

THE ALMANIAN

SERVING ALMA COLLEGE SINCE 1907

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Marine veteran speaks on campus; tells students to remember those who served

{I}magine being 19 in a godforsaken place, being shot at and not knowing if a door is rigged to blow when they enter it.

-Jay Kopelman



Left: Jay Kopelman speaks at the Veterans Day keynote event in Dunning Memorial Chapel.

By CHELSEY COBB
STAFF WRITER

Last Tuesday, Alma College had the privilege of hosting Jay Kopelman for Veterans Day. Kopelman talked about his experiences as a Marine over his 21 years of service, as well as the need to help veterans.

Kopelman described the military experience as the few defending the many. Only .05 percent of the United States population has served in the armed forces since the September 11 terrorist attacks.

He also spoke about his time in Fallujah and training Iraqi Special Forces. Kopelman said when leading men in stressful moments, it is the leader's task to remain calm so that the men around him do not panic.

For example, Kopelman said that during a firefight when he was training Iraqi soldiers, he sensed someone behind him. One of his soldiers was standing behind him and shooting around him like a shield.

Kopelman also spoke about Lava, a puppy some Marines found in Fallujah. Even though it was against the rule to keep Lava, a group of Marines from Hawaii cared for him. Kopelman promised these Marines that he would get Lava back to the United States. When he made that promise, it became a personal mission.

"Your word is your bond," Kopelman said. "I had given them my word to get the dog back to the States, and if I could not do that, then

how could I expect them to follow me through a house of insurgents or breach a wall where insurgents were waiting? The answer is that you cannot; you have to lead by example."

At this point, Kopelman talked about some of the things that could have gone differently with American involvement in Iraq. In his view, the United States did not understand the Iraqi culture.

Towards the end of his military career in 2005, Kopelman said, it was time to think about what to do after the military when going back to civilian life. He was inspired to consider the statistics of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) among veterans. There have been 300,000 patients of PTSD reported by the Office of Veterans Affairs, and 32,000 had brain injuries. According to Kopelman, 20 percent of service members that were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have a mild TBI.

The next struggle veterans face when returning to civilian life is unemployment. Among young veterans from ages 20-24, 35.7 percent are unemployed; ages 25-29, 22 percent; ages 30-39, 15.5 percent; and for those ages 50 and up unemployment is 12.1 percent.

Kopelman also cited other statistics. He said that one of every four service members is homeless and that every day, 22 vets commit suicide. One possible reason that Kopelman gave for the high rate of suicide was lack of support for veterans.

Switching his focus away from negative effects, Kopelman turned to the positives. He listed several traits in a veteran that he thought would make them ideal employees, such as honesty, ability to work as a team, discipline, skill in planning, work ethic, and leadership. In fact, eight percent of S&P 500 CEOs were military officers, including Robert McDonald of Procter & Gamble and Alex Gorsky of Johnson & Johnson.

Kopelman also discussed his work after the military. He runs a non-profit, Freedom is Not Free, and has been involved with Operation Rebound, Operation Gratitude, and Veterans Village of San Diego. Today he works in healthcare for Janssen Healthcare Innovation, a part of the Johnson & Johnson Company, working with new technologies for integrated care.

In his final moments speaking, he gave three tips for college life: learn as much as possible, find a way to give back, and don't forget the friendships made here at Alma.

When asked what Kopelman would keep with him from his time serving, he replied, "The bravery of the young Marines around me...imagine being 19 in a godforsaken place, being shot at and not knowing if a door is rigged to blow when they enter it. But they did, day after day after day. They could have been doing anything else with their lives, but they were not doing it to be heroes. It was for their brothers in arms."

This Week at Alma College November 17 - 23

Monday

These Storied Stories
8 p.m. Dow L-1

Thursday

Dr. Chris Chaffee Guest Artist
Flute Performance
7:30 p.m., Dunning Memorial Chapel

Friday

Music Department Lobby Recital
3:00 p.m., Eddy Lobby

One Act Play Festival
8 p.m. Strosacker Theatre

Saturday

One Act Play Festival
8 p.m. Strosacker Theatre

Sunday

Alma Symphony Orchestra Concert
Brahms and Copland
4:00 p.m. Oscar E. Remick Heritage Center

One Act Play Festival
3 p.m. Strosacker Theatre

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

Theatre Department prepares for One Act Play Festival

By PAIGE EMERSON
STAFF WRITER

Each year the Alma College Theatre Department puts on the One Act Plays—a festival of short performances that each consist of only one act.

This year's festival is made up of five total plays that will be preformed at the Oscar E. Remick Heritage Center Strosacker Theater on Friday, Nov. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 22, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23, at 3 p.m.

The five one act plays to be performed will be Seth Kramer's "Prelude to Thirty-Five," directed by **Samantha Arthur ('15)**; Jason Katims' "The Man Who Couldn't Dance," directed by **Jessica Ferguson ('16)**; Mary Miller's "Ferris Wheel," directed by **Hannah Korell ('15)**; Sura's "A Blind Date With Mary," directed by **Joshua Zeitler ('14)**; and Randy Noojin's "You Can't Trust the Male," directed by **Tara Riedel ('13)**.

Each of the directors of this

year's plays were required to take either Alma College's directing class during the 2014 winter term, or a previous directing class offered by the college, in order to be qualified to direct one of the festival's One Act Plays.

Arthur, director of "Prelude to Thirty-Five," shared some of her thoughts on the play itself and on being given the opportunity to direct one of the One Act Plays.

"Directing is very new for me, but I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. Prelude to Thirty-Five is a romantic comedy that deals with a rather unusual struggle between the two main characters, while still seeming genuine and realistic," she explained.

"You can relate to these characters and feel real sympathy for them both and how they view the situation they've found themselves in while still laughing at the lunacy of it all."

Arthur described the possible hectic plotlines of one acts, as she gave a brief description of her own play.

"In the play, Rae would rather endure nine hours at a train

station in a snowstorm with no coat, than spend one more minute at Jay's parents' house. Jay botches the job of running after Rae, and ends up with a bloody nose, but the question on everyone's mind is what started this fiasco?" she continued, explaining the main plot of the play.

Other plays presented by the Alma College theatre department throughout the course of this academic year are "The Whiteheaded Boy," directed by Joe Jezewski, associate professor and chair of the theatre and dance department; "Tartuffe," directed also by Jezewski; and "From Up Here," which will be directed by Riedel.

"The Whiteheaded Boy" was performed Oct. 9-12, 2014, "Tartuffe" will be performed Feb. 12-15, 2015, and "From up Here" will be performed Apr. 9-12, 2015.

Tickets for the One Act Play Festival will be on sale this week to the public — \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and free to all youth under 18. Tickets are also free to all Alma College students who present their campus I.D. at the box office in the Heritage Center.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER THAT

APPLICATIONS FOR TEDx SPEAKERS
ARE DUE FRIDAY!

GO TO THE TEDx ALMA COLLEGE FACEBOOK TO APPLY!

Shaving to save: TKE cuts for cancer research

By SAMANTHA COYKENDALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

During the month of November, the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon will fundraise towards a goal of \$2,000 to donate to their philanthropy, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Shave for St. Jude's features fundraising goals at \$100 increments.

When each goal has been reached, a different brother will shave his head, his beard, or wax his chest.

To date, Tau Kappa Epsilon has raised \$823 in donations. The online fundraiser began on Nov. 5th and the majority of the donations have been received through the fundraising site, GoFundMe.com. In addition to the online donations, the brothers accept cash and check donations.

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital was founded by Tau Kappa Epsilon member, Danny Thomas, in 1962 in Memphis, Tennessee. St. Jude's is a nonprofit organization that provides care to any child with a catastrophic disease — most often cancer — who is referred to them.

Families of the children never have to pay for the treatment their child is receiving. The atmosphere

is intended to make the children as well as the families feel as though they are not staying in the hospital for treatment.

"Our main goal is \$1,000, the \$2,000 goal was more of a "just in case we get that far" idea," said **Levi Lake ('16)**, Tau Kappa Epsilon's current president. "With such a strong start, I believe that we will exceed our \$1,000 goal and maybe even come close to \$2,000."

The inspiration behind Tau Kappa Epsilon's philanthropy event stemmed from the popular "No-Shave November."

"We came up with this idea going off of the theme of 'No-Shave November,'" said **Paul Mikhjian ('15)**.

"We simply tweaked that theme and added a little bit of fun for the brothers. We thought it would be enjoyable for the public to see our brothers shave their heads/beards/chests while raising money for St. Jude's Children's Research."

"We had done a version of No-Shave November last year where people would donate to a certain brother, and at the end of the month the brother with the most money raised had to shave his head," said **Quinton Alexander ('16)**.

"This year we figured this would be a more efficient way to raise more money."

Several brothers have already

shaved their heads or waxed their chests per the fundraiser's goals.

"I made a promise to the donors that if/once we raised \$500 I would wax my chest," stated Mikhjian.

"It was very painful, but not nearly as painful as what the children at St. Jude's go through on a daily basis. If these children can endure medical procedures daily,

"We thought it would be enjoyable for the public to see our brothers shave their heads/beards/chests while raising money for St. Jude's Children's Research"

-Paul Mikhjian ('15),

the least I can do is endure the pain of getting my chest waxed. There will be videos posted to Facebook of my procedure as the fundraiser continues on."

Other brothers have yet to have their goals reached as they continue to participate in the fun of the fundraiser.

"I can't wait to reach the \$1000 mark, honestly," said Alexander, who has pledged to shave his beard. "It's raising money and awareness for children's cancer

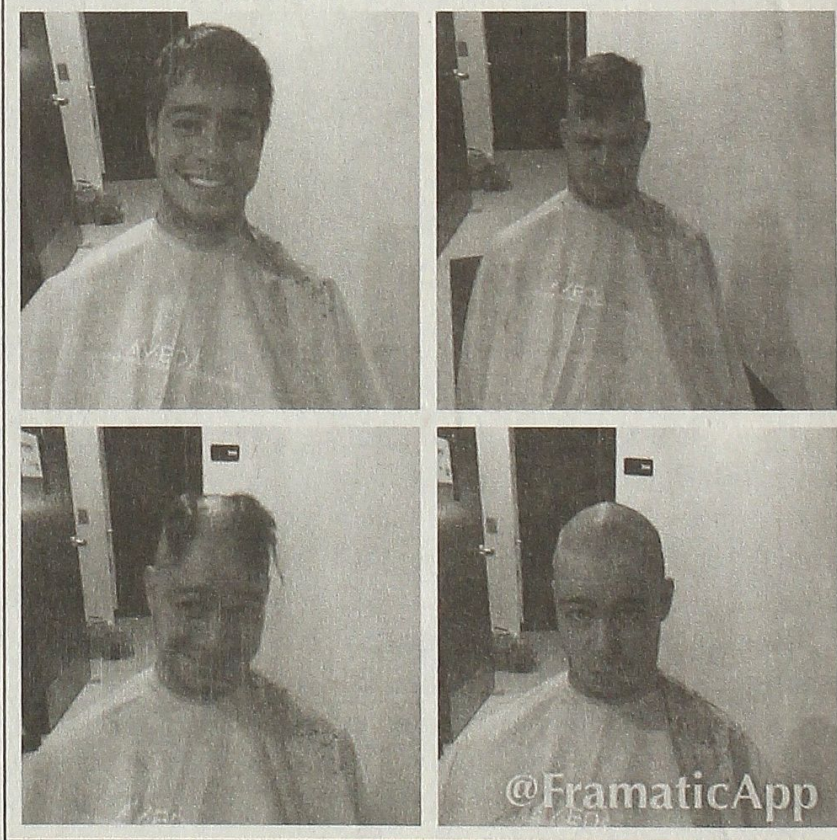


Photo Courtesy of Matthew Loomis ('15)

Tau Kappa Epsilon brother Connor Edwards ('16) documented shaving his head for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

and this is the least I can do for them."

Excitement continues to build within the fraternity as members move closer and closer to achieving their fundraising goal.

"The anticipation of reaching our goal and having some of the guys who would do just about anything in order to not shave their hair get their heads shaved is

pretty cool," said Lake.

"Showing the campus, especially non-Greeks, that fraternities and sororities do positive things is something we should focus on more often."

To assist the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon in their fundraising efforts during the month of November, visit www.gofundme.com/gtd9eg.

Theta Chi hosts blood drive

By ALEXANDRA BOURNE
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the year, health organizations like the American Red Cross and Michigan Blood hold drives across the nation in an effort to receive donations for those in need. More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day, since every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood.

One pint, a single donation, can save up to three lives, and every year there are 15.7 million blood donations in the United States from 9.2 million donors. This is an impressive figure; however, an estimated 38 percent of the population of the United States is eligible to donate, yet less than 10 percent actually do each year.

Most of the donated blood is collected from mobile sites, like

blood drives in high schools or colleges.

The brothers of the Theta Chi fraternity hosted one such drive last Thursday afternoon and evening in the Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation.

“Theta Chi chose to host Michigan Blood because of our long standing relationship together and because we as a chapter believe that access to blood should not be hindered by shortages in the supply,” stated **Steven Smith ('16)**, president of Theta Chi.

“Our chapter is partnered with Michigan Blood, and hosting the event is our way of getting involved,” added Theta Chi’s philanthropy chairman, **Antonio Garza ('17)**.

Thirty people donated before the drive ended, surpassing Theta Chi’s goal of 25 pints and exceeding Michigan Blood’s expectations.

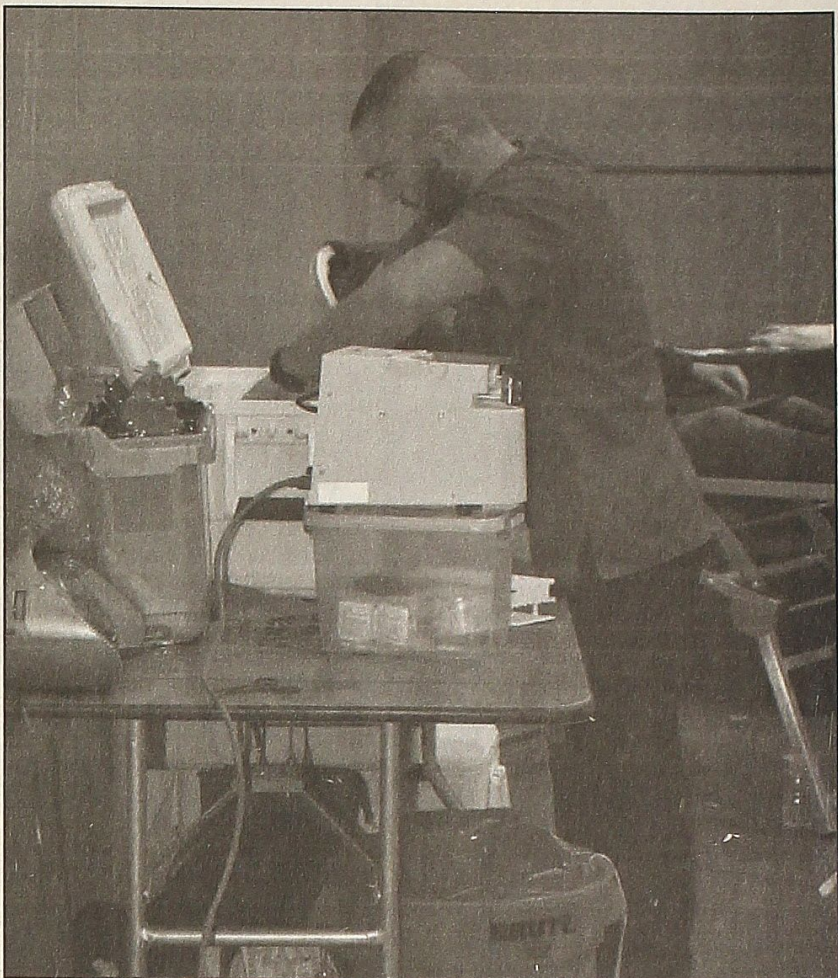
“I hoped that at least everyone on campus knew about the event and told others about it as well,” continued Garza. “Free pizza was also a quality incentive other than saving lives.”

The brothers of Theta Chi spent a couple of weeks preparing for the blood drive, putting flyers and posters all over campus, sending out e-mails to the student body, and spreading the word themselves.

“I believe that continuing involvement with the donating of blood and the raising of money for other worthy causes allows us as a fraternity to connect with the students and faculty of Alma College in a meaningful and lasting way. It provides my brothers and I with an experience to learn and grow while contributing in a useful capacity that will hopefully impact someone’s life in a positive way,” finished Smith.

“I like being involved because donating blood is something people do purely to help others, and I knew I would do my best to promote the event,” said Garza.

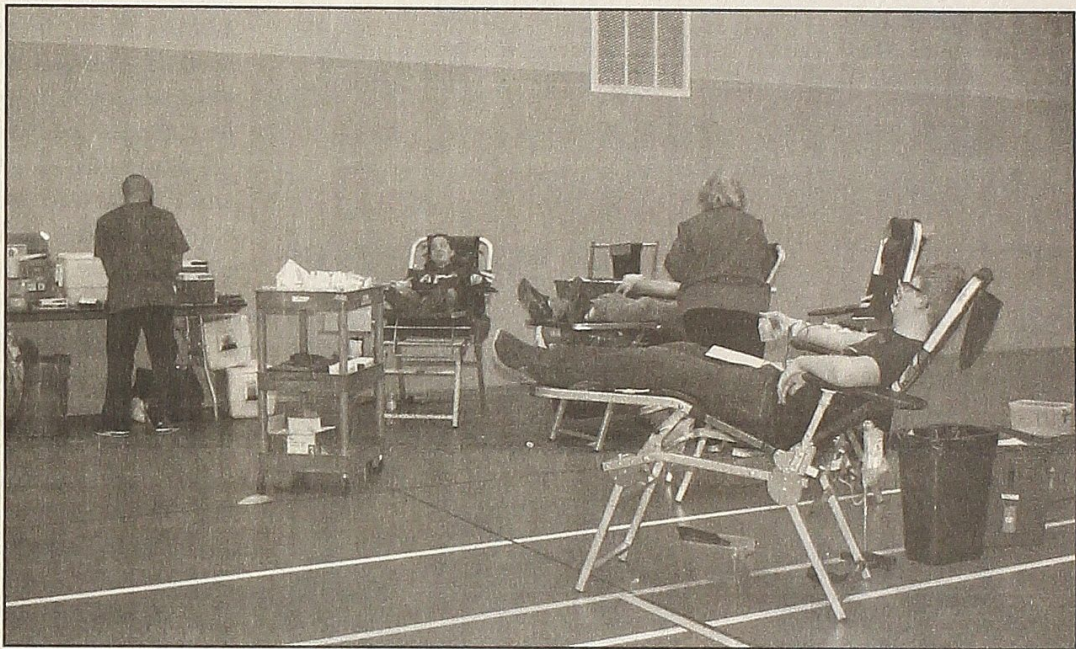
“I just want to thank everyone who came out and donated, and the patience that everyone showed throughout the process,” concluded Garza. “I hope to see even more people for the next blood drive.”



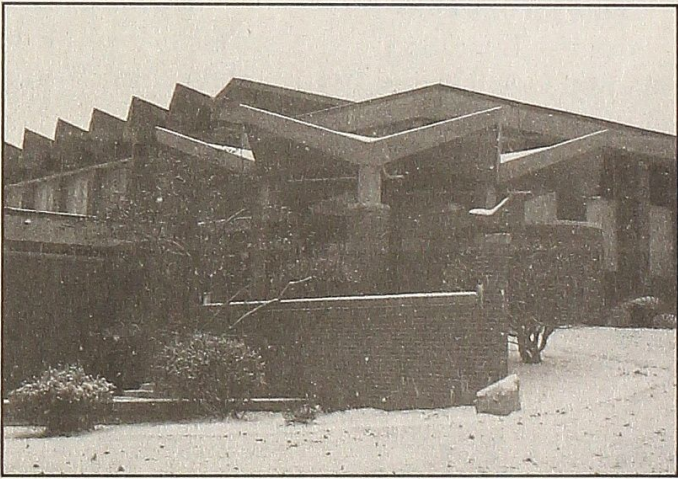
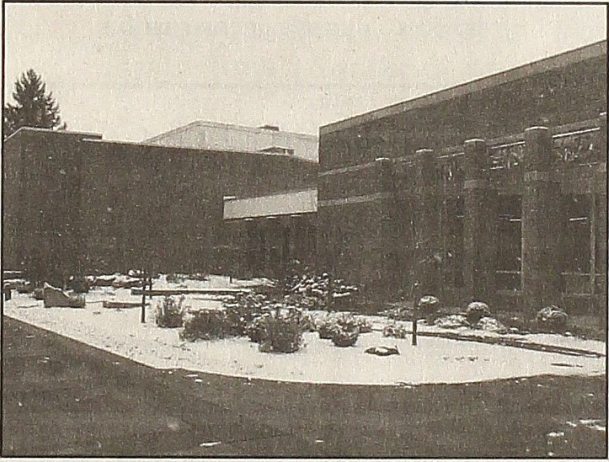
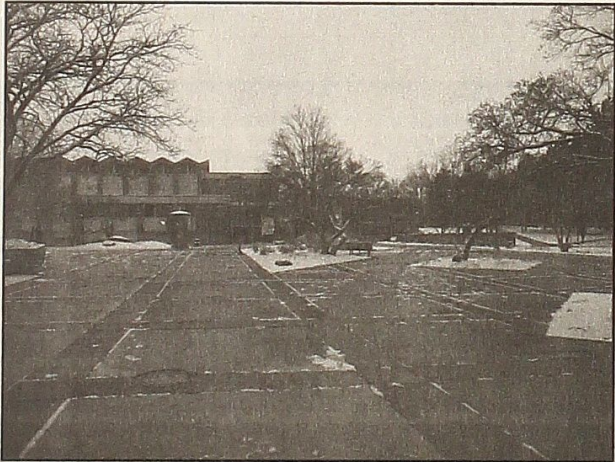
Rebekah Irani: Staff Photographer



Rebekah Irani: Staff Photographer



Rebekah Irani: Staff Photographer



Snow fell steadily throughout Saturday night and into Sunday, giving campus its first layer of snow. The snow covered trees with some leaves still remaining, powdered the rock, and buried a squirrel’s path.



Abigail Fergus: Community Editor

A look at the barrier between men and women clothing

Varmint Town: Part 3

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Nat stumbled into the examination room. “They’re outside!”

As the veterinarian stared at her blankly, the squirrel on the table twitched. Nat jumped back, her breathing shallow, and stabbed a finger at the creature on the table. “There’s a bunch of those things out there.”

The man’s expression steeled. “Then we need to get away.” Pushing past Nat and the veterinarian into the lobby, he stepped surprisingly lightly given his size and his boots. The veterinarian began to protest. “I didn’t see anything on my way—” A loud thump from the lobby silenced him. It sounded like a heavy knock on a window.

An echo of the man’s voice, ludicrously calm, reached them. “Well, we can’t leave.” Another thump.

The man strode back into the exam room. “They’re tryin’ to get in. We’re tryin’ to get out. Neither of those things is gonna happen.”

“What?” the veterinarian gasped. The thumping had increased to a nearly steady rhythm.

“I ain’t letting any of you

leave. You saw what they did to that kid. They’re out for blood.” “They’re squirrels.”

Nat spoke up. “They’re monsters. What if every squirrel is that big now?” “Then I’m toast.” Mack leaned on the doorframe. The emergency room night staff was gathered behind him, two nurses and a custodian.

Nat wrapped her arms around Mack and inspected his bandaged shoulder and neck. The custodian spoke in a low voice, wincing at every thump. “The phones are dead all around town, as far as I can tell. So, like you said.” He nodded at the man. “We’re probably stuck here for a while.”

The squirrel twitched. Everyone jumped this time.

“Sedate that thing again,” the man instructed. “A lot. And get cozy. It’s gonna be a long night.”

Nat woke up to a sudden burst of light jabbing into her eyes. She sat up on the lobby couch, stretched, and looked out the doors. The sun was just rising outside. She couldn’t see any squirrels, normal or monster.

Mack dozed fitfully on the next couch over. The door to the examination room was closed, locked, and braced with a file cabinet. The veterinarian, nurses, and custodian were nowhere to be seen.

The man was sleeping in a chair

10 feet from the lobby doors. Nat imagined him watching the squirrels throw themselves at the glass all night.

Padding over to Mack, Nat knelt down and poked his good shoulder. Mack groaned. “What.”

“Morning, sunshine. Looks like you had a bad dream.” She pointed at his bandages.

Nat sat bolt upright, breathing hard. “We have to get out of here!”

The man stirred in his chair, then blinked himself awake. “Didn’t mean to fall asleep,” he grunted as he twisted in the chair. “Where’s everybody?”

“I really don’t know,” Nat said.

Mack blinked. “I saw someone moving around earlier. Couldn’t see who.”

They searched the whole building in vain. Nat had a growing nausea.

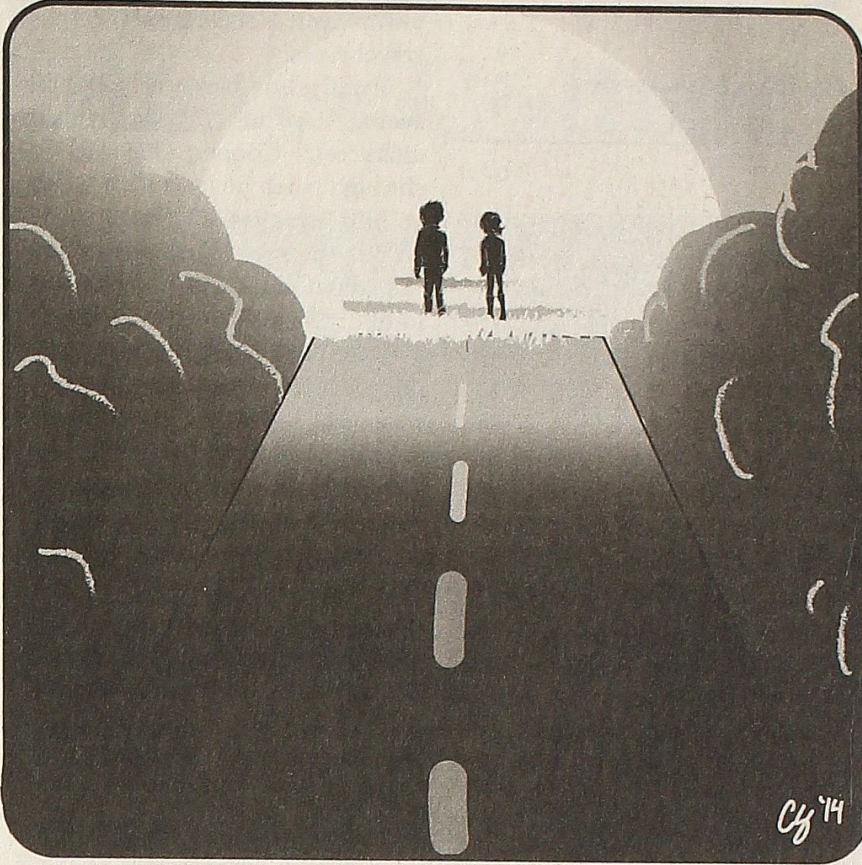
“Maybe they’re outside,” she said uncertainly. “Let’s go. I want to get out of here before those things come back.”

Pushing out a back door and into the cool morning air, the man led the way, jangling truck keys in hand.

Around the corner of the building, all three stopped. Mack screamed. Nat fought back bile.

The bodies of the emergency

Varmit Town is a new three part fictional series that occured over the past two weeks in the Almanian. This is the final part of the story.



Cassidy Shankleton, Staff Illustrator

room staff and the veterinarian were hardly recognizable. They had apparently tried to escape during the night and had been overwhelmed by the squirrels.

Mack took a few steps back. “If these things are everywhere,” he began.

The man nodded. “Everything’s different, I think.”

Focusing on the lightening sky, Nat swallowed. “Let’s stick

together for now. Find out what happened everywhere else.”

She and Mack walked out to the edge of the parking lot and looked into the sunrise. The town was deathly quiet. Somehow, Nat knew the four bodies she’d just seen weren’t the last.

“Squirrels.” Mack gently touched his shoulder. “Who would’ve thought?”

Senior tells all about graduate stresses

By LISA FOLKMIRE
COPY EDITOR

They say that senior year is one of the hardest of undergrad.

It’s a time to hunker down on that 50 page paper on the recurrence of the Oedipus complex during medieval stage-plays, all to create that final gold-bound pile to display proudly on mom and dad’s fridge, to which they’ll say, “We sent her in as a child, and she came out writing this.”

Granted, they probably won’t read much of it. If you’re lucky, maybe they’ll complete an in-depth analysis of the abstract before handing it back saying, “That’s nice, dear. Now when do

you plan on moving out? We’ve been waiting to turn your bedroom into a combined fly-tying and pottery displaying station.”

Which will, of course, remind you of the 27 graduate school applications that you finally put together just before Christmas break, leaving your savings account with a black eye and peg leg.

This will all be in time to tell your siblings that you will be crafting gum wrapper sculptors in the shapes of their favorite animals for their presents, the very year they coincidentally got you the “best Christmas gift yet!”

If you’re not spending your Fall Term praying that your computer won’t shut down in lieu of losing your 27 graduate school tabs, you’re hoping that next year you will be anywhere doing anything to prove to those around you

that you made something of the degree you hid behind for four years.

Regardless, you’re still scraping the ground-floor of your bank account. Now is good a time as any to begin to truly believe in the seriousness of student loans.

Of course, all of this preparatory work for graduate school applications, resumes, and cover letters is combined with leftover leadership roles, the multiple campus jobs, and the attempts to scrape together the final nights out with the friends, who are (almost luckily) freaking out right along with you.

In turn, hangouts turn into venting sessions about the multiple ways to send transcripts to schools, the impossibilities of writing about your life-plan in less than 200 words, and the constant worry, “What if I end up moving

back in with my parents for life?”

An anonymous friend of mine attested, “You know, I have so much to do. I’ve done none of it. I’m actually quite proud of how little I’ve done. But I shouldn’t be because I should probably be accomplishing more than nothing.”

Another anonymous friend stated, “I am so tired all the time, there is just so much to do. I am so glad that I have caffeine in my life.”

They say that senior year is one of the hardest of undergrad, but they never get too specific on what “hard” entails. You can hear about the graduate school apps, the textbook of a thesis, the high expectations of professors, and the constant hole in the bank account, but it’s difficult to fully understand the stress that comes with all of these situations.

They also don’t tell you that aside from all of the stress that comes with your multitude of newfound responsibilities, you’ll also begin to find yourself increasingly excited to leave Alma College. You will be completely ready to move on with your life to show off the shiny new degree you practically tore your hair out for.

I won’t sugar-coat it in the slightest—for my perfectionist, over-burdened, go-getter self, senior year has left me saying, “I was not made for this time of life” multiple times a day. However, the most important aspect to remember is that through all of the applications, final projects, and nerve induced chats with professors, it will all pay off in the long run.

Until then, best of luck, my senior comrades—may we all get exactly what we need.

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	

“Interstellar” soars on IMAX; visual power carries film to outer space

By DAN MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

I could barely contain my excitement for two weeks. I preordered tickets to go see my first movie in IMAX. The movie: Christopher Nolan’s “Interstellar.”

I will not describe the plot very much. If I did and went into great detail, I would be giving away spoilers, which I would hate to do.

All I will say is that in the film Earth is dying, people are running out of food, and a group of astronauts go into space in search for a new, habitable planet.

Those astronauts are mainly Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway. Other cast members include Michael Caine, Jessica Chastain, and Ellen Burstyn.

In his first film since the end of the “Dark Knight” trilogy, Nolan, who wrote the screenplay with his brother Jonathan, extracts powerful performances from the entire cast. Refreshingly, we also see a level of substance not

always seen in science fiction space travel epics.

Family bonds are strong, and seeing what McConaughey’s character, Cooper, has to go through when he leaves his kids to go into space is tear-jerking.

But the star of the show lies in the dazzling visual effects—pun intended.

I am aware that some people do not like to go to see movies in theaters. I have heard different reasons, but the most prolific is that going to the local cinema is too expensive.

However, going to see “Interstellar” in theaters is the best choice for someone who intends to see the film. It is going to lose a lot of its visual power when it leaves theaters and hits the small screens.

In order to get the full effect, go see it in theaters. In fact, I recommend seeing it on the biggest screen possible. If you can get to a theater with the biggest screen and a decent sound system, that is the one to go to.

Seeing “Interstellar” in IMAX was a wonderfully overwhelming experience. I felt like I was floating around in space with the rockets and the stars.

Nolan shot a fair amount of

the film with an IMAX camera. Those will not be used very often for several reasons.

Shooting with an IMAX is very expensive, it is hard to maneuver, and the camera makes a lot of noise. I’m told that microphones cannot be used with an IMAX camera because the cameras are so loud the microphones will not pick up any sound other than that of the camera.

I am glad that Nolan put in the effort to use the IMAX camera for some of the scenes. It pays off in theaters as it results in an enthralling experience for the viewer.

It was amazing to see the screen covered from top to bottom with stars.

The film is not without flaws, but the astonishing visuals make it an enjoyable viewing experience.

And at a running time of almost three hours, the film felt much shorter than that. Not once did I look at the time.

I do not believe the statement that “Interstellar” is the new “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

“2001” was just as much poetry as it was science fiction space epic, and I think that is why it is still talked about almost 50 years after it has been made.



Cassidy Shankleton; Staff Illustrator

I don’t intend to put “Interstellar” down by saying this, but I don’t think it will be remembered in the same way as “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

Because of some ethical issues requiring moral discernment, some swearing and profanity, including at least one use of the F word, and some violence with no gore, it is my opinion that “Interstellar” is acceptable for adults, and possibly some mature teens.

Written in the Mitten: giving the gift of Michigan books this holiday season

By SAMANTHA COYKENDALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

As I sit here writing this and look out at the snow beginning to fall, I realized it’s nearing the time of year when I start scrambling to find that perfect and unique gift for family, friends and loved ones.

One of the most well received gifts that never goes out of style is a great book. Books can be read, re-read, shared, passed down and more.

However, one of the trickiest things is finding a book that is meaningful and cannot compare with run-of-the-mill editions.

Books have the ability to make us turn off the TV and to curl up and momentarily get lost in another world. They can make us laugh and cry, simply by reading

words on a page.

My goal this holiday is to bring back the gift of a good book.

Compiled below is a grouping of several Michigan authors and Michigan-themed stories that reach a diverse variety of audiences.

Next time you consider buying another tie or another scented candle as a holiday gift, check out these local “Made in Michigan” authors.

1. **Chris Zimmerman** – a talented author of six books who resides in Shepherd, MI. I first came across this author with my mom at the East Lansing Art Fair.

He explained to us that all of his novels take place in Michigan and they are a combination of crime, suspense, and mystery.

We purchased two of his publications; *The Secret-Keeper* as well as *Juror 55*. *Juror 55* actually feature several scenes that take

place in downtown Alma and mention Braveheart’s. These books are recommended for all who love a great mystery.

2. **Johnathon Rand** – a unique and dedicated children’s and young adult author who has published over 19 Michigan-based books and over 50 other books.

Michigan Chillers and *American Chillers* were two of my favorite book series as I was growing up. I am proud to say that I own every single *American Chillers* and *Michigan Chillers* that has been published.

Additionally, through my elementary school, I have had the opportunity to listen to Rand speak about his books and writing process.

These books are ideal gifts for younger family members, cousins, and friends as they are fun yet provide just the right level of creepiness. *Michigan Chillers* in

particular utilize alliteration in book titles such as: *Poltergeists of Petoskey*, *Gargoyles of Gaylord*, and *Strange Spirits of St. Ignace*.

3. **Madri Jo Link** – her memoir, *Bootstrapper* documents her summer in 2005, when she struggled to raise three sons as a single mother and to make ends meet in northern Michigan.

This memoir utilizes humor and optimistic storytelling to keep the reader hanging on to every word.

I would recommend *Bootstrapper* to those looking for a different type of hard-knock, pick-me-up storyline.

4. **Charlie LeDuff** – a veteran newspaper reporter who set out to discover what led his city into decline in *Detroit: An American Autopsy*.

LeDuff weaves a tale where he shares an “unbelievable story of a hard town in a rough time filled

with some of the strangest and strongest people our country has to offer.”

5. **Doug Wilson** – author of *The Bird: The Life and Legacy of Mark Fidrych*, rounds up the selection of books by authoring a historical recollection of the ‘70s pop icon and Detroit Tigers pitcher, Mark Fidrych.

The book details “Fidrych’s larger than life personality and killer slider that resulted in his selection as the 1976 All Star game starter and landed him as the first athlete ever to appear on the cover of *Rolling Stone*.”

Although this list is not as extensive as what can be found through a quick search on the Internet, I hope that this holiday season you make it a goal to gift a book to someone who you care about.

With some luck, they will do the same in return.

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.

- BOOTS
- COCOA
- COLD
- FAMILY
- FIREPLACE
- GLOVES
- HATS
- HOLIDAYS
- ICE
- MITTENS
- SCARVES
- SLIPPERY
- SNOWBALLS
- SNOWFLAKES
- SNOWMEN
- SWEATERS
- WINDY

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

Men's basketball drops games against Central Michigan and Defiance College

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

It isn't very often that an Alma College athletic team competes against a Division I opponent. However, last Friday, the men's basketball team drove up U.S. 127 to Mount Pleasant to face the Chippewas of Central Michigan University.

Although the game was CMU's season opener, it served as an exhibition for the Scots and will not be counted against their record or for their statistics.

The game ended in a blowout as the Scots lost 106-64, but the contest served as an extremely useful learning experience for the men.

"It was a great atmosphere last night. It will definitely prepare us for the rest of the season," said student assistant coach **Weston Kartes ('16)**, "We have to get used to playing against the size that they had. We also have to get used to playing in front of big crowds, so this game put some useful experience under our belts."

The Scots were led offensively by **Tyler Edwards ('17)**, who had a team high of 10 points, and **Chase Fairchild ('17)**, who had a team high of five assists. **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** also contributed nine points. Fairchild

and **Ethan Woelke ('16)** each had four rebounds.

The Scots ended the first half down by 31 points. They performed much better in the second half, but the deficit grew to 42 points by the end of the game.

The Scots shot 37 percent over the course of the game, whereas the Chippewas were able to score at a remarkable 50 percent clip. The Scots' woes stemmed mostly from the 23 turnovers that they committed offensively, which resulted in 31 points on the other end.

The men held their heads high after the blowout though. "I wouldn't say that the loss was disheartening," added Kartes, "I think we could have made it a game. We are trying to win, obviously, but we are also prepping for league play."

"A game like this works to expose the weaknesses of a team and show what the team should be working on to prepare for league play. We need to play good team defense. We also need to keep working to get the shots that we want."

Last Saturday night, the men traveled to Ohio to face Defiance College, where they lost 85-58. **DJ Beckman ('16)** led the Scots offensively with 16 points. Bernard Edwards of

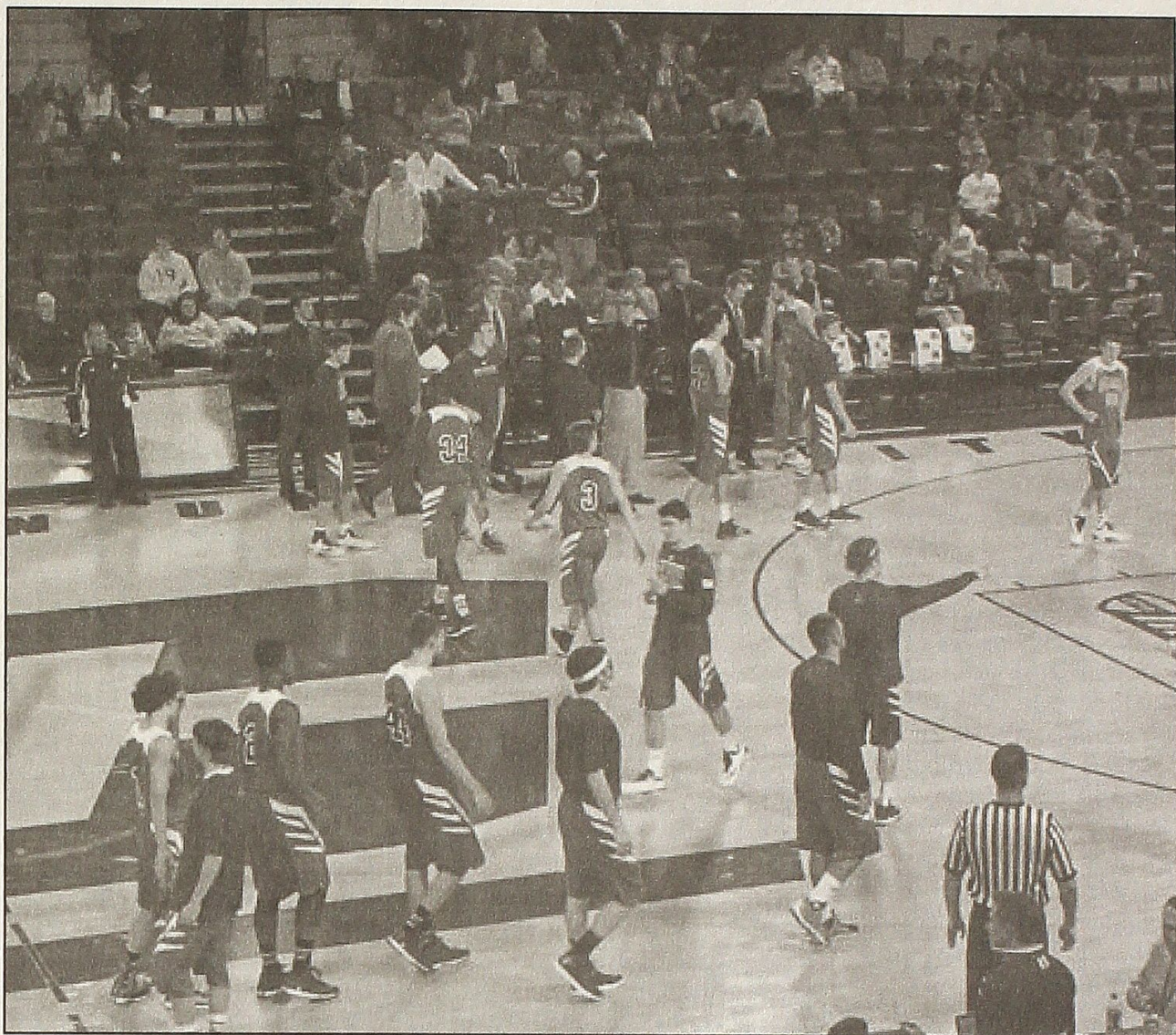


Photo Courtesy Ben Thelen ('18)

The Alma men's basketball team warmed up at CMU's McGuirk Arena to take on the Chippewas last Friday. The Scots lost the game, 106-64.

Defiance College led the Yellow Jacks with 32 points.

The team will be traveling to Spring Arbor University Tuesday for its second official game of the regular season.

Wrestling team goes 2-1 in Arkansas last weekend; Scots face Davenport Thursday

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College wrestling team took a trip down to Arkadelphia, Arkansas to take part in the Hatcher Duals hosted by Ouachita Baptist University last Friday. The Scots went 2-1 on the day, defeating the College of the Ozarks (MO) and Lyon College (AR) and falling to the Ouachita Baptist Tigers.

"We are building on the success of last weekend," said Head Coach Todd Hibbs. "We are looking to get better every week."

The Scots started the day by

dismantling the College of the Ozarks by a score of 60-0.

"Heading into the first match, we knew they were a young program but figured they would have some good wrestlers," said **Jared Groeneveld ('15)**. "We went into the match with the mentality of business as usual and to wrestle well."

In the second match of the day, the Alma College Scots suffered a tough loss to the host Tigers. Ouachita Baptist is a Division II program that finished fourth in the nation last season. The team came into the Hatcher Duals as the second ranked team in Division II.

The Scots gave Ouachita

Baptist a lot of trouble, but ultimately the Scots dropped the match 29-16.

"It was a hard fight and our guys never stopped wrestling and pulled a few matches out," said Groeneveld. "We knew they had tough lower weights, but we didn't let their momentum change how we wrestled in the upper weights."

The Scots bounced back from the tough loss by easily downing the Lyon College Scots 46-3.

"I felt like we wrestled well today against some very quality opponents," said Hibbs. "Our goal is to win the Division III National Championship and quality performances like today are going to be necessary to achieve that goal."

"The third match we wrestled well and didn't let the previous loss get us down," said Groeneveld. "We had some freshmen in the lineup who performed really well for us. I thought we responded well, which shows we can shake off a loss and keep moving."

Two Alma wrestlers finished the afternoon going 3-0. Groeneveld in the 155 class and **Caleb Huff ('16)** in the 184 class both went undefeated in their respective weight classes.

Travis Heller ('18) went 2-0 on the day as well in the 155 weight class, coming back from an early deficit to be undefeated.

Jamie Jakes ('16) went 2-0 as well, and made history in the

process. In his second match of the day, Jakes defeated the 2014 junior college national champion from Ouachita Baptist. Jakes became the first Scot in program history to take down a national champion.

"This meet gives us a confident feeling that we can compete and wrestle with the best," said Groeneveld. "We have high hopes for the season and will continue to work hard and improve every day."

The wrestling squad will look to continue its torrid start and claim victory Thursday when the Scots face the visiting Davenport Panthers at home. The match will begin at 7:00 pm.

Women's bowling upsets defending national champs Sam Houston State on way to 9-7 weekend

By BRENT LUPLOW
STAFF WRITER

The women's bowling team has gotten off to a hot start this year and played competitively with many of the top squads in the NCAA.

On November 8, the Scots traveled to Valparaiso University to take part in the NCAA Crusader Classic.

The Scots got off to a hot start after day one of the three day event by finishing 6-0 in their matches. This was good for a third-place ranking in the standings.

Their biggest victory happened when the Scots upset defending national champion, Sam Houston State by a score of 992-808.

"During the day, I knew that I needed to keep making repetitive shots and to stay one move ahead of the lanes breaking down," **Jessica Cords ('15)** said.

"I had to keep telling myself to take the game one shot at a time and to not worry if I missed a spare and if I did to forget it and refocus for the next shot."

"I had to keep telling myself to take the game one shot at a time and to not worry if I missed a spare and if I did to forget it and refocus for the next shot."

-Jessica Cords ('15)

Alma also set a school record on the first day of competition when the Scots shot a 268 in a win versus Alabama State.

On the second day of competition the Scots cooled down a little as they finished with a 2-4 record, with wins over Monmouth and Mckendree in round 1, a team they had beaten the day before. However, Mckendree edged out a 4-2 victory over the Scots.

Alma then drew Central Arkansas, who they beat 4-3, before falling to Vanderbilt University 4-2 to conclude the weekend of play.

Alma finished 9-7 on the week-

end, good enough for sixth place overall.

Leading the way for Alma was Cords who placed second overall in the tournament and was named to the All-Tournament Team. **Lillie Miller ('16)** and **Heather Lafnear ('16)** finished in 20th and 26th place respectively.

"I won a Junior Gold qualifier three years ago, I have also gone to nationals and finished in the top 70," Cords said.

"In two early tournaments this year I have finished in the top five," Cords added.

Athletic Director John Leister resigns after 20 years at Alma

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

It only took a few days for the office of the athletic director, in the upstairs of the Hogan Center, to be completely vacated after the swift and quiet resignation of now former Athletic Director, John Leister.

The Alma College athletic department is currently searching for a new leader following the recent resignation of Leister. Leister was a member of the athletic department for over 20 years. He joined the athletic staff in 1993 as an assistant football coach and an assistant baseball coach. Leister was named the director of the athletic department in 2007 after a nationwide search.

Before becoming the college A.D., Leister was a professional athlete playing football for the Pittsburgh Steelers before later pitching for the Boston Red Sox.

Prior to his professional career, he played quarterback at Michigan State University, where he started for three years and set multiple passing records that have since been surpassed.

In Leister's tenure as the athletic director, the football

team has won 24 of its 79 games, however, both men's and women's soccer teams have enjoyed much success, as has the softball team.

Leister's administration was also responsible for starting a new wrestling program for the 2011-2012 season, which has been arguably the most successful program at Alma College in the past few years.

Denny Griffin, the head coach of the softball team, will serve as the interim athletic director until the administration is able to fill the position.

Leister was not available to comment regarding the circumstances of his departure, however, in a press release issued by Alma College, he is quoted as saying, "I have greatly enjoyed my time at Alma College. The time is right to consider the next steps of my career. I value the relationships that I have built with the coaches, faculty, staff and alumni at Alma."

"I have great memories of the development of our student-athletes and the on-the-field successes of our teams, but, even more importantly, I take great pride in seeing the life accomplishments of our student-athletes after they have left Alma."

In the same press release, Alma College President Jeff Abernathy



Abigail Fergus: Community Editor

The Hogan Center will have a new person in charge once the replacement A.D. is found. Until then, softball coach Denny Griffin will act as interim athletic director.

was quoted as saying "I am grateful for John's dedication and 20-year commitment to Alma College Athletics. As athletic director, he oversaw significant facility improvements, including renovations to the Hogan Center, Scots Park and Bahlke Field, and

the expansion of the athletics program from 18 to 23 varsity teams.

"John leaves a solid foundation for the future success of Alma's athletics program."

Leister took heat in recent years for the lack of success in some of

the programs, particularly the football team. Nevertheless, adding five varsity programs to the department in seven years is not an achievement to be overlooked. Hopefully the new athletic director can build off of these achievements.

Swimming and diving split matches against Albion with women winning, men losing

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Swim and Dive teams took to the pool against Albion College last Saturday at MacClure Natatorium. The women's team defeated the Britons 151-147, while the men's squad lost to Albion by a score of 161.5-101.5.

With the split, Albion won on the combined score and retained possession of the Scots-Britons trophy. This was the second consecutive year Albion has won the head to head match-up between the schools.

"I was very pleased with our performances today," said Head Coach Bill Copland. "Our women did very well all afternoon and took home the win and then with just six guys, we only lost by 50 points. It shows how hard they have been training and illustrates the fact that they are buying into what we are trying to do as a team."

"I think both teams were very excited about the meet," said Assistant Coach Katie Vargas. "The energy was high and the crowd was loud. Overall, both teams were having fun and bringing their best effort to the races."

"It was a great meet! Everyone was really hyped up, and it was definitely a fun meet to be a part of," said Jaclyn Shetterly ('16).

The women's squad had quite a few individual winners in Saturday's contest. Taylor Muselman ('17) won the 1650-yard freestyle, Sydney Hooker ('17) won the 50-yard backstroke, Bailey Sopjes ('17) won the one and three meter dive, Shetterly won the 100-yard backstroke and the 400-yard IM, and Hannah Schroeder ('16) won the 50-yard breaststroke, the 50-yard freestyle, and the 100-yard backstroke.

"We have all been looking forward to this meet for a few weeks now, and the anticipation really added to its excitement. We were really excited to race against our rivals," said Shetterly.

On the men's side, the team had a number of individual winners. Cody Kayser ('15) won the 100-yard butterfly and the 50-yard butterfly. Daniel Biggs ('15) won the 200-yard freestyle, the 500-yard freestyle, and the 200-yard IM. Heath Thornton ('15) claimed victory in the 50-yard backstroke and the 100-yard freestyle.

"The men's team as a whole, competed very well and had many top finishes against Albion. All of the swimmers had great races, especially for this point in the season," said Thornton.

"Even though it was a tough loss, I think the men definitely performed well. They still won

9 out of 16 events," said Shetterly. "When you think about it, Albion has a 23-person roster; whereas we only have a six person team. The fact they only lost by 50 points speaks volumes for our gentlemen."

Both men's and women's teams claimed wins in the 200-yard medley relay.

"Both the men's and women's teams had victories in events, which proved to be a great motivator for the entire team to strive for personal gains. This dual meet with Albion provided the opportunity to challenge ourselves and see what was possible, which was exactly what the team did in all events," said Thornton.

Alma will compete again December 5 and 6 in the Carthage College Invite in Wisconsin. Alma will face the Albion College Britons again at that meet.

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Congratulations to Kaitlyn Arnold ('17) for qualifying for NCAA Cross Country Nationals after a sixth place finish at Great Lakes Regional!