

Successful Detroit poet gives reading

Jamaal May has won various awards for his work, discusses theme of 'human connection'

By PAIGE EMERSON
COPY EDITOR

Jamaal May, poet, filmmaker and editor, visited Alma College last Thursday at 7 p.m. He is said to have deeply impressed the audience with his "breathtakingly deep" poetry reading.

In his opening speech, Robert Vivian, associate professor for the English department, said that "Jamaal May's first book, 'Hum' carries its own vibrational field that fairly crackles around the reader's head in loosed electrons of great emotional and oracular power."

In ending his speech, Vivian mentions that he realized he has "been looking forward to [May's reading] all of [his] life."

May lives in Detroit and has taught poetry in Detroit Public Schools. He also worked as a freelance sound engineer in Detroit.

He published his first book, "Hum," in 2013. Since then, it has been nominated for an NAACP Image Award, and won a Beatrice Hawley Award as well as an American Library Association

Notable Book Award.

May has been honored and captured various awards, including an Indiana Review Poetry Prize, fellowships from Cave Canem, the Stadler Center for Poetry at Bucknell University, a Spirit of Detroit Award and The Frost Place.

"In my copy of my book he wrote 'may all of your fears see your light,'" said **Madison Webster ('18)**. "This quote stood out to me, because I often write about fears myself and [I] can kind of view the poem as a light, or a way of addressing and almost facing those fears."

May shared several poems from both his books "Hum" and "The Big Book of Exit Strategies," including "Still Life," "I Do Have a Seam," "Neat," "Bad Day," "The Sky," "Now Black With Birds, Shift," "There Are Birds Here," "Hum of the Machinist's Lover," "And For My Last Trick," "The Gun Joke," "Athazagoraphobia: Fear of Being Ignored," "How to Get Your Gun Safely Out of Your Mouth" and "Macrophobia: Fear of Waiting," which he dedicated to his long-time partner, Tarfia Faizullah.

"I was unsure what to expect as he approached the mic," explained **Rebecka Bale ('18)**.

"As he began to introduce



Paige Emerson: Copy Editor

Jamaal May is a Detroit native. He has taught poetry in Detroit schools. Much of his works explores the theme of "human connection."

himself and explain his books, it was obvious to all he was a seemingly normal, confident, and witty man. That all changed when he sprung into the start of his first poem. An entirely new person emerged in a display of true artistry."

May spoke in-between poems about how he sees that some people truly believe that technology is tearing people apart and allowing us to lose human connection. He then shared that he believes that the "human connection...[is] intrinsic, it's at

our core and we need it."

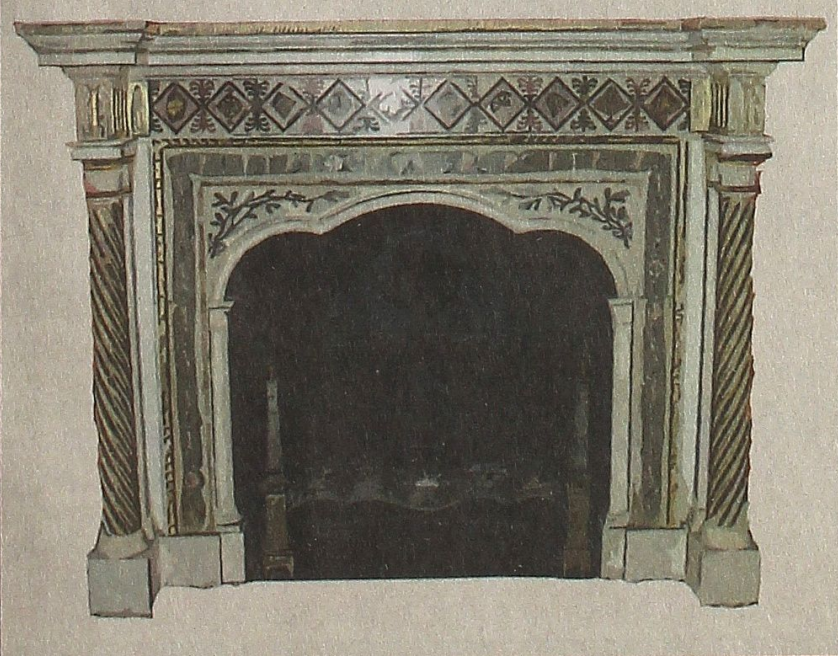
When May finished his reading around 7:45 p.m., College Corner Coffee and Books was selling copies of May's book, "Hum." May stayed behind for almost a half hour to sign books and chat with all those interested.

Fireside Chat

President Abernathy will address changes that have occurred in tuition, policies and the campus in the past year.

Tim Sheldon ('16) will hold a forum afterward sponsored by the Inter-Fraternity Council. This is an opportunity for students to have their comments and concerns heard by administration members such as Dr. Piccolo and Dave Blandford.

Hamilton Commons
7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10



"Vagina Monologues" explore taboos, feminism

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
STAFF WRITER

March is Women's History Month: a time to celebrate womanhood. A strong force behind advocating for the theme of this month is the MacCurdy House. This weekend, the organization's annual "Vagina Monologues" will be performed in Van Dusen.

"The 'Vagina Monologues' are about women's experiences," said **Emily Kirby ('16)**. "It's not usually acceptable to talk about vaginas. It's almost as if they're some secret thing and they shouldn't be. People talk about penises often, but it is taboo to talk about vaginas."

Kirby thinks the "Vagina Monologues" are about letting women have conversations about their body and their experiences. The monologues are based on the experiences of real women.

"The 'Vagina Monologues' were created by Eve Ensler," explained Kirby. "She interviewed women about their vaginas and compiled those interviews into the show."

The performances, which are acted out by various students, cover a range of topics from the socially taboo to the predominant themes in feminist philosophy.

The ideas expressed throughout the show give reasons why students should go see the performances.

"Students should come to see

the 'Vagina Monologues' because it's a show that brings up a lot of important topics like beauty standards, sexual expression, love, domestic violence, birth, exploration and revolution," said Kirby.

"There are entertaining parts, like listing all the different names people call vaginas, explaining what your vagina would wear and demonstrating the different kinds of sexual moans. There are also monologues that deal with more serious matters, like relationship issues and cancer."

Admission is \$3. The proceeds will go help the Women's Aid Service.

The monologues not only bring light to issues women face every day, they give support to the students who are performing these monologues.

"To me this whole event is about female empowerment," explained **Jay Voison ('16)**. "The monologues are meant for women to hear so they know they aren't alone; like 'My Short Skirt' and 'Hair,' which show women that others experience cat-calls and are told to suppress their sexuality, too. They break your heart, but they're supposed to."

"Thankfully, there are the monologues like 'The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy' and 'The Vagina Workshop' that show women that everything about us is awesome."

"The best part is there is no bashing of men. There are

examples of a few guys who may have said some not so nice things, but it's true happy womanhood without the negativity of sexism."

Laden with feminist vibes, the performance is an advocate of the feminist mindset.

A director for the performances, **Annamarie Williams ('17)**, made a point to emphasize how remarkable this whole event is—especially for a philosophy such as feminism.

"These monologues show that feminism is not about man-hating, it is about the suffrage of women and equality for all."

The hopes of the "Vagina Monologues" are to move individuals and the campus and to inspire change.

"I hope that these monologues will make people laugh and cry. I hope all people—not just women—gain something from the Vagina Monologues."

"The MacCurdy House puts on the 'Vagina Monologues' every year and we're always welcoming to more and more people getting involved," Kirby added. "So if you watch the 'Vagina Monologues' and really dig it, you should get involved next year. Auditions are usually held during the end of fall semester, with the show being [in the] winter semester. Like the MacCurdy House Facebook page to get all updates and information about events."

The "Vagina Monologues" will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Alma encouraged to be open-minded toward Carson

Faculty, community, parents push students to learn from upcoming speech

By **RAY VISSER**
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Ben Carson's upcoming campus visit has generated strong reactions in the Alma College community. Many students, faculty, and community members have either spoken or written in support of the renowned neurosurgeon and potential presidential candidate's speech.

Student **Meredith Rahrig (15)** said she has admired Carson for a long time and is excited to hear him speak on campus. She is confused by the negative backlash to the announcement.

"Instead of complaining and getting upset, why are the people who are against Dr. Carson coming to Alma not looking at this as an opportunity?" Rahrig questioned. "[This is] an opportunity for them to hear a different view, think critically, and challenge his/their views."

Rahrig said she is frustrated with "people thinking [that] because [Carson] said something they do not agree with... students should not be given the opportunity to hear from him."

"I think our college is too often defined by a group of people who make it a point to speak louder than everyone else."

Tom Ealey, professor of business administration, said he does not necessarily agree with Carson's approach and politics, but the talk is important nonetheless.

"He harms his own credibility by his over-the-top rhetoric... I would have chosen someone less strident and less given to extreme rhetoric [to speak on Honors Day]," Ealey said. "But he is certainly in the national debate mix, and his talk should be interesting."

Some community members are taking action in the issue, trying to generate involvement and attendance at the upcoming event. When Alma resident Diantha Hicks heard of the opposition to Carson, she sent an email to her associates urging them to support him.

"I feel anyone of Dr. Carson's stature should be exactly the kind of person [to speak] at an institution of higher learning such as Alma College," Hicks wrote. "Only by listening to a variety of opinions and views can young people learn how to make up their own minds."

Hicks sees Carson's speech as an important event on campus.

"Dr. Carson is a truly accomplished individual and an example of success for all to observe," she shared.

Alma College parent Sue Stack has a similar viewpoint.

"Dr. Carson is coming to talk to the next generation about having an open mind, using good communication skills to talk out difficult situations... and enlightening us on the science of the brain," she said.

"[Carson's] recognition as one

of the world's foremost surgeons demonstrates his remarkable intellect and dedication to education.... This makes him a perfect Honors Day speaker in my mind."

Many people supporting Carson's event emphasized the value of free speech and dialogue.

"As a parent, I am always looking for intelligent, progressive, challenging and kind individuals to influence my children," Stack said. "I want them to learn to talk about controversial issues and do it with respect to those holding opposite views."

Ealey agrees that consideration of opposing positions is critical.

"I'm a strong advocate of free speech, and I believe college students should hear a lot of different viewpoints," Ealey said. "I can understand the negative reactions, but restricting free speech is a slippery slope."

"Free speech erodes when political correctness blocks unpopular opinions."

Stack noted that "[Carson's visit] hardly seems like dangerous political territory," she said. "I consider it a little ironic that a presentation on having an open mind would meet with such opposition."

Carson will speak on Wednesday, April 1 at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Tickets are free for Alma College faculty and students and \$20 for the general public.

Clothesline Project returns

By **PAIGE DANIEL**
STAFF WRITER

The Clothesline Project aims to shed light on the human lives affected by verbal, physical and emotional abuse.

The display has been a part of Women's Month on campus for many years. The tradition is continued to acknowledge the importance of this issue. It aspires to break the silence on the stigma surrounding domestic violence, document the crime, educate society and aid in the healing process.

Shirts are hung up on a clothesline to represent victims of domestic violence and many of the shirts on display are from community members, Alma College students and alumni. Survivors can design and create their own shirt to add to the display. The project's intent is to honor survivors and memorialize the victims.

This display will be exhibited to bring awareness to the issue of violence towards women, while acting as a visual reminder of overlooked statistics.

"People don't necessarily think that this kind of violence can touch them, because they are usually not comfortable talking if they are victims," said Chih-Ping Chen, associate professor of English and women's and gender studies. "They are afraid of being labeled or judged."

"I think that society has the tendency to look at violence in the context of victims not really being victims. Only recently has domestic violence been recognized as a crime and as someone's life. It's a small thing, but it serves as a good reminder that domestic violence still happens in the U.S."

This project originated in Massachusetts in 1990. It intended to let women tell their personal stories in a unique and

provocative way. The clothesline represents the task of doing laundry, which is typically seen as women's work. It highlights the connection between women talking over their backyard fences to each other.

Maya Dora-Laskey, instructor of English and women's and gender studies, explained the importance of this event.

"Education and awareness gives us a way to both acknowledge the trauma and losses of survivors as well as prevent future occurrence of domestic and intimate partner violence. It's not quite as simple as that, but it is the way to move forward."

"Perhaps if young women and men are aware of how healthy relationships look and how great they feel, they may be able to avoid the mistakes of a previous generation."

Individuals who are interested in creating their own shirt or in memory or recognition of another can come to the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center where they will be given the supplies to make their shirt in a private area. The Center is open during weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Terri Freeland, office associate at the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, told of the emotional impact on the participants.

"Visitors to the Clothesline Project find the display very moving," Freeland said.

"The visual impact of the shirts hung up side by side and the emotional messages they share are very powerful. Very few individuals, if any, leave the display untouched by what they have seen."

The Clothesline Project takes place Friday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the rotunda of Van Dusen. This event is free and open to the public, and all students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

This Week at Alma College March 9 - 15

Monday

Cash Course Event

Get a 15 percent off coupon to college corner and a cash course coin for visiting
12 - 2 p.m. College Corner Cafe

Tuesday

Fireside Chat

President Abernathy addresses changes to the campus

7 p.m. Hamilton Commons

Wednesday

Duo Studio Designs Paddle Party

4 - 8 p.m. Van Dusen Rotunda

Thursday

Dinner with the GM

5-7 p.m. Thistle Dining Room

Friday

Hepcats Super Hero Ball

8 p.m. Eddy Band Room

"Vagina Monologues"

8 p.m. Van Dusen

Letter Policy:

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication.

Email letters to:
Crystal Snow
editor.almanian@alma.edu or

You're Invited!

Alma College Campus Dining's General Manager, Steven Watkins

invites you to join him for a

"Dinner with the GM"

In Hamilton Common's Thistle Dining Room on Thursday, March 12
from 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Swipe your ID, build your dinner, then make your way over to the
Thistle Dining Room for a roundtable discussion
on all things "Food" here on the Alma College Campus



ALMA COLLEGE CAMPUS DINING



Model UN team continues streak

Decorated group joined by new members for St. Louis conference

By **CHELSEY COBB**
STAFF WRITER

Over spring break, Alma's Model UN team's students, along with countless other teams from many other colleges and universities, competed at the annual Midwestern Model UN Conference. The conference took place in St. Louis, Missouri from Wednesday Feb. 18 until Saturday, Feb. 21. The students of Model UN replicate the real United Nations. Each team is assigned a country and in their different committees, members attempt to solve one of the world problems that have been assigned. "Teams come together representing various countries and try to tackle several different topics determined by whatever committee the student is in," explained **Alana DuLyn ('16)**. "Alma students work with everyone else to create documents that come up with solutions to the issues regarding their topic." The St. Louis Midwestern Model UN Conference is the first

event of the year and the one that the new Model UN members attend. There were three teams of Alma College's Model UN class that attended, representing the countries of Cambodia, Costa Rica, and Algeria. "The conference went very well," shared **Seth Davis ('18)**, one of Alma's new Model UN members. "At first, when we arrived I did not know what to expect, but as time went on people became more confident in what they were doing." The Cambodia and Costa Rica delegations both were awarded Outstanding Delegation awards, and three students were awarding an Honorable Mention as individual delegates: **Luke Condon ('16)**, Davis, and DuLyn. "The Midwestern Model UN also gives out individual mentions, where within a committee if a country does well they can receive awards; for Cambodia in First Committee, there was Luke Condon and Seth Davis and Algeria in Second Committee there was myself," DuLyn further explained. There are several different committees that are set up in Model UN; a few of these deal with weapons, human rights, sustainable development, and legal issues. Over the course of the semester, students on Alma's team were assigned to one of each of these committees. The students arrived in St.



Photo Courtesy: Alana DuLyn

Alana DuLyn ('16), Becca Bale ('18), Tylor Cole ('18), Victoria Coykendall ('18), and Paige Bartkowiak ('28), were members of the Alma College delegation representing Algeria.

Louis on Tuesday, Feb. 17, and for the first few days it was a general session; people work in groups in order to develop a resolution to fix the situation for their country in their designated problem. "One of the things that I have gotten out of being a part of Model UN and the conference is the ability to work in a group and negotiate with others," said Condon. "You discover a bit about yourself and the back and forth interac-

tion, while Model UN does not last forever, but the skills last and are important for a lot of things, no matter what you end up doing in life." Over the next night of the conference, these resolutions, put together by debate and/or paper merging, are either accepted or rejected. Then in a conference room the delegations are discussed one at a time. This gives others to look at what resolutions

are passed and make amendments to them. "One of the lasting parts of being a part of one of the committees and being on a team, focusing to get the work done is a real bonding experience, where we all get to know each other," said Davis. The next major event is the national conference, which will take place from March 29 to April 2 in New York.

Nominations open for the 2015 Alma College Service and Leadership Awards

The deadline is *Monday, March 16*.

- Categories include:**
- Graduating Senior
 - Student Group
 - Administrator
 - Support Staff

Nominations may be submitted online through the CSO. Graduating Seniors receiving a nomination will be contacted to complete a service and leadership involvement form in order to be eligible. All nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee of students and campus personnel. The Graduating Senior and student group awards will be announced at the Senior Dinner on April 17. The Administrator and Support Staff award will be announced at the President's Administrative Award Ceremony in May.

Cancer's effects: Campus feels impacts of illness

By **ALEXANDRA BOURNE**
STAFF WRITER

As of January 1, 2014, according to the American Cancer Society, 6,876,600 men and 7,607,230 women who had been diagnosed with cancer in one of the 10 most prevalent cancer sites for their gender were surviving. Sixty-four percent of the cancer survivors were diagnosed 5 or more years ago, and 15% of cancer survivors were diagnosed 20 or more years ago. 46% of them are 70 of age or older. Cancer is a terrible illness that affects millions of people every year. "It's been a year where the faculty at Alma College have been affected by cancer," said Laura von Wallmenich, chair and assistant professor of English. "This is something that's

part of our daily reality. Cancer is everywhere, it's all around us." Last year, the Alma College women's basketball coach, Keisha Brown, died from cancer. Elizabeth Cameron, professor in Business Administration, and Dana Aspinall, associate professor of English, have both allowed their battle against cancer to become public knowledge. There are other people on campus who have also been diagnosed, but who have not come forward. There are also those who have been affected by the diagnosis of a loved one. On September 16, 2014, **Kayleigh Schulte ('18)** received a phone call on her way to cross country practice early in the evening. Her mother revealed to Schulte that she had brain cancer, and it wasn't curable. "I couldn't hold back the wells in my eyes," said Schulte. "Tears flowed down and I

couldn't stop them. For the rest of the conversation all we did was tell each other how much we loved the other. We were more than just mother and daughter. We were best friends. "I told coach," Schulte continued. "I told the team. I told my teachers, my friends. I told everyone that would listen. I hoped that it would make it better. It didn't. It made people avoid me. They didn't know what to say. People still don't know what to say to me. I don't blame them. I wouldn't know what to say. It doesn't help either. Nothing honestly helps. Hugs help though. I love hugs." Over Christmas break an email was sent to inform students that Aspinall had been diagnosed with leukemia. Aspinall is currently undergoing treatment and is on leave from the college. "Dr. Aspinall and I were friends before this ever started with him," said Cameron.

"He would come in all fall and check on me. He was shocked to be diagnosed. We have been in constant contact. When he was supporting me he never thought he would have cancer. We've been a great support for each other." On July 13, 2014, Cameron, expecting only to have an ultrasound done, had a biopsy to remove a tumor that was found in the ultrasound. A few days later the lab confirmed, and Cameron was diagnosed with breast cancer. "Prior to this I thought it had to run in your family, when in fact it knows no ages, no genders, no boundaries," said Cameron. "It's a fear that most people can't understand until they have it," said Cameron. "What most people don't understand is that when you get diagnosed with cancer and you do the research and you hear the stats of survival, it rocks you to your core. You wonder, 'why me?'"

Samantha Fisher ('15), Cameron's Teaching Assistant, said, "If you didn't know you wouldn't have realized. She is always smiling and really excited to teach us. The class atmosphere was 'she's fine, she's here, she's great,' and they didn't really understand, they didn't realize." Cameron continued, "The chemo is really, really hard for people. I had every side effect on the list, even during class." Some of the most common side effects of chemotherapy include low red and white blood cells (anemia), fatigue, loss of hair, memory loss (chemo brain), mouth sores, cracking nails, nausea, taste and smell changes, heart problems, vision problems, and many more. Cameron's motto has become "Nobody survives alone, and I survive with the Alma clan," referring to the many faculty and staff, students, and even alumni who have supported her through this process.

Greek “Paddle Party” comes to campus

Panhellenic Council holds event to introduce vendor to Alma

By SAMANTHA COYKENDALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

to the Greek life market, Duo Studio Designs opened its doors last September and has since become an instant success.

“I felt that the Student Book Exchange had a corner on the market and didn’t really want to chase the business,” said Katie Dambro of the Duo Studio Design team. “When the store decided to close I had many students approach me to fill a void that the Greek community at CMU relied on for years. In late September last year, we took a leap of faith, and Duo became an overnight ‘Greek Boutique!’”

Duo Studio Designs is headed by a three person design team who contribute a variety of graphic design, marketing, advertising and embroidery skills, and expertise. Currently, Duo Studio Designs is focused on the geographic areas

of Michigan and northern Ohio and Indiana.

As a Greek licensed company, Duo Studio Designs has the ability to provide fraternity and sorority national headquarter approved apparel, designs, and philanthropy wear. It caters to a wide variety of Greek and non-Greek organizations, as every order and design is custom created; large group orders and special event designs are encouraged and welcomed.

Students and customers are also encouraged to express their creative side through colors, patterns and custom designs in a variety of products.

“You can come in our studio most weekdays during regular business hours and see lots of great ideas to inspire your very own custom Greek letters,” explained Dambro. “Everyone is

an artist in their own way - some more than others but we are there to guide you if you need the assistance. We really pride ourselves in being a premier vendor for the Greek Life in Michigan.”

In order to become better acquainted with Alma’s campus’s Greek Life community, Duo Studio Designs will be hosting the campus’ first Paddle Party taking place from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday in the Tyler Van Dusen Rotunda. Design team members will be on hand with many new products to view and purchase.

“We will have lots of examples to admire and get inspired by. You can pick out fabrics, blank items and enjoy building custom pieces that are unique to only you. Within a couple of weeks we will arrange to deliver ‘your custom

masterpiece’ back to campus, or if you prefer an excuse to escape you can stop in our studio in Mount Pleasant and pick yours up when [it is] ready.”

Duo Studio Designs is being brought to campus with help and promotion from the Panhellenic Council. All are welcome to attend the event.

Duo Studio Designs is located at 2929 S. Isabella in Mount Pleasant, inside Uptown Travel.

Designs, patterns, and past work can be viewed on their Instagram, Twitter and Facebook at @duostudiodesigns, which offers exclusive deals only available to followers.

Additional questions about the Paddle Party can be directed to Crystal Snow at snowic1@alma.edu.

Members of both the Greek and non-Greek community now have a new vendor option for everything from Greek apparel to paddle parties and pop-up shops. Located in Mt. Pleasant, Duo Studio Designs is now mid-Michigan’s premier vendor for all Greek licensed apparel.

Duo Studio Designs is an apparel decorating and designing boutique whose offerings include: monogramming, applique, screen printing and heat pressed decorating services. While relatively new

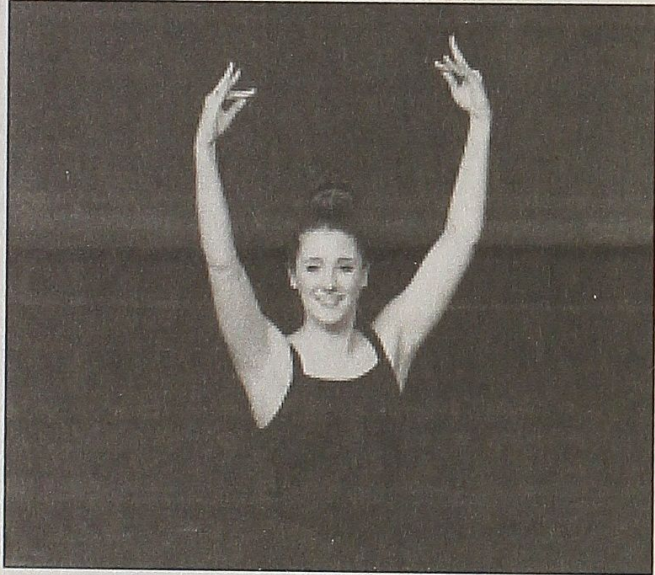


1.

The 2015 Alma Highland Dancer’s Student Choreographer’s Concert, on Friday, March 6, featured pieces set by the dancers themselves. The theme was “Decades,” and the performances showcased were from the 1920s through modern times.



2.



3.



4.

Pictured:

1. Katia Hamamouche ('17)
2. Elise Gehrke ('17)
3. Laura Lowe ('18)
4. Matilda Ennis ('18), Veronica Alore ('15), Heather Randell ('15), and Katia Hamamouche ('16).

Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

The Almanian.

“ALMA COLLEGE’S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER, SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1907.”

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting, accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

PUBLICATION:

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College’s campus on Monday morning and is sent to subscribers that day. The paper is published weekly with the exception of academic recesses.

ADVERTISING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The business manager handles sales of advertisements and subscriptions. Contact Sam Coykendall at busmgr.almanian@gmail.com for additional information.

STAFF EDITORIAL POLICY:

Opinions expressed in editorials without bylines reflect the views of The Almanian editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

LETTER POLICY:

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication.

Email letters to the editor to

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The Almanian

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Smartphones allow new generations to access infinite amounts of information

By **RAY VISSER**
STAFF WRITER

Believe it or not, it's the year 2015, meaning the iPhone is coming up fairly soon to its 10th birthday. Since 2007, the concept of a smartphone has become ubiquitous—to the point that it's unusual not to have one.

These last eight years have seen cell and Wi-Fi networks expand to every nook and cranny in our lives. But even more sinister is proliferation of written think pieces attempting to convince us that all this technology at our fingertips, and buzzing around our heads, is a dangerous trend.

Smartphones aren't making us stupid. They're just another step in a long history of advancement and, dare I say, human adaptation and evolution.

Let's take a look back, a few thousand years or so, to some generic rural village. It would be rare for many people to know about what exists more than, say, a few miles outside the village.

If this hypothetical village was landlocked, the chance that

anyone living there would know—or even care—what a “whale” is was slim. There was no repository of information they could access to learn about whales, their habitat, their life cycles, their uses.

Skip ahead to, say, 1938. My grandfather was 10 years old, living on a farm. If he wanted to know what whales were, he had two choices. He could ask his teacher, who could maybe tell him some general facts, or he could go to the nearest library (possibly miles away) and check out an encyclopedia.

Another time hop, this time to March, 2015. I just learned, in approximately five minutes, without leaving my chair, that whales (or, more generally, cetaceans) are divided into two main suborders, toothed whales (like dolphins and orcas) and baleen whales (like humpbacks and blue whales). They play roles in Inuit creation myths and are the closest living relative to the hippopotamus.

This is amazing. I mean, yes, whales are amazing, but the fact that I could access all this knowledge that easily is incredible. We take it for granted.

I'm going to take a biological and evolutionary perspective on this issue, too. Our access to

technology is the current form of a long series of adaptations (village elders, encyclopedias, carrier pigeons, landline phones) humans have made—to their environment, their behavior, and their survival.

No one argues that we're too dependent on electricity. (The source of that power, maybe, but the electrical system itself is what I'm talking about.) We're long past the point where we're afraid that kids growing up in a well-lit and -heated house are somehow being coddled by technology.

Without advances like highways for shipping, sewer systems, forges for shaping metal, even fire itself, humans would be far less successful than they are today. Imagine an ancient man berating his neighbor for cooking his meat instead of eating it.

It may sound audacious to equate smartphones to basic amenities like fire and electricity, but I think the future will prove me right.

We've become the technological equivalents of the humble pitcher plant. It lines a cuplike leaf with slippery substances to funnel insects into its digestive system. We've



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

done the same, but the leaf is our brain, the slippery substance is the internet, and the insects are knowledge.

Or, to stretch another nature analogy, we've spent thousands of years, like squirrels in fall, burying stockpiles of information. Now, we

know exactly how to find those stockpiles, and the hard work has been done for us.

We're constantly changing, becoming more effective survivors, learning new ways of saving time and energy. That doesn't make us stupid—it makes us smart.

The Almaniac Edition is coming soon!

The Almanian's annual April Fool's edition of the paper on March 29 is the last paper of the semester!

Submit your story ideas to editor.almanian@gmail.com by March 20th.

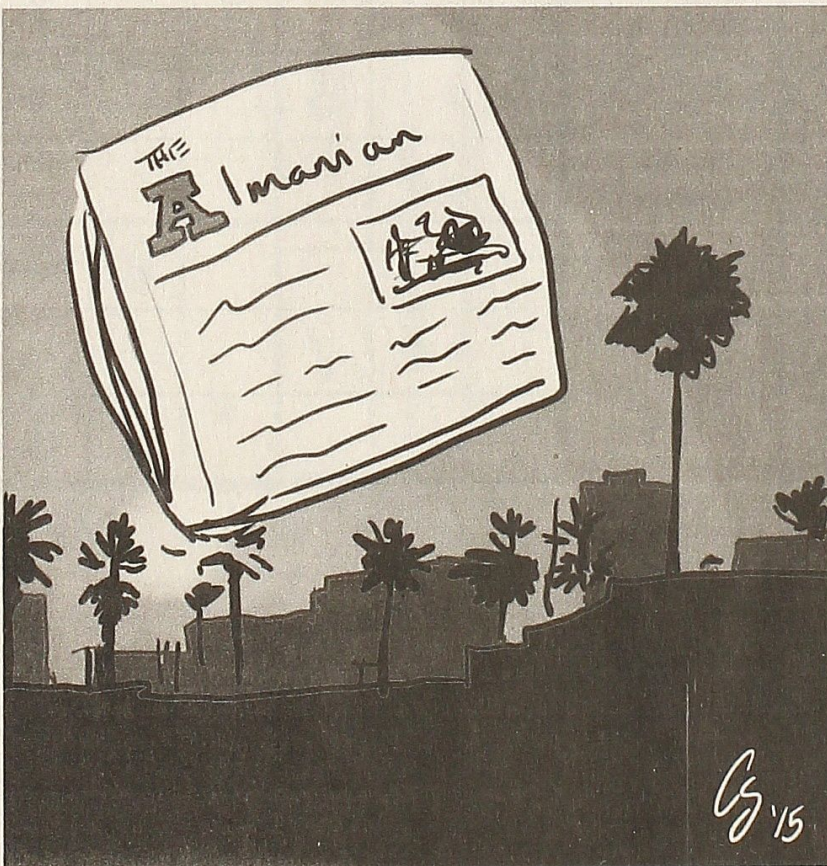
Letter from the Editor

For three days over spring break editors from the Almanian traveled to a journalism workshop in Los Angeles, Calif.

You may notice some changes in the final issues of the Winter 2015 semester for the Almanian. Over spring break, four members of the editorial staff, **Nicole Eccles ('16)**, **Abigail Fergus ('18)**, **Lisa Folkmire ('15)**, and myself, traveled to the 31st annual Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) National College Journalism Convention in Los Angeles, Calif., and with our arrival back, we brought ideas and plans to better our newspaper on this campus.

While many of the sessions we sat in didn't directly benefit our small production, as they often pertained to large public universities, we did find ways to modify what we were being told and develop tactics to implement them in the future. We are hoping that these ideas will instill new tools within our publication to improve reader satisfaction. One example of this would be polls done via social media that would be supplemental to articles or stand alone graphics in following issues.

One thing we intend to start, as of next year, is using Google Drive as a team to share, edit, and submit the stories for weekly



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

publication. It will allow our staff to see and keep track of every step of the process and catch where errors may happen. We will be able to see when facts are inaccurate or if we miss important aspects of a story: we will be able to have multiple sets of eyes on stories early on and correct as much as possible. This is just one step that we think can help to produce a better paper in the end.

At the conference, we had the opportunity to sit down for a critique of a previous edition with another advisor from a school in California. We learned that her college has 500 students there for

undergrad so she understood, vaguely, about the Alma culture.

In the next few weeks, take a look at our layouts and photos. Look at our social media and interact with us, we hope to create hashtags in certain stories to see what readers think about it after publication. All that we ask in return is that you give some feedback on what you like and don't like about changes we make in the upcoming weeks to make next year's Almanian better.

—Crystal Snow
Editor-in-Chief

Top Ten: Things to get you through the semester

By **NICOLE ECCLES**
OPINION EDITOR

1. Winter is going out of style

The sun has been making more appearances lately as well as raising temperatures to degrees that don't make you ask the question, “Why do I live in a place where the air hurts my face?”

2. Taylor Swift's “1989” Album

This album will get you through the hard times. It tells you to shake it off, that you will get out of the woods, and you'll never go out of style.

3. Hope has been discovered for people who are tone deaf

Northwestern University did a study proving that there is hope for those who can't sing. Apparently, practice can make your singing at least tolerable, so let it out my friends. Never stop singing.

4. P-Global announcements

Some students last Monday recieved notice that they will be able to travel abroad this summer funded by the Posey Global Fund. Congrats to the people who will participate in this amazing experience.

5. Student Appreciation Day

On Friday the Student Services Center (basement of Hamilton Commons) will be giving students a little well deserved appreciation in the form of food, games, and prizes.

6. You can still drop that class or take it pass/fail

Struggle bussing in that class

you only need for the credits? Didn't do as well on that midterm as you hoped? Well fear not you can still save your GPA. Last day to drop a class or take it pass/fail is Friday.

7. Relay for Life

Nothing says “hope” like the annual Relay for Life, held in the Stone Recreation Center March 21 from 10 a.m until 2 p.m.

8. Vagina Monologues

Need a break from all the studying? Want to hear some stories about vaginas and their many journeys? The Vagina Monologues will be preformed March 13th, 14th, 15th and promising to be an enlightening show.

9. Caffeine Cookies

Don't really like coffee, but need the boost? Joe's has started selling cookies that equal one cup of coffee. Go. Now. Run.

10. Mumford and Sons album

May 4th is release of Mumford and Sons new album “Wilder Mind.” This is their first studio album since “Babel” in 2012. Fans everywhere rejoice that soon fast-paced banjos will be the soundtrack of this summer.

Honorable Mention: Graduation

Bittersweet as it is, graduation is rapidly approaching. It means endings and new beginnings, and not just for those who will walk across the stage.

Lady Gaga shocks Oscar viewers with “Sound of Music” tribute, proves her talent to naysayers

By **PAIGE DANIEL**
STAFF WRITER

“I know this is going to sound like I’m trying to stir up media, but I have huge respect for Lady Gaga and I wanna tell you why,” tweeted John Mayer two weeks ago. “She released a record that didn’t get the love she was probably hoping for, which happens to REAL artists. And she’s stood by it,” he added.

These tweets came just three days before Gaga’s show-stopping performance at the 87th Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 22, when she sang a medley of songs from “The Sound of Music.”

Here’s the beef: many people on social media expressed awe and even downright shock over her adept execution of the medley, but for those of us more aware of her abilities, the performance came as no surprise.

This is not a highly important occurrence — however, the trajectory of her career is. It’s an interesting character study because Gaga, who for so many years aimed to astonish and stun, is doing it now in a much more conventional way: by showing off her classically trained

abilities without shock value and ornamentation, just her voice.

Artpop surely had its hits and misses. It was a continuation of the persona we had come to expect from Gaga, with an EDM-influenced sound and a built-in critique of her image. For example, “Aura” is Gaga’s recognition of the mystery surrounding the personality she has created. Some of the main conceits of the songs were stagnant and uninspired, which is possibly why this album is considered a commercial failure.

She seems to be dialing back her previously outlandish persona in a turn of classic image reconstruction. Gone are the meat dresses and giant incubator eggs. These moves, while perplexing, established Gaga as one of the preeminent pop stars actively defying tradition.

Has her collaboration with Tony Bennett on “Cheek to Cheek” made her want to project a simpler image? Does she acknowledge the failure of Artpop as a signal to change how she approaches persona and presentation?

Gaga fell into hot water for the use of the term “gypsy” (widely recognized as a slur) and her partnership with R. Kelly (notable sex offender) on the song “Do What U Want.” She has been called out for these culturally insensitive and problematic actions.

Nonetheless, the naysayers’ —



Photo credit: idolator.com

the social media forum of holier-than-thou consumers and cynics — portrayal of pop stars as vapid and talentless is getting old. There is a difference between legitimate criticism and meaningless hatred.

The level of calculation involved in both a strong image and a pared back image should be identified as a manifestation of passion and internal effort. And Lady Gaga doesn’t seem like the type of artist who lets men in business suits sitting in board rooms dictate her career. If that was the case, the meat dress and the giant incubator egg probably wouldn’t have happened.

So what’s the connection between John Mayer’s tweets and her performance? Mayer is verifying the fact that people don’t give Gaga enough credit on and off the public stage. The reaction to her performance proves this predicament.

Even though the quality of her music can be haphazard, her musical and vocal abilities (no matter how occasionally cheesy or overblown), as well as her talent for image construction, is undeniable.

As a curious seventh-grader with newly discovered access to the Internet, I did a YouTube search for Gaga’s acoustic performances. This was shortly after she broke out on the scene and “Just Dance” hit it big.

I found a clip of her, clad in a bobbed blonde wig, round sunglasses, and a black and white suit, playing the piano and singing a different version of “Poker Face.” Her magnetism, sheer power, and raw vocal energy in that performance blew me away.

Lady Gaga isn’t suddenly good — you just haven’t been paying attention.

Sudoku

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

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

Word Search

Word searches are a puzzle consisting of letters arranged in a grid which contains a number of hidden words written in various directions. This word search contains words from events and places around campus. Circle all found words and remember that some letters can be shared between words.

Word List

SPRING
TRAVEL
PGLOBAL
FLOWERS
SUN
WARMTH
RAIN
GREEN
EASTER
MELTING

K	C	P	O	Q	B	K	G	Q	B	R	Q	B	V	E
W	K	W	P	E	S	E	U	S	I	K	F	L	A	R
D	Q	H	Y	L	B	U	A	M	H	N	T	H	F	O
E	B	L	A	B	O	L	G	P	I	N	F	K	N	S
E	Z	P	H	H	U	N	M	A	M	R	I	H	M	Y
N	G	E	X	S	I	D	R	O	Q	F	N	B	E	Q
K	E	A	K	T	P	K	T	J	N	C	D	R	U	A
D	D	I	L	F	H	R	Z	J	B	B	E	H	O	G
F	D	E	D	Z	A	Q	I	Z	F	T	P	T	V	T
W	M	U	L	V	T	G	X	N	S	T	Q	R	H	R
G	R	E	E	N	T	U	N	A	G	I	L	O	U	M
V	N	L	U	G	I	K	E	V	J	A	Y	P	K	P
V	V	U	L	T	A	O	X	W	A	R	M	T	H	K
Z	V	R	S	Q	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	I	C	V
S	B	A	G	E	W	C	V	F	X	S	C	N	K	S

Men's basketball focuses on gaining recruits; coach says future is bright

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

This season, the Alma College men's basketball team earned a spot in the MIAA conference semifinals for the first time since the 1997 season.

"Making the MIAA Tournament was a huge accomplishment for us this year," said assistant coach Ryan Clark. "Our guys have worked hard for the opportunity and are just now starting to reap the rewards from their dedication.

"We now have a taste of what it's like to play in a tournament game and to embrace the type of effort and intensity we need to play with on a daily basis to create another successful year," Clark continued. "This year's experience only creates a greater want for success from everyone involved and sets a tone for the future of this program."

The Scots lost to Calvin in a 73-65 nailbiter. The Knights fought the Scots on the boards all night and came up with 20 offensive rebounds, a large part of how they earned the win. The Knights were led offensively by Jordan Brink, who scored 19 points. Brink was named the Most Valuable Player of the MIAA conference.

Alma was led in part by **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** and **DJ Beckman ('16)** made the All-MIAA first and second teams, respectively. Nikodemski is the first Alma College player to make All-MIAA first team since Isaac Smith earned a spot on the team during the 2006-07 season.

The success of the Scots, which will be retaining all of its players as not one will graduate this year, and the individual accolades achieved

by its members will do a lot for the team's recruiting and the program's reputation.

A lot goes into recruiting, and it's common for new recruits to aim for a highly competitive and successful school's team.

"The individual awards are great in that we can sell our program as being truly team-oriented...knowing that whoever it was that gets the awards couldn't have done it without the other guys pushing them every day in practice," said Clark.

"The growth of a program starts within, meaning the more competitive we can make ourselves and our practices every day, the better we make each other and create game-like situations."

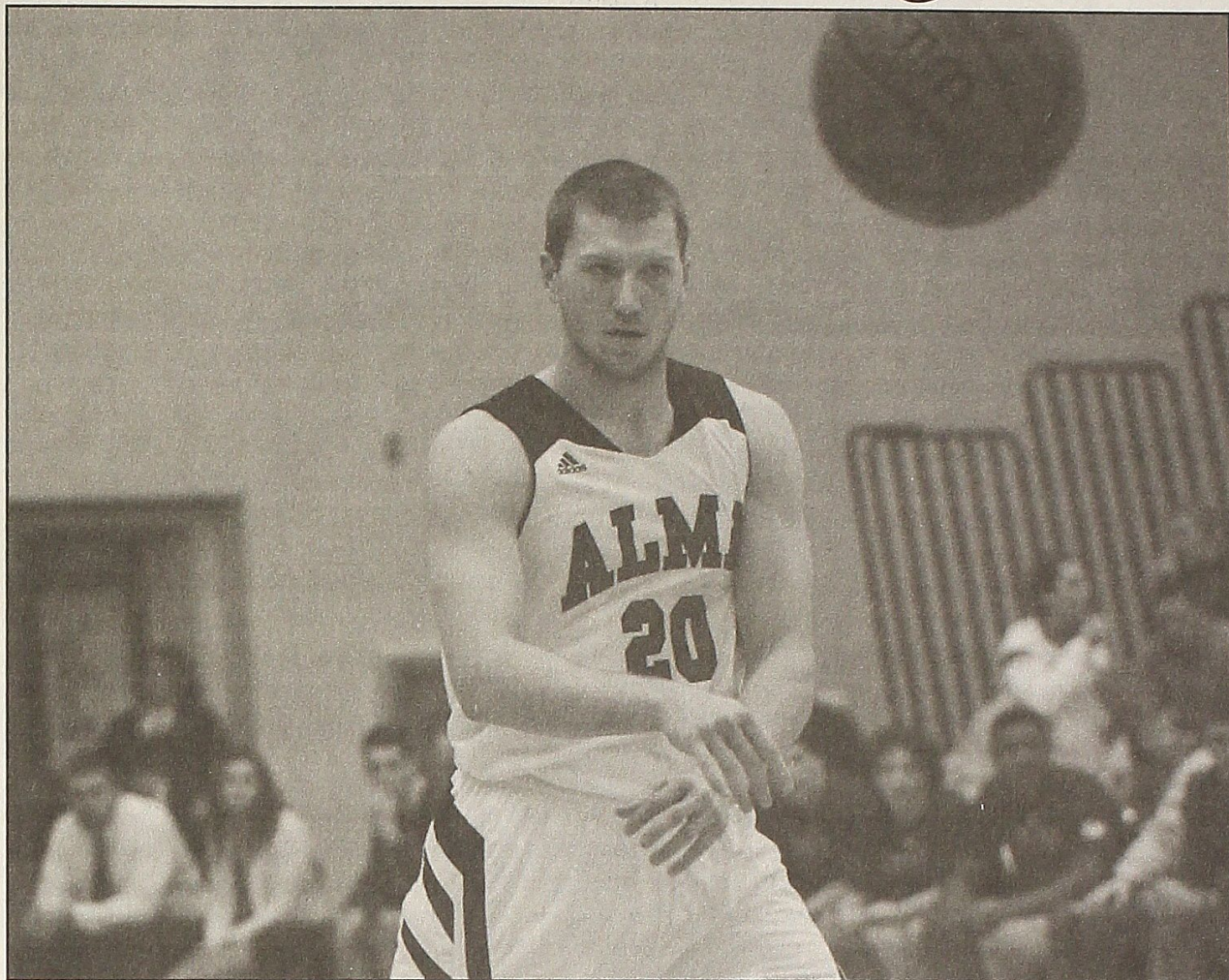
The future of the program seems to be bright, especially with extremely talented freshmen players this season such as **Jason Beckman ('18)** and **Doug Bradfield ('18)**. Bradfield was among the MIAA's leaders in blocks this season, as he averaged 1.7 blocks per game. Beckman was an excellent contributor from off the bench, averaging 9.7 points per game.

"We are always recruiting and trying to find the best players we can," added Clark. "Doug and Jason had unbelievable freshman years and we couldn't be more excited for the future."

"We went 9-5 in the MIAA this year," added **Weston Kartes ('16)**, "based on the fact that we are losing no players, it seems that we can build upon that and be better next year."

"Jason and Doug are both really talented," continued Kartes, "I can't wait to see them grow over the next few years."

The coaching staff is



DJ Beckman ('16) passes the ball to his teammate in a recent contest.

Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

prepared to make any necessary changes in order to maximize the competitiveness of the basketball program.

"As a team we are always trying to get better," commented Clark. "That starts with the coaching staff and all our returners, which is everyone, taking a good look at the year and breaking down where we have to improve both as a whole and as individuals...[and] our guys continually work on their individual skills throughout the summer.

"In terms of changes to our Xs and Os, there are a lot of factors we have to look at throughout the

summer," Clark continued. "A lot of that has to do with recruiting and who we have coming in and where all the pieces fit together next fall, but that is something we won't truly know until the season begins."

It may be too early to say, but, if recent trends are any kind of indication, the Scots could be competing in the NCAA DIII tournament in the near future.

"The future is hard to predict, near impossible actually, so to say we will win the MIAA can't really be guaranteed," Clark shared. "Yes, we do feel that we will have a very good shot at contending for

an MIAA title in future years, but there are a lot of factors out of our control to guarantee such a thing. One thing is guaranteed though: we will give it our best effort, year in and year out."

"An MIAA title is certainly a possibility," Kartes added. "[Head Coach] Sam Hargraves has established a good program and culture here and we're looking to improve on that and improve."

Whether the Scots will reach the top of the MIAA mountain is, of course, uncertain at this point, but the future definitely seems bright for the Alma College men's basketball team.

Sports Bulletin:

Wednesday

Women's Lacrosse
Lourdes at Alma at 4 p.m.

Friday

Women's Tennis
Lake Superior State at Alma at 6 p.m.

Saturday

Men's Tennis
Lake Superior State at Alma at 11 a.m.

Men's Lacrosse
Bethany College at Alma at 1 p.m.



Baseball and softball excel on Florida diamonds

By BRENT LUPLOW
STAFF WRITER

While it was still hovering in the negative temperature ranges in Michigan, the Scots' baseball and softball teams traveled south during spring break to compete in 70 degree weather in Florida.

The softball team got a late start to its spring trip after a flight delay, but it was still able to play 10 games and left with a 4-6 record.

The Scots collected wins over Hanover College, Capital University, Lyndon State, and Houghton.

Three of the six losses were close, as they were one-run games.

Leading the way for Alma during the trip was returning MIAA player of the year, **Devan Olah ('15)**. She was 15-34 with a .441 batting average. She also collected 5 RBIs, 3 doubles and 1 triple.

"This team has great potential to be very successful. We all get along well; we learned a lot in Florida," said Olah. "I am excited for what this year has in store."

Third baseman hit, **Lea Lusk ('15)** also had a good break, hitting .414, with 6 RBIs, 3 doubles, and 2 runs scored.

The only other Scot who batted over .400 on the trip was catcher, **Kayla Merice ('16)**, as she batted .407 and led the team with 7 RBIs.

Kassi Adams ('16), who had six at bats in Florida said, "I think this is the best we have performed in Florida compared to the past two years. We have so much potential and I think we are going to be extremely successful this year."

The Scots stole 23 bases, led by **Brooke Hein ('15)** with 4.

Morgan Stratton ('18) led the Scots in the pitching circle as she had a 2-2 record during the trip. She threw 3 complete games and 1 shutout. Her earned run average was just 2.49 and she struck out 31 batters with just 5 walks.

Breau Oiling ('15) went 1-1, with a 2.47 ERA and 15 strikeouts in 17 innings of action.

Katie McClure ('18) competed in her first college softball games as she went 1-2 during the trip with a 3.65 ERA and 14 strikeouts in 15 innings.

The team will travel to Ohio Saturday, as they play a doubleheader against the University of Mount Union at 1 p.m.

The baseball team had great success on its trip to Florida, as the Scots compiled an 8-1 record. This was good enough for national honors, as they received votes in the dDivision III national top 25 poll.

The Scots collected wins over St. Joseph's, Capital University, Hanover College, Lyndon State, and Houghton.

Their only loss came in the last game of the trip and the second game of the doubleheader against

Houghton by a score of 7-3.

Leading the way for the Scots in the hitting department was first baseman, **Blake Leddy ('15)**.

Leddy went 11-28 during the trip, good for a .393 batting average, he had 4 RBIs and 2 doubles.

Juan Dominguez ('15) also had a good opening trip for the Scots as his play earned him the MIAA position player of the week for the first week of the season.

Dominguez hit .379 with 11 hits, 8 RBIs, and 3 stolen bases.

Also hitting over .300 for the Scots were **Erick Cruz ('16)**, **Jose Corniel ('16)**, **Doug Walters ('16)**, and **Yoan De La Rosa ('15)**.

The pitching staff for the Scots was phenomenal as five pitchers collected wins and numerous others saw action.

Phillip Jock ('16) had a great two outings for the Scots. He went 2-0, both being complete game victories. His ERA was just 2.40 and he had 19 strikeouts.

Jean Soucy ('15) and **Collin Nash ('16)** both also went 2-0 on the trip from the mound as Soucy allowed no earned runs in 13 innings of action and struck out 11.

Alex Valasek ('17) and **Blake Ordiway ('16)** were the other two pitchers to collect wins for the Scots.

The baseball team returns to action next weekend as it plays a 3 game series against Aurora University at Wheaton College.

Scot's wrestling ends year with fourth-place finish

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 28, the No. 12 ranked Scots wrestling team took to the mat to compete in the Midwest regional meet hosted by Wabash College. With a regionals and a trip to the national championships at stake, the squad came out and fought hard every single match.

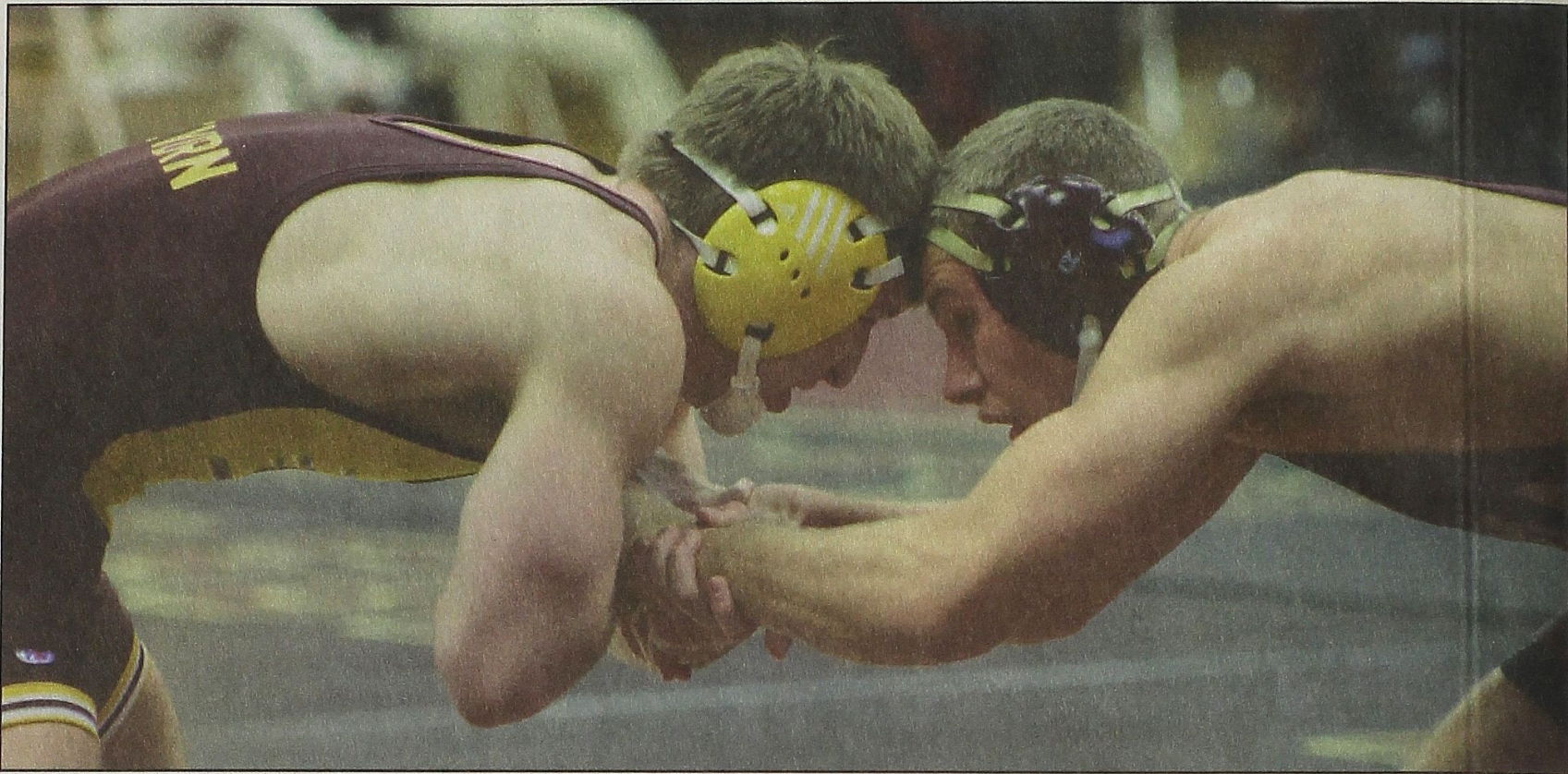
At the end of the day, the Scots finished in fourth place out of 12 teams in the event. Three Alma wrestlers finished top three in their weight classes and punched their tickets to the national championship meet.

"It is a big honor because we are such a young program and it is nice to help the program gain more national recognition," said Trevor Maresh ('16).

To open up the regional meet, the Scots began the first round with a perfect 7-0 record. Alma sent seven different wrestlers to the quarter finals, all with a chance to make it to the finals.

Alma had three wrestlers who won straight victories in the quarterfinals, looking for an outright regional championship. Jamie Jakes ('16), Matt Tuttle ('15), and Shawn Brewer ('16) were all in the running for a berth in the championship bout.

At 174-pounds, Jakes would battle



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer
Derek Kopp ('15) prepares to take down his opponent from Central Michigan University at the Alma Open on Jan. 25.

to force a sudden victory, before ultimately dropping the 3-1 decision to head to wrestle-backs. In the consolation bracket, he would advance all the way to the finals with another chance at nationals on the line. After becoming the first national qualifier in program history last year, Jakes would fall in the third place match with a 3-0 decision to end his year.

Tuttle, the top-seed at 165, would fall in the semifinals after a highly

contested 5-4 decision to head in to the wrestle-back bracket. Like Jakes, Tuttle would advance through the bracket to the finals where he would lose 4-3 to end his career as one of the best wrestlers in Alma history.

Brewer was dominant in his first consolation bout, earning an impressive 15-1 major decision victory. With a chance at nationals hanging in the balance, he cruised to a 7-1 decision win to punch his card for the national championship.

In wrestle-backs, Jared Groeneveld ('15) had to work to get his name on the list for nationals, recording a 5-2 decision before earning two falls to place him in the third place final in the consolation bracket. A 5-1 decision in the final would give Groeneveld the third place finish and a spot in nationals at 197.

Maresh also got the job done in the consolation bracket, earning an 8-0 major decision and two decision

victories to send himself to the finals of the bracket at 285. In a heavy weight battle, Maresh would come out victorious, recording an 8-6 decision victory to send him to the national championship.

"We all have worked so hard this year and we feel like we earned to do so well," shared Maresh.

The 2015 NCAA Division III National Championship will be held Friday and Saturday in Hershey, Penn.

Women 3rd, men 7th at Trine indoors

By BRENT LUPLOW
STAFF WRITER

The men and women's track and field teams competed last weekend in the Trine Indoor Track and Field championships.

There were many good performances that led to a seventh place finish for the men's team and a third place finish for the women's team.

Leading the way for the men's team was Austin Rodriguez ('16) who finished first in the long jump with a leap of 6.94 meters.

Rodriguez competed in another meet on Saturday, which was a last chance effort to make it to the indoor nationals for NCAA Division III and ended up just four centimeters short of qualifying.

However, he was pleased with his effort.

"My performance over the last two meets have been great. The indoor season has prepared me well for the outdoor season and I am looking forward to qualifying and competing in nationals for outdoors," said Rodriguez.

Another standout for the men's team was Adam Sanchez ('16). Sanchez was third in the 3,000 meter run with a time of 8:53 and he was eighth in the 5,000 meter

run with a time of 15:42.

Sanchez, was also happy with his performances.

"I surprised myself with how well it went," he said. "I'm excited to see our team performing well this early in the year and I think we're going to see some awesome performances during outdoor season."

The women's team continued to impress and post strong numbers.

The duo of Ashley Halm ('15) and Maggie Chambers ('15), both placed first and third respectively in the 60 meter dash.

They also finished in first and second place in both the 200 meter dash and the 400 meter as well.

The 4x400 meter relay team of Halm, Chambers, Lane Thompson

('15), and Chelsea Mertz ('15) placed third in the meet.

Lastly, Blair Secord ('15) finished third in the shot put and fourth in the weight throw to round

out the scoring for the women's team.

The Scots start outdoor competition on March 21, as they travel to Rhodes College.

Lacrosse wins big with freshmen

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

While most of Alma College's student body was enjoying a relaxing spring break, the men's lacrosse team was on the road, playing the first three games of its season. The Scots won their first game at Lincoln Memorial 5-4, but dropped their next two bouts to both Methodist and Berry.

"We had a lot of struggles with the weather during the trip," said coach Michael Kinney. "We didn't play on a single field, stay in a single hotel, or eat in a single restaurant that we had planned on."

It taught us that we need to control the things that we can control and adjust to everything else. Turnovers are an example of things we can control, but we turned the ball over a lot in this road trip."

The Scots played in their home opener last Saturday as they hosted La Roche College from Pennsylvania. The squad won in a landslide, 15-6. The team was led offensively by Quentin Ellis ('18) and Marshall Argenta ('16), each of whom scored three goals. Austin Jordan ('18) also added three assists in the game.

"Our strategy is to run them," said Kinney before the game. "They have a short bench, so we need to wear them out, control our possessions, push the tempo of the game and apply a lot of pressure."

The strategy seemed to work, as the Scots won with a near dou-

ble digit lead.

Since Kinney is new to the program, he will likely be looking to the veteran leadership on the team to really step up.

"Defense is really our strength right now," explained Kinney. "There are a lot of returning players on the defensive side and I'm really looking to them to lead this young team since we have so many freshmen. If we can keep opponents under eight goals in a game, we should be successful."

Even though Kinney is new to the program, and as a whole it is relatively young, the team is expecting to find a lot of success this season.

"We had a really successful fall, including a very close match with Michigan State University," said Kinney. "Our goal this season is to compete in the conference playoffs. We need to develop our freshmen and close out games (something we haven't been doing as of yet). If we do those things we should finish above .500."

The team is very young this season as it includes 11 freshmen and only three seniors.

"We're very excited about the new guys on this team, particularly, Austin Jordan, who is extremely athletic and adds a lot of speed and quickness on the offensive end, and Austin Irrer ('18), who is very competitive on the field. We feel that we can compete as a young program and this season will serve as a chance for the younger guys to bond."

ALMA GREEKS
AND FRIENDS
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 11

YOU'RE INVITED!
PADDLE PARTY
TYLER-VAN DUSEN
ROTUNDA 4PM-8PM

What is a Paddle Party? It is a social event to gather with your brothers/sisters to create your organization wearables and purchase paddles and other fun related items. We bring the fabrics, blank items and examples of custom pieces to inspire your very own 'masterpiece!' WEAR YOUR ART!

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