



THE

ALMANIAN

Critic reviews "Perks of
Being a Wallflower"
see page 6

SERVING ALMA COLLEGE SINCE 1907

VOLUME CVIII

ISSUE IX

NOVEMBER 11 - 17, 2013

Dance company prepares for fall concert; final performance for long-term instructor

By MOLLY SELL
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Dance Company's fall show features a mix of ballet and modern dances, including salutes to "Sleeping Beauty" and the Beatles.

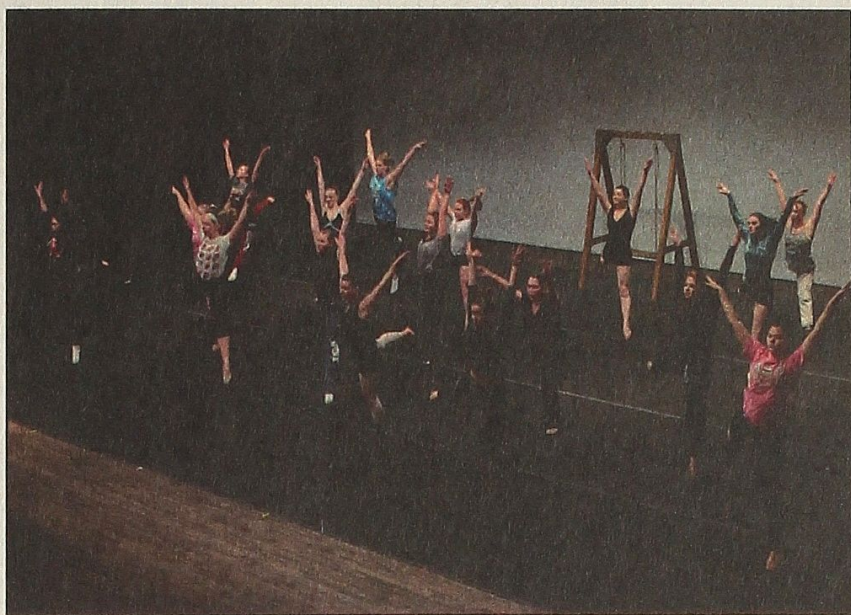
The concert takes place at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday in the Remick Heritage Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors who are 62 and older, and free for all Alma College staff, students and youth who are 18 and younger.

Seating is reserved. For ticket information, call (989) 463-7304.

Guest artist Laurie Eisenhower, of Eisenhower Dance Ensemble from the Detroit area, will complete a residency with the Alma students. During her four-day stay, she will instruct a fast-paced dance called "Catharsis." Set to music composed by Bryan Eno, the piece will be performed in the concert.

Choreography for the show was also developed by dance faculty members Carol Fike, director of the Alma College Dance Company, and first-year Assistant Professor of Ballet Hazel Sabas. Kristen Bennett, visiting instructor of dance, also contributed choreography.

This is Fike's last term with the Alma College Dance Company after 29 years with the college: she



The dance company rehearses for the fall concert, which will feature music from "Sleeping Beauty," the Beatles, and Bach.

plans to retire in December. There will be a retirement reception held for Fike after the Nov. 16 performance.

"It's an emotional time, but I don't really have a moment to think about it or get all sentimental because there's still work that has to be done," Fike said. "I know it's the right time."

Two dances featured in the program are choreographed by Sabas: "Variations from Sleeping Beauty," set to music by Tchaikovsky, as well as "A Different Kind of Beatles," a contemporary ballet dance paired with a musical interpretation by Peter Breiner of the Beatles' songs "Here Comes the Sun," "Girl," and "Penny Lane."

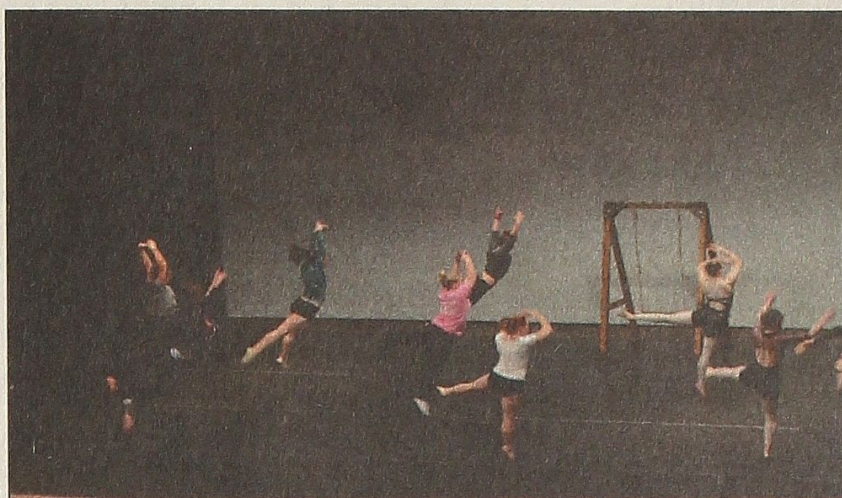
Bennet choreographed "Another Life," a modern dance featuring music by Katy Perry. It is broken into three separate

parts to represent different stages of life.

The show concludes with "Back to Bach," a dance choreographed by Fike. It is paired with the "Brandenburg Concerto" by Johann Sebastian Bach. "This dance is reworked from a previous dance I choreographed," Fike said. This will be the last dance of Fike's time as an Alma College faculty member as she moves into retirement.

Marianna Smith ('17), a dance company member, said, "I absolutely love that regardless of the career path I'm taking I can continue dancing throughout college."

Fike noted that many current company members come to the college specifically for the dance program, and she would like to thank the college for its willingness to support the dance



Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

company and all of the arts.

Smith enjoys dancing at Alma. "ACDC is a family for sure," she said. "We're together a lot and we're all passionate about the same things, so we just clicked!"

Fike is confident that her dancers are ready for the performances and simply said, "I'm just so proud!"

"We've been doing these pieces since September, so they just need a little polishing," Smith said. "And of course I get nervous before every performance and even more so for this one because it's my first

with ACDC. I also don't want to disappoint anyone or mess up in a piece: we're a unit and if one person's off, you can tell. [But] I think after this week of rehearsing we'll be all set to perform."

If any high school dancer comes to the concert and is interested in learning more about the company, contact Fike.

"I wish whoever takes over [after me] all the luck in the world! I know that they'll love this college and these dancers as much as I have over the years," said Fike.

Little Siblings Weekend sponsored by ACUB; events scheduled to showcase campus sights

By NICOLE ECCLES
STAFF WRITER

watching them take in the college life; they thought it was so cool." She anticipates enjoying having her siblings on campus again this weekend.

Many students registered their siblings far in advance for the event in order to reserve a t-shirt, but some t-shirts may still be available at check-in. Check-in for the weekend begins Friday at Fireside Lounge from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Participants will receive their name-tags, meal tickets, and t-shirts.

Little Sibs Weekend festivities begins Friday and go until Sunday afternoon. Throughout

"The event is super helpful because it was a way to get rid of homesickness without actually going home. It brings home to you."

-Jordan Stanick ('16)

the weekend, ACUB will host different fun events to keep everyone entertained. Friday will ease students and siblings into the weekend with a bingo and arts and crafts event, followed by a late-night movie showing.

Saturday is packed with several events: morning cartoons, followed by Alma's home football game versus Trine University, open swim at the pool, a carnival at the Stone Recreation Center, and another movie to wrap up the day.

"I think the most fun event will be the movie we are planning," said **Luke Ashton ('17)**, who works with ACUB and helped with the planning of Little Sibs Weekend. "I believe we are watching 'Planes,' and it gives a great opportunity for the siblings to hang out and spend time with each other."

Students will have a free day on Sunday to take their siblings around campus and spend time with them at their own pace and leisure.

"I'm super excited to have my little brother up for the weekend,"

"It will be a fun-filled weekend that will allow students to bond with their little siblings. Cartoons, games, and activities await; it's a weekend you won't want to miss."

-John Urdiales ('16)

said **Megan Miller ('16)**. "I miss spending time with him and joking around at home. He is, as far as I know, excited to come up and spend some time with me and to get away from home for a little bit."

Little Siblings Weekend has many events aimed to entertain siblings considerably younger than their college-aged brothers and sisters, but "teenage siblings are invited to the events, and it gives them a chance to see their older brother or sister at college

and gives them time to hang out with them," said Ashton.

The weekend provides something else for the students, besides allowing them to share Alma with their younger siblings and families.

"The event is super helpful because it was a way to get rid of homesickness without actually going home. It brings home to you," said Stanick.

Miller shared a similar sentiment, saying that "it's important to stay connected to your roots. Even if your siblings are younger than you, they will lighten your spirit."

Little Siblings Weekend happens every year and is free, other than a \$10 fee for a t-shirt. Registration is already completed for this weekend, but students are encouraged to attend the event in the future.

"It will be a fun-filled weekend that will allow students to bond with their little siblings," said ACUB member **John Urdiales ('16)**. "Cartoons, games, and activities await; it's a weekend you won't want to miss."

The campus will once again be overrun by children and teenagers this coming weekend.

From Friday through Sunday students will share the school with younger siblings in the annual Little Sibs Weekend. The Alma College Union Board, known as ACUB, opens up campus each year for students to bring their siblings to explore all of Alma and participate in different events.

"It was really great having my siblings on campus last year!" said student participant **Jordan Stanick ('16)**. "It was so fun

Martial arts group hosts fall demonstration; showcases the abilities, skills of members

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

Robinson ('14) and **Caroline Croom ('17)**, followed by a two-on-two match, with Robinson and Croom on one team fighting **Scott Grant ('15)** and **Pat Curran ('15)** on the other.

ACMAC, as students have dubbed it, was only recently founded in the fall of 2010 with the help of black belts from different martial arts. **David Kramp ('14)**, the current president of the club, was among these founders.

As they attempted to show throughout the demonstration, the club has quite a bit of variety in the skills of the students.

"We try to teach each other," said **Kris Maurer ('15)**, the co-vice president. Since the club is made up of students trained in a wide array of styles and skill levels, classes usually consist of sharing their skills with each other.

Community members trained in martial arts and self-defense also visit to teach and train with the students. "For example, Scott

Sober has trained in Instinctive Response Training as well as tang soo do, and will often lead the class," Kramp explained.

Because Kramp's training is mostly in taekwondo, there has been a little more emphasis on that particular style this year, with Kramp teaching other members. Other styles include tang soo do, shotokan karate, Brazilian jujitsu, akido, and judo. Exercises during regular training sessions are very similar to those shown at the demo, usually practicing self-defense, grappling, sparring, and patterns.

Robinson took some time to explain one of the activities at the demonstration: board breaks. "We have rebreakable boards that fit together kind of like a zipper," she said. "There are different difficulty levels of rebreakable boards. There's the easy green board, an intermediate board, and

a very difficult blue board. [The difficulty] deals with how close the threads are and how tightly they hold."

The blue board is 1.5 times stronger than a "real" board, which is usually pine, and those who were able to break through that level of rebreakable board are capable of breaking actual boards, which were used in the demonstration.

Weekly meetings are on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., "although it usually goes longer," Kramp mentions, along with Wednesday from 8 to 10 p.m. All meetings occur in the multipurpose room in the rec center.

Each student takes something different from ACMAC.

"I feel very powerful, like I can handle myself in a sticky situation," Robinson said. "It's really good stuff to know, and it makes you feel a little safer."

However, the motivations for Grant are a little simpler. "ACMAC is always a lot of fun and is good exercise," he said.

Throughout the year, the club tries to participate in activities both on and off campus. "We like to do events such as Fall Festival," Kramp said, "basically anything that gets us involved in the community."

Many members were also very excited for the demo.

The demo is particularly close to Maurer's heart, as the one held in the fall of 2011 actually brought him to the club. "I figured I'd come and see what it's about," he said. "They were doing some really cool stuff, so I decided to participate."

Kramp had his own particular enthusiasm for the demo. "Everyone [had] been working hard, and I'm glad they [got] a chance to show off their talents."

The Martial Arts Club hosted its biannual demonstration last Sunday on the green court of the Stone Recreation Center.

The event displayed the talents of many members of the club, along with numerous styles of martial arts. There were demonstrations of board breaks, grappling, self-defense, patterns, and use of weapons, along with a period of audience participation.

The demo also included a sparring match between **Christy**



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Rebecca Zaborowski prepares for last Sunday's demo at ACMAC's night meeting last Wednesday.

This Week at Alma College

Nov. 10 - 17

Monday

Veterans Day Speaker William McNulty
8 p.m. Chapel

Tuesday

ACUB's Trivia Night
7 p.m. Tyler-Van Dusen

Wednesday

Alma College Martial Arts Club
8 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Rec Center

Thursday

Relay for Life Fall Pinterest/Super Smash Bros Party
8 p.m. Fireside Lounge

Friday

Alma College Dance Company Fall Concert
8 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Saturday

Football vs. Trine University
1 p.m. Bahlke Stadium
Alma College Dance Company Fall Concert
8 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Sunday

Alma College Dance Company Fall Concert
3 p.m. Presbyterian Hall
Chapel Worship, 9 p.m.

Winter semester approaching; many new courses available

By MAIRI CLOW
STAFF WRITER

Just as the campus has seen some recent expansions, so will the college's course catalog. Almost every semester there are at least a few new classes offered, either because of new professors joining the faculty or student interest in a particular topic.

Most new classes will be listed as 180-, 280-, or 380-level courses, according to Provost Michael Selmon.

"When the college hires new professors, you can offer a course that hasn't been offered yet," said Daniel Wasserman, a new history professor. "The first time the class is offered, there isn't a whole lot to go through to get the class approved, but once it becomes a class that is regularly offered, there's more paperwork you have to do for it."

Wasserman will teach one of the new courses offered: HST 254, The Iberian Expansion and Decline. His class will cover the history of Spain from the time of Columbus until the 17th-century decline of the Spanish Empire.

It will look at the different ways Spain dealt with different groups of people in its society, like religious groups.

"I wanted to teach this class because it's what my research is in," Wasserman said. "I'm also going to be teaching classes about the Renaissance and Restoration, but my area of expertise is in 16th- and 17th-century Spain."

Limited to 25 students, the course will be writing-intensive and will require students to write analyses on what is being taught in the class. The class will also look at materials from the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries.

Another new course being offered is SOA 280, Environmental Sociology, taught by John Girdwood, a PhD student at Michigan State University. He will teach this class along with SOA 141, Social Problems, and a section of SOA 101, Principles of Sociology. He will only teach at Alma for the winter semester, when sociology professor Timm Thorsen is on sabbatical.

SOA 280 came about because there was interest in covering the social change aspect of sociology.

The class will cover topics like how the environment can shape a society, environmental racism, deindustrialism in Michigan, and urbanization, according to

sociology professor Catherine Fobes. Environmental racism occurs when toxic industrial plants dump waste that is often poisonous into areas with populations mostly made up of minorities. Deindustrialism will focus on the decline and outsourcing happening in Michigan that has caused many people to leave the state.

Girdwood will also teach about homelessness in the class, something that his dissertation discussed.

"He did a study on the homeless men in Lansing who go to the Michigan State football games and pick up cans to return," Fobes said. "The issue of homelessness is something he's very passionate about and I'm sure he will bring up in the class, especially if his students are interested in it."

The class has a limit of 25 students and a prerequisite of SOA 101. In the academic catalog, the course is cross-listed in the sociology and environmental science departments. The class can be counted toward the sociology major and the environmental science major as elective credits.

"We'll have to see how this class goes in order to know if it will be offered again after this semester," Fobes said. "The first time a class is offered, it's an experiment."

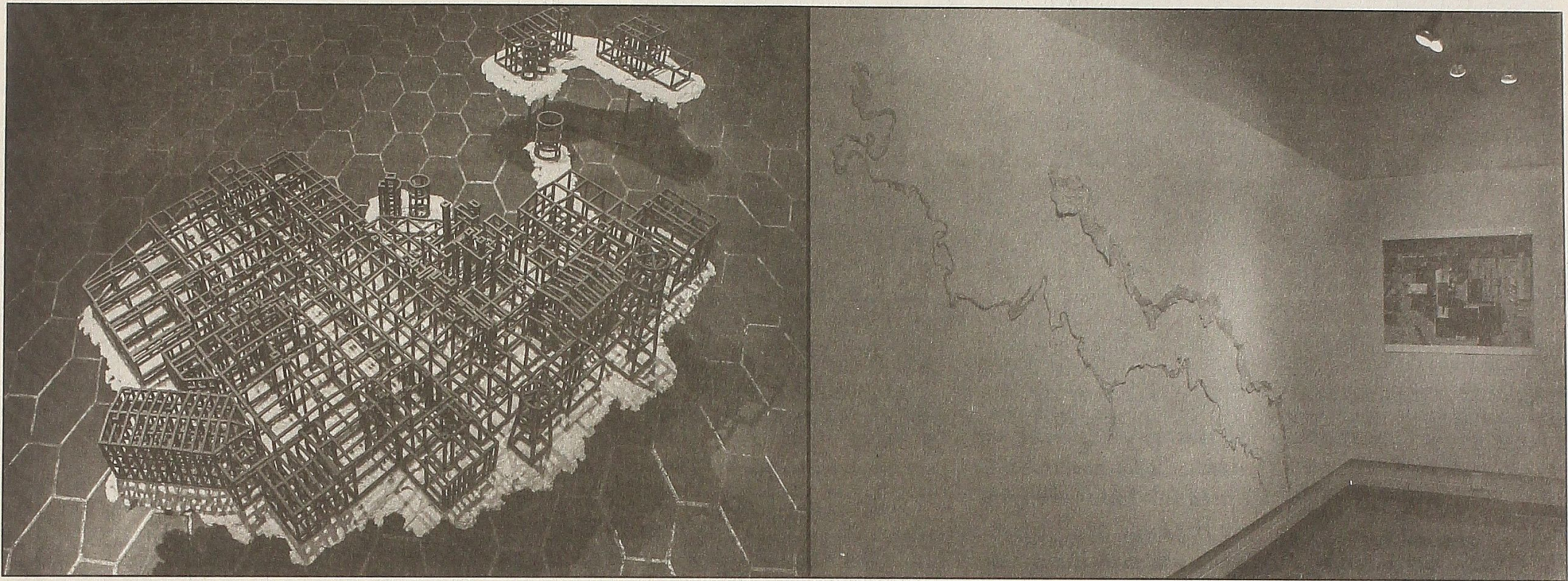
Letter Policy:

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.

Address letters to:
The Almanian
Alma College
614 W. Superior St

Email letters to:
Kelsey Blades
blades1ka@alma.edu

Sculpture series inspired by ecological disasters comes to Flora Kirsch Beck



Sarah Lindley, associate professor of art at Kalamazoo College, will display her art in the Beck Art Gallery until December 5. Her sculptures are based on the paper mill industry along the Kalamazoo River. Her work aims to explore the landscape and what is concealed beneath the surface.



Brittany Leppien: Staff Photographer

Working and studying around the globe: students learn life lessons through travel

By ALLISON BOZUNG
STAFF WRITER

While many students grapple with challenging new subjects such as physical chemistry or genetics, Alma College student **Kaitlyn Squanda ('14)** and alumna **Chelsea Duff ('13)** have been learning tough lessons of a different sort during this semester: how to live in a new culture through spending time abroad.

Squanda has been traveling around the Atlantic Ocean visiting 15 countries with several cultural backgrounds, such as Morocco, Ireland, Germany,

Spain, and France.

"I really couldn't decide on only one place," Squanda shared. "I love the ties Europe had with our country's history, and I liked the culture of Africa and South

"I really couldn't decide on only one place. I love the ties Europe had with our country's history, and I liked the culture of Africa and South America. I couldn't begin to think about choosing one country to go to. So I chose them all!"

-Kaitlyn Squanda('14)

America. I couldn't begin to think about choosing one country to go to. So I chose them all!"

Squanda received this unique opportunity through Semester at

Sea, a program by the University of Virginia.

"When my boss, Willard Korson, told us about an opportunity he was going to do, he told me I should check it out. I did, fell in love, and the rest is history," Squanda said.

Because another university hosted this program, Squanda had to get approval from Alma College to take an off-campus course for transferrable credit. She also applied for many scholarships to help cover the cost. After these long processes, she was on her way in August.

"The ship has its own unique culture, which was difficult to adapt to from knowing everyone at Alma and my hometown. It was like beginning all over: having to step out of my comfort zone and meet everyone, demonstrating to them what my character is," Squanda said.

"The cultures of the countries visited are also a huge challenge to transition into—[we have to adapt] to a new country every week or sooner. I have learned a

lot, but it has not been easy. The exhaustion is tangible when we all return to the ship after being in a country.

"I now see how blessed we are to live in the United States and how many opportunities we have because of it. It has made me grateful, and at the same time more motivated to help...I will be bringing back some insight into parts of the world that many dream about visiting, but never get the chance," Squanda said.

"The world is full of struggles; inequity is inevitable. How we deal with our situations defines our character. I hope to bring a more open attitude and accepting way of living, but also stronger beliefs in myself, my country, and my God. This world is an astounding place."

Duff was one of last year's Fulbright Scholarship recipients. Duff works in Hwacheon Elementary School in South Korea as an English teaching assistant (ETA) through the Fulbright program.

"One of the main reasons I

continued to pursue Korea was because of the educational system here. It is one of the top ranked educational systems in the world," Duff said.

"I think I have gained a new appreciation for making school fun. In Korea, there is a strict curriculum guide and every teacher teaches by the textbook," continued Duff.

"As a foreigner, however, I am allowed to deviate only a little—usually about 10 minutes of my lesson—from the textbook every day. The games, role plays, and crafts we do are the only times I really see my students actively enjoying class, engaging with material, and learning," Duff said.

"English is so difficult for Korean students, and seeing them actually enjoying class makes every day worthwhile. When I come home, I hope to remember these lessons: learning is fun, and I should be more than a teacher. I should also be a friend," Duff said.

Read the entire article online at www.almanian.org

New bus service stop offers transportation for students

By KILEE DeBRABANDER
STAFF WRITER

The Indian Trails bus service has recently added a new stop, located at College Corner Coffee & Books on the very edge of campus.

Indian Trails operates one of the largest and newest fleets of deluxe motor coaches in Michigan. Each is a 2007 or newer model ranging from 30- to 56-passenger capacity. Each motor coach comes equipped with custom adjustable seating, DVD players with color monitors, climate control, individual lighting controls, cup holders, overhead parcel racks, sufficient storage for luggage or equipment, free WiFi, restrooms, and 110V outlets.

The Indian Trails' southbound motor coach will depart from the bookstore daily at 1:53 p.m. It then connects in Lansing with an Indian Trails bus to Chicago, a Greyhound bus to Grand Rapids, and, in East Lansing, to the Michigan Flyer-AirRide service to Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport.

In addition to this, an Indian Trails motor coach will depart daily from the bookstore at 6:53 p.m. and head north, passing through Mt. Pleasant, Clare, Houghton Lake, and Petoskey, then connecting with a continuing service in St. Ignace that takes the passengers across the Upper Peninsula and all the way over

to Duluth, Minn. Prospective passengers and students can purchase tickets in advance online for travel to or from Alma on all of Indian Trails' scheduled routes.

Employees of Indian Trails, which has served the Alma community since 2007, hope that the new bus stop will appeal to the college students who don't own cars or who live out of state and need transportation home during holiday breaks.

"Adding this stop should greatly benefit Alma College students, since it's located right on the edge of campus. The convenience of the new stop may also appeal to residents of the region who are looking to connect with Michigan airports and Amtrak train service."

**-Ken Henry,
Vice President of
Operations**

"Adding this stop should greatly benefit Alma College students, since it's located right on the edge of campus," said Indian Trails Vice President of Operations Ken Henry in a press release. "The convenience of the new stop may also appeal to residents

of the region who are looking to connect with Michigan airports and Amtrak train service."

"Now there's a bus stop so close to campus, I can go home whenever I need to without wasting my parents' time and spending a fortune in gas."

-Kaitlyn Urick ('17)

For many out-of-state students here at Alma, having the opportunity to walk to the edge of campus and take a bus home is a major luxury.

"Both of my parents work full-time, and it's such a hassle for one of them to drive five hours from Chicago to pick me up, then five more to drive me home, then repeat the process at the end of the break," said **Kaitlyn Urick ('17)**, an out-of-state student. "Now that there's a bus stop so close to campus, I can go home whenever I need to without wasting my parents' time and spending a fortune on gas."

Even in-state students can benefit from the new bus stop opening. For those students who don't have a car on campus, it's often cheaper to take a bus home or to a major city closer to home than to have their parents drive both ways to pick them up and then drop them off.

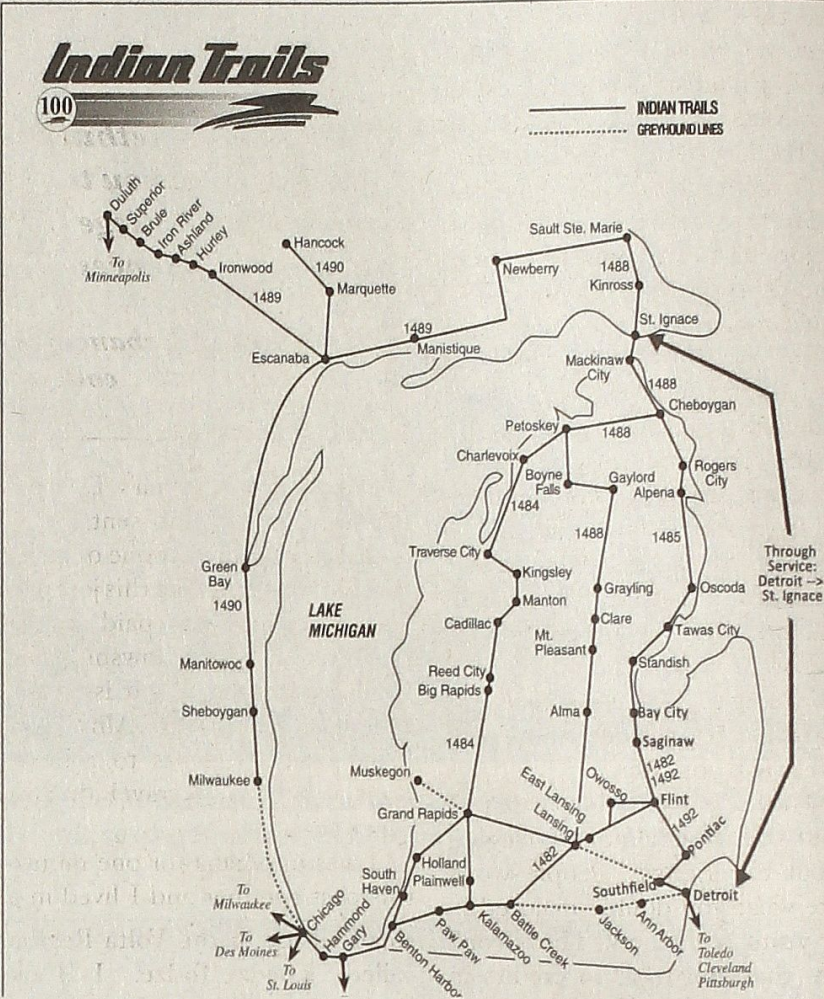


Photo courtesy of indiantrails.com

Indian Trails bus service offers routes throughout Michigan and the Midwest.

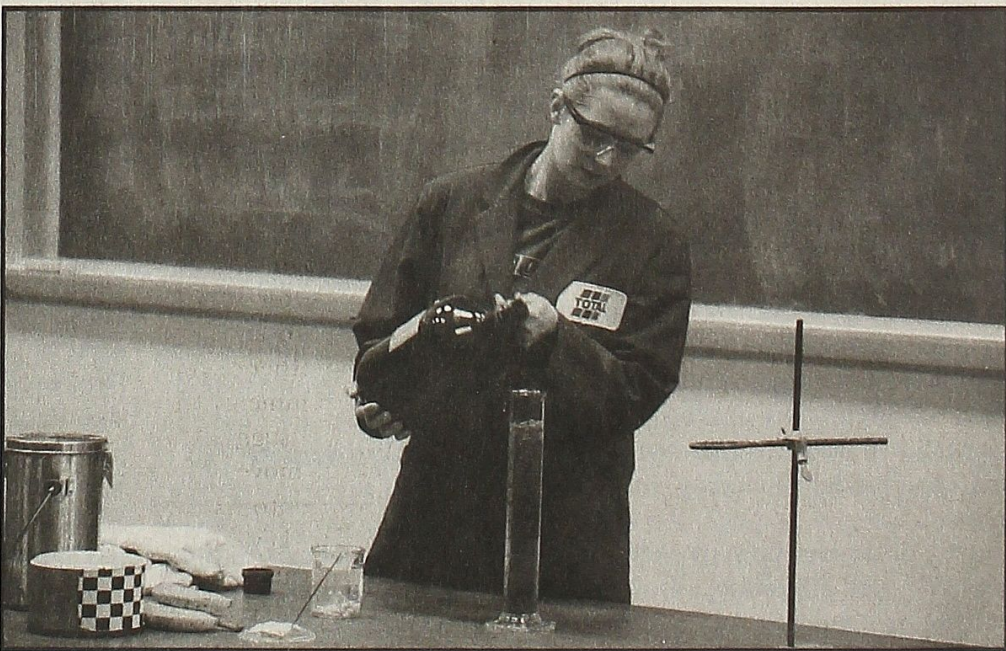
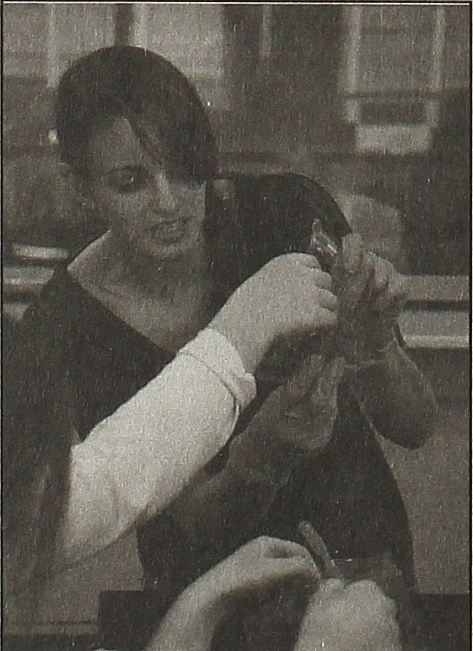
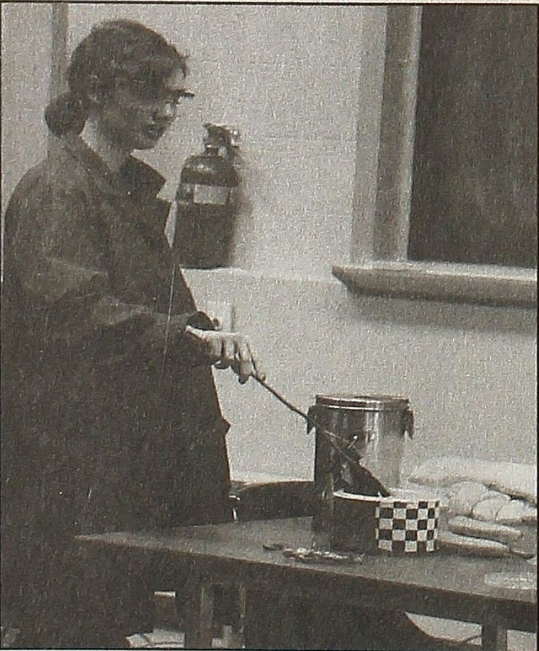
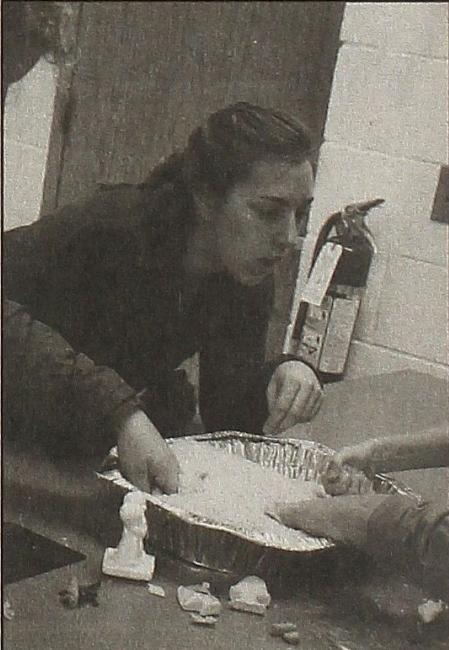
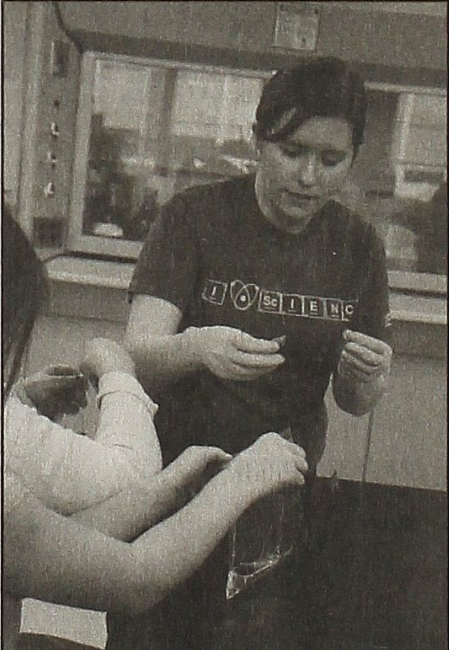
Nick Piccolo, vice president of student life on campus, explained that Indian Trails first approached Alma College with the idea. "It seemed like a really beneficial plan, so we agreed to it," he stated. "Hopefully it will give the students some flexibility during holiday breaks. As we get students from farther and farther away, it's an excellent way to provide a daily

opportunity for them to return home."

Students who want to buy a ticket for the bus can go online to www.indiantrails.com or call the Alma Dial-A-Ride Transport at (989) 463-4444 for destination information. Employees will then provide pick-up times at the bookstore and the price of the ticket.



From left: Last Friday's Science Blowout featured Dr. John Rowe handling snakes; Helen Swift ('14) showing off science skills; Chelsea Bennett ('15) hunting artifacts.



From left: Christine Cuthbertson ('14), Chelsea Mertz ('15), and Olivia Crandell ('15) perform chemical experiments for children from the nearby communities.

Beginning of new term poses numerous possibilities

By NICOLE ECCLES
STAFF WRITER

Registration for classes is an odd time at Alma. It often feels like the choices we make this week will affect us for the rest of our lives.

The decision to take English 201 or English 220 can make the difference between an English major and an English minor. The decision to take Model UN could change the way you look at everything. If you're anything like me, taking another math class could potentially kill you.

In laymen's terms, this time of year is stressful. You are given a blank schedule to fill with a selection of classes. Each credit counts for a distributive, a major, or a minor. At the age of early (or almost) 20-something, you feel too young to be making decisions that may very well determine your career and your life.

There is something that I want you to remember: college is about experiences. People won't care what you double majored in 20 years from now. They won't care that you took 19 credits in one term and passed every class. Anyone who tells you different is trying to stress you out and is, quite frankly, a meanie.

During registration, don't freak out about how many more credits you need to graduate or what classes are going to get you into grad school. Instead, start thinking about how you're going to get the most out of college.

Aside from class selection, we here at Alma have another unique position. We have the opportunity to get out of the U.S. and do something meaningful. We can stop thinking about classes and majors and law school, and instead do something that feels right.

"There is something that I want you to remember: college is about experiences."

- On taking chances in college.

For example, Alma's Literacy Beyond Borders club sent me to Ghana, and I was just one of many Alma students to take this journey. The adventure was paid for by the Posey-Global fellowship. The P-Global program, as it is fondly called, is unique to Alma and helps many students to achieve their service and travel dreams every year.

I was in Ghana for one month this past summer and I lived in a small village in the Volta Region called Kpedze-Todze. I took bucket showers every day, sweated in 100 percent humidity, and ate food that I couldn't identify, let alone pronounce.

But in Ghana I swam in the largest waterfall in western Africa, discussed world politics with a boy who'd never been five miles outside his village, and learned that language barriers—though a continual problem in travels—

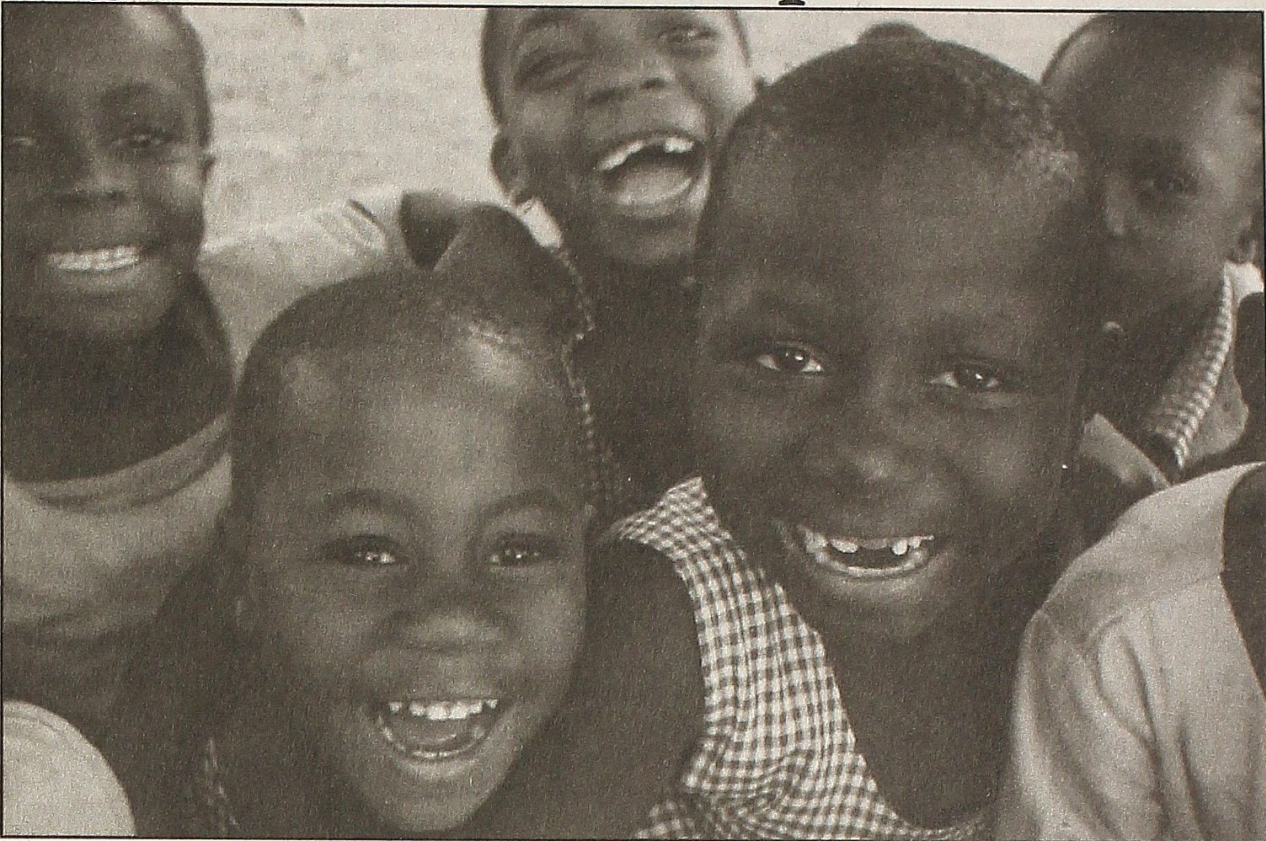


Photo courtesy Lisa Folkmire (15)

Start thinking about what you might want to do this summer. Travel the world, find an internship, save money working at a summer job—what you choose could possibly make a difference.

—can pose interesting learning opportunities.

I went to Ghana an English major whose dream it was to sit inside and read books for a living. I left Ghana a foreign service major with a dream of doing some good in the world. I left Ghana wanting to go back, to do it again, to see more and learn more.

They tell you that volunteering in a developing nation will change your life. It sounds drastic, I know. You could call it a stretch. A popular one. The thing is, though, they're not completely wrong, but it's not as dramatic as all that.

You won't be sitting on the plane on the flight home, gloating over some tangible new part of

you, though there might be some interesting scars for you to brush over.

You won't come back with some heavy knowledge that will change the way you look at everything. Instead, it will change you in small ways, like the way you react towards waste and frivolity, or the way you see the commercials on TV that show the slums and starving children.

You won't necessarily feel a need to change the place you went to. You may, in fact, revel in it.

You'll dream about dirt roads and never-ending soccer games. You'll hear the chants for handclaps and find yourself hoping for a willing partner.

Yes, you will be different, but not in any measurable or noticeable way.

Take classes that are going to help you graduate, take classes that you hate, take classes that you love, but don't let the process of choosing stress you out.

As you think about your future I really recommended seeing yourself in a P-Global program. Go to Ghana or Nepal or Ecuador; work with kids or in a hospital; plant trees; it doesn't matter as long as you can get out there.

Applications for P-Globals will be coming out early on next semester. Take a chance and do something that's going to make you really stand out.

Six options enable survival for remainder of fall term

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

Over the course of a semester, an average student is buried beneath hundreds of assignments, projects, and quizzes. This mountain of homework can leave even the most motivated and imaginative of us all drained and uninterested, resulting in all sorts of terrible side-effects—frustration, apathy, and writer's block, to name a few.

How do we overcome these great obstacles? How do we finish assignments on time or sooner in order to have a weekend with more free time? How exactly does one keep that creative energy up?

Well, my friend, there are many options ahead of you. Some may be drastic, but it is worth it for your education, and even possibly, your life.

Option 1: Do a headstand. This act encourages blood flow to increase in your brain, helping ideas take form.

If you happen to have a pet elephant, you can increase the productivity of this exercise by training it to pick you up by your feet and pound you vigorously against a wall. That will really get those brain juices flowing. Maybe on the wall, but I digress.

Option 2: Sing a song. Not only does adding rhythm and music to mundane exercises allow an element of fun, but it can actually help you remember more.

Of course, if a normal song doesn't work for you, you can

always try chanting backwards. This may or may not summon Satan himself to your doorstep, dooming your soul to eternal suffering, so do this option at your own risk.

Option 3: Take a break. Short breaks can add an element of relaxation and even enjoyment into your tasks. Use this time to snack or kick your feet up.

However, I would not recommend snacking on Irish orphan children, as once suggested by Jonathan Swift—no matter how sweet and tender their flesh may be.

Although eating children is a strict violation of Alma College Student Conduct Regulations, there are more snacking options. For instance, there are always gummy bears. They may not be children, but they're still adorable and they don't have pesky parents to get in the way of your destresser.

Option 4: Move on. No, I'm not talking about your ex-boyfriend, even though he was a jerk and he doesn't deserve you.

The fact is, sometimes a short break won't be enough. When that happens, it's a better use of your time to move onto another assignment (because there will always be another assignment).

Notice how I suggested another assignment to move onto as opposed to moving onto vodka and Chaka Khan. The key point is to stay productive, and those two items almost guarantee exact opposite of what you should be doing. To those over 21 years of age, drink reasonably.

Option 5: Create a study group. Sometimes all you need is a little nudge from your friends to keep working through the hardest part of your homework. Other people can provide new ideas and viewpoints that you might not have even thought of.

Other people also provide a marvelous display of eye candy. Sometimes all you really need is to stare at a stranger for five hours straight in order to find that one thing you're missing in your

project. Of course, if that one thing missing is their ear, I would not suggest cutting it off.

At least, not without asking first.

Option 6: Go outside. Believe it or not, there is something beyond the Internet. Those in the business call it the "Outernet," but commoners often refer to it as the outdoors. It is a strange but beautiful place filled so many wonders capable of casting people under spells.

Usually there are birds in the trees and cute little bunnies, but since winter is coming, they have taken to spending time hiding from or leaving the cold areas altogether. At least the trees can't leave you.

Oh wait...it's fall.

Disclaimer: Outside of the first two sentences or so in each option, any advice given was done in complete and utter jest. Seriously, guys, don't do any of those things.

Sudoku

Sudoku is a type of number puzzle. If you're not familiar, here are the rules:

-Each 3x3 square can contain each number (1 through 9) no more or less than once.

-Each row and column can contain each number no more or less than once.

-The puzzle is complete when all spaces are filled in.

Sudoku difficulty is determined by how many numbers are initially filled in. This sudoku is considered "medium."

There are many different types of sudoku, so if you like this, try out some more!

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

“Perks of Being a Wallflower” draws in viewers

By DANIEL MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

“The Perks of Being a Wallflower” captures the hearts of teens and adults alike. The spotlight here is on the lives of high school freshman, Charlie (Logan Lerman), and seniors and half-siblings, Patrick (Ezra Miller) and Sam (Emma Watson).

I have to credit Director Stephen Chbosky, who also wrote the novel and the screenplay, for the intrinsically vivid portrayal of Charlie. With most movies, when a protagonist is made to be really likable, I will root for the character; but Chbosky takes it above and beyond that level by turning us into Charlie. He is so realistically portrayed that every viewer, me included, is able to escape to Charlie’s world for 102 minutes.

Two things happen because of this. The first thing is that Patrick and Sam become the viewer’s friends. This enables us, as the viewers, to develop a personal likability of both characters that could not be achieved if we were not in Charlie’s shoes. It also enables us to fall in love with Sam and bond with Patrick in a way that we would not bond with most other men.

“He is so realistically portrayed that every viewer...is able to escape to Charlie’s world for 102 minutes.”

- On the portrayal of Charlie.

The second and most important thing that happens is that we relive both the joy and the

harshness of life as a high school student.

We revisit what it was like to come to high school on the first day as a freshman, wondering if we would ever make friends; we relive the joy of sitting in the student section of the bleachers at the high school football game while talking to and cheering on our friends; we return to the feeling of saying goodbye to our friends as they embark on new chapters of their lives.

This caused me to do a soul search of my own. It made me think about old high school friends I had not seen in years. It also made me think about a few former crushes. In other words, it spoke to me on a personal level that I never thought any movie could do.

I have been deeply moved by movies before, such as “American Beauty” and “Braveheart” (especially the ending scene), but “The Perks of Being a Wallflower”

holds a special place in my heart.

I credit Chbosky for the way he handled many of the themes in the movie. As much as it is a “feel good” film, “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” goes to some dark places. I will not go into the darkest elements of the movie because they contain spoilers, but Chbosky could have easily made this an R-rated film (instead of its PG-13 rating) by delving into more of the details of the bleaker elements.

Some of the lighter themes include accepting people for who they are, including their flaws, teen sexuality, homosexuality, and drug use, all of which are handled extremely well. Not only are these themes important and effective, but they all are also prevalent in today’s society.

Perhaps the most important message is that nobody is perfect and that we should treat others the way we would want to be treated. Chbosky shows this by

presenting how each character, especially Sam, views herself or himself. If what the movie says is true, that “we accept the love we think we deserve,” this movie teaches us to make sure we know what we truly deserve. It sports a good message for all teens.

Very rarely are messages like this shown in movies about the life of high school students, and for that reason, I recommend this movie to high school students of all backgrounds, from those who enjoyed high school to those who couldn’t stand it. The movie will either help you realize that many of your high school thoughts were shared by many, many others.

The bottom line: “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” has something for everyone. Whether you are 14 or 41, you will be inspired by this feel-good, funny drama that has just the right amount of darkness.

I give “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” a B+.

Writer faces fears in 48-hour film project

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Dear Monday Ray,
This is your past self speaking. In about five hours I and some classmates will begin producing a horror film that must then be completed in 48 hours. If you’re reading this, thank you for surviving.

I am not an enthusiastic fan of horror films. In fact, I avoid them as much as possible. But I will be in the thick of things very soon, so you—Monday me—will, with any luck, become a horror aficionado. So I ask myself (and you) a question.

What scares me?
The movies I’ve seen that stick with me (often as prickly check-behind-my-back feelings, but sometimes in nightmare form) are few and far between. But they

come to mind readily.
Recently, I watched “Pan’s Labyrinth” for the second time. That alone should signify that the film is not overbearingly frightening—refreshing a horrifying movie in my mind is not something that appeals to me.

“Pan’s Labyrinth” is fabricated with images of whimsical fairies and childhood magic. It draws you in with its complete fairy tale allure and childhood fantasy. It’s not until you become completely comfortable that you find yourself hiding behind throw pillows and blankets.

Guillermo Del Toro’s elaborately costumed dark fairy tale takes another top spot on my list, because of one particular scene.

The famous “Pale Man,” with eyes on his palms and a bloody appetite for fairies, moves like a half-frozen zombie demon

and howls like I never want to hear again. He is not computer-animated. He is all too real. The movie is beautiful in a dreamily unsettling way, but Pale Man stills haunts my (and, I’m sure, your) peripheral vision for the foreseeable future.

What scares me?
M. Night Shyamalan’s “Signs” is still probably the scariest movie I’ve ever seen. I’ve shaken off the laughter of the masses who trash M. Night for being a klutzy director and remembered that I saw it several years ago (when I was younger and more susceptible), and that there’s still nothing more inherently terrifying to me (or you, probably; I don’t think I’ll be over this by Monday) than extraterrestrials.

That scene where the silhouette of an alien standing on top of the barn is visible from the farmhouse window... I still get shivers every time I imagine it. The idea of

something watching, menacingly, but not taking action, and not hiding from my gaze, is too much to bear. Have you gotten over that scene yet?

So I go into this weekend trying to answer that repeated question, with a twist.

What scares you?
“You” is no longer just Monday Ray. “You” is everyone and anyone: appreciators of horror films, strict avoiders, slasher buffs, “Paranormal Activity” marathoners, retirement-age folks, your parents, your dog, anyone.

I’ve been asking this question repeatedly for the past week: “what is the scariest movie you’ve ever seen?” And, more importantly: “why?” What movie makes you squirm, or scream, or cover your eyes? Why do some things you see on a screen—obviously fictional—give you the intense need to cuddle with someone?

Hopefully you (back to Monday Ray again) know at least part of the key to scaring your audience. I certainly don’t, sitting here looking into the weekend. But if my scariest movie moments are any indication, I will make something that lingers in my mind at the very least.

If I’m getting in over my head, future self, please let me know somehow. Send a message back in time. Just don’t stand on any rooftops looking like an alien. I probably won’t be able to handle that.

What scares me?
This weekend scares me.

What scares me?
The amount of work, and the lack of sleep, I am about to put myself through.

What scares me?
Hopefully what scares me is what scares you, and hopefully what scares you can scare anyone.
We’ll see.

The Almanian.

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

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

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

PUBLICATION:

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College’s campus on Monday morning and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly with the exception of academic recesses.

ADVERTISING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The business manager handles sales of advertisements and subscriptions. Contact Chelsea Fouts at fouts1cm@alma.edu for further information.

LETTER POLICY:

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

Email letters to the editor to

blades1ka@alma.edu or address letters to:

The Almanian

Alma College

614 W. Superior St. Alma, MI, 48801

STAFF EDITORIAL POLICY:

Opinions expressed in editorials without bylines reflect the views of The Almanian editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

Kelsey Blades	Editor in Chief
Crystal Snow	Campus Editor
Ben King	Community Editor
Lisa Folkmire	Opinion Editor
Taryn Handyside	Sports Editor
Lauren Jones	Copy Editor
Anna Weber	Copy Editor
Lillian Maloney	Web Editor
Kayla Roy	Photo Editor
Katlyn Chitwood	Photographer
Brittany Leppien	Photographer
Patrick Mallett	Photographer
Allison Bozung	Staff Writer
Mechon Carew	Staff Writer
Màiri Clow	Staff Writer
Kilee DeBrabander	Staff Writer
Nicole Eccles	Staff Writer
Justin Ketterer	Staff Writer
Shawn Lerner	Staff Writer
Daniel Murawske	Staff Writer
Molly Sell	Staff Writer
Ray Visser	Staff Writer
Chelsea Fouts	Business Manager
Ken Tabacsko	Faculty Advisor

Scots' volleyball concludes year; 3-way tie for 3rd place in MIAA

By SHAWN LARNER
STAFF WRITER

Alma College volleyball saw its season come to a close Nov. 1 after Trine defeated the women three games to none. The squad went into the game with a 13-13 record, making the final game of the season a determining factor for a winning or a losing season. The loss put the final record at 13-14 overall and 8-8 in the MIAA.

The team started the season 3-1, but from that point on, it was very

up and down. The Scots were just unable to get things rolling and go on a big winning streak. The 8-8 mark in the MIAA was good for a third-place tie, however. Calvin and Hope ran away with the conference as they both finished up 15-1 in conference play.

Coach Sarah Dehring doesn't think her team's record shows how well the Scots played on the year.

"Success can be measured in a lot of ways and to be honest I don't think that you can measure this year's success with wins and losses," she said.

"We challenged some of the nation's top teams when nobody but us thought we would have the ability to do so. We had

players step into key on-court roles showing confidence and drive, we learned to challenge each other to be great, and most of all we made memories that will forever be imprinted in the minds of these young women. They are strong, compassionate, and selfless and that is what [Alma College volleyball] is all about."

The team played as one unit and not one girl was the bona fide all-star, according to Dehring. Everyone had her role, and the stats show it.

Seniors **Lea Klooster ('14)** and **Rebecca Trosper ('14)** led the team in kills with 269 and 152, respectively. **Laura Walker ('15)** also chipped in 150 kills on the season.

Erika VanHavel ('14) took

charge in the assists department with 401. **Mary Dulzo ('17)** was also strong as a server and recorded 385 assists.

Klooster led the way with 292 digs, followed by **Jaycee Cole ('14)** with 279, and then Dulzo with 231.

Although the record wasn't the greatest, the women came to the conclusion that it was a success in the memory book.

"This was a tough season, but we are blessed we were able to play one more season of the game we love," Trosper said.

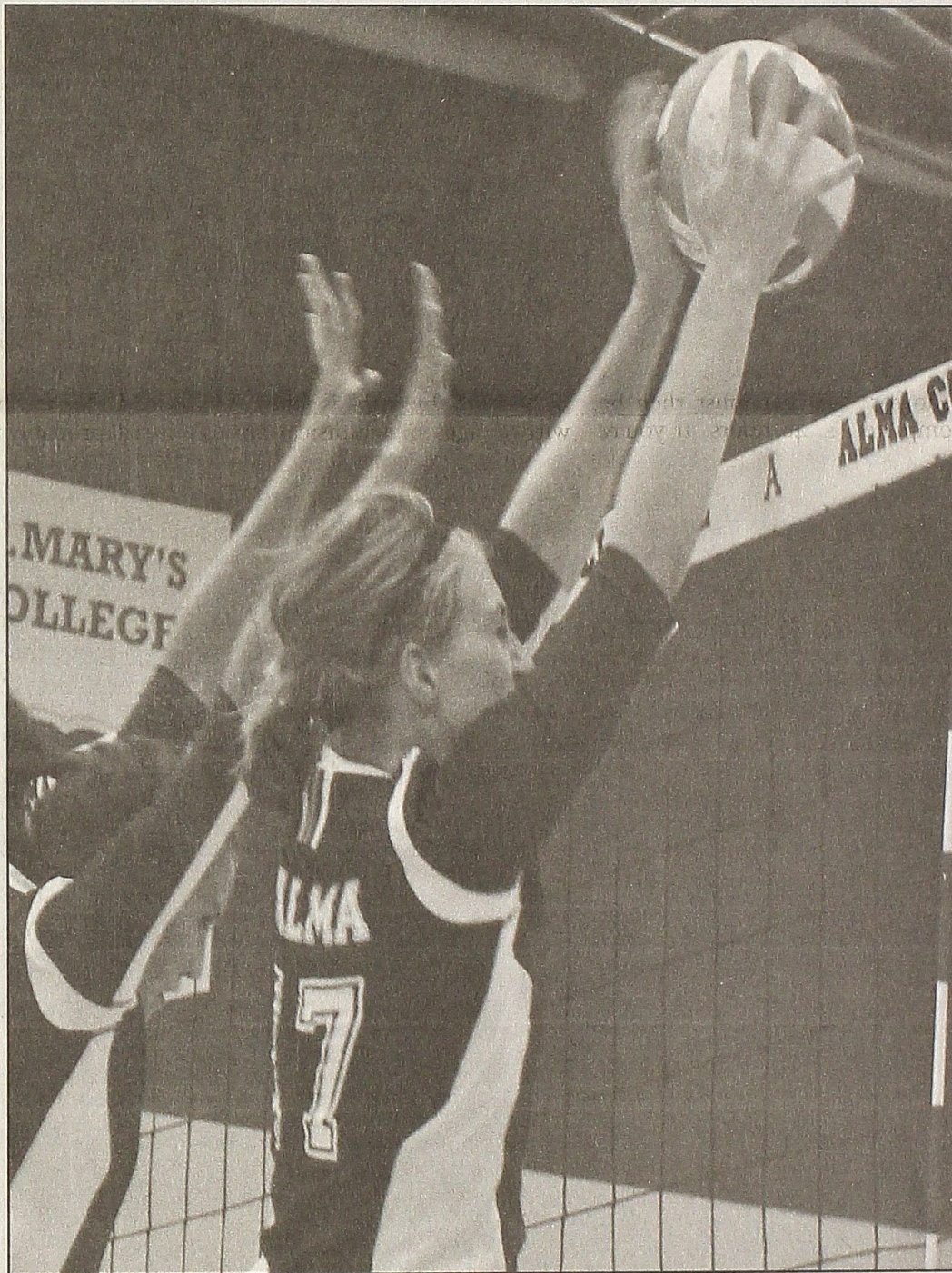
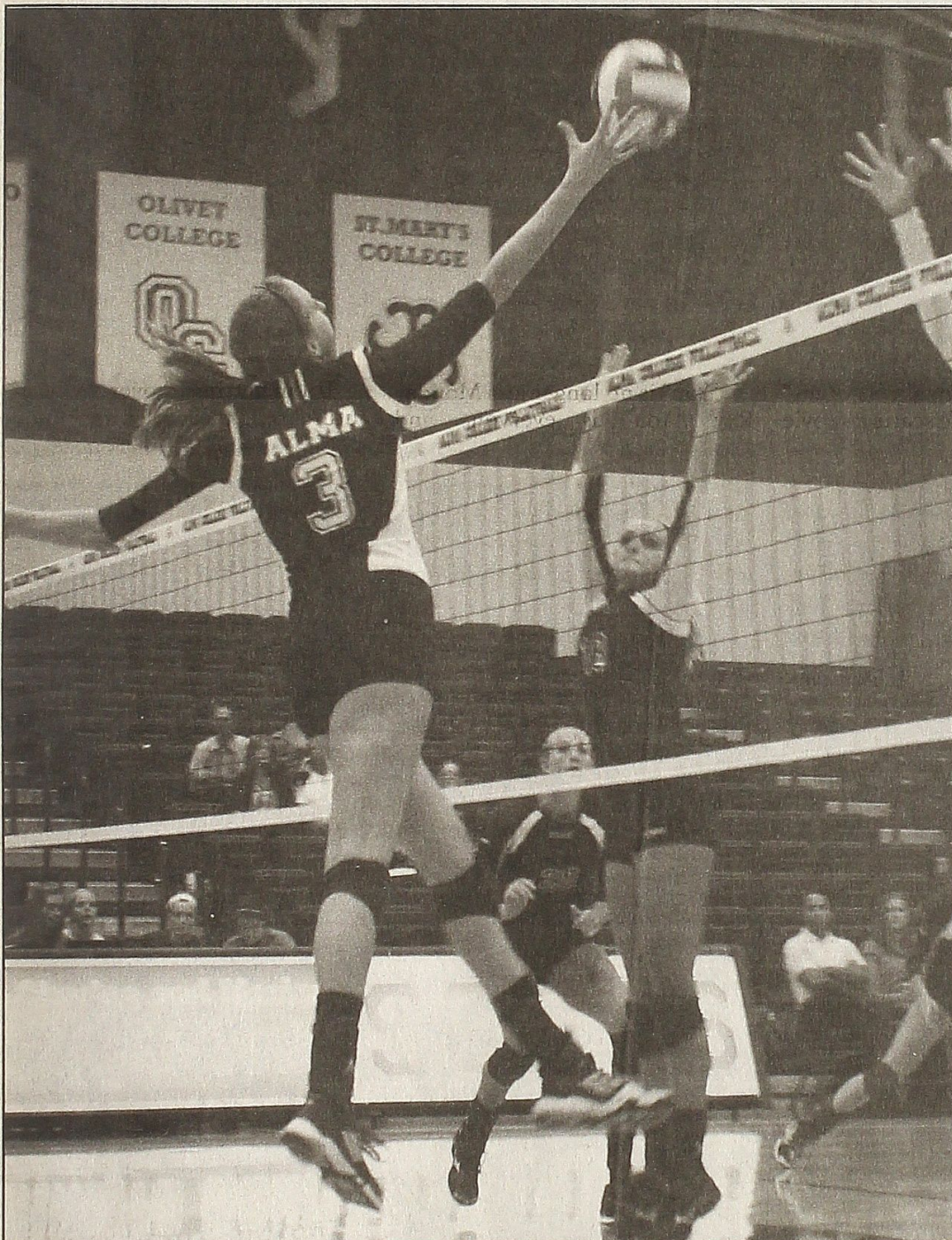
"Every season has [its] ups and downs, but even through the downs our team stuck together and made memories that can never be replaced."

Mary Rieger ('17) also had

good things to say.

"This volleyball season has truly been a great one," she said. "Many of our girls' stepped up on and off the court. **Madison Smith ('17)** started her season on JV and by the end of the season, she was a starting right side hitter on varsity. She improved so much and put so much work into her game.

"A highlight of the season for me was the Hope game," Rieger added. "We had such a great student section that night. The wrestlers were out in full strength and the entire football team came to support us. The student sections always makes the gym a better atmosphere to play in, and we played great that night despite the loss."



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Left: Lea Klooster ('14) earned first-team All MIAA for her efforts this season. Right: Elisa Hobbs ('14) had 92 kills this season. Danae Sietsema, Erika VanHavel, Jaycee Cole, and Becca Trosper were the other four seniors for the Scots this year.

Football squad: One more chance to earn a win this season

By JUSTIN KETTERER
STAFF WRITER

Only one game is left for the Scots to get a win this football season. Alma College fell to Kalamazoo last Saturday, 21-3.

"It was a battle; we were in it until the end but we didn't make enough plays to pull through," **Brandon Wegenke ('15)** said.

"We have one more to go and we want to send the seniors out on

a positive note."

The Scots were coming off a bye week after they fell to Albion College 28-24 on Saturday, Oct. 26. That contest saw Alma put up its highest score of the season.

"We made some big plays against Albion; we had opportunities at the end of the game to win but couldn't make the plays to seal the deal," Coach Greg Pscodna said.

Pscodna said that he used the bye week to work on basic football things and give his players some time off.

"We're excited coming off the bye week; we feel like we've

improved every game this year," said Pscodna.

"The last four weeks we've been right in the games, we just need to believe we can win and make plays to win."

The Scots fell short of the first win of the season against Kalamazoo last Saturday, but Pscodna said that he is still confident in his team.

"The bye week re-energized us and we'll be ready to grab one of these last two games of the year," said Pscodna last Friday.

Jarrett Leister ('14) led Alma in passing with 112 yards on 16 completions on 44 attempts. One of the incompletions was an

interception.

The Scots top rusher was **Jon Bricker ('14)**, who had 18 yards on 19 carries. His longest run was seven yards.

Tyler Watters ('15) caught the most of Leister's passes. He had six receptions for 59 yards, one of which was for 24 yards.

Jack Pryde ('14) scored Alma's points last Saturday when he hit a 38-yard field goal to put the Scots on the board. He missed two other field goal attempts.

The top tackler for the Scots was **Gavin Smith ('16)** who had 10 total tackles.

Alma College football finishes up its season Saturday at home

against Trine University. The Thunder players picked up their first MIAA win last Saturday as they defeated Olivet 47-41 in overtime.

Trine had lost its previous four conference games, but the win puts them one place above Alma in the MIAA standings.

"We really want to get the win against Trine; it'll be the last home game for us seniors," said **Austin McClelland ('14)**.

"We've been getting better every week and have come real close to winning some games, we just have to finish one out and get the win to end our season on a good note."

Women's soccer loses in semis to Hope; finishes 2nd in league

By JUSTIN KETTERER
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Scots' soccer season ended in disappointment last Thursday as they fell to Hope, 1-0, in the MIAA semifinal game. The Scots ended the season with a 13-7 overall record, and 13-3 in the league.

Alma outshot Hope 20-11 in the whole game and 12-3 in the second half. Coach Jeff Hosler said that the only thing missing from the attack was the tying score.

"The only missing piece was the goal that we didn't convert,"

Hosler said.

"It has haunted us in the past and the biggest thing for us moving forward is to learn how to convert those opportunities."

The Lady Scots made the Hope keeper make 10 saves in the match but couldn't put any shots past her.

"The season definitely didn't end the way any of us planned or wanted it to, but I couldn't be more proud of our hard work this season. We wouldn't have been able to accomplish this much without the dedication of our seniors," said **Kelly Wilson ('16)**.

"The first half we got to a slow

start which let Hope dictate the tempo against us and let them take the game to us," said **Kenzie Smith ('15)**. "The slow pace for us led to the Hope goal in the first half."

The coach and players said that they felt the second half was much better for them, but goals were hard to come by.

"The second half we took it to them and made them feel uncomfortable and had scoring chances, but just couldn't find the back of the net," said Smith.

Alma started the week with a win over Kalamazoo College last Monday, beating the Hornets in a 1-0 match.

Wilson netted the lone goal for the Lady Scots in the first half with a shot over the keeper's head from 35-yards out.

"A road game during the week is always hard; our biggest obstacle was focusing on our match and not the Hope-Calvin match that day," said Hosler.

"It's a different scenario when you play a team that knows it's playing its last game of the season, and it could've been easy to overlook but we didn't."

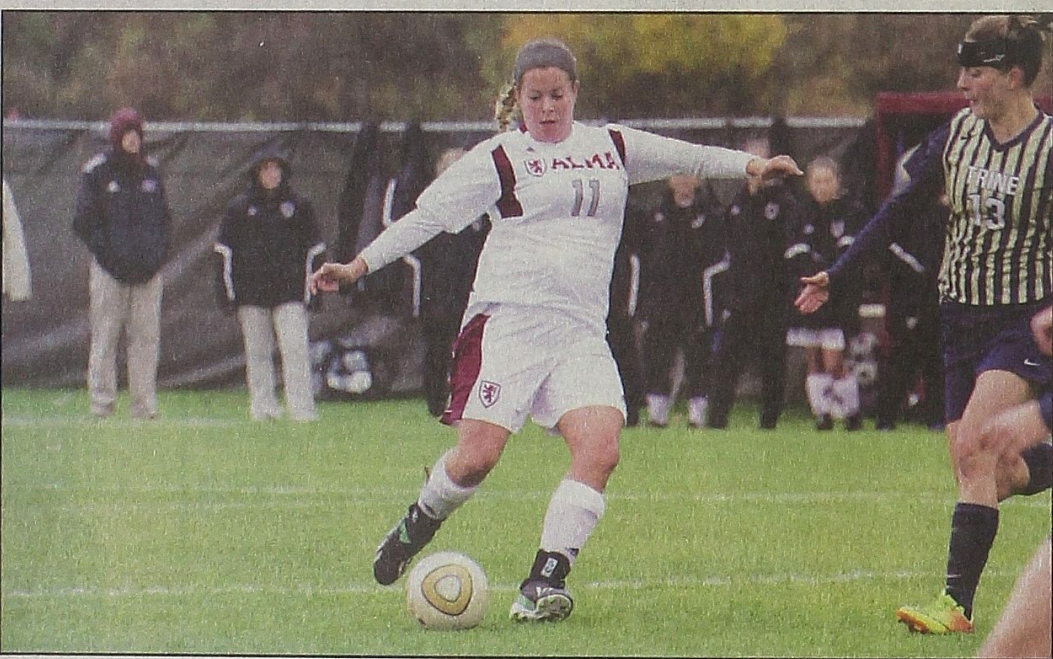
Alma is graduating four seniors after this year, the group that coaches and teammates have dubbed the "four freshmen." **Ann Kennedy ('14)**, **Catherine**

Olson ('14), **Taryn Handyside ('14)**, and **Autumn Root ('14)** entered the program the same year and played all four years on varsity together.

"I think we can take comfort in knowing what they brought to the program and the impact they all had," Hosler said about his seniors.

"The examples they set has had its effect and made our younger players better. They will be with us in spirit and have paved a way for us."

"We have big shoes to fill for next year with them being gone because all four of them were such great leaders," said Smith.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Upper left and clockwise: Autumn Root, Ann Kennedy, Cat Olson and Taryn Handyside were the four seniors for the Scots this year. In four years the seniors finished no worse than second place in the MIAA, won two championships, played in the NCAA Tournament, and saw five weeks in the national top 25 rankings.

Men's soccer falls short, has best season in recent memory

By SHAWN LARNER
STAFF WRITER

When the men's soccer team took the field last Tuesday against Hope College, it was playing for a chance at a spot in the MIAA postseason tournament. The match was the last one of the regular season, and it did not turn out as the team may have hoped.

The Scots allowed an early goal to Hope, putting themselves in a quick hole. **Zach Vandever ('16)** then got Alma right back in it with an unassisted goal midway through the first half.

The score remained 1-1 until late in half number two. Hope

found the back of the net with less than five minutes to play in the game to take a 2-1 lead. That tally would stand, and the Scots were eliminated from postseason eligibility.

"While we didn't end the way we wanted to and didn't get to the conference playoffs, there is a lot to be proud of this season," sophomore captain **Julian Birge ('16)** said.

"For example, [we had] the first winning season since 2000. However, it still stings and no one is satisfied. We will all work hard in the long off-season to improve on things that will take us to the next level next year."

Birge led the team with six goals, and also chipped in two

assists to tie for the team lead in points with 14. **Matt Sovis ('16)** shared that top spot with Birge, as he netted four goals, but also added six helpers to get to the total of 14 points.

Vandever and **Tyler Raab ('17)** were also strong scorers for Coach Josh Oakley. They each had five goals.

Alma ended the season at 9-8-1 overall, and 5-8-1 in the conference. Five of those eight conference losses, however, came by just one goal, one of which was in overtime. "This year saw some great things," Oakley said.

"We started very well and logged non-conference victories over three 10-win teams plus a big

win over nationally ranked North Park. We played some good soccer in the MIAA and held the fourth position for about three weeks through the middle of the season.

"The goals dried up a bit for us in crucial parts of the campaign and I believe that goes to a lack of focus and maturity," Oakley added. "Next season we will finally be full of upperclassmen and it will surely pay off. We return all 11 starters and many more players. I'm very excited about the future here."

One of those returning players is **David Gettel ('15)**, who missed several games to an ankle injury. He, like his coaches and teammates, had positive things

to say on the season as well as the future of men's soccer at Alma College.

"In the beginning of the season...our confidence was really high," Gettel said.

"At one point in the season, we scored the most goals of all Division III teams. We beat a team ranked in the top 20 and also beat three teams that are making it to the NCAA tournament...We just need to keep playing together and make sure that our team chemistry is still there."

"The future of Alma soccer is looking very bright and I feel that we could be contending to be one of the better teams in the league and have this program make it to the NCAA tournament [next year]."