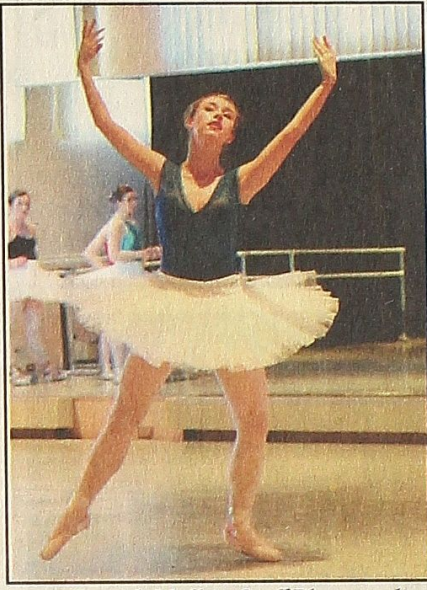
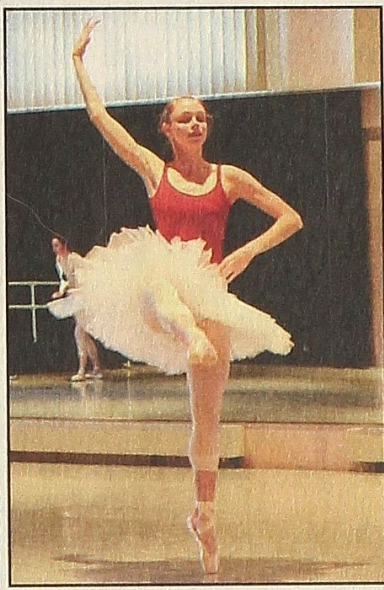
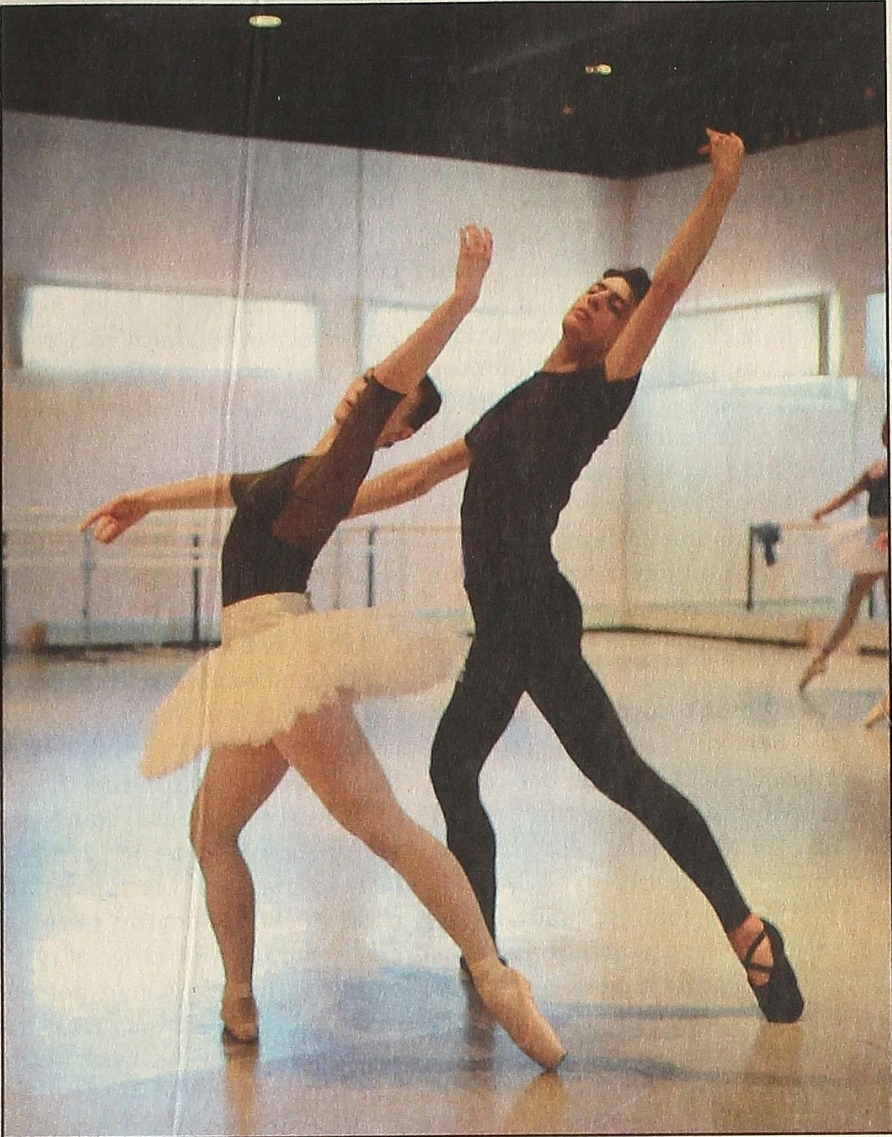




Dance company performs “Paquita”



Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

Dancers practice for “Paquita.” Some of the choreography was done by visiting Spanish dancers David and Irene Campos. Above inset, Cassie Haley (‘15) and Heather Randell (‘14) each work on pieces for the upcoming show.

Inside This Issue:

Art gallery hosts senior show

See page 2

Musical recitals show off students’ talents

See page 3

Confused about the conflict between Israel and Palestine?

See page 4

Writer remembers “Fire-fly”

See page 5

Brandon Krause (‘14) gets All-MIAA Second Team

See page 7

Concert examines the emotions of woman in solitude

BY KILEE DEBRABANDER  
STAFF WRITER

A bit of a Spanish flair has been added to campus recently. The Alma College Dance Company has been practicing with two guest instructors and working to perfect excerpts from the ballet, “Paquita.” The first piece that opens the show is the title piece, “Paquita,” staged by Irene Campos. This is a selection from Marius Petipa’s full-length ballet featuring the celebration of Paquita and Lucien’s wedding. This ballet suite is set in the house of Paquita, a well-known Spanish nobleman. A magnificent ball opens the ballet with Paquita’s friends demonstrating virtuosity with their solo dances. The show then flows into the piece,

“Inquietudes,” by David Campos. “It is a choreographic piece of moods of loneliness and uncertainty which a woman feels and expresses in moments of solitude,” Alma College Dance Company Director Hazel Sabas explained. “A woman moves like other women who go through the same feelings of self-doubt and restlessness. Just not to scream, nor mourn, nor fight, they dance the melancholic melody to get rid of their deepest fears.” A power couple from Barcelona, David and Irene Campos have succeeded

PERFORMANCES:  
8 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
3 p.m. Sunday  
Remick Heritage Center  
VISIT THE BOX OFFICE OR CALL  
989.463.7304 FOR TICKETS

in their dancing since they were young. David has danced in Barcelona, Spain, Germany, and Belgium, and has developed an outstanding international career performing throughout Europe and the United States. A gifted dancer and choreographer, he is regularly asked to sit as a jury member of prestigious dance competitions held in Europe. Irene (born Irene Sabas) began studying dance in her native country, the Philippines, practicing under many distinguished instructors. She then studied at the Royal Ballet School in London and was able to work with many principal dancers and choreographers. Irene works as head ballet mistress at Escola Ballet David Campos. She is frequently invited to teach at dance conservatories in Spain and internationally. Together, the two have founded their own ballet school in Barcelona, called

Escola Ballet David Campos. “It was amazing to work with world-renowned dancers and choreographers from Spain,” said dancer **Melanie Yost (‘16)**. “The pieces that they introduced to us are not ones to miss, and it was such a great opportunity that a small dance company at a little college in Michigan could do this. We truly are lucky, and it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be able to work with them.” Along with the two guest pieces, the dancers are set to perform “Duet” and “Reminiscent,” choreographed by Hazel Sabas; “Melt Away Our Mistakes” and “The Rest Is Silence,” by Kristen Bennett, visiting dance instructor; “Traditional Highland Dance Medley,” by Kate DeGood, highland dance director; “The Finish Line,” by **Erica Frasier (‘14)**; “O Green World,” by **Chelsea Radgens (‘14)**; and “US,” by the choreography II class.

Women’s month keynote speaker serves as inspiration

BY SAM COYKENDALL  
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., in honor of Women’s Month, the college is proud to announce that Diane Judith Nash will visit to act as the keynote speaker. Nash’s talk, “Women in the Civil Rights Movement,” will discuss her perseverance, historic

actions and impact on the civil rights movement. Nash was a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. She served as the chairperson of the student sit-in movement in Nashville, and went on to help start the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She coordinated the Freedom Ride, in which civil rights activists rode interstate

buses into the segregated South in 1961. This drive to organize the Freedom Ride came from witnessing segregation in the South and attending nonviolent protest workshops led by Rev. James Lawson. Later in Nash’s life, John F. Kennedy appointed her to a national committee promoting passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This lifetime experience was documented by PBS and American experience in the film “Freedom Riders.” Nash’s speech is expected to have a strong impact on college-aged students. “Diane Nash was a college student, the same age as many students at Alma, when she decided to get involved and to make a difference,” said Denelle Brown, director of diversity and inclusion. “She is a strong woman with great passion for equality and justice.” The Co-Curricular Committee, which is the primary sponsor of Nash’s talk, the Office for

Diversity and Inclusion, the Center for Student Opportunity, Student Life, the business department, and the Health Care Administration Program all felt that Nash was the most pertinent and well-qualified speaker for Women’s Month.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee,” said Brown. “Diane was selected to serve as the Alma College Women’s Month Keynote because of her strength, courage, contributions, and her story of providing strong leadership to the Civil Rights Movement. This is an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience for Alma College students to engage with such a legendary woman.” The people involved with bringing this speaker to campus may host a viewing of the PBS documentary, and Nash will also deliver lectures in several classes. “Nash will attend one of Dr. Joanne Gilbert’s classes, chair and professor of the communications and new media studies department,” said Brown. “She will visit with students in the gender and communications class, as well.” For students interested in additional information about Nash before her lecture, American Experience features a YouTube video entitled “Freedom Riders: The Student Leader.”



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Harvey Katz performed as Athens Boys Choir last Thursday in celebration of Women’s Month. His performance included spoken word, “homo-hop,” and storytelling and discussed the complexities of transgender identity.

WEEKLY EVENTS:  
Diane Judith Nash:  
“Women in the Civil Rights Movement”  
6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday  
Dunning Memorial Chapel  
WGS 102 Presents:  
“Local and Transnational Feminisms”  
Thursday

“She is living women’s history and black history, as she was [one of the] founding members of the



## This Week at Alma College

March 17 - 23

Tuesday

Diane Nash Gives Women's Month Keynote Address

6:30 p.m. Chapel

Wednesday

P. J. Hill Presents "The Not So Wild Wild West"

8 p.m. Dow L1

Friday

Alma College Dance Company's Spring Concert

8 p.m. Remick Heritage Center

Saturday

Alma College Relay for Life

10 a.m. Stone Recreation Center

Alma College Dance Company's Spring Concert

8 p.m. Remick Heritage Center

Sunday

Alma College Dance Company's Spring Concert

3 p.m. Remick Heritage Center

## Senior show displays talents

New art gallery showcases pieces by graduating art majors

By JON CLARK  
STAFF WRITER

With the end of the winter term approaching, there is certainly a multitude of happenings on the campus of Alma College. While freshman, sophomore, and junior students prepare for exams and schedule next year's classes, the class of 2014 is getting ready for graduation.

In particular, the art department's nine senior students have been diligently readying a collection of pieces from four years' worth of work for their upcoming senior art show.

Beginning today and lasting through April 18, the show will feature personal displays from each of the nine seniors.

Whether it is drawings, sculptures, paintings, ceramics, or photography that sparks your interest, it will be included in the work shown by the senior artists.

For display in the show, **Mallory Otten ('14)**, an art major specializing in drawing and painting, has selected artwork that all relates to themes of faith and human emotion.

"The human figures in my work represent different emotions that grow and develop by having faith that difficult things will get better in time," said Otten.

The nature of the artwork varies between artists, and so does the

medium. **Mallory Montgomery ('14)**, who is majoring in art and design as well as psychology, will feature drawings and paintings focused towards a psychological and interactive relationship between subject and viewer.

"This show is really the highlight of the year," said Montgomery. "All of our exploration, experimentation, and, ultimately, our development will be on display. This is one of the most exciting and nerve-racking times for us."

**Amy Merriman ('14)**, who specializes in 3-D design, explores the relationship between color and shape, as well as the concepts of movement and flow, in her artistic compilation.

"I didn't necessary choose my best or favorite piece from every class I've taken, but rather pieces that went together and all had certain visual elements on common," she said.

The senior art show may celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating seniors, but it also has an acute aspect of sadness as the students say goodbye to a program that has played such a crucial role in their lives.

"I'm beyond excited to see my and my peers' work hanging in the gallery," said Merriman. "However, it's also a very sad moment. The art department is very small, and we're a very close-knit group. Senior show and graduation is the end of an era for us, and we're all

sad to be leaving one another."

The remaining six artists include **Taylor McLane ('14)**, **Carolyn Kujawa ('14)**, **Joshua Gove ('14)**, **Holly Ross ('14)**, **Joshua Spratt ('14)**, and **Kristyn Park ('14)**.

The range of artistic skill continues throughout these six artists as well. From Ross's preference of ceramics, to Spratt's love of photography, the group of future graduates has created an eclectic mix of artistic works that can be viewed during the show.

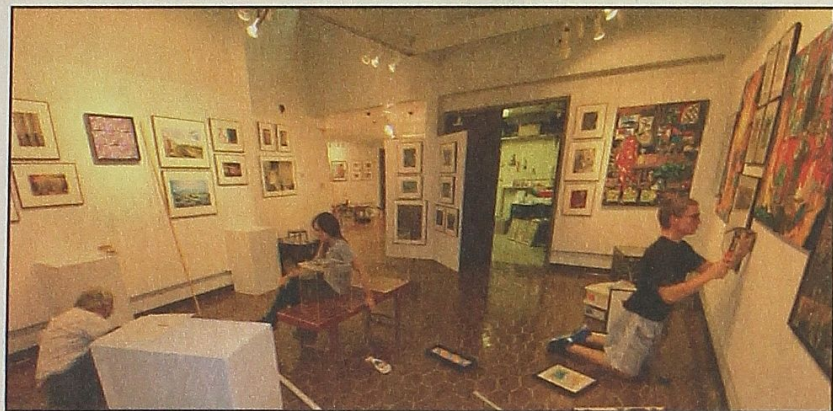
The students encourage all to attend since this will be their final opportunity to publicly present their artwork while at Alma.

"If anyone knows an art major, it would mean the world to him or her for someone to come and see all of the hard work we've been doing," said Montgomery.

"Everyone should come see senior show because it's going to be fantastic," said Merriman. "My class is extraordinarily talented, and we have a wide range of types of art and themes. I bet 90 percent of campus has never set foot in the art department, and what better time than senior show!"

A gala reception will take place March 29 from 2-4 p.m., and the closing reception will be held April 18 from 8-9 p.m. There will be free food at the receptions, and all members of the campus community are welcome.

"Come for the egg rolls, stay for the art!" said Merriman.



Josh Spratt, Staff Photographer

Associate Professor of Art and Design Bob Rozier, Carolyn Kujawa ('14), and Josh Gove ('14) prepare the art gallery for its last show of the year, which features artwork by senior students.

## Professor's political model suggests trends in district voting; current research covers United Kingdom, Spain, France

By MECHON CAREW  
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever wondered why people vote the way they do?

This is the exact question that Britt Cartrite, professor of political science, has asked himself, inspiring a research project to try to find an answer.

Cartrite proposed that ethnicity is a determining factor for distinct electing tendencies in any specific country, that is, voting "out of step" with the national average. However, his desire to more completely understand distinct voting has led him to expand this research.

"This is not just to focus on ethnicity, but to step back and be more systematic and scientific in understanding voter behavior," Cartrite said.

Last year, he began examining the election results in various European countries, compiling by region, and looking at the patterns

of distinct voting. Ultimately, he hopes to have the data on about 30 European countries, with as many elections as he can compile.

Yet Cartrite is not working alone. Not only does he have his colleague Dan Miodownik at Hebrew University in Israel, but he also works with Alma College students, such as **Victoria Bishop ('16)**.

This semester Cartrite has even gone as far as to include an entire class in his studies. Ethnic politics, POL 215, is a course in which Cartrite not only presents the findings of his previous research to students but also teaches them the skills to research this subject further.

Currently Cartrite has compiled the voting distinctiveness of regions in Spain, France, and the United Kingdom, and through POL 215, will add eight additional countries for examination.

Classmates have been separated into groups to focus on one country each, examining political data and focusing particularly on regional parties, such as the Scottish National Party that exists

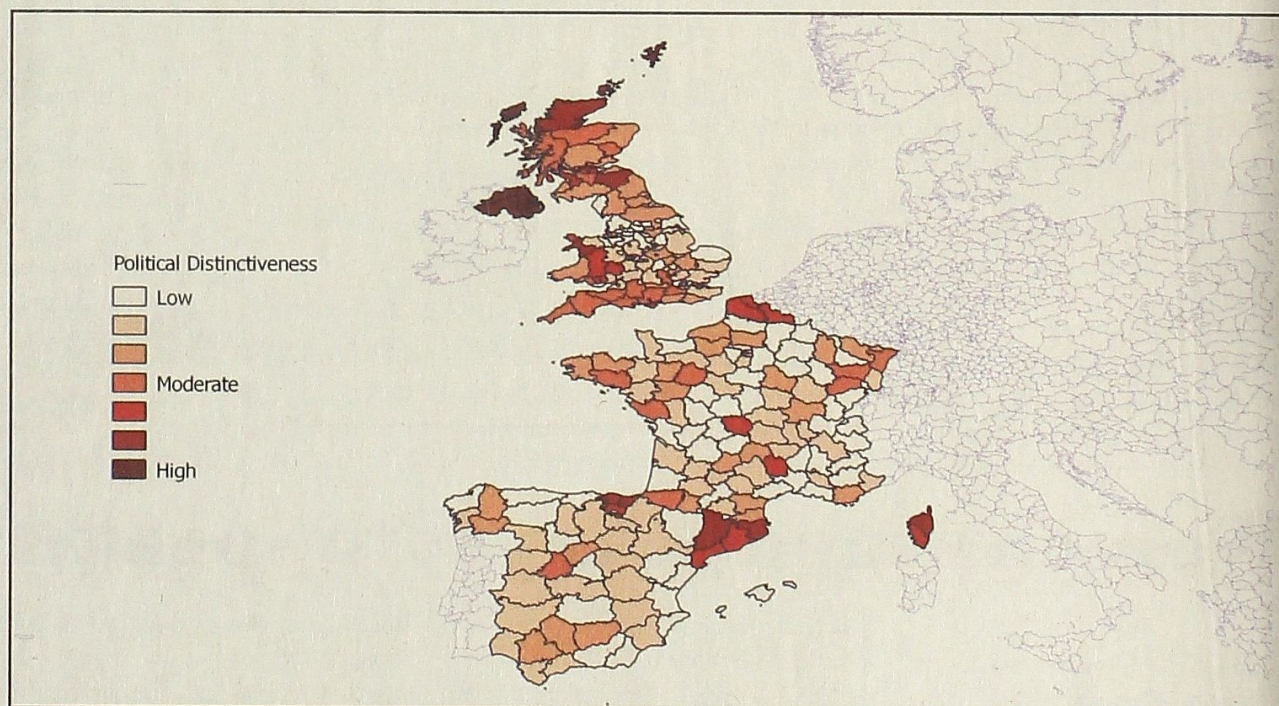


Photo Courtesy of Britt Cartrite

The political distinctiveness of a country shows how it votes and determines its major parties.

solely in Scotland.

**Luke Ashton's ('17)** group is studying Denmark and is finding the class very educational.

"I like studying different ethnicities, and [this class] gives me the opportunity to study them not just from a cultural standpoint, but [in terms of] how

they vote," he said.

**Devan McNabb ('17)** agreed, explaining that she has gained worthwhile skills in the class.

"Learning how to read journal articles and use Excel has been pretty useful," she said. "I haven't found myself saying 'when on earth am I going to use this' or 'what's the point?'"

Involving students and giving them hands-on experience is an extremely important part of Cartrite's teaching methods. "These maps are something no one's ever seen before," he said. "There's content there, but there's also engagement, and also excitement for empirical research."

Cartrite hopes that his studies will help students find their own interests in political science, and the students seem to notice.

"I love taking classes where the professor is excited about the

work he or she is doing, and this class is definitely an example of that," McNabb said.

However, "it's not for everybody," Ashton warned. Not only does this kind of research entail quite a bit of math, but the math requires a lot of time commitment. "I really enjoy it, but that's just me," he said.

Cartrite's research has reinforced his belief that ethnicity, although not the only factor in voting, does have a lot of influence in distinctive voting. "If you can only pick one variable, that's the one to pick," he said.

"I'm very excited about this [project]," Cartrite said. "I've published a lot of things over the years, and I've tried to find a fit in terms of a research agenda that can involve students and is something I can do from the middle of Michigan, and I think I found it."

### Under revision: alcohol policies

By Chelsea Rae Rowley, Staff Writer

What policies need to be in place in order to ensure student safety and to decrease risk when alcohol is a factor?

This is the exact question that college administrators, faculty, and staff want to answer, and they are asking for student help at their meetings, which are Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5 p.m. in Tyler-Van Dusen's Heather Room. . . .

Read more: [www.almanian.org](http://www.almanian.org)

### Invitation for Submissions

All entries (letters, photos, articles, or story ideas) are welcomed. The Almanian reserves the right to condense items for layout purposes. Deadline for letters, photos, and articles is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication; deadline for article ideas is 5 p.m. the Monday before requested publication.

Email submissions to the editor:  
[editor.almanian@gmail.com](mailto:editor.almanian@gmail.com)



## Student musicians showcase singing and instrumental talents during recitals

By JESS SUTHERLAND  
STAFF WRITER

The end of the year is fast approaching, and for the music majors and enthusiasts, that means recitals.

Many student musicians perform just prior to graduation. This extra concert helps them gain confidence in themselves as they play their instruments or sing before a crowd. "These public performances are an important 'rite of passage' for serious musicians," said Will Nichols, choir director. "Often, the student musician has been preparing for this recital for years through private lessons and hundreds of hours of practice."

Director of Bands Dave Zerbe also emphasized the difficulty of such performances.

"Recitals require a great deal of discipline to put together, and also expert guidance from the soloist's private lesson instructor," said Zerbe.

This year, six people are performing music recitals: one on trombone, two singing, and three more playing French horn, percussion, or organ and piano.

**Branden Listh ('14)** performed his pieces for trombone on March 8, playing

before a collection of his friends and teachers in the Heritage Center. The most surprising piece was the "Sequenza V" by Luciano Berio, in which Listh not only dressed up like a clown, but also moved around the stage and spoke every once in a while.

"The musical notation poses a unique challenge because there are many detailed stage directions," said Listh. "Even with such detail, it leaves room for a great deal of personal interpretation by the performer."

**Brendan Lodge ('14)** sang a variety of music at his recital last Saturday: "Italian arias, excerpts from German song cycles, French art songs, folk, jazz, [and] Broadway," he said.

He sang the largest part of his performance in German with Schubert's "Die Schöne Müllerin."

"The hardest thing about the recital was not only memorizing music in a foreign language, but knowing what I'm saying in that foreign language to accurately depict the story," explained Lodge.

**Kamryn Kurtzner ('14)** will perform her senior recital next Monday at 2 p.m. in the chapel, demonstrating her abilities on the French horn. She will play music from the Baroque era, the Romantic era, and the 20th

century. Some of the pieces she will perform include "Horn Lokk" by Sigurd Berge and "Sonate" by Josef Rheinberger.

"I feel very fortunate for having a great support system behind me," said Kurtzner. "I'm very excited to show the culmination of my four years at Alma through my recital performance, and I will hopefully make the music faculty proud."

**Chelsie Myers ('14)** will sing the next vocal recital. Although she is not a music major, she and her instructor felt that it would be a good experience for her.

"I'm an IPHS major, but I took vocal lessons all four years [of my Alma experience]," she said.

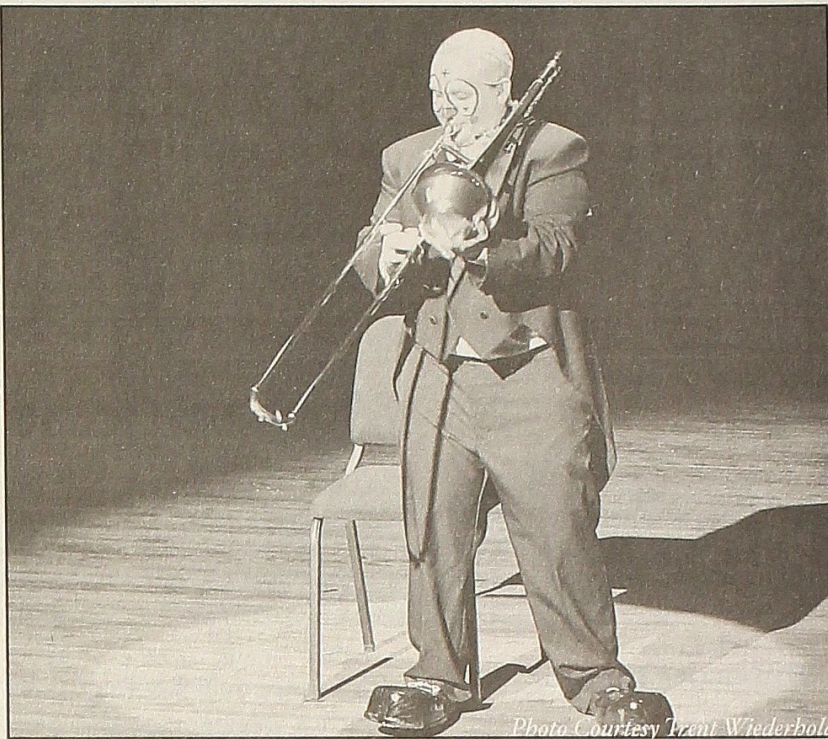
When asked if she was ready for her performance, Myers responded with a definite "Yes."

The music she will sing is varied, ranging from sacred songs to duets to Broadway songs. She has worked on many of these pieces during all four years of her lessons.

Her recital will be held at 2 p.m. on March 29 in the chapel.

**Cyrus Zerbe ('14)** will play the next percussive performance. His recital will feature a variety of different percussion instruments, ranging from the marimba to the timpani to the snare drum.

"The biggest challenge was deciding what pieces I was



**Branden Listh ('14)** performs "Sequenza V" dressed as a clown. The song was inspired by a clown whom the composer had seen while a child.

going to perform," said Zerbe.

He decided on pieces such as Bach's "First Cello Suite" for the marimba and "Transform," which he will play with the entire percussion ensemble.

Zerbe's performance will be in the Heritage Center in the middle of May.

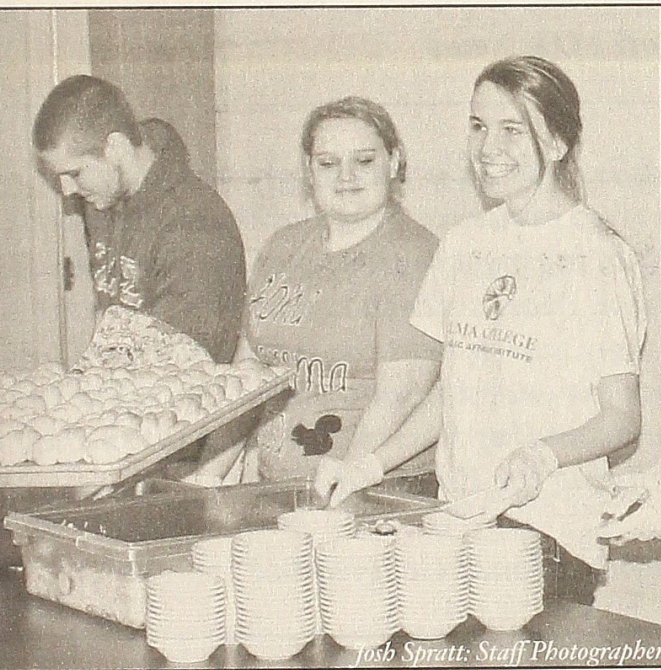
**Adam Ferrara ('15)** will play this year's one junior recital on the piano and the organ.

"I'm doing six pieces, four of which are extremely challenging, and the other two are moderately hard," he said. "I'll be playing works from the 16th century to now."

A few of the songs Ferrara will perform include the fifth movement from Louis Vierne's "Third Organ Symphony" and "L'isle Joyeuse" by Debussy.

His performance will be on March 30 at 2 p.m. in the chapel.

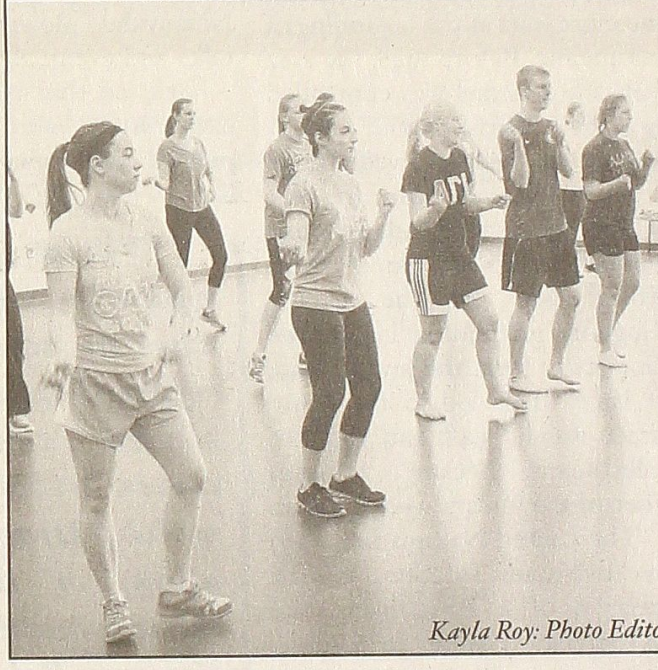
## Students engage community through service



Several organizations participated in philanthropy or service events last week. From left: Students volunteered at Community Café at the First Presbyterian Church last Thursday and served food to those who came to eat; Gamma Phi Beta sisters held "Spagammi," a spaghetti dinner, to raise money for their philanthropy, Girls on the Run; Alpha Gamma Delta sisters hosted Zumba-thon to fundraise for the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation.



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

## Students and staff organize Relay fundraisers

By HANNAH KING  
STAFF WRITER

Thirty-one teams and 334 participants have raised \$12,884.83 for Alma College's Relay for Life so far.

Last year, the event's goal was \$26,000, but students raised \$31,228. This year, the goal is to raise \$32,000. Stone Recreation Center will host the event from 10 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday.

"Our initial goal was \$1,000, but it looks like we are going to zip right through that, thanks to the Alma College community," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Business Administration Henry Balfanz, captain for the team Alma Faculty, Staff, and Friends, one of the leading teams in the fundraiser.

Balfanz's team has already raised \$835. "I am going to send out

e-mails and make a Facebook page to promote our team and reach our goal," said **Sara Lovse ('16)**, team captain for Alma College Athletic Training.

The teams have been raising money through many ongoing fundraisers that are being promoted until the main event.

"Penny wars have been going on in the team room," said Lovse. "The incentive to raise money in the penny wars is for athletic trainers to avoid a pie to the face."

On Tuesday, Alma Faculty, Staff, and Friends will set up a table in the Swanson Academic Center lobby and give students, faculty, and staff the

opportunity to make a guess at how many jelly beans are in a jar.

"The closest guess gets the jelly beans, and we will also be asking for a donation," said Balfanz.

The top six teams so far include Gamma Phi Beta, Phi Sigma Sigma, the soccer team, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alma Faculty, Staff, and Friends, and Alma College Athletic Training.

Many of the participants have participated in other Relay for Life events for several reasons.

"I got involved in Relay for Life because two months before I heard about Relay on campus, a family member passed away from her third battle with cancer," said Lovse.

"I lost my father to prostate cancer in 1990, and I don't want to see anyone go through that kind of suffering again," said Balfanz.

**Karol Chubb ('15)**, the Relay for Life chair, has been a cancer caregiver and hopes to see a day when the word cancer does not exist.

"I find Relay for Life important

*"I feel that no one should have to face the fear of fighting for their life. I think it is important for students and student organizations to be involved..."*

**-Karol Chubb ('15)**

to have on Alma's campus because the event is all about awareness of cancer," she said. "I feel that no one should have to face the fear of fighting for their life."

"I think that it is important for students and student organizations to be involved in this event because this event brings so much unity to the Alma community," Chubb said.

At Saturday's relay, every participating group will have some sort of on-site fundraiser.

"Our team will sell water to

walkers at the event," said Balfanz.

Other fundraisers planned for the event include the selling of baked goods and hand-crafted gifts, as well as a café musical performance sponsored by Highland Java.

Alma College Greek Life has sponsored inflatables, including a mechanical bull, laser tag, obstacle course, and human bowling. These are available from 12:15 until 4 p.m.

DJ and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jeff Turk will conduct Turk Power Hour and an hour of interactive DJ games.

"Our large ceremonies include Survivor Ceremony at 4:30 p.m., Luminaria at 8 p.m., and Fight Back at 10 p.m.," said Chubb. "All of these events represent those who have fought or are fighting, remembering those who have lost their battles, and fighting back against cancer as a community."

"Cancer is a disease that does not sleep, and we walk for 24 hours to represent that there is no reprieve from cancer," Chubb said.



# Bursting the Bubble

*Courtesy of: The Morning Sun*

*Courtesy of: MLive*

*Courtesy of: FOX News*

*Courtesy of: National Geographic*



**Palestinian children in Gaza play in a broken piece of culvert. Most Palestinians live in abject poverty.**

The United Nations proposed the two-state solution, or the creation of a Palestinian state and an Israeli state. In a sense, the two would have to share the land that they both want.

"It's sad that it's the political extremists who have the power, and what's happening isn't what the people want,"

"I think what is happening to these Palestinians, who are just as human as anyone, and are being treated this way, is horrendous," said **Emily Johnson ('15)**.

[illegible]



# Band deserves more than critics give

By **RAY VISSER**  
STAFF WRITER

A year and a half ago, in my third-ever article for the Almanian, I wrote (rather clumsily) about my growing addiction to live music, and my instinct to buy a ticket to a show as soon as possible after it's announced.

That addiction has waned slightly because, over the course of dozens of performances, I have come to a ridiculously repetitive conclusion: a show is what makes a show, a show. A ticket is not worth its price if I could experience a band in the same way through headphones.

Last Monday I saw renowned band Arcade Fire perform at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Win Butler, the lead singer, told the crowd, "We want this to be like a party in our basement, except a basement that fits however many thousand people are here tonight."

Before I go further, a few notes. Arcade Fire is a band that has been labeled, among other equally nasty things, the No. 3

"Worst Hipster Band," and time and time again, "pretentious," by everyone from fellow rock band Kings of Leon, to columnist Tim Grier, to Stephen Colbert (albeit jokingly).

There's an opinion piece titled "Let's Admit It: Arcade Fire Is No Longer Any Good," filed under the "Beef" section of the LA Weekly Blogs. In it, Rachel Brodsky calls the band's newest album, "Reflektor," "an overindulged slog of high-art themes, self-serving eggheadedness, and pompous, bloated ballads," with "[p]seudo-intellectual, liberal arts-pandering lyrics" and "[s]uffocating self-importance."

Are these criticisms valid? That's a matter of personal opinion and taste. But how many bands or frontmen don't even make the effort, as Butler did, to invite the audience "into his basement?" Throughout the show, Arcade Fire had a determination to do more than just play their songs in the direction of the crowd.

Whether or not the music itself had a sense of "suffocating self-importance" doesn't matter, because the attitude with which it was brought to the audience was



Photo Courtesy of Matt Klovski

**Arcade Fire works with the audience to provide entertainment that is worth the ticket money. This gives the band more credit than what many critics claim.**

completely sincere.

Before their set, a few members of Arcade Fire joined an impromptu dance party created by one of the opening DJs, disguising their true identities with outlandish costumes and caricatured bobblehead masks of their own faces. Is this sort of behavior and mindset "pretentious?" Maybe so.

But it made the concert an experience to remember, made it a "show," a real production with a sense of style and purpose. This was a planned, rehearsed, but still fresh and exciting, experience. It was more than music.

Once or twice during the show, Butler stepped to the front of the

stage, reached out, and grabbed the iPhone of the person shooting video in the front row. For a few seconds, he pointed the phone back at the audience, stared into its camera, and then handed it back, all without missing a beat or word in the lyrics he was singing.

Bands spend time and energy on social media to, ostensibly, build connections with their fans. Something like the iPhone stunt, however, or dancing in the crowd (even anonymously), upstages any social media—it gives fans a direct connection to the band.

Sharing the experience of a concert instead of treating it like a service—"you bought your tickets, now we'll give you your

product"—makes me feel that the band wants to make the show worth the price of admission. And that feeling is what makes the show special, like it's happening in a basement with some close friends.

So when I consider buying tickets now, I try to ask myself: will the band make this show into a show? Will they connect with me in some meaningful way, no matter how deep? Will they respect my time and money and send me on my way satisfied with the experience?

The No. 3 Worst Hipster Band did all of those things and more. Critics are invited to exit to the left. We're dancing here.

*"Whether or not the music itself had a sense of 'suffocating self-importance' doesn't matter, because the attitude with which it was brought to the audience was completely sincere."*

*-On Arcade Fire's performance.*

## Still gloomy over 'Firefly'?

*Despite consolatory film, writer suggests solution for fans*

By **DANIEL MURAWSKE**  
STAFF WRITER

Many people, including me, are still upset over the cancellation of the 2002 series "Firefly" after one season.

It is a shame that we will never know what would have happened to Captain Malcolm Reynolds (Nathan Fillion) and his lovable crew. While the 2005 film, "Serenity," tried to wrap up the series after the abrupt cancellation of the show on FOX, it takes more than two hours to explain everything that would have happened over several seasons.

To understand the concept of "Firefly," all you need to know is that it takes place hundreds of years in the future. There was a war between the government and the "rebels" (whom Reynolds sided with) and the government won, and now Reynolds and his crew are thieves on a spaceship that pull heists so they can put food on the table.

There are themes of science fiction and western, which are both blended nicely together in each episode. As two very different genres, making a coherent mix of the duo in a series is an accomplishment.

The characters are always interesting and fun to watch. I was engrossed from the very beginning with the relationships between the crew members, and I really wish we had the chance to see some character development (not much growth can take place when the network cancels it after less than a full season).

The former president of FOX, Gail Berman, said that the show "did not perform in the ratings." I understand why a show would be canceled if it suffers from a lack of viewers. However, the blame for the poor ratings falls on the shoulders of FOX Network.

There are three things that FOX did to doom "Firefly."

Number one: they had it air on Friday nights. Yes, things do have to be put on television on Friday nights. But with a show like "Firefly," a science fiction/western whose target audience is probably young to middle-aged adults, the worst thing you can do is make that particular audience have to choose between staying in and going out on a Friday night.

Also, recording shows was much more of a hassle in 2002 compared to today. Back then, we did not have DVRs that we could program to automatically record everything we want to watch. Had they been around at the time, I think "Firefly" could have gone on for several seasons.

Number two: it was only given one season, whereas other canceled FOX shows have been given at least two.

And number three: the episodes were not even aired in chronological order. In fact, three of the 14 episodes in the series never aired on television,

including the two-hour pilot episode.

This is the stupidest thing I have ever heard of in the world of show business. I have no idea what FOX was thinking, despite my research efforts.

I came up with a solution for all "Firefly" fans who want the story to be told beyond the extent of "Serenity:" a video game needs to be made.

And I am not talking about an online role-playing game where you get your own crew and have adventures. As fun as that could be, I want trained video game artists and storytellers to provide me with gaming entertainment that would tell the story of what happens to Reynolds and his crew.

The story should start off right after the last episode in the series. I say this because the movie has some fateful ends for a couple of the characters and I want them to be a part of the video game series.

Efforts should be made to reach out to the stars of the show to see if they would be willing to provide voices for the characters in the video game. If that could be done, and all this would be made to happen, you would see some very happy "Firefly" fans.

As for the series, I give "Firefly" an "A."

*"I understand why a show would be canceled if it suffers from a lack of viewers. However, the blame for the poor ratings falls on the shoulders of FOX Network."*

*-On the cancellation of 'Firefly.'*

St. Patrick's Day

C K C S H V M U Q L R H Z L D

X A C I A Q P Q H Q Q O E O L

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E T A R B E L E C I L Q L G N

STPATRICK  
CELEBRATE  
GREEN

SHAMROCK  
RAINBOW  
LEPRECHAUN

POTOGOLD  
LUCKY

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## Beware! Alma Plague will soon strike again

BY MECHON CAREW  
STAFF WRITER

It's finally happened, my dear readers. We finally got our first glimpse of spring last week: a full two days of melting bliss.

Of course, the rest of the week was promptly followed by "Second Winter, but it's Michigan." We'll take whatever good weather we can get.

However, this good weather, as it were, can be disastrous; I've already heard whispers of the Alma Plague returning to wreak havoc upon us once more.

Why has the Horseman of Pestilence returned?

Part of the return is due to the simple changing of the weather. Fluctuations in atmospheric pressure, moisture, and heat can do a number on the average student's body and immune system, causing anything from nosebleeds to sinus draining or even the common cold.

How do we combat this scourge of the campus?

Well, there's always the option of having eternal winter. Just invite Elsa to visit. However, I believe the point of spring is to get warmer, so honestly we just have to roll with the punches here.

If you know you're prone to nosebleeds, pack extra tissue. For those suffering from allergies, try taking your medication as soon as things try to warm up. In

either case, taking a nice steamy shower can both moisturize your nostrils and soothe the scratchy throat that sinus draining can cause.

As for avoiding catching a cold or flu, well, that's a bit more complicated.

Firstly, as I mentioned last semester just after the Alma Plague finished reaping through the campus, your clothing choices can have a big effect. Although it may feel like it's blistering outside, in reality, it's only about 50 degrees. Despite what many may think, 50 degrees is not suitable weather for t-shirts and shorts.

Dressing appropriately for the weather can be as simple as poking your head outside in the morning and grabbing a light jacket if it's warm or your winter jacket if it's still Second Winter. Layers are also particularly useful, as dear Mother Nature likes to change the forecast in the middle of class most of the time.

Outside of what you wear, you can also avoid getting sick by simply taking care of yourself.

Although it may sound absurd, not sleeping or eating regularly (i.e. pizza and soda at 3 a.m.) can really do a number on your health. Even stress affects the body detrimentally, hindering the immune system and making it harder not only to prevent illness, but to fight it off as well. For reference, this means a cold that should only last for a few days may last as long as a week



**The Plague has hit again. This might be largely due to the changes in the weather or the stresses of finals. Remember, if you get sick, rest up.**

and a half.

I know that it's the end of the year and all of us are being buried by projects and assignments and tests (oh my), but remember that it's hard to concentrate on lectures if you were up half of the night or your tummy keeps growling at you. Take some time to sit down and relax, and maybe the answers to your next test will just come to you (seriously, it just might since having a clear head may help you remember more).

Of course, the Alma Plague wouldn't be a plague if it just had to do with individuals getting sick; the danger is in the rapid spreading.

This is something that can be hard to avoid, since we are living in such a small, tightknit

community. The only advice I can give on this front is to remember to wash your hands, try to cover your mouth when you sneeze, and all that jazz.

However, I feel that I should mention that overusing hand sanitizer is not the solution. Occasional use is fine, but when that's all that you use, you're actually providing natural selection for the bacteria that you come in contact with. That 0.01 percent that's left over from the 99.9 percent killed mutates and reproduces, and eventually hand sanitizer stops working because now it's super bacteria bent on causing you misery.

Now, I leave you with that beautiful little picture in your head. Stay healthy, readers.

## TEARS & CHEERS

BY LISA FOLKMIRE  
OPINION EDITOR

### CRY

-It's almost spring. And it's still honing in at an average of 8 degrees a day outside.

-With the current pattern of hitting 50 degrees and raining and then dropping to 7 degrees and freezing, campus is either covered in lakes or covered in ice each day.

-Driving conditions are nowhere near ideal. Visiting the home front seems more like a trek into the vicious wild rather than a weekend retreat.

-We've reached the four week crunch. Classes are beginning to stress final projects, tests are being used as preparation for final exams, and social life is a thing of the past.

-We've also reached the time for Spring Term meetings, P-Global preparation, and extra credit scrambling. Not that any of this is particularly horrible—it's more or less the concept of having even less time to recuperate as a human being.

-With the constant change in the weather, sinuses are acting up. Prepare yourself for your body's complete confusion to the change in the weather when all you want to do is lay out in the sun—with a brand new box of Kleenex.

## Lovesick? Concerned? Biddy has the cure!

BY BIDDY  
STAFF COLUMNIST

Ask Biddy: From relationships to study tips, I'm your go-to columnist! Don't forget—anyone can e-mail me their questions at [askbiddy@gmail.com](mailto:askbiddy@gmail.com).

**Dear Biddy,** I am in a new relationship and the two of us have just become "official." I really like her and I don't want

to mess anything up. I ask her to hang out and we catch a movie or study together sometimes during the week.

However, when it comes to the weekends, it seems as though she is always too busy for me. During the past several weekends, I asked her to hang out, and she said she already had plans with her girlfriends. I don't want to take her away from her friends, but I also don't want to lose her or for her to lose interest in me. What should I do? —Newbie

**Dear Newbie,** this can be a tricky situation. I think it is a tad bit too early to talk to her about this. So try this, and if it doesn't work, confront her with how you feel. It sounds to me like the two of you often hang out last minute, when you have a few hours between classes or when you find yourself free on the weekend.

I think you need to ask her out on an official date. Now that the two of you have declared your "coupleness," you need to make plans. If you tell her to clear her schedule for a day at least a week in advance and tell her that you have something special planned, I can guarantee that she will say yes. Now, you just have to plan the perfect date! Good luck!

**Dear Biddy,** I turned 21 recently and I live in a sorority house full of girls who are not yet of age. It seems every weekend I get asked to buy alcohol for someone. Luckily, I have gone home for the past few weekends, and when I don't, I make up some other excuse.

These girls are my friends, my sisters, and even my little; but I just don't feel comfortable breaking the law like this. What should I do? —Concerned and Of-age

**Dear Concerned and Of-age,** you are being really responsible because breaking the law is serious. It might seem like a lot of people do this, but that doesn't make it less illegal.

Being in a sorority, it's important that you are responsible and that you are a good role model for your little. Chances are, they will respect you more and be less likely to buy for underage students when they turn 21. The worst that could happen is that they get alcohol from someone

else. But there is a very good chance that you could stop them from drinking altogether. Way to be responsible!

**Dear Biddy,** I met a guy a few months ago and we clicked. He is nice, smart, and funny and treats me very well. We have talked about becoming official a few times now. The only thing is, if we become official, I will probably need to tell my parents about him.

Though this guy seems perfect in my eyes, he is a little rough around the edges. He doesn't care what he wears and he is not afraid to voice his opinions about anything . . . especially politics. Most guys I have brought home before are clean cut, and have the same political views as my parents. I like that this new guy is different, and I am learning a lot from him. I am just worried that my parents will disapprove. What do I do? —Modern-Day Juliet

**Dear Modern-Day Juliet,** I think it is really great that you are willing to date outside of your norm. That is important when maturing as a young woman. It sounds like this guy makes you really happy and is opening you up to a whole new world of politics. I have found that though it can sometimes take time, work, and a good amount of convincing, parents are ultimately happy when their kid is.

If this new guy has manners and it is obvious that he is good for you, your parents will come around. It is crucial to just power through the first time you bring him home, no matter how awkward it can be and to not try too hard to show him off.

Your parents will want to get to know the real him, and if he is as great as you say, it should go well! You go, girl! Be fearless!

## REJOICE

-It is officially time to make Irish soda bread—a delicious and simple treat to go with your corn beef hash and Guinness.

-With daylight savings time, we get to see the sunshine through dinnertime—the more daylight the merrier.

-Just four more weeks of classes, four more weeks of (what seems like) endless homework, four more weeks until we can hopefully warm up again.

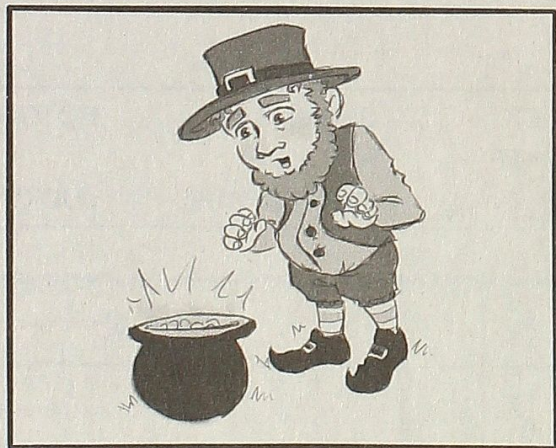
-For each burst of below-freezing wind chills and ice patches, we are reminded to respect the warm moments even more.

-It's March. It might be messy and still covered in snow, but it's also covered in pie and the luck o' the Irish. It can't be all bad.

-Relay for Life is this weekend. Get excited for some Mickey Mouse and charity—we're celebrating life with a bit of Disney.

-Thank the "Sandman" for the loss of Michigan's newest Great Lake, the one that resided just outside of the library for all of last week. Say no more to taking walks around the puddle and sacrificing shoes to mud—only a sand-covered stain remains where the lake once was. But don't do a "Holes" and start digging it up.

## Getting 'jiggy' with it: a brief history of St. Patrick's Day



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

St. Patrick's Day is one of the more popular Christian-feast-day-turned-bank-holiday-turned-college-favorite. Named after Ireland's own patron saint, March 17 marks a "free day" for the Lenten celebrations, allowing Christians to drink and feast throughout the 24 hours. The "green theme" of the day was originally blue, but changed to green to symbolize shamrocks often worn in celebration of the holiday—St. Patrick used these plants to explain the three parts of the Holy Trinity to the Irish.



# Basketball standout Brandon Krause ('14) earns All-MIAA Second Team

By JUSTIN KETTERER  
STAFF WRITER

Coach Sam Hargraves said that **Brandon Krause ('14)** and the other three seniors on the Alma College basketball team can be proud of the season they had this year. These Scots accumulated the most MIAA wins for the program since 1991 and the first three-league-game winning streak since 1998.

"I wish I had one more year with Krause," Hargraves said. "He really was the cornerstone of the building process here."

Krause was selected to the All-MIAA Second Team for this season. This is the second year in a row that Krause was given

this honor.

"I had a great experience playing at Alma," Krause said. "I enjoyed playing with all my teammates over the past four years and made some great memories."

Krause started all 25 games for the Scots this season. He was the third leading scorer at 11.8 points per game and led the team with 3.4 assists per contest.

"It's huge for a coach when your most talented player is your hardest worker, [and] that's what Brandon was," Hargraves said.

"I was lucky to inherit a player like him when I took over the program."

Krause is tied for second in program history with 100 games played. His 329 career assists are good enough for sixth best in the Scot archives.

"His best quality as a leader was leading by example," Hargraves said. "He did a good job of becoming more vocal every year."

Krause was a varsity player for every one of his four years as a part of Alma College basketball.

"The program is definitely headed in a positive direction and there is a lot of young talent," Krause said. "I am happy that I was able to help turn the program in a positive direction."

Krause's freshman year was spent playing for then-Head Coach Charles Goffnett before Hargraves took over the program before the 2011-2012 season.

"I really enjoyed playing for Coach Hargraves," Krause said. "He made me a much better player in my three years

playing with him.

"I learned a lot about myself as a player from Coach, and he demanded that every player gave his best effort every day," Krause added.

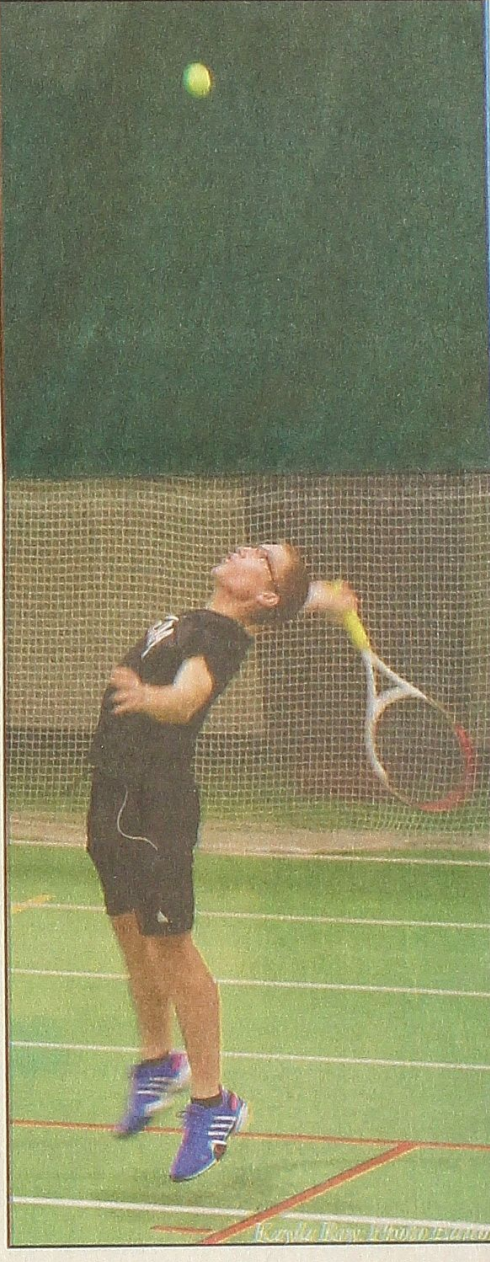
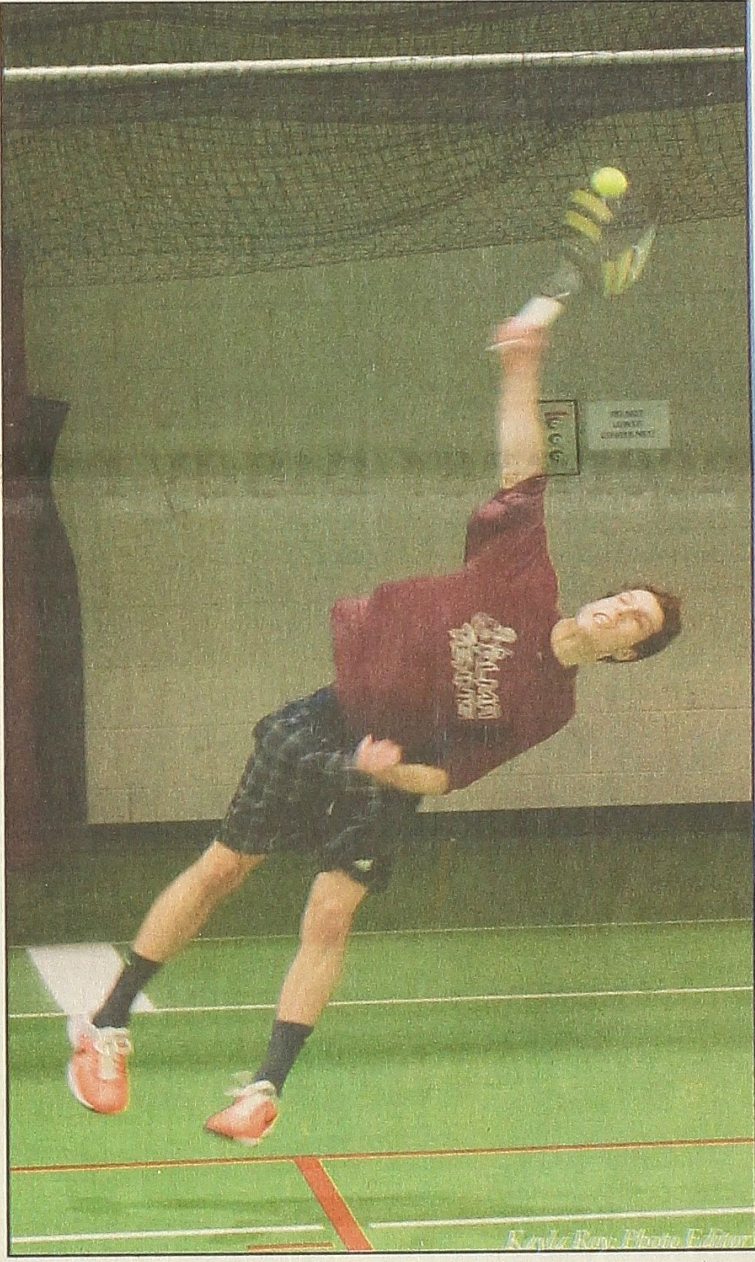
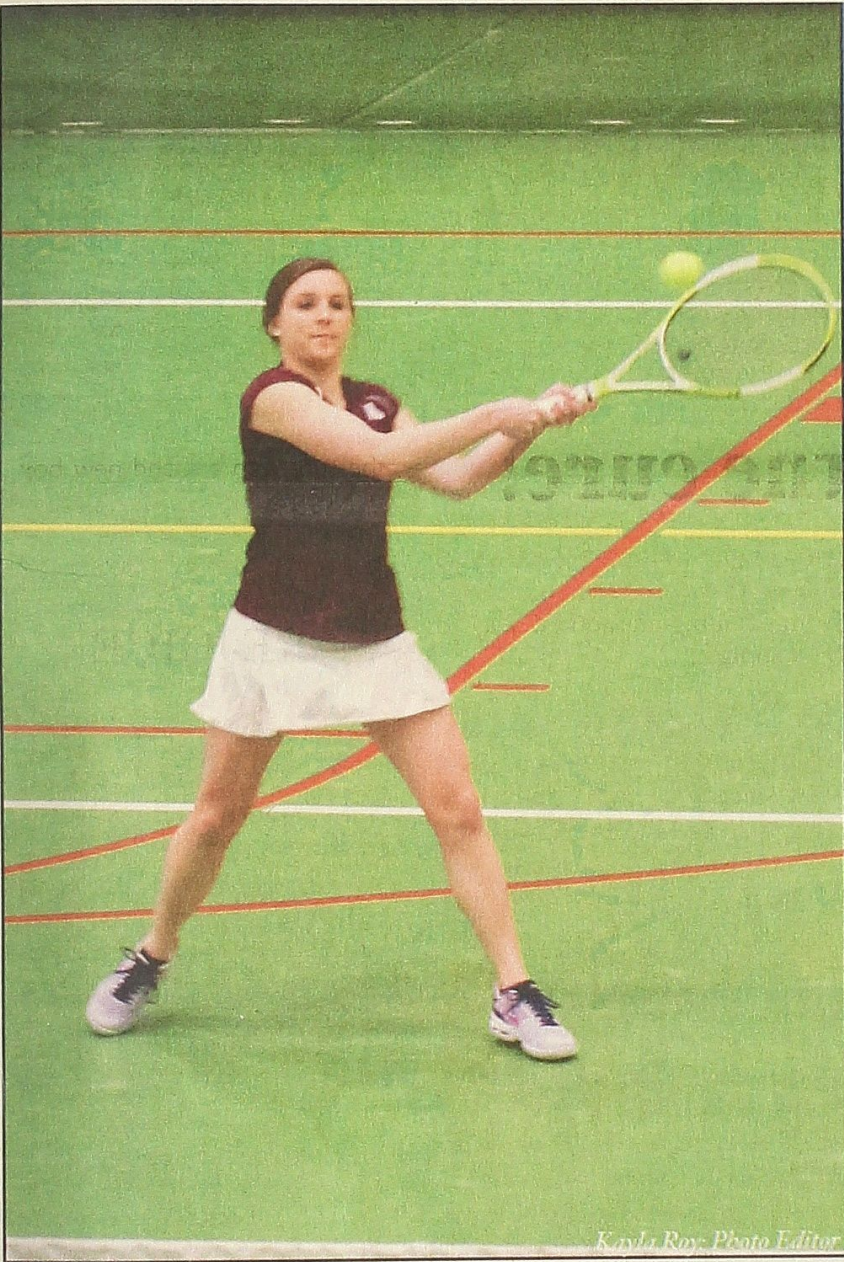
Krause's coaches and teammates said that they both think highly of him on and off the court.

"He's been a great leader and role model for work ethic the past two years," **Weston Kartes ('16)** said. "He works hard and competes and is fun to play with."

"It was a great honor to be selected by the other coaches in our league to second team all-conference, but I wouldn't have been able to have a successful season without my teammates and coaches," Krause said.

"My time at Alma has been a great time and I wouldn't have traded it for anything."

# Women's tennis outduels Cornerstone, 7-2 ; men's team is defeated in a close 5-4 result



Left: Paige Pontious ('16) and her partner Elizabeth Taylor ('17) won their double match 8-5. Middle: Logan Beard ('14) won 6-3 and 6-1 in singles against Manchester College and 8-3 in doubles with his partner Gordon Rumschlag ('14). Right: Josh Gove ('14) claimed an 8-6 victory with his partner Jared Guy ('16) in a doubles match.

# Trip to West Virginia brings men's lacrosse two victories during weekend competition

By JUSTIN KETTERER  
STAFF WRITER

Consistent discipline is what Coach Jason Levesque said he is looking for from his squad.

Alma men's lacrosse team dropped a contest two weeks ago to Mt. St. Joseph College of Ohio 6-5. The Scots gave up the winning goal in the last minute of the game.

"Mt. St. Joseph is a tough, quality opponent and we had some missed opportunities," Levesque said.

"Mt. St. Joseph is a good program; they have been in the Midwest championship the last

few years."

The Scots were down in W. Va. over the weekend and defeated Franciscan University last Friday 15-8.

"Our two opponents over the weekend are very similar to us," Levesque said last Thursday.

"They're going through the learning curve like us; it's always difficult to win on the road, but we want to come back with two wins and be at 4-4."

Levesque added that he and his team can't use the youth on the squad as an excuse anymore. He mentioned that the sophomores have now had 20 collegiate games under their belts.

"Losing a one-goal game really

hurts, so we were all pretty bitter after the game," **Samuel Korbel ('16)** said.

"If you look back to our game against them (Mt. St. Joseph) last year, we lost 8-2, so although the loss stings we know we're headed in the right direction, especially against programs that have been around for a while."

**Marshall Argenta ('16)** led the Scots against Mt. St. Joseph with two goals on five shots. **Alex Novak ('15)**, **David Foster ('16)**, and **TJ Miller ('17)** each added a goal for Alma.

"We played amazing for 85 percent of the game," **Isaiah Colmore ('16)** said.

"Going into the second half being up 5-2 on that team was an

accomplishment.

"As a team we began to let up, and they went on a four-goal run. We played very hard—just a few mistakes at the end cost us," Colmore said.

Levesque said that the team began to give up possessions in the third quarter as a result of lapses in clearing out of the defensive zone.

"It was only a matter of time until they busted through and made that run on us," Levesque said. "We need to execute better and not miss out on opportunities during the game."

The Scots spent last week practicing and hammering home Levesque's points of

discipline and consistency.

"We just have to remind our guys to play our game and be consistent," Levesque said.

"We have to be able to put teams away; it just comes down to us going out there and playing the way we know we can play."

**NEXT GAMES:**  
**Saturday**  
at Concordia University  
(WI)  
**Sunday**  
at Milwaukee Engineering  
(WI)



## Wrestlers come up short at regionals; high hopes for Jamie Jakes ('16) at nationals

By EMILY ZADNY  
STAFF WRITER

The Scots' wrestling squad finished in a tough ninth place at the NCAA Division III Midwest Regionals at Wabash College in Indiana on Saturday, Mar. 1.

The team came away with only 40 points for the day.

"We did not perform well at regionals," said Coach Todd Hibbs.

"It has weighed on me heavy and on our staff since returning from there. We are a better team than we displayed that day."

Going into regionals, the team ranked sixth, which is quite the accomplishment in a very competitive region.

"We were the sixth highest ranked team in the regional going in, so like I said—we underperformed," said Hibbs.

"Our regional is easily the toughest in the nation. We must be tougher in order to achieve our goals in this regional," he said.

Standout athlete for the day **Jamie Jakes ('16)** placed third in the 174-weight class. He came back from losing his first match to win the next four.

With this finish, Jakes is the first national qualifier from the Alma wrestling program since it first started three years ago.

"Jamie was an example of who we need to be in order to reach our goal of being a Top Ten team in our first five years of existence," Hibbs said.

"This is year three, and we climbed as high as number 23 in the nation. If members of our team can replicate the following things that Jamie does well, then we will reach our goals."

Jakes knows that the contest

on Mar. 14 will test his athleticism and be a memorable match in the program's history.

"I'm always at least a little nervous before every match I wrestle, but it's okay because I perform best under pressure," said Jakes.

"No matter what I'm feeling before my match, when I step on the mat, my emotions turn off and I focus completely on the match I'm in at that moment."

Hibbs is sure that with all the hard work that Jakes puts in both on and off the mats, he will prove tough competition for anyone he faces at nationals.

"He once said to me after a difficult match his freshman year, 'Coach, I will not... NOT GET BETTER,'" said Hibbs.

"We laughed about the poor usage of the English language and then celebrated the tremendous attitude."

"By the way, he also has over a 3.6 GPA," Hibbs added.

Jakes also thinks highly of his coaches, training staff, and teammates, attributing much of his success this season to them.

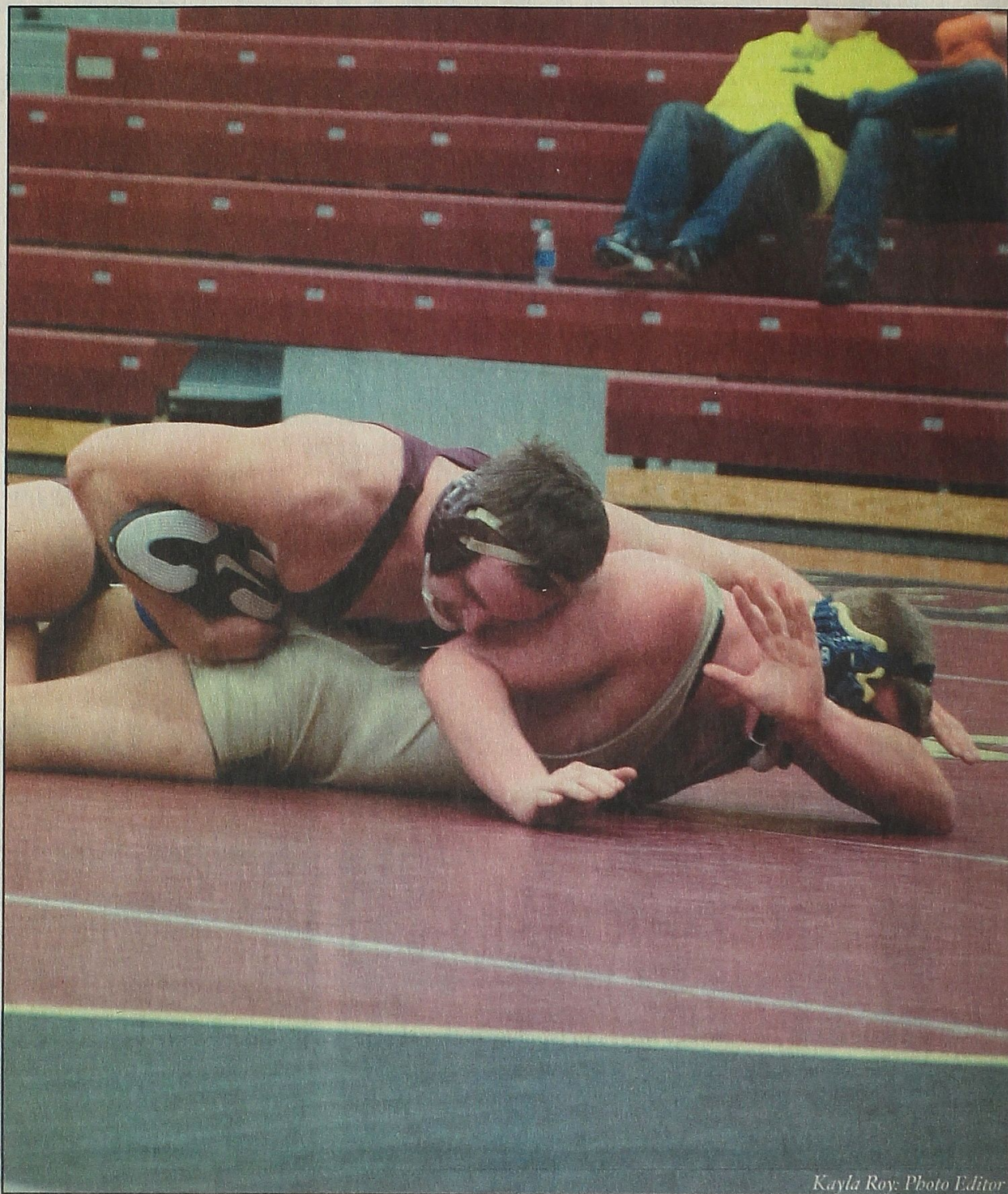
"My coaches are a huge part of my success," Jakes said. "Fletcher has gotten me strong in a short time."

"Tobias is the best technique coach I know and he works with all of us every day."

"Hibbs is the leader that keeps everything together and running smoothly," he said.

The season comes to a close as the Scots send Jakes to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the national competition.

*Editor's note: results from last Friday's meet indicate that, despite a strong performance, Jakes finished his season 0-2 at nationals.*



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

**Jamie Jakes ('16) became the first national qualifier for Alma since the wrestling program was reinstated three years ago. As a team, Alma finished ninth at the 12-team event, scoring 40 total points. Jakes finished third at 174 pounds and traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the national tournament.**

### Upcoming Home Games:

**Baseball: March 27 vs. Olivet**

**Men's Lacrosse: April 5 vs. Trine**

**Men's Tennis: March 27 vs. Defiance**

**Softball: March vs. Olivet**

**Women's Lacrosse: Saturday vs. Defiance**

**Women's Tennis: Thursday vs. Spring Arbor**

**Go Scots!**

### Tracy Gallihugh's ('15) six-goal game leads Scots to victory

By BRENT LUPLOW  
STAFF WRITER

The Scots' women's lacrosse squad traveled to Chicago last Saturday to take on the Robert-Morris Eagles.

Timely goals and a good team defensive effort led Alma to a 15-10 win, its third of the season.

Alma opened the scoring quickly as **Emily Zadny ('17)** and **Sydney Bryce ('15)** scored goals within the first minute.

Robert-Morris's players then answered with two quick goals of their own.

A few minutes later, **Ashton Street ('16)** scored her lone goal of the day to make the score 3-2 in favor of the Scots.

**Valkyrie Progar ('17)** netted her second goal of her career halfway through the first period on an assist from Bryce to increase Alma's lead by two.

"We really connected during this game; it was the first game our team worked together as a unit instead of individuals, [and] we never stopped fighting for that win," said Progar.

**Tracy Gallihugh ('15)** increased her statistical lead in the MIAA in goals scored, with her first of six goals for the day, to push the lead to 5-2 in Alma's favor.

"Today's game will set the tone for the rest of the season," said Gallihugh. "We really played

as a team which allowed us to be on the same page on the field."

Statistically, each team took 26 shots on the day. However, a tough defensive effort by the Scots, only allowing 10, helped bring home the victory.

**NEXT GAME:**  
Saturday  
at Defiance College  
(OH)

Three goals for Robert-Morris and a goal each from Gallihugh, Bryce, and **Stephanie Chou ('17)** gave Alma an 8-5 lead at halftime.

"When we are doing well defensively, our offense is able to take that momentum and use it to our advantage," said **Emily Reverman ('16)**. "Our effort defensively leads to more opportunities for our offense to score."

Reverman, a returning all-conference defender, has been a big part of Alma's defense this year as she leads the defenders with 17 ground balls.

She, along with Zadny and Street, collected three versus Robert Morris.

**Stephanie Herman ('14)** continued her tough play in the goal, making six saves.

At the end of the day, the Scots were led by Gallihugh with six goals, Chou with three, and Bryce with three. Chou and Bryce also collected one assist each.