



# THE ALMANIAN

*Medicine and new business  
headed downtown*

*see page 3*

SERVING ALMA COLLEGE SINCE 1907

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## Renovations completed; meal plans changed

By ELLEN MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

"With the school year just beginning to unfold, the last details of the major renovation of Hamilton Commons are finally starting to wrap up," said Steve Watkins, general manager of Sodexo Dining Services.

"You've got to walk before you run," he said. "We're almost jogging but not quite. But we're getting there."

Aside from minor details such as arranging mop closets and finishing a few light fixtures, Watkins explained, there are bigger plans for the dining space that are still in the process of being worked out. For example, the college is working to keep the lower portion of the dining hall open until 11 p.m.

"The space is there and we want you to use it," Watkins said, noting that this would be a great place for students to study in the evenings.

Another change is the development of more fresh food options, especially for vegetarians and vegans, Watkins said.

There will be gluten-free pizza crust and pasta available on request, as well as homemade veggie burgers that students can ask for at the deli station, according to Cindy Walz, head chef.

"[The burger] cooks in a few minutes in our turbo oven," she explained. "Cooking it in the turbo oven means it is not on a grill top that has had meat or dairy on it."

Overall, though, students can expect to see a wider variety of all foods being served, according to Watkins.

"Now that we are in and the place looks beautiful, we will work diligently to make sure the cuisine matches the ambiance," Walz promised.

"All of these menu items are going to continue to evolve,"

Watkins said. "This is just opening week and we're trying to find our feet."

"It took us quite a while to get to where we're at, but I think that it'll serve us very well for the many years to come," he said. "We've put the right things in and I can tell you straight away that the changes that were made were driven by the students."

"It [looks] like a fancy hotel because it's so wide open and airy," said Sodexo Employee Marcia Miller, noting that the booths might be her favorite change to the layout because, according to her, they look "very upscale."

But the best part for her about the renovation is that the card-swiping station is further inside the door and will be away from the cold in the winter months, she explained.

"I won't be freezing anymore!" she said, laughing.

"I'm excited and grateful that the college is doing these initiatives to make the dining experience...more positive for the students," said Bill Palmer, professor of English. "The renovation is amazing to me...the space is completely transformed."

The high ceilings and the glass face of the building are impressive, Palmer added, explaining that he feels that in a room with high ceilings, "you can really breathe."

However, with the change in atmosphere and in the food, students are now expected not to take food out of the cafeteria, Watkins said in reminder.

"That's the way a true resident dining facility operates," he stated. "I've been very lax in [letting students leave with food]...but you've got to have a little bit of tough love."

Additional changes that came along with the new groove of SAGA 2.0 are that of the meal plans.

These changes include the fact that students will no longer be able to convert extra meals to



Patrick Mallett, Staff Photographer

**Hamilton renovations include new seating and layout. Multiple food stations add variety to the commons.**

munch money.

"I really don't want students to be worrying about 'what week is it,'" Watkins said. "It seemed like a completely unnecessary thing to ask them to keep track of."

The 19-meal plan now offers \$175 munch money per term,

while the 210 block plan offers \$400 munch money per term.

The 160-meal plan, exclusive to students in Wright Hall and the Wright Avenue Apartments, offers \$400 much money per term.

Finally, students who will live in the Opera House Apartments

will have 40 meals and \$200 munch money per term. Currently, however, they are being given a 19-meal plan until they are able to move into the apartments.

"[We're] trying to make it easier for everyone all the way around," Watkins said.

## Alma College celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By NICOLE ECCLES  
STAFF WRITER

Starting Sept. 15 and ending Oct. 15, Alma College will be celebrating Hispanic cultures and traditions. Thousands of other collegiate institutions throughout the U.S. will also be participating in Hispanic Heritage Month.

Alma College's Hispanic Coalition, or HisCo, is responsible for many different events going on this month. Throughout September "HisCo will help students to gain a sense of the different Hispanic cultures from around the world and in our own community as well as become more aware of the problems these cultures may face," said Club President **Caity Huffman ('15)**.

The month will begin with many different activities such as a film showing, an open mic night, and a fundraiser. "At these events students can get a feel for the rich cultures that we are able to present on campus during this month of fun and inspirational activities," said Huffman.

The club will be holding several different events, the first and newest event being an open mic night held at College Corner on Sept. 20. The events are open for everyone to attend and perform anything from singing and dancing to reading poetry.

"This month is meant to celebrate Hispanic cultures and traditions and is a time for learning," said HisCo's Vice President **Alana DuLyn ('16)**.

The main celebration this month will be held Sept. 27 and is a fundraiser simply titled

Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta-Baile. This event will accept donations and offer a taste of traditional food, some of which will be made by local families in Alma. This event will fully enable the campus community to "recognize those around us and their contributions," said DuLyn. There will be music, food, and everyone is welcome. The event hopes to highlight the importance of this month.

**"This month is also meant to celebrate Hispanic cultures and traditions and is a time for learning."  
- Alana DuLyn ('16)**

Hispanic Heritage Month "causes us to take a moment to recognize

the cultural backgrounds that affect all of us. It allows us to make these backgrounds visible," said Spanish Professor and HisCo Advisor Stephany Slaughter.

At the end of this month on Sept. 30, HisCo will hold a third event. They will be showing the Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winning film "Which Way Home." Slaughter was one of the seven field producers for the film and also worked as a translator. The 2009 film documents the journey of "unaccompanied child migrants, from different Hispanic countries, coming to the United States, many by train, to find family, better schools, and a new life" said Slaughter. The documentary will be shown at The Strand Theatre in downtown Alma. There will be a panel discussion held at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will be shown immediately afterwards. The

event will conclude with a Q & A session with Slaughter.

HisCo hopes that after the events of Hispanic Heritage Month awareness and interest will increase on campus. The club currently holds Spanish Hours to help with tutoring and practicing Spanish conversation. Spanish Story Time is also starting up again this year and will be held on Saturdays at the Alma Public Library.

In addition, HisCo educates interested students on cultures throughout the Hispanic world during the year and even offers scholarships for Spanish books.

The club hosts weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. in SAC 104 and will hold different events throughout the year. No Hispanic heritage or even Spanish speaking abilities are needed to be a part of HisCo or to attend any of its events.



## New class explores “kid lit”

BY HANNAH SOMALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

When expected to offer a world literature course, English Instructor Prathim (Maya) Dora-Laskey wandered naturally to where her heart resides: with children. Among the many new classes offered this semester, Children in World Literature (ENG 240) was something not yet seen by Alma students.

“World literature is very wide-ranging; using a specific group as a motif was a way to organize the course,” said Dora-Laskey, “As a group, children lack self-representation—in literature as in life, they are always being spoken for and about and rarely speak for themselves—so it is important to privilege them as subjects. In another way, this motif was picked because I have a deep affection for children—all children.”

The root of Dora-Laskey’s love for children was discovered in her home country of India through a program titled “Helping Hands.” As a high school student, Dora-Laskey was asked to volunteer at an institution for abandoned children. Alongside other volunteers, her job was simple but vital: to hold, cuddle, and love the infants, who were left in their cribs the majority of the day because caretakers only

had enough time to provide them with the essentials. Now, Dora-Laskey acts as a children’s advocate and, in addition, supports 25 of the children who rely on Helping Hands for their schooling and basic needs.

Dora-Laskey looks to engage her students on a personal level by allowing them to choose an excerpt of their liking from the syllabus, read the text

*“As a group, children lack self-representation-in literature as in life.”*

*- Professor Maya Dora-Laskey*

through, and present to the class. Following the course’s termination, a website will be erected with the students’ class papers to be used as a source for others who are in search of opinions or ideas on the concept of childhood in varying literary works.

As a survey class, Dora-Laskey tailored the course to look at a variety of texts as well as various movies and song lyrics of both classic and modern periods. Students can expect to read excerpts from over 60

different sources. The syllabus lists everything from “Alice in Wonderland” to “The Hunger Games.”

The purpose of including “The Hunger Games” was more than simply to draw students. Suzanne Collins’s famous novel holds many themes and motifs that provoke many questions. Other popular stories include “The Hobbit,” “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone,” and “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.”

“I want students to recognize that it’s not only canonical works of literature on which they can perform analysis, but also that the world is full of texts—from an advertisement for Trix Yogurt to the Bible or Chinua Achebe,” said Dora-Laskey. “The Hunger Games’ is at the forefront of pop culture and is something that many people have read. Although it isn’t a very literary piece, it is successful as a text that positions the readers in such a way that they find themselves questioning the way we think about social empire, oppressions, injustices, and freedom.

“What I hope students will gain from taking this course is that they learn to read the world for themselves, think critically, and recognize that everything is a text,” said Dora-Laskey, “One need not separate literature from the rhetoric of the reality it represents.”

## Service Week at Alma College

Sept. 9-13

### Monday

Random Acts of Kindness Bingo  
Download a Bingo Card from the Service Learning Facebook

### Tuesday

Volunteer and Organization Fair  
4:30-7 p.m. in Tyler-Van Dusen

### Wednesday

Alternative Break Information  
6:30 p.m. in Dow L-1

### Thursday

United Way of Gratiot County Scavenger Hunt  
5 p.m. at Alma’s Elk Lodge  
\$20 Registration Fee

### Friday

Make Your Own Service!  
Go Out and Do Good in the Community

## Students connect charity, dresses, and dreams

BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND  
STAFF WRITER

I figured other girls would [have some], too.”

She is not the only one with her heart in it either. Though the final donate date is Sept. 30, many girls have already donated their dresses.

“I think it is a great cause,” said Amy Smith (‘15), who donated not one, not two, but five dresses.

“My [sorority] sisters and I all had old dresses that we wanted to donate to a good cause,” said Mulford. Hami’s company, MinaChristine Photography, wanted to help these girls out. As a result, one of the girls in need will receive a dress and a prom photo shoot package. The company is also sponsoring this dress drive.

Even if you only donate one dress, it will make a big difference in someone’s life.

*“That feeling, the feeling of being beautiful, confident, and in charge is something I wanted to share. We did not want girls to feel less loved or accepted because of the amount of money the have.”*

*- Walethia Aquil*

My Dreams Do Come True did not just spontaneously appear. It was started in Flint, Mich. by a woman named Walethia Aquil.

She had never had the money for a prom dress, nor had she been to a fancy restaurant. After getting one and going to the other, she felt extremely out of her depth. Years later, she discovered that what she had been missing was confidence and the ability to connect with those around her.

“That feeling, the feeling of being beautiful, confident, and in charge, is something I wanted to share. We did not want girls to feel less loved or accepted because of the amount of money they had,” Aquil said. She started this program, along with Ideal Girl Global, to bring girls out of their shells.

“My Dreams Do Come True provides a stepping stone for girls to realize their potential and the unlimited opportunities that await them,” said Aquil.

Over the course of two years, the organization had given out over 300 dresses to deserving girls. That number, with the help of Alma College students, is only going to rise.

There are a number of donation boxes set up around campus, including Hamilton Commons and Stone Recreation Center, and there will be one set up in the library soon. Mulford said that she and Hami would be willing to do the formal dress drive again in the winter, giving the students a chance to bring dresses back up after winter break.

The formal dress drive set up by Mulford and Hina aims to continue this service in years to come at Alma College.



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

Rita Mulford (‘15) displays prom dresses donated to My Dreams Do Come True during the formal dress drive.

### Letter Policy:

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication.

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## New businesses bring variety to Alma; more options for students

By **ABBY DELANEY**  
FREELANCE WRITER

While there always seems to be a division between town and campus, a number of businesses — some of them new — should be of interest to students.

Down State Street, two busy owners have opened a precinct of the popular Cops & Doughnuts. Nancy Flom and her partner, Jim Cook, already run the second-hand and finely-used furniture store One Last Dance and vendor-based shop Neat-O, respectively. On Memorial Day, the pair opened their branch of the bakery.

The storefront now hosting Cops & Doughnuts was previously a cafe they had rented out to a woman, but when she retired, the store was vacant again. Cook and Flom noticed that other bakeries in the area were closing down, so they contacted the headquarters for Cops & Doughnuts in Clare, and asked to become a subsidiary in town.

The shop has a wide selection of merchandise to choose from, including the Squealer, a long-john doughnut with maple frosting and bacon in place of sprinkles. According to Cook and Flom, this, along with an upcoming “Booking Wall,” a wall in which customers can get their mugshot photo taken, has brought people in from as far as Hong Kong, even in the short three months that the store has been open.

Across the street is “Alma’s best kept secret,” according to Randy Gilmore, the head magician at the Fat Rabbit. Owned by his wife Julie Gilmore, Fat Rabbit opened “after the Highland Festival before



Brittany Leppien: Photographer

**Cops & Doughnuts, a new bakery in town, features a variety of choices from bagels to donuts and all things breakfast for patrons.**

last,” said Randy Gilmore.

Open for family entertainment and children’s birthday parties, this little store offers a large and varied amount of food, including hand-dipped ice cream, hot pretzels, corn dogs, and pizzas. In the center of the room are the arcade games that the couple has collected over the span of almost 15 years.

Outside the arcade games, a proud display stands with magic tricks at the ready. Fat Rabbit is the only magic store in Central Michigan.

“Even in Lansing, people have

to buy the [magic] kits on the Internet,” said Randy Gilmore. He was more than happy to give a demonstration of a few of his best tricks, including the “Red Hanky” and the “ball in an egg” trick, just like he does for anyone interested in learning. “We’re always looking for new business,” he said with a smile.

A popular college hangout, Stucchi’s has healthy sandwiches, tasty soups, and, of course, a wide variety of ice cream. Highland Java is convenient for late night studying. However, since the store’s opening, Alma students

have started going to Biggby Coffee. Down Wright Avenue, there are many big-name stores, and Biggby joined the strip last month. The owner, MaryAnne MacIntosh, is excited to open her doors.

“I love making people happy; life is short and everyone should live life to the fullest. This is why the Alma Biggby will be a fun place for family and friends to gather,” said MacIntosh in a comment on Biggby.com. Students on campus seem to share her enthusiasm as well.

“Personally, Biggby is my

favorite coffee shop. Also, I see it as a sign that Alma is growing,” said **Kaitlin Mays (’14)**.

Stepping outside the Alma College campus, there are many opportunities open. In a city of nearly 10,000 people, there is a wide variety of places to eat. There are different fitness centers to belong to and many off-the-wall joints to check out. Alma College may be small, but it has a lot to offer, and none of these places will require filling up the gas tank.

## Free clinic to open in Gratiot County; integrated health students involved

By **JESSICA SUTHERLAND**  
STAFF WRITER

There are many people nowadays who do not have the money to go to the doctor, and health insurance is usually quite pricey. For this reason, a free clinic is coming to Gratiot County. With this clinic, people will be given educational materials to help them stay healthy. All the funds come not from the customers, but from grants and donations.

“The clinic has received donations from community groups, businesses, and individual community members,” said Cristy Calhoun, coordinator of the Integrated Health Studies

Institute. According to Calhoun, all the staff members at the clinic work on a volunteer basis. She said that the people working are there because they want to help others. There are even opportunities for students to help out in their spare time, though not immediately. This is because more people volunteered than expected.

“There has been an amazing outpouring from the community,” said Calhoun. She had been working hard right along with the volunteers to get ready for the big opening last Saturday. Calhoun said that the people involved were excited to start helping people who need it.

The office hours are every Monday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., said **Liz Gupton (’15)**, one of the students involved with the clinic.

Services are offered under a first-come first-serve basis, according to an article in The Morning Sun, and anyone who is 18 to 65 with no insurance is able to go to the clinic and get help. This clinic, though out of the “Alma College Bubble” was still aided largely by the college. The Integrated Health Studies Institute’s role was to coordinate the volunteers for this.

“Myself, along with two students, schedule all volunteers for the clinic, along with performing other miscellaneous tasks,” said Calhoun.

Calhoun said that although the whole department helps with the clinic, it was one class at Alma College that came up with the idea. Led by Mike Vickery from the communications department,

the health communications class (COM 243) paved the way. This class was first in charge of finding out the qualities that made up a good clinic, like when it should be open and what services it should provide. They also needed to research how patients would travel there and how they would hear about it.

On top of that, the students were in charge of finding out whether or not this community needed a free clinic. Some places may not have had the need for one. This community, they found, would find such a place quite useful.

“It is a great resource for our population, and many people will be utilizing the services offered,” said Gupton, who took the health communications class.

Vickery intends to stay involved, and Professor Murray Borrello of the environmental science and geology departments jumped onto the bandwagon also. He is in charge of data collection and assessment for the clinic.

According to Gupton, the clinic will not only help to aid those that need help, but will bring the community together. Volunteers selflessly working to help others in their hometown will not go unnoticed by the people. This will spur more selfless acts in return. This clinic is helping to bring the college and the community together as well. Too often, students and community members see the college and the town as two separate entities. This clinic will, hopefully, change that viewpoint.



## Key elements make horror movie go from typical to bone chilling

By DANIEL MURAWSKE  
STAFF WRITER

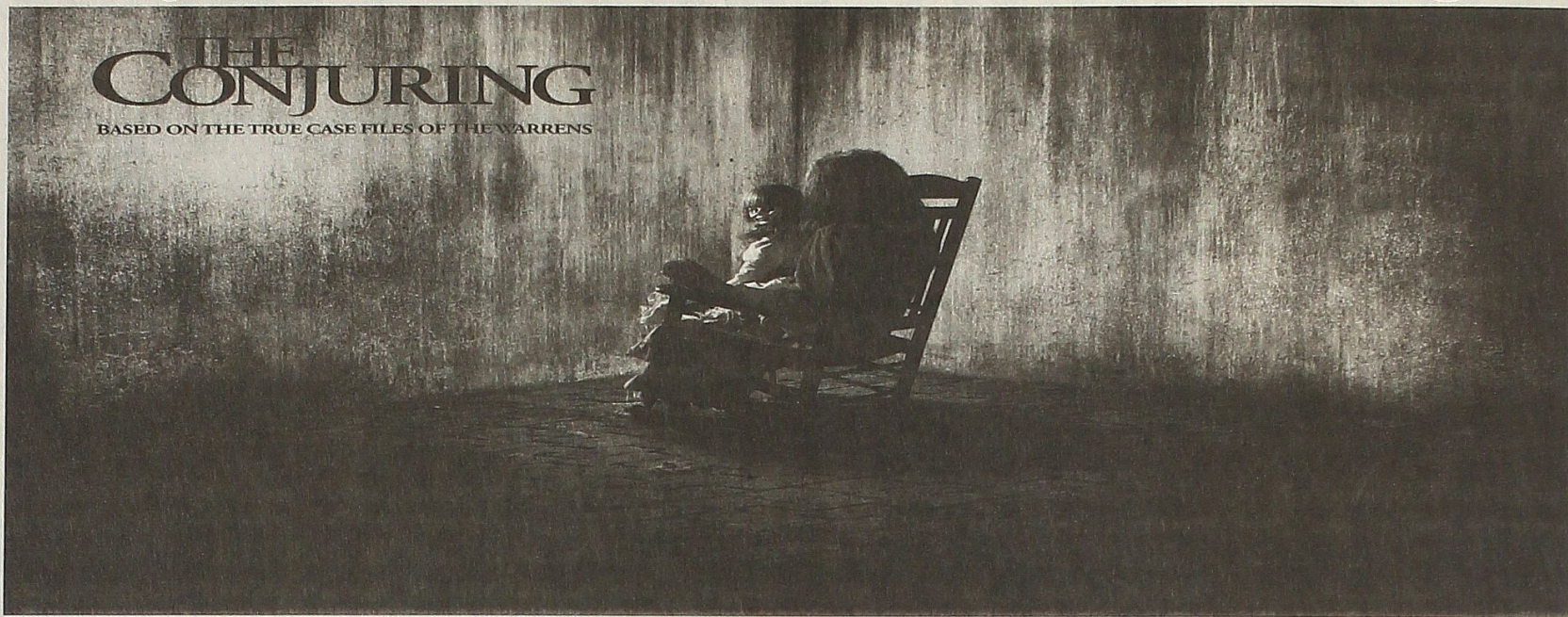


Photo courtesy of static.comicvine.com

**A promotional image from “The Conjuring” has been used to draw attention and interest to the movie.**

“The Conjuring” is the most terrifying movie I have ever seen. That is a big compliment, considering that I have seen many horror movies since I have come to college, including titles such as “Insidious,” “Sinister,” the entire “Paranormal Activity” series, “The Shining,” and “The Exorcist.”

“The Conjuring” focuses on the real-life events that happened to the Perron family several years ago.

In 1971, Roger and Carolyn Perron began experiencing paranormal occurrences soon after moving into an old farmhouse in Rhode Island. Those occurrences eventually became severe enough that world-famous paranormal investigators, Ed and Lorraine Warren (who also investigated the events that led to “The Amityville Horror” movies) investigated the events. The film exhibited phenomenal acting, an interesting family element, great music, clever camerawork, and a truly horrifying ending.

Patrick Wilson (“Insidious”) and Vera Farmiga (“The Departed,” “Source Code”) play paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren. Roger and Carolyn Perron are portrayed by Ron Livingston (“Office Space”) and Lili Taylor (“Ransom”). All four do a tremendous job in their

respective roles. I also appreciate the performances from the five young women who portray the Perron daughters.

Secondly, Director James Wan portrays the family element in the movie very realistically. Wan has shown that he knows not only how to scare people, but how to affect people emotionally as well. I fell in love with this family from the very beginning, and that made me dread the scares even more because I did not want anything bad to happen to the members. Clearly, the brilliance of the family element worked on multiple levels in the movie.

Another element of the film that I admire is the musical score: it was very creepy, and, unlike many horror films, it was not overused.

The purpose of a musical score is to tell the viewer how to feel every single second. When I hear sad music, I feel sad. When I hear

happy music, I feel happy. When I hear music in horror movies, I will usually feel scared or on edge, depending on the context of each situation. The music in “The Conjuring” made me feel scared every time I heard it, which means it did its job.

However, what I liked best about the musical score is that the filmmakers did not overuse the music. Music in horror films often give away the surprise in a coming jump scene. Usually, if there is music in a scary jump scene, the sounds will intensify as it gets closer to the moment when something pops out on the screen. Anyone who watches horror movies regularly will eventually be able to predict a jump scare as the music grows stronger. This is why sometimes it is better not to use too much music in a horror movie. While creepy music can be effectively used to scare people, silence can be even more effective.

“The Conjuring” had a great mix of gleefully creepy music and even scarier silence.

Another positive aspect of “The Conjuring” was the camerawork. I cannot say too much about the camerawork, because in order to do so I would have to go into detail about some of the scares, and I do not want to ruin anything for anyone who has not seen the film yet. However, I can give one generic example.

While most films place characters in the center of the screen during suspenseful moments, in this one characters were placed off to one side of the shot, causing the viewer to expect something to happen on the unoccupied side, and, even if nothing happened, I was almost as scared as the times when something frightening did happen. That is camerawork at its finest.

The last thing that I loved

about “The Conjuring” is its final act. Again, I will not go into detail about it, but I will say that the final 20 minutes will grab onto you and not let you go. It is the scariest ending I have ever seen.

When I hear nervous laughter in a movie theater after I see a jump scare, I can tell that the movie is working effectively with those groups of people; in horror movie audiences, laughter is a coping mechanism to respond to a fright. And based on my experience in the theater when I went to see “The Conjuring”, it was affecting every group of audience members.

With its the great acting, the powerful family element, the effective musical score, the brilliant camerawork, and the most haunting ending I have ever seen, I believe that “The Conjuring” is the best horror movie of the 21st Century. No other horror movie even comes close.

## Writer recommends: three mind-bending classic novels

By RAY VISSER  
STAFF WRITER

I’m as guilty as anyone of a very common crime: only reading books considered to be “classics” when they’re assigned. The mere mention of titles like “Huckleberry Finn,” “The Great Gatsby,” and “To Kill a Mockingbird” probably bring back unfortunate memories of high school English classes and night-before-book reports.

However, praising the triumph of these literary mainstays is not my point. They’re all decent novels, sure. But this is an announcement to those who have denounced reading anything that’s not a Twitter feed, or who wish that vampire novels would stop appearing everywhere,

or who just need a good book recommendation.

There is a whole world of challenging, often-violent, darkly humorous literature out there, existing in its own bubble of the “classics” section at your local library (yes, you have one of those). You’ve probably heard of one or two or even all three of these. They are books that will make you see the world in a different light, change your perception of language, or just frustrate you to the point of uncontrollable laughter.

Fair warning: all of these novels are some combination of extremely violent, profane, grim, depressing, or morally questionable. But after a high school education spent slogging through tame, suburban subject matter, doesn’t something grittier sound interesting? Let’s dive in.

First up: “Slaughterhouse-Five,” by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. The profoundly poetic, sadly hilarious

story of Billy Pilgrim, a hopeless dweeb caught up in the hellish later days of World War II, evolves into the most poignant time-travel story (yes, you read that right) I’ve ever had the pleasure of reading.

The fact that the novel is somewhat autobiographical only makes the war imagery more concrete and the poetic passages more stunning. Side note: the jury is still out on whether the time-travel parts are written from first-hand experience.

Also, the book includes aliens that look like green plungers with hands on top. This is not a drill; this is one of the most stirring war novels ever written, and it has time-traveling aliens with suction cups. Why wouldn’t you read it?

Next is “A Clockwork Orange,” written by a linguist by the name of Anthony Burgess. This is the hardest recommendation for me to make, because the barrier to entry is so high and the content

is so shocking.

Much of the novel is written in an invented English-Russian hybrid slang spoken by the narrator, Alex, and his friends (“droogs”). This drug-fueled group of delinquents tears around a dystopian London, wreaking havoc with no thought of the consequences of their actions.

It may take a few chapters, but the language soon becomes natural to read, a fact which continues to astound me to this day. As the reader delves deeper into Alex’s twisted mind, the slang worms its way into everyday life. Suffice it to say: if you don’t read this book, I’ll tolchok your yarbles.

Last on the list is a book I’ve unfortunately only had the pleasure to read one time: Joseph Heller’s satirical, side-splittingly funny war masterpiece, “Catch-22.” You may or may not be familiar with the term “catch-22,” which I can assure you comes from this novel and not the other way around.

Here’s the rundown: a squadron of American pilots are stationed off the coast of Italy during, again, the later days of World War II (I’m seeing a pattern to these recommendations). The pilots are required to fly a certain number of dangerous bombing missions before they can be released from duty. But the higher-ups constantly raise the number of missions required just before the pilots can reach their goal.

If that agonizing cycle alone has you interested, rest assured I’m leaving out a lot of the literary and comedic gold hidden in the pages of the novel for space reasons.

There you have it. Read these novels. Impress your friends with your knowledge of the planet of Talfamadore, your desire to drink “moloko with knives,” and your deep pity for Lieutenant Nately or adoration of Major Major Major Major. Just trust me: read these things.



Orientation, round two, presents new view of freshmen

By NICOLE ECCLES  
STAFF WRITER

If you had asked me at the end of last year what my thoughts on Orientation Week were, I would have told you that it was all right. That I didn't much care for Playfair, but it wasn't the worst, that I didn't really go to that many events, and, yeah, I learned a bit about campus, but really, I could have figured it out on my own.

However, now I've changed my tune. I've proverbially seen the light. I have seen the other side of Orientation Week. As a First-Year Guide, I saw the side that isn't full of awkward first interactions, screaming Orientation Coordinators, and avoiding activities that didn't offer free food.

My experience changed to sleeping very little, learning every name I could, some totally necessary screaming, and attending every activity on the schedule. Here's something I bet you didn't know about Orientation Week: it's better the second time. A lot better.

I held my own share of negative feelings for Orientation Week, but I'll try anything twice, and this time that turned out better than I could have possibly imagined. As a First-Year Guide, the newest addition to Orientation Week and a program that combines the mentor program with the OC program of years past, I found myself encouraging and participating in the events that last year I dreaded and avoided.

Move-in day gives the freshmen their first taste of how much tradition means to Alma College. Only a deep respect for tradition and a good, paying, on-campus job could get Guides, RAs, KCP mentors, and faculty up early to move hundreds of freshmen into their dorms. And only really bad karma could get me stuck moving freshmen into Bruske. Despite crying internally every time

***"I held my own share of negative feelings for Orientation Week, but I'll try anything twice, and this time that turned out better than I could have possibly imagined."***

***- On experiencing Orientation Week as a First-Year Guide.***

someone said third floor, move-in allowed me to see the Alma College community at its finest. All complaining was done in jest, and there is not a better way to bond with someone than helping him carry his fridge up four flights of stairs.

Now, Playfair is a different kind of animal. You either love or hate it, without much real in-between. As someone who could have done without it the first time, I was surprised to find that the second go-around was the most fun I'd had in a long time.

Screaming as freshmen run under your arched arms and grabbing the nearest person

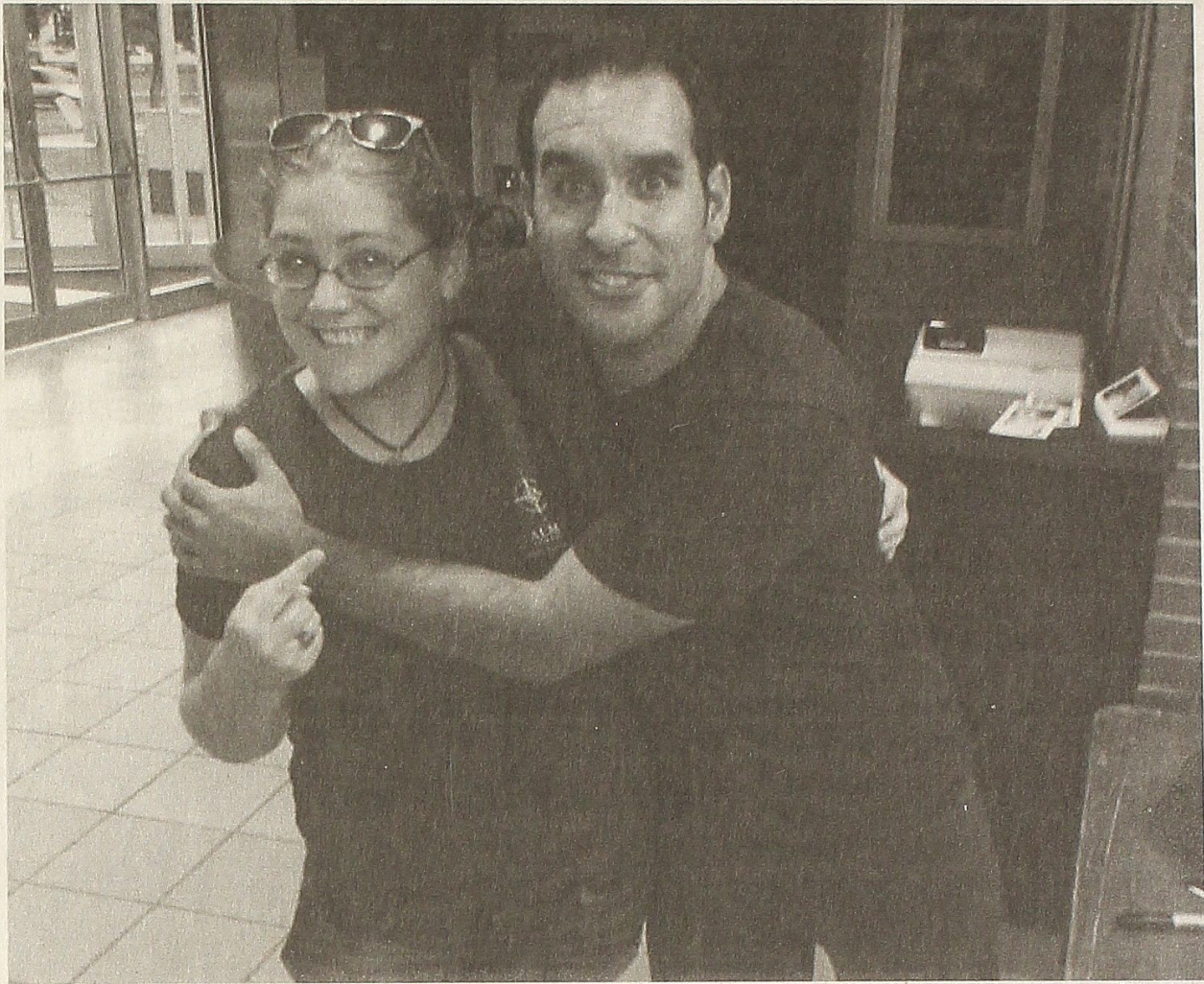


Photo courtesy of Nicole Eccles

**Nicole Eccles ('16) meets magician Daniel Martin at Orientation Week. Eccles enjoyed this year's activities more than last year's because she could be relaxed and have fun as a mentor rather than as an incoming student.**

because her fingers and your fingers make an even number is freeing when you remember the last time, awkwardly looking around and wondering how much longer this was going to go on.

Being a Guide or an RA during Playfair is freeing when you remember you legitimately have nothing to lose. You already have a group of friends, so you don't need to impress the people trapped in the rec with you. Your job at Playfair is simply to have fun and to try to make the people around

you have fun. And trust me, there is nothing better than being held up in the air by people you barely know while calling for a standing ovation and receiving it.

During Orientation Week 2012, I met my best friend, made some inside jokes, and got recruited for Model UN. During Orientation Week of 2013, I sang in front of an audience three times, laughed so hard I cried, met some amazing freshmen, went to two concerts, went to the bog (also known as the Alma College Ecological Station),

and recruited for Model UN.

If orientation wasn't the experience you wanted, here are some words of advice: find a way to do it again. If you ever have to do something you don't want to, act as though it's the best thing ever and eventually you will convince yourself that it is.

The only thing I did differently? I decided I didn't care; if I wanted to do something, I was going to do it. If there was a small chance it was going to be fun, I did it whole-heartedly.

First day of school becomes less exciting in college

By RAY VISSER  
STAFF WRITER

I'm in a fog. I feel disconnected from everything. And I don't know why.

An unusual campus housing situation could be one contributor. Unexpected and unwanted results of a long, frustrating process are not ideal. I'll leave it to our especially perceptive readers to decipher what I mean by this.

Suffice it to say, a sense of crushing disappointment doesn't kick off the school year in the best way. Instead of sending the ball of the year sailing off the grass of summer through the uprights of another exciting term at Alma, the metaphorical kicker (God? my subconscious? who knows?) shanked the ball with his toe and sent it wobbling and bouncing across the field.

That may be a clumsy metaphor, but it's one of the most accurate I think I've ever invented. Unlike the kicker. He's not doing so well in the accuracy area. But I digress. Why else would I feel so cut off from the world? I can put some of the blame for my mental state on the fact that I did nothing extraordinarily creative or productive over the summer. I worked some, hung out with friends, went to some concerts. I don't feel like I'm back at school.

It was cool back in grade school to mock kids who did non-lazy things over the summer, but this isn't your little red-trimmed one-story plaster gray building

anymore. (Brief aside: why do all elementary schools look identical?)

This is where I offer some advice: even during the summer, keep doing things. Build a bartending robot. Write a letter

***"Perhaps the novelty of starting school again has worn off. This is, after all, my sixteenth annual new school year."***

***- On starting school in college.***

to your favorite astronaut. Paint a mural on a cow. I didn't do any of these things (it was actually a goat), and now my brain feels like pancake batter, incapable of holding a coherent thought or concept that won't sink to the bottom and get burned to a crisp on the hot griddle.

So, now that it's too late to keep my brain fresh over the summer, I'm left with a dull feeling of resignation. Perhaps the novelty of starting school again has worn off. This is, after all, my sixteenth annual new school year. I've had plenty of time to run the gamut of reactions.

There was naïve excitement about having the first truly unusual experience of my life (preschool through probably third grade). There was the obligatory moody "school-is-so-ruining-my-

summer" phase (fourth through sixth grades). Of course, there's the time of horrified uncertainty and dissatisfaction with myself as a member of a society that embraced being "cool" above all else (seventh and eighth grades). And, to cap it off, we have the ever-spreading pandemic of apathy (ninth grade onward).

Here I am, entering fifteenth grade, and all I feel is a return to the grind. But here's the important thing: I know all of this—the weird mood, the

housing debacle, the brain-dead attitude—is temporary. If I want to push that cliché a little further into a slightly morbid form, life itself is all temporary. So we won't dwell on that. If you stuck with this repugnant article for this long, I give you a lot of credit, because you'll notice I reserve the right to complain, at least for a little while.

But in the end, the geese will fly south, the snow will fall and melt, the geese will come back, the students will realize it seemed

like the geese just left yesterday, the snow will turn to rain, the geese will be happy, the students will not, because it's raining, and they just wanted to go lay out or something. The alternative band OK Go (of treadmill video fame) summed it up very nicely: "Let it go / This too shall pass."

I'm no hippie philosopher talking about the circle of life. I'm just one worn-out, surprisingly world-weary student hanging on to optimism for reasons unknown. (Here's to a great year.)

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!

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



Dorm crashing calls for simple etiquette

**By Abby Delaney**  
Freelance Writer

It's late, your dorm is all the way on the other side of campus, and you really don't want to make the journey back. Maybe you had a fight with your roommate and just need to sleep off the anger for the night. It's a common scenario that people have been in at least once.

Whatever the reason, it comes down to spending the night in someone else's room. It may be the person you're dating, or a good friend, or just hanging out with your RA. To be sure that after one night you don't have to find a brand new place to crash for one or two nights, here are a few tips to be a good dorm guest.

1. You, Me, and That One Guy.  
When you're staying the night at someone's place, you're not just staying with him. You're staying with him and his roommate(s).
2. Don't Bug Me. I'm Sleeping.  
Be respectful of the roommate(s), too. If you and your host walk in and all the lights are off, there are only two polite options: walk right back out or go to sleep yourself (making minimal noise in the process). Whether you like it or not, people do need sleep. Some need it more than others.
3. This Isn't Your Room.  
Some people are never in their rooms. Sometimes, they adopt somebody else's as their own.

This might hard to believe, but not everybody enjoys having strangers constantly in their rooms. Heck, sometimes people don't even like having a roommate in their room.

Quick solution - become friends with the roommate. Make sure that your presence is accepted and not just a big awkward part of the day. Find something you both like; sit and talk together at lunch. It's never bad to be invited by everyone in the room.

While this mindset may work, you still need to remember one key fact: it isn't your room. It's somebody else's room.

It's fine if you want to bring over a toothbrush or a hairbrush or even a pair of clothes to change into. It's not fine to hide personal items in their rooms. Yes, you may have reason to need to bring these items over for a day or two, but there is no need for anybody to have to tip-toe around your personal items when you have your own room.

4. You Were Assigned a Room.  
It's all nice to hang out with people, but people need their space. If your friend or significant other has allowed you to stay for a couple of nights but wants a night alone, don't freak out.
5. There's Really Never a One-way Street.  
Friendship goes both ways: you're nice to me, and I'm nice to you. When you've been staying somewhere that's not your room, it's very nice and completely fair to offer your room in return. Just be sure to clear it with your own roommate, and if anything needs to be taken care of, take care of it. Don't be lazy and selfish, because that's how you lose your dorm away from dorm.

Fashion industry remains "crazy" successful

**By Mechon Carew**  
Staff Writer

Ladies, have you ever noticed how unfair it is to be a woman? No, I'm not talking about periods or pregnancy or even work wages. I'm talking about clothes.

Take a moment to ponder this. For boys, picking out clothes is pretty easy.

Each kind of situation has a general system: Casual? T-shirt, jeans, and sneakers. Business? Button-down, slacks, dress shoes, and maybe a tie. Hot weather? Tank, shorts, and sandals. Cold? Put on a jacket, hoodie, or sweater. Fancy? Rent a tux or a suit. And that's about it.

For girls, however, it's a bit more complicated. We have blouses, camisoles, crop tees, midriff shirts, shredded-backs, lace, frills, sequins, three-quarter sleeves, spaghetti-straps, muscle tanks, low cut, V-neck, wide neck, scoop neck, and I'm just talking about shirts.

Why do women need all of this variety? Of course, there's a logical answer about fitting differently-sized women, but I don't like color options, and a few matching pieces sounds perfectly logical, right?

Which brings me to accessories. After all, what is a good outfit without a necklace, a couple of bangles, a hat or scarf, and even fun-colored socks? Stores have had to sell necklace and scarf hangers just to hold the enormous amounts of things that women wear that aren't actually clothes.

Sizing is just as baffling. For men, pants size is the length of the leg and the circumference of the waist, which applies to nearly every brand and style. Easy-peasy.

Ladies' sizes? I, for one, tend to run anywhere from a large 12 to a small 18. That's a 4-size difference depending on the brand, the cut, or even the particular item. There's no uniformity, there are no rules, just arbitrary self-esteem.

Now, I could get into that specifically, but there's another aspect about female clothes that particularly bugs me. Let's start looking at the actual material of the clothes. If you have a chance, take a woman's shirt in one hand and a man's shirt in another, preferably ones no one is wearing.

Most likely you'll notice, on average, how thin the woman's shirt is compared to the man's. Why? One word: layering. Instead of just buying a \$20 T-shirt,

It goes even further than that, ladies and gentlemen. That thin material is also prone to damage, which means spending more money to replace a ripped or torn item, if it wasn't bought in that state in the first place.

Also, what are seasonal colors other than a reason for women to restock their wardrobes every few months? Even the fact that women's pockets are either non-existent or entirely miniscule adds market value. Without pockets, now I have to go out and buy a purse to put my numerous accessories in.

All in all, the fashion industry has essentially brainwashed women into spending way too much money on things that they don't even really need. But what else is new?

Just like every other industry out there, those in the fashion business are out there to make profit, and lots of it. Sure, it's not fair and it really doesn't make much sense, but it's not like they're killing children to make the clothes, right?

Right?

The Almanian.

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

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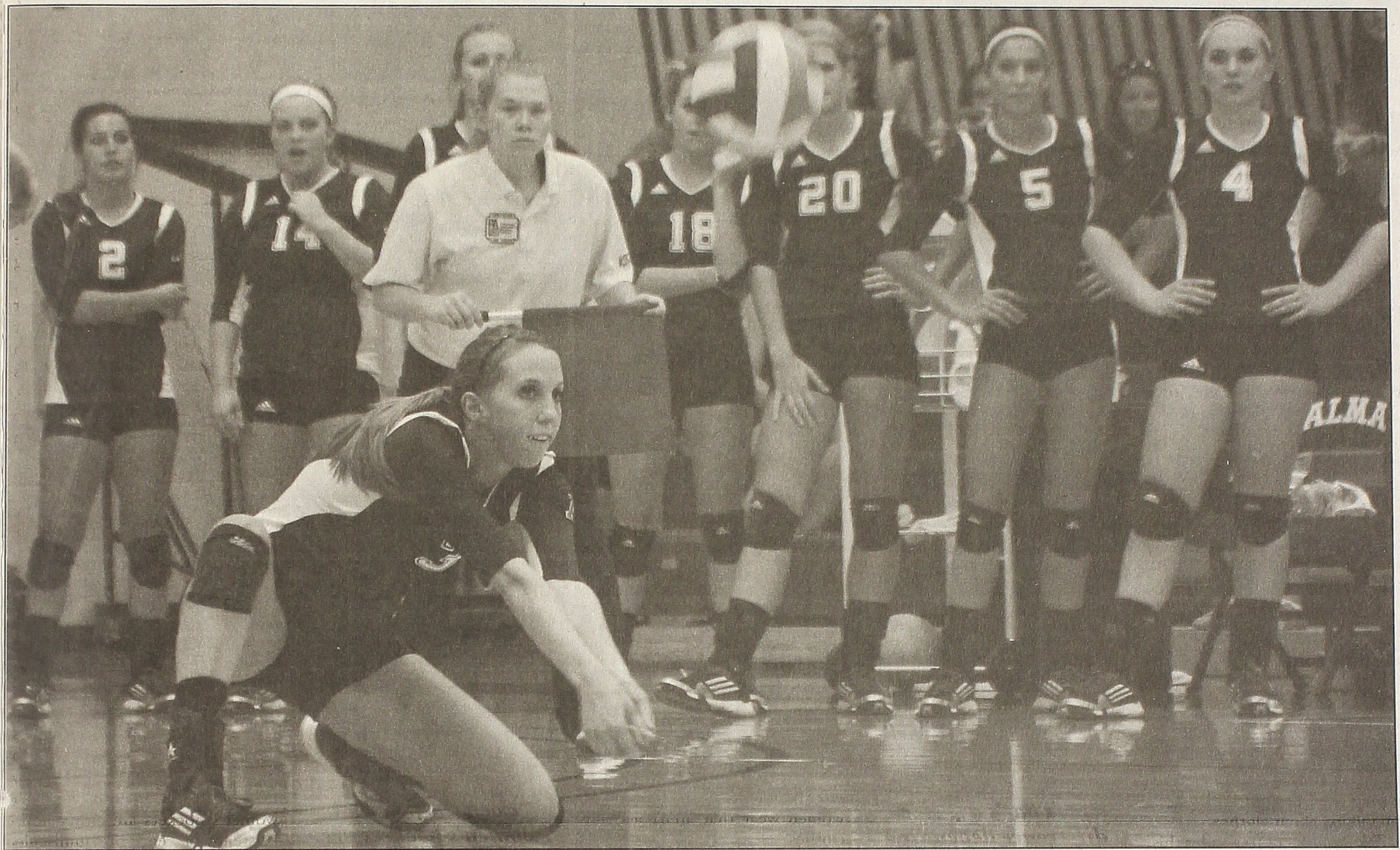
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# Scots' volleyball team loses MIAA home opener; Adrian up this week



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Lea Klooster ('14) was named All-MIAA Player of the Week for her performance at the Bluffton University Spiketacular Tournament last week.

By **BRENDEN KUDLA**  
STAFF WRITER

Calvin College traveled to Alma last Friday night expecting nothing less than a battle, and that is exactly what the Scots gave them in the Art Smith Arena.

Next week the Scots will be at home as they face the Adrian Bulldogs on Sept. 11. Adrian is another quality MIAA foe and should be a great matchup for the Lady Scots as they look to find themselves back in the MIAA tournament this year.

Early in game one last Friday, the second-ranked Calvin Knights found themselves on their heels as the Scots came out firing with an early lead.

However, the Knights were able to come back with vengeance and take the game 25-17.

In game two, the Scots again took another early lead but

were unable to finish the game strong, as the Knights once again fought back out of an early deficit to take the game 25-19.

In game three, Alma was able to throw everything it had at Calvin, but its energy just was not enough to take the game from the visitors as they defeated the home team 25-16 in the third game.

Calvin was led by the dynamic sister duo of sophomore Maggie Kamp and junior Stacey Kamp. Maggie Kamp took the lead role in yesterday's match with 19 kills while Stacey added three kills herself.

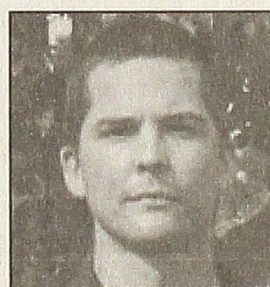
For the Scots, **Lea Klooster ('14)** led the way with a team high of seven kills, and **Jaycee Cole ('14)** had 14 digs to spark Alma's offensive attack.

After the game, Scots Head Coach Sarah Dehring said in a press release,

"I thought we competed well against them and played hard all the way to the end."

The Scots fought hard but were unable to create enough offense to beat the front line of Calvin.

## Stand Out Scots



**Marty Predmesky ('15)** took medalist honors with a score of 71 (38-33) in the MIAA Jamboree for the golf team.

**Lea Klooster ('14)** was named All-MIAA Player of the Week for her performance at last week's tournament with the volleyball team.



**Aaron Bender ('16)** scored two goals this past week for the men's soccer team.

## Men's golf displays improvement in early-season play

By **JUSTIN KETTERER**  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College men's golf team is improving as the players take on match after match.

The golfers' next competition will be the second MIAA Jamboree hosted at the Lenawee Country Club by Adrian College, starting at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13. The men began their

season at the Lou Collins Memorial Tournament, hosted by Olivet College, on Friday, Aug. 30 and Saturday, Aug. 31.

The Scots finished the Lou Collins tournament by shooting a combined 399 on Saturday.

They improved on Friday's combined score of 406 to reach 624, which earned them 12th out of 17th at the weekend tournament.

"We played much more to our potential on day two," said Coach Charlie Goffnett.

**Marty Predmesky ('13)** led the way for Alma as he shot a 146 for the weekend, good for a tie for seventh place in the field. "He amazes us about every day"

with his low scores, said Goffnett.

**Jake Moran ('14)** shot a 158 and finished in a tie for 44th in the tournament. Moran hit 14 greens in regulation during his Saturday round.

"He is really fun to watch when he is in sync with his swing," said Goffnett.

Tying with Moran was **Chris Williamson ('14)**, who also shot a 158 on the weekend.

Goffnett praised Williamson for the work he has put in over the summer and in the team's early camp.

"He really competes for a score on every hole," the coach said.

**Dylan Parks ('17)**

shot a 169 on the weekend, good for a tie in 73rd place.

"He had a pretty decent second day getting his feet wet in his first college tournament," said Goffnett.

**Dalton Potter ('16)** rounded out the scoring for the Scots with a contribution of 174, earning him 77th place.

The coach thinks this group of Scot golfers is a tough bunch who will scrap for scores on every hole.

The team's next meet was the MIAA Jamboree at the Medalist Golf Course hosted by Albion College on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The Scots shot a team 327 at the Jamboree. The score was good enough to finish sixth in

the first MIAA Jamboree of the fall season. Although the team did not better its team score from the past weekend, there were some improvements.

Predmesky led the way again for the Scots shooting a one under par 71. With four birdies on the day, Goffnett called the 71 an "outstanding effort."

Williamson shot an 80 on the day on what Goffnett called "another solid effort grinding out a very respectable score on one of our toughest courses that we will play."

The scoring was rounded out for the Scots by Moran, Parks, and **Alec Genter ('17)**, who shot an 86, 90, and 92 respectively.



# Scots drop the ball in opener; preparing for Illinois Wesleyan

By MECHON CAREW  
STAFF WRITER

The beginning of the football season kicked off in Ohio against Heidelberg University last Saturday.

Unfortunately it seems that the Scots just cannot catch an early break, with a losing score of 52-7.

First quarterset the team behind four touchdowns right off the bat.

The team's only touchdown for the night occurred in the second quarter thanks to a successful pass from **Jarrett Leister ('14)** to **Erik Hines ('15)** as the clock hit 3:58. The Scots struggled to keep Heidelberg back for the rest of the game, but to no avail.

The next game at home against Illinois Wesleyan University will help the Scots towards their long-term objective. The game will start at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Despite the loss at Heidelberg, Coach Greg Pscodna was very optimistic about this year.

"We're hoping to be more competitive," Pscodna said. "We're already slated to play against three Top-Fifteen teams."

Pscodna bases his confidence for the team in a particularly successful football camp before the start of the school year.

"Everyone was in much better physical shape, and the hot weather was good. The kids seemed more



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

The Scots scrimmaged Concordia last Saturday to prepare for the start of their season. Above, Tyler Watters ('15) was sixth in the MIAA for receiving yards per game.

perceptive to teaching," he said.

The construction on Hamilton Commons did cause a bit of a hiccup during camp, having to cram all 93 players into the Tyler-Van Dusen dining area with the rest of the sports and

band camps. However, Pscodna took a positive spin on things.

"Sodexo made sure to have enough food," he said, and it seems that that was all that really mattered at the time.

Another particular advantage

for the football team this year is the new lights installed over the summer. Not only do the lights allow for a more flexible schedule, but they also offer recruitment opportunities.

Indeed, Pscodna is expecting

a spike of recruits for every sport due to renting out the football field for public use.

The team is also looking forward to their Homecoming game on Oct. 5 against Olivet College at 1:30 p.m.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Gavin Smith ('16) had 13 solo tackles and 19 assists last year for the Scots. He saw significant playing time in the last scrimmage.

## Men's soccer on a roll with 4-game winning streak

By JUSTIN KETTERER  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College men's soccer team defeated Hanover College 3-2 on Sunday, Sept. 1. The team marked a record of 2-0 after this match and looks to continue this success into the MIAA schedule.

The Scots' next game will be Friday, Sept. 13 at North Park University, Ill., where they will look to continue their winning streak.

The game started in Hanover, Pa., and the beginning of the hot afternoon proved to be a hot start for the Scots. Alma scored the first three goals of the game, taking a 3-0 lead very early.

"When you go 3-0 up after 20 minutes against a capable team like Hanover, you have to be even more focused the rest of the way," said Coach Josh Oakley.

Forward **Aaron Bender ('16)** started the scoring on the day, netting a goal at the 4:39 mark of the first half. Midfielder/forward **Julian Birge ('16)** assisted

on the first goal of the game.

The scoring didn't end there for the Scots, with the next goal coming at the 13:43 mark when forward **Tyler Raab ('17)** scored on a goal assisted by midfielder/forward **Michael Smith ('15)**.

Bender added his second goal of the afternoon at the 21:06 mark on a goal assisted by defender **Ryan Schoonover ('15)**. The Scots' quick offense gave them a 3-0 advantage heading into halftime.

The home team Hanover Panthers would have some say in the outcome once the

second half started, however.

The Panthers scored their first goal at the 40:26 mark to cut the deficit to two, with a rally on their minds.

Despite being outshot by the home team 20-10, the Scots held the lead and only gave up a late goal at the 85:04 mark to seal the victory, 3-2.

Despite the win, Oakley plans on pushing the players harder in order to achieve even better results. "Our team shape and continuity between the lines have to improve," he said.

Alma hoped to continue this success in another road game on Thursday, Sept. 5 against Andrews University, which it did. The Scots triumphed over the Cardinals with an 11-1 route.

Alma showed improvements by delivering an onslaught of goals to completely dominate its opponent.

"We focused on playing our game and capitalizing on our game plan and putting away our chances. It felt good to put goals on the board and to spread the wealth around the field," said midfielder **Nathan Brown ('15)**.