



Photos Courtesy of Aaron Leonard ('17)

Brothers of the Sigma Chi, Austin Ballor ('15), Greg Goffee ('17), Dmontae Jones ('15) give back to the community by building a safe play area for local autistic children.

Sigma Chi's new focus

Brothers build safe play area for autistic children

By SAM COYKENDALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

The brothers of Sigma Chi have been recognized recently for their increased philanthropic presence on campus and in the community. These events have included fundraising for Relay for Life, Trunk or Treat and various other events on campus.

Following a tough previous year when the chapter lost their house, the chapter started to look at how they wanted to improve and make Sigma Chi the best it could be.

As a result, the brothers decided that getting further involved in service projects during the current year would greatly benefit the chapter's

image.

The most recent service project took the chapter off campus and away from the Alma community to Birch Run for a day. A family friend of one of the brother's has two autistic children. One of the activities the children enjoy is riding their bikes outside their house, but currently there are no sidewalks or bike paths near their house so the autistic children have been forced to ride their bikes on the street.

This posed an obvious safety concern for the family; however, their appeals to the city to install "slow children playing" signs went unanswered. As a solution, the family decided to take on the massive task of building an in-ground bike

path and trampoline in their backyard for their children.

"The most rewarding part of the day was seeing how much we had actually done in the course of a single day," said **Aaron Leonard ('17)**.

"We had spent the majority of the day digging trenches and cutting down trees to clear room for the bike path and in-ground trampoline for the family. It was very hard work, but it was amazing to see the cleared and leveled path, along with the trampoline in place for the family."

Other brothers who participated shared similar feelings about the event.

"Just knowing that we were making a difference in these children's lives was the best

part of the day," said **Austin Ballor ('15)**.

"We weren't there to see their faces when their new bike trail was unveiled, but knowing how happy they would be was all the reward we needed."

After the hard day of work came to a close, the family and the brothers both felt that they had gained so much from the service project.

"The family was so grateful for our help, and we know that they will be much better off finally having a safe place for their children to be able to be active outdoors," said Leonard. "As it is right in their own backyard, it will help out the family greatly knowing that their children will always have a safe place to play," said Ballor.

As the year continues, the brothers of Sigma Chi look forward to having other events that benefit both the campus and the community.

"We are currently working on our Derby Days, which is our big philanthropy event that we do," said Ballor.

"However Sigma Chi is always looking for ways to give back to the community and are always open to new ideas."

"We plan on having as many service opportunities as possible this year," said Leonard. "We have already done a lot this semester, and we hope to continue to be very involved on campus and in the community. "Any opportunity where we can help a family in need will be one that we will jump at."

Greek Life, small housing attend mandatory Title IX training

By CHELSEARAE ROWLEY
WEB EDITOR

This month, residents of small houses and Greek organization members are being required to attend Health and Wellness's Title IX training. These informational meetings are designed to familiarize students with Title IX: a federal law that outlines and prohibits sexual discrimination, misconduct, and violence.

These sessions are being conducted in order to provide students with the basic knowledge of Title IX, the campus resources available to undergraduates in need, and the common symptoms exhibited by innocent victims of sexual crimes.

"The Title IX training is a very important aspect of working to ensure the safety of one another," said Panhellenic Recruitment Chair **Kendall Cox ('15)**.

"Alma is a very small and tight-knit campus community and we must make sure to take care of one another."

There were three sessions

scheduled in order to ensure student awareness of Title IX. Two of the three have passed; however, the final informational training will be held on November 16 at 3:00 pm in SAC 113.

"It's important for students to attend because these are serious issues that everyone should understand. It's all about respect," said former SAE president **David Slusser ('15)** when asked about the importance of Title IX awareness.

Respecting one another and understanding the resources available to victims are core points within this presentation.

"With women's rights issues coming largely into focus on a global scale, it is important that everyone understands their rights and violations of those rights, especially on a college campus where things often happen and no one speaks up," said **Hannah Korrell ('15)**.

In order for students to speak-up or be aware, they must be familiar of the signs associated with sexual misconduct.

"In order to help one

another, we need to be made aware of what behavioral signs are associated with students who have fallen victim to Title IX incidents," said Vice President of Alpha Xi Delta, **Janelle Taylor ('15)**.

In order to help students in need, Cox hopes to acquire

abuse and assault. I also hope to discover how to detect those signs that it may be a problem."

After attending the session with the Health and Wellness Center, Slusser recommends the Title IX training to others on campus.

"The training was an eye opening experience that I hope many people attend and get the message," Slusser added.

He also feels that the training would be a great resource to high school students.

"I think the training would be great not just for organizations on campus, but for students in general. It should be talked about in high school, but instead it's known specifically for introducing co-ed sports and doesn't educate

students before they need it. We're playing catch up."

If interested in learning more about the important issues surrounding Title IX, students are welcome to attend the informational session on Sunday or to visit the "Title IX" page located on Alma College's website.

Also, if a student has fallen victim to any form of sexual misconduct, there are several confidential campus resources available, including The Counseling and Wellness Center, The Wilcox Medical Center, and the Chaplain's Office.

For other consultation, students may confide in resident assistants, faculty, staff, athletic coaches, and The Alma Police Department.

"... it is important that everyone understands their rights and violations of those rights, especially on a college campus where things often happen and no one speaks up"

-Hannah Korrell ('15)

Academy Award winning film "Girl Rising," presented by Literacy Beyond Borders, will now be shown on Nov. 18th at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Researchers fight environmental damage

Borrello, students work with Gratiot farmers to clean Pine River, prevent additional problems

By **ABIGAIL FERGUS**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

What's in your water: ammonia, *E. coli*, coliform, antibiotics?

Students **Allie Frost ('17)**, **Jessica Isler ('17)**, **Nicole Green ('17)**, and **Tyler Foley ('15)**, as well as Professor Murray Borrello, have uncovered what flows through the Pine River, and the findings are controversial.

It is well known that the water of the Pine River is not high in quality. This past summer, Borrello's team found evidence pointing to the current cause of lowered water quality: high amounts of animal waste being dumped directly into the Pine River and its tributaries.

Borrello said, "The research is finding that there are practices in the upper watershed that are contributing to lower water quality. These practices are farming practices, and this is a mostly agricultural county. So there's a lot of people that have their livelihood connected to agriculture. Our findings are showing that current regulations are inadequate or that there is

purposeful dumping and over-application going on."

It is known that too much manure is being spread on fields and dumped into water. Borrello made it clear that he didn't wish to point fingers and that he was not certain whether the problem in manure management was out of negligence, ignorance or poor regulation policies.

"If somebody is adhering to the guidelines that they've been taught on how to handle manure and how to apply it, and we're still seeing a degradation of the water quality, that isn't the fault of the farmer; that's a fault of the people that are making the laws and regulations," he said.

"Having said that, there are also clear indications that people are inappropriately managing animal waste in this area."

Frost explained a result of manure entering waterways: "We found very high levels of antibiotic resistance in the bacteria in the river. All water in nature has some levels of things like *E. coli* and coliform bacteria in it, but [the river] has been impacted by things like farm waste, and because farmers give their animals antibiotics routinely, that gets into their waste and when it goes

into the river, the bacteria there starts gaining a resistance to [antibiotics]."

Anyone who directly interacts with water containing high levels of *E. coli* and coliform could have their health negatively affected. Antibiotics could prove to be less effective at treating these negative effects due to the heightened resistance found in the *E. coli* of the Pine River.

The manure also contributes to nutrient loading, which is an unhealthily high level of naturally occurring nutrients in the water. As a result of nutrient loading, vegetation grows and dies on a larger scale than what is natural. The dead vegetation decomposes, and that decomposition consumes oxygen out of the water so it is no longer available for fish or other wildlife. The extra vegetation growth also causes problems for humans.

"It's gotten so bad that there's algae and lily pads clogging the river, and the citizens can't do anything in the summer," said Frost. "It's very difficult to get a boat or canoe or anything out in the water. They can't do much recreation in the river and their property values have gone down as a result."

This is not the first time that there have been problems with the water of the Pine River. Borrello shared that the most recent research is upstream of parts of the Pine River that were negatively impacted by a former refinery and chemical plant. For many years, students helped to research the damage the refinery and chemical plant did, which led to the EPA getting involved and beginning ongoing cleanup of the Pine River.

Borrello compared the refinery and chemical plant damage to the current situation of nutrient loading. Such a comparison may be intimidating, given the damage and costs caused by the refinery and plant, but solving nutrient loading may be an easier task than the ongoing cleanup has proven to be.

Science research can be used to work with the farmers and stop the negative effects that manure entering the Pine River has caused.

"We have ideas on how to work with farmers to help the environment," Borrello shared. "We can provide the science that says, 'If you do these practices they will protect the environment.'"

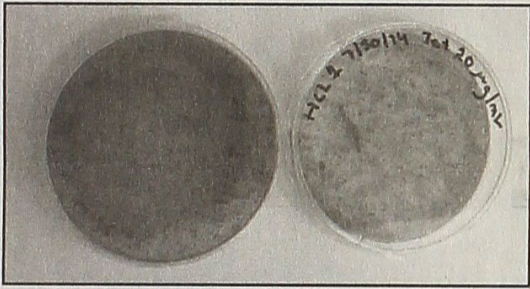
Another advantage is that

there is not a conflict between the researchers and the farmers. Farmers want to work to stop the degradation of the water caused by animal waste.

Borrello said, "A vast majority of the people that I talk to about this are not upset; they have a favorable opinion of the research because they want [the problem] fixed. People don't want to live in a degraded environment. Even some farmers are upset that there's practices going on that are degrading the river."

Now that Borrello and his team have identified the problem, Borrello plans to work to benefit the Pine River and to prevent similar occurrences. Frost, Isler, Foley and Green will present the research at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco on December 18. This will raise awareness about the potential hazards massive farms and a lack in environmental regulations can pose to waterways.

Borrello will also take a spring term to Europe to study how other countries use technology to improve the environment. The group will be able to take ideas back with them and use these ideas to fix and prevent environmental threats.

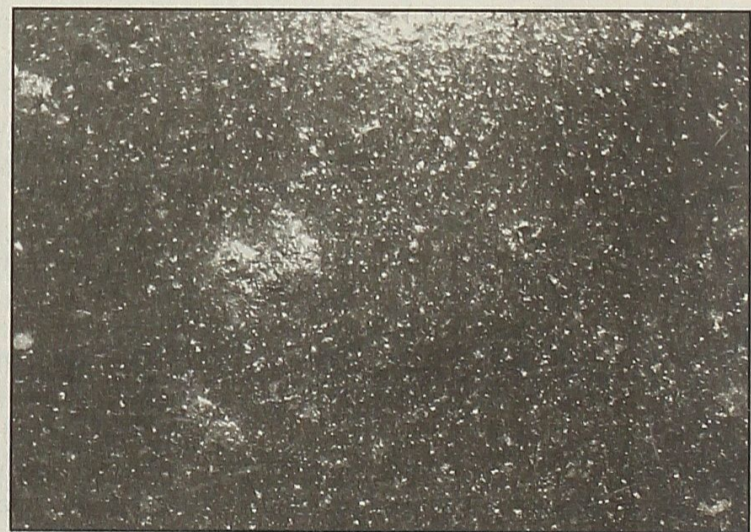
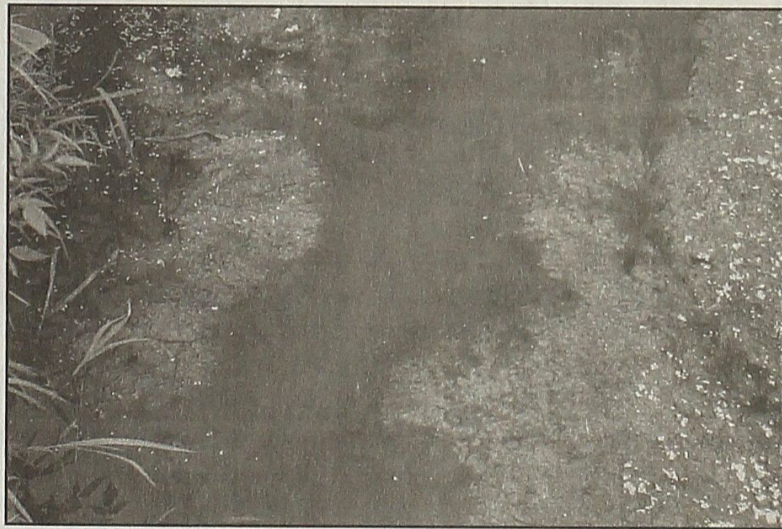


Pictures from summer research depict the low quality of the water that the Alma College researchers were studying.

Top left: The dish on the left shows a high level of *E. coli* marked by dark spots. The dish on the right has been treated with an amount of antibiotics that should entirely wipe out the *E. coli*. Still, *E. coli* remains because of its heightened resistance to antibiotics.

Top right: Nicole Green ('17), Allie Frost ('17), Tyler Foley ('15) and Jessica Isler ('17) pose for a picture while in their lab.

Bottom: Three pictures exemplify the unnaturally high amounts of vegetation, pond scum, and cloudy water that point to nutrient loading in the Pine River.



Photos Courtesy of Allie Frost ('17)

Students to keep therapy pets on campus

By **MECHON CAREW**
STAFF WRITER

Therapy dogs visited campus again last week. As always, they were a big hit. Each time they come to campus, the library fills with students from all grades, social groups, and majors to hang out with the four legged ones.

What is it about our slobbery friends that draws multitudes of students to the library?

"Studies have shown that a person holding or petting an animal will cause a lowering of blood pressure the release of strain and tension, and can draw out a person from loneliness and depression," Anne Lambrecht, the Director of Counseling at the Health

and Wellness Center explained.

"The monthly visits by therapy dogs...have [helped] the emotional health of students and those who miss their pets at home."

But what if a monthly visit isn't enough? What if a student needs constant exposure to an animal to help cope with stress, anxiety, or major dysphoria?

Although most pets are prohibited due to last year's new policy, there is a path those with clinical need: therapy pets.

Lambrecht explained further about the scientific benefits of assistive animals.

"Emotional support animals have been proven extremely effective at ameliorating the symptoms of these disabilities, such as depression and other mental health issues, by providing therapeutic nurture and support."

For instance, **Krista Chessin ('16)** became depressed and an insomniac upon coming to

college. Yet she noticed a dramatic improvement in her mood, stress, and productivity levels whenever she would spend time with her pet Chihuahua back home. Her dog's company kept her from feeling too overwhelmed.

When Chessin found out about therapy animals, she began to talk to Asst. Director of Academic Support & Disability Services Nate Payovich, who oversees the application process for Service and Emotional Support Animals.

"It's not so much as an application process as it is submitting a request, almost like a petition," Payovich said. However, it certainly isn't an easy petition to do. Not only must the written request contain a letter from a health care provider explaining the situation and need of the student and which specific animal the student is recommended to have, but there must also be a detailed care plan for the pet, including

anticipated financial costs.

Although not part of the petition, a student must also realize that those responsibilities can also limit her freedom.

"Keep in mind that you might not be able to go to that party or go on that trip or go to that club event," Chessin said. "You do have to go home, check on your pet, and make sure you can afford to feed them— everything about being a responsible pet owner. So, you have to take into account that that responsibility will not add more stress to your life that the therapy pet will be reducing."

Kelsee Dean ('16), who has had her therapy pet, a dwarf angora bunny named Buns, since Spring Term last year, definitely believes the benefits outweigh the costs for her.

"I just absolutely love my little bunny," she said.

"If I'm having an off day, he cracks me up no matter

what—he definitely has his own little personality! He is just a little ball of fluff that loves being around people!"

Chessin, approved for a small dog, is currently still in the process of finding a good fit.

"I'm working really hard to go through a rescue, so it's a little difficult because rescues are a lot more selective on who they allow to adopt their pets, but that's part of the reason for why I go through the rescue," she explained.

If any students have questions or would like more information about therapy animals, Payovich encourages them to talk to him.

"I do think it's important for everybody to know that it's not an easy process to get approval for an emotional service animal, but if someone has a need, or a doctor or therapist has prescribed that for them, then they should definitely come talk to me about what the process is," he said.

Varmint Town is a three part fictional series that will conclude in the next issue of the Almanian. See what will happen next week.

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Football struggles continue with loss to Albion; now 0-5 in MIAA

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

The Alma Scots' woes continued last Saturday after dropping their sixth consecutive game to the Britons of Albion. The Scots lost 35-13 after Albion was able to get into the end zone on three of its first four drives of the game.

"We need to be able to run the ball," said Coach Greg Pscodna. "We need to be able to run it effectively on first down so that we aren't looking at second and long every time out. Once that happens, that will open up the passing game. And when the passing game opens up, we need to make good decisions and make plays."

And run the ball they did, amassing 184 yards on the ground, 122 of them from quarterback **Dylan Zaborowski ('18)**. Zaborowski also had 173 yards through the air that resulted in two touchdowns. **Erik Hines ('15)**, and **Sean McDonald ('16)** each caught one of Zaborowski's touchdown throws.

The game was also Senior day for the team, as it was the last home game the seniors will play in the maroon Alma College jerseys.

"This game is for the seniors," commented Pscodna. "They've had a rough four seasons, but I hope they always remember those seasons. They have all taken great strides and have pointed this program in the right direction, and I think we will be competing for an MIAA championship soon."

Senior linebacker **Eric Strickler ('15)**, commented before the game that "It's going to be an emotional day. I think I speak for all the seniors when I say that I'm going to pour all I have into today's game."

If the fact that it was Senior Day didn't fire the team up, the fact that the game was against rival school, Albion, certainly did.

"The team always gets amped for this rivalry game," said Pscodna. "Albion has been our rival for longer than I have been alive."

The team was very excited for the opportunity to end its



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Sam Young ('15), Troy Gahm ('16), and Terry Calagon ('16) get in stance and ready for Albion's offense.

losing streak, knowing that the program desperately needs a win to end the season on a positive note.

"It is pretty important for the program in general," noted Strickler before the game. "We

have lost several straight games, and there is no better team to get back on track against than the putrid team in purple."

However, Albion was able to roll past the Scots largely thanks to the 216 passing yards

and three touchdowns from the Britons' quarterback Dominic Bona.

The Scots are now 2-7 overall and 0-5 in the MIAA. They will be in Olivet on Saturday for the season's final game.

Men's soccer team advances to league tournament for first time since 2011

By Brent Luplow
Staff Writer

The men's soccer team traveled to Grand Rapids last Wednesday afternoon to take on the number 1 seed in the MIAA conference tournament, the Calvin College Knights.

The Knights, ranked sixth in the nation, got the best of the Scots during the regular season, blanking them 4-0 in both contests, but after finishing the season 4-1-1, the Scots qualified for the conference tournament for the first time since 2011.

"We ended our season playing our best soccer," said the team's leading goal scorer **Ju- lian Birge ('16)**.

"After getting off to a slow start, our late push to get into the playoffs really capped off a good season. This team's improvement has laid down the foundation that will allow us to keep moving forward in the future."

In last week's game, Alma was hoping for a different outcome

than previous matches against Calvin and tried to play more conservatively, limiting Calvin's chances and allowing for more counter-attack opportunities. Despite the team's best efforts, though, the Knights triumphed again.

Calvin got on the board first just nineteen minutes into the game when a skirmish in front of the goal led to an Alma own goal. It was a strong defensive battle the rest of the half as both clubs held tough, and Calvin held a 1-0 advantage.

The shot total was close as Calvin held a 9-8 advantage and a 3-2 advantage in shots on goal.

The second half saw both teams continue a defensive battle led by defenders **Trae Pitts ('15)**, **Chad Buitenhuis ('16)**, **Jon Buitenhuis ('18)**, and **Kyle Kansman ('17)**.

However, Calvin scored on a shot in the box off a cross pass in the 88th minute to increase the lead and take the game 2-0.

Alma was limited in its op-

portunities in the second half on the offensive side, as the Scots were outshot 18-11 overall and 8-3 in shots on goal for the game.

Zach Vandever ('16) led the Scots with 4 shots and 1 on goal and Birge pitched in with 2 shots and 1 on goal.

Brett Galloway ('15) finished the game with 6 saves to close out his college career.

"This team means the world to me," he said. "Seeing my teammates grow over the past four years has been nothing short of amazing. I will cherish the memories I have made with this group of guys for the rest of my life."

The Scots said goodbye to ten seniors after a successful season. The senior class has improved from 4-12-2 their freshman year to 8-8-3 in its senior

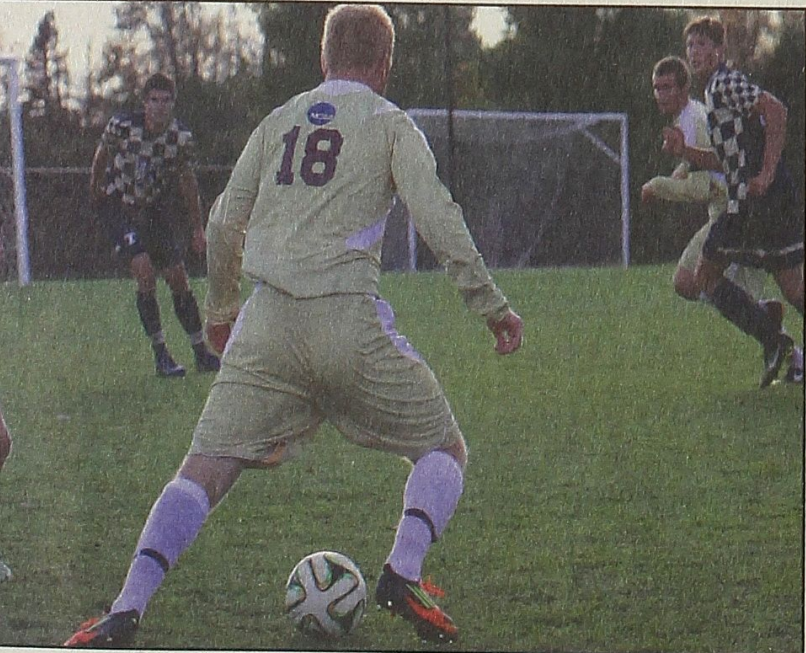
"Seeing my teammates grow over the past four years has been nothing short of amazing. I will cherish the memories I have made with this group of guys for the rest of my life."

-Brett Galloway ('15)

campaign.

"We were one big family the whole season," said **Spencer Sandow ('16)**. "We worked hard for each other and always had each other's backs. Everyone knew their role on the team and always gave the team a boost when their number was called."

The Scots have a lot to look forward to next year, as they return seven of their 11 starters on a MIAA conference tournament qualifying team, including Birge, their leading scorer. However, they will have to look to increase their goal scoring as they struggled at times this year, scoring 20 goals in 19 games.



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Brandon Aldridge ('15) dribbles between defenders looking for an opening in a game earlier this season.

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