

The ALMANIAN

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Gender show and tell returns by popular demand

By BENJAMIN KING
STAFF WRITER

Esme's Traveling Gender Show and Tell will entertain and educate students Monday and Tuesday on issues of sexuality and gender.

The troupe is led by drag queen Esmé Rodriguez and includes performers Gabrielle DeVeaux, Chase Chance, Martina Marraccino, Sasha Rodgers, and Jojo Mackie. This will be the group's third visit to Alma.

"I saw the performance for the first time my freshman year," said **Amanda Coe ('14)**. "Esmé is such an engaging and intelligent person. Getting to speak with [Esmé] and discuss issues of gender has always been a great experience for me."

Rodriguez is a "queer drag queen, artist, activist, and educator,



Elaine Cunningham, Photo Editor

"This is an incredibly talented group of performers. Their show is dynamic and engaging. I think what I love most is the way they connect to the audience."

- Joanne Gilbert

originally from New York City and now based in Minneapolis, Minn.," said Rodriguez in an interview with "Queer and Now." "I am a queer-identified person of mixed backgrounds."

Rodriguez attended Boston College for Rodriguez's Masters degree and did PhD work at The University of Minnesota,

Esme's Traveling Gender Show and Tell will return to campus today, presenting a panel at 4 p.m. and a movie and panel event at 8 p.m. in SAC 113, and the main event at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Rec. Students are encouraged to attend and participate.

Minneapolis. Rodriguez teaches Gender and Performance Studies and is currently the Director of Esmé's Traveling Gender Show and Tell.

"Esmé's Traveling Gender Show and Tell" is so much more than just a drag show" said **Isabelle Moore ('14)**. "The performers are educators, and the discussions are always informative and very engaging."

On Monday there will be a panel discussion on gender identity and performance in SAC 113. Later that night there will be a showing of the film "GenderF*Kation: A Gender Emancipation" in SAC 113 at 8 p.m. The showing of the

"Esme's Traveling Gender Show and Tell' is so much more than just a drag show. The performers are educators, and the discussions are always informative and very engaging."

- Isabelle Moore ('14)

film will be followed by a panel discussion.

"I'm really looking forward to

the film 'GenderF*kation' because it's brand new and features Esmé's story among others," said Joanne Gilbert.

On Tuesday there will be a drag workshop at 3 p.m. held in the multi-purpose room in the Stone Recreation Center.

The main event, the drag show, will be performed at 8 p.m. in the Stone Recreation Center.

"This is an incredibly talented group of performers," said Gilbert. "Their show is dynamic and engaging."

"I think what I love most is the way they connect to the audience. I've never seen students

as responsive as they have been at these shows!

"I strongly encourage everyone to attend both the panel and the performance."

"The film will extend the discussion the panel begins, and the drag workshop is for those interested in creating a drag persona through make-up," Gilbert added.

"All of these events are free and provide unforgettable and invaluable opportunities."

"I think I will be going this Tuesday," said **Anthony Garcia ('14)**. "From what I have been told it will probably be unlike anything I have ever experienced."

"Almost, Maine" opening on Valentine's Day

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

"Almost, Maine" would be a terrific Valentine's Day date, said **Brandon Newton ('13)**.

It's sure to have a connection for everyone, no matter what his or her age, according to **Nati Salgado ('11)**, theatre intern.

It will have you crying one minute and laughing the next, said **Jake Armentrout ('15)**.

"Almost, Maine," is a play by John Cariani—and after months of preparation, the Alma College Theatre Company will perform next week.

"Love is a basic human want—love is what this play is about," said **Cody Beebe ('15)**, the show's sound designer. "It is a good laugh and a good heartwarming adventure."

A popular play, there are about 150 theatre companies across the nation performing it at the time, said Salgado, who is also the play's director.

"From my perspective, it's a show that really explores all the facets of romantic love," she said. "It shows you the good, the bad, the beautiful, the ugly."

"There's also a mystical, magical value to this show," she added, saying there are a few moments during it when "there's just this slight lift from realism," showing how there's no sense of control over love...it just happens.

Alma's production of this play also happens to be Newton's senior thesis.

As the scene designer, he has been working on the show since October, he said, although he has been analyzing the script since the summer.

"I did the research, put together sketches and a storyboard, built a scale model of the set, chose the materials to be used for the set, and designed all the patterns seen on stage (both on the floor and on the set)," Newton said.

"The biggest challenge for me was the simplicity of the show," he added. "I am a detailed person, so designing a simplified set was very difficult in the beginning. However, that same reason has been my largest reward. The simplicity of the show forced

me to think outside the box and as a result I am a more rounded designer."

What also makes this show unique, Salgado said, is that there are merely eight actors who will play the roles of 19 characters. Having students play at least two roles within the same play hasn't happened for a few years, she noted.

"Not since I was a sophomore or junior," she said.

Armentrout said it has been challenging for him to try to portray his two characters because of the ten-year age difference between them, "one being a 19-year-old who is falling in love for the first time and the other being an older married man with children."

"Where they are emotionally

is very different and putting myself in separate emotional circumstances is a challenge as an actor," he said.

Overall, there have been about 40-50 students who have worked to bring the play together.

Show times are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Strosacker Theatre.

Tickets are free for Alma College students, staff, and youth 18 and under. Otherwise, the price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors 62+. Seating is reserved.

"The show will make you laugh, cry, and be an 'almost' perfect way to spend Valentine's Day," Armentrout concluded.

"And who doesn't want to come hear students try out their Northern Maine dialect?" Salgado said, laughing.

Performance highlights concerted music

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Talented singers, student musicians from Alma College, and professionals from the Alma Symphony Orchestra will be coming together to make next week's Chorale and Glee Club performance a unique experience, said Director of Choirs Will Nichols.

"I like to do things, when we can, that involve instrumentalists," Nichols explained. "A lot of what we do during the fall is a cappella or with piano, but I like to do things that are concerted—and that means things that are performed [by] singers and instrumentalists."

So a handful of students, including **Jay Angus ('13)** and **Jamie Dunn ('14)**, as well as a number of professionals, will be joining the choirs to provide a more large-scale production.

The show will take place on Friday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m. in Heritage Center's Presbyterian Hall.

"The Glee Club and Chorale always do a concert this time of the year, but it's always different music," Nichols said.

"It's going to be great, and will be a performance you will not want to miss," said **Brittney Roggow ('16)**, a member of Glee Club.

"Here at Alma, we work

incredibly hard on our pieces week in and week out, and this hard work shows best at our performances," stated **Gabrielle Fazio ('16)**, also a member of Glee Club. "There's nothing we, as singers, love more than to perform for an audience and brighten their days with our music."

In the first half of the performance, the two choirs will sing separately.

Glee Club will be singing "Sometimes I feel like a motherless child," "Weep No More," "Open Your Heart," and "Blackbird." Chorale will perform "Jesu, Joy and Treasure," by Dietrich Buxtehude.

"Buxtehude is the most influential German composer in the generation before J.S. Bach," Nichols said. "The music is a cantata which would have been performed as part of a Lutheran church service."

Some of Buxtehude's best works are for singers and instrumentalists together, he said, but they aren't performed by just any choir.

"It is challenging—it's almost always concerted music with instruments and that is hard for people to make happen," Nichols explained. "Even the very best high school choirs don't have many opportunities to work with instrumentalists, so they choose music that doesn't need instrumentalists. We're just fortunate to have the wherewithal to make that happen."

In the second half of the performance, the Glee Club and Chorale will join together to sing "A New Creation," by René Clausen.

"A New Creation is an oratorio following the model of Handel and Mendelssohn," Nichols said. "The text for the oratorio are some of the most familiar biblical passages. It is a 12-movement work with soloists, large choir, and orchestra."

René Clausen is a composer from Minnesota who has served as conductor of The Concordia Choir of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota since 1986, according to his official website.

To finalize all of the details for the concert, Nichols said, "We've got a lot to do in the next week, because we've been rehearsing these things separately...now we have to bring it all together in a very short amount of time."

Although it will be a challenge, he said he thinks "the students will find that all their hard work has paid off when the instrumentalists come—when they hear it with the orchestra."

Nichols encouraged students to come support their friends as they perform.

"As we are singing two lesser-known cantatas, it's a good opportunity to both expose yourself to older music that [isn't as widely performed], and also it's just a great way to be involved with the campus community," said **Santino Dalla-Vecchia ('16)**, a member of the Chorale.

This week at Alma College

Monday, February 11:

Esme's Traveling Gender Show and Tell Panel, 4 p.m. in SAC 113

Esme's Traveling Gender Show and Tell Movie & Panel, 8 p.m. in SAC 113

Tuesday, February 12:

Esme's Traveling Gender Show and Tell Drag Workshop, 3 p.m. in Rec Multi-Purpose Room
Esme's Traveling Gender Show and Tell, 8 p.m. in the Rec

Wednesday, February 13:

Do Something Valentine Card Making Event at 8:30 p.m. in the Rotunda

Thursday, February 14:

"Almost, Maine" Opening at 8 p.m. in Heritage

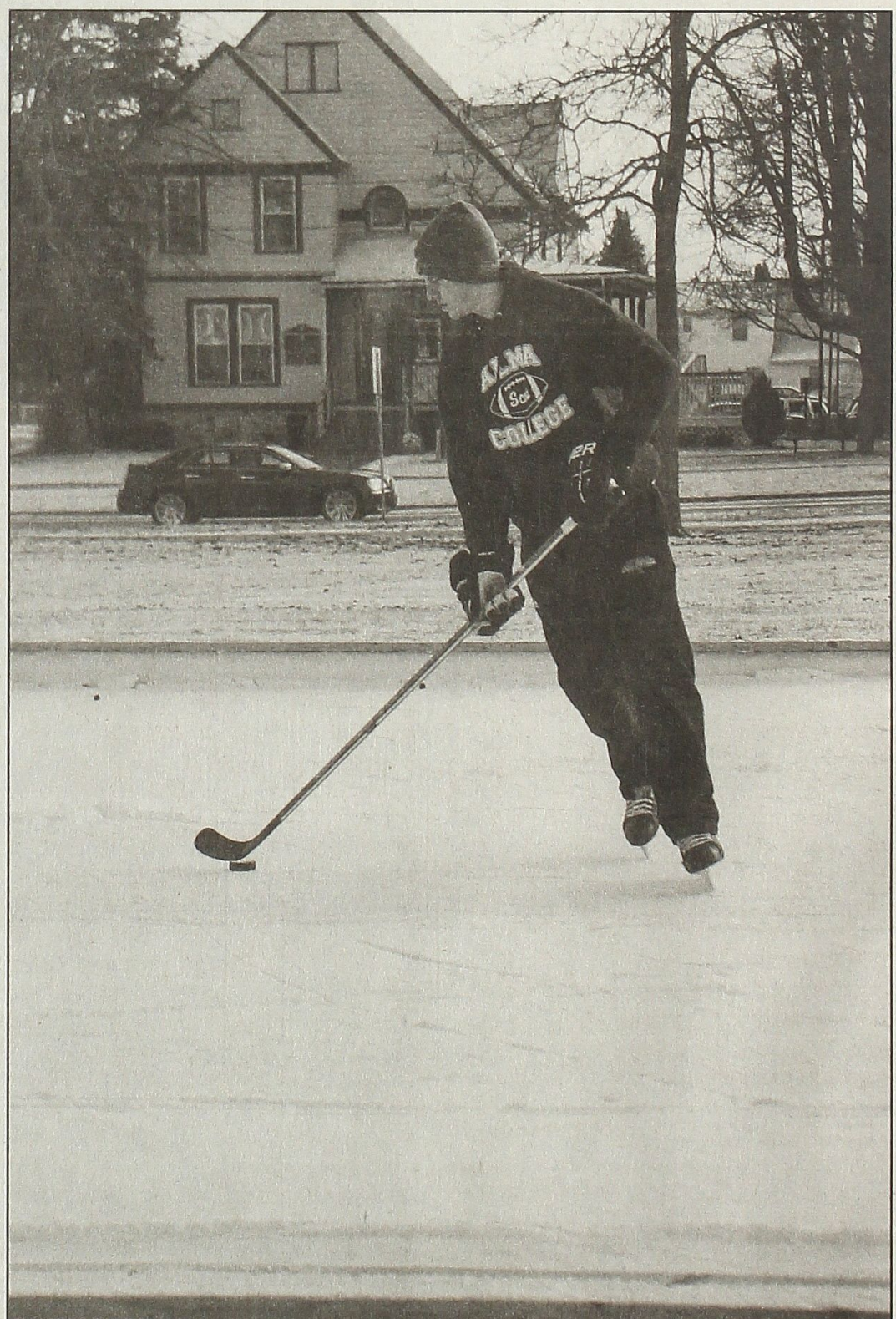
Also showing: 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday



Katlyn Chitwood, Staff Photographer

Above: Heidi Grekowics ('14) and Sarah Stinson ('14) prepare to return to the classroom.

Right: Austin Smith ('14) practices hockey on the newly-frozen campus ice rink.



Katlyn Chitwood, Staff Photographer

Campus clubs prepare, fundraise for annual Relay for Life to support cancer research

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

Each year over 400 million dollars are raised for cancer research in Relay for Life events across the country. For several years now, Alma College students, staff, and community members have taken over the Stone Recreation Center, helping raise as much money as possible to help the fight against cancer.

At 10 a.m. on Mar. 23, the rec will once again become the place to be on campus. But before that, the next mandatory team captain meetings are Feb. 18 and Mar. 4, 11, and 18, all of which are at 8 p.m. in Room 103 in the Swanson Academic Center.

Many individuals, if not all, of campus can say that cancer has touched their lives or they know someone who has been affected because of it. According to estimates posted on the Relay for Life Web page, the State of Michigan alone is thought to see over 57,000 new cases of cancer in the year 2013, and the United States is expected to see well over 1.5 million cases. In addition, there was a projection hypothesis



Elaine Cunningham: Photo Editor

Katie Gordon ('13) and Lisa Folmire ('15) sold "Coexist" cupcakes as a fundraiser for Amnesty International's Relay For Life team; all proceeds will be donated to Relay, which benefits the American Cancer Society.

that half a million Americans will die due to cancer this year.

Those figures alone can be enough to drive anyone to join in the fight to end cancer. Across campus, various clubs, Greeks, and even dorms are doing just that.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, during Interfaith Week, Amnesty

International held a bake sale in the Swanson Academic Center lobby. They advertised over 100 "Coexist" cupcakes that were sold for 50 cents each. All proceeds are going towards this year's Relay for Life fundraiser.

"[I want to say] thanks to all the students and staff that bought cupcakes and the many

generous donations [as well]," said Caroline Asiala ('15), a member of Amnesty that helped decorate and sell the cupcakes.

Phi Mu Alpha will be holding its third annual "Spaghetti Dinner for a Cure" on Saturday, Mar. 16 at 7 p.m.

"It's a three-course spaghetti dinner held in the band room in

the music building. Throughout the dinner, brothers perform individually [and] in small ensembles and then we do a couple of songs as an entire brotherhood," said Bobby Kaczanowski ('13).

Last year, the brothers were able to raise over \$1,000 to benefit Relay for Life. They hope to raise even more this year.

"Tickets for the dinner will go on sale to students the week prior to the event," said Kaczanowski.

He also touched that tickets do sell quickly and both previous years they have had full houses.

Recent Facebook newsfeeds may have been sprinkled with the formation of groups like the "Newberry Relay for Life Team," which was created by co-captains Lindsey Schmidt ('14) and Crystal Holcomb ('15). According to them, it's a modern and simplistic way to unite the entire building and to do so in a way that is unique. Currently, the group only has four registered members, but there's still time to sign up.

Last weekend's AlmaCon earnings will also be pooled together for Relay for Life.

Checking the Alma Relay event on the website shows that 20 teams are participating and fundraising with over 80 members amongst them. The teams have raised over \$3,000 in total as of late last Friday evening. With over a month until the actual 24 hour-long events, there is plenty of time to still join this great cause.

Feminism in the Bible critiqued by Alma professor and students in essay collection, "Lady Parts"

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

The interpretation of women in the Bible is examined in a book edited by Kate Blanchard, an Alma College professor.

"[The book] was a lot of factors that came together," she explained. "[Playwright] Eve Ensler visited Alma's campus; then I saw our students perform 'The Vagina Monologues'; then I heard about some Catholic colleges banning the play from their campuses. Somehow this all turned into a group independent study on feminist biblical exegesis."

Blanchard, associate professor of religious studies, is a coeditor of the book "Lady Parts: Biblical Women and The Vagina Monologues." The other editor is Jane S. Webster of Barton College in North Carolina.

The book is filled with

contributions from six Alma College students: Dolly Van

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-Kate Blanchard

Fossan ('11) (Eve), Emily Havelka ('12) (Jael), Jess Paige ('12) (the Levite's concubine),

Meredith Brown ('12) (Jephthah's daughter), De'Anna Daniels ('10) (Bathsheba), and Maggie Watters ('12) (Prisca). All of these women have graduated and moved on, but were involved in religious studies and/or women's and gender studies while attending the college.

"The best part was working with my six original students. They did sophisticated scholarly research about the biblical texts before they wrote their monologues, so they actually taught me a lot. And then it was wonderful to see them perform their own monologues in the college chapel," said Blanchard.

According to the press release, Blanchard developed an independent study for religious studies and women's and gender studies that focused on feminist biblical interpretation. Every student was tasked with writing a research paper on a different female figure from the Bible. In addition to that, they also wrote creative monologues.

The class that produced these works was in the winter of 2010

and the book was published in November 2012.

Blanchard felt that the Bible

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and its interpretation of women comprised an important topic for the class to delve into.

"The Bible is a sacred text,

but it is also full of really difficult stories and teachings that are hard to make sense of in our 21st-century context. One of the biggest issues has to do with the fact that women were not, for the most part, seen as fully human in the ancient world," said Blanchard.

She wanted her students to critically think about the texts and their meanings. It was important to her that they wrestle with them and not take them at face value. She said that she thoroughly enjoyed working with those six students and helping them through the process.

Another purpose to "Lady Parts" is to advance the mission of V-Day, which is a non-profit organization that works to end violence against women and girls around the world.

"With Eve Ensler's V-Day organization trying to coordinate the 'One Billion Rising' event, I feel glad to be even a small part of a much bigger movement to end violence against women and girls," said Blanchard.

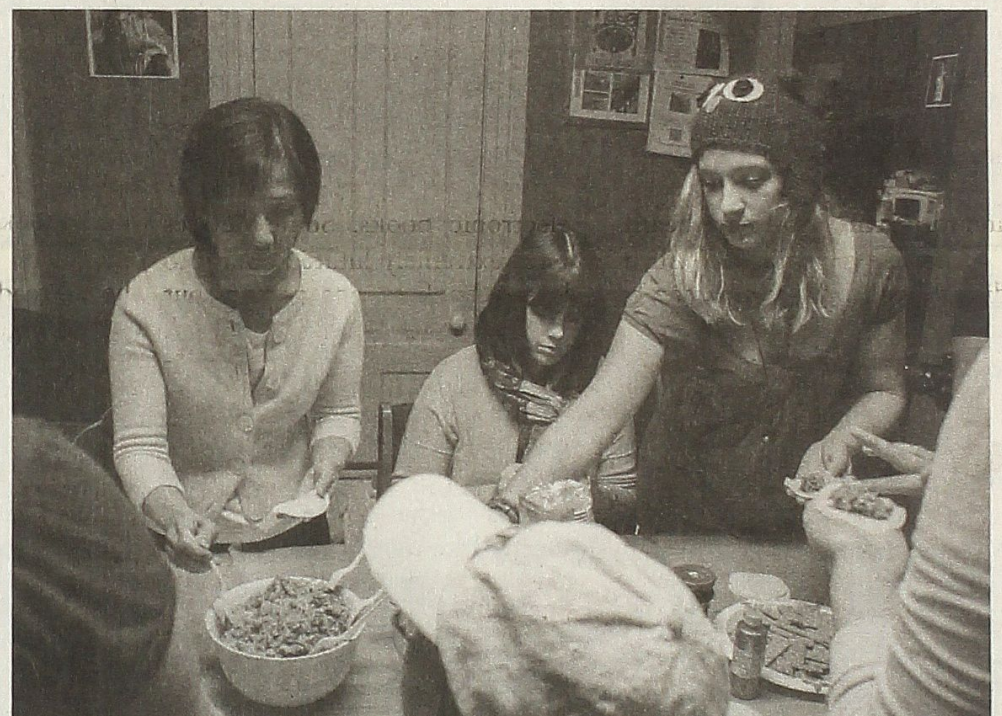


Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Above: Students from International Club hosted Chinese Kitchen last Thursday to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Xiao Yu, Teaching Assistant in Chinese, acted as "Master Chef" and made traditional dumplings with help from student chefs.

Above right: Associate Professor of English Chih-Ping Chen and Joi Itapson ('16) hone their dumpling-making skills before the World Kitchen event.

Right: Chen, Christina Rann ('14), and Ava Dark ('14) help to assemble the chicken dumplings before turning them over to Xiao Yu, who steamed them.



Alumna receives internship at "Rolling Stone" magazine

BY CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

How many times have you been told that Alma graduates go on to do unique and great things? The answer is most likely numerous. Well, **Angela Flynn ('12)** is a prime example of an alumna who is doing just that.

She graduated from Alma College as a communication major and a double minor in English and dance. Now, she holds an internship at the magazine "Rolling Stone" and takes classes at New York University's Arthur L. Carters Journalism Institute.

Flynn is an alum sister of Alpha Xi Delta, which she joined during the January of her freshman year,

and was also a member of the Alma College Dance Company. Her time at Alma also had her working for a couple different positions on the Almanian over two and a half years.

"I don't like doing the same thing everyday, which is what I like about journalism [and why it's the path for me]. You get to write something new, talk to someone new, and experience something new almost every day," she said. "I never imagined I would get to where I'm at now, but I wanted it, so I worked hard and now I'm even closer to living my dream. It's all about motivation."

Journalism can be a very broad area, with working for newspapers, magazines, online media, and the news industry to choose from. But NYU's magazine-specific program caught Flynn's eye.

"I was just attracted to it," she said, "and **Anna Dysinger ('11)** [had] just finished up with the program and was a great source of encouragement."

New York City can be overwhelming for anyone, even its own residents at times, but Flynn has adjusted to the chaotic lifestyle she lives.

"[New York] does make me homesick for Alma quite often. I don't really know many people here, but even with the group that I'm good friends with, I never casually see them walking down the street, or getting the food at the same restaurant," said Flynn. "The city is so full of people, yet it's so easy to feel alone. But that being said, I do enjoy observing the interesting buildings and people, and it really is a fun experience."

Flynn has a very exciting internship with one of her absolute favorite magazines, the ever-popular "Rolling Stone." "I was so nervous to interview and to start my internship at Rolling Stone, but I knew how badly I wanted it, and everything fell perfectly into place," she said.

She does a lot of research,

transcribing, and basic online coding. She also attends meetings to see how they are run and to get a better sense of how different parts of a magazine mesh together to create a great overall product.

"[Because of Alma] I acquired a great work ethic, and I learned how to manage the various things that I have going on in my life, like classes and my internship," she said. "My involvement in groups on campus at Alma also gave me great confidence and a strong sense of self, which is something you really need in the real world, especially in the world of journalism."

Currently her class load consists of a writing and reporting workshop and a class called "Eating New York," which is entirely about food writing.

"New York City, to me, isn't even a city - it's an entirely different world. People aren't as social with strangers here as they are back in Alma," said Flynn. "People on the subway all look

very depressed as they quietly sit on their way to work. Everything moves so fast, and it took a while to learn to keep up!"

Besides the aspiring journalists, Flynn encourages others to look beyond the undergraduate years. "I would say that [students] should just go for it. If they want to be a journalist [or anything, really], don't be afraid to apply to graduate school, or to apply to internships."

According to her, the worst that can ever happen is being told "no." Strive to let others know how badly you want something. "If you want it bad enough, you WILL get it," Flynn concluded. Overall, Flynn is one of many alumni who are out in the world becoming what they dream and living wonderful lives. So when we hear about graduates who are doing inspirational and world-changing things, instead of shrugging it off, we can all think of how we will follow them in those footsteps.

E-books offer advantages, drawbacks

BY JAKE BROWER
STAFF WRITER

The only thing that is deader than the paper in books is the debate between e-books and their paper ancestors.

With the rising popularity of the Kindle, Nook, Sony, and now many e-reader devices that began accelerating in 2010 under new competition, there was a brief period where book-lovers feared and technology-fascists hoped that paper writing would soon become a part of the past.

Books and paper have survived due to having several advantages not replicable in digital form. However, digital books have their own advantages that have converted many readers to the new technologies available.

The first benefit of electronic books is the availability of many old classics for no cost. In under a minute of downloading anyone is able to start reading great novels such as Alexandre Dumas’ “The Count of Monte Cristo,” Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” or many other free, limited time offers that become available.

Many recent books are also available for free illegally, but that is morally wrong, and you often get what you pay for in quality and formatting. So I have heard.

Another advantage of buying digital books is that a person can easily carry an entire library of electronic books on their phone

or ‘dedicated device’ anywhere. There is a delight to having physical books for the sake of being able to browse and easily mark, but being able to access them in any location makes electronic books very convenient for traveling or when passing time between events.

Another benefit of digital books is having the option of a back-lit screen, now even with the paper imitating e-ink devices. Paper books have not yet evolved to the point where each page glows individually in the dark.

Most roommates strangely do not appreciate turning lights on when they are trying to sleep, so having a back-lit screen is a great benefit for late night readers.

By the way, I congratulate everyone who has read so far as to be reading this sentence, because you are exercising a very good talent that too many people complain about for silly reasons. Paper or digital doesn’t matter as much as actually taking the time to read.

Though e-books have many good things in their favor, there are a few advantages for printed books that are not possible with e-books.

Primarily, due to legal issues that come with digital property, you cannot give or sell your old electronic books. Some devices offer extremely limited ability to loan a book to one person, but physical books have the benefit of being able to lend out without

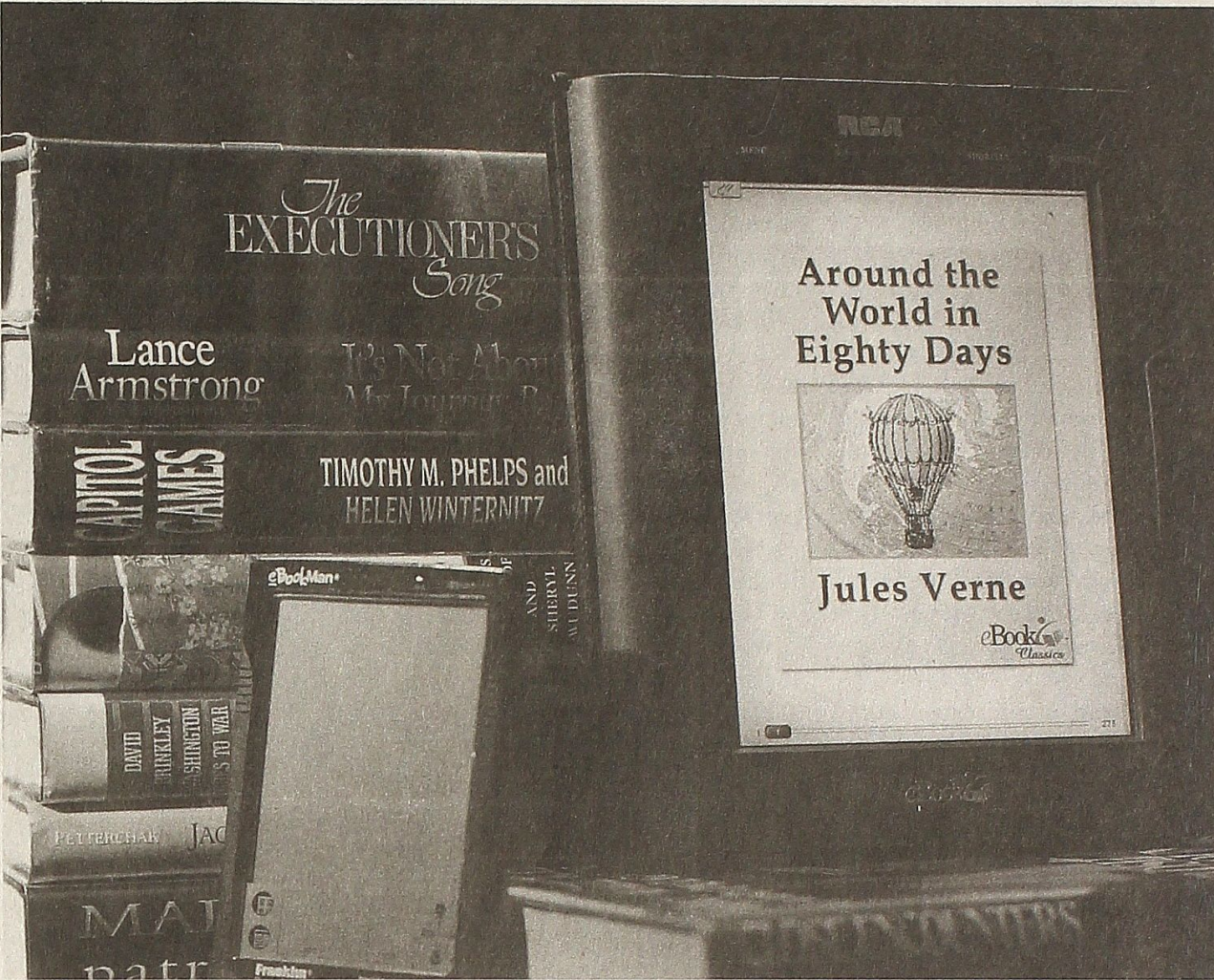


Photo courtesy of archesnews.com

E-books take up less space than paper books, but readers cannot write in or share e-books. Preferences between the two depend on the reader’s lifestyle.

having to jump through hoops or commit acts of digital piracy.

Digital books also suffer from being difficult to quickly annotate, highlight, or write down the phone number of some kind looking person you just met. For some textbooks and heavy reading, it is necessary to be able to easily mark and take notes to understand what in the

world Immanuel Kant or Thomas Hobbes is talking about.

But rather than having to make a choice between digital or physical books, most people will settle on a balance between the two extremes.

I enjoy being able to read a digital book anytime on my Kindle device (I won’t mind if you

accidenally call it a Nook), but, as a birthday or holiday gift, I would prefer to give someone a physical copy of a book than an email with a link to download.

Digital books lack tactility, but have much to offer in greatly expanding the availability for people to come in contact with great books they would not read otherwise.

Valentine’s Day allows recognition for all love

BY BEN KING
STAFF WRITER

There is no doubt that, while Valentine’s Day is a day of love and romance, it is also one of anxiety and perhaps even tension. If an individual is in a relationship there can be a lot of expectation to have an “amazing” day.

For those not in a relationship, there can be disappointment and irritation at being “alone” on a day of love. Regardless, of all of the anxieties this day brings to those single and those “coupled,” Valentine’s Day is just one day of the year and there are so many ways to make it one of the better ones regardless of one’s situation.

As college students, we all tend to be a little short on money. Hollywood and television would have all of us believe that in order to have a nice Valentine’s Day we must spend lots of money, and that all romantic gestures ought to be extravagant and flashy. This is not the case.

Valentine’s Day is a day in which individuals are meant to express their love for their significant others. One does not need to spend a ridiculous amount of money in order to do this.

A college student who shares his love of music with his significant other could make a romantic CD of songs that reminds him of his sweetheart. If you both like to eat, but cannot afford to go out to

dinner, perhaps cooking a simple meal and making a “swanky” dining setting with candles and table cloth may be even more romantic.

It is not about being able to show off how much money one has, rather the amount of effort and thought put into a gift that matters.

In matters of the heart it is always the thought that counts.

Now, if you are single on Saint Valentine’s Day, there are many things you can do to make the day better if it has a tendency to bring you down. Perhaps the simplest way to counter the Valentine’s Day blues is to just ignore it.

It is one day out of the year. Many others are in the same position as you, and most of them manage to survive. You will wake up and go to bed, the next day will be February 15th, and it will be just like any other normal day. Spend time with other single folks. Do something that you enjoy and try to have fun. It is almost always nice to do something just for yourself.

Above all, if you happen to be single on this day of love and adoration, try to remember that love is not about a particular day, or even being in a romantic relationship.

All people ought to love one another regardless of the day. If you are in a relationship then you

should always try to show your love to your partner regardless of the day.

We all should cherish the love of others and the impacts those lives have on us every single day. It is the people who surround us and care for us that matter.

If you happen to have one person who matters a ton to you, then great. However, if you have lots of folks who love and care about you, that is even better.

Valentine’s is definitely about love, so as with any day, just try to spread the love. Whether

“All people ought to love one another regardless of the day.”

- On caring for one another after Valentine’s Day.

that is holding the door open for someone (being a gentleman is never a bad way to get a Valentine for next year) or just giving a smile and a wave to a complete stranger.

In the words of Flint Tropics basketball superstar Jackie Moon, “E.L.E.: everybody love everybody.”

Happy Valentine’s Day everyone. I hope that everyone has a special day.

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!

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

[illegible]

Wrestling defeats Trine, improves record to 14-7-1

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

The Scots' wrestling squad defeated Trine University and finished 17th in the Wheaton Invitational recently. Alma is 2-0 in the conference and 14-7-1 overall.

The Scots competed at the Pete Wilson Wheaton Invitational February 1st and 2nd and finished with a tie for 17th place with 38.5 points after the two-day meet. Alma had two wrestlers place in the competition, **Tyler Foley ('15)** who finished seventh at 125 pounds and **Adam Robinson ('16)** who came in third place at 285 pounds.

"This last weekend was a tough tournament. Weathon had alot of good guys at every weight. We have some guys that are sick, but they are getting over their sickness. We are trying to not let the flu keep us out of training and wrestling our best," said Robinson.

"My personal goal is to win the mid state tourney here at Alma on the 16th, as a team wee should be in the race for winning the tounry. we got some studs that should perform and earn us a lot of points. For both personal and team, i want to be that team/ wrestler that coaches talk about, the one, team or wrestler, that every team after us wants to be. I want to set the bar high."

Last Thursday the Scots hit the road again and traveled to Angola to take on the Thunder in a conference dual meet. The Scots were victorious by a margin of 26-12.

"We won seven of 10 bouts, losing to three nationally-ranked wrestlers but winning the remaining seven," said Head Coach, Todd Hibbs in a press release.

"The guys performed very well tonight. It was one of our goals at the beginning of the season to have a winning record and at 8-6, that locks that up for us. It was also one of our goals to start winning matches in our conference, which we have started to accomplish by

beating Trine.

It's hard to compete against them because one of my best friends is their coach, but I was proud of our guys and how we came down here and wrestled."

Matt Tuttle ('15) at 165 pinned his opponent at the 1:25 mark, making it a quick fall and giving his team some pin points.

Teammate **Jamie Jakes ('16)** did perform well at 157 pounds against the number one wrestler in the nation.

Jakes commented on his experiences in the last few weeks.

"The Alma open was deep in talent across all weight classes so placing was tough. I went to Grand Valley while our starters went to Weaton. I went 3-0 taking first place which was an encouraging win.

I shared the podium with Caleb Huff after he injury defaulted to me in the finals. Wrestling at Trine was exciting and a huge win for our second year program! My job was to go out against the number one wrestler in the nation and try to lose the least team points.

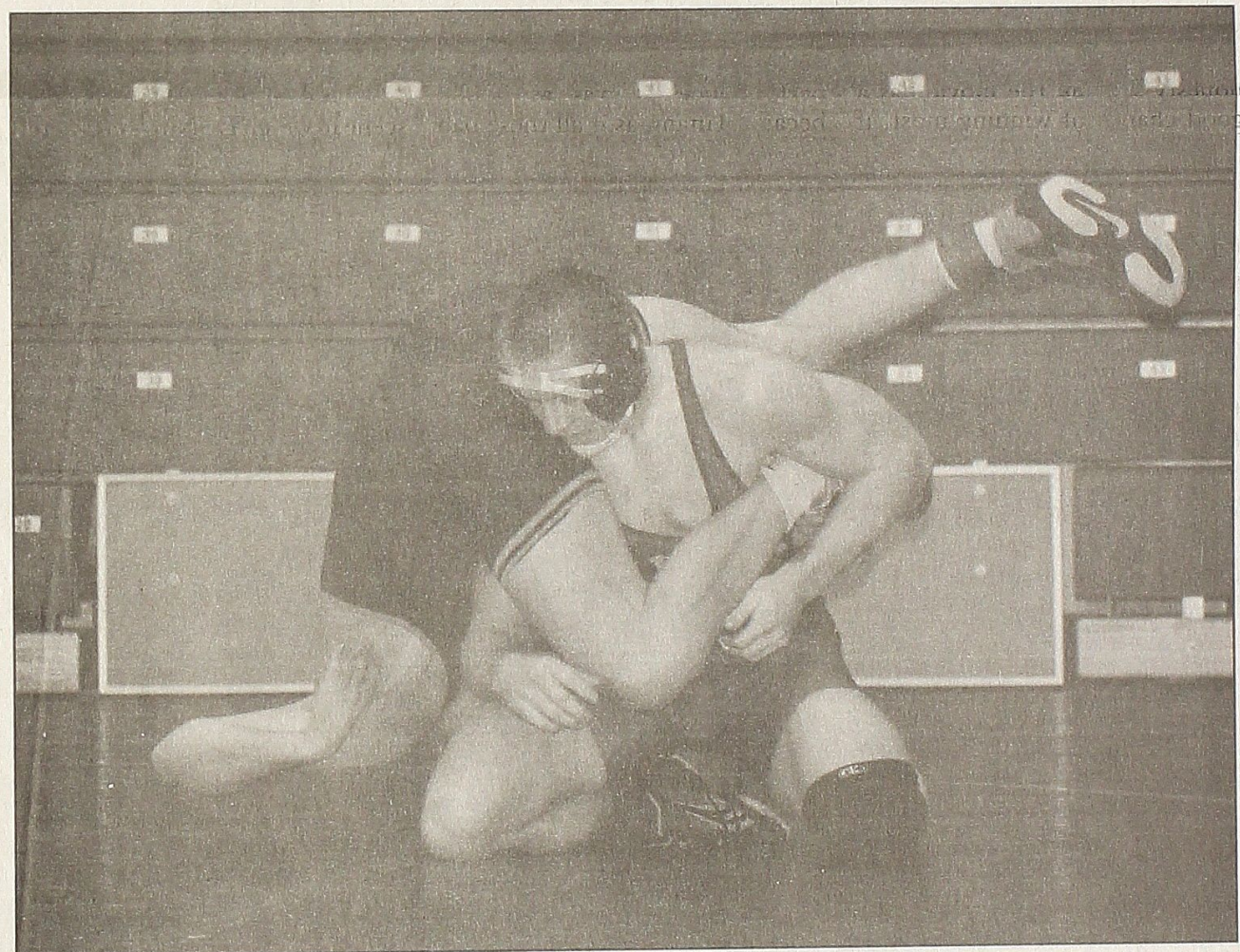
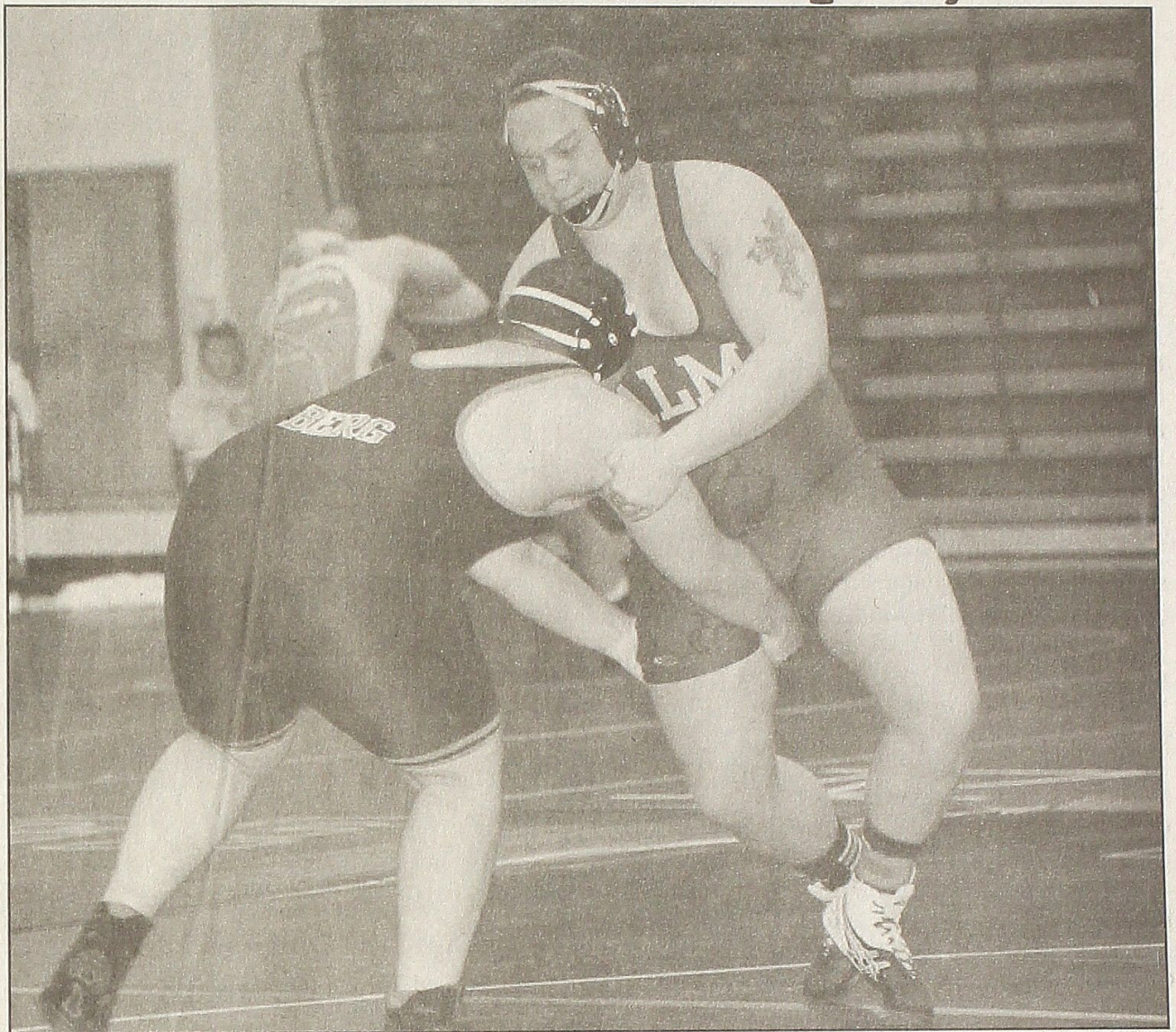
The real hero of the meet was Matt Tuttle who pinned his opponent in the first period which gave us a huge lead going into some tough matches," said Jakes.

"It seemed like our whole team was sick at one point in the past 2 weeks. I am happy to say we are all back to full health. Overall we are lucky to have a relatively healthy season. We are all a little beat up; fingers, ankles, knees, shoulders always get a little sore this time of year, but other teams are going through the same thing or worse.

I credit our health to our coaching staff, they are very smart with the practices and never overwork us, but at the same time push us hard. I want to be an All-American my jr. and sr. year. We have a great coaching staff and I have great practice partners that can get me there if I work hard enough.

The team is only looking forward to next year. If we can keep improving as a team we can be very good in our future."

The Scots host Olivet this Tuesday. The match will begin at 7:00pm in the Art Smith Arena. This conference dual met is also Senior and Alumni Night.



Courtesy of Alma Wrestling Facebook Page

Top: Andrew Ackerman ('16) has a season record of 2-5 for the Scots. Bottom: Jared Groeneveld ('15) has a season record of 19-9 and a 10-8 division record for the Scots.

Bowling team ranked No. 36 in the nation

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

After only two seasons, the women's bowling team is ranked 36th in the nation and heads to the national qualifier.

One reason Kenneth Shunk, head coach, attributes for the team's success is that the squad added four talented freshmen, two of which were runner up champions.

"The team is excited to be able to go to the national qualifier and they are practicing to do their best," said Shunk. "I am pleased since it is only our second year program and to be ranked is always nice.

"With us being a Division III school and competing in Division I and Division II tournaments and facing very talented and tough teams it is a proud accomplishment.

"For the rest of this season we are focusing to just too keep getting better and we have four freshman still learning the sport shot pattern. They are improving every tournament. When we get them locked in, we will be a top ten team in the Tier 1 tournaments.

"My goal for the next season is to keep recruiting highly talented high school bowlers."

The Lady Scots are also thrilled about their achievements.

"I think the biggest factor leading to my success this year is being a part of a great team," said bowler **Tina Ripley ('16)**.

I know they will always have my back and help me when I need it. I know I can always rely on them. I think the national ranking has made us more confident, and our coach more confident.

"We have talent and skill and the national ranking is truly a reflection of that. As a player I have also become more confident in my game. I know what it takes to get where we want to be, and our team can do it.

"Personally, my goals for the rest of the season are to have a top 10 finish at our next tournament and to bowl our best at sectionals. For next season, I am hoping to continue the upward trend and make it to nationals. I plan on achieving these goals by devoting time at practice to the fundamentals and stepping up my

game physically and mentally.

"Over the summer I will bowl every day possible because I want to win."

Teammate **Jessica Cords ('15)** has a similar thought on their earned triumphs.

"The biggest factor that has lead to our success this season has been the amount of teamwork that has been involved," she said. "We all may not be having the best day out on the lanes, but no matter what we will have someone or a few of us holding up the others when they may be having a bad game or day.

"The national ranking really hasn't affected us as a team, we have kept the same game plan going into these last few tournaments that we did at the beginning of the season. It does

though show the bigger schools that even though we may be a very small team, we can still compete with them.

"Personally, my goal for the rest of the season is to continue bowling the best as I can. I set high goals for myself, so I push myself to make sure that I get where I want to be at the end of the day.

"As for next season, I want to place in the top 5 more often at the tournaments that we go to. I will achieve my goals by working hard on the rest of the season and to work hard improving my game over the summer, by practicing all the time."

The women's bowling team will continue to compete in its next match against Cincinnati at a neutral site on February 13th.

Alma basketball hoops for a cure against cancer

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

The Pink Game has become a tradition of sorts for Alma women's basketball, and it was a happy outcome for the Scots last Saturday.

The ladies defeated St. Mary's 71-62 in the annual contest, and the squad is now 7-15 overall and 6-8 in the MIAA. The victory followed a loss at rival Albion during the week. Alma, who has only two games remaining in the regular season, will celebrate Senior Night this Wednesday at home against Trine.

In the Albion game, a very exciting back-and-forth pace occurred in the first half. Alma would go on an early 11-2 run that would make the score 19-10, but the Britons would fight back and close the gap to two. Alma would hold Albion at bay in the first frame and take a 32-27 lead into the locker room.



"[The Pink Game] is important because this year we are raising money for an organization that helps families affected by cancer with everyday expenses such as gas, hospital bills, and groceries."

-Mary Schlicher ('14)

The team would come unraveled in the second half, as an early 13-0 Albion run would break the game wide open. The Brits would have their highest lead of the game at 66-46 with just over three minutes left, and then would cruise to a 68-54 win. Forward **Bailey Gooding ('14)** was just shy of a double-double with 18 points and 9 rebounds. Guard **Mallory Pruett ('15)** added ten points in the losing effort.

The St. Mary's game last Saturday was a different story for Alma, as the Scots would ride hot first-half shooting to a 41-28 lead. The Belles would outscore Alma in the second half, but it would not be enough as Alma would clinch the victory. Forward **Mary Schlicher ('14)** paced the Scots with a double-double 12 points and 12 rebounds. The game, which happens annually and is used to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research, means a lot to the players and the fans.

"It is important because this year we are raising money for an organization that helps families affected by cancer with everyday expenses such as gas, hospital bills, and groceries," said Schlicher. "This game also brings awareness

to the school and the community. It's great to be able to play in it knowing we are helping families who are fighting against cancer."

The men's basketball team has also been in action, and could not come out on top in either of the games that it played last week. The two losses sunk the Scots to 8-13 and 3-8 in the MIAA, and they are ineligible for postseason play.

The first game, which came last Wednesday, was a 90-66 loss to nationally ranked Calvin. Despite the loss, there was a high point for the Scots when Guard **Greg Silverthorn ('13)** reached 1,000 points for his career.

"We played pretty well in the second half but it wasn't good enough."

-Sam Hargrave, men's basketball head coach

"No stats to go off of right after the game, but I thought we battled well for much of the contest," said Alma Head Coach Sam Hargraves in a press release. "Just a few minutes here and there that we broke down and the game got away from us in the first half. We played pretty well in the second half but it wasn't enough."

The second loss came last Saturday when the Scots lost a late lead and fell to Adrian in the final home game of the regular season. The regular season will conclude next week, when Alma will hit the road to take on Albion and Kalamazoo.



Elaine Cunningham: Photo Editor

Top: Men's basketball showed its support for the team and event by wearing pink. Middle: Greg Silverthorn ('13) celebrated Senior Day and his 1,000th point last Saturday. Bottom: The fans helped raise awareness with a halftime dance.