

Students shine at Choreography Concert

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The studio was filled with the sound of falling feet, the soft tumbling of bodies to the floor, and the sight of bright sequins sparkling in the red and white spotlights. Members of the Alma College Dance Company moved across the stage in flashy style for the Student Choreography Concert last weekend.

“Overall, I loved it,” said **Brandon Newton ('13)**, who was a light designer for the show. “I think the choreographers really outdid themselves, not only in selecting the music, but the dancers they chose to pair with those songs really jived and brought their own unique attitude to the piece.”

But aside from the dancing, what also made this show unique is that it was organized entirely by students.

“It’s unusual for undergraduates to get a chance to do a whole show on their own,” said Jennifer Sarver, visiting instructor of dance.

This is usually an opportunity offered to students in graduate school, she explained, and “it’s to such a high degree...we’re very proud of that!”

The work for the show began in September, when dancers auditioned for parts in the show, explained Kristen Bennett, visiting instructor of dance. And while the instructors gave critiques and feedback, the artistry behind the pieces was left up to the dancers—from style to footwork to costumes.

“We help direction-wise sometimes,” Bennett said, “[but] we don’t choreograph anything for the show.”



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

Students involved in the Choreography Concert work together in order to pull the production together, organizing lighting, music, costumes and choreography to create the best concert possible. The tradition is repeated every year by dance students.

Also, the seniors take charge of directing the concert and this year, it was time for **Amanda Jackson ('13)**, **Devon Brisbon ('13)**, and **Lina Cortes ('13)** to take on that responsibility in addition to choreographing.

“It’s definitely a point of pride for all the seniors,” Jackson shared. “We started out in September holding auditions...and we made rehearsal schedules, and now that it’s show time, we had to contact lighting people, and do everything from the programs to the posters to editing music.”

Brisbon said she had mixed feelings about the show.

“The other night in rehearsal [I told] the other directors Amanda

“I think I’m going to
cry knowing it’s all
almost over.”

-Devon Brisbon ('13)

and Lina, ‘I think I’m going to cry knowing it’s all almost over,’ she said. “It’s bittersweet but any time I get to share my talent with someone is another time for me to smile and be happy.”

Others involved with choreography included **Erica Fraiser ('14)**, **Erin Self ('14)**,

Chelsea Radgens ('14), **Ashley Alore ('14)**, **Maggie Donley ('14)** **Maggie Donley ('14)** **Sam Coykendall ('15)**, and **Veronica Alore ('15)**.

These dancers, along with **Alyssa Harris ('14)**, **Marissa Sheffield ('14)**, **Mackensie Garlow ('15)**, **Cassie Haley ('15)**, **Allie Woodburne ('15)**, **Morgan Markowicz ('16)**, **Isabelle Limondin ('16)**, **Lauren Page ('16)**, **Melanie Yost ('16)**, and **Marissa Relitz ('16)** performed in at least two numbers.

Styles varied from jazz to hip-hop to modern, and even some pointe. For Markowicz, was her first choreography concert.

“I love every piece I was chosen for in this show,” she said. “I really feel like it brings out the best of my ability and makes me work toward my full potential!”

Her favorite aspect of dance is the potential for self-expression she finds in it, she said.

“I can let go of everything else at that moment and just do what I love,” Markowicz explained. “It’s a great stress reliever and a great way to stay in shape.”

The concert featured three shows last weekend—Friday, Saturday, and Sunday—and has been held annually in January for a number of years.

“It’s a long-standing tradition,” said Bennett.

Ensemble brings American folk music to campus

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The acoustic folk band Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellies will perform this Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Lou Remick Heritage Center. The group will showcase fast-paced bluegrass tunes, soulful waltzes, romantic ballads and plenty of other authentic American roots music.

The group formed in Lansing in 2008. It is composed of members

hailing from all corners of the Michigan Mitten.

Mark Lavengood ('07) is an Alma College graduate who will be returning to campus with the group.

During his time at Alma, Lavengood was involved in numerous performing arts groups, including the percussion ensemble, chorale and jazz band. He said he is looking forward to playing “roots” music at the locale where his own musical roots were formed.

“All the exposure to the varied types of music while I was at Alma was a fantastic experience for me – it’s nostalgic to be

going back there for this show,” Lavengood explained, noting that his first encounter with what he calls “a super obscure instrument” occurred during his time here at Alma.

“I got into it probably around 2005, and a year or so later a buddy got a resonator guitar (dobro). Initially, I picked it up by listening and watching other people play and was amazed by the sounds it produces.

In later years, I’ve really been buckling down and learning the proper playing techniques. It’s the kind of instrument that you have to grow into.”

The group will perform music

composed by group leader and vocalist Lindsay Lou Rilko, which include “true-life tales of bank-robbing aunties, moonshinin’ grandpas, and celebrations of love, life and nature,” according to the band’s Website.

The group includes Joshua Rilko, Keith Billik and Spencer Cain, performing the acoustic guitar, mandolin, upright bass and banjo. The band has recorded two albums: “Lindsay Lou: A Different Tune” (2010) and “Release Your Shrouds” (2012).

A reviewer for *Current Magazine* wrote, “Lindsay’s songwriting captures the ol’ timey tales of traditional bluegrass with the swing of contemporary

hopefulness.”

Students say they are looking forward to the upcoming show.

“I am really excited to listen to Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellies,” stated **Amy Soclovitch ('16)**. “I am a pretty big fan of country music, but I think it will be refreshing and enjoyable to listen to some traditional American roots music.”

“Folk music is making a huge comeback and I am glad that Alma is getting on the scene,” said **Jon Clark ('16)**.

“I like Mumford and Sons, Josh Ritter and Of Monsters and Men. However, it is exciting to be going to see a Michigan home-grown band.”

ACUB brings new acts to campus

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

"I love playing house music [and] dance music, but I don't think of myself as limited to one genre of music," said Svet.

He said he has played the violin since he was three years old and his mother made him "practice for four hours a day."

He would stop for brief interludes at the concert to tell a few anecdotes and engage the audience. At one point, he emphasized the importance of education and encouraged putting it first. He recalled an incident in which he had to choose between taking an exam or appearing on "America's Got Talent." He ended up choosing to finish school.

"Keep working at the things you're good at, but don't lose sight of what's in front of you," said Svet.

Svet has his own music available on iTunes and on his Website, svetmusic.com. After the show he encouraged attendants to visit the site and follow him on Twitter.

Bringing Svet to campus is part of the many activities ACUB has planned for the winter semester.

"He's very entertaining. You've never seen anything like this before," said **Ryan Kovach ('13)**, president of ACUB.

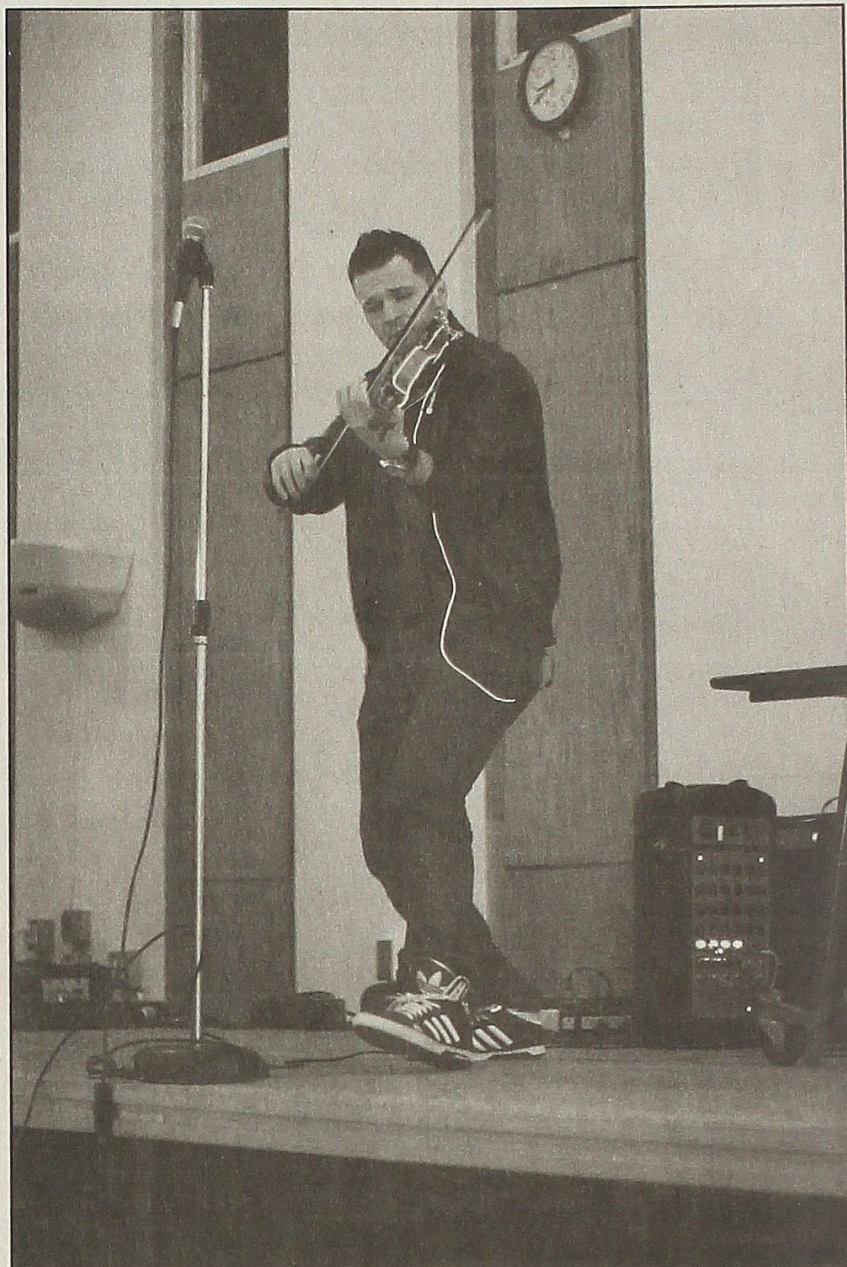
According to ACUB Advisor Josh Todd, Svet was brought to campus through an annual conference, the National Association of College Activities (NACA), which the group attends. It's a four-day event that offers programs for everyone who is available to come to college campuses.

Todd said that there's a "marketplace" within the conference that works as a meeting place so college organizations can talk to agents and performers to set up a contract. That's how ACUB was able to get in contact with Svet.

"We're trying to find stuff to bring to Alma that students will enjoy. Not everything you see will catch your eye. Svet was someone that we definitely thought would catch students' attention," said Todd.

ACUB has a calendar of events for the next several months which includes movie nights, as well as trips to both a Pistons Game and a Lady Gaga concert. The organization hopes to get word out of these events to students who might be interested far in advance.

ACUB's next event is Deal or No Deal, Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

The Alma College Union Board brings entertainers like Svet, as well as games and events like Deal or No Deal, to campus regularly, as well as organizing trips to places like Cedar Point.

This week at Alma College

Student groups bring MLK Day events, speaker to campus

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day today, Alma College's Interfaith Council, Service Learning Office, Amnesty International, and Multicultural Student Union are hosting a variety of events around campus.

The Service Learning Center is running a blood drive and bone marrow registry with the United Health Professionals of Alma College. The drive takes place in the Stone Recreation Center from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., with appointments preferred but walk-ins are invited as space allows.

The Alma College Interfaith Council is holding a "diversity day fair" with booths set up in the Recreation Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"During the MLK Day Blood Drive, we will be . . . highlighting some of the various discussions currently taking place in the world about religion," said **Kenny Sparks ('13)**, president of the Interfaith Council.

The discussion topics are diverse and far-reaching. "We have partnered with other campus organizations to host booths ranging from 'What is Interfaith?' to religious persecution," said Sparks. "We hope that this event will provide a diverse exposure of our coexistence and how we truly are 'Better Together.'"

At 3 p.m., a panel discussion titled "What Would Dr. King Say Today?" will be held in Dow Li, featuring Alma professors Dr. Ed Lorenz of the history and political science departments and Dr. Stephany Slaughter of the modern languages department, student and Interfaith Council Treasurer **Katie Gordon ('13)**, and special guest Jim Lucas,

"Dr. King preached the importance of peace and social justice in the world."

-Kenny Sparks ('13)

with Alma professor Laura von Wallmenich of the English department moderating.

"The idea is for students to come up with ideas and questions [for the panel] at the diversity day," said Gordon. All of the day's topics are interrelated.

"[Students could] go from hearing about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the Amnesty International [booth] to asking questions at the panel."

Lucas, the MLK Week keynote speaker, is a nationally renowned actor and MLK impersonator. He will present "Reflections," his one-man show, at 8 p.m. in the Heritage

Center. In "Reflections," Lucas performs his powerful renditions of famous MLK speeches and writings.

The Interfaith Council is using MLK Day as an opportunity to spread awareness of its own mission.

"Dr. King preached the importance of peace and social justice in the world," said Sparks. "His nonviolent activism aligns perfectly with . . . the Interfaith Council's call to initiate dialogue between various faith communities."

Gordon is personally inspired by MLK's work. Last year, author and activist Tim Wise gave a speech on "the MLK you don't hear about," said Gordon. "[The speech] pushed me to find out more about MLK's life and what he did beyond civil rights [work]." In her subsequent research, Gordon "got to his belief in equal human dignity, one of the fundamental beliefs of interfaith."

Interfaith Council "[provides] educational and experiential exposure to the multitude of expressions of spirituality seen throughout the world," said Sparks. "We hope that the campus community will gain an overall understanding of Interfaith and the importance of embracing the faiths of the world."

"Interfaith recognizes that we're all the same," said Gordon. "We just call ourselves different things."

Monday, January 21:

MLK Jr. Blood Drive & Bone Marrow Registry at 11 a.m. in Stone Rec Center

Better Together: Interfaith Diversity Day at 1 p.m. in Stone Rec Center

Jim Lucas MLK Keynote at 8 p.m. in Heritage Center

Tuesday, January 22:

ACUB Presents: Deal or No Deal at 7 p.m. in Dunning Memorial Chapel

Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Friday, January 25:

Sorority Walkouts at 8 p.m. in Stone Rec Center

Saturday, January 26:

Fraternity Runouts at 8 p.m. in Stone Rec Center

Student Life Office combats campus crime

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

Alma College, despite its location in a small town, is not immune to danger and crime. Fortunately, however, the Student Life Office has many procedures and information available to prevent such things from happening.

According to Director of Campus Life Dave Blandford, all colleges are required to collect statistics of crimes that occur on campus. They are available online and are open to the public.

"I would say that this is a fairly small town and a safe place with a relatively low crime rate in the area," said Blandford. "But it can give people this perception that there isn't any crime. Everybody, no matter where you

live, needs to be aware of [his or her] surroundings. Use common

"I would say that this is a fairly small town and a safe place with a relatively low crime rate in the area. But it can give people this perception that there isn't any crime. Everybody, no matter where you live, needs to be aware of [his or her] surroundings. Use common sense."

-Dave Blandford

sense."

According to the statistics, there were two reported forcible

sexual offenses in 2011. In 2010, there was one report of a forcible sexual offense and a case of aggravated assault. There were three reports of burglary and one case of forcible sexual offense in 2009.

According to Blandford, the campus security office publishes items that aren't revealed on the released statistics. These would include fire alarms, unsecured doors, and vandalism.

Campus officials are always looking for ways to decrease crime and prevent it, according to Blandford.

"A major thing we've done [to accomplish this goal] is to increase security's role on south campus. [The officers] patrol Thursday through Saturday evenings around the small houses on south campus," said Blandford.

There are measures in place to discipline students who break or disregard the policies of the college. In fall 2012, 2.52 percent of students were found in violation of these policies, according to

Gelston Hall Director Dave Lewis.

"In the last two to three years [the number of offenses has] gone down. We have seen a trend that misconduct has decreased, from the numbers I've seen," said Lewis.

When an incident occurs, students go through a process that involves documentation and a series of talks with a hall director to determine if the person is responsible or not responsible for violating policies.

However, students, if found responsible, are given educational sanctions to work with. These can include writing a paper, creating a bulletin board or program, performing a set number of hours of community service, or having sessions at the Counseling and Wellness Center. Students can be referred to the Center when they violate policies regarding alcohol and need help overcoming those problems.

Anne Lambrecht, director of counseling, health, and wellness

services, is one of the counselors who offer tips and educational information on drinking safety. She said that one of the programs available at the Counseling and Wellness Center is BASICS.

"Students can be self-referred to it. It does not teach you how to drink. Instead, we talk about drinking and explore it in a safe, confidential environment. It is not an abstinence program," said Lambrecht. "If a student is caught with an alcohol problem, they could go to BASICS."

She also mentioned that the Wellness Center and chapel are safe places to go to in case of sexual assault. She referred back to Blandford in emphasizing the importance of reporting those types of incidents and that although students do not have to be part of the process, an investigation still must be made.

"The best thing about this campus is that people watch out for each other," said Blandford. "The response time here is much faster [than at larger campuses]."

NEW HOURS FOR HAMILTON COMMONS:

**MONDAY-THURSDAY
7:30 A.M.-7:30 P.M.**

**FRIDAY
7:30 A.M.-7 P.M.**

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY
10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.
(CLOSED BETWEEN
BRUNCH AND DINNER)
5 P.M.-7 P.M.**



Photo courtesy of Tracy Fuller

Cheerleaders from Alma High School gathered with players from the Alma Tigers Special Olympic basketball team on Jan. 13 to play in the Hogan Center during the opening days of the Special Olympics season.

Political science club attends inauguration

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

Eight members of the Alma College Political Science Club recently had the good fortune to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

They traveled to Washington last weekend to serve as members in the audience as President Barack Obama was sworn in for his second term in office.

"I feel blessed! It's an amazing opportunity to travel and see our country in action, to be a part of

something bigger than myself," said Kara Nic ('15).

"It's an amazing opportunity to travel and see our country in action, to be a part of something bigger than myself."

-Kara Nic ('15)

This year the inauguration took place on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, with the theme of "Faith in

America's Future," according to many news websites.

ABC News noted that this is only the second time in our country's history that the presidential inauguration aligned with MLK Day, the only other time being the swearing in of Bill Clinton for his second term in 1997.

According to Britt Cartrite, advisor of the political science club and chair and associate professor of political science, the Center for Responsible Leadership joined with the political science club to fund the trip to Washington.

Others who traveled to the capital were Ari Kornelis ('14), Lauren Engels ('15), Elizabeth Knappe ('13), Ari Kornelis ('14), Jessica McLeod ('15),

Tracy Oberle ('16), Roxanne Sheldon ('13), and Steven Smith ('16). Knappe currently serves as the club's president.

"Anyone with an interest in politics should join the club," said Cartrite.

"I'm very interested in how political systems operate around the world. Every one is unique and has its own advantages and disadvantages; no system is perfect," said Nic.

These lucky travelers aren't the only Alma College students to witness President Obama's swearing-in. Four years ago, Luke Condon ('15) attended.

"[Being able to witness the inauguration] is something that a very select few people will ever be able to say they did," he said.

Nic wants to use the experience to enhance her education.

"I hope to feel more connected to the political landscape: Americans chose President Obama as their leader, and I'm interested to see how this is embodied in the conglomerate of people attending this event," she said.

She is also grateful for the privileges, including this one, that she has been given at Alma.

"Opportunities like this are the main reasons I'm so lucky to go to Alma College. I love to travel, and because of Alma I've been to St. Louis, New York, Sierra Leone, and now Washington, D.C. I couldn't imagine having these experiences had I attended a different university," Nic said.

New Center for Student Opportunity houses faculty, organization offices, study rooms

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

Last semester many of us either saw the plastic tarp engulfing the area that used to be Jones Auditorium and the old bookstore or heard the noise coming from

“Students can take advantage of academic support, seek a tutor, and get assistance on résumé building or cover letter writing, as well as help with career planning.”

-Karen Klumpp

The space is now the new home to the Academic and Career Planning (ACP) office, formerly found in the library basement.

“Students can take advantage of academic support, seek a tutor, and get assistance on résumé building or cover letter writing, as well as help with career planning,” said Klumpp.

The ACP staff is readily available to help with those needs. Anneliese Fox works with students to master interview skills. Through a series of evaluations and questions, she can help explore majors and possible career choices, too.

There are two rooms available strictly for testing, which are watched over by Nate Payovich, who hosts study skills workshops and is in charge of arranging tutors.

The CSO also houses offices for service learning, which is the sponsor of the blood drive on today and other service projects. Service Learning Coordinator Anne Ritz and AmeriCorps mentor Lindsay Weber can be found in this particular workplace.

The Center for Responsible Leadership, too, has moved to the CSO space. Faculty Director Murray Borrello and Assistant Director Sallie Scheide share an office.

Laura von Wallmenich, who is head of multicultural affairs and the Opportunites and Connections program, can be found often in the CSO. She’s more than willing to help students with mentoring, financial counseling besides what the financial aid office offers, and provide encouragement and support for first generation college students.

In the mornings, Karen Ball and Coordinator Cristy Calhoun

use the space for the Integrated Health Studies Institute. They have information on health care opportunities, internships, graduate schools, and jobs available. In the afternoon, though, they can be found in Dow, as usual.

“[The purpose of the] CSO is to ensure special off-campus opportunities [and to serve as a place to] get more information in

“[The purpose of the] CSO is to ensure special off-campus opportunities [and to serve as a place to] get more information in front of students when they need it.”

-Karen Klumpp

front of students when they need it,” said Klumpp.

The CSO has plenty of tables for studying, whether alone or in a small group. Students are encouraged to find a nook to read quietly or reserve a small room. It’s even possible to reserve the mezzanine or loft area on the east end of the facility, which is simply a meeting space.

“[I dubbed it] ‘Piccolo Mezzanine’ because Dr. [Nick] Piccolo thought it would be a good way to keep the space open



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

The new Center for Student Opportunity, which houses many student service offices, also offers study rooms and tables in addition to providing meeting places for students, organizations, and faculty.

and creative,” said Klumpp.

Eventually, information about events that will take place in the CSO will go out to the campus. They could include presentations using the flat screen television

in the main open space to class-related activities. According to Klumpp, soon, faculty will be given the opportunity to reserve the space for various workshops or occasions.

National accreditation to education department leads to stronger program

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Becoming nationally accredited recently gave Alma’s education department a chance to prove its strength, said Peggy Thelen, chair and associate professor of education.

“I am glad that we got the accreditation because I knew that our program was stellar, but not everyone [else] did,” said education major Michael Reeves (‘14). “The accreditation helps the school to attract students who want a great education in the field of education.”

In the past, teacher education programs were required to receive state approval, Thelen explained. But in 2008, the State of Michigan required all teacher education programs to become nationally accredited or else they would have to fold, she said.

And so, after the long process, Alma College’s program has received a seven-year national

accreditation through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council.

After the staff learned of the requirement in 2008, Thelen said, “We started thinking about

“I am glad we got the accreditation because I knew that our program was stellar, but not everyone [else] did.”

-Michael Reeves (‘14)

it and how we were going to do this, and we went to workshops and conferences . . . to learn how to do this, ask questions and get started.”

When the education faculty was prepared, it sent in an application, and representatives from the accrediting council came to visit the campus in April 2012. And after defending and explaining its program to a panel

in September, it received the recognition.

However, the process involved more than just a challenge to become accredited, said Nicola Findley, associate professor of education: it was also a challenge to improve the program.

“It was an excuse to make it better,” Thelen said, laughing.

Using data collected from previous education programs, they were able to pinpoint areas that needed improvement and give new opportunities to students.

“We are very excited about the new program and we’re glad that all the hard work has paid off,” Findley said. “We hope we’ve kept the best of the old program and brought it into the new.”

The representatives from the council who came to scrutinize the school’s program mentioned that they were impressed by the communication with students within the department and across campus, according to Thelen.

“You don’t hear that about everywhere,” she said.

But more importantly, students

have also seen the quality education they are receiving.

“I have had placement teachers who have told me that out of all the students they have had in their classroom over the years, they feel like Alma students are the some of the nicest and most prepared for life as a teacher.”

-Kelly Hutcheon (‘13)

“I have had placement teachers who have told me that out of all the students they have had in their classroom over the years, they feel like the Alma students are some of the nicest and most prepared for life as a teacher,” said Kelly Hutcheon (‘13), “which I think says a lot about not only the students themselves but Alma as

a whole.”

Katie Krauss (‘15) said she chose to obtain her teaching degree from Alma because she knew that many schools do not allow education students to have an opportunity to work in classrooms until their junior or senior years.

“Alma does things differently,” she said. “They know that the best way to prepare us to manage our own classrooms is to get us into the classrooms of others as soon as possible.”

“I know that I will be one of the most well-prepared teachers because of the rigor and experiences that my classes here have given me,” Reeves said.

But even though the department has attained accreditation, it doesn’t plan on stopping improvements, Thelen said.

“The department is very dynamic,” she said. “We’re changing, we’re adding, and we’ve got some exciting things coming for students in the future.”

Best albums of 2012 contain various sounds and styles

BY RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Way back in the distant past, people used to ask a question: “If you were stranded on a desert island, which five CDs would you want to play on your Walkman?”

Now, from what I understand, a “CD” is like an album on iTunes, except it’s not always on iTunes for reasons I can’t fully explain. As for a Walkman, your guess is as good as mine.

Anyway, let’s pretend that for some reason I was stranded on a desert island and forced to take along five albums released in 2012. We’ll consider it as a “Cast Away” situation in which I can only grab five albums from the floating wreckage of my FedEx plane. The following are the ones I would keep from sinking to the bottom of the Pacific.

Kishi Bashi – “151a”

Your lovely campus radio station, WQAC (90.9 FM), brought the amazingly talented violinist/beatboxer/looper Kishi Bashi to Alma last Halloween. His live show is an incredible experience, even more so than listening to his album. “151a” is a journey through loops and waves of sounds, from violins and synths to guitars, drum machines, and beatboxing. The standout song, “Bright Whites,” is one of the catchiest songs of

the year. You’ve probably heard it, even if you’ve never heard of it.

mewithoutYou – “Ten Stories”

On the opposite end of the genre spectrum from Kishi Bashi, but no less beautiful for it, is mewithoutYou. “Ten Stories” follows the travels of a group of circus animals after their train crashes in Montana in 1878. mewithoutYou’s style, though, is the focus here. Their vocalist, Aaron Weiss, talks more than he sings, and yells even more than that. “Yelling” has a strong negative connotation, but when combined with some of the most fairy-tale-esque lyrics I’ve ever heard, the album fits into a strange niche nobody (except maybe La Dispute) knew existed: aggressive, emotional storytelling.

Alt-J – “An Awesome Wave”

For those of you who frequent the indie circles, it’s unlikely you got through 2012 without hearing about Alt-J. Their complex instrumentation and fascinating lyrics (for example: “Indochina, Capa jumps Jeep, two feet creep up the road / To photo, to record meat lumps and war”) make for some of the most unusual music I’ve heard in a long time. “Alt-J” has indeed made some awesome waves here.

Alex Winston – “King Con”

I hesitate to listen to music easily labeled as “pop.” But my oh my, was I proven wrong by



Photo courtesy of charliewagers.com

“Ten Stories” by mewithout You tells the story of a group of circus animals after their train crashes in the late 19th century. This allows for an interesting compilation of sounds through the album.

Patrick Watson – “Adventures in Your Own Backyard”

I’m bringing my recommendations full circle back to the beauty of Kishi Bashi with Canadian singer/pianist/self-titled band Patrick Watson. The album is a hazy, dreamy, piano-washed adventure through, as might be expected, everyday places like backyards. Watson is one of the

most gifted musicians I’ve ever heard, and hearing this album is a trip through his mind.

So here I sit, on a desolate sandy beach, with five CDs scattered around me. I’ll be content here for a while, unless I need food (meh) or my Walkman runs out of battery—and that might just make me try to find a way off the island. Only time full of music will tell.

Winter weather allows for biking adventures

BY BEN KING
STAFF WRITER

While it has been cold outside, it is easy to see that this winter has been quite different from previous years. With very little snowfall and lots of warm days it has been much easier to spend time outside this season. I usually take my bicycle home before Thanksgiving because it is very difficult to ride in the winter. However, this year I left it here on campus, hoping that the weather would cooperate with my bicycling needs.

To my pleasant surprise, the weather has cooperated and (despite the few cold days) I have been able to enjoy riding my bike. While it has been a mild winter, there are still a few things one wants to keep in mind when riding a bicycle in the wintertime. The first step to winter biking is to assure that you are properly dressed. When one is trekking on a longer winter voyage, wearing waterproof boots or shoes is essential in keeping feet dry from frigid water and slush. A pair of warm gloves and a hat are essential. While they are not particularly popular, I have also found that wearing earmuffs can be quite helpful in cutting down the cold wind. There is no doubt that biking in the winter may seem risky and unnecessary, not to mention being

cold, but the activity has a lot of benefits. You will have the trails all to yourself. Very few people will be out biking or even walking on

“With very little snowfall and lots of warm days it has been much easier to spend time outside this season.”

- On the mild weather this winter.

Salvation Army and find an old single speed. I then will put new mountain biking tires on the bike to help maintain traction. When biking in the winter, you will want to ride a little differently. Stay relaxed. Lock your knees and elbows. Stay loose and use your legs to absorb any motion created by running over ice ridges, road debris or similar dangerous areas. Be alert and ready to swerve around broken glass or other tire-

“Watch the road more closely than usual when there is snow, slush, or ice on the roads as well as the usual cars and pedestrians.”

- On biking in winter conditions.

destroying monsters. Remember to keep your nerves in check and focus on keeping your body centered and balanced even when conditions are slippery. Watch the road more closely than usual when there is snow, slush, or ice on the roads as well as the usual cars and pedestrians. So keep it cool and enjoy the sun while we still have it. Winter bike riding takes some getting used to, but once you have mastered it the sport is very enjoyable.

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!

8			4		6			7
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College discusses upgrading laundry payment

BY JAKE BROWER
STAFF WRITER

Doing laundry is a topic that should fill everyone with boundless excitement. But, even if you defy most mortal tendencies, you can still look forward to cheaper and hopefully simpler journeys in the near future.

Last week's Student Congress minutes delivered two announcements that surprised and interested me.

First, students can expect the price of laundry to drop from \$2 to \$1. Second, the college is considering making the routine of laundry one step more practical by implementing swipe cards: likely starting next year.

Laundry swipe cards are used by schools such as Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan University, and Alma's semi-cousin, Aquinas College.

Alma College has shown great initiative in upgrading its campus over the past year: installing Wi-Fi and repairing walkways. It would be making a good judgment in following its competitor's laundry lead.

Swipe cards would eliminate the necessity of breaking a paper George Washington into four of his transition metal counterparts or scrounging pockets to find enough change to satisfy the washer and drier.

The best way to implement the new idea would be to use our student ID cards to handle the

job. Doing so would work well because it would require nothing more for students to carry other than what they already do to eat and enter buildings.

The college could offer multiple plans - like they do with munch money - depending on how often individual students wash their clothes: twice a week to not at all for those who have relatives near campus.

The new machines also promised in the Student Congress' minutes are good news because several machines on campus have stopped functioning with the display set to all dashes.

Having to run through multiple floors to wear clean clothing is a bit of a nuisance, so I applaud Alma in its kind attention to the

small first world problems that we struggle so hard to overcome.

In the short time I have attended Alma College, it has done a pretty good job modernizing itself. I look forward to seeing what the school will improve in the near future as it upgrades to keep us students clean, happy, and doing our jobs in getting educated.

Implementing a swipe card for doing laundry will make one of the less rapturous chores of living on campus a small bit easier. There is little left to complain about except that I still look forward to the day the higher powers here provide Coke products in Joe's and SAGA.

The last thing I noticed in the minutes report sent out by the

Student Congress was that among the "Organizations facing penalty for non-attendance" is the "Class of 2014".

I do not know what penalties approximately one fourth of Alma's students face among the other truant groups declared (Martial Arts Club and Up 'til Dawn), but Student Congress convenes every other Monday with the next meeting being the 28th of this month, in case any member of the Class of 2014 wants to represent their group.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, but if you do not have the time, you can be an active citizen of Alma College by checking out its biweekly email to keep up on new events coming to everyone's favorite "Bubble."

“Premium Rush” performs with simple plot and fast-paced action

BY DANIEL MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

Joseph Gordon-Levitt stars in the action-packed thriller "Premium Rush."

Gordon-Levitt plays a Manhattan bike messenger who has to get an extremely valuable envelope to its destination on time. This envelope is so valuable that a rogue cop is trying to get it for his own use.

The entire movie is basically this dirty cop chasing Joseph Gordon-Levitt's character through Manhattan in an attempt to intercept the envelope.

One of the most fun traits about "Premium Rush" is the action. I was completely engrossed by the thrills when watching this movie.

The non-stop action is so entertaining and so well done that I could feel it take my mind off of everything else as I watched the film. It captivated me. Everything

was so fast-paced; I found it impossible to take my eyes off the screen.

“The non-stop action is so entertaining and well done that I could feel it take my mind off of everything else as I watched the film. It captivated me. Everything was so fast-paced; I found it impossible to take my eyes off the screen.”

- On the fast-paced action of the film.

Another great characteristic of the movie is its relatively simple plot.

I normally prefer a movie with a deep plot that contains many different elements such

as a substantial amount of character development. However, I think this movie was made to be entertaining, rather than intellectual.

In other words, the selling point of "Premium Rush" was meant to be the thrills that non-stop action provides.

With that in mind, I think it is good that "Premium Rush" has a simple plot. I think that something complicated would have degraded the effectiveness of the action.

The writers did a good job in creating the script for "Premium Rush."

It is very difficult to create a good movie that relies mostly on the action as its source of entertainment. But this movie pulls it off. The writers did a great job with the crafting of the script.

However, while this movie was very enjoyable, I would prefer that it had a deep plotline.

If I am going to watch a movie for two hours (or in this case, a short one hour and thirty-one

minutes), I want to see some character development, which "Premium Rush" lacks.

I want to be able to fall in love with the characters, something that can only be accomplished with good character development.

I liked most of the characters, but the absence of character

“It is very difficult to create a good movie that relies mostly on the action as its source of entertainment. But this movie pulls it off. The writers did a great job with the crafting of the script.”

- On using the script as a means to enhance an action packed film.

development made it impossible for me to emotionally connect with any of them.

But even though "Premium Rush" is not the type of movie I usually watch, I still have to admit that it was very well done.

The actors and actresses did a good job with their respective roles, the action is very entertaining, and the story is decent and simple.

This film has all the elements for a great movie. Of all the features of this film, I think most viewers will be captivated by its spine-tingling action. I know I was.

However, if you are looking for a movie with deep, intellectual elements, you need to look elsewhere. But if you are looking for a movie to help you unwind, "Premium Rush" is for you.

In my opinion, this is the greatest aspect of the film: the simple plot helps my mind relax, but the action keeps me on edge.

Bottom line: "Premium Rush" is an exciting action flick that will keep the adrenaline going.

To put it simply, I was impressed.

the Almanian.

“ALMA COLLEGE’S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER, SERVING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY SINCE 1907.

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The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting, accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

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Men's basketball breaks losing streak; women whip Kalamazoo

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Heartbreaking is an understatement for how the men's basketball game ended last Wednesday.

With the Scots leading 73-71 with under 10 second to play at Adrian, the Bulldogs were able to hit a buzzer-beating three-pointer that would clinch a 74-73 victory.

The Scots would then rebound to defeat rival Albion 78-76 last Saturday. The one win and one loss move the Scots to 2-4 in the MIAA and 7-10 overall. Alma will be at home Wednesday when it welcomes Kalamazoo to Art Smith Arena.

"Our effort tonight was back to

where it needs to be for us to have a chance to win games," said Scots Head Coach Sam Hargraves in a press release after the Adrian contest.

"We really battled and getting outrebounded was as much about the injuries to our big men and how small we are now.

"We will have to scrap and claw to have a chance from here on out and we did that tonight. Adrian had to make some really tough shots to beat us, especially the game winner. We got better tonight."

The game was tied 26-26 about halfway through the first half, but then Alma went on an 8-2 run and would lead 38-36 at the break. The back-and-forth play would continue in the second half, as there would be five ties and multiple lead changes. The

Scots fought their way back from a few small deficits to take the one-point lead late, only to fall in devastating fashion.

Forward **Isiah Law ('14)** led Alma with 16 points, and Guard **Brandon Krause ('14)** added 15 points, four rebounds, and four steals. Forward **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** had a career high of 13 points in the losing effort.

"The guys played hard to battle back and take the lead but basketball is full of ups and downs and game-winning buzzers are part of it," said Center **Brian Sheridan ('13)**.

"We were unlucky and happened to be on the wrong end of that."

The Scots then quickly displaced the bad taste of a loss when they returned home and

defeated rival Albion, 78-76, last Saturday.

Indiana Head Coach and former Alma Assistant Coach Tom Crean saw Krause lead the Scots with 21 points in the victory.

The women's team has also been in the midst of conference play and fared better than the men on Wednesday. The Lady Scots traveled to Indiana to take on the Thunder of Trine and came away victorious in a 58-53 defensive game.

The winning ways continued last weekend, when the squad stretched its winning streak to three games with a 67-52 triumph over Kalamazoo.

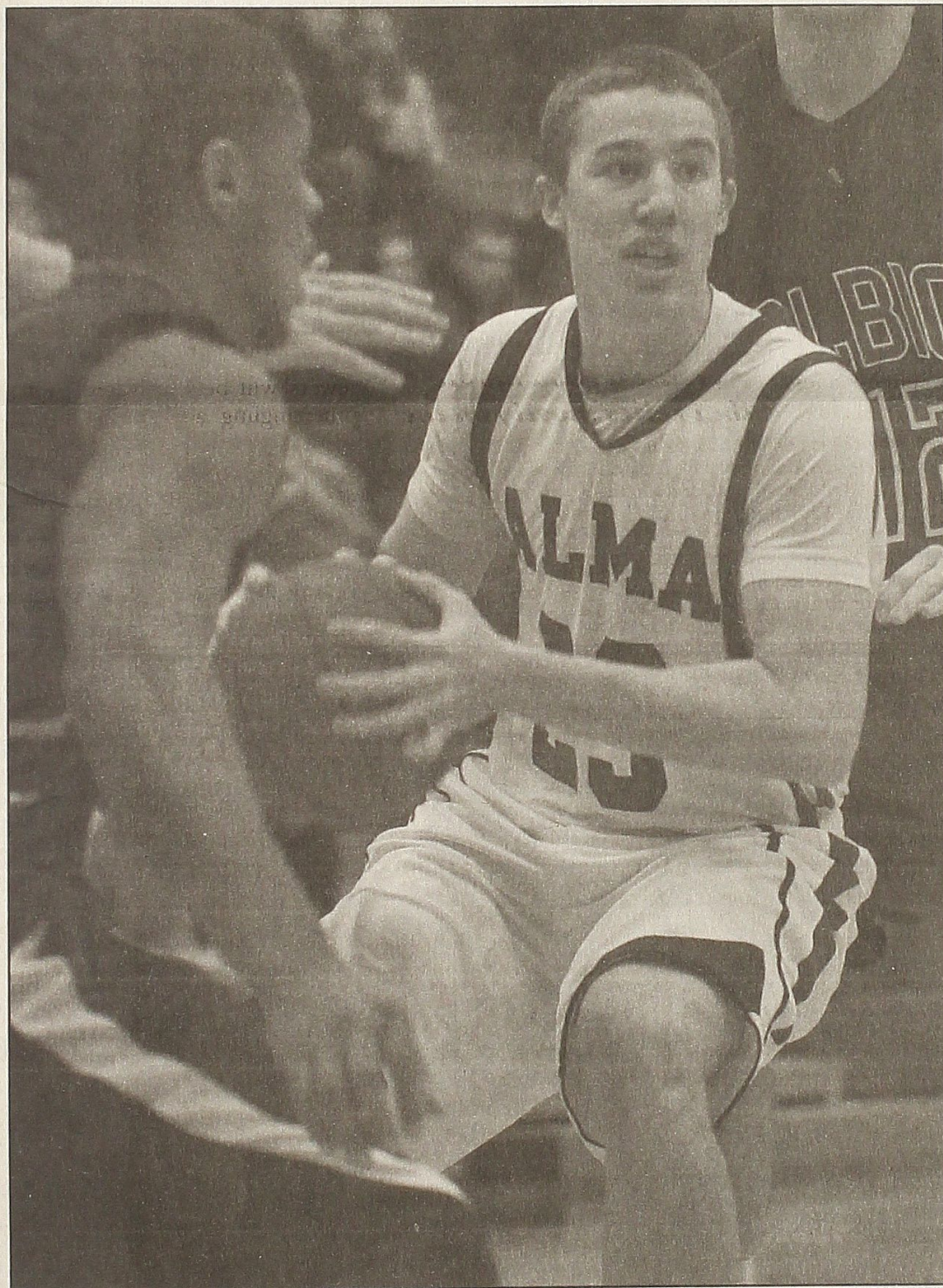
With the wins, Alma is now 5-4 in MIAA play and 6-11 overall. The team will travel to Mount Pleasant on Wednesday to face Mid-Michigan Community

College, and then to Grand Rapids on Saturday for a game against Calvin.

Alma opened up an eight-point lead over Trine at the half, and the Scots would hold a 30-20 lead early in the second. Trine then went on a 20-2 run that put Alma in a 12-point deficit.

The women never gave up, and chipped away at the deficit until they trailed by just one with only 5:13 remaining. Free throws would prove to be the difference in the close game, as the Scots would outscore Trine 14-8 over the final stretch.

Forward **Mary Schlicher ('14)** paced Alma with 12 points, and Forward **Bailey Gooding ('14)** added 10 points. Guard **Mallory Pruett ('15)** led the Scots with 16 points in the win at Kalamazoo.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Left: Scott Nikodemski ('16) had a career high of 13 points in the Scots' setback against Adrian last Wednesday. Top: Brandon Krause ('14) led the team with 21 points against Albion last Saturday in a 78-76 winning effort.

NHL lockout ends: 48 game season looms

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

It may have been a few weeks late, but Christmas came nonetheless for hockey fans across the country.

Earlier this month, the National Hockey League Players Association and the league's owners agreed to a long-term collective bargaining agreement that will last for 10 years.

The move effectively ended the lockout that had lasted for three months and greatly affected businesses, team revenue, and fan loyalty. Upon hearing of the developments, team members who had been playing overseas returned to North America and began training for an upcoming season that will be very different

from seasons past.

Instead of the standard 82-game season, the 2013 campaign, which started last Saturday, will consist of 48 regular-season games and a full playoff that should last until the end of June. All of the matchups prior to the Stanley Cup final will be conference games, and an increased number of games will come between divisional opponents.

The new agreement is highlighted by a decrease in the salary cap starting this year, a 5-year limit on free-agent contracts, a new hockey-related revenue split between the players and the owners, and the institution of a lottery to decide the draft pick order. The decrease in salary cap was a main sticking point for the players, who did not want to see

the cap drop to a level that would severely affect compensation.

The lottery, which will be similar to the way that the NBA conducts its draft system, will not automatically result in the previous season's last place team having the first pick in the draft.

The league's marketing department will have quite the task to accomplish this season, as it attempts to bring back fans who feel alienated after the extensive labor dispute. Some supporters will be lost forever thanks to the two sides' failure to reach a deal sooner, but many more enthusiasts are just happy to have the NHL back on the ice.

The Los Angeles Kings will begin their defense of the Stanley Cup as one of the favorites for this year's crown and will compete

at the top with regular powers New York Rangers, Pittsburgh Penguins, Detroit Red Wings, and Chicago Blackhawks. The Rangers will be boosted by their acquisition of all-world forward Rick Nash, and the Penguins will once again be a force in the Eastern Conference if Sidney Crosby can stay healthy throughout the entire season.

Young teams with young legs, such as the Edmonton Oilers and Colorado Avalanche, will also have to be watched with an attentive eye this season, considering the short break between games.

The Red Wings kicked off their regular season last Saturday in St. Louis with a 6-0 loss to the Blues, and will welcome the Dallas Stars to Joe Louis Arena for the home opener Tuesday. The Wings will

be fighting uncertainty during every match, with their 21-season playoff streak on the line.

Regulars Pavel Datsyuk and newly-named captain Henrik Zetterberg are anchoring the forwards, but they will have to compete without Tomas Holmstrom anchoring the front of the net.

On the defensive side, legendary captain Nicklas Lidström has retired, and rookie Brendan Smith will be expected to step up in his absence.

All considerations aside, the Wings have found a way to get the job done in the past, and there is no reason to believe that they will not continue their traditions of greatness for the fans who have been waiting for so long to see them.

Wrestling team hosts first annual Alma College Open

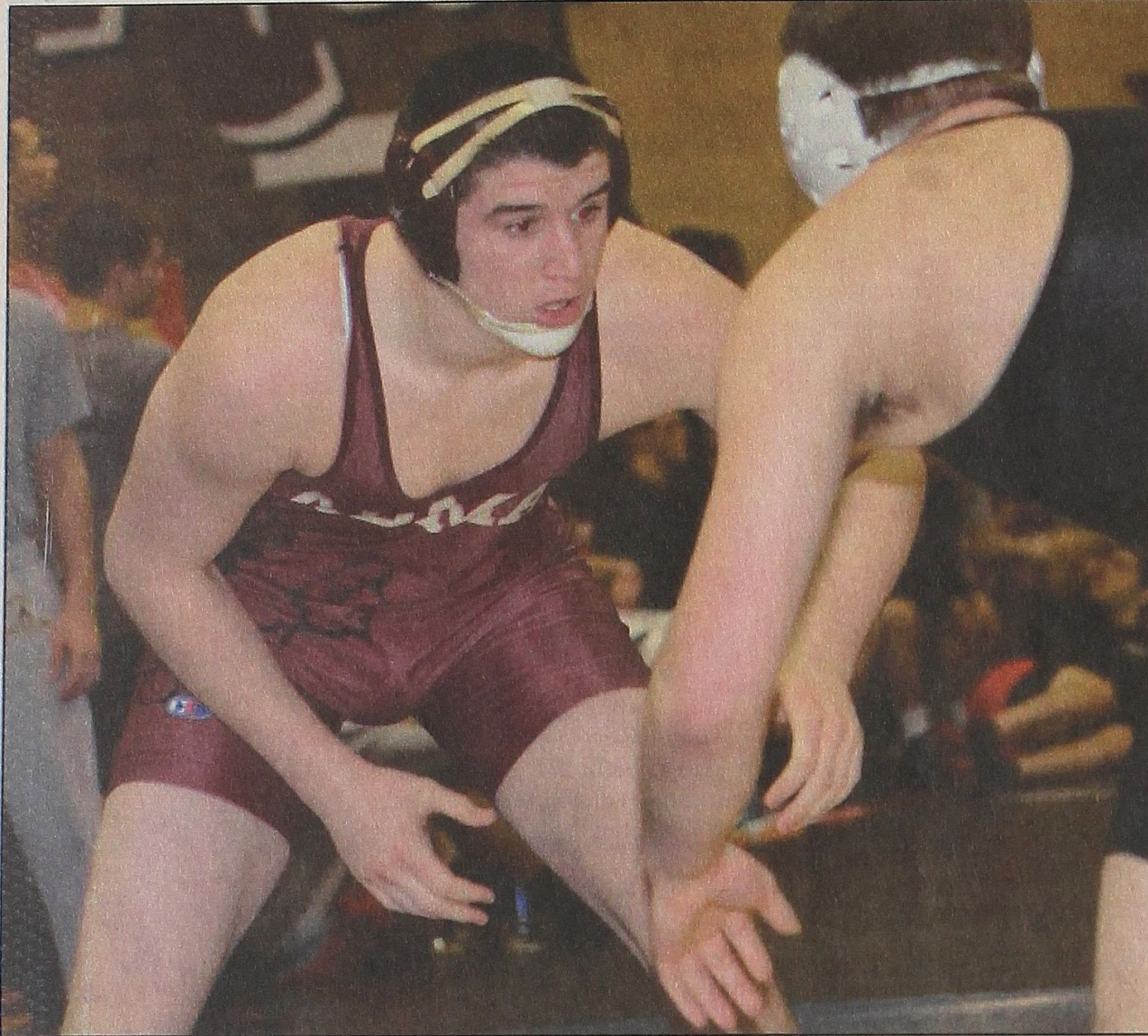


Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Trevor Maresh ('16) has a season record of 17-7 with a 9-6 division mark this year.

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Following up a second place title at the Elmhurst Invitational with 126.5 points, the wrestlers are to host the first Alma College Open Saturday.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Art Smith Arena of the Hogan Center.

Going into the conference, the wrestling team, led by their head coach Todd Hibbs, is 13-8-1 and 1-0-0 in the conference.

The men are eager to participate in the event that will set the precedent for years to come.

The meet is based on individual performances.

"After missing the first half of the season due to a preseason injury, I am very excited to be back on the mat and competing. I am looking forward to a dominant weekend at the Alma Open for my team and myself," said **Theron Blake ('16)**.

"The strong incoming class and our high-end work ethic have already helped us go above and beyond our expectations this

year. Now we have to raise the bar again for the second half of the season. It will be great to show everyone how far we've come at our tournament this weekend," said **Ethan Lindgren ('15)**.

First-year wrestler **Caleb Huff ('16)** responded with enthusiasm: "The first half of my freshman season has come and gone with some ups and downs along with it. I look forward to this second half as I am debuting at a new weight, 157. I hope this change is for the best and can't wait to wrestle at my first Alma College Open!"

Wrestling in his second season, **Brock Neeson ('15)** also has high hopes for the wrestling Open.

"The team is really looking forward to this weekend because we get to see all of our healthy guys compete. This will be a good chance for our guys to get some mat time that haven't had a lot of matches so far this year," he said.

"We're bringing in some tough teams, so there will be good competition for us across the board. And a big thing is we want to make wrestling a part of Alma College history and tradition, so we always love home events."

The wrestlers encourage the campus to come out and support its Scots this weekend.

Scots' roundup: what you missed this week

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

This last week saw a solid first meet for the track and field team and a loss against Kalamazoo College for the swim teams.

The men's and women's track and field squads competed in the Saginaw Valley State University Indoor Classic. The event was not scored by team, but individually.

"I ran the mile and the 800 meter and the 4x4 B team," said **Talon Morris ('15)**. "It was pretty decent. All of my times were consistent. And since I had three events it was pretty hard but I pulled through on all of them."

"Well, I was injured; I had hip surgery so this is my third meet back. I haven't competed in over a year. It's been going pretty good so far with my training. I'm doing better than in my freshman year."

Julie Helm ('13) competed in the mile event. She is recovering from an injury and was positive about her competition last Friday.

"I did well for the start of the season," she said, "but I'm struggling with an injury. I just wanted to compete well with the Division II schools, which we did. Right now I've been doing lots of pool workouts and biking and running combined to deal with my injury."

"For our conference meets, I'd like to be top three in the 5K or 3K. Everyone has been putting in a lot of training."

Lauren Steinhurt ('14) competed in her first meet of the season last week. She participated in the weight throw and shot put events.

"I think I did okay," she said. "This was the first meet of the season for me so I was happy with my results. My goal for this meet was just to go out and be competitive. All of these meets build up to our big conference meet in February and we obviously want to do well."

"At the beginning of last semester, we worked out every morning and threw twice a week. Now that we are getting into the thick of the season, we lift twice

"My goals for the season are to be competitive in the league meets and for our team to be in the top three at the league meet."

-Lauren Steinhurt ('14)
track and field

a week and throw every day for a few hours.

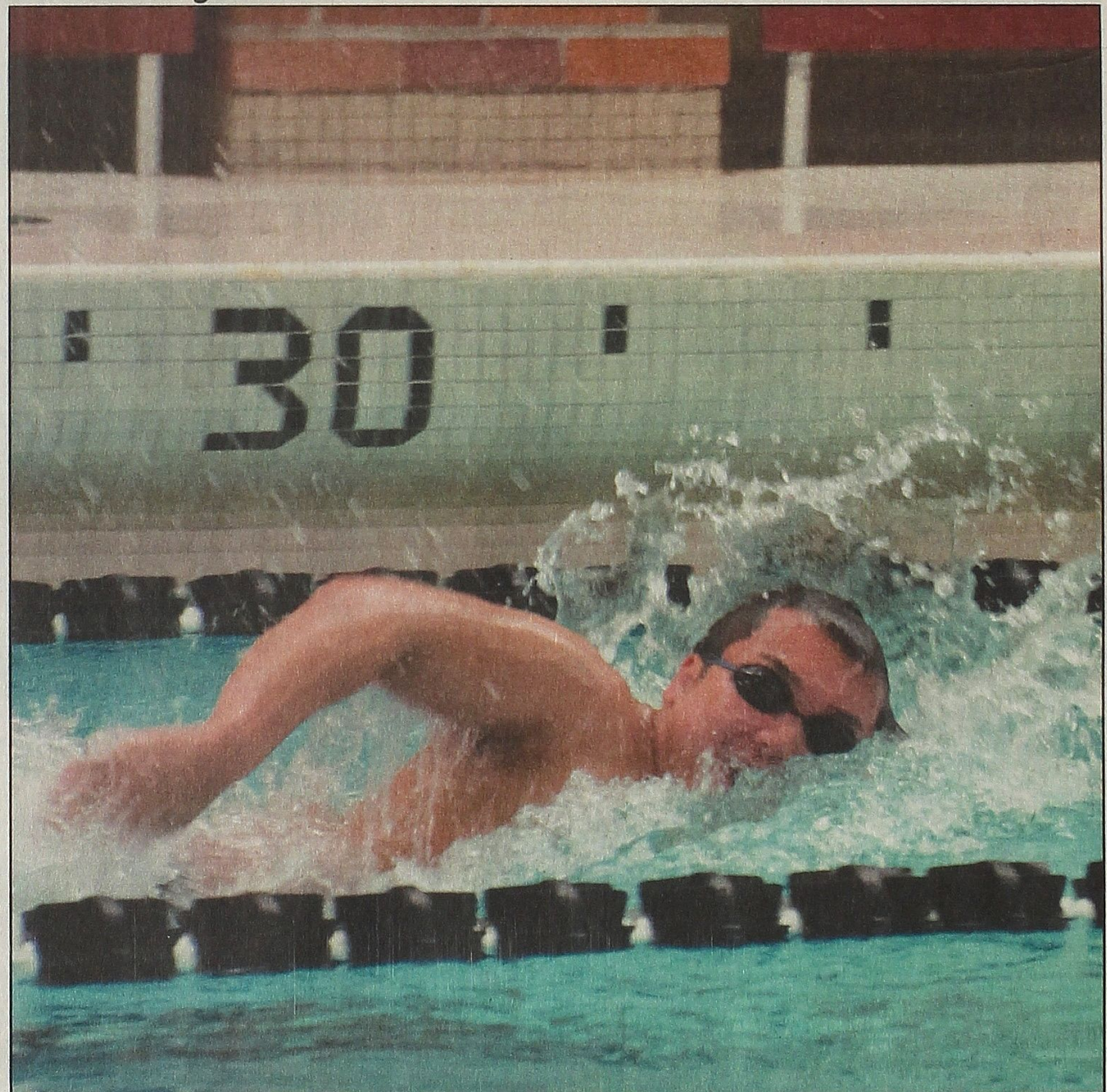
"My goals for the season are to be competitive in the league meets and for our team to be in the top three at the league meet."

In his final running season, **Zach Caverley ('13)** has set his personal bar high. "Most importantly, I would like to end my senior year injury-free, something I've struggled with throughout my career," he said.

The track and field teams will compete again at the Trine Invitational on Feb. 1.

Both of the swim and diving teams dropped their meets last Saturday against Kalamazoo College. The men lost 133-78, and the women's scores were 135-87.5.

Jaclyn Shetterly ('16) finished first in the women's 400



Katlyn Chirwood: Staff Photographer

The swim team beat Defiance College before losing to Kalamazoo last week.

yard IM and also won the women's 200 yard backstroke.

"I swam my best backstroke split in the individual medley today. I'm really pleased with my performance," said Shetterly.

Other winners included **TJ Koehler ('16)** in the men's 200 yard backstroke, **Emily Meyers ('14)** in the women's 200 yard breaststroke, and **Ian Moore ('15)** in the men's 200 yard freestyle.

"I swam my best backstroke split in the IM. I'm really pleased with my performance."

-Jaclyn Shetterly ('16)
swimming and diving

Head Coach Chris Hamstra highlighted athletes **David**

Case ('14) and Shetterly for their efforts. Case was third in the men's 50 yard freestyle and was a member of the winning men's 200 yard freestyle relay. The other winners of the relay team were **Daniel Biggs ('15)**, **Cody Kayser ('15)**, and **Heath Thornton ('14)**.

Alma will compete in its last MIAA meet Saturday when it hosts Olivet College at the McClure Natatorium.