on campus such as the Black Lives Matter march and the protest of Trump’s Muslim ban. If this is the case, I’d like to point out that the majority of events that happen on this campus are more progressive leaning.

If the comment refers to the content of our thoughts pages, which represent the opinion only of the writer, I welcome all

Which media do you use most often?

(119 responses)

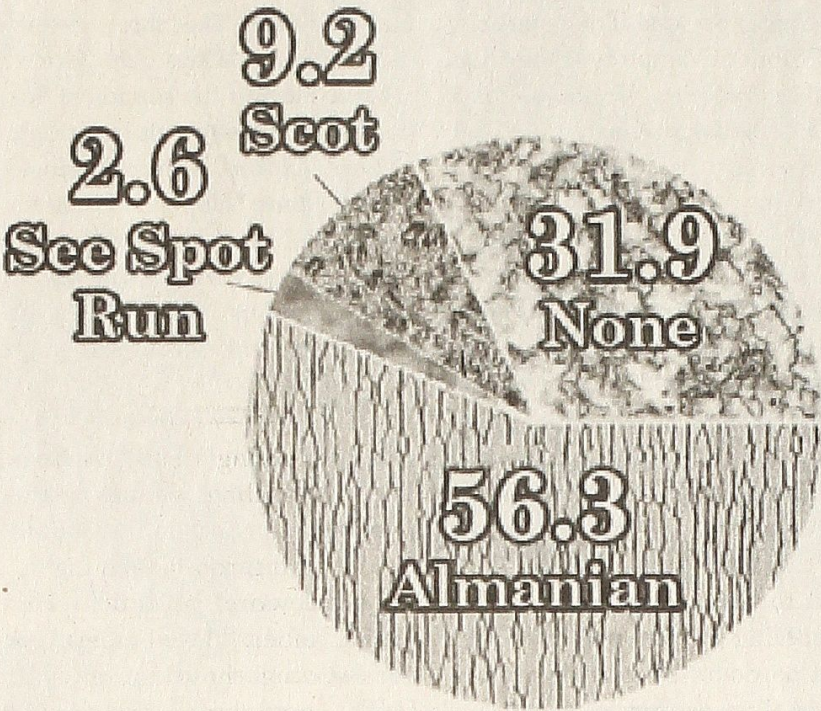
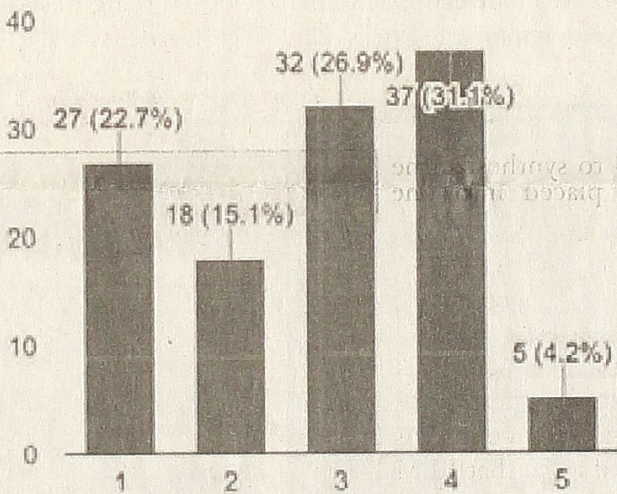


Photo Courtesy of Yuanyuan Zou (17)

Abigail Fergus (18) highlights the accomplishments of the Almanian this school year. A student survey gave the paper preliminary feedback shown in the graphics above and below.

How do you rate the content of Almanian?

(119 responses)



students to apply to work with us. That would entail the opportunity to write and publish your own opinion in addition to reporting on news.

Among campus media, 56.3 percent of respondents said they consume the Almanian the most and 31.9 percent said they don’t use any campus media.

I’d like to up our content rating and increase the consumption of not only the Almanian but all campus media. I believe educating on the value of knowing what’s happening on your campus will help. The survey specific to the Almanian we plan to conduct next semester will show us how we can better serve campus with our

content. I’d like to thank those who have ever given us feedback and ask you to keep it coming. Are there stories we’re missing? Let us know.

Thanks to Crystal Snow former Editor-in-Chief, for answering my abundant questions when I was getting started. My editorial staff kept me encouraged and I thank them, because that is what kept me going each week.

Ken Tabacsko, our advisor, never ceased to send me news articles that we could model our work after. He also persistently told me, “you should be a journalist,” though he knows

full well I’m going into wildlife conservation. Maybe on the side, Ken. Seriously, Ken, a veteran professional journalist, has dedicated and taught far more than I would expect of someone who is on campus for a once-a-week class and at a point in life where he could spend all his days playing and coaching tennis and enjoying semi-retirement.

I’ve never teared up while writing an article. I did last Thursday when I assembled the admiring comments from President Jeff Abernathy, Administrative Assistant Roxann Fatchett-Harrington and Student Congress President Jared Jacob (18) contributed to the feature on Nick Piccolo’s retirement.

In my reflection on this year, I can’t refrain from highlighting how important Piccolo has been to me. Fatchett-Harrington and I had a great discussion after I sneakily interviewed her while Piccolo was out of the office for a meeting. We laughed at and assessed the rocky relationship I used to have with him.

As an editor for the Almanian, I was assigned the Title IX beat. This lead to tension between us. I pressed him for details and he pushed back under his conviction that student privacy needed to be maintained. Going into this year, I did not imagine we’d become such fast friends.

Just as Jacob shared in his interview, Piccolo goes beyond his administrative duties in his care for students. He became my most regular role model this year as the professors I had usually turned to were on sabbatical, very busy or limited by an adjunct position (our advisor Ken).

I broke down in Piccolo’s office during half of our weekly meetings and each time he taught me lessons in being a leader.

I join Jared in a big thank you to Piccolo, despite how much overly humble eye rolling he’ll do at the feature. I’m lucky to have gotten to know the Piccolo that not many on this campus see.

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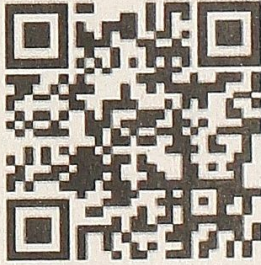
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Sudoku

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Preview of 2017’s upcoming releases
Music to look forward to while we’re away

By PAIGE DANIEL
THOUGHTS EDITOR

As this is the last edition of the Almanian for the year, a look at some of the most anticipated albums to be released in 2017 is in order.

Kendrick Lamar will be following 2015’s widely acclaimed “To Pimp a Butterfly” with his untitled fourth studio album dropping April 14th. Lamar has released one single, “Humble,” a bare-bones instrumental featuring the refrain “sit down, be humble.”

Lana del Rey recently announced her upcoming album, “Lust for Life,” via an Internet video. In the video, del Rey is tucked away inside the Hollywood sign, looking extra witchy. Lead single “Love” has a music video that places del Rey in a more straightforward position, hearkening back to the bubblegum balladry of her first album “Born to Die.” The official release date for “Lust for Life” is May 26th.

2017 is raising many iconic indie bands from the dead, including Grizzly Bear, Fleet Foxes, and Vampire Weekend.

All of these bands released their last album over four years ago – leaving high praise and hopes for their return in its wake.

Grizzly Bear, resident chamber rock group, hinted at a new album in 2017 on their Instagram account with a cryptic moving image and accompanying music clip. Their last album, “Shields,” was a lushly arranged ten-song work; certainly there are high expectations for their new release but the already-established and solid foundations of their sound allay any fears.

Folk band **Fleet Foxes** are gearing up for their third album, “Crack-Up,” after disappearing for six years. “Helplessness Blues” was their 2011 release and is a must-listen for folk music fans. Front man Robin Pecknold took a break to attend university, meanwhile leaving the band in flux – it wasn’t guaranteed that they would come back; some fans even came to the conclusion that the band was done making music together. Thankfully, they are back on June 16.

Post-collegiate grace and wit was not lost on **Vampire Weekend**’s most recent album, the Grammy-winning and excellent “Modern Vampires of the City” (2013). Lead singer Ezra Koenig is by now a fixture in the indie music community, with a Beats 1 radio

show offering bite-size pieces of his sometimes absurd, ever-charming persona. The popularity of “Modern Vampires of the City” makes Vampire Weekend’s next release hotly anticipated.

Koenig has announced a working title for their next release: “Mitsubishi Macchiato.” However, the band members behind this future release are questionable. Keyboardist and producer Rostam Batmanglij left the band around a year ago, with bassist Chris Baio and drummer Chris Tomson staying on while pursuing solo careers in the meantime. Batmanglij is said to have contributed to this upcoming album, but the band will no doubt be missing a piece of its live performance without him.

Some of pop’s most revered stars are making their comeback as well. **Katy Perry** is back as evident in her faux-political statement single “Chained to the Rhythm.” Rumors abound where **Taylor Swift** is concerned – she may be in the studio gearing up to drop an album this year, according to Ed Sheeran. Nothing is confirmed as of yet, though. That may be for the best; Swift’s image saturated the media landscape for what some would argue was far too long.

Swift’s close friends **Haim** are also rumored to have an album out this year. The three sisters’ debut album “Days Are Gone” (2013) collected the sounds of 80s pop/rock. **Halsey**’s alt-pop single “Now or Never” is the first single for her album “Hopeless Fountain Kingdom,” (June 2) the follow-up to 2015’s polarizing “Badlands.” Sadly, “Now or Never” is almost a complete rip off of Rihanna’s “Needed Me.”

Collaborators **Lorde** and Jack Antonoff of the band **Bleachers** are both releasing albums in the same month. Antonoff produced Lorde’s lead single “Green Light,” an empowered kiss-off. Her second album, “Melodrama,” is due out on June 16th. Meanwhile, Lorde performed background vocals on Bleachers’ single “Don’t Take the Money” from their second album “Everybody Lost Somebody” (out June 2).

“Humble” by
Kendrick Lamar



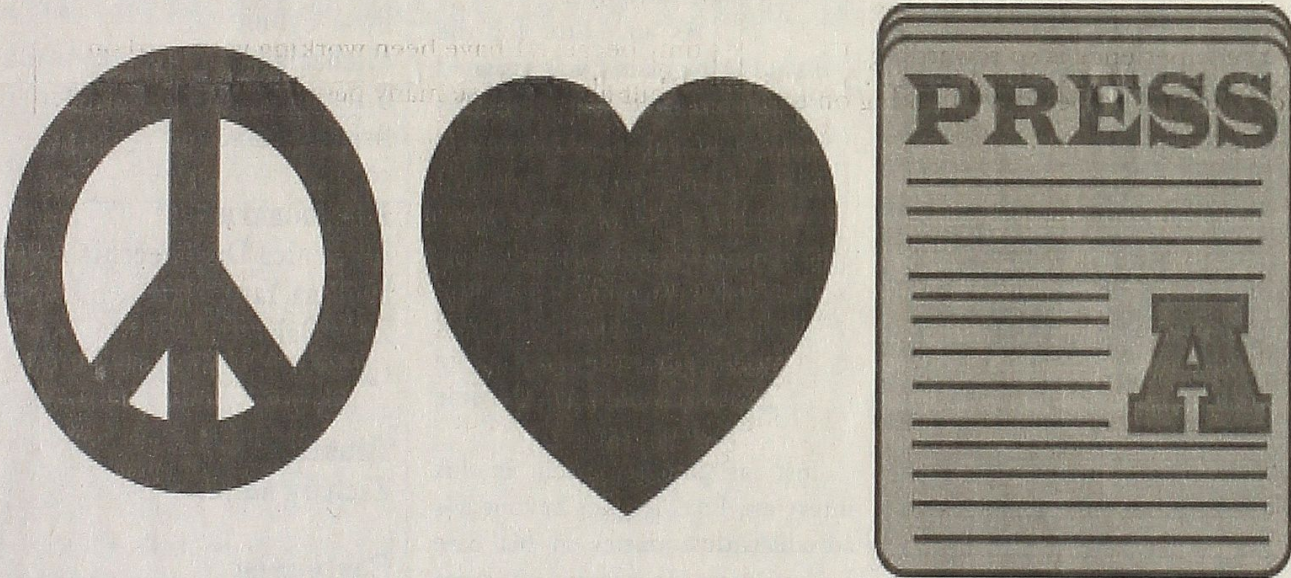
“Love” by Lana del
Rey



“Don’t Take
the Money” by
Bleachers



Use the QR codes on
the right to listen to
some of the songs
from 2017’s upcoming
albums.



Hannah King (’17) looks back on her time spent working for the Almanian.

Lessons from newsprint

By HANNAH KING
CAMPUS EDITOR

As I look back on my last year of reporting, I reflect on all of the unfortunate defecation that has struck the rotating cooling device this year.

It did not start with election night, it started in July when Trump accepted his nomination. Needless to say, the latter months of the summer were spent in a confusing state of apprehension and denial.

When I got to school, however, I was at least able to lean on the Almanian as a medium to relieve the constant tension that came with keeping up with the news.

I spewed out anger towards Trump and how consistent his inconsistencies were, I listed the many irritants that accessorize Gary Johnson and on election night I let out all of my sloppy sorrows.

It is safe to say that the

Almanian didn’t need me, I needed the Almanian. Without the freedom to more or less say whatever I want, I am not sure I would have made it to 2017 (in America).

In addition to allowing me to relieve myself of my frustrations, writing about the election reminded me of what I never thought I would need reminding of. After the election, Last Week Tonight host John Oliver—along with comparing Trump’s hands to being “tiny raccoon paw-sized”—told his viewers to do whatever they can to never, for the next four years forget that “this is not normal.”

Writing for the paper has been this reminder. In fact, the news in general serves as this reminder to all. Yes it can be poignant to see “thousands of immigrants held at airports” or “millions of dollars taken from the EPA,” when turning on CNN or reading the New York Times; but knowing these things prevents ignorance, and it also commences action.

While it is easy to list all of the threats facing American people

right now and even easier to complain about them, it is also important to recognize all of the amazing things that we have done to stand up to these threats.

At Alma, we have rocked the vote, held solidarity gatherings for those hurt by the election, held constructive debates and commentaries regarding Black Lives Matter and All Lives Matter as well as pro-life and pro-choice, and even traveled to Women’s Marches throughout the state and country. New organizations have been born, including Alma College Action, Alma College Republicans and Voices Enabling Equality.

Reporting on the activism and the blossoming groups that have taken over this year has opened my eyes to the value of news not only cautioning us that “this is not normal” but also demonstrating the power of people who care about this abnormality.

I thank the Almanian for teaching me how to report, for being my shoulder to write on and for showing me the true merit of the first amendment.



This is the final edition
of the Almanian for the
year. Good luck to all
graduating seniors and
students preparing for
exams. See you next year!

Campus comment

Honors Day edition

By HANNAH KING
CAMPUS EDITOR

Cameron Spitzfaden ('17) physics and mathematics major

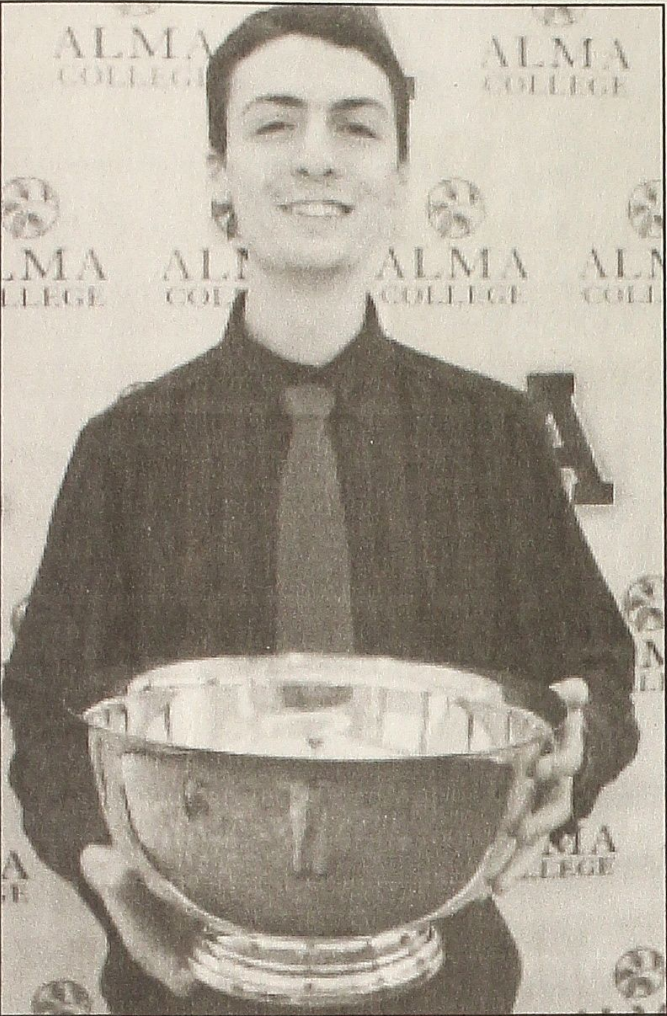


Photo courtesy of Communion & Marketing

Spitzfaden presented his research with another student on “A Molecular Mechanics Study of Prion Misfolding in Mad-Cow Disease.”

“I like Honors Day because of how much work gets presented by students here; it is always amazing to see how many students are doing their own research. My favorite part is going to presentations on things outside of my disciplines because it’s fun to learn something new from peers. Students are great teachers and they are especially good at explaining things to other students who are not versed in the same subject. For me, it is great practice for presenting research; a skill I will need later on in life.”

Taylor Card ('17) english major



Domenica DallaVecchia: Photographer

Card presented her theses on “Milo: a Novella” and “Sherlock: The Fan Focus.”

“I think it’s great that the school provides a venue for people to publically speak about the long-term and intense projects that consume so much time and effort of students and to share their new understandings. These projects encourage a depth of research and learning not normally possible in semester-length classes. They also foster a mentoring relationship between professors and students.

“Additionally, though my research is not particularly groundbreaking, it is always important to me to share and promote learning. I think my thesis is unique and it’s my hope that it started some interesting conversations or at least provoked thought.

“You have nothing to lose by submitting an abstract and the experience is so rewarding. I would caution students to be wary of taking on too much, but if students have time management skills or want a challenge, I’d say go for it!”

Lindsay Giannotta ('17) IPHS major



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Giannotta

Giannotta presented her research on the “Relationship of Physical Activity and Sleep Quality in College Students.”

“I’m glad I got to present on my research not only because I have been working very hard on it, but also because many people on campus were a part of it, They got to see what their help truly meant by attending my presentation.”

Piccolo retires after life of service to students

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After serving at Alma for 14 years and helping to develop the vice president for student life position, Nick Piccolo is retiring this summer. Before he came to the school in 2003 under former President Sandra Tracy, the position did not exist.

“Two deans had reported to the president,” said Piccolo. “Sandra Tracy put them together, because she wanted students to have communication at an executive staff level.”

Piccolo made the decision because “it’s time.” He has served in student life positions since being hired as a hall director in 1975.

A search committee has been formed and an ad has begun circulating that defines the position as follows:

“As the senior student affairs officer, the vice president provides leadership and creative vision for a portfolio that includes student housing, Greek Life, spiritual life, recreational programs, student conduct concerns, and counseling, health and wellness services. This position also provides oversight to the college’s Title IX activities and chairs the campus safety committee.

“A key member of the executive staff, the vice president for student life reports to the president and works collaboratively with and advises the senior leadership team on policies and practices related to the student body. S/he will be responsible for a sector budget of \$2 million employing 19 full-time staff.”

The new vice president will also aid in filling the Greek Life coordinator position as Danielle Smith plans to leave this summer. Changes will also come to the Title IX coordinator role, previously part of the vice president’s job.

“It’s probably not ideal to have a vice president of a college also the Title IX coordinator,” said President Jeff Abernathy. “Now we have an opportunity to change that.”

Abernathy said that the plan is to have this position, which processes Title IX complaints and leads related investigations, be appointed to someone beside the new vice president—even if it requires an interim placement. He plans to appoint the job to someone already employed by Alma.

Those who work closely with Piccolo helped to shed light on what he has done for the campus and what his replacement will have to match in this “critical role,” according

to Abernathy.

Administrative Assistant Roxann Fatchett-Harrington began working with Piccolo as a peer when she nominated him to the city commission five years ago. A year later, she was hired by Alma to assist Piccolo which made for a nice transition, according to Fatchett-Harrington.

“Piccolo is respectful and values and asks for my opinion,” said Fatchett-Harrington. “If he doesn’t like it, he knows not to ask me,” she joked.

“I’m able to hassle him and give him a hard time and he’s a good sport.”

On a more serious level, Fatchett-Harrington shared how Piccolo has helped her outside of the office.

“Noah (Fatchett-Harrington’s son) was in high school; being a single mom, I was able to ask Piccolo about job shadows.”

She said this example shows why Piccolo has the abilities needed for the position he’s held at Alma. While Piccolo’s strengths include giving advice and having compassion and concern for students, Fatchett-Harrington teased that her job was to keep him organized and getting to where he needs to be.

Working closely with Piccolo, Fatchett-Harrington may see a side of Piccolo that others don’t. She said others may not

know “the enormity of what he does day in and day out, there’s so much behind the scenes.

“Besides the trip to Italy he took with his son last fall, I don’t think he’s taken more than a week off in the four years I’ve been here. It’s hard to put into words. He’s busy and concerned about doing his best.

“I burst into tears when he told me he was leaving. I’ll miss him terribly. I said, ‘You’ll still be my friend when you leave right?’”

Piccolo affirmed to Fatchett-Harrington their friendship would continue. She hopes that he learns to relax in retirement, but seemed to doubt that it is in his nature and wished him luck in finding something to keep his mind busy.

Piccolo said he is interested in volunteering with the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association to advocate in court for children who have suffered abuse and neglect.

Jared Jacob ('18), president of Student Congress, was similarly shocked by Piccolo’s retirement. Weekly the two meet to go over business regarding campus issues, but these discussions run deeper.

“He’d give me guidance on my future plans,” said Jacob. “He’s a very wise man and always looks out for students. He’s not just an administrator, he’s someone you can talk to and look up to.”

As the student representative for the vice president search committee, Jacob said he’ll be looking for a personable, understanding, friendly and welcoming replacement for Piccolo. He also advocated for the separation of the Title IX responsibility into an entirely separate role on campus given the demanding nature of each job.

Jacob wished to publicize this message to Piccolo: “Thank you for all the help and support. On behalf of everyone at Alma College, we will truly miss you.”

Piccolo reflected on his Alma experience.

“What’s been the most challenging has also been the most enriching. Students show up in conflict or stress and I help them work through it. I try to use conflict in a positive way in order to come away building relationships.”

The best piece of advice Piccolo said he had ever been given was “you won’t be judged on what you do, you’ll be judged on how well you listen.”

Women's lacrosse builds success

By **BRIANNA ZIMMER**
SPORTS WRITER

Last season, the women's lacrosse team finished with a 5-11 overall record. The squad went 4-4 in conference play and concluded the season with 160 goals.

In coach Ashley Johnson's second year, the team continues to make strides, she said.

"The season, thus far, has been a growing and learning experience," said Johnson. "We have five freshmen [who] have been wonderful additions to our team and have stepped up to fill the void left by the graduation of last year's seniors.

"We have had a series of injuries throughout the season which caused us to be creative in our game day line ups and has allowed everyone valuable on-field game experience."

The team continues to build momentum. On April 1 the Scots tied their total wins from last season with a win against Carroll University 6-3.

"We are at our most successful when our attack and defense is performing at the same level and working



Photo courtesy of Jordie Hayes ('18)

The women's lacrosse team faces St. Mary's College this Thursday at home.

together," said **Darby Kahler ('17)**.

"When we have an unequal balance and one side is working harder than the other it is hard to create cohesion. The games that we've won we've been playing really strong on both ends as a tight unit.

"I feel really good about

our season so far," Kahler continued. "The games that we have won we know why and have been able to build off it. Same goes for our losses—we can use [them] to our advantage and learn from our mistakes."

The team has faced some tough competition this season, but has still managed to come

out on top.

"Our come-from-behind victory against University of Puget Sound over spring break has definitely been our biggest win this season," said Johnson. "We were down 2-9 to start the second half and came back to win the game 12-11.

"It was an exciting and

inspiring experience for our team that left a lasting impression on all of us. We came away from spring break knowing that this team can accomplish big things when we play together and play for each other."

"The motto for our team this year is 'Reach Higher,'" said Johnson.

"We are heading into our MIAA season ranked pre-season No.7 and are prepared to face difficult teams that will test us. We are viewing our conference season as a challenge and as an opportunity to show what hard work can accomplish.

We are always striving to work together to reach higher than the expectations others have set for us."

With the season still in full swing, the Scots look to continue their uphill battle in conference play.

"We want to do better in MIAA play than we did last year," said Kahler. "We have proved we can win games and I know we can do better than we did last year."

Scotty Awards honor college sport teams

By **JOELLE FISHER**
SPORTS WRITER

The annual Scotty Awards were held last Friday. Members of the athletic department as well as community members came to the event to celebrate each other's successes.

In total, 21 awards were handed out to teams, athletes and support staff.

"I think the awards were done well this year," said **Kyle Kansman ('17)**.

"Everyone was deserving and I know that SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee) works hard to try and make it fair for everyone. There are a lot of people who could have won each and every award this year, which is an even bigger testament to how great our

sports teams are."

The baseball squad claimed a large number awards during the short ceremony. **Alex Valasek ('17)** was awarded Best Individual Performance and **Pat Finn ('17)** claimed the King of the Weight Room award. As a team, the men won the awards for Jock Rock and Most Improved Team.

"We're so grateful for the awards that we won," said Valasek. "We put in a lot of hard work and it's awesome to see that being recognized by our peers."

The softball program racked up a number awards as well. Coach Denny Griffin was presented Coach of the Year, while as a team the girls won Team of the Year and Women's Team of the Weight Room.

Men's lacrosse was handed two awards for its prior season and involvement within the athletic department. **Jared**

Nycz ('19) won Male Rookie of the Year, while as a team it was given the Scotty Cup award.

"We try to go to as many home games as possible to show other teams that they have our full support, said **Austin Jordan ('18)** about his team winning the Scotty Cup.

"Home games are the best opportunity for everyone to come together and cheer on our Alma Scots."

Women's soccer claimed three awards at the ceremony. **Kolette Sherry ('17)** was named Queen of the Weight Room, while the team won Biggest Upset for its tied 1-1 game against Kalamazoo.

The football program also came home with many honors including Best Alma Win for its game 37-14 win against Adrian, Team of the Weight Room and Comeback of the Year for its 41-33 game against Trine.

Miranda Kruse ('17), a

member of the women's lacrosse team, was bestowed the True Scot award for her commitment and enthusiasm in the athletic training department as well as on her team.

"The True Scot award was really special because it represents everything I've done here at Alma," said Kruse.

"It means so much to me to be honored with this award and is a great way to wrap up my career here."

New to this year is the Chi Alpha Sigma National Honors Society award. There were 43 recipients of this award, all being senior student athletes who averaged a cumulative 3.4 GPA or higher during their time here at Alma.

Other awards that were given out include: The Coach Brown Memorial Award to the cross country team, Assistant Coach of the Year to Ryan Clark of the men's basketball team, Plaid

Posse People of the Year award to Brady Hopkins and Robert Garcia, Female Rookie of the Year to **Jillian Jegla ('19)** of the cheer & stunt team, and Breakout Athlete of the Year to **Katie Bush ('19)** from the women's volleyball team and **Kevin Sheibert ('18)** of the men's basketball team.

Kaitlyn Arnold ('17), a member of the track and field and cross country team, was honored with Female Athlete of the Year, while Kansman of the men's soccer team was declared the Male Athlete of the Year.

"It was the last thing I have to show to myself that I made a difference for the school, team, and in myself," said Kansman.

"Most importantly it shows how great my team and coaches are because they are the reason I won."

Athletes continue giving back to community

By **EMILY KROLEWICZ**
SPORTS WRITER

The Coach Brown Memorial Award is presented at the annual Scotty Awards to the team that records the most community service hours per person over the school year. The women's volleyball team has won the honor three years straight, but that streak was broken this year.

The men's and women's cross country team recorded a total of 1,179 hours and won the

award this year. As an entire athletic department, the Scots recorded over 4,400 hours of community service.

"We had an increase in hours from last year," said Student Athlete Advisory Committee Community Outreach Coordinator **Madison Smith ('17)**.

"We jumped from 2,500 hours to 4,400 and I think a lot of that has to do with Sarah Dehring's new role as assistant athletic director.

"She is able to create new service events and encourage all student athletes to get involved in them."

These opportunities included Friend of an Athlete and a new partnership with the Special Olympics increased involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Relay for Life, Autism Awareness and collaborative projects with United Way.

Dehring said that in the coming years she hopes to have each athletic team have affiliation with one non-profit organization or community service event that the entire team can be passionate about and involved in.

"I do not believe that it is important just for student

athletes to be involved in community service," said Dehring, "but that everyone be involved. It just makes you a better person."

Alex Leja, the women's volleyball coach, finds pride in the community service work that the athletic department is involved in and hopes to continue to lead the volleyball program in its involvement in the community.

"To be a student, student-athlete or a faculty/staff member of Alma College is a great privilege," said Leja.

"To be able to give back to help make a difference in the

community around us is so important in understanding just how blessed we truly are."

Smith said that in her experience at Alma College, community service projects played a big role in keeping her grounded.

"You can get really caught up in workouts, school work and how you're playing that it's important to take a step back and realize the opportunities you have to give back and help others," said Smith.

"Service is a gift that every person can give themselves."