

THE ALMANIAN

SERVING ALMA COLLEGE SINCE 1907

VOLUME CIX

ISSUE VII

NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 12, 2014

Flutist performs at Dunning Chapel



Paige Emerson; Staff Writer

Christopher Chaffee performed his flute last Thursday in Dunning Memorial Chapel.

BY PAIGE EMERSON
STAFF WRITER

A guest performance by Christopher Chaffee, a musician and professor from Wright State University, captivated the audience last Thursday.

Chaffee graduated with honors from Interlochen Center for the Arts and was a four-year scholarship student there. He has taught at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Xavier University, Miami University. He is currently the associate professor of flute and director of graduate studies in music at Wright State in Dayton, Ohio, where he teaches flute, chamber music, history courses, and assists with graduate research.

Chaffee performed a

variety of pieces in the Dunning Memorial Chapel when he visited, such as "Sonata in A minor, Wq. 132," a solo piece written by Carl Phillip Emmanuel Bach.

He also performed accompanied by Susan Snyder, a guest pianist from Interlochen Center for the Arts. He remarked that "Sonata for Flute and Piano," one of the many pieces that the two played together, is a "very delightful little piece that isn't played often, but it should be."

Other pieces that the two performed included Ned Rorem's collection of "Four Prayers," four pieces by Niels Gade titled "Elegie," "Scherzo," "Canzonette," and "Novellete," as well as Philippe Gaubert's "Flute Sonata No. 1," which includes three pieces titled "Modéré," "Lent," and "Allegro Moderato."

Chaffee said that the selection by Gaubert was one of his favorites. Also accompanied by Snyder, the pair played the flute sonata last.

Krista Chessin ('15) explained that she "thought it was surprisingly entertaining. I'm not usually a fan of this kind of music but it was lovely."

"The second piece, the sonata for the piano and flute, was the one that I enjoyed the most. Listening to it, I could almost see a story unfold before me. I also loved that he waved to his mom at the end of the show. It was adorable."

"His performance mixed traditional, classical music with more modern compositions, and it stayed really enjoyable throughout the whole show, especially because his playing was so amazing," said **Paige Daniel**

('18).

"I had the privilege of working with Dr. Chaffee Thursday morning in a master class," said **Rachel Dobyns ('18)**, who assisted with the performance. "He listened to me play my flute and gave feedback. He was very helpful and kind, and his comments will help me improve my playing."

I loved his recital. His tone is flawless and pure and I hope to be able to create that sound with my flute someday. Despite Dr. Chaffee's incredible talent, he is a very humble and kind

man, and I am glad I was able to meet him and hear him play."

Karen Flesh ('18) remarked, "I definitely think people should take advantage of these small concerts like the one Dr. Chaffee performed. He did an awesome job, and it would've been cool to have more people there to see him."

Chaffee wrapped up the performance by waving to his mother in the audience, sharing that this was something he is almost never able to do.



Paige Emerson; Staff Writer

Due to how close exams fall to Thanksgiving break,
this is the last Almanian edition of the year.

The Almanian staff wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

We will return at the beginning of next semester.



This Week at
Alma College
November 24 -
December 12

Monday

Chamber Ensembles Recital
7 p.m. Dunning Memorial Chapel

Wednesday

Alma College at the Palace!
2:30 p.m., Palace of Auburn Hills

Friday (Dec. 5th)

Adventure Rec Caberfae Ski Trip
3:30 p.m. Cadillac, Mich.

Festival of Carols
8 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Saturday(Dec. 6th)

Festival of Carols
8 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Sunday (Dec. 7th)

Festival of Carols
8 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Monday Dec 8th-Friday Dec. 12th
Final Exams
Various Locations

**Choir presents its 21st
Festival of Carols Dec 5 - 7**

By **CHELSEY COBB**
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Choirs, including the Glee Club, Chorale, and the Alma Choir, will perform in the yearly tradition of the Festival of Carols.

This year the concerts will be on Dec. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. and on Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. In a new twist to the festival, the choirs will also perform on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Mich..

“Our goal each year is to create a colorful, exciting, memorable evening of Christmas music,” said Will Nichols, the choir director.

This is the 21st anniversary of the Festival of Carols, which grew out of the Christmas concerts that were performed by the choirs in the chapel. When the Oscar E. Remick Heritage Center was built in 1993, the Christmas programs were moved and became the Festival of Carols.

“It was always lots of fun and a great success, but it has grown quite a bit through the years,” said Nichols. “We used to sing one concert, then two, then three, and this year four concerts.”

The songs performed are a mix of sacred carols, as well as the popular Christmas songs heard on the radio. Some of the songs on the program are “O Come All Ye Faithful,” “Angels We Have Heard on High,” “In Thee is Gladness,” “I Saw Three Ships,” and “Eatnemen Vuelie,” a Norwegian carol recently made famous as the opening song from the popular movie “Frozen.”

In total there are more than 130 singers performing, accompanied by Tony Patterson on the piano. In addition to the three choirs, the acapella groups Pretty in Plaid and Scots on the Rocks will also be performing.

“One of my favorite pieces that we sing is called ‘The Holly and the Ivy,’ which is basically an old classic song arranged by Ola Gjeilo. It’s a beautiful song that is smooth and contains

just gorgeous harmonies,” said **Ainslee Rubino (’17)**.

“I think people will enjoy carols that they are familiar with because that gives them the magical, nostalgic feeling of Christmas,” said **Natalie Sloggett (’17)**. “When we sing new arrangements of songs, or less well-known pieces, I think that gives the audience a chance to see Christmas music from a new perspective, and with greater diversity.

“Something I love about Festival of Carols is that there is usually an effort to include carols in different languages from other cultures, which allows the audience to experience how Christmas is celebrated in other countries.”

The Festival of Carols this year, like in years past, is expected to be a packed event to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season.

As Nichols stated, “I hope [the audience] will hear the opening carol, ‘O Come All Ye Faithful,’ and know that Christmas has arrived.”

Looking for a new place to study before exams? Try out these suggestions compiled by editors!

Stucchis - Grab one of the winter themed drinks while you’re there!

Kaya Coffee Shop in Mt. Pleasant- We hear the hipster atmosphere is wonderful for studying! 3rd Floor of SAC after class hours is pretty peaceful and quiet.!

The Rotunda- If you like to see others pass by while you memorize flash cards this may be the spot for you!

Alma Public Library- For when the campus library has too many distractions for your liking. Hogan and/or Eddy Lobbies- Hidden locations of study bliss!

Chapel Basement/Prayer Room

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

Stone Recreation Center hosts new IM sports

By **SAMANTHA COYKENDALL**
BUSINESS MANAGER

The Stone Recreation Center saw an increased flow of traffic from the student body in the last week, since one of the most popular intramural sports on campus began – four versus four IM volleyball.

Students of all different interests, passions, and athletic abilities formed teams to compete in the volleyball tournament hosted by the Rec Center.

This year, there are 24 teams competing for the title of “champion,” which is slightly less than previous years. Teams were divided into two large sections, North and South, to compete Monday through Thursday in one of four time slots. The top 16 teams will advance to the single-elimination tournament after regular play has concluded.

Garrett Thelen (’11), assistant director of recreation and conferences, cites IM volleyball as one of the sports with the highest level of participation offered through the Rec Center.

“The IM sports that are always the most popular are volleyball and basketball,” he said. “I also have high hopes for a few weekend tournaments that we are planning to host for basketball, volleyball,

indoor soccer, and floor hockey.”

IM volleyball teams are comprised of up to six members, and teams must always have two women on the court at any point. Participating teams in the 2014 four-on-four IM volleyball include Notorious D.I.G, Kiss My Ace, Flint Tropics, Safe Sets, 4play, Take a Hit, Block Party, Bumpin Fuzz, We Don’t Lose, Bruske Bullies, Fighting Hannah Guilfords, ACLT, MONSTARZ, Team Mediocre, T-Rick and The Rats, Good From Us, Jeremy’s Main Mitches, LumberJACKS, Ball Busters and Team Name. Regular games will conclude on Dec. 2, and the top 16 teams will be announced at that point.

IM sports offered through the Rec Center have been a popular and unique way for students, athletes or not, to stay active and compete in various sports.

“IM sports are here for all students, not just athletes,” said Thelen. “One challenge that we are trying to tackle is offering opportunities to students who are looking for events that are more about being active and having fun rather than something that is ultracompetitive.”

Other ways that the Rec Center is working to cater to the needs of the student body has been through the switch to online sign-up for IM sports and other Rec Center activities.

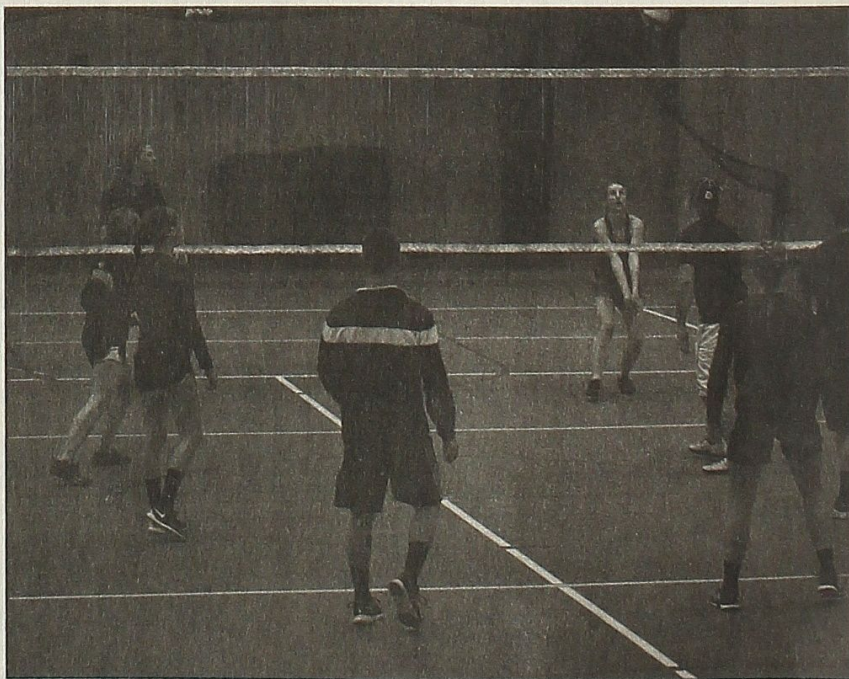
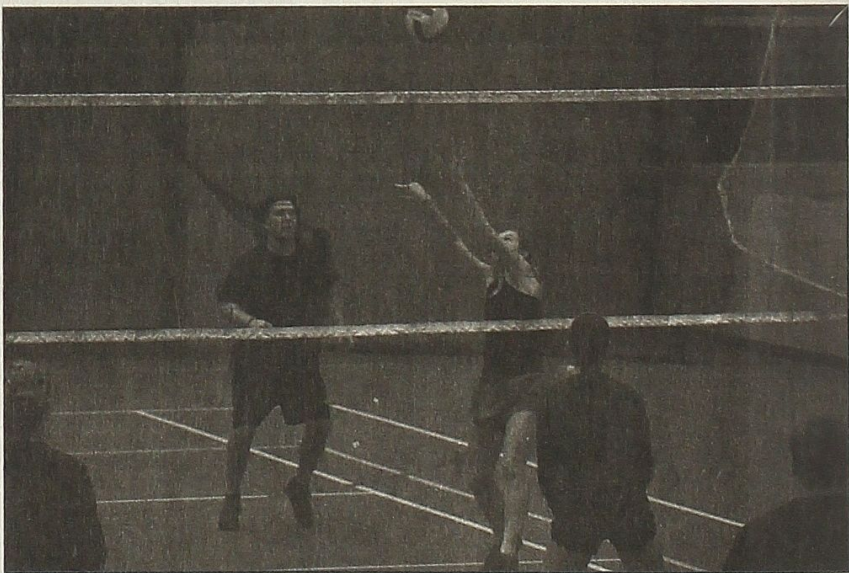
“The Rec Center is trying to make things as easy as possible for the students,” said Thelen. “We also want students checking out our website as much as possible so they can see what is going on in the Rec.”

Students who wish access the intramural sports page on the Alma website can search: <http://www.alma.edu/stone-center/intramural-sports/>.

“Our website is updated daily and offers valuable information like when each sport will be played throughout the school year, the rules of the current IM sport in progress, and the full schedule of the IM sport being played,” said Thelen.

Additionally, the intramural sports website posts information about the length of the game, equipment and uniform, playing area and conditions, roster size, scoring, winners of past IM sports, and other miscellaneous information.

Several new IM sports have been added to the Rec Center’s offering, including KanJam, pickleball, table tennis, whiffleball, and kickball. Upcoming IM sports will include dodgeball from Jan. 12-22, indoor soccer Jan. 26-Feb. 5, kickball Feb. 9-19, basketball March 3-24, 6 v. 6 volleyball March 26-April 9, softball April 27-May 20, and beach volleyball from April 27-May 20.



Marcella Flury; Staff Photographer

Superheroes Fight Cancer

By Monica Kunovsky
Freelance Writer

Coming back to Alma this spring is the annual Relay For Life event, which raises awareness of cancer and money for the American Cancer Society. Colleges Against Cancer hosted the event's kick-off meeting last Thursday. Those who attended were introduced to this year's theme of superheroes, treated to free ice cream courtesy of Stucchi's, and given personal stories from those who have been affected by the disease. The head of the decorations committee for Colleges Against Cancer is thrilled at the idea of Alma participating in Relay For Life. "I like the fact that we can spread awareness about cancer to the community and get involved with efforts to fight cancer," said Deve Wishart ('18). "I lost my little brother to cancer, and so I feel like he would want me doing

this. It would be important to him." The event includes teams formed from groups throughout campus, such as sports teams, Greek life, staff and community members, and other clubs, and each group works to raise money for Relay. "Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer," said Danielle Harm ('16). Harm, who is one of the co-leaders, alongside Karol Chubb ('15), hopes that this year will be even bigger than last. "In previous years, we've raised over \$32,000," said Chubb. "This year we're hoping to get between \$33,000 and \$35,000 and increase the numbers of teams that participate." Teams already signed up include Gamma Phi Beta, Sigma Chi, Alma's women's soccer, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alma College Hepcats, and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Each team is in charge of crafting some sort of activity to help raise

money for this event. "This year we're hoping to do something that'll grab a lot of attention and help the cause," said Alex Mays ('16), captain of the Tau Kappa Epsilon team. "This is something that we're super passionate about, and it's something we take pride in doing every year." "Alma College Climbing Club is going to have several climbers combine their efforts to climb one mile. That's around 176 laps—or 88 per person on a team of two," said Jason Bursach ('16). "Although it may take a lot of effort, we're willing to put it in; it's the least we can do to honor those who've battled cancer." Relay For Life will take place March 21 in the Stone Recreation Center. Staff in charge of the event encourage students to sign up and get involved. "Our generation has opportunities ahead of us to potentially change the world," said Harm. "This is an easy way to partake. It's one step in the right direction towards the end goal of curing cancer."



Photo courtesy of College Against Cancer and Relay for Life at Alma College
This year's Relay for Life theme is superheroes. On March 21, students will dress as super heroes for Relay.

BEFORE YOU BUSTLE HOME FOR BREAK REMEMBER TO

- UNPLUG ALL OF YOUR APPLIANCES SUCH AS REFRIGERATORS
- SHUT YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS TIGHTLY
- LOWER YOUR THERMOSTAT TO 60 DEGREES
- SHUT OFF THE LIGHTS

WHEN DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS REMEMBER

- NO FRESHLY CUT TREES ARE ALLOWED
- DON'T ATTACH DECORATIONS TO WINDOW COVERINGS AND SCREENS
- ONLY UL APPROVED LIGHTS ARE ALLOWED FOR DECORATION
- DON'T OVERUSE OUTLETS
- DON'T BLOCK EMERGENCY EXITS
- DON'T ATTACH ANYTHING TO SPRINKLERS

WHEN THE SNOW BEGINS PILING UP REMEMBER

- STEER CLEAR OF SNOW REMOVAL MACHINES, OPERATORS HAVE LIMITED VISION
- SNOW EQUIPMENT MAY BACK UP, SO DON'T TAIL BEHIND CLOSELY
- DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR SO THAT IT IS OVER THE SIDEWALK SO THAT CLEARING THE WALKS IS EASIER
- AVOID PARKING IN THE SOUTH END OF WRIGHT HALL AND REID KNOX, THESE AREAS ARE USED TO PILE SNOW
- LEAVE AT LEAST ONE CAR SPACE BETWEEN YOU AND PARKED SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT



HELP KEEP THE CAMPUS SAFE, GREEN, AND EFFICIENT BY ADHERING TO THESE WINTER GUIDELINES GIVEN BY FACILITIES AND SERVICE MANAGEMENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL X7162.

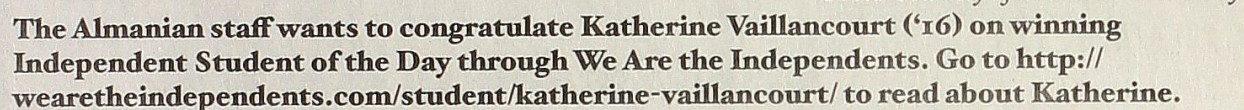
THE ALMANIAN WOULD LIKE TO THANK FACILITIES FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THEY DO FOR THE COLLEGE FROM KEEPING HEAT RUNNING TO GETTING SNOW PLOWED.



Holiday Word Search

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

CAROLING CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER ELF
DREIDEL EGGNOG
GINGERBREAD HANUKKAH
LIGHTS MENORAH
MISTLETOE ORNAMENTS
PRESENTS REINDEER
SKATESLED SNOW
SNOWBALL SNOWFLAKE
STUFFING THANKSGIVING
TURKEY ICICLE
ICE PIE
WREATH SANTA
SNOWMAN TREE



● Tuesday the Pipe Band will perform with the well known Celtic
● Thunder band in Detroit. The event will take place in the Fox
● Theatre. Five dollars of every \$35 ticket will go to the group. For
● additional information, and to buy tickets, go to [https://www.
● formstack.com/forms/?1841215-SrwhlNKunt/](https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1841215-SrwhlNKunt/).

HAVE YOUR PROFESSORS, FRIENDS -EVEN STRANGERS- BEEN TALKING ODDLY? DO YOU THINK THEIR ABSURDITIES ARE WORTH QUOTING IN THE ALMANIAN'S NEW SECTION "WORD ON THE STREET"? LOOK FOR DETAILS ON OUR FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PAGES.

-PROFESSOR JOHN ROWE

If you are interested in writing journalistically or taking photos, consider working for The Almanian. Apply for a paid position with The Almanian by emailing editor.almanian@gmail.com.

Photos Courtesy of Alma College Kiltie Dancers Facebook page



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

[illegible]

Writer reflects on the absurdity of nothingness

By **RAY VISSER**
STAFF WRITER

It is after midnight in an upstairs study room. My computer is open. An unfinished coding project lies abandoned in one window. My roommate, Justin, sits across the table, trying to finish his economics homework.

This is the setting for an epiphany that is, in all likelihood, philosophically useless. But it's still interesting to consider: nothingness is something.

There are times when we become too concerned with the greater somethings of life to appreciate the "nothings"—the events and experiences that don't apply directly to our current goals or responsibilities.

First, here's some evidence that I am a terrible study partner. I have spent much of the last hour and a half reading to Justin from the feed of a Twitter bot called "Anagramatron." It scours that endless supply of 140-character messages for pairs of tweets whose letters can be rearranged to form each other.

More often than not, the paired anagrams are nonsense ("So everything he told me was a lie / These hot wings I made are lovely"), but every so often,

the bot finds something truly devastating. "I'm left alone crying / I am only reflecting."

Every time I read him a particularly potent pair of tweets, Justin, an avid fan of anagrams, responds with an adamant "stop it, Ray," and threatens to leave the room, upset that he sees no point in trying to write something like that on his own.

He is bitter that we are being outdone in meaningfulness by the proverbial endless monkeys and typewriters. Also, as seems to happen after midnight, we discuss existence.

I share a realization I'd had earlier that day. "Nothing is happening" really means "nothing is changing." Like the tyrannosaurus from "Jurassic Park," we tend to lose track of things that aren't in motion, calling for our attention. It's hard sometimes to sit still and enjoy a moment in time without worrying about where it will lead.

When I realize it is 2 a.m. and my code is no further along than when I had sat down, my first reaction is this:

"Wow, I have done nothing tonight."

But immediately after speaking, I make eye contact with Justin. We've both just realized the irony of my statement.

It's a phrase that, in regular usage, is innocuous enough.

The connotation is that I didn't make any progress on my assigned work, the coding project. This is true. But the number of other ideas considered, concepts discussed, and anagrams appreciated during that time certainly didn't amount to "nothing."

I immediately corrected myself: "No, I did do something tonight."

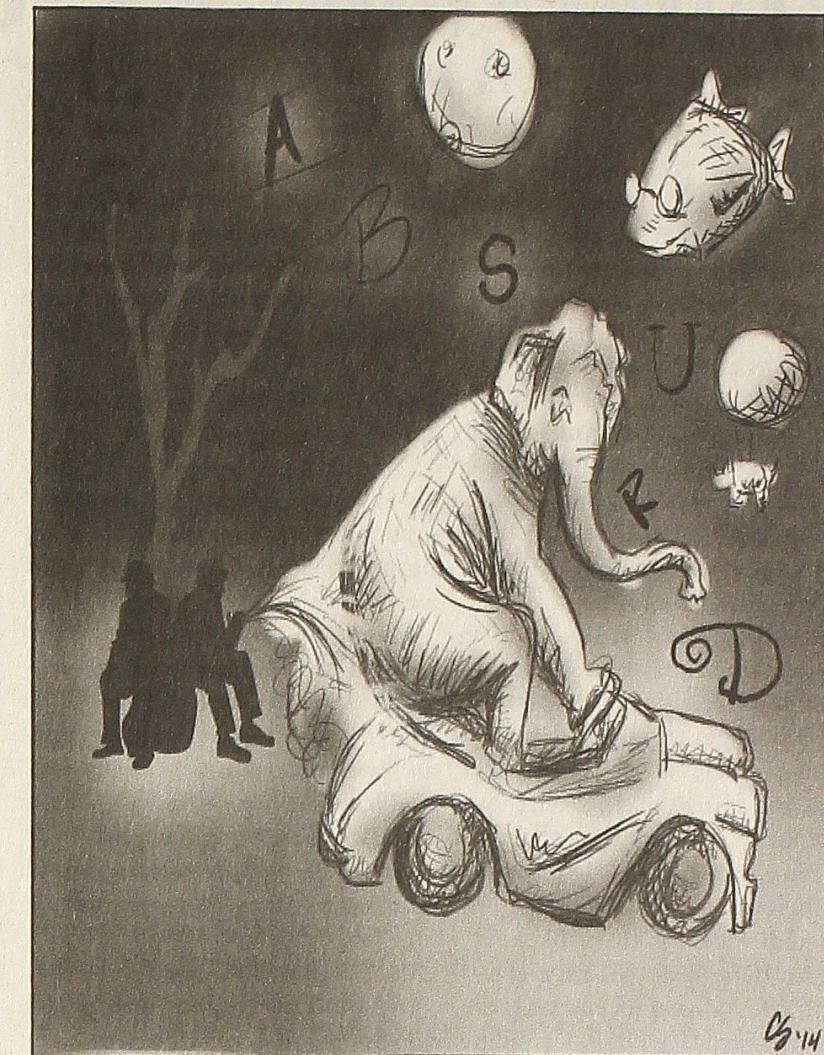
"Waiting for Godot," a famous play by Samuel Beckett, sets two aging men, Estragon and Vladimir, in a barren wasteland, endlessly and futilely awaiting the arrival of the title character.

They discuss existence, eat carrots, inspect their bowler hats, sit and stand, walk around.

Three other characters—none of whom are Godot—enter and exit the action. The play is divided into two structurally similar acts, both of which begin and end with Estragon and Vladimir simply waiting.

Vivian Mercer, a literary critic, said that "Waiting for Godot" "has achieved a theoretical impossibility—a play in which nothing happens, that yet keeps audiences glued to their seats." That nothing is something.

I don't want to advocate



Cassidy Shankleton; Staff Illustrator

procrastination for the sake of hippie pursuits of enlightenment and universal harmony. Meeting goals and accomplishing tasks is important.

But were Justin and I mirroring

Estragon and Vladimir in that upstairs study room? I'm talking about our perception of time and events we consider "wasted." We had no Godot to wait for, but the time was well spent.

Low budget ways to spread holiday cheer

By **MECHON CAREW**
STAFF WRITER

'Tis the season to be jolly. Of course, I'm talking about Thanksgiving because it's my favorite, but I guess winter holidays are coming up. Yay.

Sorry, my enthusiasm button broke. Yeah, I just don't get that excited about Christmas, or winter, or holiday cheer in general.

I don't decorate my room with lights and trees and motion-detecting singing stuffed candy canes. I don't go out caroling.

In fact, I have a strict ban on singing Christmas or winter songs from December 1 to at least Valentine's Day. I haven't

made a snow angel or fort since elementary school and I have never built a snowman.

I know, right? My family, equal parts frugal and apathetic, was just never that into holidays, especially Christmas. As an only child for 12 years, I was initially spoiled, but I eventually lost my enthusiasm, asking for clothes and school supplies after reaching 10.

Personally, my version of holiday cheer is more in the sense of the little traditions my family does and the general attitude that comes with the winter season.

It may seem cliché, but winter holidays are really supposed to be about giving.

As college students drowning in debt, it may be hard to follow this spirit, but here are a few ways to give back without breaking the bank.

1. Donate

It doesn't have to be a lot, just whatever change is in your pocket at the time, and it doesn't even have to be money. You don't even have to look that far. There are a lot of opportunities to help those in need, whether through food or clothes, right here on campus.

For non-money donations, try to think of those clothes you just don't wear anymore or non-perishable food item you've had since the term started. If you're not using it, why not give it to someone who will? And to top it off, you'll even get a nice warm feeling in your heart in return.

2. Hand-Make Gifts.

Behind the love of winter holidays is an air of panic. It's the kind that comes from buying the perfect gifts for your friends only to realize you completely forgot about your family, or vice versa. My rule of thumb is to make my gifts, even if they're small.

Whether or not you're particularly crafty or creative, any person who really cares about you is going to be touched by a gift that you've poured your blood, sweat, and/or tears into, or at the very least, time, which we all know is valuable by itself.

3. Do Something Nice.

Speaking of time and its value, for those who simply cannot make a gift, this may be the best option for you.

Perhaps you could offer to help your parents cook if you're skilled in the culinary arts (spoilers, I'm not) or to shovel the driveway instead of letting them hurt their back again. You could even surprise them by taking on a task that you've always hated, such as cleaning the bathroom or doing the dishes.

Friends can be a bit trickier since they haven't spent their entire lives telling you what they want you to do already, but simply

spending time with them can be a gift in it of itself. Take the time out of studying to plan a night to watch movies, play games, or just hang out. Just be a friend, and they should appreciate that just fine.

4. Say Something Nice.

After spending a lot of time with someone, friend or family, you can often forget to say nice things to each other. When you go home be sure to compliment your parents' cooking (because we all know it's better than SAGA), tell your siblings you miss them at college (because you know you do, don't lie to me), and don't spend the entire break in your room.

Here at Alma try to remember to tell your friends how much they mean to you, say hi to people you pass in the hallway, and smile a little more. After all, some holiday warmth is about the only thing that's going to keep you from freezing to death this winter.

Tips for getting through final exams

By **ALEXANDRA BOURNE**
STAFF WRITER

Exams are always a stressful part of the year. Students can often be seen cramming in the library throughout the day, or with their bedroom light on all night, a mug of coffee by their side.

However, exams do not have to be stressful, and there are a few simple steps everyone can take to help with this..

Do not wait until the last minute to study.

This is a tip you have heard for years, and yes, it does still apply. Cramming for that biology test the night before will not do you any good. It is physically impossible for you to retain all of the information you are hurriedly skimming through just hours

before the big exam. It is much better and much more helpful for you to study each subject an hour or two per day for at least a week, if not more.

1. Don't know the answer? Skip it and come back

This tip helps from a time standpoint as well. A lot of the stress from taking exams comes from worrying if you'll finish in time. Spending 10 minutes debating over one question on the first page won't do you any good. You'll be more likely to finish and have less stress if you mark the question, skip it, and come back to it after you've answered every other question that you are sure of.

Your first instinct is usually right. Don't second guess yourself.

When taking a test, I often find myself answering one thing right away, and then changing

my answer. When I get the test back, I discover that my first choice was correct; I often lose points by second guessing myself. If you think right away that one thing is right, then begin to question it, don't. You just may vaguely remember it from your earlier studying and your instincts are trying to help you out. Trust them.

2. Sleep

It's a simple enough tip, but extremely important nevertheless. If you fall asleep in your exam because you stayed up all night doing some last-minute studying, that last-minute studying will do you no good. You will be more likely to do well on your test if your body has received the rest it needs, making you more alert.

3. Eat a healthy breakfast

If you skip breakfast for that extra 10 minutes of studying,

you may end up regretting it. Those few minutes it takes to eat something small may make all the difference.

If you are hungry during your exam, you will be distracted from the test by daydreams of the pizza you will eat as soon as you finish. Next thing you know, the exam period is almost over and you're not even halfway done. Furthermore, that light, healthy breakfast will also give you the energy you need to stay awake and alert during the exam.

4. Hydrate

Your water intake will help as much as eating breakfast will. If you don't drink anything before or during the exam, you may find yourself distracted by that dry, scratchy feeling in your mouth and throat.

5. Breathe

If you find yourself getting frustrated, stop for a second and

breathe. It's just a test. If you don't do as well as you'd like, it's not the end of the world. If you psych yourself out, however, you may find yourself doing worse than if you had taken those few extra seconds to calm yourself.

6. Be on time or early

Not only would showing up late look bad, it would also stress you out and cut the amount of time you have to take the test. If you wake up on time or early and get to your classroom on time or early, you will feel less stressed, make a better impression on your professor, and be ready to take the test.

7. Come prepared

If you are taking your exam in pencil and it breaks, it will be a good idea to have a spare pencil or two, or a portable sharpener on hand. If you take your test in pen and it runs out of ink, having a back-up is always a good idea.

Short Stack filmmaking club provides opportunities, outlet for students

By DAN MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

I want to be a filmmaker. Last school year was horrible. I went through a terrible chain of events that I never thought would happen to me. My brother (who was also my roommate), **Sean Murawske ('17)**, passed away. This happened in the middle of January, and the rest of my sophomore year was extremely difficult to get through. After the end of the winter semester, I had one week off, then I had to return to campus for my Spring Term course, Digital Film Production. I did not want to go back. It had nothing to do with the class itself, I felt that under any other circumstances, Digital Film Production, or "Dfilm," would be a blast, but I was ready to be at home for the summer so I could stay around my family. But that was not to be, so I made my way back to Alma for another month of staying in the

same room where Sean and I made so many memories. To my surprise, Spring Term was the most fun semester I have spent at Alma College. Anthony Collamati, who led the class, is a great professor. He helped me learn a great deal about the filmmaking process, and I thank him for everything he taught me. My classmates were amazing. I always had fun in class; no matter how bad of a day I was having otherwise, as Sean was on my mind a lot throughout the term. Time went on as we learned the ins and outs of filmmaking. Then for the last week and a half or so, we split the class up into two groups, and each made a short film. That is when I had the most fun. Between the great chemistry each of my group members had with each other and the fun we had making a short film, I had a great time. While I was with my group, or doing my own work on the film by myself, the agony of knowing my brother was gone temporarily lapsed from my mind. I thank each and every person who had a part in our short film, "Glued," for helping me get through Spring Term.

This has been the toughest year of my life. I think about Sean every day. I miss him so much, and I wish there was more time for us to make memories. Being Sean's roommate for the semester and extra week that he was here brought the two of us closer together. I want to thank Alma College for that. I thank everyone, both back home in Harbor Beach and here in the wonderful community of Alma for all of the support you have given to my family and I. It is because of your support, and because of our faith in God that I am able to get through each day. But I digress, as this is an article about filmmaking. I am so thankful for my experience in "Dfilm," from making great friends to the experience of writing and making a film (I wrote the screenplay that my group made into a film). I know for sure that filmmaking is for me, and I think I am off to a great start. For those of you who might be interested in entering the world of filmmaking, Alma College has an on-campus club that makes short films. The group is called "Short Stack," and while we specialize in

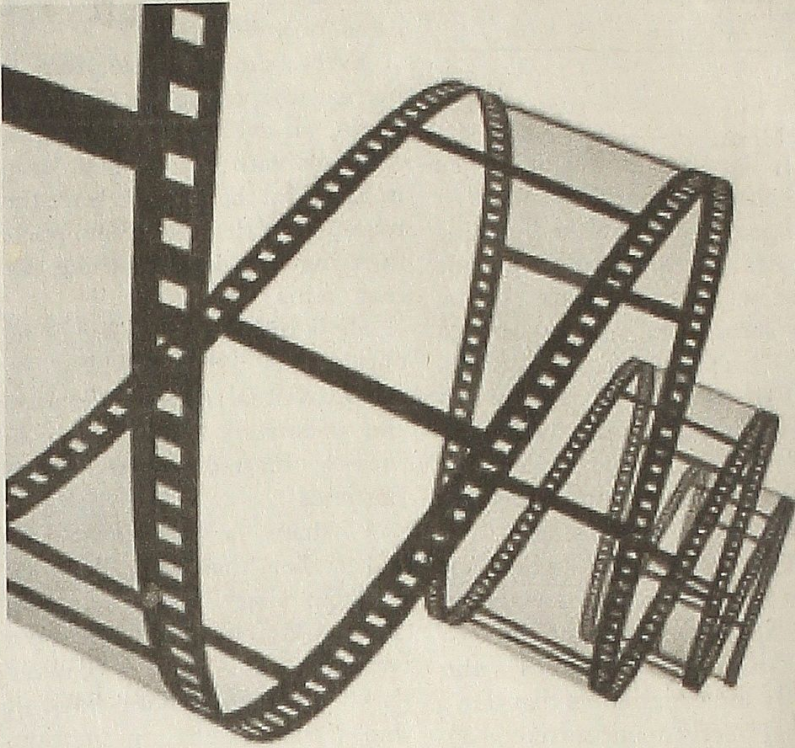


Photo Credit: bangtowrite.com

short films, we could potentially make other sorts of videos. For example, right now we are making different music videos. Everything we do, whether it be making music videos or short films, we do it for the experience of each group member. This is the place to go if you want to gain experience in the world of the filmmakers. If anyone is interested in joining the group, or would simply like more information about us, email me at murawskeidr@alma.edu.

Almanian Subscriptions

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Don't forget to take this home for break!

- Alma tree
- Chargers
- Dirty laundry
- Pets
- Toothbrush
- Refrigerator contents
- Plane tickets
- Medications
- Contacts and glasses
- Roomkey and I.D.
- Summer clothes
- Homework and Finals prep
- Bike
- Nice clothes for seasonal job interviews

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!

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

Women's basketball starts season 2-1 after weekend tournament in Ohio

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team has started the regular season with a 2-1 record after routing Pennsylvania State-Behrend in an 80-54 blowout last Saturday in Wilmington, Ohio, following a loss to Ohio Wesleyan on Friday.

This win, the most triumphant moment of the season, came on the heels of an overtime victory in the season opener on November 15th against Defiance College in which the ladies won 67-65.

"That win was incredible," said Coach Kris Johnson. "We persevered throughout the game, and we ended up executing even better in overtime."

The women were certainly excited to get the first win of the season in such a dramatic fashion.

"When the clock ran out, the girls started going nuts," added Johnson. "They celebrated like they had won the national championship, and some girls started tearing up."

Despite coming out victorious, the game exposed some points on which the team needed work. The squad committed 27 turnovers throughout the course of the game and shot only 33.9 percent.

"They were able to score 25 points off of our turnovers," added Johnson. "We need to be able to hold on to the ball better and also commit less fouls."

"We just have to take this tournament one game at a time," commented Johnson before the game. "We've studied what they do, but we're more focused on what we need to do, which is work on our transition defense."

Even with a lot of work to do, practices were up and down. According to Johnson, "We've been having bad practices this week, very low energy. I think a lot of that comes with having 6

a.m. practices. The practices have been much better in the afternoon."

The Scots split their matchups in the tournament going 1-1, losing to Ohio Wesleyan last Friday 63-47. The team rebounded quickly, however, as they beat the Lions of Behrend the next day.

Reanna Zink ('16) and Mallory Pruett ('15) led the way offensively, each scoring 18 points. Pruett had four baskets from beyond the arc. Pruett and Grace Wheeler ('15) each had 7 boards as well. The Scots were able to shoot an incredible

"That win (over Defiance) was incredible. We persevered throughout the game, and we ended up executing even better in overtime."

- Coach Kris Johnson

Upcoming Winter Sports Events

Nov 26

Men's basketball @ Palace of Auburn Hills vs. University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Nov 28 + 29

Women's JV Tournament at Muskegon Community College
Men's JV Tournament at Muskegon Community College

Nov 29

Women's basketball vs. Concordia University

Dec 6

Women's JV & Varsity basketball vs. Hope College

50 percent from the field while holding their opponents to just 36 percent.

Saturday, the Scots will play their home opener for this season against Concordia University.

Scotlight: Jamie Jakes ('16) looks to repeat success from last season and make wrestling Nationals again

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

Alma wrestler **Jamie Jakes ('16)** came back into this season with a renewed intensity and work ethic to make a return trip to the NCAA National Championship.

"Frankly, Jamie brings a training intensity and lifestyle commitment that even intimidates some of his teammates at this point," said Coach Todd Hibbs. "We are currently trying to make it the norm in our program, and he is helping to lead that. If we can get 15-20 guys to follow suit, Alma wrestling will do some very special things in the future."

Jakes greatly impressed his peers as he worked his way to compete in the National Championships, the first qualifier in program history.

Jakes came up empty-handed in both of his matches, but it only lit a fire under him to work harder.

"My performance at nationals last year was a pretty big disap-

pointment, but it inspired me to change everything and commit 100 percent for this year," said Jakes.

Jakes came into this season with a more focused attitude and dedication that is second to none.

"You can bet that his off-season work is paying dividends already and will continue to do so," said Hibbs. "If he competes like he trains, he will reach his goals."

"My biggest focus over the summer was my strength. I hit the weights just about every day and put on a good amount of weight," said Jakes.

His work this off-season has shown on the mat. Through the first three matches this season, Jakes is currently undefeated, sitting at 9-0.

He also has set lofty goals for himself and the team. His experience and leadership has given the team direction and has lit a fire for the squad to succeed.

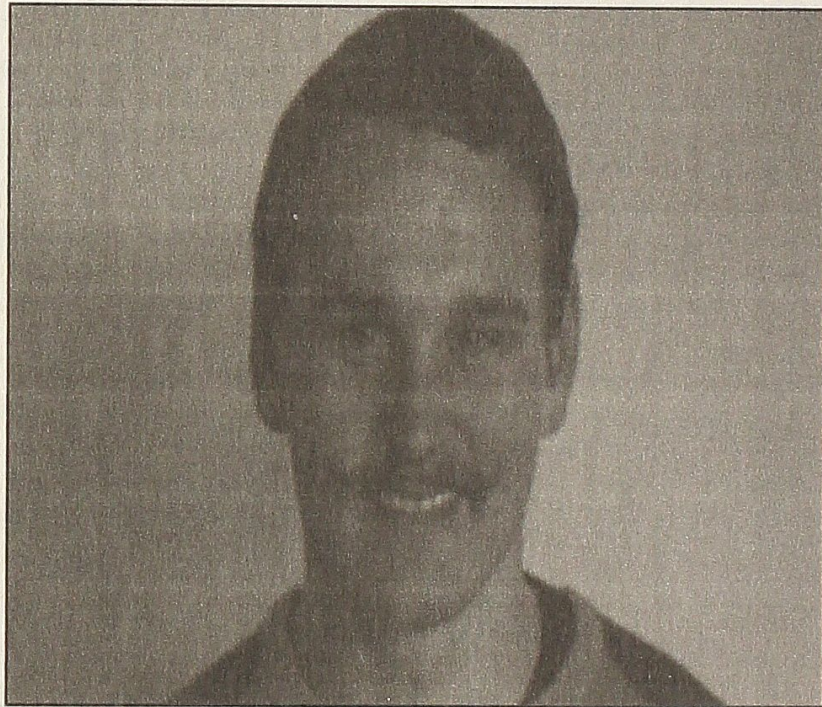
"My goal for myself after re-

gionals last year was to wrestle on the stage at Nationals for a championship; that's what I expect to do. I expect the team to bring a van full of guys to Nationals and to finish top ten in the rankings," said Jakes.

"Our expectation for Jamie is to continue to be true to himself, and to his commitment to this program, which is bigger than any one of us," said Hibbs. "Jamie sets his own goals. We just try and support him in reaching those. Jamie has set a goal of winning a national title, and that's what we aim to support."

While Jakes's commitment and athleticism has made him a force to be reckoned with on the mat, he also has leadership capabilities that cannot be matched.

"Jamie leads a group of guys on our team who have absolutely bought in to the philosophies and vision of our coaching staff and this program. This includes the off-season as well as in-season,"



Marcella Flury; Staff Photographer

said Hibbs.

With Jakes' already amazing season, he has helped spur amazing production from a very young and continually improving program.

Jakes' great start has greatly impacted his quest for a match in the National Championship, and his leadership and great effort will continue to pay dividends for Alma College wrestling.

Men's basketball starts regular season 0-4

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

The men's basketball team has had trouble finding its rhythm early in the season, as it has started this regular season 0-4.

The Scots' first loss of the season came at the hands of the Yellow Jackets of Defiance College, which beat the Scots by 27 points, 85-57.

The Scots traveled to Spring Arbor University last Tuesday to face the Cougars. The Scots lost in a heartbreaker 63-61.

"We played hard, and the effort and energy were there, but we just

couldn't come away with the win," said Assistant Coach Ryan Clark. "The loss stung hard, but it was definitely a valuable learning experience."

The squad had trouble grabbing rebounds on the defensive end as it allowed 17 offensive rebounds for second chance looks.

"We've been working hard on that in practice this week," explained Clark. "A lot of one-on-one rebounding drills, trying to get the guys to be more physical and get all five guys to crash the boards."

Another problem that the Scots faced was a poor performance at the free throw line, as the team

shot an abysmal 46.2 percent.

"We don't spend a whole lot of time working on free throws. You can either shoot them or you can't," commented Clark, "but we need to work on it now to raise the guys' confidence at the charity stripe."

It was a top performance by Nikodemski, who finished with a double-double, scoring 21 points and dishing 10 assists.

Last weekend, the Scots dropped another two games when they traveled to Calvin College to compete in the Calvin tournament, where they lost to Ohio Wesleyan University 82-67 on Friday and to Waynesburg University

82-78 on Saturday.

In the loss to Ohio Wesleyan University, the Scots were led offensively by **DJ Beckman ('16)** who exploded for 32 points and splashed home seven three-pointers. Beckman also snatched 14 rebounds out of the air to record the double-double.

Unfortunately, Beckman was the only one to get anything going offensively, as the team shot only 38.3 percent from the field.

In the close loss to Waynesburg University, both **Chase Fairchild ('17)** and **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** were able to score efficiently as they had 24 and 23 points, respectively. Beck-

man also added 18 points to the total. Fairchild was also able to drop six shots from deep.

Clark said that "we've really been pushing Scott to be more aggressive, because we know he can take his game to another level. He can create for both himself and teammates, and if he approaches each game with aggression, he can be one of the top guards in the league."

Hopefully, the Scots will be able to turn things around on the big stage when they play in the Palace of Auburn Hills against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater this Wednesday afternoon.

Wrestling defeats Davenport; goes 1-2 at Olivet over weekend

By BRENT LUPLOW
STAFF WRITER

The wrestling team opened up its 2014 home season in front of a full house last Thursday, when the Scots welcomed Davenport University to Art Smith Arena for an exhibition match.

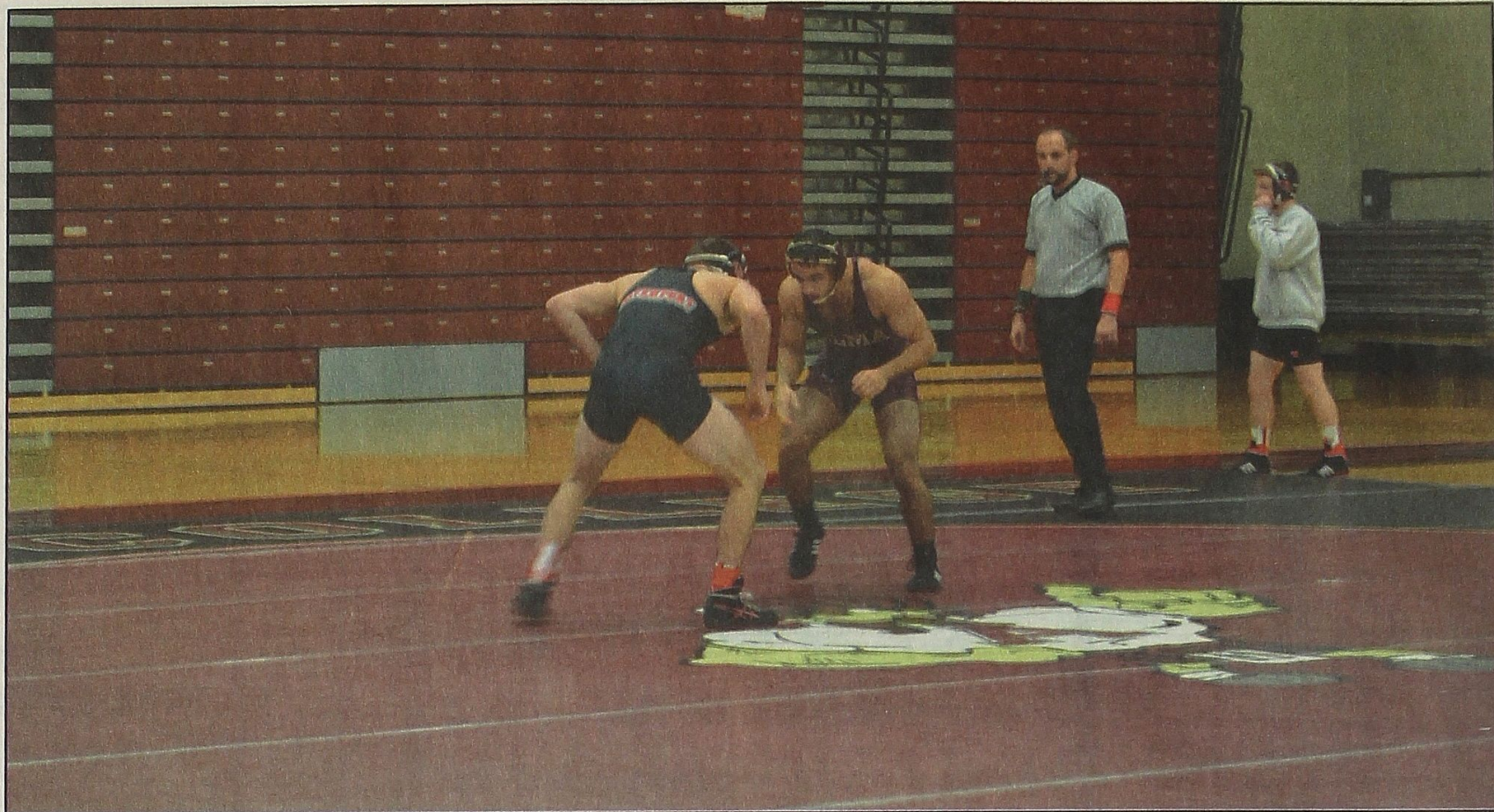
Davenport, a NAIA school in its first year of having a varsity wrestling team, brought a depleted roster to Alma. This allowed Coach Todd Hibbs and the Scots to rest a few varsity starters, which allowed other team members to get valuable experience.

Alma benefited greatly from Davenport, whose team gave up four forfeits at the 125, 149, 165, and 197 pound weight classes, which allowed Alma to pick up 24 free points and guided them to a 30-12 victory over the Panthers.

"It felt great being able to get the win for the fans and having the ability to show everyone what we are capable of," said 133-pounder **Ali Ayache ('16)**.

Leading the way for the Scots was **Paul Mikhijan ('15)** and **Caleb Huff ('16)**, who both picked up victories by decision.

Huff said, "I think the team wrestled well. We were a little slow and not too aggressive, but



Ali Ayache ('16) looks to make a move against his Davenport opponent last Thursday in Hogan Arena.

Rebekah Irani, Staff Photographer

we went out and got the job done. Individually, I think I did well, though a little on the unaggressive side, but I learned a lot from this match and I'll get better for the next match."

The team returned to action last Saturday when it traveled

to Olivet College for the Olivet Duals.

Before the weekend, **JJ Sadler ('16)** said, "We are looking forward to wrestle some top name teams this weekend at the Olivet duals."

The Scots started the day

strong but lost two close dual matches to end the day with a 1-2 record.

Alma beat Heidelberg 19-15 in the first dual, followed by losses to Wisconsin Whitewater 25-9 and Muskegon Community College 23-20.

Tyler Foley ('15) and **Jamie Jakes ('16)** both went 3-0 on the day, while Huff and **Jared Groeneveld ('15)** collected two wins and one loss.

The Scots return to action on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Ohio Northern Invitational.

Spotlight: Kaitlin Arnold ('17) runs at Division III national championships

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

On a cold, windy, and snowy course at Wilmington College, Ohio, **Kaitlyn Arnold ('17)** competed in the Division III cross country national championships.

Arnold finished 68th place overall out of 280 runners, with a time of 22:57. This was Arnold's first trip to the national championship meet.

"As for Kaitlyn, what can you say," said Coach Matt Chovanec. "Her hard work, dedication and sacrifice have paid off with the ul-

timate honor: to represent Alma College in the national meet. All of her coaches are very proud of her."

"I didn't race as well as I would have liked to, but overall I'm pleased with my performance. It just didn't feel as good as it normally does," said Arnold.

Arnold has had an amazing season and had the entire team behind her the whole way.

"Kaitlyn has done every little thing possible right. She dedicates her entire lifestyle to running and it really has paid off," said **Kara Giles ('16)**. "At the beginning of the season, it was her goal, and we

all knew she could do it, and we supported her every step of the way."

Arnold's race was a great look into the future of the Alma College women's cross country team. With Arnold's amazing season, the squad is looking into the future and continuing building the program.

"Her success helps the entire team because she set the bar so high for us," said Giles. "She is living proof that working hard really does pay off, and by having Kaitlyn go to nationals this year, it puts it into perspective for us that our team really can do great

things, and we can all keep pushing the bar higher."

"Today gave me a taste as to how I need to handle highly competitive races. Although I am pleased with today, I am not satisfied. My ultimate goal is to make it back and become an All-American. I don't want to settle with today but work harder to improve in the future," said Arnold.

Arnold had an amazing regional race, finishing in sixth place to earn a spot in the National Championship. At the Great Lakes Regional, Arnold ran a 21:54.

"Kaitlyn ran out of her mind at regionals," said Giles. "We were so proud of her. We knew that

she could run times like that, and we were just waiting for a good course to do it on. Sixth place in our region is a tremendous accomplishment, and we were so proud of the way she represented us at regionals."

Arnold's season has surpassed even her expectations, and she will be one of the most important leaders coming into next season.

With her exceptional work ethic and leadership, the women's cross country team will look to her to lead for the future. Arnold's ascension to the National Championship will remain a testament to the hard work and training of the women's cross country team.

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- Kaitlin Arnold ('17)



Marcella Flury, Staff Photographer