

Honors Day displays student influence

By MARGARET RAUSCH
 STAFF WRITER

Students often hear of sports teams, Greek Life events and concerts in the arts. Now it's time for students to flaunt their academic accomplishments on Honors Day.

"[Honors Day] is geared to explain and demonstrate how a liberal arts education will make you a more well-rounded person," said **Cecelia Brady ('18)**, a member of the Honors Program.

There will be a wide variety of presentations this year, from a poster session about the discharge education in a hospital, to student choreographed dance performances, to the levels of *E.coli* in the Pine River.

"We collect [water] samples from the river, filter them through a membrane, plate them on media and count the number of colonies of *E.coli*," said **Michelle Scribner ('16)**.

After the *E.coli* levels are determined, the data are compared to state regulations. For those familiar with the state of the Pine River, it's not surprising that the amount of bacteria in the river exceeds the parameters, according to Scribner.

Scribner's work, along with the research of many other students and faculty, has resulted in some changes in the area.

"There is now a sign [by the

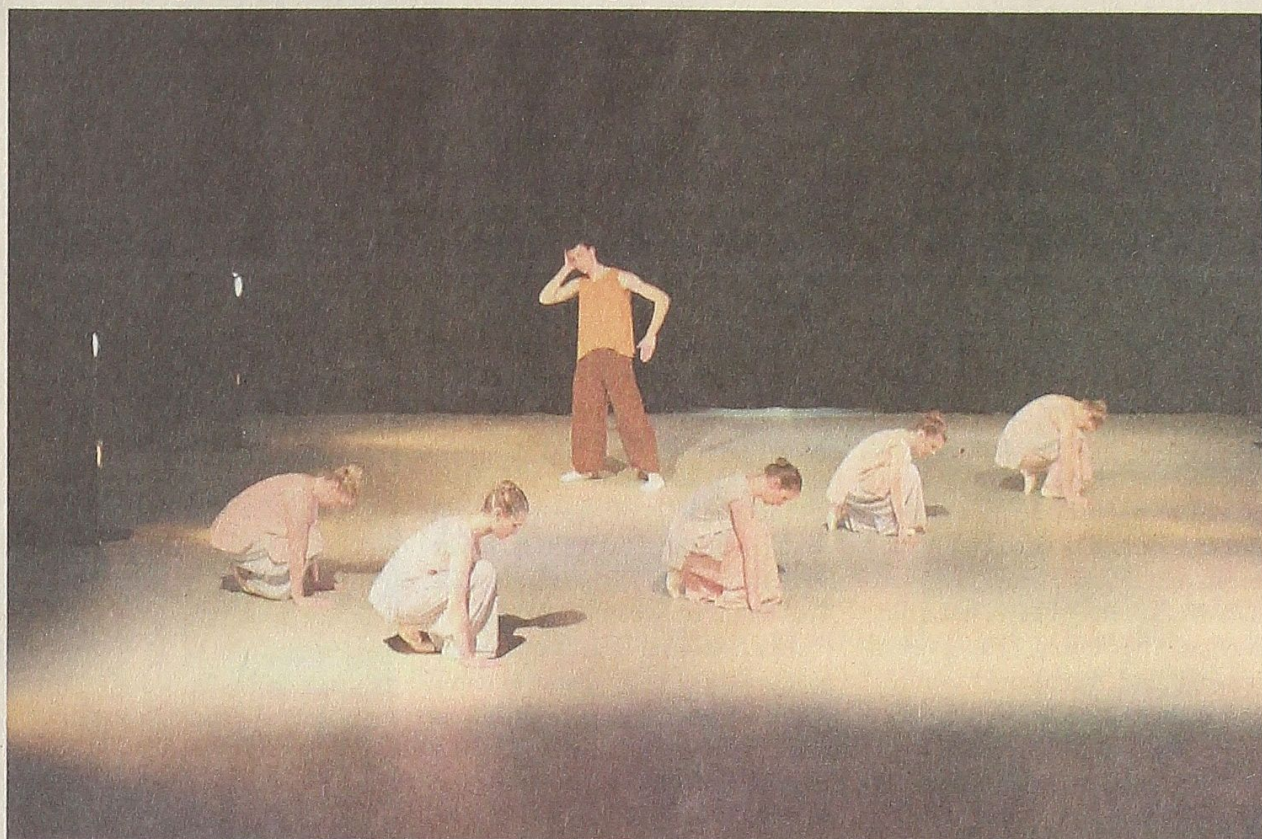


Photo Courtesy of Aerial Stroven ('18)

Isabelle Limondin's ('16) piece "Irrevocable" being performed.

river] that says 'Don't touch the water,'" said Scribner.

The nursing program will also be making its Honors Day debut with a poster session on a proposal to improve discharge education for post-operative patients.

"We are looking at implementing videos as a part of discharge education," said **Isabelle Limondin ('16)**, one of the first students to graduate from the nursing program.

Limondin will also have a dance she choreographed, "Irrevocable: The Inability to Alter Past or Present Reality Explored Through Dance," performed during Honors Day. Six dancers will showcase the piece with a male and a female dancing together at the start and a group dance at the end.

"When a lot of people watch it, they will think it's about a relationship and there is

another woman [involved]," said Limondin.

The female dancing with the male in the beginning changes during the second half of the dance, explained Limondin.

"To me, [they] represent the same person," said Limondin. "It is someone who [has grown] over time."

Faculty and staff have chosen another dance to showcase during Honors Day. Six female dancers

will perform the piece titled "Last Goodbye" to commemorate the passing of a good friend.

"I had a friend who passed away last October," said **Miranda Stutzman ('17)**. "She turned 16 two weeks before she died in a car accident. It's a little bit of closure for us."

Each dancer will have a prop with them when they perform. The students have a connection to their objects in order to enhance the emotional experience. The performers will approach the piece with their own interpretation and personal connection.

"One girl has a journal," said Stutzman. "I had her write in [it] so she would have an emotional attachment to it."

Other dancers have a locket with a picture of friend, a flannel shirt that brings about memories of a long term boyfriend and a picture frame with a photo of friends inside.

"I want people to sit back and think 'wow, that moved me' or 'that was really emotional,'" said Stutzman. "I don't want people to think about the dancing; I want them to think about the story."

Honors Day will take place on Thursday with sessions lasting throughout the day.

"Go out of love for the education and knowledge," said Brady. "It's deeper and prettier than most people give it credit for."

State of the College: past, present, future change

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
 CAMPUS EDITOR

Alma's past

About a dozen students joined President Jeff Abernathy in the lower tier of Hamilton Commons in March of 2015 for his annual State of the College address titled "Fireside Chat."

"I remember going to SAGA," said **Steven Smith ('16)**. "I was expecting something more formal."

Smith recalls Abernathy discussing plans for new Greek housing to be modeled after the Tau Kappa Epsilon house. The president also discussed the construction of a new Learning Commons as well as the new wrestling and gymnasium addition to the Hogan Center.

"We have a fraternity that doesn't have a proper house and can't raise the money," said Smith. "We have tuition that is still going markedly up each year. I like the idea of improving the campus' physical image, but I think the college's time and money would be much better spent thinking about more sustainable ideas."

Smith was present at the Fireside Chat to listen to the college's plans and share his own.

"Sustainability isn't something that you can just tackle," said Smith. "It's little steps, and if you want to start introducing a sustainable culture for students, it starts with a hardcore recycling program. I would really appreciate seeing that the school is trying to promote itself as a sustainable campus."

Though Smith praised Greek Life, the Climate Change Action Network and Student Congress for being involved with improving campus, he thinks there's room



Photo Courtesy of President Jeff Abernathy

Students pose for a picture with President Jeff Abernathy after last year's State of the College address titled "Fireside Chat." This year's address is April 11 in Dow 1r.

for improvement.

"Professors need to speak up more," said Smith. "Students and professors need to work together more."

Smith is part of Environmental Studies Program Coordinator Murray Borrello's environmental geology course, which is organizing a proposal for an improved recycling system to present to Abernathy.

"I want to see that more: where professors and students come to administration together," said Smith. "Students have the fire in their guts and the will. Professors have the way and the means to direct us, and when we work together things will happen."

Smith was adamant about the State of the College address.

"It's imperative that students come to this," said Smith. "It's our money that they spend. The college is us. It's critical that

students direct the course of our college. We have something really special at Alma, but it's not as special as it could be."

Alma's present

Between 150 and 200 faculty, staff and administrators attended their State of the College address, including Scott Messing, chair of the faculty and Charles A. Dana Professor of Music.

Messing's advice to students who are considering taking advantage of their opportunity to speak with Abernathy applies to what he'd tell his music pupils or a citizen headed to the polls.

"It's not healthy to be a passive observer," said Messing. "Do your homework, be prepared and be engaged."

From the broad to the specific, Messing thinks any question a student may have for Abernathy is worthwhile, because it affects

an individual's life. Messing sees value whether a student asks about the availability of hot water for showers or the expected percent increase of tuition in the coming year.

Messing compared "doing your homework" before the address to completing coursework. Pulling from his field, Messing said that in learning a new composition, you can start by looking at the individual notes on a micro level or looking at the piece overall on a macro level.

In the same way, students can prepare questions based on what they want to know about the college as an individual or as a member of the community.

"What's important is that lines of communication be as multifaceted and frequent as possible: written, aural, formal and informal," said Messing. Regarding the format of the State

of the College address: "It's a two-way street. It's not sufficient for the president to say, 'here are all the ways I'm available.' If 12 students [came to last year's State of the College address], why aren't more students taking advantage of that?"

Alma's future

Separate addresses take place for students and for administrators, faculty and staff, because there is some variance in focus, according to Abernathy.

"As employees, we talk together in the faculty and staff session about matters such as budget, compensation, and the like," said Abernathy.

The president foresees change as a result of regular conversations similar to and including the address.

"Those conversations have led to an agreement to share budget data more widely than has been the case in the past," said Abernathy. "They have also resulted in a broader awareness of our common commitment to continuing our success in the area of retention and to expanding funding for deferred maintenance issues on campus."

While Abernathy had hoped for better attendance at the student State of the College address last year, he remains confident in its importance.

"Such sessions have, through the years, led to major changes on campus, including the enhanced lighting across campus, changes in safety policies and the like," said Abernathy. "Such events are an excellent opportunity for our community to come together to talk about matters of importance."

The student-oriented State of the College address will take place in Dow 1r at 7 p.m. on April 11.

Journals publish Dalla-Vecchia's poetry

By **MICHAEL BREWER-BERRES**
STAFF WRITER

Santino Dalla-Vecchia ('16) had his poetry published in two journals recently: "Birch Gang Review" and "Heron Tree." His poem, "Defamation" appears in the debut issue of "Birch Gang Review."

"I've been lucky that a few editors have liked my work lately," said Dalla-Vecchia. "It's always odd to hear an artist talk about their work. Even in really deliberate pieces, there's such a wide range of connotation people can bring to the words you use."

"Defamation" is "a portrait of and an accusation against living life." His other poem, "The Psychoanalysis of Small Things," which appears in "Heron Tree," is about "an indictment of memories while the memories flip an indictment right back at you."

"Birch Gang Review," an online literary magazine of poetry, fiction, photography and artwork, only has one issue out at the moment, but plans to publish quarterly every year. "Heron Tree," which began in 2013, posts poems online weekly and collects them each year into an online

volume. They are interested in poetry, overall, that "makes us say 'yes.'"

Dalla-Vecchia is currently majoring in English and has been accepted at the Vermont College of Fine Arts for graduate school. He hopes to spend the next few years writing and pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree. All this, according to Dalla-Vecchia, means that he will be spending all of his time writing, revising and sending out poems to journals and publishers.

"I was 14 when I knew I wanted to be a writer, but I was 18 when I realized I needed to be a poet," said Dalla-Vecchia, when asked about how long he has known this was the path he wanted to pursue.

He added that he mostly does poetry, but has also published creative nonfiction. He also has works in "The Timberline Review," "Sediment Literary-Arts Journal" and "Peculiar Mormyrid" and is the editor-in-chief for "See Spot Run."

"I'm increasingly attracted to hybridities, intersections between, for example, the personal essay and the critical theory articles," said Dalla-Vecchia. "I'd eventually like to write a sitcom."

He added that, as a reader, he

loves pretty much anything.

"I'm continuously devouring novels, poetry, essays, philosophy," said Dalla-Vecchia. "I always try to have some kind of TV show rolling, too, which is another kind of text."

As a writer and someone who has met success through his work, Dalla-Vecchia also had some advice to give to aspiring writers. He emphasized that you should try to write every day and added that you should also send out submissions on a weekly basis, because that should meet success.

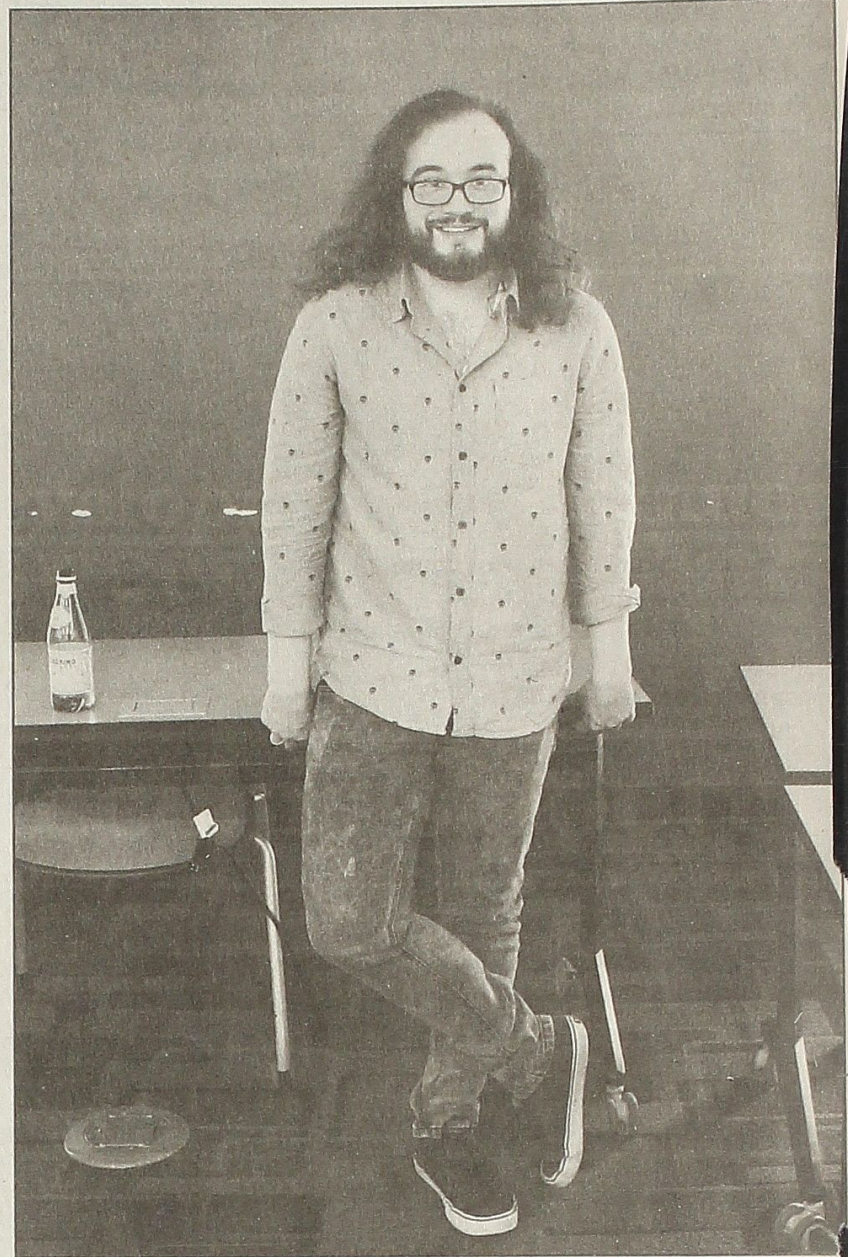
"Be proud of your work and your publications," said Dalla-Vecchia. "And your rejections. It's all part of the process. Don't be afraid to start small—little journals are great to build up to bigger ones with—but never hesitate to send to major journals. The worst they can say is, 'no.'"

Cherish your rejections, your acceptances, your good poems, your bad poems or whatever it is you write."

You can read both of Dalla-Vecchia's poems online on the

Right: Santino Dalla-Vecchia ('16) poses for a photo in SAC.

Bri Yaroch: Staff Photographer



Bad fanfiction makes for successful event

By **HALEY PARKER**
STAFF WRITER

ACOG (Alma College Otakus and Gamers) celebrated fanfiction, the fiction written by fans using characters, settings or situations found in a specific fictional universe, last Friday. It was the event that surrounded the idea of fanfiction.

"Usually, [I write them] because there are characters I really enjoy," said **Alex Korany ('18)**. "And basically, I want more than the original universe."

However, the event, called the "Night of Bad Fanfiction," took some of the most poorly written and most provocative stories of this genre and read them out loud

to the congregation of ACOGers, family and the random people who walked past the rotunda between 8-10 pm that evening.

Those passing included hungry students, their families, and—at one point—nuns. The last of these caused those congregated to burst with laughter due to the erotic nature of the stories.

"[I think that was my favorite part,] the sudden very large fits of laughter," said Korany.

Poor grammatical structures, spelling and plot-structure of the tales made the stories almost unreadable.

Granted, at least one of the selections read is generally accepted as the worst fanfiction ever written.

According to an article by Abraham Rieser from Vulture.com, "MY IMMORTAL" is a Harry Potter fanfiction written between 2006 and 2007. This fiction is of unknown purpose and origin, though there are several theories ranging from an internet troll (someone who enjoys tricking or ruining things through comments online) to an actual girl who understood neither English grammar nor plot devices.

It follows the story of a girl named Ebony (occasionally spelled 'Enoby') Darkness Dementia Raven Way and her adventures as a vampire in Hogwarts. It is littered throughout with references to

stereotypical goth bands and pass-times, with a very loose interpretation of Harry Potter canon (or original source material) that irritates most readers with out-of-character moments and frequent misspellings of the character's names.

"We used to read it during ACOG homecoming, and had an entire whiteboard dedicated to trying to figure out what was going on," said **Abigail Delaney ('16)**.

Other fictions read during the night had similar flaws. Most were a myriad of other Harry Potter inspired works—such as a fiction that paired Severus Snape and Teletubbies and one that rewrote the Harry Potter series to avoid

the idea of witchcraft. "Legolas by Laura" as read dramatically by Korany, also made the list of those read.

"[I was not looking forward to this event] because I want to have some semblance of hope in the English language," said Delaney. "And [these stories are] the reason why."

These stories also had explicit sexual content—including strangely placed eggplants, Teletubbies, and Tetris Blocks—that caused most of those present to groan, start rocking back and forth or laugh loudly.

"Abby needs Jesus," said Delaney during the event. "She might have to go to Church this Sunday."

Opera House at standstill, other development continues

By **SOPHIA RICHTER**
STAFF WRITER

Alma will be buzzing with campus-wide construction and maintenance this summer. The three main additions to look for next fall are the addition to the Hogan Center, the Delta Gamma Tau Scholar House, and the Dow Digital Science Center.

The new addition to the Hogan Center that's been under construction all year will open before the Highland Festival in May. The two-story glass structure has been constructed on the east side of the existing Hogan Center, facing the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail and Wright Avenue, according to Mike Silverthorn, communication director.

The ground level of the building addition will serve as the Sherman Strength and Conditioning Facility, the athletic department's main weight and conditioning room for all student-athletes, while the upper level will feature the Hatcher Wrestling Room.

The new Delta Gamma Tau scholar house on Center Street that was fully funded

by alumni donations has been under construction for several months and will be completed early this summer.

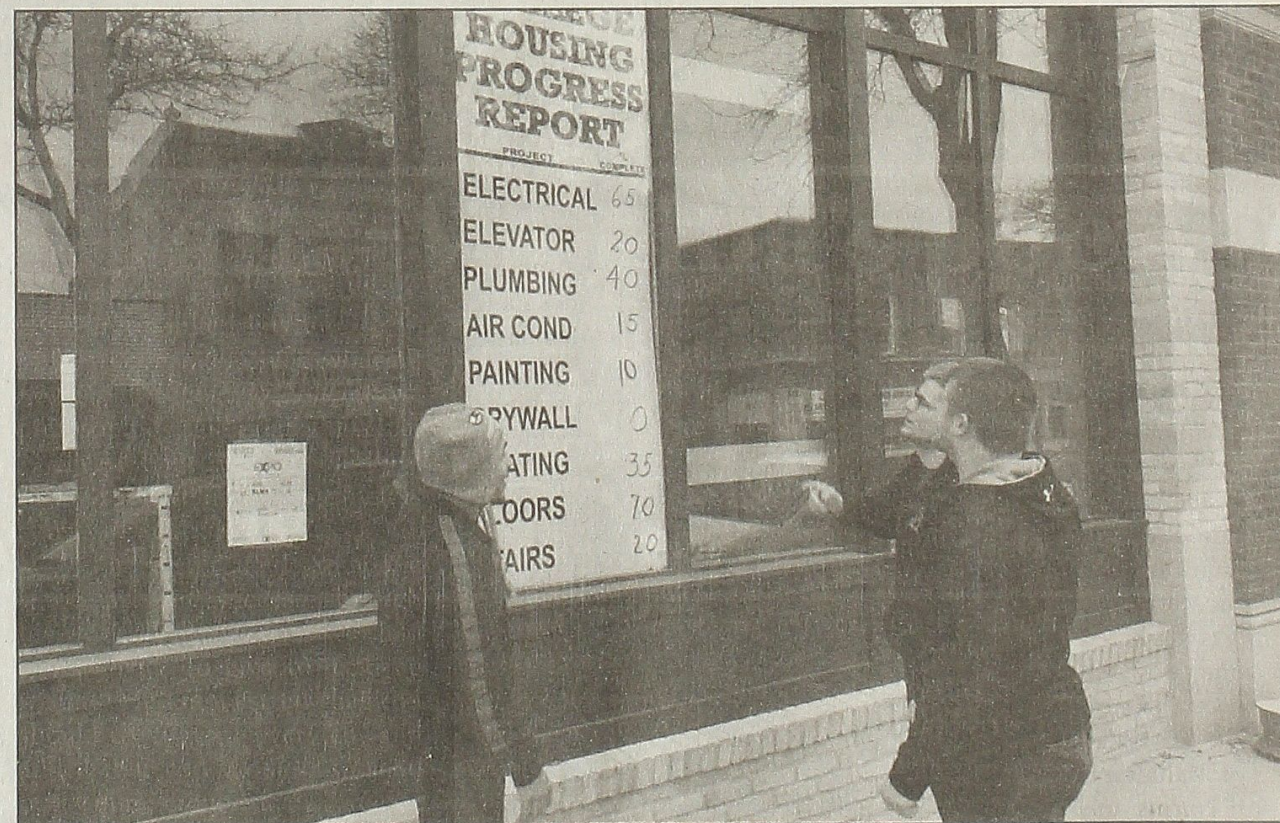
There is also potential for the new Dow Digital Science Center, planned to be in the lobby area of Dow, to be both started and completed this summer.

Though construction is at a standstill for the downtown Opera House apartments, President Jeff Abernathy comments that he continues to "support the vision of students living downtown and in this building despite the challenges the project has faced."

More maintenance projects are in store for the campus. The interior painting of one dorm on north campus, most likely Bruske, and one on south campus, most likely Wright Hall, will be completed this summer, according to Doug Dice, director of facilities and service management.

Dice explained that interior painting rotates annually, so that every dorm gets selected every few years. Every room, corridors, and common spaces of the dorm will be painted.

The college is also planning to contract out cleaning the



Kurt Smith ('16), Cannon Pendred ('16) and Dominick Adams ('19) inspect the progress report posted on the Opera House.

Emily Price: Staff Photographer

limestone fascia material around the exterior of the Heritage Center and Eddy Music Building this summer, and there are a number of upgrade projects concerning the heating, cooling and electrical systems around campus.

Additionally, small housing will go through inspections to provide information of needed

maintenance once residents are out of the buildings. Some foreseen projects included completing the roofing of both small housing and other large buildings, and replacing flooring, primarily in academic buildings where the old floor is worn out.

There are also plans to upgrade several underground piping systems that will provide

better drainage in areas that have seen some flooding issues in recent years.

Routine campus maintenance goes on annually, according to Dice. Some of these projects for the summer include the assessment of dorms for damage and needed maintenance and exterior building painting as needed around campus.

Autism Speaks but should we listen?

By NICOLE ECCLES
OPINION EDITOR

I suppose I need to start this article off with an explanation, perhaps a disclaimer. This article is in no way meant to devalue or demean anyone on this campus or the work they have done with the local community in relation to autism.

This article is not meant to hurt, it is meant to educate and critique an organization that is very prevalent on this campus and many others across the United States.

An organization, which in my opinion and of many others, is not actually listening to people with autism and does them real harm.

I must also make the disclaimer that I am not an expert in this area and I will mainly use first person language in this article while recognizing that there are many people with autism that prefer identity-first language.

This organization is Autism Speaks. If you've ever Googled this organization you will notice that other than links to the organization itself and its social media accounts the rest of the links are articles and blog posts condemning the organization.

If this doesn't raise red flags for you when considering

supporting an organization, then I really don't know what would.

Autism Speaks' website claims it to be the "world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families." And this brings me to the first very real issue with this organization.

Autism Speaks produced a short video called "I am Autism" a few years ago, here's a direct quote: "I am autism...I know where you live...I work faster than pediatric AIDS, cancer, and diabetes combined...I will make sure your marriage fails."

Autism is not a disease. It is a disorder. People with autism are not something to be fixed or cured, they do not have cancer they are simply not neurotypical.

Trying to find a "cure" for autism is an abelist idea, not supported by the majority of people actually in the autism community. What is dangerous about the view of Autism Speaks is that by focusing on ending autism, they are outwardly claiming to want to end people with autism.

How would you feel if there were people going around saying that they want to end people like you? You certainly wouldn't feel accepted or like any part of you

was normal or right.

If this sort of language was being used in relation to people with ADHD or downs syndrome there would be huge outrage, yet in relation to autism you instead have groups of people jumping on the bandwagon with blue shirts and puzzle pieces.

The topic of abelism brings me to the next point of the problematic nature of Autism Speaks. There is sort of a saying that goes around communities that deal with disability: Nothing about us without us.

The idea is that people with the disability should always be included in any discussions and decisions that are made about them.

One of the highest critiques of Autism Speaks is the fact that not a single person with autism sits on their board. The decisions and advocacy that is supported by Autism Speaks is completely focused on the people who have to "deal" with people with the disorder.

At the end of last year Al Jazeera America interviewed Amy Sequenzia, a non-verbal autistic, who said that she might be "considered the "poster child" for Autism Speaks' idea that life with autism is tragic, but that she's doing just fine."

She made the statement that Autism Speaks must stop the push for "fixing" therapies and ensure that "autistics [are] part

of every conversation about what affects our lives."

The last part of Autism Speaks that I want to address is the problematic way they portray people with autism.

They are mainly portrayed as burdens, as people living the hardest imaginable life, one that no one should be subjected to.

This is one the reasons that anti-vaxxers are so concerned about autism, because organizations like Autism Speaks have perpetuated the idea that having autism is absolutely terrible. People have used these ideas to jump to the conclusion that it would be better for children to get sick with deadly diseases than risk autism.

I would like to end this article by reiterating that this is not meant to undermine any good work that local organizations have done. Part of loving anything, a person or a cause, is understanding its flaws and being able to critique it and make it better.

Autism Speaks isn't unsavable, but the current way it is operating is oppressive and hurtful to those with autism. Blind support of this organization cannot continue.

This campus can take steps to change the way we support Autism Speaks and the way we support the autism community. If you want more information on this subject or want some better organizations to support in relation to autism, please check out the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

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THE ALMANIAN
ALMA COLLEGE
614 W. SUPERIOR ST.
ALMA, MICHIGAN 48801
TELEPHONE: (989) 463-7161
EMAIL: Email letters to the editor to:
editor.almanian@gmail.com

Editorial Staff

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Former One Direction member, Zayn Malik, releases debut album

By PAIGE DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

I have written about Zayn Malik (or ZAYN, as he now caps locked himself) before, during a simpler time when his debut album was not forcibly born into this world and there was only curious anticipation.

Being a part of the monolith known as One Direction hardened him to such tropes of the boy band's music – classic and indie rock rip-offs (which has its own merits) and the vocal training that pushed them to the brink of constriction.

On March 25, exactly a year after his departure from the band, he released his first effort at a solo career: Mind of Mine. The title seems to promise a look inside all of the things that One Direction has debatably kept from us with their bland but successful promoted image. Malik was marketed as the "mysterious" one, now we might get to pull back the curtain.

That is why the child version of Malik on the album cover with his arms inked up is an ironic adornment. Malik is playing with maturity, supposedly getting to sing about all the topics he couldn't sing about while he was a member of the biggest boy band in the world.

Apparently looking inside of his mind involves just another trip down the endless rabbit hole of youthful hedonism; his idea of maturity is in direct correlation to the amount of times you mention

drugs, sex, alcohol, or all of the above in a song.

The plodding lead single "Pillowtalk" as well as others set the scene for the kind of passivity that permeates some of Malik's album. He doesn't care if he pisses off the neighbors, nor does he care about what people say about him, as he asserts in the song "Befour."

This passive attitude is semi-characteristic of the R&B kingpins he is emulating like The Weeknd, Miguel and Frank Ocean. Malay Ho produced Malik's album, who also produced most of Ocean's highly praised Channel Orange.

This is not to say that Malik is not a curator of good vibes; the production qualities range from echo chamber trap music to minimalist synth tracks and even the occasional piano ballad ("Fool for You").

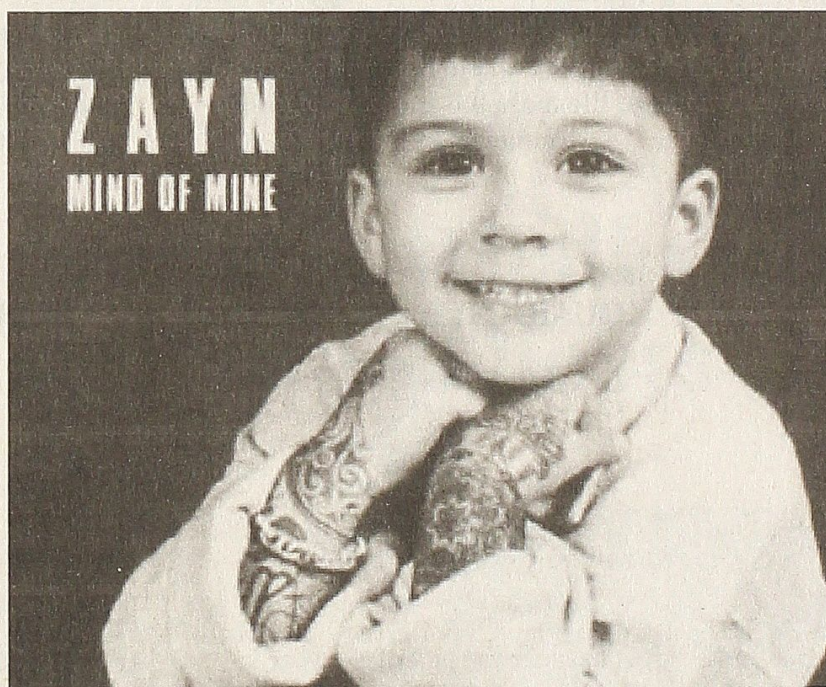
The track list is a bit bloated for a solo debut, which leaves some songs in the background to recede into forgettable territory.

Highlights include the murky, organ-tinged "It's You," two-for-one poolside deal "She," with "Drunk" following immediately after. Also included are the Kehlani featured "Wrong" and the unfurling "Bordersz."

The album seems to be split right down the middle: between boredom-inducing morality pleas ("Rear View" and "Truth") and genuinely cool R&B tracks, no matter the cringe-worthy lyrical content.

Mostly I want to like Malik's music, because he is cool – a millennial image of ever-changing hair, unique hidden interests, diverse taste and a beautiful singing voice to boot.

Sadly, his beautiful singing voice



Courtesy of telegraph.co.uk

only reaches transcendental levels on "Intermission: Flower." Malik sings in Urdu, hearkening back to his roots where his voice is a beatific buzzing thing that glistens in the light as if it was a dew-soaked leaf. His voice would sound good singing the phonebook, but some tracks don't serve to show off his pipes, a tragic consequence of the passive R&B he aspires to.

In a twist of expectation, the best songs on Malik's album are the deluxe edition tracks. Here is not the effervescently cool to the point of passivity Malik.

Here is the ideal Malik, relaying what I've been waiting for the whole time: scorching vocals and buoyant instrumentals, with a kick of something inexplicable.

Is it the Settle-era Disclosure styled "Bright?" or the shifting tone of "Blue?" The single "Like I Would" is also a deluxe track, boasting the most ebullient

mood of the last half. "She Don't Love Me" is another deluxe track that makes you wonder why it wasn't swapped with one of the more lackluster additions.

At the end of the day, Malik owes much of his instant success to the fans he carried over from One Direction.

He does not have the plight of other startup solo artists, doomed to crawl the charts or lay low on streaming services. His transferred audience is half the fun of critically looking at his album.

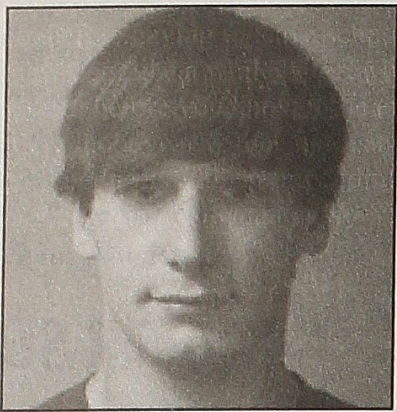
The army of his fans that call themselves the "Zquad" give Malik's success and work a purpose. He gives them his "mind," they offer a backboard from which even his most scandalous lyrics jump into canonized lore.

Right now Malik has a lot to build on, a solid palette that he will hopefully extend with a sophomore album. Thinking that far ahead can be dangerous though, and Malik has all the time in the world.

Campus Comment

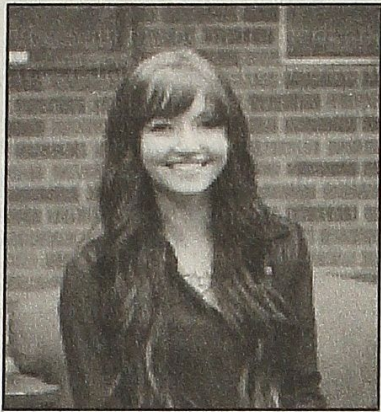
We asked, "What was your favorite Greek Week event?"

By MANDY MENOSKY
STAFF WRITER



Nick Wilson, (16) athletic training major said:

"My favorite Greek Week event was the jeopardy game on Thursday, because Delta Gamma Tau got every one of the sports questions right and we took second place."



Cierra Sutherland (16), psychology major said:

"My favorite Greek Week event was definitely mock rock! Some of my Gamma Phi Beta sisters and I worked so hard on our routine and we had a ton of fun doing it. I love having events like this that allow us to get creative and incorporate our personalities."



Josi Denman (18), nursing major said:

"My favorite event was the banner painting, because my Phi Sigma Sigma sisters and I were able to bond together without there being competition or pressure to win something."



Abby Schaitkin (18), education major said:

"Volleyball on Monday was my favorite event of the week, because Gamma Phi Beta won one game and we as a sisterhood played great as a team. It was really fun!"

HOROSCOPES

Disclaimer: Horoscopes are meant to be fun and enjoyable. We take no responsibility if any of these do or do not come true. We wish no one bad weeks. Remember: life is what you make it.

By MONICA KUNOVZSKY
WEB EDITOR

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



Don't procrastinate packing up your room before having to leave school! It may seem like a while before you leave, but before you know it the end of the school year will be here, and you'll be faced with an impending doom that isn't so distant anymore.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



Self criticism can be your worst enemy and so can the need for perfection. Remember that it isn't attainable, and that every person has their flaws and mistakes and that is what makes them HUMAN. So embrace the imperfections, because they make life more fun anyway, as well as more meaningful.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



Your rage will only get so far, and for the most part, exhausting yourself from the amount of anger you exude isn't always beneficial. It hurts yourself more than it hurts the other people who originally upset you. So take a breather and re-focus that energy onto something that can be more productive.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



Take advantage of the good weather coming up! Go outside for walks, runs or bike rides and let yourself get lost in nature. It's good for you to get some alone time with yourself as well and be able to recharge and regenerate the lost energy from exuding a lot on people and in stressful classes!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



With the changing weather, there's more susceptibility to colds/migraines/all-around-nasty-feelings, so make sure to stock up on cold medications, teas, soups, and other sickness remedies!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



Just because the end of the year is almost here DOESN'T mean it's time to start airing out dirty laundry. Remember to stay in your lane and keep your eye on the prize for the end. Reserve any inclinations to act of reckless behavior and just chill out this next month.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



For the rest of the semester I'd advise staying in your lane, focusing on school and not get involved with unnecessary qualms involving friends or any social aspects. You don't need extra stress on your plate, and it would be good for your mental health if you make sure to watch yourself first before sacrificing yourself to everyone else. It's almost the end of the semester, so you've just got to keep up this high power momentum.

LEO (July 23- August 22)



It isn't always in your best interest to get side tracked with other people and their stories. Although you'd like to attempt to help, sometimes it does more harm than good. Stick to simple things and it'll leave your life drama free.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



Listen to your favorite albums--the one's you haven't listened to in a while. It'll help cope with the last few weeks of this semester, whether you're praying for it to be over or you're sad that it is almost coming to an end. Find joy in things you had once clung to so deeply, and remember that being nostalgic can always help heal.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



You may have finally found the perfect balance between school work and play, so keep that up! Remember also to change your toothbrush every 2 to 3 months because otherwise it will get gross and then you'll have bad breath. Bad breath leads to bad LUCK!

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Your kindness and warm spirit will be rewarded in these upcoming weeks. Summer is also on the horizon, so if you need help keeping that sunny disposition just think of that! It is okay to get down and blue about things every once in a while, so make sure to get a happy medium of being cheerful, but also honest with yourself and admitting to negative feelings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



You never think twice to giving your all to someone who's earned your respect, but sometimes it may be good to think carefully and really determine if it's worth the effort. Although your selflessness is great, it does more harm to you than good to others, so it may be good to reign it in and re-evaluate who deserves your kindness.

Sports Bulletin

Monday

Softball v. Calvin College
@ Alma at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Softball v. Aquinas College
@ Alma at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Women's Lacrosse v. Hope College
@ Alma at 7 p.m.

Thursday

Cheer & STUNT at NCA Nationals @
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Friday

Cheer & STUNT at NCA Nationals @
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Women's Tennis v. Adrian College
@ Alma at 4 p.m.

Men's Tennis v. Wittenberg University
@ MIAA-NCAC Challenge at Hope
College at 10 a.m.

Saturday

Cheer & STUNT at NCA Nationals @
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Men's Lacrosse v. Trine University @
Alma at 1 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse @ Albion College at
1 p.m.

Outdoor Track & Field @
Northwood Open

Men's Tennis v. Wabash College
@ MIAA-NCAC Challenge at Hope
College at 9 a.m.

Baseball @ Trine University at
1 and 3:30 p.m.

Softball v. Olivet College @ Alma at
1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sunday

Cheer & STUNT at NCA Nationals @
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Women's Tennis v. Kalamazoo College
@ Alma at 1 p.m.

Baseball v. Trine University @ Alma at
1 and 3:30 p.m.



Scots win doubleheaders
against Hope, Albion

By MAXXTON JOLLS
STAFF WRITER

The baseball team came home to play a doubleheader against Hope College last Tuesday, sweeping both games. The Scots won the first seven-inning game by a score of 6-1 and the second nine-inning game, 7-3.

With the wins, Alma improved its record to 12-3 on the season, and 3-1 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Hope's record decreased to 6-9 and 1-3 in MIAA play.

Dayne San Miguel ('16) led Alma with two RBI's and **Austin Roeske ('18)** added two stolen bases. **Matt Launstein ('16)** pitched a complete game, only giving up five hits and striking out two batters.

In the first game, the Dutchman struck first scoring in the top of the third inning, but the Scots closed out the inning with an exclamation point as San Miguel hit a solo home run. The Scots scored two

more times after striking out the first couple of batters for the Dutchmen in the top of the sixth, then brought two more runs home in the bottom to finish the game, 6-1.

In the second contest, Alma got on the board first, taking a 1-0 lead. **David Carles ('16)** was hit by a pitch and then stole second to out himself in scoring position. Alma then took a 2-0 lead through two innings, but Hope tied the game up at the top of the fifth. **Greg Goffee ('17)** eventually gave the Scots a 3-2 lead after a sacrifice fly from **Doug Walters ('16)**. The lead increased to 4-2 at the bottom of the sixth and eventually took the game 7-3.

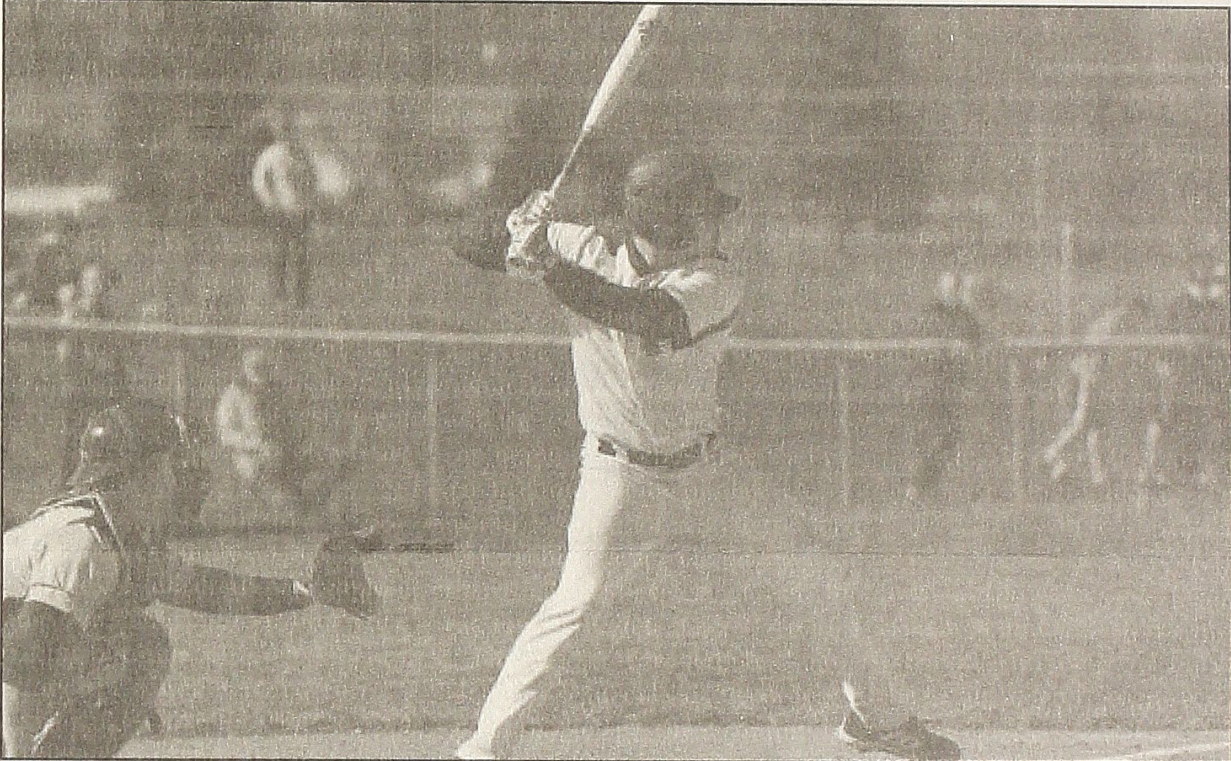
In their second home game of the week, the Scots hosted Albion College in the first doubleheader of a four game series, with Alma taking both games. Alma improved to 14-3 on the season and 5-1 in the MIAA. Albion dropped to 7-11 and 0-6 in the MIAA.

In game one, the Scots put up

four runs at the bottom of first, and added one more run to take a 5-0 lead through two innings. Albion then scored four runs in the fourth, but the Scots stopped them to take a 5-4 victory. **Phil Jock ('16)** was on the mound for the game pitching a complete game, striking out 10 batters.

In its second game, Alma started off slow as Albion gained a 2-0 lead in the second inning. The Scots then tied the game up off an RBI by **Alex Peczynski ('17)** to bring in San Miguel. Alma added five more runs in the fourth and notched three runs to take a 10-2 lead. Then after bringing down the first three batters in the sixth and seven innings, the Scots brought tallied another run to eventually take the game 11-2.

Matthew Minaudo ('18) went 4-4 and recorded one RBI, while Carles added three RBI's of his own and scored twice. San Miguel went 2-3 with one triple and one double.



Courtesy of goalmascots.com

Adam Thoryk ('17) hits during last Thursday's winning doubleheader against Hope College.

Scots' softball sweeps Hope;
17-5 squad hosts Calvin

By BRENT LUPLOW
SPORTS EDITOR

The Scots traveled to Holland last Wednesday to play a series against Hope College. The Scots, who are undefeated in the MIAA conference, continued their strong play by collecting two wins.

Alma started the game off hot as both **Kassi Adams ('16)** and **Chelsea Schweiger ('19)** hit RBI doubles in the top of the second inning. **Anna Couture ('18)** followed up the two doubles with a two-run home run to push the Alma lead to 4-0.

The Scots were held scoreless until the top of the sixth inning until **Mary Brooks ('18)** single scored a runner to make it 5-0. The Dutch scored one of their own in the bottom of the sixth, and then the Scots put the game out of hand in the seven-inning contest when they scored 3 more to collect the Game 1 win, 8-1.

Morgan Stratton ('17) continued her dominant year in the circle as she collected the complete game win, allowing four hits while striking out nine.

Sarah Collier ('16) went 3-3 on the day; Adams went 3-4, as did Schweiger who also had three RBIs.

In game two, the Dutch got on the board in the top of the first scoring one run. However,



Courtesy of goalmascots.com

Some of the softball players huddle during last Wednesday's doubleheader at Hope. The Scots won both games.

the Scots fired right back as **McKenzie Creed ('19)** hit a two RBI double to center field. It was then Collier, who hit a two-run home run to push the lead to 4-1 after one inning of play. Hope would get one more run in the top of the third, 4-2. The game was then delayed because of rain in the fourth inning.

The Scots traveled back to Hope College on Friday afternoon to finish the last three innings of action.

Kelsey Spencer ('17) and Collier both had RBI singles in the sixth inning on Friday to take the 7-2 lead. The Dutch would

score one more in the seventh to make the final score 7-3 in favor of Alma, as the Scots finished the sweep.

Katie McClure ('18) pitched the first four innings and collected the win to improve her season record to 7-2. Stratton finished the game, pitching the last three innings last Friday.

Kayla Merice ('16) finished the game 4-4 and Brooks was 2-3 on the day.

With the wins the Scots improve to 17-5 overall and 4-0 in the MIAA. They play host to Calvin College on Monday. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

Men's, women's tennis earn big victories

By **EMILY JODWAY**
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College women's and men's tennis teams hosted Concordia University on Wednesday, March 30 and Thursday, March 31. The women were able to take advantage of the temporary good weather and play outside, while the men had to move indoors to the Stone Recreational Center mid-match during a spring downpour.

The women put on their game faces and won by an 8-1 margin, their third win this season.

They took all six singles matches; **Megan Solano ('16)**, **Paige Pontious ('16)** and **Claudia Barajas ('17)** completely shutting out their opponents and winning their sets 6-0, 6-0.

"It was nice to sweep the singles events and already be up 2-1 after the doubles," Head Coach Chris Sandro said. "[**Nicki Malekadehi ('16)**] had to come back from being a set down in her match and it was great to see her battle back and get the win. Claudia at four seed and [**Matilda Ennis ('18)**] at five got nice singles wins too."

The girls also won two of their three doubles matches 8-2 and 8-5. The doubles teams of Solano/Malekadehi and Pontious/Barajas

faced off against their Concordia opponents and emerged victorious.

"It was nice to see some of the younger girls with less experience get some great wins," coach Sandro said. Ennis and Barajas are two of the underclassmen on the team who earned wins in their singles and doubles matches.

The girls return to action on Friday when they host Adrian College, and play again at home on Sunday against Kalamazoo College.

The men's team also earned a great victory last week, shutting out the competition and defeating Concordia 9-0. The guys won all of their singles and doubles matches that afternoon, despite the frantic relocation indoors. Five of the six men playing singles that day blanked their opponents with 6-0, 6-0 wins.

Bryan Schutte ('17), **Luke Van Fleet ('18)**, **Grant Hill ('17)**, **Noah Ackerman ('18)** and **Damien Arthur ('17)** all had 6-0 sweep wins. The team also won all its doubles matches, the teams of **Jared Guy ('16)**/Schutte and Van Fleet/Arthur winning theirs with an easy 8-0 set decision.

The men will play again when they host Kalamazoo College on April 5 at 4 p.m.



Top: Nicki Malekadehi ('16) serves as doubles partner Megan Solano ('16; left) waits at net to return the ball.

Right: Coach Chris Sandro looks on as Paige Pontious ('16) plays.



Emily Jodway: Staff Photographer

It's a great time to be a Scot: a shift in the culture of athletics

By **BRENT LUPLOW**
SPORTS EDITOR

Athletics are special. Nothing brings a community and individuals together, regardless of one's differences, quite like sports.

Think back to your high school sports experience, it was not uncommon for gyms and fields to be the town meeting place on Friday nights. Gyms were often filled with family members, community members, and student sections were filled to capacity.

NCAA Division III athletes play for the love of the game. In fact, many student-athletes pay thousands of dollars to continue playing a sport they have fallen in love with at a young age. Because of this and the small enrollment of many Division III schools, the tendency for these athletic programs to adopt a "family" atmosphere similar to high school is common.

So, when I entered Alma College in the fall of 2012 and saw the lack of support and respect for the sports teams on campus I was shocked. Athletic teams disrespecting each other

for lack of success and very little attendance at other teams sporting events was something I had never been a part of. There was success, but it came in waves; students were begging to have something to be proud about.

Just a short three and a half years later and the mindset and culture have completely changed. No longer are teams disrespecting one another and sporting events are packed with students, athletes, and community members.

It started last winter when the men's basketball team finished the season on a roll, winning seven of its last eight regular

season games.

The student support was just taking off just as the streak of wins at Art Smith Arena, one of the toughest places to play in D3 basketball, was taking off too.

It continued into the spring when softball advanced to the College World Series, finishing seventh in the nation after being selected in the middle of the league standings in the preseason MIAA poll.

A new athletic director, Steven Rackley, was hired last summer and knew something special was beginning to occur inside Alma athletics.

"A big part of the reason I came here and left where I was was because of the potential of Alma and who we can be. I truly believe with the people we have in place, the facilities, the administration, all of those things working together, Alma truly has the opportunity to become great."

There is an old saying that "success breeds success," and that is what has occurred in the 2015-2016 Scots' athletic seasons: football finished .500 for the first time in years, men's soccer played in the MIAA tournament championship for the first time in school history, cheer finished second in NCA nationals, wrestling had three All-Americans, men's lacrosse made a huge improvement on wins from a year ago, and baseball is off to its hottest start in years. No longer is Alma the "easy win" on other team's schedules; the mindset and culture in the athletic department are changing in front of our eyes.

"I do think what softball, basketball, and wrestling have been able to do has kind of shown who we can be," said Rackley.

As if the highlights above weren't enough, the biggest story of the year is Men's basketball success. Four years ago, the team struggled, finishing near the bottom of the MIAA. The student section support consisted of 8 to 10 students who would mainly heckle referees and opposing players. This year, it was not uncommon to see 75-100 students uniting as one, supporting their friends and fellow student-athletes.

Collecting the best record in

school history, winning the MIAA tournament, and advancing to the Elite 8 in the national tournament united the campus community in a way many had never seen.

Students looked forward to basketball games and planned their schedules around them. It wasn't uncommon to see students travel to away games. In fact, in the Scots' tournament games in Cleveland and Chicago, many students made the four-hour trips to support the Squad.

The same occurred when Alma played at Hope College in basketball and tickets for the fan bus sold out in less than one hour, and when a fan bus went to the MIAA men's soccer semifinals at Kalamazoo.

Rackley echoed how impressive this support was—"When you support each other you really create a culture of moving toward greatness. It creates an excitement of 'this is what we can be,' and everyone is proud to be an Alma Scot."

It is an incredible sight seeing the Maroon taking over other gymnasiums and fields, basically making the game a home game with the support from the fans and student section.

It has been a roller coaster of a ride the last few years, but the Scots finally have something, many things, to be proud of. The culture of our athletic department is changing and the respect is being granted. Students are embracing the "family" atmosphere that makes small college athletics so special.

"I have a great appreciation for our student-athletes for who they are and what they do, they are good people, they work hard, they want to win and succeed. Administratively we need to create that opportunity for them to succeed at the level they want to succeed at," said Rackley.

It is a great time to be an Alma Scot, and it is just going to keep getting better.



Courtesy of goalmascots.com

The turnout at one of the basketball games from the previous season is evidence of the recent shift toward more student support and participation in athletics.

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