

No basements, new cameras cause concern

NAJELLE GILMORE
HEAD EDITOR

Security cameras were recently installed on the outside of many small housing units.

"Cameras on small housing are phase two of a three phase plan," said David Blandford, director of student life.

"Discussion [of the plans] started about a year before we implemented phase one after a few incidents occurred on campus."

Blandford added that phase one, completed last summer, consisted of placing cameras on the outsides of residence halls.

"Phase two was this summer and included putting cameras on Greek housing and on the themed housing," said Blandford.

"Phase three will take place next summer. We will focus on the parking lots and some other public spaces like McIntyre Mall."

The new security surveillance came as surprise to many students.

"I didn't see it coming," said **Christopher Nouhan ('20)**. "Cameras on campus are appropriate, but when you hit small housing it's a violation of privacy."

Blandford indicated this was considered by administration before the implementation of cameras.

"We want to respect privacy as much as possible," said Blandford. "For this reason, the cameras do not have audio, and they are never pointed into a residence."

Cameras are not to be used for random surveillance, but for evidence after an incident is reported.

"Specific segments of the tape are sent to the administrators when requested," said Blandford. "This is based around conduct and safety. The only time we ever check is when we get information that an incident occurred. The cameras help us confirm facts so that we hold individuals accountable rather than the group."

Blandford said that an instance



Tavyon Richardson: Photographer

Ishijah Johnson ('18) examines the new camera outside of the MacCurdy house.

in which the cameras have been used involved a fraternity on campus.

The fraternity approached the administration and asked that it check the surveillance footage to confirm that they did not bring alcohol into an event.

"When we checked the cameras, we were able to confirm that the alcohol was brought in by an individual from outside the frat," said Blandford.

Recent changes to campus housing also includes boarded up basements. The plan to close off basements goes back several years, even before the cameras, to around 2012, according to Blandford.

"We started hearing [from students] that basements were unlivable," said Blandford. "The conditions they were in . . . there was always mold or something leaking. Students living there were not happy, and after the TKE fire we determined that it wasn't safe."

This has caused some complications for students.

"We lost two out of our three showers," said **Laura Slavsky**

('18). "There are seven people sharing one shower. We also do not have a washer or dryer currently."

In addition to less housing amenities, blocked off basements may cause further inconveniences.

"We had an outlet stop working and had to call security to get into the basement and flip a switch on the breaker panel," said Slavsky. "If that happens again we don't have access and we have to call them every time."

Slavsky also added that there is no way to know if there is mold growing in the basement or a leak there.

Dalia Barghouty ('18) experienced an issue that Slavsky had raised as a possibility.

"While living in the MacCurdy house last year, some of my housemates were concerned about a strange smell that seemed to be coming from MacCurdy's basement," said Barghouty.

"We wanted to check the basement for ourselves but did not because small housing policy prevents students from entering the basement. We were worried about possible mold or sewage,

so facilities checked it out and discovered a broken pipe.

Because of that experience, I think it's important to allow students to check and monitor basements in houses they're living in for their own safety. Small housing will ultimately be better maintained that way as well."

Nouhan said that the space lost in the basement could have been used as both a storage area and a meeting space for the Climate Control Action Network (CCAN) and for the related beekeeping initiative. Both organizations are affiliated with the environmental house where Nouhan lives.

"The washer and dryers are being stuffed into a small closet upstairs," said Nouhan. "We're losing even more storage space with that."

As for the concern about problems going unmonitored in basements, Blandford said that the basements will be checked monthly during building safety checks.

Nouhan, Slavsky and Barghouty all said that they were not contacted by administration about these changes, rather

they heard about them from housemates or stumbled upon them.

"Security and administrators should open up to [us] about what to expect as students living in small housing," said Nouhan. "They don't force us to live on campus, but they make it very difficult to leave and then heighten security on campus housing."

According to Blandford, both the camera installation and the decision to begin closing off basements were discussed by a panel of several groups within the administration, as well as a campus safety group that involved students. He also stated that administration "will try to come up with some solutions [to the student concerns] about storage."

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four:
"I'm paying for
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care"**

Campus weighs in

Comments were taken from an anonymous survey of 277 students regarding campus safety.

The number of respondents who had comments similar to those printed is represented by the number listed after a response.

I think this school is relatively safe within its location. I feel as though if I were to be attacked on this campus it's going to happen whether there are lights, cameras, and guards. The ID scanners are smart and keep people safe in the dorms, but there's nothing that would make me feel safe walking across campus alone in the dark. Street lights won't stop an attacker, security guards aren't standing watch at every corner; it would take them minutes to help someone in need if they could even call for it, and cameras might help catch the attacker but isn't going to stop one (7).

I always felt comfortable walking from place to place in Alma because it was so small and because I could almost always ask a friend to help walk me home. If I had to go home alone, I simply found a security guard. I never once felt like I couldn't go out at night and have a full life because of a security problem while there.

Thank you for taking care of our safety. Keep up the good work (7).

The cameras are an invasion of privacy and should be taken down. Street lights and increased security is a good choice but cameras are an overstep and communication between residents and faculty should have taken place before installation of the cameras (23).

I do not like the campus security cameras because I feel like my privacy is being invaded (18).

Not only did the student body not ask for cameras to feel safer, I resent that this faux "safety device" is being pushed as a safety item when it really is just an invasion of privacy. I see no way that these security cameras could in any way make me or anyone on campus feel safer.

What would help me to feel safer would be actually dealing with issues of sexual assault on campus effectively (6).

For example: expelling students who commit sexual assault; fraternities being given mandatory sexual assault training in order to 1) know when they are committing sexual assault and 2) know how to stop others from committing sexual assault; and having systems in place for victims to come forward without having to report or be reported about (that last one I'm not sure if it would work/is feasible).

I like the new small housing cameras (5), though lighting is poor between many of the small houses and campus. Maybe the college could work with the city to get better residential lighting (12).

Where are the security cameras? I've never seen them... (3).

Thank you for participating in last week's survey. The Almanian plans to continue polling students as a new way to gather input, so keep an eye on your email inbox.

We don't have statistics to share this week as we did not have a reliable margin of error and are continuing to develop a more effective survey taking method.

Sodexo responds to diets with “MyZone”

BRIDGET FLANERY
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to eating on campus, some students don't have many options. Instead, some find they must simply make the best out of what's available.

“Since the time we have arrived at Alma many years ago we were faced with the challenge of the dietary needs,” said Sodexo Head Chef Spiro Andreopoulos.

Sodexo is working to make it easier for those with alternative diets and medical dietary restrictions with the MyZone station.

“We are slowly incorporating [options for those with] dietary needs, vegans and vegetarians,” said Andreopoulos. “With that comes a lot of challenges.”

Students feel the challenges, too.

“It's not about being picky when you have to eliminate a ton of things you cannot eat immediately,” said **Katie Bush ('19)**.

Gary Brown, operations manager, and Andreopoulos explained the layout for the new MyZone station.

“What we have decided to do is incorporate the MyZone station to accommodate the vegan/vegetarian and the big allergens that we face, such as nuts, dairy and gluten.”

The new station will have a rotation.

“The cycle for the hot dishes will change everyday for everyone, the cold bar is on a three day cycle, which means it will have the same menu for three days and on the fourth day it will change,” said Andreopoulos.

Some of the other changes the MyZone brings include “the refrigerator which houses spreads, cookies, muffins, gluten free muffin batter, along with pasta that is cooked and can be used at the Mongolian station or the pasta bar after being warmed in the microwave,” said Andreopoulos.

The MyZone fridge also has vegan yogurt, butter and cream cheese options, and no nut spreads such as soybean butter.

Bush, who is on a dairy free diet said, “the new section is a good idea, but I am an adult and am able to cook for myself and would like to be off the meal plan.”

Brown, in response to questions about the meal plan, simply said, “talk to us, the school controls many aspects of the meal plan and it is ultimately up to them and it is a long process, our only jurisdiction is dietary concerns.

“We do have many students who have severe allergies and still are able to eat at Hamilton Commons and maintain a



Maggie Zou: Photographer

Gluten-free and dairy-free options can now be found in the back corner of Hamilton Commons

meal plan, we can pretty much accommodate anyone,” said Brown.

Sodexo is also making changes outside of accomodating diets. Starting this week there has been “fresh squeezed orange juice, which is located by the fruit in the morning, a big pan of halved oranges can be found there and you can have a glass of fresh squeezed juice in the morning,” said Andreopoulos.

He also said that the addition of “blenders within the next semester to have out in the morning to make smoothies with the yogurt bar and the fresh fruit” is one change Sodexo staff is excited about.

Brown said that Sodexo staff “has to rebuild how we are thinking of feeding students who come here (Hamilton Commons) two to three times a day to eat.”

“Tell us what you guys would

like to see,” said Brown. “We have the comment cards, but we would love to see you guys face to face and have a conversation with you.

“We are open to the idea of servicing you guys and giving you what you want, we like to hear what you guys have to say.”

Bush, for one, said she would like to see “improvements with labeling and making sure that workers are fully informed about what is in each meal.”

Fiesta Baile to kick off month of Hispanic education

ALINE BATAWI
STAFF WRITER

education to occur and awareness to be raised,” said **McKenzie Fox ('18)**.

“The world becomes a better place when we are able to embrace diversity and respect our differences.”

Fiesta Baile is the first event, kicking off the month of festivities on Friday from 5 to 11 p.m. in Tyler-Van Dusen.

“We think of Fiesta Baile as a way to bring people together, bridging the community and the campus,” said Stephanie Slaughter, professor of Spanish.

“One of the ways we do that is by involving community members in the planning process and taking into consideration the multiple audiences that these events attract.”

Many different organizations and people came together to plan this year's activities. According to Fox there was help from The Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee,

community members, the CSO office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Department of Modern Languages and HisCo.

After the first Fiesta Baile on campus in 2010, the Hispanic Coalition, also known as HisCo, was developed and set out to reach beyond campus to help something greater. Their goal is to educate and bring awareness and to celebrate Hispanic Heritage.

“By having a celebration like this we hope that it promotes civil discourse so we can get to know each other,” said Slaughter.

“If we get to know each other fear lessens, misunderstanding lessens, and we can have more thoughtful conversations about what it means to welcome people.”

Fiesta Baile introduces students and community members to people they might not usually interact with through traditional Hispanic foods, music and dancing.

“Fiesta Baile is an opportunity

for many to see and participate in activities of a culture that may be their own or different from their own, and that's fantastic,” said Fox.

“It's so wonderful to see various community and campus members come together and celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture.”

Fiesta Baile can connect students with the outside community in a unique manner.

“There's a lot of people with Hispanic heritage within the county and there's not a lot of ways for people that are not in that culture to experience that culture and see what it is like,” said **Brooke Tubbs ('18)**.

“Fiesta Baile is a good way to get to know community members that have a different culture and heritage than you.”

The activities throughout the month include Samba lessons, an immigration simulation, a Spanish movie night and a history speaker who will discuss Spanish

witchcraft.

“The variety of activities involved in Hispanic Heritage Month allow for education and discussion on issues such as immigration, as well as celebration and education of Hispanic cultures,” said Fox.

Ultimately, the hope for these events is that it gives people an opportunity to experience a culture different from their own and to unify the community with the campus.

“I feel that experiences like these allow for greater understanding and respect of differences among different people,” said Fox.

“I have grown the greatest in moments like these where I have been challenged to look at different points of view.”

“We shouldn't just tolerate each other, we should respect values and differences,” said Slaughter.

“The events we have this month are to promote that.”

Students concerned about family in hurricanes

ROSE CYBURT
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the death toll for Hurricane Harvey reached at least 70, spanning across 13 counties in Texas, according to Time Magazine. Florida is being evacuated because of the incoming category 5 hurricane, Irma. There are reportedly already at least 22 dead from islands hit.

Hurricane Irma is a category five hurricane and “way bigger than Andrew,” according to Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Following Hurricane Irma is Hurricane Jose which is headed for the islands already destroyed by Irma.

While these natural disasters are happening on the other side of the country, some Alma students are closely tied to those affected.

Richard Scroggins ('21) is from Houston, Texas and had family still back home when the hurricane first appeared.

“My dad was stuck in Chicago since he couldn't get a flight back, but my mom and step mom had to stay in Houston,” said Scroggins.

“The water was about an inch away from entering the house according to my mom, but the whole first floor of my dad's

apartment building was flooded.”

Scroggins is close with his dad and has been in recent contact with him to stay updated on the situation back home.

Sigma Chi Fraternity has also been affected by Hurricane Harvey.

“We as a brotherhood felt that we had to do something, having two brothers whose families and lives were affected by this tragedy,” said **Joseph Castle ('20)**.

Maxwell Craig ('19) is one of the Sigma Chi brothers affected, with family members in Plano, Texas (a suburb of Dallas) and Katy, Texas (a suburb of Houston).

“My family in Plano were outside the direct flood zone, but

my aunts and uncles in Katy were limited to the second floor,” said Craig.

He hasn't been able to hear from them since the power has gone out, but knows his family is safe and has taken in another family.

The brothers of Sigma Chi Fraternity accepted any donations at their “Big Kahuna” party Friday night, from money and clothes to food. In return partygoers received a lei to wear. All proceeds were donated to the Houston food bank.

“Donations to the Houston food bank go directly to the people in need,” said Craig.

Discussion of climate change

has cropped up in relation to the recent hurricanes.

“Whenever we hear or read about the worst, the greatest, the highest, level of any phenomenon, we can assume that there is a strong link to climate change,” said Murray Borrello, professor of geology and environmental studies.

“The models predict weird and strong weather and unprecedented events such as Harvey and Irma.”

Climate change increases the probability that weather patterns will be intense and unusual.

“Hurricane Harvey was most likely impacted by warmer ocean water and higher sea levels due to climate change,” said Borrello.

I'm paying for freethinking, not day care

By Abigail Fergus
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I was talking with a woman unaffiliated with the college the other day. She glanced at one of the many new cameras on campus housing.

"I thought you were adults," she said. I thought so too, but often I feel as if I am paying for an overpriced and unneeded daycare rather than a Liberal Arts education.

The liberal arts exist in order to enable students to be free thinking and active in their communities. That is why our education is peppered not only with the courses within our major, but with the flavors of many other fields.

Public affairs, the P-Global grant and the honor's program are facets of campus that I have experienced and that uphold liberal arts values. But not all students take advantage of these opportunities, and many of the ways in which students are treated do not line up with the liberal arts ideals.

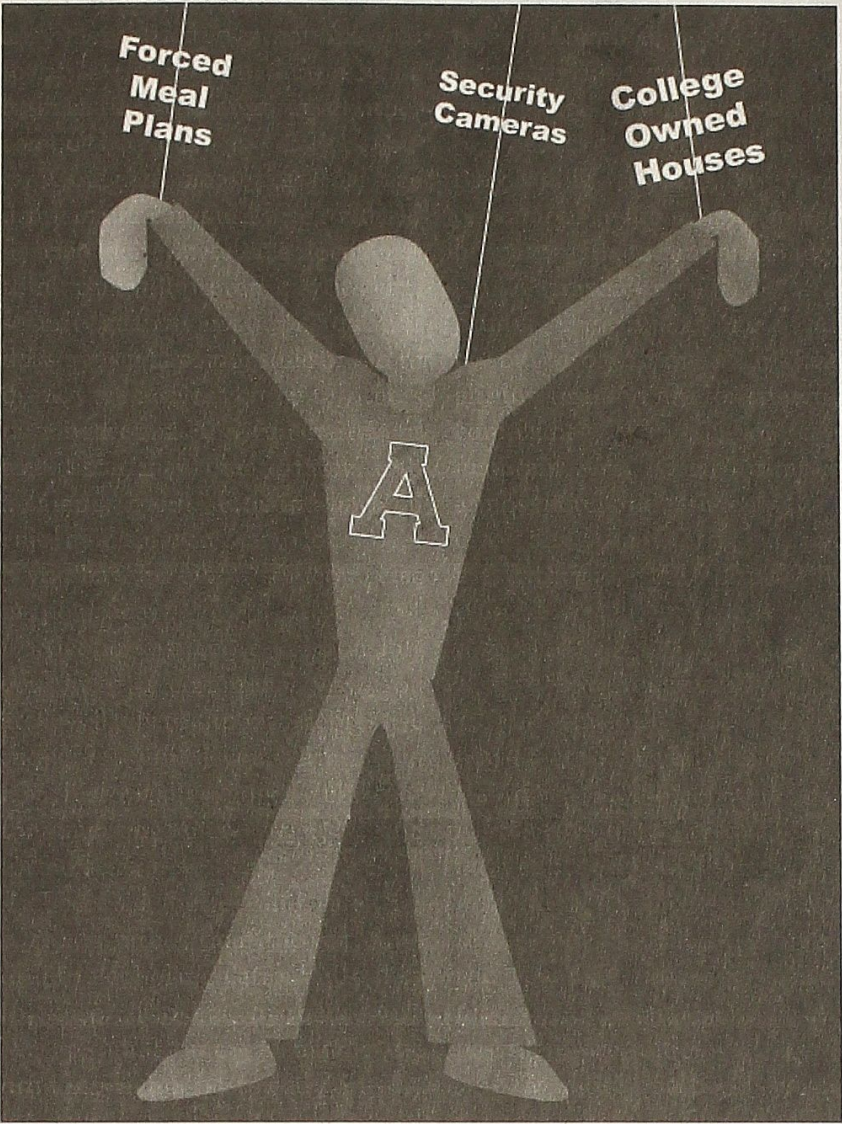
All students, however, are underrepresented in the committees that make the decisions that shape Alma College. All students are required to be on Alma's meal plan and live on campus unless they jump through hoops. All students are held to a drinking policy that confines legal drinkers to bedrooms with closed doors. All students in small housing are seeing either their basements being walled off or have been promised they will be. All students are being seen by cameras at every entrance to every house.

I am a student here, and so I am part of the demographic that funds and gives purpose to the existence of Alma College. I have sat on board and administrative committees. I have held positions in Student Congress. I have been an editor in some form with the Almanian since I was a freshman. I have gone beyond sitting in SAGA and complaining about the school's issues; I have written emails, shown up in person to offices, offered solutions and taken action. Other leaders do the same and more than me, but we are a minority of the student body and we are halted at every turn.

Committees
While I've served on committees because of Student Congress, they were largely composed of administrators, trustees, and faculty. The subject matter centered on improvements to campus, retention and safety: all student issues and with little input asked from students. If I couldn't make it to my committee meetings, no young adult voice was heard.

When I was able to participate, I was treated with skepticism. My questioning of the alcohol policy was treated as though I wanted the college to endorse keggers. Board of Trustee members suggested we build a hockey rink god-knows-where on campus, yet my suggestion that we focus on Alma's current, leaking infrastructure was given less discussion time.

Drinking Policy
If students want to drink on



Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

Students should be treated like liberal arts thinkers, not toddlers, according to Abigail Fergus, editor-in-chief.

campus outside of a registered party, they must do so in the bedroom of someone 21 or older with the door closed. This limits the amount of sober people likely in the mix to keep a friendly eye on those drinking.

In Wright Avenue and Hall apartments, 12 students are allowed to be in the same bedroom while eight is the maximum for all other campus housing.

Why can't those of legal age drink in our campus living rooms? I have no idea. Maybe college officials think this will prevent parties that security guards can't be posted at. It does not seem responsible or fun to drink with a select group of others in a bedroom. You can hardly fit eight students comfortably into a campus room, let alone have an enjoyable time tossing back a beer if you have to elbow someone else in the process.

Alcohol is more responsibly consumed a communal way. You are less likely to slip into depressive thoughts while you drink and it's historically good lubricant for meeting new friends and formulating new ideas.

There's a better and safer in-between rather than the extremes of zero alcohol regulation and policy to keep drinkers in bedrooms. We are adults and can handle the drinking rights bestowed to us by U.S. law.

Meals and Campus

The common argument I hear from the school about this one is that Alma is a small campus and part of the experience is eating and living on it. That doesn't matter though, if these accommodations are getting in the way of education for certain students whose needs aren't being met.

SAGA on multiple occasions has caused students to go to the ER for unlabeled allergens in foods and it seems to assume that vegetarians are contented living on the same meal of guacamole, pasta, or rice every day. Dorms are being packed to the point where freshman have few options to move away from bad roommates and the damage they inflict can't always be solved by RA mediation.

If you think you've escaped and found the good life in a themed or Greek house, surprise: you get

a monthly fire safety check through your house and in your bedroom from security and student life staff. Imagine if your RA was allowed to walk into your room at random.

Rather than require students to spend time and money going to a doctor to get a note about mental health necessitating off campus living, students should be believed when they say they aren't comfortable with on campus living or able to eat properly with on campus dining.

A win-win would be for campus living and dining issues to be resolved once and for all by responding to student complaints. The school can maintain its small campus atmosphere and students can cross out one worry on the list if they're well fed and can trust that their privacy will be respected.

Bye-bye Basements

The majority of Alma's houses are old and subject to leaking and flooding basements. MacCurdy house already had its basement sealed off. I and other residents last year noticed a sewage smell wafting up through the vents. It turns out that a pipe was burst and some of the basement was under water.

Now, more houses are seeing their basements sealed off. Who knows how long that pipe was leaking? We detected the smell upon moving in for the start of the school year. Blocking off basements only impairs students from keeping tabs on the conditions below them. It doesn't make the issues go away.

Cameras

I looked up the model of camera the school installed, as camera boxes were left behind in some houses on campus. They have audio recording capabilities. Dave Blandford, director of student life, has clarified that students will not be audio recorded since my personal discovery.

Still, the student body was not told upfront what the purpose behind these cameras was. They greeted students upon move in and caused many to question how the school

planned to use them.

I don't know the majority of the security team and I don't want these strangers having access to cameras they're able to watch and listen to us throughout campus. These cameras sell for \$180 online. There are about 20 campus houses and cameras are posted at every entrance. Figuring for at least two cameras per house puts the estimate of south campus camera expense at 40 x \$180= \$7,200.

Blandford said that a committee including students helped establish a plan to coat campus with cameras, but going back to my committee section I have poor experiences with such forums being effective at collecting student input. Could any student be on this committee? How was it advertised? Were there multiple students in the group with varied backgrounds?

Instead

Change the culture; don't use policy as an ineffective crutch. Students aren't going to behave because of restrictive policy and security cameras. They're going to find new ways to drink or they'll go to CMU and take the risk of less familiar surroundings and a drive home after a night of partying.

ACUB is an example of effort to change campus culture in order to enable students to enjoy themselves without using substances. A healthy selection of other campus organizations do the same. Still, college students are going to drink.

Trust needs to be established via communication with students about what they need and want from the school. On campus, students won't go to security with their issues if they feel that security is only out to catch them. Students are reluctant to talk to the Almanian about their concerns, often worried that the school will punish them by taking away their Greek house or chapter, for example.

Some administrators question why students won't come to their office hours, but where is the effort to come to students? Where were administrators when two potential Title IX violations were reported in the same hall of Newberry? Not engaging in person with students.

Nick Piccolo, former vice president for student life and Title IX Coordinator, Anne Lambrecht, director of counseling and wellness, Steven Rackley, athletic director and Sarah Dehring, associate athletic director, are administrators who have stepped up to the plate and engaged with students on Title IX issues last year at a panel and student presentations on the issues. An even better step would be for administration to take a turn at initiating dialogue on this issue and others more than once a year at the State of College address.

Changing the culture of Alma to benefit the school as a whole isn't impossible; it just means that students need to be respected as adults who are paying for a liberal arts education, not a day care.

My fellow students have much to blame for this issue as well. Next week I'll write on that. I want Alma College to be a place where students can focus on how they're going to better their communities and think for themselves, not a place where they expend as much energy as I have on day to day issues that link back to a lack of respect offered to us.

I've been working for this quietly out of anxiety regarding what would happen if I spoke up for the past three years, but I won't be quiet anymore.

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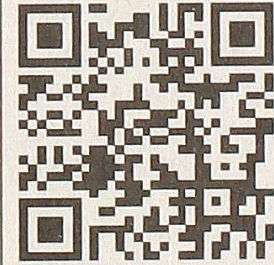
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Indie, column, music journalism change

By PAIGE DANIEL
THOUGHTS EDITOR

I've been thinking about this column quite a bit while home for summer break, as writing about music has been one of my passions during my time at Alma. I added music coverage to the Almanian's opinion and "entertainment" section back in 2015 as an overeager freshman that emulated what I read from critics at the time.

Now, clickbait is ubiquitous in online music journalism these days, and it probably goes downhill from here. Certain attitudes about independent and popular music are perpetuated by critics, and recognizing how those bleed into perceptions of not just music, but artists and the culture surrounding them can assist in the mapping of how music journalism has changed.

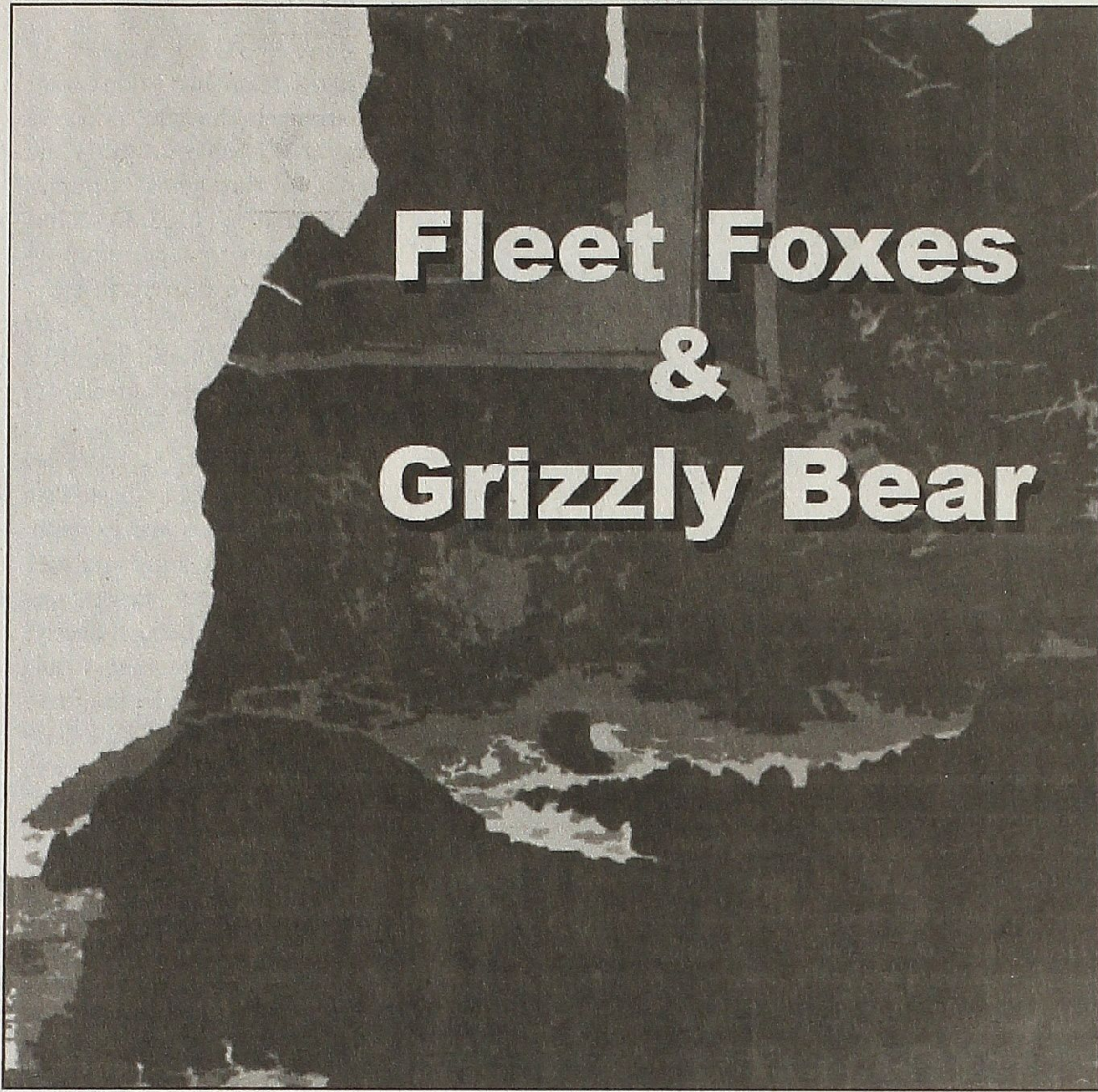
With the help of click-through links on social media sites, the headline grabs lately have been overwhelming in one question: is indie rock dead? Two bands have been mentioned often when this question pops up in the feed - Fleet Foxes and Grizzly Bear, both included as part of a so-called "tradition" of indie rock.

The reverence for this "tradition" is usually focused on the makeup of bands prior to 2014: a stable grouping of drums, bass, one or two guitar parts and a lead vocalist. This nostalgia for bands of old might be due to the disappearance of some previously popular indie bands, more criticism of pop music and the somewhat disappointing returns of those bands of old via less than stellar albums.

This preoccupation with indie rock being "dead" seems to be a cry for those disappeared bands that perfectly fit the makeup, and were mostly fronted and populated by men.

Indie rock has been alive when you consider that women have been making indie rock too, such as Mitski, Angel Olsen and Courtney Barnett; it's important to consciously cover artists and bands from all backgrounds. Trying to define indie rock is to downplay its capacity for change in a rapidly-changing entertainment culture.

Fleet Foxes and Grizzly Bear,



Bands like Fleet Foxes and Grizzly Bear have been included in a discussion of indie rock that claims the genre is "dead." With their new albums, they prove that that change is a good one.

Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

while not being poster children for this "pure" definition of indie rock, have been on a break for the past five years after both releasing what were heralded as their best albums. Both have changed their sound in minor ways, just as music journalism has changed its conceits and framing of critique, just as this column has changed - and so it goes.

Fleet Foxes' previous albums are notable for the folk-rock textures they helped bring to the mainstream (you've definitely heard a Mumford and Sons song on the radio at least once, and maybe switched the station).

Their second album, "Helplessness Blues" (2011), took the folk-rock palette and layered it further with a more personal mythos from frontman Robin Pecknold, making it an epic of sorts. His uncertainty about life as a 20 something-year-old was translated to long-winded lyrical efforts that mulled over purpose, labor and parental legacies, with reverb-soaked instrumentals to match.

Now, with Fleet Foxes' third album "Crack-Up," a shift has occurred. Pecknold traded out the pleasing, pop-influenced melodies from Fleet Foxes' first two albums for what can only be described as anti-pop songs. The album follows a narrative that hides itself in the

folds of Pecknold's intentionally obtuse lyrics, which are fun but also might take more than one listen to latch onto.

The opener "I Am All That I Need / Arroyo Seco / Thumbprint Scar" is three different songs in one. Pecknold alternates between whispering and singing to highlight a duality in his life - what came before and what came after. It isn't clear if the audience is supposed to be in on the secret of what the "what" is.

The tracklist is what makes the album. Every song is ideally digested in the order set, and the lyrics are a text on their own. "Cassius" makes references to the ancient Roman senator and the protests that were a response to recent instances of police brutality, set against a droning sample of waves.

The best songs on Crack-Up follow this duality that Pecknold weaves of his own history. "Kept Woman" mourns a duty left unfulfilled, paired with surprising, off-kilter piano swirls. The sonic wilderness of "Third of May / Odaigahara" complicates the nostalgic and joyful lyrics to become mediation between light and dark; its time signature changes, as does its key signature. Pecknold contrasts segments of songs to sound euphoric, and then irretrievably desolate.

The title track settles "Crack-Up" in the current day, rather than staying in the past, where the album begins; Pecknold cites post-election anxiety as its main source. "Crack-Up" is most vibrant in how it places current events in both the world and Pecknold's life under clouded glass, the lyrics both cloaking and revealing, the instrumentation a dense, ever-shifting stream.

Pecknold wasn't the only one feeling weary after the election. Grizzly Bear, a four-piece band that went off the map for a few years, could relate. Their chamber rock would have to be updated for 2017, and that shows on their new album "Painted Ruins," finding themselves, like Fleet Foxes, in a trickier mass of sound. Whereas Fleet Foxes' widened their reach, frontmen Daniel Rossen and Ed Droste pack more punch in shorter songs.

Their past album "Shields" was sparser, mainly dealing in their style of longer songs that stretch to include indulgent outros. Yet on "Painted Ruins," opening song "Wasted Acres" is the shortest start to any of their albums. The drums stand out the most, setting the pace for what is to come.

Grizzly Bear operates more democratically than Fleet Foxes seems to. Members Chris Bear and Chris Taylor back up Rossen

and Droste, the two vocalists. It has been noted that songwriting duties are shared equally among them, each bringing the same amount of ideas to the table.

This is best exemplified in "Four Cypresses," which started as a drum part Bear wrote. Its staunch marching beat fizzles out into grimier territory, growing to include the psychedelic flourishes that show themselves throughout the album. There is much more going on for the duration of this release sonically; the lyrics are darker and more ominous, recording daily banalities.

Rossen said that "Four Cypresses" was about his experience living alone and letting a homeless person stay in his garage (its refrain: "it's chaos, but it works"). "Three Rings," the rowdiest track on "Painted Ruins," moves into a gallop with its driving beat in the second half.

Fans had accused them of getting "poppier" on this album, when all they really did was beef up their palette of sounds. The only true "pop" songs, "Mourning Sound" and "Losing All Sense," are still a newer, bigger version of the 60s-influenced pop they used to put out.

"Mourning Sound" boasts distorted horns, while "Losing All Sense" is the most obvious callback to their old catalogue (it is also the oldest song on the album).

The latter half of the album drifts further into psychedelia. "Glass Hillside" and "Neighbors" start off deceptively quiet, until billowing out into shifting splashes of guitar. One thinks the tracklist could have been moved around to create a more pleasing progression, but the quality of the songs make that hurdle easy to overcome.

Though this is Grizzly Bear's most lucid depiction of desperation, it still vastly represents the thing we are all beholden to: change. The outcomes of Fleet Foxes' and Grizzly Bear's transitory periods sync up a little too perfectly with the change found all over: in music journalism, in culture, in music, in this column.

These two bands have put forth enormous efforts, pieces of art worth thinking about for longer than the seasons take to change. Similarly, indie rock isn't dead, it has just changed. Music either stagnates and festers, or it grows. Catching up with it is the least we can do.

Sudoku

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

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

New faces: After a number of administrators and student life staff left Alma this last year for other positions, their replacements are almost as new to campus as the Class of 2021. The administrators profiled were those who responded to requests for an interview.

VP of Finance filled after year-long gap

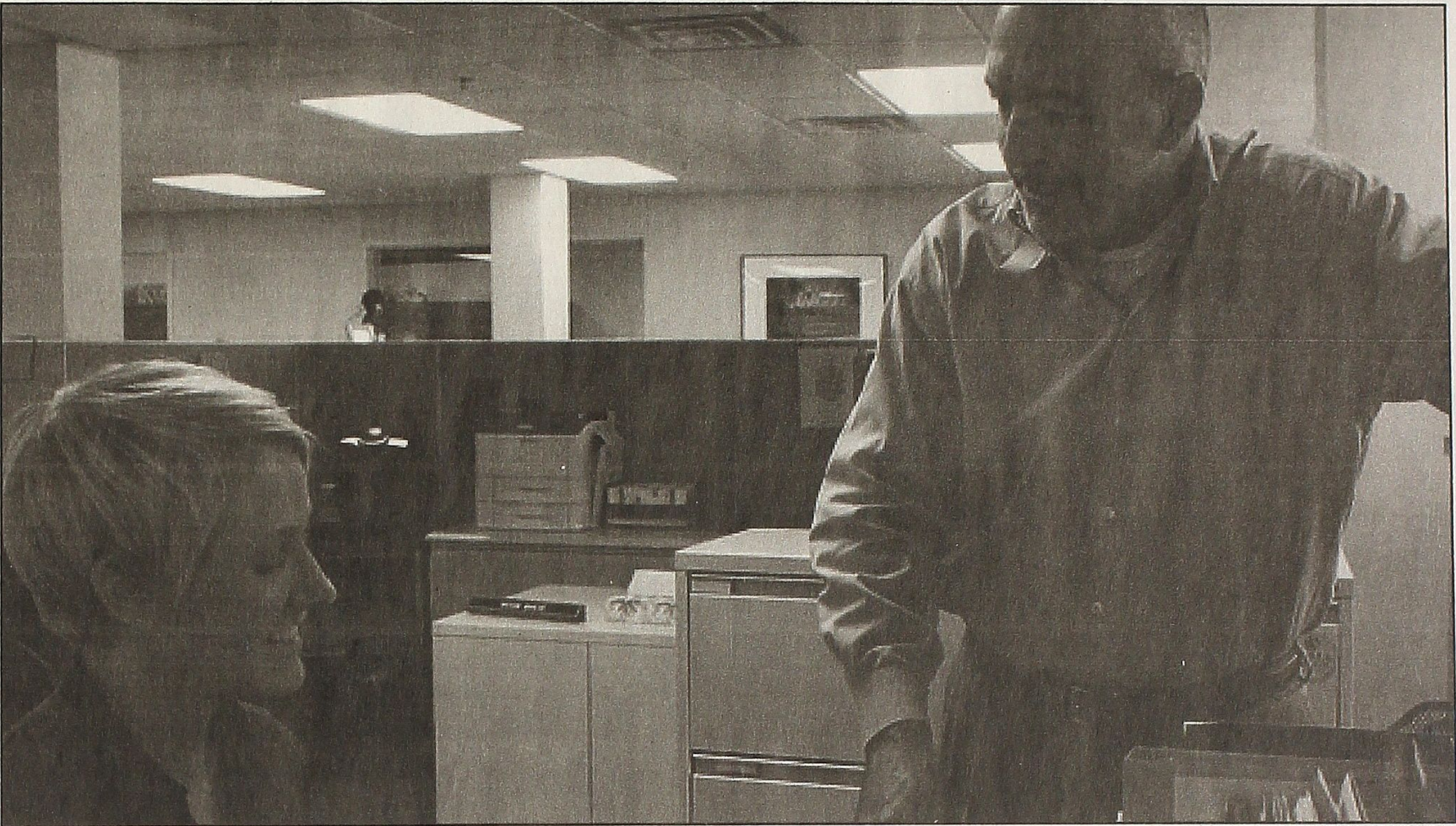
By ERWIN McWILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Alan Gatlin, a resident of Alma, will start this semester as the college’s new Chief Operations Officer (COO) and Vice President for Finance and Administration. The position oversees IT, facilities and service management, financial services, printing and mailing and Sodexo.

Gatlin has come from a rich background in both leadership and finance as he has worn a number of hats. This background ranges from being the President and CEO of W.W. Williams, a mechanical and repair service, on to being the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer with Northstar Aerospace.

Gatlin is taking on a new frontier, as he has never before worked so closely with higher education.

“I hope to bring a sense of stability and consistency to the finance and administration area, support



Zack Kribbet; Photographer

Registrar Clerk Amanda Tillotson and new Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Alan Gatlin.

President Abernathy in helping the college meet its strategic objectives and always keep what’s best for the students in mind when making decisions,” said Gatlin.

As the father of an Alma grad, he has an understanding of the school not only as an

administrator, but also as a parent.

Gatlin said that Alma has treated him very well and he is very grateful for the hospitality he has been shown from both the administrative team and the Financial department. He also is amazed at how well they

managed to keep everything organized as the position went unfilled for a year after Todd Friesner resigned.

“Dr. Abernathy made it a priority to try and improve the munch money situation this semester,” said Gatlin.

“Burt McAtee (Sodexo

general manager) and Gary Brown (Sodexo operations manager) at Sodexo and the local merchants all worked together to make that happen. I was very pleased with everyone’s cooperation and effort to achieve the best results for the students.”

Matt Jones hopes to help via Greek Life

By BRITTANY PIERCE
STAFF WRITER

As a child, he wanted to be a police officer. This year, Alma welcomed Matthew Jones as the new coordinator for Greek Life and orientation.

With five social sororities and six social fraternities, Jones oversees 347 active Greek Life members. “The organizations really set themselves apart by their core purpose which is to challenge students to become the best version of themselves every day,” said Jones.

“They do this uniquely

through teaching a values congruent lifestyle. Every chapter has a set of values, a mission, a vision and a purpose. Most organizations have some values in common such as leadership, scholarship and service.”

Jones’ role involves a plethora of duties, such as attending meetings with chapter presidents, council presidents and weekly IFC [The Interfraternity Council] and Panhellenic meetings.

“I advise organizations on direction and engage in conversations about the mission, vision, values and purpose of organizations to help students and chapters make decisions,” said Jones.

However, his role is not all about meetings.

“Much of my role will involve creating intentional programming for the community,” said Jones. “We are looking at some really cool opportunities for programming about leadership development, living a values congruent life, and engaging in some service projects.”

Although Jones is relatively new to Alma, he is not new to the Greek Life scene.

“I was involved [in Greek Life] in my undergraduate career,” said Jones.

“I joined in the fall of my first year at Eastern Michigan University, and slowly got more involved in the chapter over

time. During my time in the chapter I was the service chair, recruitment chair, president, and then I was the Inter-Fraternity Council president my last year.

“After I graduated, I started out my graduate career and was the graduate assistant for Greek Life at EMU before getting hired somewhere else as the Greek Life coordinator.”

Just like this year’s incoming class of new freshman, Jones also went through a period of adjustment upon coming to Alma College.

“Both the institution that I did my undergrad at and the institution I had my first job at were much larger,” said

Jones. “So far it is adjusting to the smaller school atmosphere [that] has been not necessarily hard, but just much different in a very good way.”

Even if Jones did not work as a coordinator for Greek Life and orientation, he still would have chosen a career that benefits the community.

“I don’t think I could imagine doing anything else at this point in my life, but I have always thought a career in politics or working at a non-profit would be a similar route,” said Jones.

“I have always had a want to help others and give back so I think it would be in either politics or working for a non-profit.”

Mark Smith takes over South Campus

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

Following Willard Korson’s resignation last year, Mark Smith is the new South Complex Director. Smith described his job as someone who can provide crisis response for the entirety of campus.

“I supervise the RA staff for

all five south campus residence halls and handle the day to day operations of those halls,” said Smith.

“As small housing coordinator, I am responsible for advising the house managers for our 11 themed houses and being the point person for those houses.”

Smith’s related experience includes serving as an RA for

two and a half years at EMU, as a graduate hall director for one and a half years at EMU and as a resident director at University of Illinois for two years.

Smith says he’s been eager to jump into the tasks and Alma community, already enjoying the staff and students he gets to work with as part of the Student Life Office.

“Whether it’s RAs or house

managers, each of them has that ‘something’ that makes them a great leader and a joy to work with,” said Smith.

“I’m truly blessed as well to get to work with my fellow professional staff. I’ve been welcomed into a great department that really cares about its students.”

The job has its difficult aspects, but Smith stays

optimistic.

“I enjoy solving problems and providing the best experience I can for students, so even the hardest challenges are ok because they often yield the most valuable rewards. I am looking forward becoming an even bigger part of the community and helping any way I can,” said Smith.

Campus offers alternative exercise

By **BRIANNA SORIANO**
SPORTS WRITER

Aside from the numerous team sports at Alma, the school provides a variety of ways to stay active all year long through clubs and fitness classes.

"I like how Alma gives its students plenty of options to stay active while at school," said **Stephanie Mangutz ('18)**.

Although the team isn't allowed to have school sanctioned practices because it has yet to be recognized as a college sponsored hockey program, the hockey club team meets every Monday at the Mount Pleasant Ice Arena.

Typically, the costs range from \$50-100 for the students depending upon the amount of participation and the funding they receive.

"I think it is important to offer ice hockey to students because it is a fantastic sport and a lot of fun," said **Matthew Embury ('18)**, the club's coordinator. "It is a great way to keep playing a



Zack Baker: Photo Editor

Writer Brianna Soriano takes part in Zumba classes held at the Rec Center.

sport you love without having the complications of being an organized team."

If students aren't interested in playing club sports, the Stone Rec Center offers a variety of fitness classes open to all students. The classes include pause yoga, zumba and

yoga. If students are interested in meditation and mindfulness, pause yoga and yoga are ways to stay active while incorporating a gentle practice. Pause yoga meets every Monday and Thursday from 12:15pm to 1pm and yoga meets every Tues. and Wed. from 8am to 9am.

Zumba fitness offers a way to stay in shape for those who are interested in a full-body workout with dance moves from styles such as salsa, hip-hop and reggaeton. Zumba meets every Mon. and Thurs. at 5:15pm for an hour.

"I enjoy going to Zumba because it allows me to sweat and

get a good workout while having fun," said **Shelby Frazer ('18)**. "Coming to the Rec and doing my same lifting and running routine can get very boring so I decided to add some spice in my life and do Zumba."

Cheer team celebrates last season's national title

By **JOELLE FISHER**
SPORTS WRITER

A grueling 9-month long season for the Cheer & Stunt squad was rewarded on April 7th in Daytona Beach, Florida, when the team won the program's first-ever NCA - National Cheerleaders Association - championship in their division.

The Scots went into that Thursday's preliminaries on the bandshell hitting a deduction free routine that landed them first place for their division going into finals. On the final

day of competition, the Scots topped the runner-up, Iowa Central Community College, with a score of 95.72 to secure their first place victory on the oceanfront.

"Competitions like NCA are really hard as a coach, because there is little that you can do in the moment," explained head Cheer and Stunt coach Michelle Sabourin.

"The girls have a 2 minute and 15 second routine, a routine that they have run hundreds of times, and all that matters is the one final performance. Seeing them

finally perform without fear or nerves and seeing the work pay off was such an amazing moment," added Sabourin.

"No words can describe the feeling we got when we were the last team called and announced as national champions," said **Morgan Thompson ('18)**.

"We were all crying and celebrating with each other we forgot that the trophy was even there, they were literally trying to hand us the trophy and we completely forgot."

The past three previous seasons the Scots had finished in second place in the intermediate

All-Girl Division II class while making an appearance in the NCA nationals finals the last four of the five years - since the program's establishment.

"Last season was really the culmination of the last 4 years of our program," said Sabourin. "It's been a building process, getting closer every year, and every previous team had paved the way to prepare us for the ultimate goal of taking that title."

"There is no better feeling than finally being able to accomplish something that we all worked so hard for," said

Taylor Flees ('18).

This Saturday, the Alma College football team will host Benedictine University at 1 p.m.. During halftime, the Cheer and Stunt team will be recognized for its accomplishments this spring. Following the football game, friends and family of the cheer team will be invited to the ring ceremony in which the members of the 2016-2017 Cheer and Stunt team will receive their championship rings and reflect on their record-breaking season.

Sports classes open to all students, not just athletes

By **JOHN DURGA**
SPORTS WRITER

Alma offers many sports classes instructed by collegiate level coaches. Many students believe that these classes are solely for athletes, but all students are invited to take part in these courses.

"My beginning class is for any student on campus" said Charles Goffnet, head golf coach.

"Anyone who has an interest in learning more about golf is welcome."

These classes can be a learning opportunity, a way to brush up on skills or a way to stay active on campus.

"[Golf class] is a great way for me to continue learning

about a sport I already enjoy playing as well as just a way to stay active on campus," said lacrosse player **Dan Buchy ('18)**. Athletes as well as non-athletes can gain from taking these classes.

Some non-athletes are already taking part in these courses.

"I enjoyed the [volleyball] class a lot and it was a really good experience to learn how to play from a collegiate level coach," said **Jenny Fisher ('18)**.

Some athletes even use classes on other sports to help them be better in their own.

"Taking Tumbling and Flexibility with Coach

Sabourin helped me expand my knowledge and venture in to different disciplines," said wrestler **Jared Fleming ('19)**.

"As a wrestler, learning how to tumble and becoming more flexible helped me be more comfortable with my body and transferred directly over to the mat."

Big Ten Football Coach Urban Meyer has been noted at many of his press conferences saying that he prefers athletes that play multiple sports because of their versatility and general athleticism. Fleming, among other athletes, is taking advantage of Alma's sports classes to give him the edge on the mat.

Fill Credits and Get Active

Search and register for these 1.0 credit classes for the 2017 Fall semester.

(Located under the Exercise and Health Science section)

EHS-112-01: Begining Golf

EHS 165-01: Softball/Baseball

EHS 165B-01: Basketball (Women's)

EHS 165B-01: Basketball (Men's)

EHS 165L-01 Lacrosse

EHS-165Z-01: Zumba Fitness and More

EHS-350A-01: Coaching Football

EHS-380-01: Adv, Tumbling & Flexibility