

# THE ALMANIAN

SERVING ALMA COLLEGE SINCE 1907

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## Dance Company to present fall concert series

By PAIGE EMERSON  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Dance Company will present a combination of both new and older routines choreographed by the program's faculty by way of five shows to be put on for the Alma community this week.

The routines to be performed include "Nut Crikey" and "Reminiscent," which were both choreographed by Professor Hazel Sabas; "Heat/Light" and "A Dance Altered," both of which were choreographed by Lynn Andrews; and "Crossroads," which was choreographed by Kristen Bennett.

This year the Alma College Dance Company has welcomed seven new freshmen members, including **Sydney Brooks ('18)**, **Katherine Bruck ('18)**, **Victoria Coykendall ('18)**, **Kelsey Dennis ('18)**, **Kathryn Kalamaras ('18)**, **Laura Lowe ('18)**, and **Alexandra Bourne ('18)**.

"The dance program here is great; there are dancers from every genre which makes working together a creative and fun process," said Coykendall. "It has been awesome getting to know all of the other dancers. ACDC is like a great big family."

"This show is the end result of what we all have been working on the past few months. I will be part of the new ballet, "Nut Crikey," which is an alternative to the popular Nutcracker ballet. I'm excited to see how the audience reacts to this new ballet; it is going to be very different from anything they will be expecting!"

Sabas, an assistant professor of dance, said that the "dancers are well-trained in a strong ballet and modern foundation. They will be featured in different styles of dance ranging from classical to modern to jazz."

"We have very talented dancers who are well-disciplined in their various majors — most double major and are still able to live up to the challenges of being a member of ACDC."

Sabas continued that "we are very excited to feature our students in various forms of dance choreography of professional caliber created by our very own dance faculty, who are all seasoned choreographers."

Andrews, a visiting assistant professor of dance, shared that she has "choreographed two new dances for the Fall Concert. The first work is titled 'Heat/Light,' which was inspired by the science, philosophy and art of emergence."

She explained, "I set out making this dance by asking these questions: What happens when there is no leader? How can separate parts suddenly organize themselves into a unified whole? How do our individual actions or movement affect the group?"

"The second dance is titled 'A Dance Altered,' and it's choreographic structure was informed by the music (a prepared piano)" she continued.

Bennett, one of the Alma College Dance Company's instructors, shared, "our dancers will be performing pieces by each of our three faculty, including myself. Each piece is unique and filled with an energy that really resonates with our students. Our ballet faculty, Hazel Sabas, is revisiting her work "Reminiscent" and giving nostalgia a time to shine.

"I will be setting a jazz piece that is inspired by being at the crossroads of life. I am using music by Leadbelly, Tina Turner and Son of Dave. The dancers move through a very lethargic process with a slow section that involves pathways and light. They then move into a jazz piece that laments lost love. Finishing the routine is an up-tempo piece that includes elements of jazz and hip



Marcella Flury; Staff Photographer

*Marissa Relitz ('16), Megan Isom ('17) and Katia Hamamouche ('17) rehearse for the upcoming dance concert last week during tech rehearsal.*

hop.

"I have also stepped into a new position this semester on top of my teaching responsibilities," said Bennett, excitedly. "I am now recruiting for the theatre and dance department in an effort to really grow and develop our program. It is a very exciting time for our program and we are all looking forward to many wonderful possibilities."

"I think the dance program has undergone a lot of really good changes in the last year, especially with the addition of Professor Andrews in the department. Audience members should be really excited to see two new works she has created for the company's

upcoming concert - I think the pieces are going to be something new and a real enhancement to the fall lineup," shared **Megan Isom ('17)**, a member of the Pi Delta Chi Honors Dance Society.

**Marianna Smith ('17)** further stated, "I believe next semester we will have two guest artists coming to set pieces for the company. I'm personally looking forward to strengthening my skills and broadening my dance vocabulary with the help of some fantastic new faculty members!"

**Katia Hamamouche ('16)**, also a member of the Pi Delta Chi Honors Dance Society said, "I am excited for our upcoming performances where Lynn

Andrews will make her Alma College debut as a choreographer. I am also getting very excited for our Student Choreographers Concert in January. This is a very special concert for the dancers because we put together the entire show by ourselves - from the costumes and choreography to the lighting design, everything is produced by the students."

The performances are to be held in the Heritage building on Thursday through Sunday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 3 p.m. Sunday is student night, and tickets will be free to all Alma College students who show their I.D. at the box office inside the entrance to the Heritage center.

## Election Day: A brief rundown of who is on the ballot for Gratiot County, State

By NICOLE ECCLES  
OPINION EDITOR

On Tuesday, people from across Michigan and the U.S. will head out to their polling places and exercise one of their most important constitutional rights. Though not as popular as voting in the Presidential election, Tuesday's midterm elections are actually more impactful to voters' daily lives.

Midterm elections decide the state governor, secretary of state, attorney general, senator, supreme court justice, and other local positions. These more directly affect citizens, as it is

these people who represent them in the federal government. Citizens who make the decisions that affect people's daily lives. Decisions related to education, roads, and legalization of marijuana are all made during the midterm elections.

Alma College alumnus **Gary Peters ('80)** is on the ballot for U.S. Senate as a Democrat, running against Terri Lynn Land, a Republican small business owner. Peters is running on a platform that is against the privatization of healthcare and for raising the minimum wage. Land, on the other hand, promises to repeal and replace Obamacare and to lower taxes.

"If you are honestly concerned about the way our nation is run, then you must go out and exercise

your right to vote; it's your responsibility, your obligation," said **Matt Yettaw ('15)**.

Jeff Holmes, a local physician here in Alma, is running for Congress in the fourth District, which encompasses Clare, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Isabella, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Osceola, and Roscommon counties. His opponent is John Moolenaar from Mt. Pleasant, who supports stronger border security, repealing the Affordable Care Act, and increasing national defense.

Many students have been volunteering and interning with the Holmes for Congress campaign, since the headquarters is located in downtown Alma. Students receive experience and

college credit by helping the campaign make calls, canvas, do research, and run events.

"Interning with the Holmes campaign has been an awesome way to proactively be involved in politics and issues that are really important to me as well as contribute to putting a great leader and community member in office," said **Marianna Smith ('17)**, a communications intern for the campaign.

Another important race for the state is between Rick Snyder and Mark Schauer for governor. Snyder is the incumbent and is running for re-election on the platform of creating more jobs and revitalizing the education system. Mark Schauer, running as a Democrat, wants to focus on undoing education cuts,

eliminating taxes on retirement income and the property tax hike.

Leading up to this vote, campus organizations have held registration drives, as well as sign-ups for absentee ballots. Many students have changed their residency in order to vote in this district.

The polling place for people who have signed up to vote in this area is the First Presbyterian Church, 495 Charles Ave. from 7 a.m.- 8 p.m. Non-partisan voter guides are available on campus in the library and many dorm lobbies to help inform students before the vote.

"Voting is an opportunity to change what you think needs to be changed, so go out and vote!" said **Earl Carr ('17)**.



## ACUB sponsors first-ever Halloween party in Hamilton Commons featuring live DJ, bar



Above Left and Right: Students attend the first ever ACUB Halloween party held in Saga. The event featured a live DJ, a bar for students over 21, and a costume contest.

By SAM COYKENDALL  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Last weekend, the college, in partnership with ACUB, hosted the first annual Halloween party and costume contest in the history of the school. This event came about as a result of weekend programming put into place by the college and headed by Gelston Hall Director and ACUB advisor, **Morgan Bauman ('13)**.

The event was held in Hamilton Commons from 9 p.m. until midnight and was open to the campus.

The intent behind the Halloween party was to provide a safe and fun atmosphere where students could enjoy themselves without getting into potentially dangerous situations. This need

for a location for students to hang out and drink, if they are of age, stemmed from the recent changes to the campus's alcohol policy and some of the limitations that have been placed on traditional weekend venues.

ACUB's sponsored event was considered a great first success. With over 300 students in attendance throughout the evening, both members of the college and ACUB were pleased with the turnout. In the future, both groups look to reach a larger number of the student population.

To ensure a safe and legal place for students of age who choose to drink alcohol, campus security scanned all state identification, as well as cross-checking with college-issued ID's. Refreshments

were provided with an alcoholic beverage limit of three – either Bud Light or Mike's Hard – and a variety of snacks and soft drinks were available for all attendees.

Events taking place during the night featured a live DJ who played a variety of group line dance songs as well as currently popular music. The DJ also served as the host of the costume contest that took place at 11:30pm.

Prizes were awarded to the top three in individual costumes as well as the top three in group costumes. Individual winners included a fierce pirate, a sassy cop, and Maleficent. Group costume winners included a Dr. Seuss theme group, the Spice Girls, and Charlie Brown and Sally Brown.

Additionally, pumpkins from

Hamilton's pumpkin carving contest were used as decorations around the area and were available for viewing. Lining the entrance to the party were Day of the Dead memorials, each with pictures and ornate decorations for a person who had passed.

Students attending all shared positive reactions about the college's first ever Halloween party.

"The party felt pretty nostalgic. The DJ just played a song from my high school prom," said **John Starmann ('15)**, who was dressed as a carved pumpkin. "It was the Cha-Cha Slide."

**Doug Beckman ('15)**, dressed as Thing 4, said, "It's a great thing the school is doing by hosting this party. I really think the students are having fun."

"It's nice to see a lot of people on campus coming together in one place and having a good time," said **David Slusser ('15)**, dressed as Charlie Brown. "This type of party has great potential. I'd love to see it become a thing."

After the success of ACUB and the college's event, students look forward to the possibilities of the future. "It would be a nice third party venue for Greek life, and we need one of those in town," stated Slusser.

Other students look towards having future themed parties and events. "I would absolutely attend a Christmas themed or St. Patrick's Day party if the college hosted one," said Beckman.

"I'd come by to see what's up, if there were more of these events in the future," said Starmann.

## Sigma Chi's Save-a-Sig raises \$350 for Relay for Life

By MECHON CAREW  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The SAC lobby served to host Sigma Chi's "Save a Sig, Save a Life" fundraiser for Relay for Life last Thursday, which entailed tying up two Sigma Chi brothers and asking for donations from passerby to either keep the brothers in bondage or free them. The deal? The brothers could be freed once \$125 was placed in their "freedom" bucket.

"We've been out here since 8 in the morning just trying to raise as much money as we can," stated **Tony Knop ('15)**, President of the chapter and one of the members who was tied to a chair for the cause.

It seemed that the majority of donators were more interested in keeping him and **Jerry Cupples ('16)** imprisoned, as their "freedom" funds never managed to raise far enough above their "captive" cup.

However, overall the event was very successful, raising over \$350 by 6 p.m., a whole \$100 over their goal. Knop even mentioned that

this may become an annual event due to the success of it.

Cupples in particular was very grateful for the contributions from outside his close group of friends. "It's a great feeling when people who I don't know still donate," he said. "You don't know me, you don't have to donate, but you're still doing it out of the kindness of your heart."

Cupples volunteered to participate in the event in order to reconnect with his brothers. "I've been really busy outside of the chapter, and I wanted to get more involved again," he explained.

However, the actual holding of the event began as a form of punishment from the Interfraternity Council, IFC. After two members accidentally wore their Greek letters during Move-In Day, a big no-no in Greek Life policy, the entire chapter was required to raise over \$250 for Relay for Life before November 1.

"I mean, it's for a good cause," said **Daniel Brandt ('16)**, the philanthropy chair.

All the members that were involved were very excited at the prospect of helping to raise money for cancer research and

awareness. In fact, a few shared stories of how cancer has directly affected their lives.

For instance, the mother of Knop's best friend was just recently diagnosed with breast cancer last fall. "That was really, really dramatic for me, having someone that close to me having something as awful as breast cancer, so I try to do as much as I can," he said.

Brandt told a bit of a happier tale. "My little cousin was diagnosed with cancer a couple years back and he survived," he said. "Unfortunately...I feel like everyone knows someone close to them who has been affected by cancer, and that's sad. But that's why everyone's working for a cure."

With such strong reasons to raise money, it's no wonder that Sigma Chi is already planning a number of future events, the first of which has already taken place, including a co-event with Alpha Xi Delta to build a bike path for a mother with two autistic sons in Birch Run to help support Autism Speaks.

"Really, we're just trying to do as much as we can for the other Greek organizations and try to raise as much money for all their worthy philanthropies and organizations," Knop said.

The next big event Sigma Chi is focusing on its annual hosting of Derby Days, during which all of the sororities compete against each other to raise the most money for the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

As a Kappa Iota brother and close friend of members in every other sorority, Cupples is very

enthusiastic about Derby Days. "Hopefully they'll all come out and support us and in turn we'll support them."

At the end of the day, there's a lot of anticipation coming from

Sigma Chi for this year.

"We're excited to help out the campus community this year, raise as much money as possible, and look forward to a good semester," Brandt concluded.



Sigma Chi tied up two of its brothers in SAC to raise money for Relay for Life

### Letter Policy:

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

Email letters to:  
Crystal Snow  
editor.almanian@gmail.com



## Alma celebrates Hindu Diwali

### Students become enlightened about the festival of lights and Hinduism

By ABIGAIL FERGUS  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Last Monday night, the Interfaith Council hosted a Diwali event, a Hindu religious celebration. Two members of the Bharatiya Temple of Lansing discussed the Hindu religion, what Diwali celebrates, and a demonstration of a puja to the goddess Lakshmi.

The first lesson of the night was that Hinduism is monotheistic. Shashi Karve, member of the Bharatiya Temple, gave examples to illustrate the Hindu take on God: "To them, there's only one God. But God manifests in infinite ways. God manifests as functions. When I'm hungry, the food giver is God that gives food. When we have a loved one that is ill, the function of taking care of the ill person [is God.]"

Karve went on to teach that

if one is truly Hindu, one will be tolerant of everyone. Individuals are valued for their unique qualities and paths in life.

"Hindus believe in infinite paths to obtain God," she said. "And all of that is not only accepted or tolerated, but embraced and encouraged, because each of us has different needs, we have unique constitutions, and different language. Each individual is encouraged to find their own way of obtaining God."

Once an image of true Hinduism was painted, the Diwali ceremony began. A puja, or prayer, was given to Ganesha. Ganesha is known as the remover of obstacles and is always prayed to before other Hindu avatars and goddesses. Next, a puja was raised up to Lakshmi.

Karve described the meaning behind Diwali.

Karve compared Lakshmi visiting on Diwali for Hindu children to Santa visiting on

Christmas for Christians. Children are told to light lamps and that Lakshmi travels the earth and blesses those who were good and have lit lamps.

As Hindus grow and mature, Karve said they grow a deeper understanding of Diwali. "They realize, 'I need to light up that lamp within myself. I need to overcome that ignorance, that darkness in me that leads to jealousy, resentment [and] hatred. That's who Lakshmi will visit.'"

The Diwali event was a success.

Emily Johnson ('15) said, "I, and the other council members were very pleased with the turnout. There were more students that attended this year than our event last year. Many of the students appeared very engaged and asked probing questions about the ceremony they were witnessing. Ultimately, these are the students we hope will carry this curiosity and acceptance into their careers

and life experiences beyond Alma."

One of the students Johnson mentioned, Krista Botting ('18), shared what she learned.

"I feel as if I have a better understanding of Hinduism in general and Diwali, the festival of lights, more specifically. For instance, I did not fully understand that Hinduism is actually monotheistic, but where each 'god' that is worshiped is really a different aspect of the same God."

The Interfaith Council's Facebook page describes its mission: "AC Interfaith works-through dialogue, service, and campus events—to create platforms of coexistence for students to discover and better understand the diverse perspectives of their peers as well as communities beyond—whether affiliated with a faith or not."

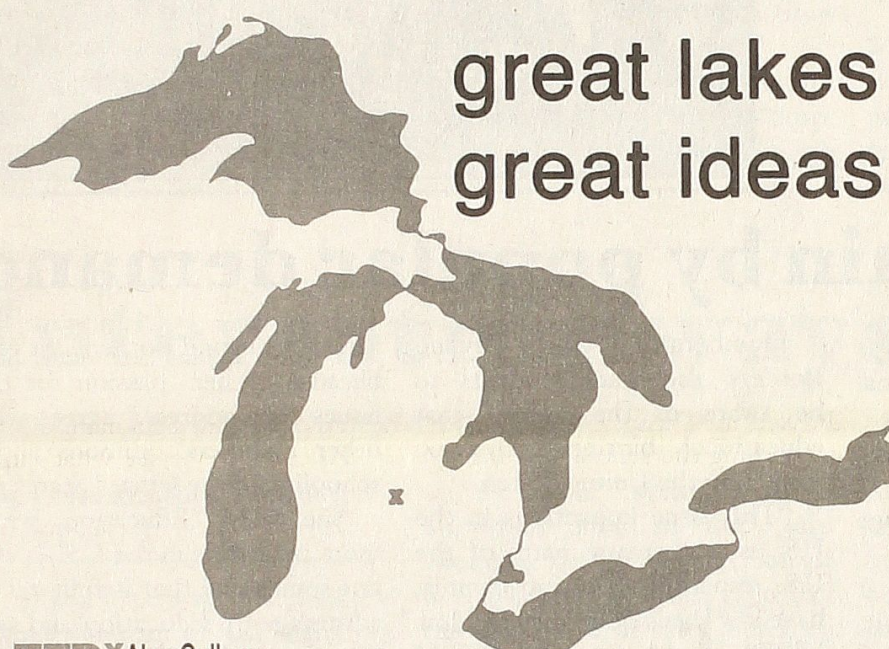
"As a member of Interfaith Youth Core's Better Together

campaign, our campus goal is to spark conversation and help reduce prejudice, working toward a more peaceful global community."

The Diwali event helped to fulfill The Interfaith Council's mission by teaching about and accepting a unique religion.


"I am really interested in learning about other faiths," said Botting. "I believe that the best way to reduce strife and general negativity between people of different backgrounds is to understand why they do the things they do and believe the things they believe. I know that everyone looks at the world differently, and what one believes is a great part of that. I got a look into a part of the Hindu culture."

To be a part of peaceful coexistence, and to find out about upcoming events like Diwali, consider joining Interfaith. Interfaith meets on Monday nights at 8:30 in SAC 104.




## great lakes great ideas

**This week, the TEDx Alma College team will begin taking applications and nominations for event speakers. Students may either nominate themselves or others to give a TEDx talk at the event on Jan. 24. A TEDx talk is meant to express a well thought out idea in 18 minutes or less. Before applying, potential speakers should be prepared to answer why they wish to give a talk, how they think their ideas can shape college students, how they would help TEDx Alma College succeed in spreading ideas, and how they discovered what they are passionate about. Keep an eye out for posters around campus that will detail how to apply or nominate a TEDx speaker.**




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Join us, January 24, 2015  
Presbyterian Hall

Photos Courtesy of Justin Closs ('14)

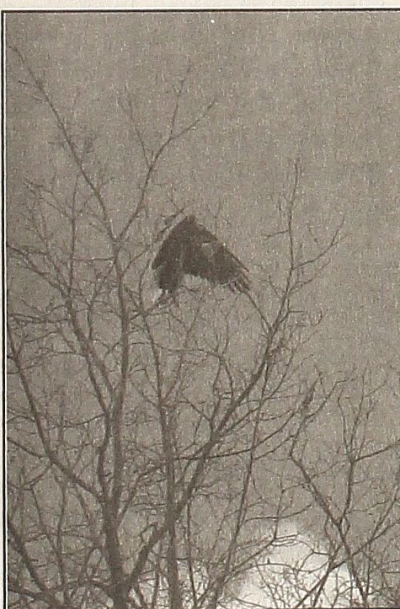




Find us on Facebook  
https://www.facebook.com/TEDxAlmaCollege  
and join us on January 24, 2015



x = independently organized TED event

## Bald eagle sighting



*Rebekah Irani: Photographer*

**Almanian photographer Rebekah Irani ('16) spotted a bald eagle in front of the Swanson Academic Center and was able to take some snapshots before it flew away.**

## Veteran honors others who protect the underdog

By CHELSEY COBB  
STAFF WRITER

To quote Illinois Congressman Dan Lipinski, "On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free."

This year, Veterans Day falls on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Not to be confused with Memorial Day, Veterans Day is a national holiday where all people who have served in the armed forces are honored for their service, whereas Memorial Day focuses more on those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Nov. 11, also known as Armistice Day throughout the world after World War I's Armistice of Compiègne on Nov. 11, 1918, signed between the allied forces and Germany, has been celebrated as a national holiday since President Wilson proclaimed it a commemoration day in 1919.

It was not until 1938 that Armistice Day became a legal holiday in the United States; however, its main focus was to honor those who served in World War I. After World War II and the Korean War, in 1954, "Armistice

was changed to "Veterans" to honor Americans who served in all wars.

To celebrate Veterans Day, Alma College has invited Jay Kopelman as its Veterans Day speaker. At 7 p.m. on November 11 in the Chapel at Alma College, Kopelman will talk about his own military experience and on his work assisting veterans affected with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"The perspective he brings is one of a lifetime of service, both in the military and as a civilian," said Bob Cunningham, associate professor of economics, who himself once served in the U.S. Army.

Kopelman served for 21 years as an officer for the Marines before serving as the executive of a non-profit organization for helping wounded soldiers and their families. He is currently a contractor with Janssen Healthcare Innovation, where he helps lead innovative approaches to improve patient outcomes with new technology.

In 2006, Kopelman was interviewed by CBS News correspondent Richard Schlesinger about his personal mission to save a dog named Lava in Fallujah. In that piece on CBS Evening News, he stated that his mission to save Lava was not any different from what Marines do—protecting the underdog.

He also has written two books: "From Baghdad with Love: A Marine, The War, And A Dog Named Lava" and "From Baghdad to America: Life after War for a Marine and His Rescued Dog."

"On Veteran's Day, I focus on the millions of other veterans who were deployed and fought, and who were wounded physically or mentally, or who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Cunningham.

Cunningham served in the U.S. Army from 1988 to 1992. While in active duty, he was a member of a tank crew and headquarters unit. He also served in the active reserve in a supply battalion.

In 1926, Congress passed a resolution calling for November 11 to be not only a day of remembrance but also as a day to perpetuate peace through good works and a mutual understanding between nations. People once called World War I the 'war to end all wars.' Armistice Day was to remember the end of war as well as the soldiers who fought for peace.

Many wars have occurred throughout American history, but the meaning of Veterans Day has remained. On this Veterans Day, take time to remember those who have served or are serving in the American armed forces; remember their courage, and everything they were willing to do for their country, family, and for the nation's people.



**BY ALEXANDRA BOURNE**  
STAFF WRITER

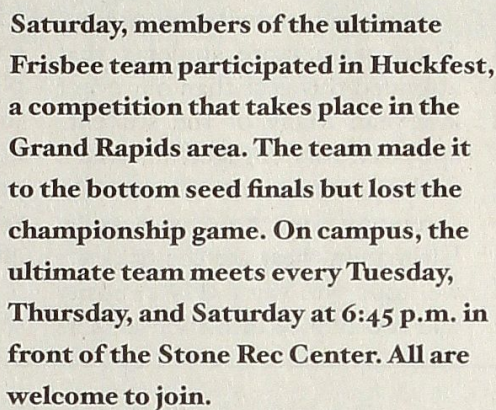
Each year the lobby is plastered with pictures and facts about the human rights violations that Amnesty International has chosen to focus on. This year's theme was police brutality.

Alma College's branch of this organization focuses on bringing awareness to campus by picking a certain topic to focus on and holding awareness events, including those on Guantanamo Bay and the Nuremberg Trials. This year's focus is police brutality and international conflicts such as

"My hope is that after seeing the House of Horrors, students will start to realize that the people who are paid to serve and protect are beginning to fail at their jobs," said **Jessica Isler ('17)**, vice president. "However, it's not

"I want people to take a look

"At Alma, we're in a privileged position to make a difference," concluded Asiala. "Those interested should come to Amnesty International on Thursdays in the Rotunda at 8 p.m. to talk about our display and any other human rights related issues."



*Abigail Fergus: Community Editor*



BY CHELSEARAE ROWLEY  
WEB EDITOR

The 2013 film “tells the stories of nine girls from different parts of the world who face arranged marriages, child slavery, and other heartbreaking injustices. Despite these obstacles, the brave girls

Along with Brinklow, senior

Each year, with the help of the Posey-Global Scholarship, two members of Literacy Beyond Borders get the chance to travel to the Volta Region in Ghana to work in the schools. The club has a long term connection with the organization Adanu, formerly known as Disaster Volunteers of Ghana (DIVOG).

**Amanda McKeith ('17),**  
who became involved with

The group would also like to note that if issues like these spark a personal interest, any student could become involved. If curious about joining Literacy Beyond Borders, please contact the organization's president, **Lisa Folkmire ('15)**, at [folkmirelr@alma.edu](mailto:folkmirelr@alma.edu).

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

The business manager handles sales of advertisements and subscriptions. Contact Sam Coykendall at [busmgr.almanian@gmail.com](mailto:busmgr.almanian@gmail.com) for additional information.

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Dan Murawske  
Ray Visser  
Sam Coykendall  
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[illegible]



Varmit Town: Part I

By RAY VISSAR  
STAFF WRITER

Mack’s sky-blue convertible rounded the bend in the road at 65 miles per hour, scattering fallen early-November leaves like confetti. A web of trees formed a thick wall on either side of the pavement.

Driving with one hand on the wheel and the other resting on the back of the passenger seat, Mack exuded the casual confidence that comes so easily to those whose parents buy them expensive cars. His stiff letter jacket punched against the onrush of wind.

In the passenger seat was Natasha, whom Mack considered his girlfriend. Everyone but Mack called her “Nat” and also knew she wasn’t really dating him. She had told him all of this, numerous times, but it had never quite sunk in.

As Mack sped down a straightaway, a furry brown mass shot across the road twenty yards in front of the car. It moved in a strange wavelike motion, like a flag flapping in the wind or a magic carpet.

Nat saw it first because Mack had turned to admire her or talk about how fast they were going, and she screamed something that started incoherently and ended

with the word “deer!”

This word fired a synapse in a deep, unacknowledged area of Mack’s subconscious. This area concerned itself with predicting his parents’ reactions to Mack wrecking a third sports car in as many months. His hands clenched the wheel and acted on instinct alone.

The car swerved crazily onto the roadside gravel and then skidded back to stop sideways across the road. Nat and Mack sat in a daze while the furry mass vanished into the forest behind them.

Mack took several heaving, shaking breaths while unsuccessfully trying to hide them behind the façade of a coughing fit.

“It’s dusty out here,” he finally choked.

“I don’t think that was a deer,” Nat said. She was peering into the woods where the creature had disappeared. “It was too furry.”

“Yeah, good thing,” Mack mumbled. He turned to Nat. But she had no eyes for him. She was squinting, over his shoulder and slightly up.

“Natasha? Ready to go?” Mac snapped his fingers an inch from her eyes.

Nat swatted his hand away and shook her head to clear it. “Stop. Saw something moving. Up in the trees.”

“We didn’t hit it. She’s okay.” Mack patted the steering wheel affectionately and turned to get back on the road. As soon as he touched the gas pedal, a distressed grinding and rumbling sounded from underneath the car.

He turned to Nat, who straightened her mouth, perked up one eyebrow, and tilted her head toward his door.

After a moment of stooping to look under the car, Mack barked a pained laugh. His head popped up over the edge of the door. “We didn’t start with two flat tires, right?”

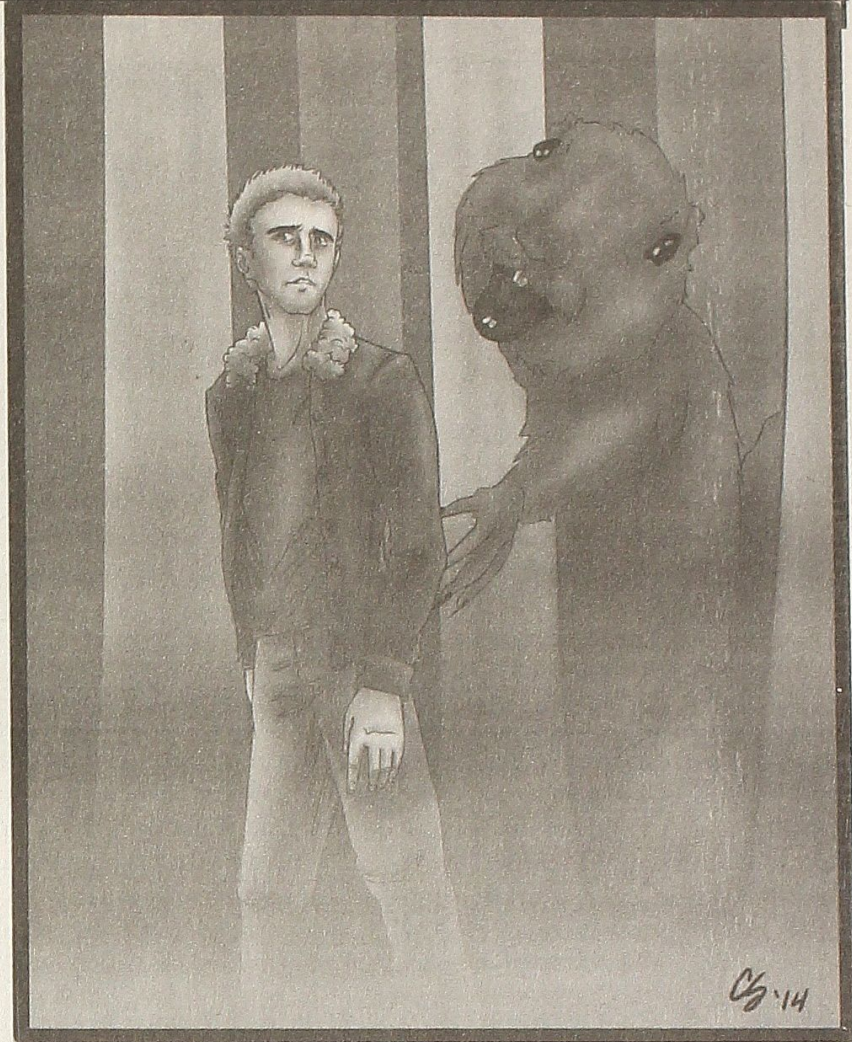
“Flat? Like, out of air flat?”

“Shredded flat.” A second after ducking down again, he appeared clutching a jagged piece of rubber, tire tread clearly visible. “From when we skidded. Gotta be.”

“Mack, please just get us home.” Nat was thinking about the trees. The shapes she had seen scurrying between the trunks were vague, dim outlines on a dim backdrop. But they had all moved in the same wavy pattern as the creature in the road.

“I don’t have two spares.” Mack’s voice faded as he paced down the road. “So our options are to walk into town, or wait for—” The sentence cut off with a hideous shriek. Nat whipped

Varmit Town is a new three part fictional series that will continue in the next two issues of the Almanian. See what happens next week.



Cassidy Shankleton; Staff Illustrator

around in her seat just in time to watch a brown mass slam into Mack and knock him down.

Yelling without words, Nat leaped over her door and stumbled toward Mack. The creature attacking him had a huge bushy tail and was making a rapid low-

pitched chattering sound as Mack tried to kick it away.

Mack was screaming, Nat was screaming, as the creature was chattering as a set of blindingly bright headlights roared around the bend in the road.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Interesting ways to get paid on campus

By CHELSEARAE ROWLEY  
WEB EDITOR

If you have a specific hobby, a career interest, or just searching for a job; the odds are there is a part-time position available for you here on campus.

From working in the gym to catering food with Sodexo, there are several opportunities for students to gain professional experience. After surveying a handful of undergraduates, I have collected a list of five of the most interesting jobs available to students. Here is what I came up with:

1. **Athletic Game Staff**

Love sports? You can get paid by the Athletic Department to work different games. Jobs include: bookkeeping, timing, courtside management, and several others.

“We are actually given important jobs to do,” said **Morgan Waier (’15)**. “A lot of jobs if they aren’t done right can ruin the game or stats, but they [the Athletic Department] trust us.”

2. **Admissions Tour Guide**

If you’re passionate about Alma College and would love to influence perspective students’ opinions of campus, being a tour guide would be perfect for you.

When asked about the job **Taylor Tripp (’15)**—a tour guide for Admissions—said, “I love being able to interact with the families and inspire others to come to Alma, especially getting others to see the opportunities Alma has to offer them.”

3. **Rec Center Employees**

Planning intermural sports tournaments, operating the front desk, and building connections

with community gym members are all apart of working in the Stone Recreation Center. What’s not to love? If this job description sounds appealing a job at the Rec Center is for you.

“I would say that my favorite thing about working at the Rec Center would be interacting with the community members, and of course the students, as they scan in,” said **Matt Loomis (’15)**. “My favorite time is in the morning between 8:00-11:00, because the senior community members are so nice and very talkative.”

4. **Resident Assistants**

Love to help other students? Resident Assistants are dedicated undergraduate workers striving to make living on campus safe and fun. If you love event planning, meeting new people, and working in a team environment,

definitely consider applying for this position.

“It gives you a chance to interact with people you might not have gotten to meet otherwise, and having your own room doesn’t hurt either,” said **Brandy Lancewicz (’15)**.

5. **Bitworks-Student Production Company**

Last but not least, Bitworks, a student run production company, makes the cut at number five. Bitworks utilizes student workers’ talents in video and photo editing to better the campus and the surrounding community.

“Bitworks has provided me with a great opportunity to hone my skills in professional video production,” said **Jon Clark (’16)**. “It’s mutually beneficial for new media students and the campus community. We are able to provide services for any group

with a digital media need, and in turn we learn how the professional world works while also receiving some money for our hard work.”

Just because certain jobs were not featured in this article, it does not mean that they are uninteresting.

In fact, I created a list of “Honorable Mention Jobs” that I wish there was space to write about. Some of the positions include: Alma College Security Student Ticket Writers, working at College Corner, Alma College Union Board, Marketing Internships, Theater Technology Workers, Peer Consultants, and Campus Mailroom Staff.

If you’re interested in any of the positions featured in this article, please make sure to contact the corresponding department or visit Plaidlink to research campus jobs online!

Sudoku

Sudoku is a type of number puzzle. If you’re not familiar, here are the rules:

- Each 3x3 square can contain each number (1 through 9) no more or less than once.
- Each row and column can contain each number no more or less than once.
- The puzzle is complete when all spaces are filled in.

Sudoku difficulty is determined by how many numbers are initially filled in. This sudoku is considered “medium.”

There are many different types of sudoku, so if you like this, try out some more!

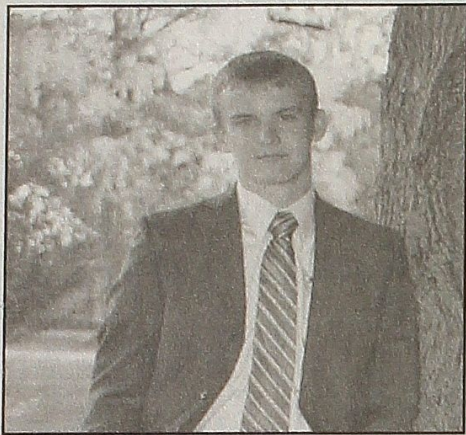
	7			9			1	
1	3		2				5	6
		5			1	9		
		7					6	
4				6				2
	6					7		
		2	7			6		
3	5				2		7	8
	9			8			4	



Campus Comment

By SAM COYKENDALL

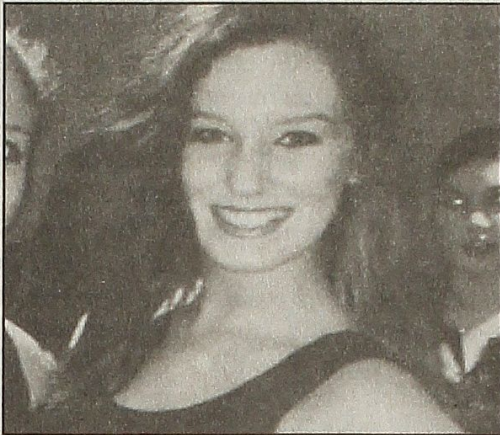
We asked: “What’s the most impactful class you’ve taken at Alma?”



**Tyler Schuiteman ('15)**  
Major(s): Business Administration  
Hometown: Williamston, MI



**Cailee Drzinski ('15)**  
Major(s): Communications  
Hometown: Grosse Ile, MI



**Morgan Markowicz ('16)**  
Major(s): Business Admin/Dance  
Hometown: St. Claire Shores, MI



**Alexandra Woodburn ('15)**  
Major(s): Education  
Hometown: Ada, MI

“I would say the most worthwhile class I’ve taken has been Intro to Communications. No matter what profession you go into, communications will play a vital role in your job. Good personal and professional skills are some of the top things that recruiters look for in a potential employee. “

“COM 192 is a great introduction into Public Relations. Professor Stiffler has worked professionally in the business and knows exactly how to teach it while keeping it interesting and exciting. I learned a lot of things that can be applied across many other industries and also realized that I wanted to do PR for a profession.”

“I chose my spring term trip to Germany because it was the experience of a lifetime. Dr. Lui did great job planning it and I learned so much about history and the culture of Germany and Poland that I would have never gotten out of a textbook.”

“I chose my EDC 470 internship because I’ve had the opportunity to collaborate with three speech pathologists in the Alma area, build upon what I’ve learned in the classroom the past three years, and work with students of several different ages.”

“Nightcrawler” receives mixed reviews for triggering scenes, engrossing storyline

By DAN MURAWSKE  
STAFF WRITER

I did not know how to answer my friend when he asked me what I thought of “Nightcrawler,” the new movie starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

A bevy of thoughts raced through my head at a million miles per hour as I tried to comprehend what I just witnessed. But 24 hours after I saw the film, I still did not know what to think.

I went into “Nightcrawler” without seeing any of the trailers, and I was happy about that because when I looked them up afterwards I saw that there were some big plot points revealed.

Honestly, all I knew about the plot was that Gyllenhaal played a character who was involved in crime journalism. As I reflected on my thoughts after seeing the movie, I thought that I enjoyed the viewing experience more than I would have if I had known exactly what it was about.

In that spirit, all I will say about the plot is Gyllenhaal

plays Louis Bloom, a man who is desperate for work and eventually lands a job involved with crime journalism.

Gyllenhaal turns in one of his most dedicated and memorable performances of his career. He did such a good job, it was truly scary. His facial expressions and mannerisms, among other things, actually instilled me with fear.

There is no doubt that the movie is engrossing. The film felt much shorter than its two hour run time. My heart raced as adrenaline pumped through my veins with every passing second.

But certain events that took place in the film enraged me. The things that angered me and the reasons why they triggered such a response cannot be described here, for fear of a spoiler.

This Thursday, Alec Gibson will be talking about “Nightcrawler” on our radio show from 8 p.m.-10 p.m. on WQAC 90.9 FM Alma. The last hour of our show is called “spoiler talk” and in that time we will go into detail about what I have been referring to in this article.

So if you want to know some of my specific thoughts on what I have considered spoilers and have therefore refrained from going into detail about in this column,

tune in to WQAC 90.9 FM Alma radio Thursday at 8 p.m. for “Movievision with Dan and Alec.”

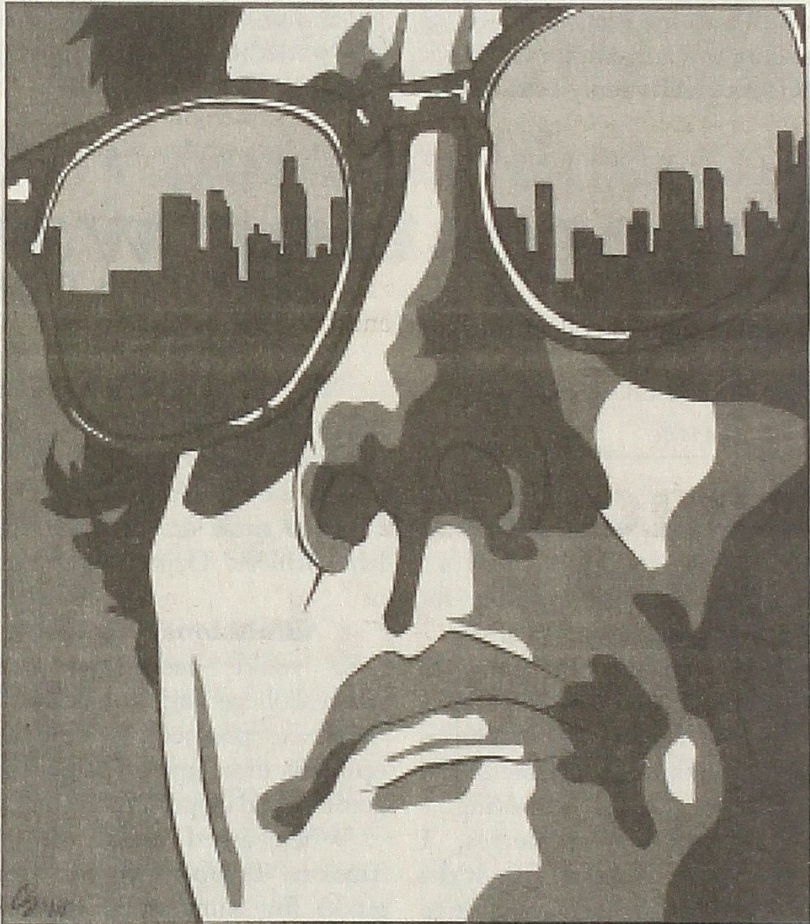
Also, my article next week will be about the spoilers for “Nightcrawler,” so you can read my article next week to find out what angered me in the film.

I can say that I did become a little less angry when I realized that the movie is partly satire. However, when the film starts to play its hand and the way events unfold could send the wrong message to impressionable viewers, especially near the end.

For that reason, along with the fact that the film contains disturbing violence and images, multiple profanities and much strong language, and infrequent, relatively brief but coarse sexual content, it is my opinion that “Nightcrawler” is only suitable for a limited, mature audience.

“Nightcrawler” is rated “R” for “violence including graphic images, and for language.”

As far as a grade, I do not know what to give it. This is because I was extremely entertained every minute of the film, but I was, as I mentioned, angered by some of the happenings. This is not to say that my anger towards this is



Cassidy Shankleton; Staff Illustrator

a bad thing; I actually think it is quite the opposite.

The fact that I express this level of emotion over the occurrences in the film says just how much I was into it.

But right now, I do not have a grade for it. I will have one next week when I do my spoiler talk article about “Nightcrawler.”

But for what it is worth, I hope to see the film again.

Word Search

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

Absentee

Ballot

Congress

Constitution

Democracy

Democrats

Donkey

Elephant

Freedom

Libertarian

Polls

Republicans

Senate

USA

Voting

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



# Women’s soccer beats Trine on Senior Day; looks to finish season strong

By BRENT LUPLOW  
STAFF WRITER

The women’s soccer team opened up the week with a tough loss at Adrian College but roared back with a convincing 3-1 over Trine University on Saturday.

**Kayla Linstruth (’17)** looking forward to the week’s upcoming matches said, “We have to play with intensity for the full 90 minutes and capitalize on our opportunities in order to continue winning games.”

Last Tuesday, the Scots took on Adrian College and got off to a hot start just eight minutes in when **Megan Kalanik (’17)** scored on a header with an assist from **Kailey Vlug (’15)**.

However, Adrian would score once in the first half to deadlock the score at 1-1 into halftime. The Scots and Bulldogs both had 3 shots on goal at the half.

Adrian took the momentum they had to end the half and carried it over as they scored two goals six minutes into the second half to up the score to 3-1 in Adrian’s favor.

Alma’s **Allysen Neumann (’16)** would score a free kick from 30 yards out to pull Alma within one goal at the 64th minute.

Adrian would strike just three minutes later to up the score to 4-2 and would add one more near the end of the game to collect the win

5-2.

Alma was outshot 19-10 and with the loss fell to 7-6-1 in conference play and 9-7-1 overall.

Looking to overcome the tough Adrian loss the Scots welcomed Trine University to Scotland Yard to celebrate the seven seniors’ career on Senior Day.

Vlug, who has been an instrumental part of their program since freshman year said, “Over the past four years this program has meant so much to me. You put in a lot of work and spend so much time with teammates and coaches that you become like family.

“This is a special program filled with very talented and wonderful people. I am really going to miss playing here at Alma College, but I am so blessed that I had the privilege and opportunity to,” Vlug added.

Alma came out of the gates strong when **Macayla Griener (’17)** found the back of the net just three minutes into the game on a corner kick assist from **Mackenzie Smith (’15)**.

Alma would outshoot the Thunder 11-1 the rest of the first half but could not score another goal as the Scots led



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Jessica Burg (’17) fights past a Trine defender while Kelly Wilson (’16) and Megan Kalanik (’17) prepare for a pass.

1-0 at halftime.

Just seven minutes into the second half, Kalanik scored on a header off an assist from **Quinn Huver (’15)**.

**Kelly Wilson (’16)** scored her sixth goal of the season just three minutes later to increase Alma’s

lead to 3-0.

Trine would record a goal late in the game but it was not enough as Alma took the victory 3-1.

Smith said, “We did a good job of moving the ball around and capitalizing on our opportunities. We also were motivated to play

hard for the seniors since it was Senior Day.”

With the win the Scots improve to 8-6-1 in conference and 10-7-1 overall. They return to action Monday, when they take on Kalamazoo College in the last home game of the year.

# Coach Kris Johnson back at Alma College, looking to build strong basketball program

By DOMENIC BAIMA  
STAFF WRITER

The women’s basketball team is adjusting to its new coach, Kris Johnson. Johnson is an Alma College athletics legend, earning the MIAA women’s basketball MVP award both in ’86 and ’87. She also played volleyball and softball. Johnson is also a member of the Alma College Hall of Fame.

After graduating in ’87 with a B.A. in Exercise and Health Science, she began coaching basketball in ’92, joining the coaching staff at Nouvel Catholic Central. While she was the head coach at

Nouvel, she had a record of 253-55 and led the team to two state championships in ’06 and ’08 and two state runner-up finishes.

After the ’06 season, Johnson was named as Detroit Free Press Coach of the Year. Johnson spent 12 years as the head coach at Nouvel.

In addition to coaching, Johnson also served as the Director of Internal Operations for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference where she handled financial transactions of the league and oversaw the budget.

Johnson is happy to be back

in Alma. “I’m completely honored, humbled, and excited for this opportunity,” said Johnson. “I’ve stayed in touch with a lot of people from Alma since I graduated, and they are like my second family.”

“Now that I’m on the administrative end of things as opposed to being a student, I’ve discovered that the people are really still the same caring and special type of people from when I was here as a student, which is good,” she added.

Johnson has transitioned from coaching high school ball to college ball. “Coaching basketball is coaching basketball,” said Johnson. “Everything is pretty much the same. The only new wrinkle is the

recruitment aspect of it, and that is really fun.”

“I believe that Division Three athletics is the last pure amateur arena for sports. You can tell that everybody is just playing for the love of the game,” Johnson said.

Johnson is excited to see where this season will take the team. “Since this is my first season coaching at this level, I don’t really have a measuring stick for where we would like to be,” she said, “But I have seen a lot of progress made so far in practice, and that is important. We took it back to the fundamentals in the first week of practice, and my only real goal right now is that we continue to

get better every day.”

Luckily, Johnson has a solid senior leadership core to help show her the ropes in **Morgan Henry (’15)**, **Grace Wheeler (’15)**, **Mallory Pruett (’15)**, and **Cora Essenmacher (’15)**.

“They have absolutely been helpful. There is no way I would have been able to adjust without them. Also, my assistant, Shonda Long, has been extremely helpful. I’m really proud of where we are and where we can go.”

Although the hiring of Johnson occurred under unfortunate circumstances after the passing of Coach Keisha Brown, Johnson wants to build a strong program.

# Men’s soccer clinches spot in MIAA tournament

By TONY KNOP  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma men’s soccer team traveled to Holland last Wednesday to square off against MIAA rival, the Hope College Flying Dutchmen (8-4-1 MIAA, 13-5-1 overall).

In a hard-fought game, the Scots earned a two-overtime draw 1-1. With the tie, the Scots’ record now stands at 6-6-1 in the MIAA and 7-7-3 overall.

“We went into this no different than any other game,” said Coach Josh Oakley. “We focused on working hard and working for each other. We were unlucky against Hope last time. We were ready for another crack at them.”

In the first half, the Scots recorded four shots in the opening 11 minutes.

“We came out with a lot of energy in the first half and put them on their heels,” said **Matt Sovis (’16)**. “We put a lot of pressure on them causing them to make mistakes, and we eventually capitalized.”

“We were just flat-out outplaying them,” said **Brett Galloway (’15)**. “We also had great first touches and won first and second balls. We were definitely the aggressor in the first half.”

At 12:54, the Scots were able to get on the board when **Zach Vandever (’16)** connected with **Sam Falardeau (’18)** for the early 1-0 lead.

“We had great services into the box off throw-ins and corner kicks, and it led to a great goal from our freshman outside back, Sam Falardeau,” said **Max Vanderpool (’15)**.

The rest of the half became a shootout, as both teams combined for 12 shots. The Scots were able to close the half on top, leading 1-0.

The second half was much more sluggish, as neither team was able to get much going offensively. Hope was able to get the tying goal in at 72:40. The second half closed with both teams knotted up at 1-1.

“Going into overtime our mindset was still the same. Play quick, but not hurried. Chances will come, and take advantage of them when they do,” said Galloway.

“Going into overtime, we knew we would have to match the energy that would come from Hope on their senior night,” said Vanderpool. “We planned to limit their chances by playing a sound defensive game in the middle and taking advantage of chances that we were able to create.”

Both teams played gritty defense in both overtime periods, ending the game in a 1-1 draw. **Ju-lian Birge (’16)** and Sovis paced the Scots with four shots each. Galloway collected seven saves to improve his record to 3-4-2 on the year.

“With the outcome of the game, I was at first disappointed,” said Oakley. “Looking over the 200 minutes we’ve played against Hope,

we have to be a bit disappointed. We had too many close chances to close out both games.”

Alma took on Adrian for a chance to clinch that fourth spot last Saturday.

“We’re at a position where we don’t control our own destiny,” added Oakley. “Saturday was our biggest game of the year, by far.”

The Scots beat Adrian, 3-0 to take fourth place in the conference and a spot in the MIAA tournament.

Alma will take on no. 1 Calvin in the semi-final match Wednesday at 3 p.m.

The winner of that match will face the winner of the two and three seed match of Kalamazoo and Hope.



## Scots drop contest to Lakeland with two games left to play



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Troy Gahm ('16) and Eric Strickler ('15) team up to take down the Lakeland runner.

By DOMENIC BAIMA  
STAFF WRITER

After a disappointing loss at home against Hope, the Scots looked to rebound last weekend in their game against Lakeland College. The contest against Lakeland was the last non-league game of the season, but that did not alleviate any of the pressure on the football team.

"This is just like any other game for us; we need to win," said Coach Greg Pscodna.

"We need to get back on the right track and this is a great opportunity to do so," added linebacker Nick Goodman ('15).

No such home field dominance was established, however, as the Scots lost to Lakeland, 20-17. Dylan Zaborowski ('18) threw for 214 yards and two touchdowns. Senior wide receivers Tyler Watters ('15) and Erik Hines ('15) each caught one of Zaborowski's touchdown throws. Linebacker Terry Calagon ('17) was able to wrap up the opposing quarterback twice and totaled nine tackles.

The team put in a lot of work in practice to prepare for Lakeland. The offense has been plagued with turnover issues and stalled drives all season.

"It is usually because somebody misses a block or drops the ball, and things like that kill drives," said Pscodna.

Lineman Blake Padgett ('15)

added, "Mostly it has come down to one guy missing an assignment, so we have shortened the list of plays to give more repetition to each to limit the mistakes that end drives."

The Scots' offensive woes have resulted in a lot of extra work for the defense. "It's always going to put more pressure on the defense, but you can't worry, you have to just go out and play," said Goodman.

The main focus in practice was picking up the blitz.

"We have to pick up the blitzing linebackers," said Pscodna, "and once that happens, the quarterback needs to make good decisions."

"We have worked hard on that all week," added Padgett. "We practiced every different blitz and

stunt they could throw at us."

Lakeland visited for the Scots' second to last home game of the season. Home field, however, has not been much of an advantage of late, as there have only been two Alma College wins on Bahlke Field in the past two seasons for the football team. The team noted the importance of re-establishing home field dominance.

"The guys have to go out and take a stand; we need to score some touchdowns and let people know that other teams can't win here," commented Pscodna.

"It's important that we establish home field advantage," said Goodman. "We need to come out fast and excited and get the stands into it."

"Everybody wants to have that home field advantage that makes it tough for opponents," added Padgett. "We really want to establish that for our last home game against Albion and for next season."

Alma College is now 2-6 and 0-4 in the MIAA. The Scots will face Albion this Saturday for their last home game of the season.



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Adam Nelson ('15) locks up a Lakeland blocker trying to make a tackle on the play.

## Women's cross country takes fourth; men's team take seventh in MIAA championship

By TONY KNOP  
STAFF WRITER

With a long season nearly in the books, the men's and women's cross country teams hoped to make some noise in the MIAA

championship meet, which was held last Saturday at Calvin College.

Last season the women finished fourth in the conference, while the men finished seventh. This season, both teams were looking for different results.

"This season we had three main team goals," said Coach Matt Chovanec. "We wanted each individual to place one higher spot than last year's conference meet, we wanted to move up one team place higher, and we wanted each person to run faster at Calvin than

they did earlier in the season."

In a highly competitive conference, the Scots will have to have some of their best races of the season to make their seasonal goals a reality.

The women's team will be paced by Kaitlyn Arnold ('17) and Misty Godley ('15), who both have very good chances of earning an all-MIAA award.

"Right now, Kaitlyn is sitting around fifth place and Misty is right around 12th," said coach Chovanec. "We all expect great races coming from those two. I really expect them to run hard and earn all-conference recognition."

This year the women's program is also trying to improve their total team standing in the conference as well.

"We have a solid group of girls this year, and we're really hoping to get second at conference," said Kara Giles ('16).

On the men's side, the team will be paced by Adam Sanchez ('16) and Zane Berlanga ('18).

"Both Adam and Zane could seal a second team all-conference award," said Chovanec. "Right now they are both sitting around 22nd and 24th place."

After finishing seventh last year, the men are looking to make huge strides and catch up to the competition.

"Depending on what happens with other teams and their runners, I could see the men's team

placing anywhere from fifth to eighth," said Chovanec. "The MIAA is so competitive, for the guys to place where they want to, we're going to need their best races."

"The majority of the team is really young. We'd like to see our team finish in the top four of the conference," said Sanchez.

Both teams ran at Calvin on September 13th, so all the runners know what to expect from Calvin's course.

"The weather's not going to be great or conducive to good times," said Chovanec. "But I'm very happy with where we're at training wise, and I think we're ready to run fast."

The team's last race was October 18th at Oberlin College for the Inter-Regional Rumble. Even with a layoff between races, both squads have little trouble staying focused and competing hard.

"We stay motivated between our meets by telling ourselves we don't have a meet, so that gives us motivation to work even harder in practice," said Giles. "We really put it out there for all of our workouts, so the next week when we do have a meet, we're ready to race."

"We like to take our weeks day-by-day," said Sanchez. "A couple weeks between meets seems like a lot, but when you start to lose track of days, time seems to move faster."

# Alma

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