

# John Dau speaks on survival, Syrian refugee crisis

By **ABIGAIL FERGUS**  
CAMPUS EDITOR

At 12 years old John Dau was torn from his family when the Muslim-controlled government of Sudan attacked his Dinka tribe. He led a group of 1,200 other boys from Sudan, to Ethiopia, back to Sudan and finally to Kenya.

"You have to go through trials," said Dau. In a dinner with the King-Chavez-Parks Mentorship Program and President Jeff Abernathy he discussed his story, before speaking in the Chapel last Tuesday.

Dau lifted a fork from Abernathy's plate. "It looks nice," as he used the utensil as an example. "This was dirty metal, but it went through fire."

After fleeing civil wars in Ethiopia and Sudan, burying many of his "brothers" and going days on end without food, Dau found refuge and education in Kenya. He eventually received Kenya's Certificate of Secondary Education.

In 2001, he was resettled in Syracuse, N.Y., where he faced culture shock. In Kenya he was told, "American girls are crazy. They carry small bags, there are guns in [them]. If you mess with them, they will kill you."

Aside from learning that this was not true, Dau used grocery stores to exemplify his surprise at American life. Automatic sliding doors, aisles upon aisles of food and sections designated just for pets showed him just how far from Sudan he was.

"I saw things I'll never forget," Dau said of growing up in war-torn Sudan. "Never allow yourself to be held hostage by your past problems. Move on, because you have greater things left than what you have lost."

Dau adjusted to the reality of America through a "honeymoon" phase of being entirely supported by his church. After a few months, he went on to work 60 hours a week, earned a bachelor's degree at Syracuse University and



John Dau addresses his audience in the Dunning Memorial Chapel.

Marcella Flury: Photo Editor

brought his mother and sister to America. Now he has opened multiple organizations, such as the John Dau Foundation, to supply medical treatment in Sudan.

In talking of his successes and journey, Dau also praised America. He said the United States deserves the privileges it enjoys, referencing the variety available to citizens from a rainbow of toothpaste flavors to a menagerie of chicken recipes.

"[Americans are] patriotic, [they] work hard, [they're] ethical, [they] follow laws. Abundance is a result of this, you should be proud."

Dau cherishes above all else that Americans reach out and give to strangers, not just their immediate family. When he came to America, Dau owned nothing except the clothes on his back, but his church supported him with shelter, clothing and food until he got on his own feet.

Because of Dau's status as an immigrant, some of his audience was interested in his take on the Syrian refugee crisis. Dau does

not believe it's safe to allow Syrian's into the country.

At the pre-talk dinner with Abernathy and KCP, Dau elaborated on his views that Europe should be more involved, that Syrians should receive aid in their own country and that immigration may pose threats to America's security.

"The refugee crisis going on right now would have been solved if European countries weren't sitting on their hands thinking, 'That's a Syrian problem.'"

Dau thinks it is ironic that Francois Hollande, president of France, has asked for aid from America and that America has lacked support from the country in the past.

"There is talk that they will bring Syrian refugees [to America], something I object. These people have a track record of not embracing the country they join."

In his arguments, Dau heavily correlated Syrians with being violent Muslims.

"They can have their God, but you have to support your

country—don't blow it up. This country is secular, it's not being ruled by the 10 Commandments."

Dau said the recent attack in Paris showed a trend in Muslims failing to assimilate to new cultures, because the attackers were European citizens who turned to violence instead of embracing their country. "They refuse [to integrate] and wanted to blow up their country [France]. If they don't follow my religion, I'm going to blow them up."

Multiple times through dinner and his talk Dau referenced a statistic from The Center for Security Policy. The organization strives "to identify challenges and opportunities likely to affect American security, broadly defined, and to act promptly and creatively to ensure that they are the subject of focused national examination and effective action."

The poll Dau touted states that 51 percent of 600 polled Muslims in America desire Sharia law (Islamic law), more than 51 percent want separate Muslim courts and that "nearly a quarter"

think violence is appropriate for those who "give offense to Islam."

The group and the poll have been criticized for unscientific practices and conspiracy theories. According to the Institute of Policy Studies, "A scholar at Georgetown University remarked: 'According to the body that sets ethical standards for polling, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), opt-in surveys cannot be considered representative of the intended population, in this case Muslims.'"

When asked if he was generalizing Syrian refugees as extremist Muslims, Dau responded: "They can come as a moderate, but once they feel comfortable they can say anything they want and become part of the 51 percent."

Dau pointed out that he lived with followers of Islam until 2011 and that in Sudan you must be Muslim to be president. Despite his skepticism toward the refugees, he believes in helping them.

"You can help them where they are by making a no fly zone [over Syria] to protect from terrorists."

Dau ended with his signature phrase, "Impossible things are things you choose not to do." He told the tale of a hunter who supported his village with his prey. While a food shortage hit the village, the huntsmen also struggled to provide.

He came upon a lizard, which was trying to leap from one branch to the other. Seven times the reptile fell to the ground. It succeeded in its leap on the eighth attempt.

Drawing encouragement from the small creature, the breadwinner succeeded in stalking down a meal for his community.

"I survived because of the almighty God," said Dau. "Secondly, I did not give up."

Student comments on page 2

## ISIS vs Islam: Understand, take action

By **SOPHIA RICHTER**  
STAFF WRITER

Islam is said to be the religion of peace just as Christianity is said to be the religion of love. Based on the current events regarding Syria, Paris, Lebanon and Israel, and coverage of the regions of the Middle East and North Africa, some disagree.

"A-Salam alaikum" is a common greeting in the Arabic speaking and Islam worshipping world meaning, "peace be upon you."

The word "Islam" shares the same root as "salam," which means peace in Arabic. The root s-l-m is used in a grouping of Arabic words that relate to the concepts of wholeness, safety, and peace.

Last Wednesday, the Public Affairs Institute hosted a panel on the "myths and facts" concerning Islam. They opened the floor for discussion and reflection on what is at the heart of Islam and

how we should be looking more critically at the issues on hand.

Daniel Wasserman, assistant professor of history, Kate Blanchard, associate professor of religious studies, and Sandy Hulme, professor of political science, spoke on the panel and provided different lenses through which to view Islam and the current issues we are facing.

Wasserman shared three facts about the history of civilization involving Islam that some may not be aware of:

- Thanks to the Muslim scholar Ibn Rushd (1126-1198) the teachings of Aristotle were reintroduced into Western civilization during the early Renaissance.

- A group of Muslims of East Africa are responsible for Vasco de Gama's success in finding a new trade route from Western Europe to India by way of the sea.

- A Christian scholar, Robert of Ketton (1110-1160), was one of the first to translate the Qu'ran from Arabic into Latin. The translation put Islam in a less than beautiful light and at

the time was used by Christians to refute arguments for Islam. More recent studies show the work of Ketton was a window into the way Muslims interpreted the Qu'ran at the time.

Blanchard discussed the ways in which different parties such as Christians, atheists, Jewish people, Western intellectuals, and Muslims around the world define Islam. Her focus was on the question of who gets to say whether ISIS is truly an Islamic State.

ISIS is an expression of Islam but it is important to understand very clearly that ISIS is not the embodiment of Islam, according to Blanchard. Not all Muslims support the Islamic State, just as the Crusades sanctioned by the Catholic church in the 11th century were an expression on Christianity, but were not sanctioned by all who practice.

Hulme presented a case for what should be done concerning ISIS. He emphasized the importance of understanding how supporters of the Islamic State perceived themselves. "By understanding them, we are

better equipped with predicting what they will do," he said.

In addition to understanding the military aspect of ISIS such as their assets and allies, the more challenging piece to deal with is the ideological appeal. Hulme explained that the message of the Islamic State is targeted toward disaffected individuals around the world who are disenchanted by their socioeconomic state or by the values of the modern, western world.

The two main steps that we must take, in addition to military action, proposed Hulme, is for Muslims and nations to counter the disruptive messages about Islam being a vessel for evil.

The second step is for governments with significant populations of Muslim citizens. It is their responsibility to show their Muslim community that they are appreciated where they are.

He emphasized that we, as a nation, must convey our acceptance and open-mindedness to their beliefs and practices. This is the surest way to prevent other — primarily young and

radical — individuals from feeling the pressure to seek it from other sources such as ISIS.

After the panel presentations, the floor was opened to Alma College students, faculty and staff for questions.

**Bergen Jome ('18)**, a member of the Public Affairs Institute (PAF), commented that there was a great turnout for this event and the participation after the presentations was very exciting.

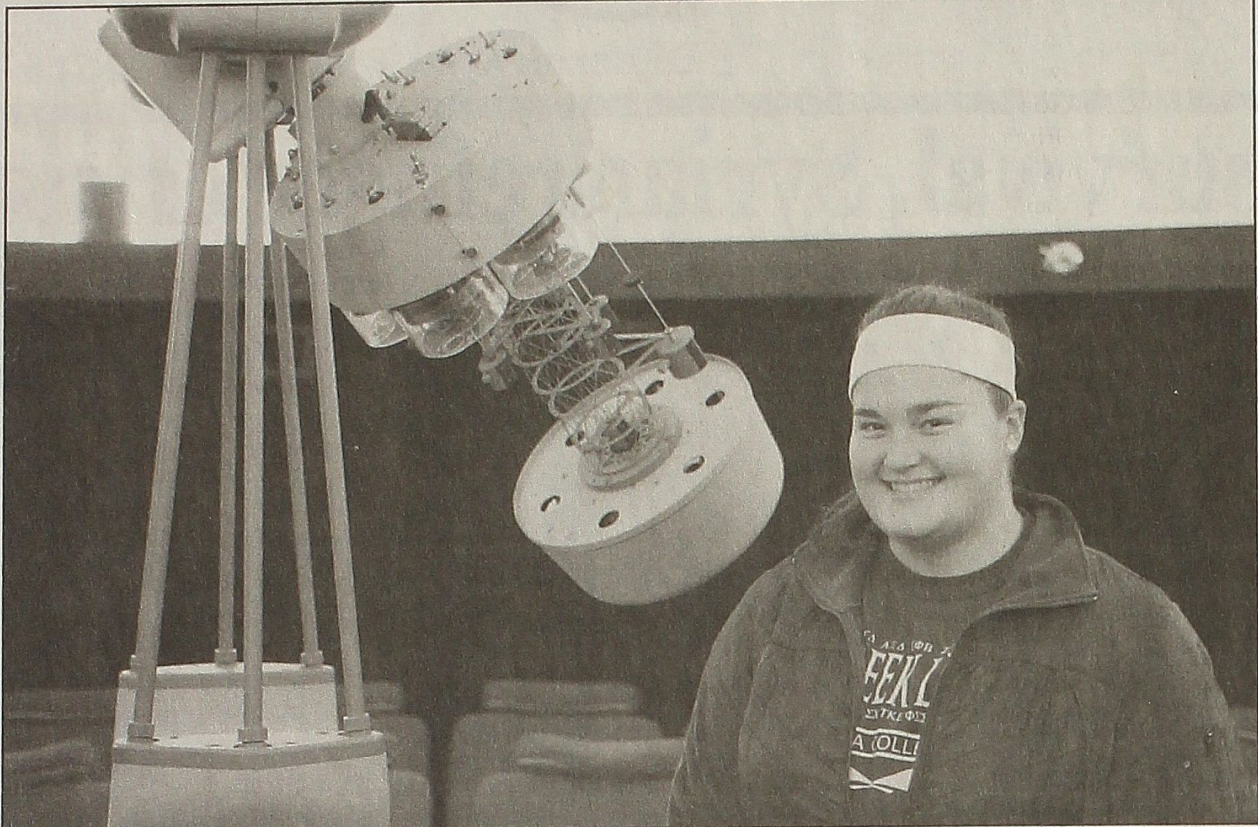
**Luke Condon ('16)**, another member of PAF, explained that the organization really started last year with the guest speaker, a well-known activist Dr. Abuelaish, who came to speak at Alma College.

Jome and Condon explain that the goal of PAF is to raise awareness of international issues, drawing students and faculty out of the "Alma bubble" and into thinking about the world as a whole.

PAF's long-term goal is to promote and improve ethnic, religious, socioeconomic, gender and ideological diversity on campus.



# Planetarium revived by club



Sarah Jack stands by planetarium equipment in Dow.

By MARGARET RAUSCH  
STAFF WRITER

As the semester comes to a close, students may be more concerned with the upcoming break than with the winter term. Despite this, Planetarium Club is offering unique experiences for the campus and the community when classes begin.

The club is not yet considered an official organization by Student Congress, but a group of approximately eight students has been learning to how operate the planetarium.

“We had everyone go through a basic training on how to [work] the ‘controls,” said John Lareau (‘18), secretary of Planetarium Club.

There are a variety of scenes that can be projected. Each one is based on two of the paths that cross the sky—the Ecliptic and the Meridian.

“The planetarium can show you the sky at any time of day and any time of year,” said Sarah Jack (‘16), president of the organization. “I mainly focus on the Greek stories behind the constellations, but you can also see the inner and outer planets.”

Once members understand

the basics, they can begin to plan different shows for the planetarium.

“Anybody in the club can [design] a show,” said Lareau. “One that I really want to do deals with conspiracy theories about space.”

Members have not designed any new shows this semester. They are discussing various themes and hope to solidify shows next term, but there are older examples that the club used for events this past month.

“The shows we did for Science Blowout mainly talked about the three constellations that can be found in our planetarium—Cassiopeia, Orion, and Leo—as well as the myths about the big and little dippers,” said Alexandra Bieri (‘18).

Others themes that are being discussed deal with the different phases of the moon and the various planets in our solar system.

Apart from Science Blowout, the club is trying to reach out to local schools and provide a learning experience for students.

“We are trying to develop an outreach program and invite schools [to the Planetarium]

to help with their curriculum requirements,” said Jack. “We want to help knock out some of the requirements in a fun way.”

The club is focusing on schools in Alma, but if the program is successful, members would like to branch out to other districts.

Not only is the club reaching out to the community, but it is also providing opportunities for students on campus to use the facility.

“We are possibly going to open up the planetarium so that other clubs can rent it out to watch movies in there,” said Allie Frost (‘16), vice president of the group.

A couple of organizations have already shown interest, such as the Climate Change Action Network and Scuba Club.

“We want to develop some sort of online [program] where you can go and reserve the planetarium,” said Lareau. “Right now, someone would have to find one of us and ask to reserve the room.”

The time and place for meetings next semester has not been determined, but it will be posted around campus when school resumes.

Marcella Flury: Photo Editor

# Students react to John Dau

1. How did you feel about John Dau?
2. What’s your response to his take on the Syrian refugee crisis?
3. What’s your position on the Syrian refugee crisis?

Shane Cooper (‘17)

1. “I appreciate triumph of the human spirit stories, maybe from my past of sports. You could feel, when he made his comments about the refugees, the college students clench their teeth.”
2. “I can’t speak for Sudan, but I experienced the cultural differences myself [in Ghana]. Not on the same scale, because Ghana is more westernized. When you look at his situation, it’s more than understandable that he would feel the way he does.”
3. “Our screening system is more than apt. We’ve got two great oceans to protect us and historically as a nation of immigrants it’s in our blood to be accepting. Just because they don’t practice the same faith, doesn’t mean we should be turning them away.”

Cassandra Ray (‘18)

1. “I really liked his story, it was very interesting. He’s very prejudiced against the Syrian refugees. He said he was OK with being a refugee and he embraced our country, but they won’t do that. That the Muslims won’t do that. If he could [embrace America,] why can’t they?”
2. “He lived in an extremist state governed by extremist Muslims and I can understand why living in the situation and being a refugee would give him that prejudice.”
3. “I think we should let the refugees in. They have to go through a really strict process of screening through the United Nations before they come in, and then we add on our screening process. I think it’s very likely that we would just be helping people.”

Dazia Gatlin (‘18)

1. “I thought he was very interesting. He had a unique perspective on how to look at what you’re going through and how to push through hard times.”
2. “His outlook on what we should do about Syrian refugees and how he looked at the Muslim cultures [was surprising]. He is very straightforward. I wasn’t expecting him to being open to even helping [Syrians] based on his opinion about Muslims. He’s able to hold a conversation about it and not lose his head and I can see his side of things.”
3. “I feel like I’m not educated enough to make a response. Based on emotion, of course let people in, but I don’t have enough knowledge of what’s going on to make an educated position.”

## This Week at Alma College December 7 - January 18



M

Healing Hands and Kitten Cuddles  
Wilcox Counseling and Wellness Center 5 p.m.

T

Starfish Demonstration  
Dow L1 2:30 p.m.

Therapy Dogs  
Library 6 p.m.

Th

Sorority Recruitment Info Meeting  
SAC 113 7:30 p.m.

F

One Act Plays  
Strosacker Theatre 8 p.m.

Festival of Carols  
Presbyterian Hall 8 p.m.

# More financially friendly S courses

By MICHAEL BREWER-BERRES  
STAFF WRITER

Students will soon have the opportunity to take more S courses without the cost of traveling. S courses are still required as part of the curriculum.

They are now defined as any course that takes advantage of the unique format of Spring Term through the academic methods used, the skills developed or enhanced or other learning experiences afforded to students that would not be possible in the traditional semester term format.

Provost Michael Selmon explained that classes such as sciences where students conduct experiments all day will now be designated as S courses. The change will possibly start as early as this spring.

“We think the heart of S courses should be the unique format we offer during Spring Term,” said Selmon.

In addition to more opportunities and classes being offered to students as S courses, students will be saving money on travel. Selmon reported that one of the biggest issues students had

was the expense of trips.

Many students have also complained about the long waiting list for certain classes, according to the provost. One of Selmon’s hopes for this change is that there will be more S courses for students to take and that will help get rid of waiting lists.

“I’m excited about this change for three reasons,” Selmon said. “First, we’re supporting a set of classes that do exactly what we want to do with Spring Term. We’re also helping students who struggle getting into S courses. Finally, this results in a set of S courses with a wider set of cost ranges, allowing students to make choices.”

Selmon thinks the reaction to this change from the students will be mostly positive, and that they will also be excited for the reasons given above.

Faculty members are also very excited for this set of changes, Selmon reported, for it opens up more classes for them to offer during spring term. He reported that the vote for this change was nearly unanimous.

“The S course program is over 20 years old and I was here when

it was put in,” Selmon said. “About two-thirds, maybe even three-fourths, of the faculty have the same experience as the students. They would ask, ‘What do you mean by [these requirements?] What are we trying to accomplish with [S courses?]’”

Questions about altering the program have been emerging over multiple years, according to Selmon. This year, faculty came up with a formulation.

Although the previous format was good, these changes are appropriate to Selmon.

“I think it’s necessary for academic communities to regularly rethink requirements and ask if this is what we want,” said Selmon.

The provost added that he wants students to know about these new opportunities now because they are starting to make choices for Spring Term and he likes students to make informed choices.

“These changes are in tune with the original spirit of what we were trying to do when we came up with this program,” said Selmon. “They are also in tune with the values of our institution.”



# Cures for winter boredom

By ALEXANDRA BOURNE  
COPY EDITOR

As final exams rapidly approach, so does the glorious three weeks of winter break. This isn't the winter break of high school where you still have homework, or even the recent Thanksgiving break where final exam preparations were piled high. No, this is a true break. So what should you do with those three fabulous weeks filled with...nothing? No work, no homework, no exams, no to-do lists. Nothing but free time, which can be a little too boring after a while. Well, here are some ideas to keep you from going bored-crazy

- over break.
- 1. Read for fun**  
Without any homework looming over you, you can read whatever you want just for the fun of it. So stock up on those tabloids and fashion magazines, fiction and fantasy novels, Shakespearian and Tolkienian works, whatever fits your fancy. If you want to re-read "Harry Potter" for the 20th time...do it. Just because you can.
  - 2. Play outside**  
We've been locked inside our rooms, the library and classrooms for weeks with our noses inches away from a stack of work and our brains fried. So step outside and get some fresh air.  
Build a snowman or epic fort, have a ferocious snowball fight, make snow angels, sled, ski, snowboard, do whatever you want. When you're done, go inside and warm up with a steaming cup of dark chocolate hot cocoa with mini marshmallows. Yum! Doesn't

- that sound good?
- 3. Netflix binge-watch**  
You can do this without the guilt of procrastination now. Whatever show holds your heart, watch all 10 seasons from start to finish without stopping. Spend three days on the couch in your pajamas and just watch, we aren't judging.
  - 4. Bake**  
Winter is the perfect time to bake to your heart's content. Cupcakes, cookies, gingerbread houses, pie, anything edible. Turn on a cooking show for some new ideas or break out the old family recipes and help your parents fill the house with the smells of home.
  - 5. Arts and crafts**  
Who doesn't love letting loose and being a kid again? Arts and crafts are the perfect way to throwback to kindergarten and relax. Make a new ornament for

- the tree out of Popsicle sticks and cotton balls. Get a coloring book from the dollar store. Puffy paint and put glitter on EVERYTHING. You know you want to, just make sure you cover it in modge podge afterwards.
- 6. Sleep**  
Do it. Don't question it. Be that lazy college kid and catch up on that sleep you so DESPERATELY need. You'll be pulling all-nighters again for homework soon enough.
  - 7. Eat**  
Everything. Eat it all. Except maybe the dog food. Everything else is fair game. You're home and have real food at your fingertips.  
You can make working out your New Year's resolution when you get back and have access to the gym in the rec center for free. For now, just eat everything in sight without guilt. Don't forget to wear your stretchy pants to make room for your new food baby.

# The key to my beach house

## A summer to fall in love with Depression Cherry

By PAIGE DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER

This year was filled with fantastic album releases, and many lists have already been published naming the best albums of 2015. I could write about all of these great albums, or I could write about one. And there is only one that I really want to write about. It is my personal favorite, an album with an emotional zip code, an album that occupies its own space in isolation from the context of culture. That album is "Depression Cherry" by Beach House. Beach House is the duo of Victoria Legrand and Alex Scally, dream pop aficionados with a taste for panoramic organ sounds and sickly sweet slide guitar. They're private people, and thus, private artists, allowing the music to be the main focus. Legrand's vocals are a chameleon, able to hypnotically blend into their soundscapes or drive the

track, simultaneously drone-like and operatic. "Depression Cherry" is Beach House's fifth album, and it has blood red cover art that matches the tone and mood of the songs. They are meditative, bittersweet and hypnotic. Melodies aren't just melodies, they're a nucleus that the rest of the song grows around, like a curtain that lifts and reveals another curtain, only for that curtain to lift and reveal even more — maybe risers for a nonexistent choir, maybe an elaborate stage set, maybe the soft silhouettes of anonymous faces. Their sound is indescribable, so I am going to take a detour around empty praise and offer up a series of snapshots. Summer, 4 p.m., on a Wednesday, backyard patio. I download the leak of "Depression Cherry" onto my laptop and play it out loud, noncommittally, a casual listen. Nothing grabs my attention. Later that evening, I play it again. My temporary review is that it's "just ok." Summer, a week later, driving to South Haven, home of a

particularly sandy segment of Lake Michigan. I'm listening to "Depression Cherry" and the curtain lifts, finally revealing what it was always trying to reveal to me. I listen to it more than once on the three hour drive, something different revealed each time. This is when it clicks. Summer, a day later, on the South Haven beach. More specifically, sitting on the edge of a long stretch of concrete that leads to a lighthouse. "Depression Cherry" is playing in my earbuds and my feet are in the water, mercilessly kicking back and forth, the sun blindingly present and sparkling on the water's reflection. I can feel my skin burning, but I continue to sit and have the curtains drawn back, the imagined curtains in my head that only "Depression Cherry" knows how to pull. September, day before the start of term. I listen to "Depression Cherry" now as a self-defense mechanism, an escape from life for a little while. It's an exit door, or maybe

even a trap door that opens below my feet and sucks me under. It's a "no vacancy" sign that blinks its neon glow into a dark night. "Beach houses are rickety, inviting spaces that, by nature of their existence, live outside of time. Transporting experiences, they gently remind us, are always round-trip tickets back to everyday life," writes Jayson Greene in his review of "Depression Cherry" for Pitchfork. I found a pervasive truth in this statement, as if Beach House is not a band, but a destination or a state of mind. If Beach House was an actual beach house, it would sit somewhat far removed from the beach, hidden in the brush with no address attached. You would have to find it using a map, and you wouldn't know it was the one you were looking for until you saw it, because someone described it to you once in vague terms. When you get there, you disappear inside and take comfort knowing that no one else can find your beach house. "Depression Cherry," it seems, is the key to my beach house.

## Photo Club Spotlight



"This is a self portrait taken with the help of my friend Riley Vandeweg. I wanted to profile my hair, which is a huge part of my identity, so I made that the darkest point in the photograph. Then I matched the midtones of my sweater to the lake so they blend together to show a mutual connection between humanity and nature."

-Josie Sabo '17,  
vice president of Photo Club

VOLUME CX ISSUE XI  
THE ALMANIAN

"ALMA COLLEGE'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER, SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1907."

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

- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Crystal Snow
- CAMPUS EDITOR**  
Abigail Fergus
- FEATURES EDITOR**  
Julia Knebl
- OPINION EDITOR**  
Nicole Eccles
- SPORTS EDITOR**  
Brent Luplow
- COPY EDITORS**  
Alexandra Bourne  
Sara Stemen
- WEB EDITOR**  
Monica Kunovszky
- PHOTO EDITOR**  
Marcella Flury

## News Staff

- STAFF WRITERS**  
Zack Baker  
Paige Daniel  
Maxxton Jolls  
Haley Parker  
Margaret Rausch  
Michael Brewer-Berres
- PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Brianna Yaroch  
Zack Baker
- Staff Illustrator**  
Cassidy Shankelton
- BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Melanie Yost
- DISTRIBUTION MANAGER**  
Danielle Harm
- FACULTY ADVISOR**  
Ken Tabacsko

**Publication Policy:**  
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.

**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.

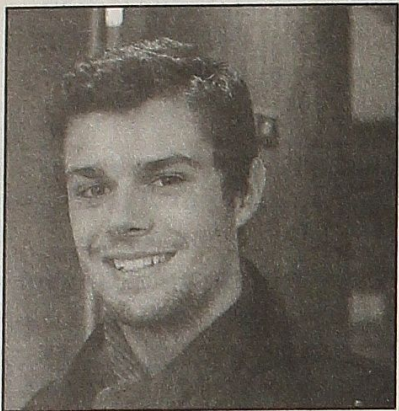
**Letter Policy:**  
Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication.



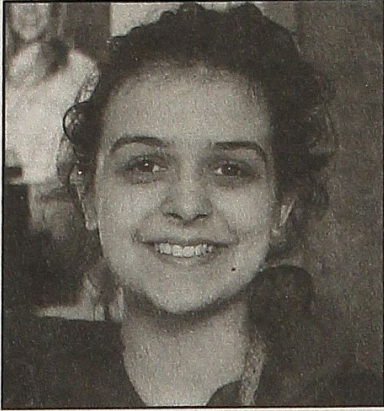
Campus Comment

By ZACK BAKER  
STAFF WRITER

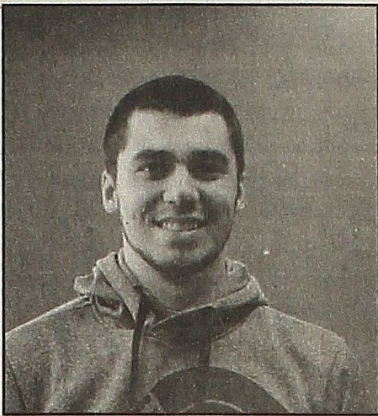
We asked you “What is your New Year’s Resolution?”



Alec Gibson, '17 art major said:  
“Eat healthier, study harder and get in better shape. Just be an all around better guy.”



Dalia Barghouty, '18 English major said:  
“I’ve been so busy with the end of the semester stuff that I haven’t given it too much thought.”



Jake Esslink, '17 new media studies major said:  
“My New Years resolution is to not procrastinate so much.”



Margaret Watiri, '18 new media studies major said:  
“This is the year of tattoos, so get some of those. Make a movie, actually eat healthy, go to concerts, and delete all the useless photos from my computer.”

HOROSCOPES

By MONICA KUNOVZSKY  
WEB EDITOR

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.

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



Remember to feed yourself three times a day and bathe regularly. No one likes a stinky Libra. Also remember to use your friendly and bright personality to light up someone’s day and keep spirits light this month!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



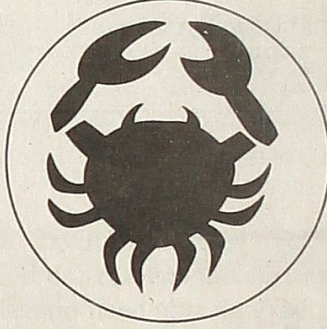
It’s ok to put your guard down once in a while and let people in. Don’t always put up a wall and a blockade, you may be missing out on possible friendships and relationships that could lead to life-altering experiences.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



Take breaks and remember to stress less. Don’t get so wrapped up in trying to be the best and being in first place constantly--it could risk your mental health. Remember to relax and loosen up. Spend time with friends, forget any homework or finals stress and just breathe.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



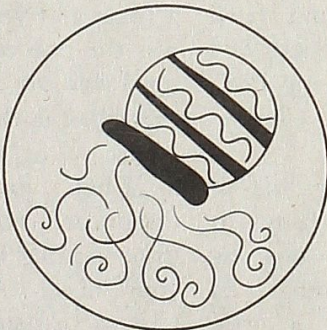
Don’t let your sensitive nature get to you this month. Remember to keep level-headed and take time to assess situations properly before jumping ahead to negative assumptions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



Hard times may have occurred the past week, but a better week is ahead for you. Things may seem dismal and bleak, but even the sun shines through thick clouds. You’ll be able to turn these miseries around and make a productive solution out of all your problems.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



Don’t be so deceptive with your intentions with others. You can’t just shy away from problems and pretend they don’t exist. Work on being more blunt and straightforward.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



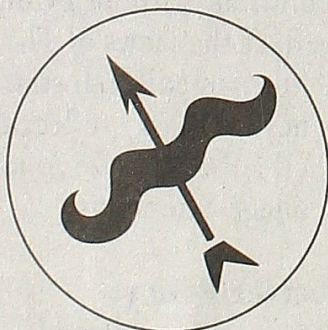
With finals coming up and the ending of the semester, things seem to be crashing down at an all time high speed. Buckle in and embrace the ride. Out of all the signs, you’re the ones who can handle the massive loads and hard work-- so just hang in there and finish up this semester with a bang.

LEO (July 23- August 22)



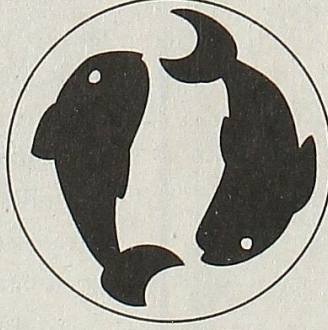
Don’t get so disheartened and upset over little things this month. Remember that people don’t always mean malice and bad intentions when things don’t go the way you wanted them to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



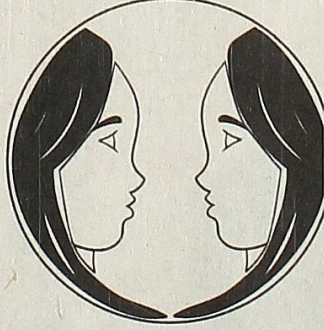
Remember you can’t make everyone happy, and you can’t please all. The best way to keep peace and balance is to put yourself first and to please yourself. Don’t achieve it at the expense of others’ though, but it’s all right to take time to attend to your needs first.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



Go out on a limb and express yourself in public. Don’t be afraid to take charge every once in a while and be progressive with actions and people.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Watch your heart this week and remember to think with your head before your heart. Don’t jump into things irrationally and brashly. Take your time to think things through. Your mind is one of your strongest assets, so use it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



This month may be a hard one for you, but remember to look to the future for fun times ahead and all the positive aspects of the month. Break and holidays will be coming up, and give you reason to rejoice. So remember there are happy things to come and that all bad things will come to an end.



# Swim team in Wisconsin for Carthage Classic

By EMILY JODWAY  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday December 2, the swim team set off for Kenosha, Wis. to participate in the Carthage Classic swim meet. The team looks to improve as a whole and on members' personal event times as the squads approach the halfway point of their season.

"The Carthage Classic is our mid-season meet where we compete against teams from all over the Midwest in a championship style meet," said **Emily Price ('17)**.

"It's like a dress rehearsal for our final conference meet in February, and a good judge of progress at this point in the season."

Price swims distance events like the 500 and the 1650 yard freestyle events. At the meet, she looks to improve on her speed and drop times in the 1650.

"I'm hoping to get some fast swims in. We haven't seen very much action this year, and for me Carthage is an opportunity for personal bests," she said.

The team has been going hard at practice to prepare for the three-day meet.

"We've been focusing on technique, by making sure we get the maximum distance per stroke and off the turns, and we've also been working on quality sprints and paces, depending on what you specialize in," said Price.

**Sydney Hooker ('17)** also says the team members have been working to strengthen themselves through extra sprints and lifting sessions. Hooker swims the 200 and 400 medley relay, 200 fly and the 100 and 200 backstroke.

"The team is looking to accomplish great times and season best times that they have worked hard for and earned," said Hooker.

"It's also always a fun experience at the meet and a great opportunity for team bonding. It's really hype and we get to wear tech suits that go down to your knees."

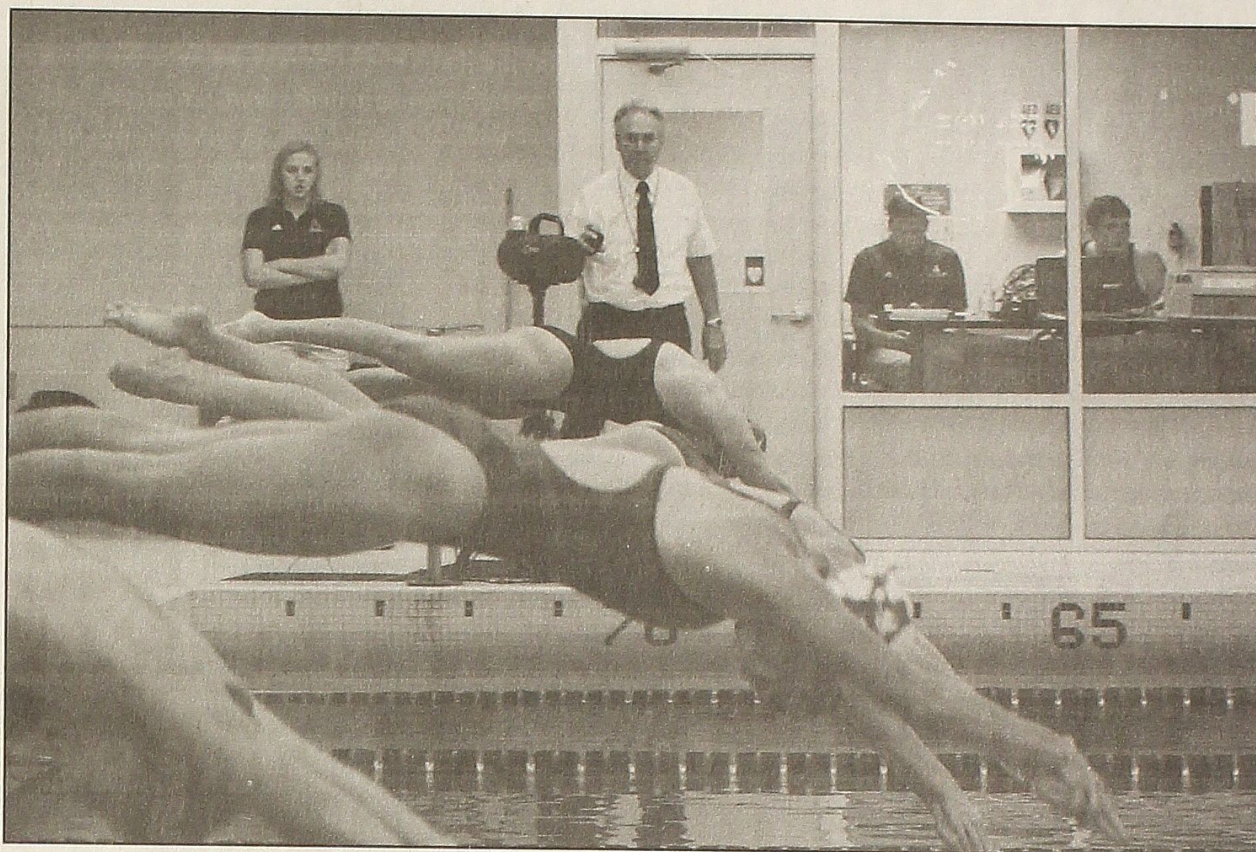
Hooker says she's been working hard to prepare for the meet, especially the mental attitude and aspect of the sport.

"It can get intense, so it's always important to stay cool and collected," Price adds.

The team looks to improve on technique, shave some time off their fastest swims, and make some season and personal best record times.

"I hope we make some great memories too," Hooker said. "Everyone is ready to swim, get some good times, and show what they can do."

The meet finished last Saturday evening, and the team came away with several wins and new school records. **Hannah Schroeder ('15)** won the 100 and 200 breaststroke finals, also breaking her previous 100



Emily Jodway: Staff Writer

Members of the women's swim team dive into Alma's pool during a past meet.

breaststroke school record. **Kate Lehman ('19)** landed in the top 10 all-time at Alma College with her 200 fly event. Lehman came in third at the 200 butterfly at the meet. **Brianna Bianconi ('17)** placed in seventh in the 100 IM and ninth in the 100 breaststroke.

Lehman displayed her talent throughout the meet, placing fifth in the finals for the 400 yard

IM. The women's relay squad of Hooker, Schroeder, Lehman and Bianconi placed in fourth for the 200 medley relay.

The men's team of two held its own. Team leader, **Kurtis Smith ('16)**, placed 15th in the 500 freestyle and 11th in the 1650. Smith also swam the 100 and 200 freestyle in the finals throughout the weekend.

Freshman talent, **Eric Ferrara ('19)**, of Livonia Stevenson placed 17th in the 500 freestyle and finished the weekend on a strong note with a 12th place finish in the 1650.

The overall results of the finals of the Carthage Classic had the women in fourth overall at 249 points and the men in seventh with 16 points.

## Sports Bulletin

### Dec. 10th

Wrestling v. Heidelberg University  
@ Alma at 7 p.m.

### Dec. 12th

Women's Basketball v. Hope College  
@ Alma at 3 p.m.

### Dec. 30th

Women's Basketball v. Grove City College (PA) @ Alma at 1 p.m.

### Jan. 9th

Men's Basketball v. Adrian College  
@ Alma at 5 p.m.

### Jan. 13th

Men's Basketball v. Hope College  
@ Alma at 7:30 p.m.

### Jan. 16th

Swimming & Diving v. Olivet College  
@ Alma at 11 a.m.

Women's Basketball v. Calvin College  
@ Alma at 3 p.m.



## Women's basketball falls to Adrian in close game

By MAXXTON JOLLS  
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team fell to Adrian College last Tuesday, losing its first conference game on the road.

It was a close game, but Adrian made its free throws down the stretch to take a 66-63 victory. This dropped Alma to a 1-4 record overall and an 0-1 MIAA mark. Adrian improved to 2-3 overall and 1-0 in the MIAA.

The Bulldogs were the first to come out of the gate, leading much of the first quarter. The Scots started to make their move as **Tara**

**Padgett ('17)** made a three with about two minutes left in the first half tying the game up at 13.

Alma eventually took the lead later in the second quarter, thanks to **Kaitlyn Kendall ('17)** making two free throws with a little over five minutes left in the quarter. Their lead didn't last, as Adrian went on a 13-6 run to take a three point lead into halftime.

Padgett tied up the game again with a three in the third quarter for the fourth time in the game.

With the score knotted at 40, the Bulldogs went on yet another run that gave them a six-point edge heading into the fourth.

Alma kept fighting to come back into the game, with Kendall cutting the lead to one. Adrian came through the clutch, finishing the game off making two free throws.

**Kassidy Blough ('19)** finished the afternoon with a career-high 14 points, and **Kelsey Wolffis ('19)** had her second straight game scoring 10 or more and also led the team with seven rebounds.

Alma will remain on the road when they travel to Saint Mary's on Wednesday to take on the Belles. The game is to start at 7:30 p.m.



Courtesy of Alma College Women's Basketball Facebook

The women's basketball team bonds in a group photo this Halloween.

### Last edition of the semester

The Almanian will return to campus on Jan. 18, 2016. In the meantime, good luck with exams and enjoy your winter break.



# Men's basketball wins home opener

By MAXXTON JOLLS  
STAFF WRITER

After overcoming a four-game road trip, in which the Alma College men's basketball team went 1-3, it was time for the Scots to come home.

Art Smith Arena opened its doors to fans last Tuesday, ready to kick off another one of many home games this season, and the Scots didn't disappoint. Alma defeated North Park University by a score of 98-75, giving them just their second loss of the season. The Scots also boosted their home-winning streak to eight games from last season.

In the early minutes of the first half, Alma put together a 10-point lead, with **Chase Fairchild ('17)** leading the charge with seven

points. The lead didn't last very long, however, as North Park came storming back into the game to make it close in the last 15 minutes of the first half. Jordan Robinson led the way for the Vikings scoring again and again to help their run. However, Alma didn't let up, going on a 30-15 run, as it led by as much as 16 at the half.

As the second half began, the Scots came out like they did in the first half—on fire. Alma shot over 50 percent for the whole game, which helped increase its lead.

The Vikings kept trying to get back into the game, but they couldn't decrease the deficit as Alma carried on for the win. **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** led the team in scoring with 18 points on 9/11 shooting, Fairchild added 16. **Trevor Gernaat ('17)** finished the game with 15 points, **Doug Bradfield ('18)** and **Jason Beckman ('18)** both scored 12.



Jason Beckman ('18) defends the ball from North Park University during last Tuesday's game. The Scots won, 98-75. Zack Baker: Staff Photographer

# Wrestling finishes second at Ohio Northern Invitational

By BRENT LUPLOW  
SPORTS EDITOR

The wrestling team traveled to Ohio Northern last Saturday to participate in the Ohio Northern Invitational. The tournament was packed with some of the top teams in the nation and many All-Americans.

The Scots took runner up in the team scoring as they scored 125 points, just being outdone by Campbellsville University, an NAIA school in Kentucky, which scored 145.

Four Scots wrestled well enough to make it to the finals in their respective weight classes. The lone champion for the Scots was **Shawn Brewer ('16)**, who won the 157 pound weight class.

Brewer went 4-0 on the day, defeating an Olivet College wrestler in the championship match, 19-13.

**Travis Heller ('18)**, the 174 pound starter for the Scots,

also had a strong showing as he collected second place honors. He went 4-1 on the day, collecting two pins in the process.

**Romeo Riley ('19)** garnered second place honors as well as he went 3-1 during the tournament.

Nationally ranked heavyweight wrestler **Trevor Maresh ('16)** finished second overall in his weight class as he won his first three matches before eventually falling to a Division II All-American in the championship match.

Four other Scots finished in the top eight in their respective weight classes, as **Jamie Jakes ('16)** took third with a 5-1 record in the 197 pound weight class. **Taylor McPhail ('18)**, wrestling in the 174 pound weight division, took seventh place with a 4-2 record. **Chance Smith ('17)** finished eighth place in the 197 pound weight class with a 3-3 record, and **Trent Hullett ('17)** finished fifth place in the 184 pound weight class with a 5-2 record.

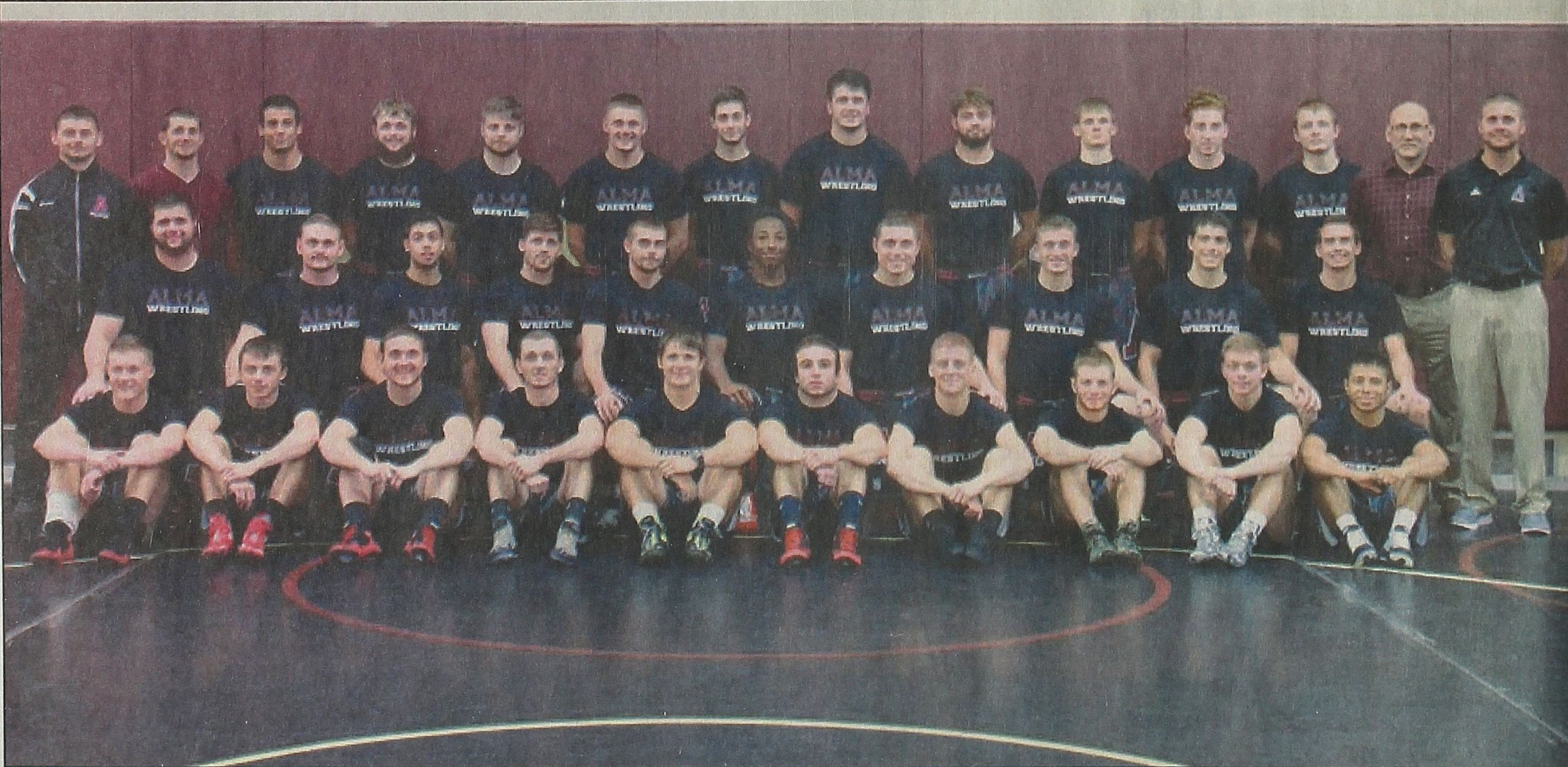
Head wrestling coach Todd



The wrestling team poses with its runner-up trophy at the Ohio Northern University Invitation last Saturday. Courtesy of goalmascots.com

Hibbs was excited with his team's performance as he said, "We got what we signed up for today with some great competition wrestling against some All-Americans and national qualifiers. We wrestled pretty well today and had four finalists for the first time ever at this event."

The Scots return to action Thursday night for their second home match of the year against Heidelberg University. The action starts at 7 p.m. in Art Smith Arena.



The wrestling team poses for a group picture at the beginning of its season. Courtesy of Alma College Wrestling Facebook