

Kiltie Marching Band prepares for fall

By KELSEY BLADES
COPY EDITOR

By mid-August, most students have started to think about the last things they want to do with their summers and contemplated starting to say goodbye to family and friends, but definitely have not started packing.

In contrast, one group of students has already moved into the residence halls and begun work on a huge, semester-long project—the marching band halftime show.

The marching Scots moved in last Saturday to prepare for the two-week-long band camp. The first week had the students at daily rehearsal from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Rehearsal times shorten to about six hours per day during orientation week.

One marked difference between this year's show apart from other years' is that the current one does not have a name at present.

"This year, honestly I feel that I have less of an idea about the show," said Jennafer Young ('13), a section leader for the flutes and piccolos. "Every year our show has a title and a theme, and this year's theme is kind of Caribbean but not really. The way Mr. David Zerbe was talking about it—he said the first tune and the third tune are definitely Caribbean style or Afro-Cuban style, but then we have this random slow song in the middle, and it's not in that style at all."

The three songs that comprise



Members of the Kiltie Marching Band arrive on campus extra early in order to be guided through numerous exercises and drills by student drum majors and Director David Zerbe in preparation for the fast-approaching football season.

the halftime show are "Endless Torture," "I Have Loved You for a Thousand Lifetimes," and "Caribbe." Young said they are pretty lively and have a kind of Latin feel.

"The music is really fun," she said. "I really like the Afro-Cuban beat. All the percussion stuff is really cool. Our third song, 'Caribbe,' is really fun, and it's the

one we've been working on most so far. We can march it and play it—huge progress by day five."

Zerbe is trying a new tactic out for this year's show. Instead of the usual practice of learning the beginning of the opening song first and learning the ending of the closer last, the Kiltie band has been working on the end of the first song first and learning the

preceding parts after—in essence, working backward.

"'Caribbe' is actually not the most difficult song," said Young. "The first song is the most difficult, and we're going to be diving into that a little later on. We're basically working through everything backward, so that whatever we do we'll finish strong. So we learned 'Caribbe' and we literally learned

to march it starting at the end and backing up and going to the end and backing up further and then going to the end.

"We don't usually perform the entire show at the first football game, but we're gonna have a really solid chunk of it ready for the first game," she said. "Whether or not we have the whole thing—whatever we have will be solid."

Peer mentor program supplements first year seminars

By RYAN HERZOG
COPY EDITOR

The Academic and Career Planning Office is teaming up with Provost Michael Selmon and Interim Associate Vice President for Student Opportunity and Diversity Laura von Wallmenich to implement a new first-year seminar peer mentor program.

Twenty-five students were hired this summer to serve as peer mentors to the first year seminar classes. The role of the peer mentor is to help incoming first year students successfully transition to the different academic and social environments of college. Peer mentors will also aid students in the career exploration process.

According to the position application, the peer mentors' responsibilities include serving as a resource for students with questions about academic support, student services, and career development; directing students to resources throughout campus; and assisting students with setting and achieving goals.

The peer mentors will aid

the professors with classroom activities, as well. They will make presentations to assist students, arrange for guest speakers to present to the class under the direction of the professor, plan class social events to develop and strengthen the students' connection to campus, and assist the professor with tasks tailored to each seminar (including participation in class discussion). Some additional responsibilities may include organizing study sessions for the students and assisting with presentation practice.

Rachel Burkhardt ('13) is going to mentor FYS 101.11, entitled "Science and Crime Literature," taught by Dr. Chi-Ping Chen and Dr. Melissa Strait.

"I wanted to become a mentor so that I could help students transition to college, both academically and socially," she said. "For me, meeting and knowing upperclassmen helped me transition, and I would like to pass that on to a new group of students. I also am really excited about helping students find their passion. I love my major (biology, go science!) and if I could help someone else find a major—even if it's not science—that they love just as much as I do, then all my

work would be worth it."

Burkhardt is looking forward to the opportunity to work one-on-one with a class.

Mentoring is as much about talking and giving advice as it is about listening. I want to make sure my students know they can come and just talk to me if they need that.

-Rachel Burkhardt ('13), FYS mentor

"Hopefully this will be a great learning experience, both for myself and for the students," she

said. "I am considering becoming a professor, thus this opportunity should expose me to some of the things that career involves."

In any mentoring situation, it can be difficult to remember that the mentor and the mentee(s) are peers. Burkhardt is cognizant of the equality between the two groups.

"This [experience] should help me grow, too," she said. "Mentoring is as much about talking and giving advice as it is about listening. I want to make sure my students know they can come and just talk to me if they need that. It is from these conversations that true personal growth sprouts. I hope the students learn that and take advantage of it."

"I am looking forward to meeting the students and hearing their take on the class. I am sure

that each of the 17 or so students will have a different take, and it will be interesting to see how all those ideas mingle together. I love that the class combines science and literature, two of my loves as a biology major and a chemistry and English minor. It shows how two unrelated concepts can complement and enhance the other, really embodying the liberal arts philosophy."

Burkhardt has some advice that she plans to dole out to her mentees—advice that she would share with every first year student.

"I would encourage everyone to talk to other students and professors and never stop asking questions," she said. "I also encourage students to find their passion, even if they don't think they can get a job with it. You never know what is out there until you first look."

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly Sunny 46°	Chance of T-storms 49°	Sunny 58°	Sunny 82°	Partly Sunny 84°	Mostly Cloudy 81°	Rain Showers 82°

Alma College's Global Challenge already in full swing

By LISA FOLKMIRE
OPINION EDITOR

For the past eighteen months, 20,000 people have died in the Syria conflict. Over the summer, killings rose 40%. President Bashar Al-Assad announced that although Syria will not use any chemical or biological weapons yet, they might have to if any countries intervene.

Syria is surrounded by Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, and

"I can remember being exactly where [the freshmen] were—being so scared and excited. It was strange to think of how I saw the mentors last year, and now I'm one of them. It's amazing."

-Aleia McKessy ('15)
Global Challenge Mentor

of that, kudos. Especially if you just survived the past few days of Alma College's Global Challenge.

Last Thursday at 1:30 p.m., 20 first year students, 15 mentors, and two dedicated professors sat down to solve the conflict in Syria. For the next 36 hours, students researched topics and countries, gave various speeches representing their assigned countries, debated amongst each another, and worked towards a goal of making progress in the Syria Conflict.

"This changes students' lives," said Derick Hulme, professor of political science. Hulme sees this challenge as a way to open students' minds to the current situations in the world and set them ahead in their education.

"I expected a lot of community, natural conversations, a lot of teaching, and tolerance for the freshmen," said **William Donahue ('16)**.

Donahue and his colleagues quickly realized that what they signed up for was far from a simple activity. They began their day with two hours of teach-ins on the United Nations, Security Council, Arab Spring, Libya, and Syria.

Within two hours of learning about the conflict in Syria and the basic functions of the United Nations, students were paired with mentors and sent to research individual countries and their connections to Syria.

"It's different to see how much you learn in a year," said mentor **Aleia McKessy ('15)**. "I can remember being exactly where

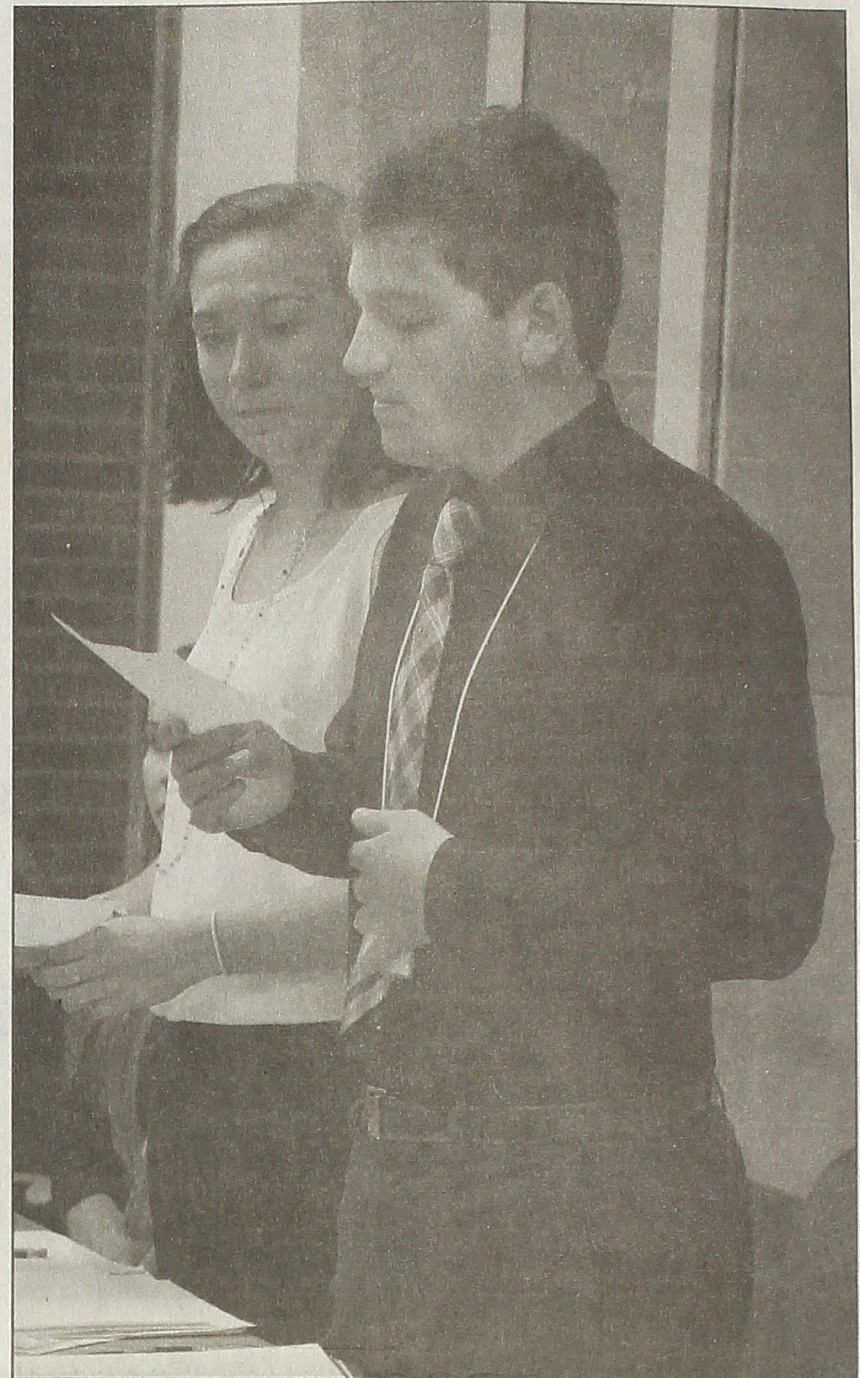
[the freshmen] were—being so scared and excited. It was strange to think of how I saw the mentors last year, and now I'm one of them. It's amazing." McKessy participated in the challenge last year as a freshman, serving as the delegate of Colombia. She continued to take the public affairs first year seminar, entitled Searching for Science Policy, and she also participated in the second term of public affairs and the award-winning Model UN team.

"The hardest part...would be dealing with a country you haven't even heard of before," said **Victoria Bishop ('16)** during her first research session on Togo.

The Global Challenge sets students up to be able to take in information quickly—to comprehend mass amounts of information in minimal time. Hulme could be seen running between classrooms and counting down hours until resolutions had to be turned in or speeches had to be made.

But it is more than learning about a world conflict and proving oneself to professors early in the game. The Global Challenge teaches students the importance of hard work in education, of going beyond the assignment, the page limit, or the library hours to complete extra research. More importantly, it teaches students their own capabilities early on.

It is a crash course, but with a whole lot of impact. As Donahue put it, it's about "realizing you can kind of do the college thing. Even after one day."



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Global Challenge participants **Katherine Vaillancourt ('16)** and **William Donahue ('16)** took on problematic situations and developed realistic and plausible proposals for alleviating the Syrian crisis.

Multicultural-themed house established on South Campus

By RYAN HERZOG
COPY EDITOR

To promote diversity and foster cultural acceptance on campus, several campus clubs have come together to host the new Multicultural House. Starting this year, the house will be a center where students, whether ethnic minorities or merely curious, can come as a safe zone for cultural differences and become educated about other ways of life.

The house, located on W. Center Street behind Wright Hall, is hosted by students from the Multicultural Student Union, the Hispanic Coalition, and the International Club. All three clubs have a stake in the house and will hold events throughout the year. This house marks a move for Alma College to become more culturally accepting, according to House Manager **Danielle McCoy ('14)**.

Their first event will be a carnival during orientation week. There will be games, crafts, and food set up for the incoming freshmen to take part in. The event will take place Tuesday at 9 p.m. in Tyler-Van Dusen.

The idea for the multicultural house came out of a mutually recognized need from the students to create a "home away from home" for foreign exchange and minority students, said McCoy. She says the house is a positive step forward for the

campus in promoting diversity. With the oncoming year, she and her housemates hope to carry out further steps in this direction.

"Students that come to our events will hopefully feel like they have gained some insight into a certain culture that they have not had much knowledge about before," she said. "Students that walk by our house on a normal day will see that there are seven different personalities living there, but that we work together to achieve our goal and that we are accepting of each other's backgrounds."

Each of the clubs involved is

"We have people from lots of different cultural backgrounds, who all have different ways of living their lives."

-Katie Grunder ('15),
Multicultural House
resident

expected to take two months out of the year to run their own events through the house. Two bigger events in March and December will be held. The house is also open for everyone to come in and visit daily.

Fellow housemate **Katie**

Grunder ('15) said the new house is an "awesome thing." It's a place where others can learn about cultures that they may not know much about. The sky's the limit on what they can do, she said.

They plan to host events on behalf of the multicultural clubs on campus, such as the World Kitchen events that International Club puts on, said Grunder. They plan to have a theme for every month of the fall and winter terms, where they will host events related to a specific culture. There will also be events like movie or karaoke nights, or guest speakers representing those cultures that are underrepresented or misunderstood on campus.

The main purpose of the house is to work at popping the "Alma bubble" that students are stuck in, said Grunder. By making students aware of their differences with this new installation, they can hopefully celebrate them and get involved in a life outside the one they were brought up in.

"We have people from lots of different cultural backgrounds, who all have different ways of living their lives," says Grunder. "And here we are, living together and living well. It's important to have that kind of awesome example existing anywhere to show others living together peacefully, recognizing similarities, but never forgetting the differences that make us all unique and interesting human beings."

This week at Alma College

Monday, August 27:

Open swim at 11:30 a.m. in Hogan Center - McClure Natatorium

Tuesday, August 28:

Open swim at 11:30 a.m. in Hogan Center - McClure Natatorium

Alma College Otaku and Gamers Video Game Tournament at 7:00 p.m. in SAC 110

Wednesday, August 29:

Open swim at 11:30 a.m. in Hogan Center - McClure Natatorium

Thursday, August 30:

Open swim at 11:30 a.m. in Hogan Center - McClure Natatorium

Transfer Welcome lunch at 11:00 a.m. in Tyler Van Dusen Commons North

Friday, August 31:

Open Swim at 11:30 a.m. in Hogan Center - McClure Natatorium

Saturday, September 1:

HOME: Men's football vs. Heidelberg College at 1:00 p.m. in Bahlke Field

Alma College students share their tips for living with a roommate

By ANNA WEBER
FEATURE EDITOR

What if I can't get along with my roommate?

It is a common concern for new college students. When living at home, most people have their own private space, or, at least, are very familiar with the people sharing that space. A high school student has probably learned by the time he graduates how to live with family, how to avoid conflict, and how to solve problems when they arise.

For first-year college students, it is a different scenario. Unless they pick a roommate ahead of time, they will end up living with a stranger for an entire year. If personalities clash, it could become miserable. Bickering and arguing are not fun for anyone, and a tense atmosphere in a room causes much more stress than necessary.

Although minor arguments and clashes might be unavoidable with a new—and possibly prickly—roommate, there are ways to minimize conflict and make the best of the situation. After several years of living with roommates, some Alma College students have worked out the secrets to

harmonious residence hall living. Communication is key for **Leslie Warren ('14)** and her roommate, **Alyssa Leright ('14)**.

"Be open," says Warren. "Take the roommate agreement paper as a bonding time. Be honest and tell your roomie things. For example, it could be something like, I am a bit OCD. Aly and I stay pretty open with each other, so this helps us to avoid problems rather than having to fix them when they occur. If something problematic starts going on, talk to your roomie. Don't wait for them to guess what is wrong. Just be open, honest, and friendly."

Warren also recommends respecting roommates' privacy, allowing them to have the room

"If something problematic starts going on, talk to your roomie. Don't wait for them to guess what is wrong. Just be open, honest, and friendly."

-Leslie Warren, ('14)

to themselves if they ask. This should be mutual, she says; either person should have the right to "alone time."

When a roommate requests the room to him/herself, there are plenty of options to stay entertained. Get some studying done in the library or an academic building, visit a friend, go to Stucchi's, or grab a coffee from Highland Java.

Leright recommends setting aside time to spend with a roommate. Even if a pair of roommates do not consider themselves friends, spending time together allows them to learn to tolerate each others' quirks and idiosyncrasies as well as helping them become more empathetic towards each other.

In addition to communicating very openly, **Jonathan Taylor ('13)** says that he and his roommate **Timothy Imber ('13)** take advantage of similar interests to create a bond.

"We have similar things we enjoy; if one of us is having a bad day, we'll take ten minutes and play 'Halo,'" Taylor said. "We have similar interests, which is a plus, but beyond that, we care about what happens to each other as good friends should. We take care of each other." Taylor and Imber have known each other for three years and they have always gotten along very well.

"We don't judge each other, we don't try to change the other, we accept and respect the other," Imber said. "With that respect came trust, and with that trust came a friendship that will always

be cherished."

For incoming freshmen, Taylor says that flexibility and communication may be the most important parts of building a relationship.

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"If you have any problems or disagreements, be willing to accept what they say. Take it for more than face value, and be willing to adjust. Having that ability is probably one of the biggest things that makes or breaks roommates."

-Jonathan Taylor, ('13)

accept what they say," Taylor said. "Take it for more than face value, and be willing to adjust. Having that ability is probably one of the biggest things that makes or breaks roommates."

Imber agreed, adding that open communication is also very important for the two of them.

"The best way to avoid conflict is to just be open and fair," he said. "If your roommate does

something that bothers you, you should talk to them about it in a respectful way. You have to be willing to respect their needs and talk about things to find a way that works best for everyone. If you are not open about your issues, then grudges will form and nothing will be resolved."

Maturity is another quality that some students say is necessary for a good roommate relationship. Alma College graduate **Jordan Benzing ('12)** lived with the same person for three of the four years that he spent at Alma. Although they weren't best friends, he says, in all the time they lived together, they only fought once.

"Basically, we told each other we were idiots, sulked, then moved on with life and played cards," he said. "My best advice to incoming freshmen is don't be a tool, and clean up after yourself. Be an adult." Benzing says that behaving like responsible adults from the beginning of their first year was the most important thing in developing the quality of the relationship with his roommate.

Many Alma College students do not view having a roommate as a difficult thing to be endured, but rather an educational, eye-opening, and potentially fun situation. Simple, common-sense rules based on honest communication, flexibility, compassion, and responsibility can help ensure that it stays that way.

10 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE FROM ALMA

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

1. Become a leader in a group you're passionate about.
On such an intimate campus, you have the unique opportunity to not only become involved in an organization, but to shape the direction of that organization and the legacy of Alma College as a whole.

2. Step outside the bubble.
Through Alternative Breaks, Posey Global scholarships, and research and study abroad programs, Alma College offers you countless opportunities to use the lessons you learn on campus to serve and connect with people across the globe.

3. Volunteer in the Gratiot community.
The amount of time you will have on this campus is short, but through opportunities offered by the service learning program, the impact you make on the local community could be large.



Spray-painting the Spirit Rock with fellow members of a campus group by cover of night to raise awareness of an upcoming event is one of many experiences that can be considered unique to Alma.

4. Experience the arts.
Clack gallery exhibits, theatre and dance performances, and band, choir, and percussion ensemble concerts are only a few of the opportunities you have to experience the therapeutic power

5. Paint the Spirit Rock.
Like the campus itself, the rock on the lawn between DOW and SAC is constantly changing at the most unlikely hours to reflect the experiences closest to the hearts of you and your peers.

6. Visit the bog.
Officially known as the Alma College Ecological Station, the bog is a site of research for many students, but also a great place for a class picnic. Faculty approval is required.

7. Hang out with the president.
Despite his busy schedule, President Abernathy takes a large number of opportunities throughout the year to listen to students, including open office hours at Joe's.

8. Order Pizza Sam's the right way.
You can't pay with Munch Money, but if you order a pizza with your favorite toppings, double cut, double crust, herbs baked in, baked on a screen, we promise it will be worth it.

9. Be a DJ for WQAC 90.9 FM.
Through the student-run college radio station, you can spend an hour each week broadcasting your favorite (non-explicit) music to the campus, or even hosting a talk show on any subject.

10. Form an unlikely friendship.
The face that you pass every Tuesday and Thursday on your way to SAC could end up being one of your best friends when you graduate, so don't be afraid to reach out to other students.

Who's who on campus: helpful people to know

By ANNA WEBER
FEATURE EDITOR

Even though Alma College is quite small, a freshman can still easily feel overwhelmed and lost when they first arrive. All the unfamiliar faces can make a person feel awkward and out of place. Some people on campus, though, can be extremely helpful for students to know. They can be resources for help with all kinds of issues: social, academic, health, psychological, religious, and more.

Resident assistants (RAs) act as resources on a wide base of general issues. They can offer social advice, suggestions for managing stress or homesickness, and help students get involved on campus.

According to **Ciara Lynch ('15)**, a RA for Bruske, they are meant to act as friends and resources.

"When I first came to Alma, I didn't know where anything was, and RAs were there to help everyone," Lynch said.

ChelseaRae Rowley ('15), another RA for Bruske, agreed.

"RAs have been in school," she said. "They can give insight, ways to fit in, ways to get involved. They're a comforting ear, and you can confide in them."

Hall Directors like Bruske's Jessica Wolverton function in a similar way, but they are live-in, professional staff members. They provide support for the RAs and take on administrative duties.

"RAs really do care; it's not just their job to get to know people," Wolverton said. "They are the easiest and best connection because they are in the community."

While RAs may be able to offer

some academic help in the form of study tips, there is one group of faculty whose area of expertise is guiding students through the sea of information available at Alma.

In the library, there is a desk in the lobby to the right side with a large sign saying, "Ask Questions Here." The reference librarians behind this desk are there specifically to assist students in finding the information they are looking for. They know how to navigate the online academic resources and databases, enabling students to obtain information without having to sift through the thousands of results generated by sites like Google. They can also help direct students to the part of the library containing books on the subject in question.

Steven Vest, associate professor of library science, is the head of reference and instruction in Alma College's library.

"So many freshmen are afraid to ask for help," Vest said. "They wander around the library, not

"[Freshmen] wander around the library, not finding what they need and not wanting to ask for help. We're here to help...whether it's something really simple, like how to find a book, or a really complicated research question."

-Chelsea Duff ('13)

finding what they need and not wanting to ask for help. We're here to help do research and help answer questions, whether it's something really simple, like how to find a book, or a really complicated research question."



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Academic Support and Disability Services Coordinator Nate Payovich (left), Career Planning Coordinator Anneliese Fox (middle), and Director Ginna Holmes (right) assist students in planning and achieving goals throughout college.

He added that he and other librarians are willing to meet with a student multiple times to help research.

Functioning as a student support center, the Academic and Career Planning (ACP) office provides services such as tutoring, strategic learning classes, career planning and searching, advocacy and support for students with disabilities, off-campus study planning, and mentoring programs.

According to the Alma College website, the purpose of the ACP office is "to provide opportunities for Alma College students to develop the academic, personal, and professional skills that will be helpful in successfully transitioning through Alma College and into professional life." Different staff members in the office have different roles; for example, Anneliese Fox is the

career planning coordinator, and Nate Payovich is the academic support and disability services coordinator.

Upon arriving at school, one of the first things students want to do is register their computers to the network so that they can access the Internet from their rooms. The residence halls all use Ethernet, and it can be difficult to get started. To help with this, Residential Computer Consultants (RCCs) live in the dorms. They are students employed by the Information and Technology (IT) department to help with computer problems. **Zachary Felton ('13)** is a RCC in the Wright Avenue Apartments.

"They're the first ones you go to with computer problems, before the Help Desk, ideally," said Felton. According to Alma's website, RCCs can also help with Sophos-related problems, such as

viruses and spyware.

In addition to the RCCs, the IT Help Desk is another place students can go for computer help. Located in the basement of the library, the desk is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Help Desk also has online resources at helpdesk.alma.edu, where students can submit their questions to be answered by either the student's RCC or another IT staff member.

Naturally, there are many more helpful people on campus: Wellness Center staff, professors, Alma College Chaplain Rev. Carol Gregg, and a wide range of other students, faculty, and support staff. It takes time to become comfortable in an environment as different as college but, with the help of these friendly faces, the transition can be fairly quick and painless.

Budgeting your time between books and buddies

By RYAN HERZOG
COPY EDITOR

Like most Alma College students, **Chelsea Duff ('13)** admits that she's "over-involved" in all of the activities she does over the school year; however, her lack of time hasn't changed her passions. She said she just has to manage her time more than she did in high school.

"I would say the challenge that's most unique to Alma College is just finding time to do everything that you want to do, especially when there is so much to explore, and you may find interests that you never knew you had," she said.

For many students, college is a time when opportunities become much more numerous than they

were in the past. Here, social activities thrive and take on a new life. There are parties every

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-Chelsea Duff ('13)

weekend, people living in dorms with others, and a nearly endless list of clubs, service projects, and Greek houses to get involved in. On top of that, the academic side becomes harder with more

homework, lectures to attend, and credits to fulfill. So, how do students find ways to navigate that thin road between being a social butterfly and being a bookworm?

One big way to make sure to budget your time is to figure out what it is that's most important to you. This was especially true for **Danielle Redilla ('13)** during her freshman year. Early on, she joined far too many clubs to devote enough time to. She was "overinvolved and undercommitted," a proverb regularly recited by Alma professors.

"I wanted to get a 4.0, be involved in every club, and have a large group of friends, and that simply isn't doable," she said. "It's better to get good grades—they don't have to be perfect—have a group of friends that you like spending time with, and be involved in a few organizations that really matter to you."

Redilla found her balance by not letting one aspect of her life take priority over another. In order to keep up on her schoolwork, she

would tell herself that she could only go hang out with friends after she did a certain amount of reading or homework. Budgeting

"[I] truly enjoy taking a leadership role on campus and in the community [and] talking to new people. That's how you learn and grow. It's terrifying at first, but it's so worth it."

-Hilary Miller ('14)

her time to certain events made sure she got enough time for everything she wanted to do.

It's also important to choose your friends wisely, according to **Hilary Miller ('14)**. She said that academics and social life don't always have to conflict. She

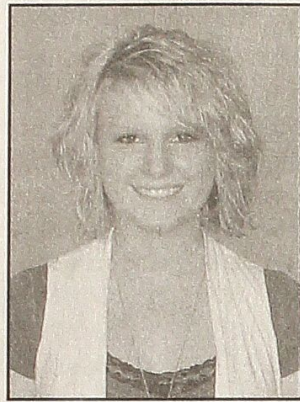
has successfully incorporated the two, making many friends through her classes. She met most of the people she now hangs out with in study parties or academic clubs, and they are all highly motivated and realize the importance of good grades.

Miller is now a resident assistant, taking the time to socialize with her staff and residents. She also is involved with Bible study in the chapel, holds the scholarship chair of Phi Sigma Sigma, serves as vice president of Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe, and is active in many more organizations on campus.

"College has changed me from a quiet, reserved wallflower to a beautiful butterfly," she said. "I still have a tendency to be a little shy at first, but I am no longer afraid to be myself around other people. [I] truly enjoy taking a leadership role on campus and in the community [and] talking to new people. That's how you learn and grow. It's terrifying at first, but it's so worth it."



Name: Katelyn Hadrian ('14)
What I love about Alma:
“[I love] the close-knit environment, being with my Gamma Phi Beta sisters, and the atmosphere; everyone’s so nice.”



Name: Morgan Beeler ('14)
What I love about Alma:
“I love the opportunities that Alma offers, like P-Global, the Alma Global Challenge, spring terms, study abroad, service learning, and Model UN.”



Name: Samantha Bohy ('13)
What I love about Alma:
“I love Alma. My favorite parts are the atmosphere and the people.”

Living life on the fly:
The perks of curiosity

BY LISA FOLKMIRE
OPINION EDITOR

I used to try to jump off chairs to see if I could fly. Not when I was ten—that would be weird. Or thirteen. I guess that would be weirder. But I used to jump off chairs to see if I could fly. I think I was four. Yeah, that sounds about right.

I don't really know why you should know that. And maybe you would have thought different of me if the first thing you knew about me wasn't the fact that I used to test my abilities at flight by leaping off of furniture.

I mean, if I were to tell myself a year ago that I would spend fifteen minutes at a Ghanaian gas station stuck in a van full of British sixteen-year-olds, I would have thought that I had the weirdest life experiences ever. I mean, really, who does that?

It's almost as insane as testing gravity along with your parents' strict rules on standing on furniture.

But, you know what? If I had the power to go back in time fifteen years ago and tell myself that I should not waste my time attempting to test the laws of aerodynamics, I wouldn't.

And I wouldn't go back one year ago to tell myself that I would end up going to Ghana for a summer, either, because my sense of curiosity has shaped my life more than any of my personal goals.

I came to Alma as an extremely strong-minded freshman. I knew what I wanted. I knew where I would live for the next four years. I knew what clubs I would join. I knew what my major would be. I had my future completely planned out—especially my class schedules for the next few years.

I did not, however, have a single clue as to how my year would actually turn out.

For the record, I do this a lot. I'll make plans for a day weeks ahead of time, plan to stick to the rigid schedule I set up, and completely wing it the day of.

I'm more ready for a sporadic lifestyle than I trust myself to be.

Look at me, halfway through this article and I haven't even reached my main point. I planned for this to go differently. See what I did there?

Back to the story. Back to the plan.

I came to Alma planning on being a secondary education major. I also wanted to live in the Creative Arts house my junior year, join umpteen million clubs,

and have my first major travel experience in Europe.

And I was adamant against joining Model UN Even if all of my friends were doing it. I was going to be the cool one who sat back and relaxed all of freshman year.

Except now I live in the Model UN house and have an abundance of western business attire and a clipboard. A very colorful clipboard.

I was also going to wait to start a P-Global until my junior year. I had the typical excuses: “My parents would freak out and malaria is icky and I've never even left the country and I just really want to travel somewhere fancy for my first international experience, like Europe.”

Did I mention that I just got back from Ghana two weeks ago? I can thank a P-Global for that.

That major idea? Secondary education? Turns out, I don't really care for high school kids. At least, I don't care for high school kids who don't care. They just make my blood-pressure rise to dangerous levels. That's not a healthy field to go into.

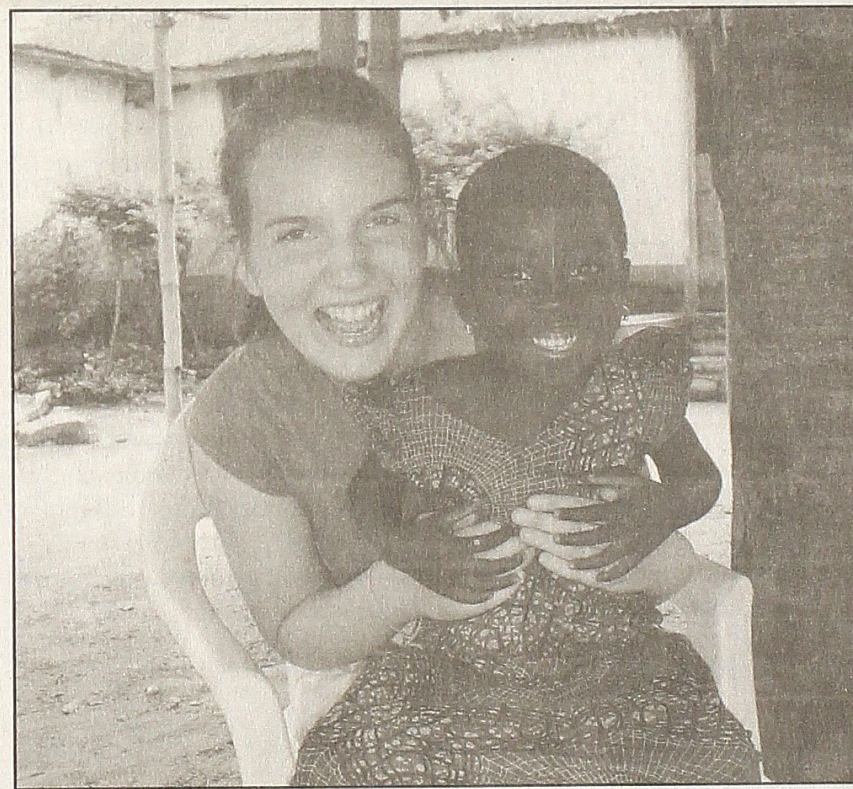
So I changed it within my first month at Alma to English and philosophy.

See, if I had stuck to my plans, I would have had a totally different year. But honestly, my freshman year was made by my sporadic decisions.

I started a radio show with a friend the day after I found out I could. I met my best friends after joining something that I swore all of first term that I would never try. My entire summer became life changing just because I clicked “send” on an application.

Split-second decisions made my freshman year. All because of a little curiosity—just like the kind that made me jump off the chairs.

Lisa Folkmire's ('15) curiosity and openness to the experiences Alma College offers led to her life-changing P-Global volunteer trip to Ghana.



Lisa Folkmire: Opinion Editor

Six ways to flunk
your freshman year

BY MASON WARLING
NEWS EDITOR

Between ACTs, application essays, and working hard in high school, each and every incoming freshman to Alma College has walked a long road to get to this first week of “college life.” With that life comes a lot of freedom as well as responsibilities.

Some students every year choose to exercise that freedom in a way that gets them out of the education system almost as fast as possible: by flunking out their first year. To that end, The Almanian submits this list of six steps you can take to make your college experience as unrewarding as possible.

First: Don't go to class. Since nobody (besides the more concerned and watchful professors, or your advisor) will hound you for not attending class, you're free not to show up whenever you feel like it. Some students like to at least appear for quizzes and tests, but those are optional as well. Take them or leave them.

Second: Don't join an organization. Campus organizations will suck you in with fun activities and stick you with students who have interests similar to yours. The time you'd spend with your organization(s) could be better spent elsewhere, like napping in your room or watching TV.

Third: Don't make friends. Under no circumstances should you get to know your new classmates. They will probably want to hang out and/or have fun, or maybe even introduce you to new experiences. Instead, you could post photos of your high-school friends all over your dorm room and pine away for the good old days of 12th grade. Besides, new college friends will probably be in class when you want to ditch and hang out, so what would be the point?

Fourth: Don't study. Studying leads to the possibility of doing well on quizzes and tests, which will prevent you from flunking out of school. Worst case scenario: You may end up making friends with students who will want to study with you, which conflicts with Step 3.

Fifth: If you can do it tomorrow, don't do it today. When you have a language test coming up, don't make vocabulary flash cards until at least an hour before the test. Is there some concept you don't understand in one of your lectures? Don't make an appointment to talk to your professor until the day before your final exam. Professors like to be kept on their toes.

Finally, sixth: Never withdraw from classes or change your schedule. You are 100 percent stuck with your classes. There is no flexibility. Ignore any advice to the contrary from your advisor. For a step further, don't ever meet with your advisor. If you hate your professor, just quit going to their class. Withdrawing is a waste of two perfectly good minutes of your life. Besides, if you withdraw, you won't receive the E that you are paying so much for.

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!

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

OPINION

August 27-September 2, 2012

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How to budget your time between books and buddies

BY RYAN HERZOG
COPY EDITOR

Like most Alma College students, **Chelsea Duff ('13)** admits that she's "over-involved" in all of the activities she does over the school year; however, her lack of time hasn't changed her passions. She said she just has to

and credits to fulfill. So, how do students find ways to navigate that thin road between being a social butterfly and being a bookworm?

One big way to make sure to budget your time is to figure out what it is that's most important to you. This was especially true for **Danielle Redilla ('13)** during her freshman year. Early on, she joined far too many clubs to devote enough time to. She was "overinvolved and undercommitted," a proverb regularly recited by Alma professors.

"I wanted to get a 4.0, be involved in every club, and have a large group of friends, and that simply isn't doable," she said. "It's better to get good grades—they don't have to be perfect—have a group of friends that you like spending time with, and be involved in a few organizations that really matter to you."

"I wanted to get a 4.0, be involved in every club, and have a large group of friends and that simply isn't doable. It's better to get good grades - they don't have to be perfect - have a group of friends you like spending time with, and be involved in a few organizations that really matter to you."

-Danielle Redilla ('13)

manage her time more than she did in high school.

"I would say the challenge that's most unique to Alma College is just finding time to do everything that you want to do, especially when there is so much to explore, and you may find interests that you never knew you had," she said.

For many students, college is a time when opportunities become much more numerous than they were in the past. Here, social activities thrive and take on a new life. There are parties every weekend, people living in dorms with others, and a nearly endless list of clubs, service projects, and Greek houses to get involved in. On top of that, the academic side becomes harder with more homework, lectures to attend,

her time to certain events made sure she got enough time for everything she wanted to do.

It's also important to choose your friends wisely, according to **Hilary Miller ('14)**. She said

"[I] truly enjoy taking a leadership role on campus and in the community [and] talking to new people. That's how you learn and grow. It's terrifying at first, but it's so worth it."

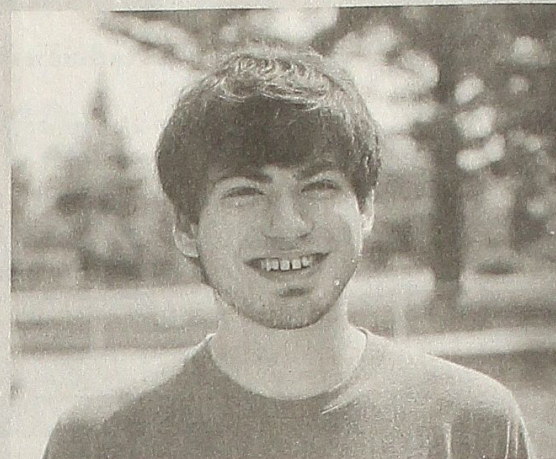
-Hilary Miller ('14)

that academics and social life don't always have to conflict. She has successfully incorporated the two, making many friends through her classes. She met most of the people she now hangs out with in study parties or academic clubs, and they are all highly motivated and realize the importance of good grades.

Miller is now a resident assistant, taking the time to socialize with her staff and residents. She also is involved with Bible study in the chapel, holds the scholarship chair of Phi Sigma Sigma, serves as vice president of Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe, and is active in many more organizations on campus.

"College has changed me from a quiet, reserved wallflower to a beautiful butterfly," she said. "I still have a tendency to be a little shy at first, but I am no longer afraid to be myself around other people. [I] truly enjoy taking a leadership role on campus and in the community [and] talking to new people. That's how you learn and grow. It's terrifying at first, but it's so worth it."

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Alma College freshmen,

As the new editor-in-chief of The Almanian, I would like to offer up my voice as one of the hundreds welcoming you to our Alma College community.

The editorial staff traditionally comes to campus a week before you to work through the chaos and confusion surrounding move-in preparations and produce what you hold in your hands, our Freshman Edition. Everything in this edition was designed with your interests in mind, to provide whatever information and advice we have to offer in helping you transition smoothly into college life and make the most of your time here.

As a campus newspaper, we focus primarily on events and trends that occur on campus or that directly affect Alma students. The Almanian itself is an inextricable element of student life; it does not exist entirely in an imaginary, idealized vacuum of journalistic objectivity.

In such a fast-paced environment, we want to remind you of all the events, student groups, and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities at your fingertips and to show you how they can make you a better person.

At the same time, we also hope to brighten your Mondays with

each coming edition that will not-so-magically appear in the first floor lobby of SAC, at the entrance to Hamilton Commons, and in residence hall lobbies.

In order to do our job, however, we need a little help from you.

We need you to read. Even just by scanning the weekly events column in our news section, you can find a plethora of opportunities that are relevant to your future, useful for your personal development, or just plain fun.

We promise to make it easy for you to read – you can pick up a paper copy, browse a complete archive of our articles at www.almanian.org, and like our Facebook page or follow our Twitter for regular updates.

The most important thing we need from you is feedback. Let us know when an article does not answer all of your questions or leaves out an important perspective, or when you have the experiences that make you glad you chose Alma College.

Feel free to write a letter to the editor and send it through the campus mail system or to my email address (details for each available below).

Here's to the start of another successful year!

Sincerely,
Joshua Zeitler
The Almanian Editor-in-Chief

the Almanian.

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

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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.

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Scots football starts season against Heidelberg Univ. at home Saturday

By **TARYN HANDYSIDE**
SPORTS EDITOR

Anyone that steps on campus is sure to notice the large group of guys walking around in cleats, eating huge amounts of food at lunch, and practicing on the newly renovated Bahlke Field.

It's football season, and our guys are working hard to make a name for Alma College this year.

The Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) coaches selected the Scots to finish fifth in the league this year, after finishing 1-5 in the league and 2-8 overall in 2011.

Adrian College was picked to finish first in the MIAA, with Albion in second, Trine in third

and Hope in fourth. Kalamazoo and Olivet were picked behind Alma.

The season will be different this year: a new Challenge Series is being taken into effect, where MIAA schools play against member colleges of the Northern Athletic Conference. The first games in the four-year series will be played Saturday, September 15 at NAC member sites, with MIAA schools to host next year's games in the series.

With the Alma Scots football team under the reign of a new coach, the community has high hopes for this season. Greg Pscodna was a former head coach at Defiance College and an assistant coach on national championship teams at Grand

Valley State University and Albion College.

"Greg is a person that has a great coaching resumé and has had success at every stop. He is the right person to continue the tradition of Alma football and take our program to the next level," Athletic Director John Leister said.

The Scots started off their 2012 season with an intra-squad scrimmage last Saturday. The Scots' offense ran a total of 115 plays against their very own defense, although no real score was kept.

The defense came out on top with eleven quarterback sacks during the scrimmage. They also finished with two interceptions, two recovered fumbles and eight

broken up passes.

Offensive standouts for the Scots were **Robert Feeman ('14)**, connecting five of nine passes for 86 yards and a 40-yard touchdown to **Joey Jerisk ('14)**. Jerisk also had five receptions for the Scots.

On defense, **Luke Kanine ('13)** and **Al Lesperance ('16)** both notched five tackles. Lesperance also had two quarterback sacks.

"I think that when everyone thinks about the football season, they think about homecoming," **Autumn Root ('14)** said.

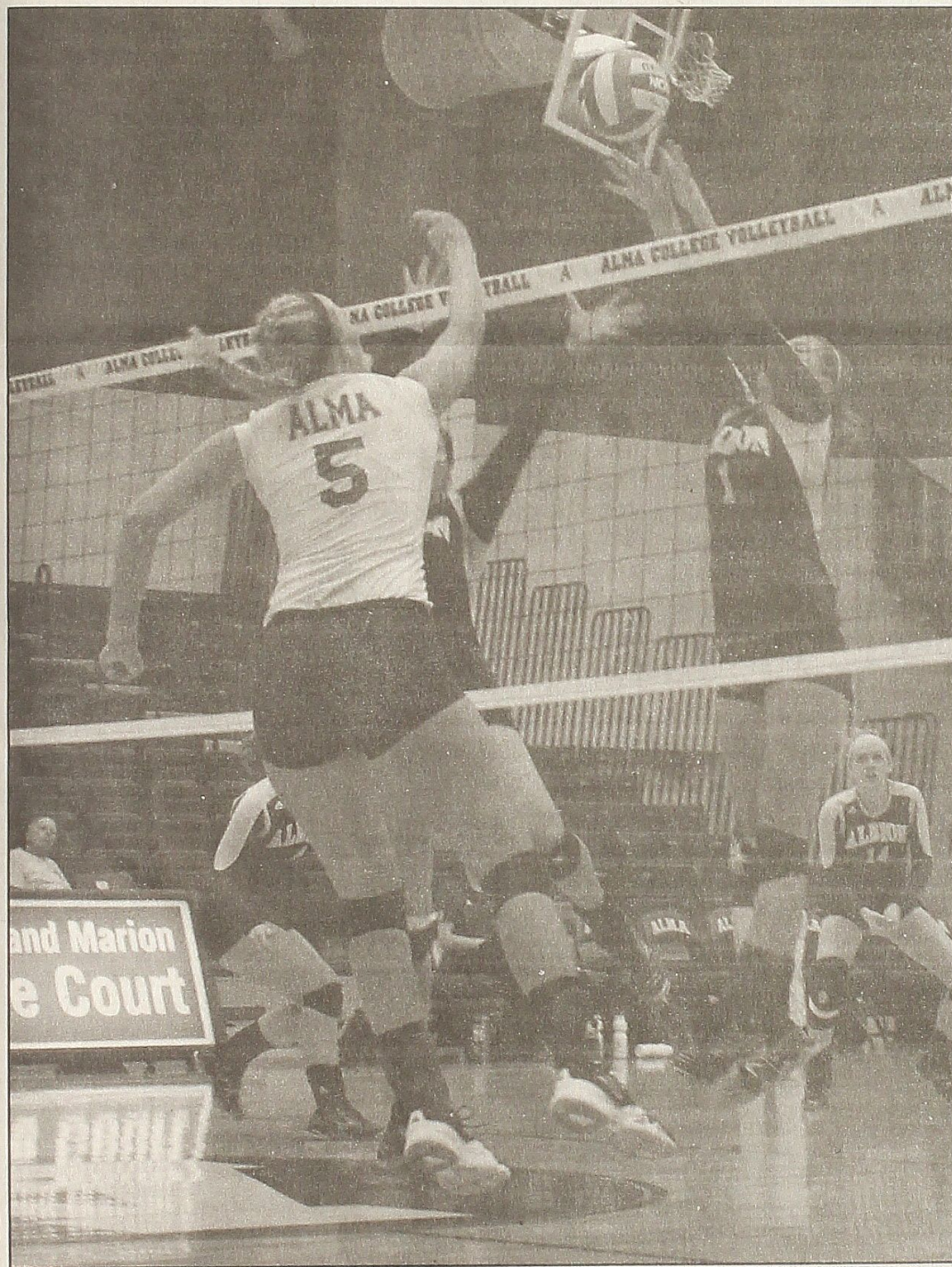
If you have never been on Alma College's campus during homecoming, you are in for a big surprise this year. You are sure to hear the distinct sound of bagpipes throughout campus

and the booming marching band practicing well into the morning.

This year the Maroon Monsoon will be putting on events during homecoming week. So far, a 4 on 4 soccer tournament is set up for August 28, where free original Maroon Monsoon t-shirts will be given out. Also on the 28, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) will host a Freshman Survival Guide. Of course, there will be Spirit week on the week of the football game.

"We are planning many exciting things for the campus and community for homecoming this year. The Maroon Monsoon and SAAC want it to be fun for everyone, and it will definitely be a homecoming to remember," **Alyssa Adams ('14)** said.

What it takes to be a student-athlete at Alma



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Left: **Erika VanHavel ('14)** led the volleyball team with 631 assists last year. Above: **Morgan Waier ('15)** started five key games last year for the women's soccer team.

By **TARYN HANDYSIDE**
SPORTS EDITOR

For some athletes, competitive sports do not end after high school. Alma College offers 22 sports for the athletes who aren't ready to give up their passion to play, but also understand the importance of an education.

Students at Alma say that being a student-athlete can be very time consuming and stressful, but, most of all, rewarding. The hours of hard work spent in the classroom is added to hours of hard work participating in a sport. The athletes at Alma College say that they are proud to be a Scot.

"It is important for the freshmen to understand the differences between high school and college sports before they start playing," **Kayla Smart ('13)** said.

"The atmosphere is the biggest difference. It may not be as community oriented, but in college you have your teammates to count on for everything. You live with them, practice with them, and study with them. You need to depend on them and it's much easier to do that in college," **Grace Wheeler ('15)** said.

Many athletes, like **Danielle Hicks ('13)**, are able to play more than one sport at Alma.

"The biggest difference is the level of play in college. We play at faster speeds with more physical contact. The preparations for these differences are also more intense so that, come game time, we are ready. With two-a-days, sometimes three-a-days, plus the weight room, the level of fitness is elevated," Hicks said.

Along with getting your projects and homework in on

time, student-athletes say that it is very hard to miss classes because of their sporting event.

"The level of dedication required from the athlete is the biggest difference. You base so many decisions throughout the day on how your choice will affect your practice, game, race, or performance. Also, obviously, [there's] the intensity of it all. I think that it's a lot harder to balance school, work, social life, and sports in college. That said, participating in college sports is definitely a choice I don't regret," **Robin Morrison ('13)** said.

Mostly every athlete can agree that the dedication to the sports is one of the biggest differences between high school and college.

"The biggest difference is the commitment to the sport. Everyone at the college level is there to compete against some

fine tuned athletes," **Kyle Aho ('14)** said.

Even the coaches agree that college sports are very different from high school.

"College sports are much more competitive in practice and in matches. Most of the girls on a collegiate volleyball team were the best player at their high school. They may come here and be one of the worst.

Also, the game is played much faster while the conditioning and training puts a lot of wear and tear on their bodies. They are sore after three days of practice," Coach **Sarah Dehring** said.

Athletes say that another main difference is that a college sport is like a job to many student-athletes; a lot is expected of them.

"College sports are at a much higher competition level. You train, practice, and play harder.

The players have more talent and experience compared to just playing for fun. They are more time consuming, so it makes it harder to keep up with academics, but it's so worth it," Smart said.

"College sports are a lot faster and a lot more intense," said **Jake Oberg ('15)**. "You have to be at the top of your game every time you go out to practice or step onto the game field. You can't take a break."

The consensus of student-athletes is that playing a sport in college is very rewarding and will leave you with life-long memories.

"I've made so many good friends both on the cross country team and other teams because of it. And it's taught me so many lessons that I would never have learned in the classroom," **Robin Morrison ('13)** said.

SPORTS

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Scotlight: Alma competitive cheer earns bid to national competition

By KAYLA ROY
PHOTO EDITOR

Alma College's competitive cheerleading squad may be a new addition to campus, but already the team has received a bid to attend a national competition.

The national event will take place in Daytona Beach, Florida,

from April 10-14, 2013.

After just three days of preparation on campus, the newly formed team traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to attend workshops and perform dances, stunts, and cheers. At the end of the team's time in Kentucky, they received a bronze bid to attend Nationals.

This upcoming school year holds much promise for the cheerleaders. By cheering for

many of Alma's athletic teams, including football and men's and women's basketball, the team hopes to, in **Jaycee Nelson's ('13)** words, "watch the program grow and watch peoples' reactions to our improvements."

Nelson, the team's sole senior cheerleader, feels "like a proud mom after practice" because the squad "all works so hard and it shows."

The team welcomed a new

head coach, Michelle Sabourin at the beginning of the season. Her goal is to get Alma's name out in the community in a positive light.

The team also added a male cheerleader this year, **Jerry Cupples ('16)**. However, he will not partake in competitions. The team hopes to recruit more males in future years to be able to compete in the co-ed division at competitions.

Alma College cheerleading is starting a new chapter, and Nelson says she is really excited to show Alma what cheerleading is really about.

"We condition, we work hard, we sweat, we bleed, and we have to push ourselves just as any athlete does, and [we] are so excited that people will get to see that and hopefully gain an appreciation for what the sport is."



Above: Jaycee Nelson ('13) is the Scots' only senior for their first year of competitive cheer. Upper right: Brittany Leppien ('16) is one of 11 freshmen on the 2012 cheer team. Lower right: Stacia Holcomb ('16) is a flyer for the Scots during competitions.

Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

BIG GAMES TO WATCH THIS FALL

September 1: Football vs. Heidelberg University*
September 4: Women's Soccer vs. UC Santa Cruz*
Volleyball vs. Kalamazoo College*
September 6: Football vs. Adrian College*
Men's Soccer vs. Andrews University*
September 8: Men's and Women's Cross Country at Knight
Invitational (Grand Rapids, MI)
Men's Golf at MIAA Jamboree (Kalamazoo, MI)
September 18: Men's Soccer vs. Hope College*
September 21: Volleyball vs. Trine College*
September 22: Men's Soccer vs. Kalamazoo College
Women's Golf at MIAA Jamboree*
Women's Soccer vs. Calvin College*

September 29: Men's Golf at MIAA Jamboree*
October 2: Volleyball vs. Adrian College*
October 6: Women's Golf at Jamboree (Adrian, MI)
October 9: Women's Soccer vs. Adrian College*
October 19: Volleyball vs. Hope College*
October 20: Football vs. Albion College*
Women's Soccer vs. Kalamazoo College*
October 27: Men's and Women's Cross Country at
MIAA Championship (Albion, MI)
November 3: Football vs. Kalamazoo College*

* home game