



THE

ALMANIAN

Writer judges adaptations of
books into movies
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SERVING ALMA COLLEGE SINCE 1907

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Songfest features variety of musical talent as students compete to win cash prizes



Left: Off-Kilter performs "What a Wonderful World" at Songfest. Right: Jacob Hammer ('14) sings and plays his guitar for the audience.

Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

BY EMILY ZADNY
STAFF WRITER

(15), could not say enough good things about the evening.

"Songfest will be extremely enjoyable for anyone who enjoys music," he said before the event took place. "There is a wide variety of talent being shown this year, and it will certainly provide something for everyone. Students should come to Songfest to support their fellow students and enjoy being in the presence of some great musical talent."

Vanderpool was not the only Scot anxious for the show to go on. **Isaiah Colmore ('16)**, known on stage as Zayy, hoped to give a show-stopping performance this Friday.

Colmore stumbled upon about the event through ACUB and decided to take this opportunity to put his name out there on the Alma College music scene. Along with showcasing his talent, the idea of a cash prize was appealing to him.

"I'm hoping to pay the bills and put bread on the table," Colmore joked.

He performed three songs in three genres, including hip-hop, R&B, and rap, with guest artists **Allysen Neumann ('16)** and **John Julien ('15)**. Of all the songs he performed, Colmore was most excited about his original song "Nineties."

"I was really excited to perform 'Nineties' because everyone who goes to this school was born in the nineties, and all the adults that work here lived through the nineties," he said.

Along with new talent, Songfest welcomed a few returning acts this year. **Brendan Lodge ('14)**, a music education major and performing arts enthusiast, was one of these performers.

"I remembered watching Songfest my freshman year and wishing that I had given it a shot," Lodge reminisced. "I've participated in the event every year since!"

Lodge was busy last Friday night, singing with the brothers

"I remembered watching Songfest my freshman year and wishing that I had given it a shot. I've participated in the event every year since!"

-Brendan Lodge ('14)

of Phi Mu Alpha, directing Off-Kilter in "What a Wonderful World," revamping a John Mayer classic with Scots on the Rocks, and harmonizing "Dance in the Graveyards," by Delta Rae, with two of his friends, **David Kramp ('14)** and **Tyler Braun ('14)**. He knew that each and every song will provide entertainment for the audience and bring its own flavor to the stage.

"Phi Mu Alpha's performance is sure to make the audience laugh, Off-Kilter will bring back a classic

favorite, Scots on the Rocks is excited to put a new twist on John Mayer's hit song, and I absolutely love harmonizing with David and Tyler," Lodge said before the event. "It's sure to be a fun night!"

While the night was mainly about having a good time, Songfest was still a competition and there were still prizes at stake. At last year's performance, Lodge and his fellow artists fared very well.

"Three of the four groups I performed in were lucky enough to place in the competition," he said in the pre-show interview, "So I'm hoping that trend doesn't go away! Honestly, I just want to feel I did the best I could with each performance. If the judges think so too, that'd be great!"

Lodge's winning streak did indeed continue on Friday, as his performance with Kramp and Braun took first place. Julien and Colmore took second in a rap duo, and **Max Bourne ('16)** came in third with an original rap piece.

Newly approved by state board, nursing program to come to campus; first class to begin in the fall

"We are looking for potential students who are truly passionate about nursing."

-Judith McKenna, director of nursing education

in the fall of 2014.

In the fall of 2010, there was a call for program proposals. Among them were the new majors in new media studies, biotechnology, and nursing. After a long process, the college has finally gotten initial approval from the State Board of Nursing to open the program.

"Nursing programs used to be very segregated," said Judith McKenna, the new director of nursing education. "The nursing student always had little to no classes and educational contact with non-nursing students. With Alma's liberal arts education, the

nursing students here will take classes with the pre-med students, which will improve their future communication with doctors and expand their critical thinking skills."

For a college interested in opening a nursing program, the process is difficult and time-consuming. First, the school must submit an application to the State Board of Nursing to be considered to be allowed to have a program. Then it must hire a director for the program before it does anything else.

Alma College did a national search for a nursing program director and interviewed many candidates before settling on McKenna, who previously taught at Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Mercy.

"She was the unanimous and enthusiastic choice," said Provost Michael Selmon.

After hiring a director, the college had to establish a curriculum that meets both

state and national requirements, submit a self-study on what the program is about, and pass a site visit before it could receive final approval.

For prospective students who are interested in the nursing program, the requirements for admission are a minimum score of 25 on the ACT and a 3.0 high school grade point average, but along with that, the student will have to write an essay and have an interview with the nursing program director.

"I don't believe that numbers are the only important thing when it comes to this program," said McKenna. "We are looking for potential students who are truly passionate about nursing."

For current students at Alma who may be interested in the program, there is still hope.

"I've had current students come talk to me about wanting to go into nursing and expressing interest in the program," said McKenna. "We are currently

discussing and working through this issue, and trying to see how we could allow students to complete nursing as a second degree."

The nursing program will accept 32 students each year.

"From what I'm hearing, we're pretty optimistic that this number will be filled," said Vice President for Student Life Nick Piccolo.

And that's not the only thing that the staff working on the nursing program is optimistic about.

"My biggest hope is that these nursing students make a difference by being smart, being able to critically think, and not being afraid to advocate for their patient," said McKenna.

"I want people to know the nurses and the nursing program here at Alma to be strong and respectable. We want to grow nurses who are resilient leaders known for their integrity [and] intelligent scholars, and who are extremely passionate about the work that they're doing."

It has been said before that nurses are not angels, but they are the next best thing. For many people who spend time in a hospital, the nurses provide more care than any doctor does, which is why there is high demand for nurses right now.

Because of this, Alma College has announced that it is starting a nursing program, which will open

Service projects combine campus and community outreach efforts

BY NICOLE ECCLES
STAFF WRITER

area of Hamilton Commons.

One poster depicted different facts on poverty, homelessness, and hunger in Gratiot County. Statistics revealed that 58.3 percent of children in Gratiot County are receiving free or reduced-priced lunches. Students who receive free and reduced lunch often do so because of low income. This amount of students receiving aid reflects the financial status of parents in the county.

Another poster highlighted statistics and graphs on the same criteria in the United States as a whole; for example, 24.9 percent of the population in 2012 received some type of government assistance.

The last poster was blank at the beginning of the week and offered only the title "What are you doing to make a difference in our community?" Students could take sticky notes, answer the question, and post it on the blank poster.

Some student answers included: "Going to Kids' Night Out," "Reading at Cuéntame un Cuento on Saturday morning," "Made a healthy dinner for Public Affairs," and "Donated meals to Community Café."

"There are so many ways to serve at Alma," said Asiala. "Kids' Night Out every month on a Saturday, Greek life has philanthropies, Hispanic Coalition [has] Spanish story hour, not to mention many clubs on campus."

Kids' Night Out is another

service project that helps children of the community. The event happens every month on a Saturday. Parents in the community can drop off kids from 6:30-9:30 p.m. They do crafts, play games, dodgeball, and basketball, watch a movie, and swim. The night is almost completely staffed by college students.

"Kids' Nights Out was an amazing experience," said T.J. Koehler ('16). "I went with my brothers of Zeta Sigma, and playing foursquare with those kids was the best. They really had a lot of fun and so did we."

Alma students and community members participate in different ways with Community Café.

Every Thursday, the First Presbyterian Church of Alma provides hot meals to hard-pressed community members. Once a month, Sodexo from Alma College caters the program, and Alma students and organizations serve the food. Students can also donate extra meals to Community Café.

"Working at Community Café, I got to help with community members," said Tyler Braun ('14). "It made me feel useful, like I was purposeful in the Alma community. I would certainly do it again."

"The first step of service is to find a need," Asiala said. "People shouldn't do service just to do service, or to fill a requirement. There has to be a need, and then you should figure out what you can do to fulfill that need."

This Week at Alma College Nov. 25 - Dec. 1

Monday

Alma College Jazz Band Concert
8 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Tuesday

Colleges Against Cancer
9 p.m. SAC 103

Wednesday

Residence Halls Close
5 p.m.

Thursday

Thanksgiving Day

Enjoy some homecooked food and family time today

Various Locations

Friday

Black Friday Shopping

Chaos, busy stores, and amazing deals
Your Shopping Preferences

Saturday

Rest and relaxation

Your Living Room Sofa or Recliner

Sunday

Residence Halls Open
Noon

One last week of classes and then finals. You can do it!

The Almanian wishes everyone good luck on finals and happy holidays!

Holiday Bazaar raises money for Adopt-a-Family; event sponsored by college's Clerical Association

BY MAIRI CLOW
STAFF WRITER

through the event was donated to Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family program. Through this program, people or groups who adopt a family receive information on needy families and their Christmas wish lists.

Adopt-a-Family accepts both monetary donations and sponsorships to families in need, who are usually referred to the program by a social worker or who fill out an application to be accepted into it, according to the organization Volunteers of America.

Donors who are looking to sponsor a family are matched with a family based on the size of family they want to donate gifts to.

The Holiday Bazaar was not

only directed toward students, but it was open to members of the community as well.

"I was contacted through the Clerical Association about the event," Scents You Remember Owner Kay Grimnes said. "I was happy to support the cause, and it was a great way for me to get one last show in before the season was over."

Grimnes makes lip balms, perfumes, and foot rubs from scratch.

"I knew I wanted to make something all-natural," Grimnes said. "And they're fun to make."

Grimnes, who used to be a professor here, is a toxicologist by training, and starting to make lip balms and perfumes was

something that incorporated what she learned in her field.

She also happens to be the supplier of the free "calm" and "focus" scents found at the campus Health and Wellness Center. The next scent she will supply to the Center will be "Brilliant," made to smell like coffee beans, which are said to enhance creativity.

Other vendors at the bazaar sold hand-knit items, handmade home décor, and many other varieties. Among them was the company Origami Owl.

The company sends representatives to shows like this one several times a year. This was representative Robyn Christensen's 12th show this year.

"I was contacted about the event through my mentor," Christensen said. "She found out about it through a post someone on Alma's Clerical Association made on Facebook."

Like Grimnes, this was the end of Christensen's show season.

"This is my last show of the year," Christensen said. "But it

varies [depending on] how many [shows] someone will choose to do. I know of some people who will do two or three a weekend, so for a lot of our representatives the show season isn't over yet."

Students as well as community members attended the bazaar to get some of their holiday shopping done, in addition to supporting a good cause.

"I think it was a good idea to have it here," Taylor Card ('17) said. "Since Alma is a small town, we don't have the kinds of options like malls and bigger stores would have, and there are a lot of people who don't have cars on campus, so they may not be able to go to Mt. Pleasant for Christmas shopping."

Last week was the first time the event was hosted, and there are hopes of the bazaar's becoming a yearly happening on Alma's campus.

"I was really glad I went," Card said. "I was able to get a gift for my mom, and I liked getting to go around and see what all the different vendors had."

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:
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Email letters to:
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Brittany Leppien: Staff Photographer

Students, staff, and community members were given the option to start some holiday shopping at the Holiday Bazaar in Tyler-Van Dusen last week.

Student ministry hosts Fair Trade Sale to benefit international artisans



Photo courtesy of serrv.org

Partnering with a refugee rehabilitation organization, the Chapel Student Ministry hand-crafted goods such as linens and dishware to campus and community members.

By HANNAH KING
STAFF WRITER

From scarves and mittens to puzzles and jewelry, last Tuesday's Fair Trade Sale was full of unique and beautiful hand-crafted goods.

For the fourth year, the sale was held by the Chapel Student Ministry Coordinators along with volunteers. The event took place at Stucchi's and

supported a group called SERRV. SERRV stands for Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation and Vocation because it originated to help refugees in Europe recover from World War II. However, today SERRV has expanded to the United States, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. "SERRV is a non-profit organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide," said Chaplain Noel

Snyder. "They provide a fair trade market for hand-crafted items to be sold on consignment by local groups such as the Chapel." Fair trade simply means that 100 percent of the profits made at the sale go directly back to the people who made the products. "The sale had a variety of items that were handmade in other countries, and all of them were unique and absolutely beautiful," said Erika Zenchak ('17), a student who attended the event. The sale was organized by the Chapel's event coordinator,

Erin Chon ('15), who got a group of volunteers together to help her with the sale.

"I feel for artisans in particular as an art major myself. I believe that their beautiful craftsmanship is something to be shared with others, and events like this gives the artists the support that they deserve," said Chon.

"All of the proceeds from the sale go toward providing artisans and farmers a living wage, in places where a market for their goods—and the training to produce them—might not otherwise

"I feel for artisans in particular as an art major myself. I believe that their beautiful craftsmanship is something to be shared with others, and events like this give the artists the support that they deserve."

-Erin Chon ('15)

be available," said Snyder.

"I am so glad that fair trade items were made available for purchase for students," said Zenchak. "I prefer to buy fair trade, so it was great to have the opportunity to do that at school.

"Buying fair-trade products is a great way to help others in poor

countries by providing them with jobs, because many of the items are made by low-income families in countries like Nepal, India, and some African countries. Making those items is often their only source of income."

SERRV does not only help others by returning all of the profits to the men and women who made the products. "They also invest in the lives of artisans, farmers, and their families through educational opportunities and product development trainings," said Snyder.

"While fair trade sales clearly benefit families in many developing countries, they also reach out past just the Alma College campus but also to the Alma community" said Riley Hubbard ('15), one of the volunteers at the sale.

"The Fair Trade Sale is a great way for students and others from the local community who care about fair trade and living wage issues to do something about it at the same time that they are shopping for gifts for family and friends! It's a win-win for everyone involved," said Snyder.

"On a basic level, I believe that the natural human instinct to help and love each other comes into play with this event," said Chon. "Why not help and support each other? We get amazing goods, and the artisans and farmers get a fair profit for their hard work. It's just another way we can show our support for our brothers and sisters in developing countries."

Mentor program seeks campus expansion through close collaboration with CSO

Leaders' goal is to provide a support network to first- and second-year students

By MOLLY SELL
STAFF WRITER

The King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Mentor Program offers opportunities and connections for first-year students to get involved in college life.

Denelle Brown, director of diversity and inclusion and head of the KCP program, said, "This program is designed to provide a variety of support for first-year and second-year students, and we do that through some formal interactions and

"This program is designed to provide a variety of support for first-year and second-year students, and we do that through some formal interactions and some informal interactions."

-Denelle Brown, director of diversity and inclusion

some informal interactions." During the week, the coordinators organize a variety of events and gathering times for students such as workshops that focus on financial literacy and academic success skills, along with weekly mentor dinners in the Thistle Room at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

"These are some opportunities for mentors and mentees, and also faculty and staff, to get together informally and just chat, talking about everything and finding ways to connect in support," Brown explained.

These meals are not the only form of connections that the KCP Mentor Program provides.

Sometimes students come into the Center for Student Opportunity (CSO), and other times, the KCP leadership will stop and talk with students at lunch.

Informal bonding between students occurs as well, whether that's a mentor running with a mentee to Wal-Mart or getting dinner together somewhere.

The KCP program is growing and expanding its area of influence. The leadership in the CSO and the KCP mentors is figuring out ways to reach out to first-year and second-year students in order to share tips and tricks for success in college and in life in general.

"The mentors have mentioned having study tables here in the CSO on a regular basis to think about how we can really place an emphasis on good study habits and the importance of investing time in your work," said Brown. "Also, [mentees will] benefit from some of the expertise of the mentors because it can help just to work through some of the issues that first-years students might be facing."

At the beginning of the year, the mentors were asked to list ideas for special events that will be fun and engaging for incoming as well as current students, with the aim

"The mentors have mentioned having study tables here in the CSO on a regular basis to think about how we can really place an emphasis on good study habits and the importance of investing time in your work."

-Brown

of getting to know each other and the culture of the area better. Some ideas were travel opportunities like ventures to Uncle John's Cider Mill or an amusement park, and some were on-campus events.

"We really want to stress that you are assigned a mentor, but you have a whole safety net of people... It's all about support."

-Cindy Smith, financial coordinator and KCP leader

There is currently a study break and spa day being planned for finals week along with a host of other opportunities.

The KCP organizers also work with organizations that let students participate in other campus activities.

"Seeing the other clubs that are available on campus helps students to see how they can get involved," said Cindy Smith, financial coordinator and KCP leader.

Students who would like to get involved with the program should contact Smith or Nate Payovich. If students are not sure if they'd like to participate, they can come to a KCP dinner and try out the program before they sign up to see if they like it. The program will also look for current students to become mentors in the coming years.

"It's basically what you want to get out of it," said Smith. "It's okay if you want to get involved with as many events as you can, or if you just talk to your mentor if you need some advice or have a question."

"But we really want to stress that you are assigned a mentor, but you have a whole safety net of people you can go to if your mentor is not available at that exact moment. It's all about support."

Don't let concerns about infrequent atmosphere changes blow you away

Become familiar with severe weather protocols for the uncommon tornado watch

BY HANNAH KING
STAFF WRITER

38,000 buildings went without power in Ohio, and many homes were damaged.

Although Michigan has fared better than other states this time, familiarity with protocol when a severe weather alert is in effect is only beneficial.

Doug Dice is the emergency response administrator here at Alma, and he and his team have weather alert stations at their offices on campus and at their homes. They watch carefully, and when they see threatening weather approaching, the first step is to contact someone on an executive level, such as President Jeff Abernathy.

"When bad weather conditions are threatening Alma, the most important thing for us to do is watch the weather alerts until threatening conditions arise," said Dice.

"We have a network set up here at Alma called ConnectEd. With one phone call, we can distribute a warning to all students, parents, and faculty. This usually ends up to be a few thousand residents that receive a text or call.

"The next step is to silence the alarms," he continued. "These are coordinated with other alarms in Gratiot County"

To check that the warning devices are always working, they are tested along with the city's one Saturday every month.

"As the alarms are sounded, we



Photo courtesy of tornadofacts.com

According to the National Weather Service, Michigan sees fewer tornadoes than other Midwest states, averaging around 18 per year.

notify the Student Life Offices to ensure that all Resident Assistants notify their residents of where the shelters are located in their buildings," Dice said.

Director of Student Life Dave Blandford said, "If a tornado or severe storm hits Alma's campus and leaves any students with severe property damage, it is our responsibility to assure those students a place to stay."

Amy Merriman ('14), a Resident Assistant in Gelston, said, "If there is a tornado drill, go directly to the basement. Because

your RA is not a safety official, it is your responsibility to get to the shelter for your building. Try and get into a storage or trash room, away from any windows."

Merriman explained that even SAC, Dow, Clack, and many other buildings on campus have basements, so students in any of those buildings should immediately go to the lowest elevation in the event of a tornado.

"After any emergency, your hall directors will likely check on you," Merriman said.

"This is why guest registration is so important. If a severe weather warning occurs, it is very important for your hall directors to make sure all residents and their guests are present."

Students who have given the college their cell phone numbers will likely receive a call alerting them of any emergencies. RAs can be contacted to sign up for these alerts. For more information on what to do in case of a weather emergency, the Emergency Response Plan can be found on the Alma College website.

Community members to give back to celebrate holiday

Volunteers to serve hand-made Thanksgiving dinner at First Presbyterian Church

BY MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

Are you ready to roll up your sleeves and skin some potatoes this Thanksgiving? Well, students from Gratiot's Youth Advisory Council are, about 250 to be exact.

They will volunteer for the 23rd annual Gratiot County Thanksgiving Dinner held in the Swigart Fellowship Hall at the First Presbyterian Church. Despite its beginning at a senior center in St. Louis with 45 attendees, the event has grown to the point that the church is the only building with a large-enough licensed kitchen to feed all the hungry.

How many hungry? Given last year's numbers, the church expects to feed roughly 450 people on Thanksgiving Day, including about 150 carry-out meals. These hand-delivered meals will ensure that anyone who needs food will be able to receive it, despite any obstacles that might prevent them from visiting the church.

All the food provided will be hand-made, including mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, and even the 50 turkeys. The Mid-Michigan Medical Center donated the turkeys and

will cook 30 of them, while the other 20 will be cooked in the church due to space constraints.

A total of 52 pumpkin pies will also be donated, 36 baked by the Seventh Day Adventist Church and 16 from the Forest Hill Church of Christ. All other cooking will be supervised by Roger Allman, the director of Community Café, another free feeding program that occurs every week at the church.

Allman enjoys his involvement in the event. "Oh, I love it," he said. "It's just kind of a way of giving back to the community."

The First Presbyterian Church does not run the Thanksgiving Dinner alone. The Commission on Aging is in charge of the event, as Director Craig Zeese sets up almost 150 volunteers. Other churches that get involved include the Catholic Church, Lincoln Rd. Methodist, St. Mary's, and even the Church of God.

"It's nice to meet the people that I'm trying to help, [and] it lets me know that I can still do good even when there are hardships."

- Melissa Andrews ('10)



Photo courtesy of Justin Garant

During the holidays, students give back to the local community by volunteering at the Community Café, located at the First Presbyterian Church in Alma.

Shirley Wallace, a member of the Church of God, has volunteered at the Thanksgiving Dinner for the past three years. She originally did short-term mission work in Honduras.

"When we found out that there was a need here, we decided we could come as an outreach here in the community," she said.

Even Alma College students have the option of helping out. Melissa Andrews ('10) began her volunteer work here in 2009 and is coming back to help out. While a student, she lived at the Service Learning House and was engaged in volunteer work.

She continues here for many

reasons. "It's nice to meet the people that I'm trying to help," she said, "[and] it lets me know that I can still do good even when there are hardships."

Everyone is welcome to come for the free meal, and volunteers are offered food as well. Donations are extremely helpful and pay for the next year.

The First Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Charles and Superior, and the event will begin at noon, although preparations begin around 6 a.m. Call 875-5246 to volunteer or make a reservation.

Any extra food left over from the event will be donated to

the Community Café, which is also supported by a number of churches. Alma College also supports the food program through two major projects.

Christelle Bangsi ('15), member of service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, started a branch of the Food Recovery Project that takes leftover food from meals and donates it to the Café. Once a month the food is catered, prepared, and served by Alma College students.

"You see a need and want to help," Bangsi said. "But at the same time, you learn through your weekly experiences about yourself, about the struggles people go through."

For your sanity: tips for surviving finals week

BY MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

there is a considerable weight placed on the most recent section that you learned. These often occur when the professor planned a cumulative exam, but for whatever reason there's not enough time left to assess that last unit.

"First and foremost, it is important to understand the coverage of the exam: that is, how much of the information you learned will be tested on. There are three types: cumulative, semi-cumulative, and final unit tests."

- On categorizing exams.

Finals are just around the corner, and you might find yourself wondering just how your professors are planning to torture you this term. They have many weapons in their arsenal, from open-book to take-home, essays, multiple choice, and even term-long projects to throw at you.

Although I cannot take on the burden of every student's exams, perhaps I can give you the tools to fight off these many-headed dragons.

First and foremost, it is important to understand the coverage of the exam: that is, how much of the information you learned will be tested on. There are three types: cumulative, semi-cumulative, and final unit tests.

Cumulative exams quiz you over all the topics you covered throughout the semester. This type is the most common of the three. After all, what is the point of a final but to see if you actually retained what has been taught?

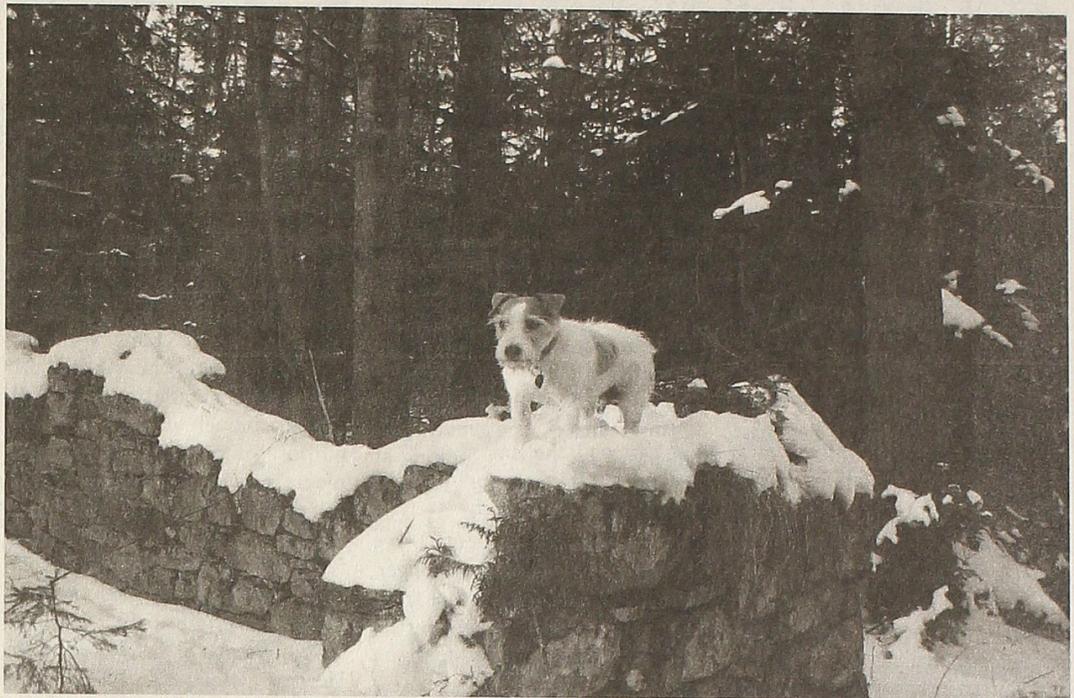
These can be trying because of the amount that can be covered, but luckily not every little detail is going to be tested on. Good notes are useful, since you probably already picked out those important concepts.

Semi-cumulative assessments still cover the entire term, but

Of course, some professors do not find it necessary to test over the entire term, so sometimes they only quiz you over the last few chapters or so. However, don't think that it makes the exam any easier: less content covered usually results in a lot more detail.

The time frame of an exam is also important. There are essentially two time frames: during the exam period and by the exam period.

When an exam is due by the exam period, this entails that you have taken time outside of class to work on it, and can appear in many ways. A popular choice is the project assigned at the start



With some solid preparation, you can conquer your exams like Trudy the Jack Russell terrier conquered these rocks. *Ben King, Community Editor*

of the year that you were supposed to be working on throughout the term. Thus, if you didn't, you're going to end up spending a lot of time working on it in the last two weeks.

There is also the take-home exam, which might sound easy but usually isn't. When a professor assigns you one of these, it's because it's supposed to take more than two hours to do. So at least take two hours to work on it, and remember: Google is your friend!

When assigned an oral exam, whether in a foreign language or a presentation, the most vital thing to do is practice. It will help you feel more comfortable and that will help your grade a lot.

Addressing essays changes depending on the time frame you've been given. The longer you're given to write the essay, the more time you should spend on revisions. If you have to do the essay in class, spending a little time making an outline can organize your thoughts for the better.

Other assessments also have their ins and outs, depending on the type. Multiple choice is very common, as there is definitely a right answer. In order to use your time effectively, make sure to cross out any wrong answers you are confident about as soon as possible, especially if "all of the

above" is an option. True/False questions can be confusing, so read each statement carefully. Also, short answer quizzes work best if you use complete sentences and back up your response with evidence.

No matter the medium, when given only two hours during the exam period, there are a few shortcuts that can make it easier. Try to answer the easy questions—what you know right away—first. This will give you time to think about those hard questions while still working.

Finals are important. Just remember that you're not going to get anything done if you're too busy worrying about them.

Sweden's Bechdel Test: a change in perspective

BY NICOLE ECCLES
STAFF WRITER

Washington Post did an article on a new initiative going on in Sweden. The movement is called A-MÄRKKT, which translates to A-Rate.

This initiative promotes the use of the Bechdel Test by asking movie theatres to mark movie posters with an A logo. The leaders of the movement state that the A stands both for Allison, the name of the creator of the Bechdel Test, and for approved, as in it passes the test.

Now your next question might be: What is the Bechdel Test? Well I'm so glad you asked, my lovely feminist-social-critics-in-training.

The Bechdel Test was introduced in 1985 by Allison Bechdel, an American cartoonist, in her comic strip "Dykes to Watch out For." The strip was called "The Rule" and featured an unnamed female character who would only watch a film if it met three criteria.

To pass the test a film must have two named female characters; they must talk to each other; and they must talk about something other than a man.

Simple, right? And yet most movies do not pass the Bechdel Test. Furthermore, most popular or award-winning movies actually fail the test.

Here are just a few that don't pass: "Avatar," "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the original "Star Wars" trilogy, the entire "Lord of the Rings" series, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," and "The Social Network."

I'm going to take a couple of lines and say that this does not mean these are "bad" movies or that you shouldn't like or watch them. It simply means that they are part of a large scheme that excludes women and women's stories from being represented. Some of these movies are my life, but part of enjoying or loving something is coming to understand its flaws.

It's funny to think how much we love movies, how much we feel we can identify with them, and

how much they reflect our society and us. It becomes less funny when we see that the reflection of our society shows a world where women and women's stories aren't important.

What started off in Sweden as four Stockholm theaters making a statement is turning into a new awareness movement being covered all over Sweden. I can only hope it spreads throughout Europe and all the way here to little Alma, Mich.

When I was Ghana I heard

a volunteer leader say "a dream becomes a reality when many people share the same dream." Awareness leads to change, because one person's recognizing and speaking about a problem leads to someone else's doing so.

The next time you watch a movie, see if it passes the Bechdel Test. If you spot a movie marked with an A at the theater, go see it.

In college we learn about the effect we have on the world; here's a way that you can make a change. Don't let the chance pass you by.

Sudoku

Sudoku is a type of number puzzle. If you're not familiar, here are the rules:
-Each 3x3 square can contain each number (1 through 9) no more or less than once.
-Each row and column can contain each number no more or less than once.
-The puzzle is complete when all spaces are filled in.
Sudoku difficulty is determined by how many numbers are initially filled in. This sudoku is considered "medium."
There are many different types of sudoku, so if you like this, try out some more!

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

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Women's basketball drops first 4 games of preseason

By JUSTIN KETTERER
STAFF WRITER

"We only had two turnovers in the second half against Defiance," Assistant Coach Shonda Long said. "We are only averaging 11 turnovers a game, so we feel our girls are taking good care of the ball, plus we shot 50 percent from the three-point line."

The Lady Scots did not meet the same shooting standards against Lakeland as they did facing Defiance. They shot 5-21 from the arc for 23.8 percent.

"It was a huge game for us; the girls wanted revenge from the loss Lakeland handed us last year," Long said.

Alma also had more turnovers

than what it's averaging, as the team totaled 18 against Lakeland.

"Every game we've been close and we just need to get over that hump for the first win," Long said.

The Lady Scots had another shot at the first win last Sunday as they took on Finlandia University. They travelled on Saturday, one day after the game against Lakeland and suffered an 83-88 loss.

"We are all taking the time we're travelling to rest up and relax," **Raeanna Zink ('16)** said. "For Sunday we will watch some films and have a scouting meeting in the hotel the night before."

The Lady Scots have already had experience with travelling long distances; they were in North Carolina the weekend of Nov. 16 and 17.

"The girls will be ready, we already had the back-to-back games in North Carolina earlier in the year," Long said.

Mallory Pruett ('15) led the Lady Scots with 19 points and eight rebounds against Lakeland. She also had three assists to only two turnovers. Zink and **Erica Hansen ('17)** combined for 26 points and 13 boards to chip in.

Pruett and **Kassidi Adams ('16)** led Alma in scoring against Defiance with 17 points each, with

Adams hitting three shots behind the three-point line.

Tara Padgett ('17) chipped in 10 points in 18 minutes off the bench in the effort against Defiance.

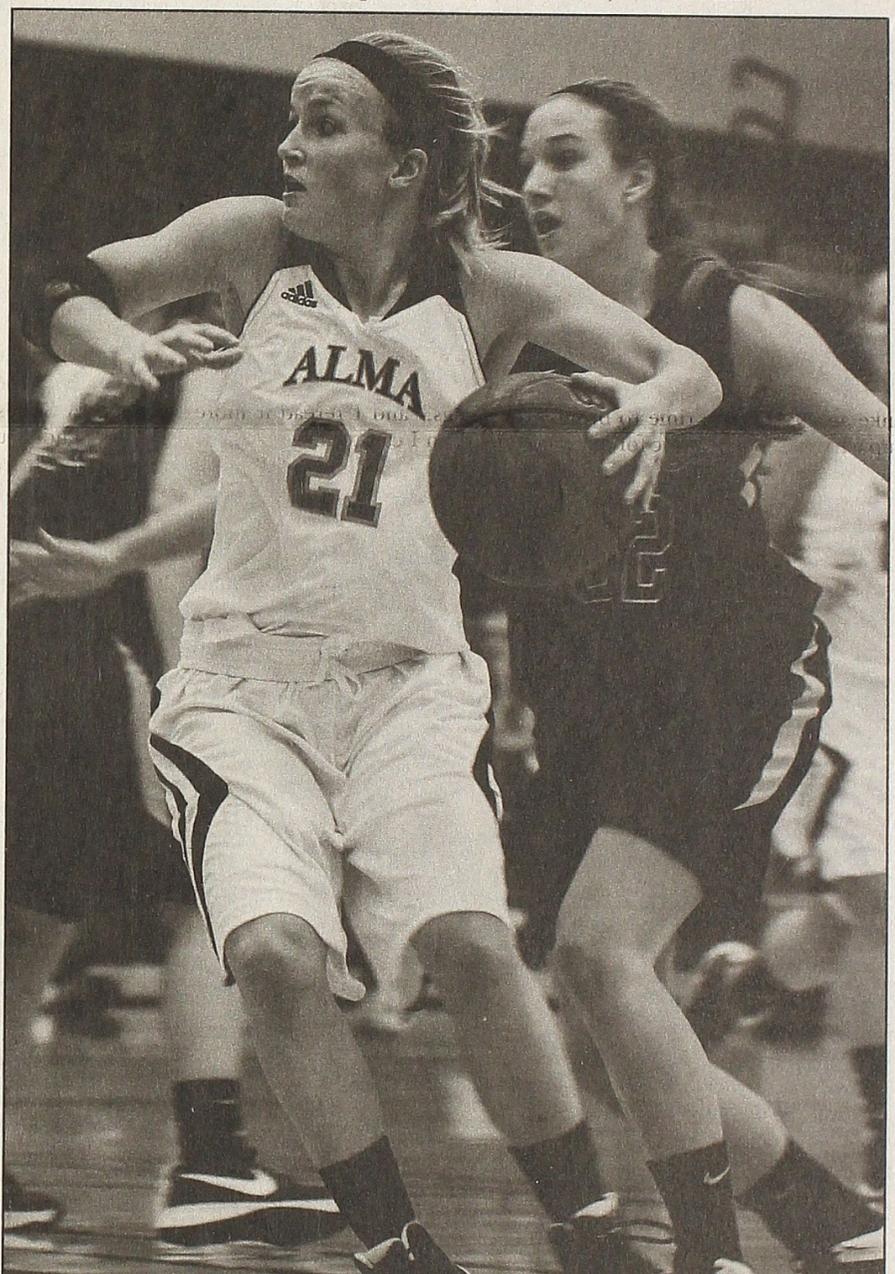
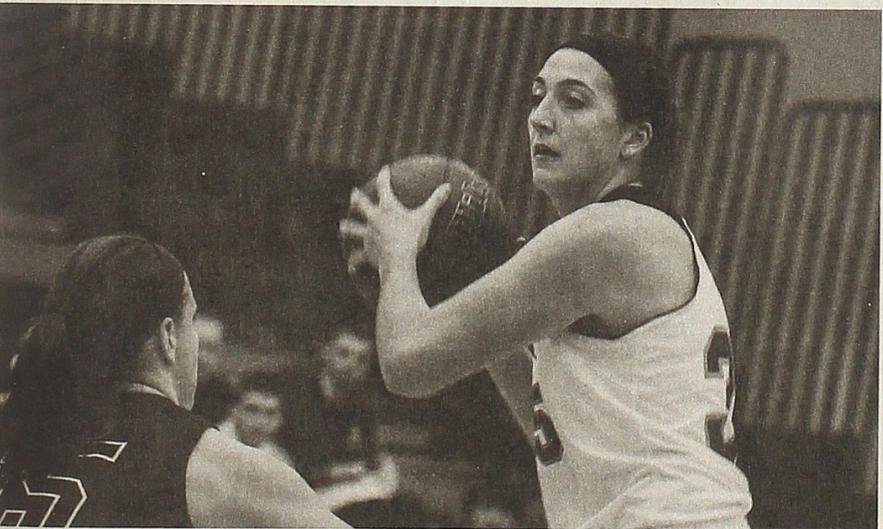
Hansen led the Lady Scots in the North Carolina tournament, scoring 13 against Guilford and hanging 18 points against Roanoke.

"There have been some good things this season," Head Coach Keisha Brown said. "We're close to getting over the hump for the first win."

"Hopefully the trip to Finlandia goes good and the win comes there," Brown said.

The Lady Scots are still searching for their first win of the season, after dropping their home opener to Defiance College of Ohio last Wednesday, 78-65.

Alma's women's basketball team is 0-4 on the young season, its most recent loss coming to Lakeland College of Wisconsin last Friday, 81-73.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Top left: Nicole Green ('17) had 5 rebounds for the Scots last Wednesday against Defiance College. Bottom left: Raeanna Zink ('16) contributed 8 points and 6 rebounds against Guilford College (NC) earlier in the season. Right: Mallory Pruett ('15) has 18 field-goals, 6 three-pointers and 10 assists so far this season.

Women's cross country finishes year 12th in region

By SHAWN LARNER
STAFF WRITER

the day.

The national meet was scheduled for last Saturday, but no Alma runners qualified for the event.

Talon Morris ('15) led the way for the men. His finishing time of 26:20.5 was good for a 50th place in the field of 252.

"Again, it was another muddy course, so that was a bit of a downer, but a few of us managed a last-season personal record," Morris said.

"I'm glad I went out strong... but I wish I could have had a perfect day. [The] good thing is track season is soon to start and I'm not taking any breaks

heading into this season. I can't wait for the actual start of the season."

Alex Pollack ('14) finished off his cross country career with a time of 26:52.6, which resulted in a 79th place finish.

The Calvin College men saw their dominance fall off a bit as No. 20 Wabash took home the title. That broke Calvin's streak of 17 consecutive regional titles. They did manage to walk away with second place, however.

For the women, the Scots were paced by **Misty Godley ('15)**, who crossed the finish line with a time of 22:52.5.

The women ran really well,

according to Godley. Heading into the meet, she said, she really wanted to be all-region (top 35), and she did just that by taking home 32nd place.

Kaitlyn Arnold ('17) also had a top 50 finish on the day for the Scots, running a time of 23:12.7 on her way to 49th place.

The women had some young runners step up, according to **Jordan Stanick ('16)**. With the freshman Arnold placing in the top 50, they also had **Kara Giles ('16)** run well. She finished with a solid time of 23:54.5 to finish 85th out of the field of 244.

"The regional was a tough race," said runner **Anna Sall ('14)**. "[It

was] chilly, a little muddy, with a strong head wind for the last quarter mile. Though not ideal conditions, the girls went out and did what they could; several had season and lifetime PRs.

"We had hoped to be higher in the team placing, but considering the competitiveness of our particular regional we cannot be too terribly upset. [I am] definitely looking ahead to [watching] next season."

The Calvin women won the meet, marking their sixth regional title in seven years. Three other MIAA schools placed in the top 20: Hope in third, St. Mary's in 14th, and Albion in 18th.

The NCAA DIII Great Lakes regional meet, hosted by Calvin College, marked the end of the road for the Alma College cross country teams last Saturday.

As a team, the boys finished the meet in 28th place out of 36 teams, accounting for 725 points. The women's team managed a 12th place finish out of 39 different schools. The Scots totaled 346 points on

Men's basketball still searching for first victory of the season

By SHAWN LARNER
STAFF WRITER

In its home opener, the Alma College men's basketball team lost a nail-biter, before losing two more times at a tournament in Wisconsin last week.

The losses dropped its early-season record to 0-5.

Alma has a bit of a break before its next outing, which will be Dec. 3 when the Scots play host to North Park University. The game is scheduled to tip at 7:30 p.m.

Last Tuesday, the Scots hosted

Defiance for their first home game of the season. The men led by a score of 39-31 at the halfway point.

They extended their lead to 11 early in the second half, only to see Defiance go on a 10-0 run to trim the lead to one. The game was back and forth from then on, with the Scots coming up just short in a 70-68 defeat.

"Tonight was no doubt a tough loss but definitely a game we can build off of," Coach Sam Hargraves said after the game.

"We are still going through growing pains as a team, and every time we are in a game like this it makes us better. Obviously we want to come out on the winning end sooner than later."

Alma missed the front end of a one-and-one from the free throw line when the Scots were down two with less than a second to play in the game.

Brandon Krause ('14) led the Scots with 22 points. **Isiah Law ('15)** was also a scoring threat, pouring in 14 points of his own.

"We played with high energy against Defiance and our defense was pretty solid, but we needed to make a couple more plays down the stretch offensively to win," Krause said.

On a trip to Wisconsin, Alma competed in a tournament hosted by Carthage College. The Scots drew the host team for their first game, which saw them lose

another close game. Alma trailed 36-30 at the half, and then played even basketball with Carthage in the second half to fall by a final score of 84-78.

Law proved to be a scorer again, and an efficient one at that. He made eight of 13 shots to collect 20 points. He also recorded nine rebounds.

"We got off to a bad start and had to play from behind the whole game," Law said after the loss. "The turnover margin is what killed us. Carthage had four turnovers to our 18. We continue to get better, but we still have to correct some of the mental lapses we have on defense."

DJ Beckman ('16) added 15 points, and also brought down nine

boards. **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** had an all-around performance, tossing in 14 points with eight rebounds and four assists.

"Carthage was a very good team and we played with great energy again but we had too many turnovers to pull out the win," Krause said after the late game.

"Both losses were tough (Defiance and Carthage) as they were both games we could have won, but we have to learn from the losses and get better for conference play."

In the consolation game on Saturday, the Scots took on Benedictine University from Illinois and were again on the wrong side of the scoreboard, this time falling 91-70.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Left: Brandon Krause ('14) has contributed 57 points and 12 assists for the Scots this season. Right: Brandon Trefil ('16) has added 14 points and 5 assists for his team this year.

Wrestling has high hopes getting nationally ranked this season

By JUSTIN KETTERER
STAFF WRITER

Wrestlers and coaches said that the goal by the end of last weekend for the Alma team is to be ranked in the top 15 in the nation. The Scots will need good performances from **Matt Tuttle ('14)**, ranked fifth in the nation in the 157-lb. weight class, and other starters to achieve that mark.

The Scots traveled to Olivet last Saturday for the Olivet duels

meet that will include the ninth- and twelfth-ranked teams in the nation, Wisconsin Whitewater and Heidelberg, respectively.

"Both Wisconsin Whitewater and Heidelberg beat us the last two years," Coach Todd Hibbs said. "It will be real nice to beat them Saturday."

Wisconsin Whitewater beat Alma 21-18. Heidelberg also bested the Scots last Saturday, picking up a 25-13 victory.

Coach Hibbs said his team could take away confidence from another result last week. After losing to the Scots on Nov. 14, Wheaton College took down

fifteenth-ranked Elmhurst on a 30-14 decision.

"The win by Wheaton is very encouraging for us; we feel like we could beat the fifteenth ranked team in the nation after they got beat handedly by a team we beat," Hibbs said.

One of the captains of the team, **Tyler Foley ('15)**, said that the men knew the meet at Olivet would be a test for them.

"We feel really awesome about the team this year," Foley said. "We got to keep working hard and we can make it into the top 15."

Saturday Nov. 16 was the Scots' last meet before the Olivet Duels

and it was at Trine University, with the 10 starters not travelling for Alma.

"Our JV guys performed real well," Hibbs said. "It was a hard tournament because every other team took their varsity guys."

"We still had two of the top four spots in the tournament; **Cory Livingston ('17)** went 4-2 and got fourth place and **Josh Jensen ('16)** had a good week and got second place," Hibbs said.

The Scots don't have another meet until Saturday, Dec. 7, when they travel to Ohio Northern for their invitational match. Hibbs said that the team won't take the

foot off the gas pedal.

"Everybody that is healthy will go to Ohio Northern, and then the varsity guys will travel to Florida over Christmas break for a big tournament," Hibbs said.

Hibbs and the wrestlers said that they believe the team can be nationally ranked and have a very successful season.

Tuttle is the squad's only senior and Hibbs said that the guys look to him, especially with his high national ranking.

"We got some work to do but we'll get there," Tuttle said. "I'm just trying to lead by example with this team."