





## Service Week kicks off with community activities

By JOSHUA ZEITLER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Affirming Alma College's mission to prepare graduates who serve generously, the service learning program continues to offer opportunities for each student to participate in a meaningful service project that matches his or her interests.

"Whether it is through an Academic Service Learning course that links a service component to the course objectives or through a student organization that reaches out to meet a local need, the Alma College student can truly make a difference as a volunteer," said Service Learning Coordinator Anne Ritz.

"The Service Learning office helps students find fulfilling service opportunities that meet their interests," said **Alaina Dague ('13)**, community service intern. "An extraordinary number of Alma College students participate in service learning opportunities, creating a culture of service here at the college."

To raise awareness of the diversity of service programs accessible to students, this week has been designated as "Service Week."

"Service Week is a way to showcase and highlight various service opportunities that students can participate in throughout the year," Ritz said.

Events began last Saturday with Lucky MacDuck Day, where

members of the Alma community raced rubber ducks down the Pine River to raise money for the Pine River Arts Council.

The most informative events of the week, however, will occur on Tuesday, when there will be an organization fair, as well as informational meetings about Alternative Breaks and Alpha Phi Omega, the college's co-ed service fraternity.

Student organizations, local non-profits, and businesses are invited to the Volunteer and Organization Fair on Tuesday from 4:30-7:00 p.m. In van Dusen to "network, recruit, and promote local opportunities," Ritz said. "Local non-profits such as the American Red Cross, Department of Human Services, Lansing Area AIDS Network, Masonic Pathways, and Women's Aid Service will be attending.

Amidst the informational sessions about programs available throughout the coming year, several service projects will be open to student participation throughout the week, as well.

On Tuesday and Wednesday in Sodexo, Alpha Phi Omega will encourage students to decorate "Meals on Wheels" bags to brighten the days of local senior recipients.

In addition, the First Presbyterian Church encourages student volunteers to assist in preparing and serving meals at their Community Cafe each Thursday. Throughout Service Week, students can donate meals or munch money to the funding of this charitable service.

Gratiot County United Way will host a scavenger hunt Thursday at Alma's Elk Lodge, as well. For more information on how to be come involved with this organization, students should contact Shelly Buschle by email at sbuschle@gratiotunitedway.com.

Another way to get involved in the spirit of the week is through the "Random Acts of Kindness" BINGO game beginning Monday, and lasting until Tuesday, Sept. 18. A game can be picked up at various locations around campus, such as DOW, SAC, SAGA, Joe's, and the library, and returned completed to the Service Learning office in the basement of the chapel to be entered in a prize drawing.

"Students, and faculty can win a BINGO by holding the door for someone, meeting someone new, calling an old friend, and more," said Dague.

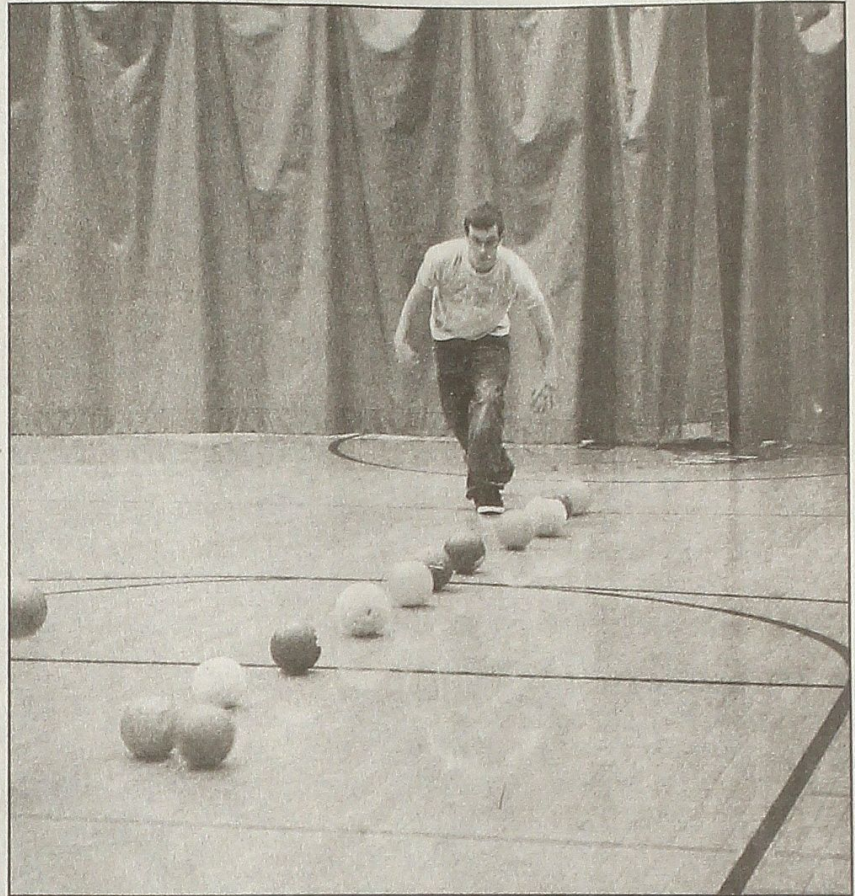
Students can also receive credit for enrolling in courses with service learning components, which include elements of community outreach and reflection.

"Participation in service projects helps students understand the importance of working collaboratively to meet campus and community needs," Dague said.

"While each term varies, typically over 350 students are enrolled in Academic Service Learning courses each term," said Ritz.

Students having trouble meeting loan payment can also participate in service learning work-study placements.

"Seven percent of our work-



Kayla Keenan: Freelance Photographer

**Organizations schedule numerous activities that benefit the campus and greater Alma community, including games for kids, science demonstrations, and recruitment events.**

study dollars are allocated for community service work-study at local non-profit agencies," Ritz said.

According to Ritz, the college partners with AC Headstart, Explore/Mentor PLUS, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Middle of the Mitten Learning Center, and Reading Buddies programs for work-study placements.

"Students have a variety of opportunities to serve in the local, national, and international communities, building upon their

skills and knowledge," Ritz said. "Through this direct involvement with communities and issues, leadership skills are shaped and developed. The Service Learning office partners with the Center for Responsible Leadership to encourage servant leadership in Alma students."

For more information about Alma College Service Learning or updates and reminders of events, like the Facebook page or follow the Twitter account, @Alma\_Service.

## Guidotti-Hernandez speaks for Hispanic Heritage Month

By ELLEN MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

It's mid-September and Hispanic Heritage Month is upon Alma College once more, starting Saturday and lasting until Oct. 15.

This year, a unique presentation by renowned speaker Nicole Guidotti-Hernandez will be the opening event for the month-long celebration at the college.

On Thursday at 7 p.m., Guidotti-Hernandez will be giving a presentation entitled "Child Citizen Subjects: From Dora the Explorer to the Dream Activists," in Dow L4. It is free and open to the public.

In addition, on Friday, Sept. 14 from 12:30-1 p.m., she will hold an informal discussion session in the Fireside Lounge. Students are encouraged to bring their lunch and to speak about and ask questions on important issues pertaining to her presentation.

Guidotti-Hernandez, associate professor of American studies and associate director of the Center for the Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas, is the author of the book "Unspeakable Violence: Remapping U.S. and Mexican National Imaginaries," as well as many various articles

covering issues related to Hispanic immigrants.

"I am very excited and interested to hear what she has to say about the importance that Dora the Explorer truly holds and what she represents," said **Caity Huffman ('15)**.

In this particular presentation, Guidotti-Hernandez will share with the Alma community her analysis of the images and rights of Latino youth in America.

Using the familiar cartoon show "Dora the Explorer" and, in particular, the character Dora, she will look at the image of such

their lives.

"Given that the presidential election is just around the corner and that the Obama administration has set records for deportations with 396,906 deportees from October 2010 through September of 2011," she explained, "it is only fitting that we take seriously the role of Latino children as citizen-subjects."

**Olivia Herrara ('15)**, who helped publicize this event, hopes that her efforts as well as that of HisCo (which is very much involved in the events throughout the upcoming month) will "pay off with a large crowd!"

"I'm excited to hear her analysis of illustrations of Latino youth in American media," she said.

Stephany Slaughter, associate professor of modern languages, was influential in bringing Guidotti-Hernandez to campus.

The two met at the PUEG (Programa Universitario de Estudios de Género—or Gender Studies Program) at the UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) when they both had post-docs at the same time.

They kept in touch and, on the occasion of Hispanic Heritage Month, Slaughter decided to ask her to share her expertise with Alma.

"I hope we would take away a certain thoughtfulness so that when we step into the polls, we have information influencing our decision that goes beyond any political spin," said Slaughter.

***"I am very excited and interested to hear what she has to say about the importance that Dora the Explorer truly holds and what she represents."***

**-Caity Huffman ('15)**

children and how they are viewed by the average American.

Guidotti-Hernandez will also touch on the DREAM Act (an acronym for Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) and how it would affect

## This week at Alma College

**Monday, September 10:**  
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9:00 a.m.  
Scottish Arts Movie Night: "Braveheart," 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 11:**  
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9:00 a.m.  
Organization Fair, 4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 12:**  
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9:00 a.m.

**Thursday, September 13:**  
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9:00 a.m.  
Community Cafe at First Presbyterian Church, 4:45 p.m.

**Friday, September 14:**  
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9:00 a.m.  
Brown Bag Informal Discussion with Guidotti-Hernandez in Fireside, Noon.

**Saturday, September 15:**  
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9:00 a.m.  
Comedy with Craig Shoemaker in Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall, 8:00 p.m.



## Continuation of party policy for small housing causes controversy on campus

By RYAN HERZOG  
COPY EDITOR

Greek and themed houses will continue following stricter guidelines this year when it comes to parties, according to the Student Life Office.

After last year's Tau Kappa Epsilon house fire and other events, Student Life instituted a new set of policies after a month-long moratorium on parties. These regulations were meant to better reflect those of other private colleges across the state, said David Blandford, director of campus life.

With the new policies come new regulations preventing parties larger than 70 people (denoted as "large parties") from taking

Life Handbook. These groups will also be responsible for their own transportation—and that of their guests, should they choose to sponsor a transportation service—on and off campus.

Smaller parties (40 guests or fewer) will be invitation only. Anyone without an invitation or name on the guest list must be turned away.

The complete Student Life Handbook is posted on the Alma College website. The party policy is located within Section 2 and Appendix I.

Blandford said the new policies were carefully researched and extracted from those set by other private colleges like Alma, making these policies more like those of other colleges around the state. With the new year, Blandford calls on Greek housing to test the new rules.

"There have been a limited number of small parties that have taken place with the policies, but no organization has done a large party yet," said Blandford. "Students need to test these policies so we can see if they will work or not. We look forward to working with the students to make a policy that will work for everybody."

With the new semester and new rules, Blandford and the rest of the Student Life office are unsure of how the student body will react with the new guidelines.

Some students are concerned that it creates a greater liability and burden on the students.

Tyler Jenkins ('13) said the policy puts too many people at risk when it comes to students.

"When you're at a fraternity, you're in a controlled environment," Jenkins said. "We have at least five people sober

at every party to watch what's going on and to facilitate risk management. When you go off campus, nobody's there to watch out for everybody."

Jenkins complained last year that the policy placed too much responsibility on the students and off the school.

"Third-party venues like Club Rox remove our safeguards, and [when there] everybody's only looking out for themselves," he

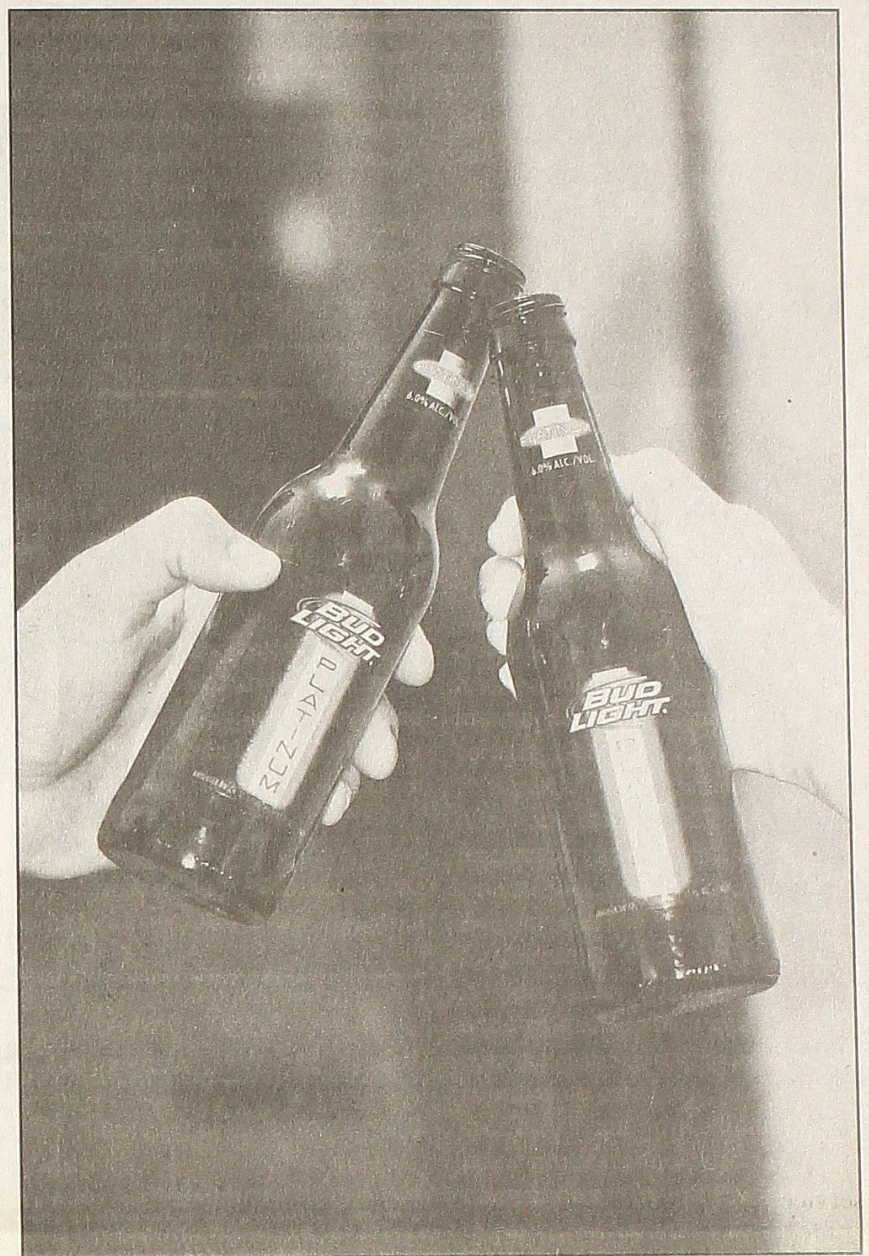
***"Third-party venues like Club Rox remove our safeguards, and everybody's only looking out for themselves. In a Greek house, everybody looks out for one another."***

-Tyler Jenkins ('13)

said. "In a Greek house everybody looks out for one another."

Jenkins claimed crime and other negative incidents happen more at places off campus than they do on campus.

Another big change with the party policy is the severity of punishments when a house violates them. For the first offense, the house loses party privileges for four weeks. The executive council of the house has to meet with Blandford for a policy retraining session, after which they must retrain their house. If any more violations occur, the house loses privileges for a semester, and other, more severe consequences,



Katlyn Chitwood: Freelance Photographer

**After a series of incidents in the past, administrators have become concerned about safety at large parties, causing them to institute stricter party rules at the end of last year.**

accompany each violation.

Along with the guidelines, Student Life has hired Greek Advisor Danielle Brandreth to act as a liaison between students and faculty. Blandford encourages Greek members to interact with Brandreth if they have any concerns or questions. As a start,

she has contacted the presidents of each Greek house and plans to meet with them all.

"Right now, it's really too early for all of us to know if this [new policy] is going to work or not," said Blandford. "All we can do is hope to create conditions for communication."

## Class of 2016 statistics show a boost in college's enrollment and diversity

By ABIGAIL DELANEY  
FREELANCE WRITER

The incoming class of both first-year and transfer students has already put itself in the books as the college's largest class to date. But it's not just these 488 people alone who are impressive—it's their diversity, as well.

While the official headcount of incoming students—as well as total enrollment—won't be available until mid-September, it appears that this is the fourth consecutive year that total enrollment has exceeded 1,400 students.

College administrators look to expand the college with this turnout. By doing this, they achieve both a new vision and one set long ago. With the high

enrollment rates, the college is well on its way to reaching the goals of its 2012-2017 Strategic Plan, available on the college's website.

In terms of attendance, the

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-Bob Garcia

plan aims to expand enrollment to 1,700 students by 2017. The levels of first-year and transfer students are projected to increase to 440 and 85, respectively. Percentages of minority and out-of-state

students have been adjusted according to these goals.

"Our minority [ratio] is the highest it has been for the longest time," said Vice President for Enrollment Bob Garcia. "And that's very good, because it's on line with the strategic plan we set out for ourselves."

The numbers continue to improve. Many students come from Michigan, but that is common. Alma has reached out everywhere: from Illinois to as far as California, and even from out of country to the Middle East and South America. In accordance to the strategic plan, efforts have been and will continue to be made to increase the number of students, specifically from China, say officials.

It is likely that the majority of students will return. On average, colleges experience 35 to 37 percent of their freshman class dropping out or not returning, as

reported in USA Today.

"Alma has somewhere around 18 percent of people who do not return," said Garcia.

Some reasons why the college has hosted record numbers of students in the past few years could be the opportunities Alma offers. The number of academic

***"I love it [here]. Everything just came together."***

-Alice Richard, ('13)

programs has swelled to 34, with biotechnology, environmental studies, anthropology, health care administration, and new media studies added within the past three years. In addition, varsity sports now include men's and women's lacrosse, wrestling, and women's bowling. Furthermore, the college

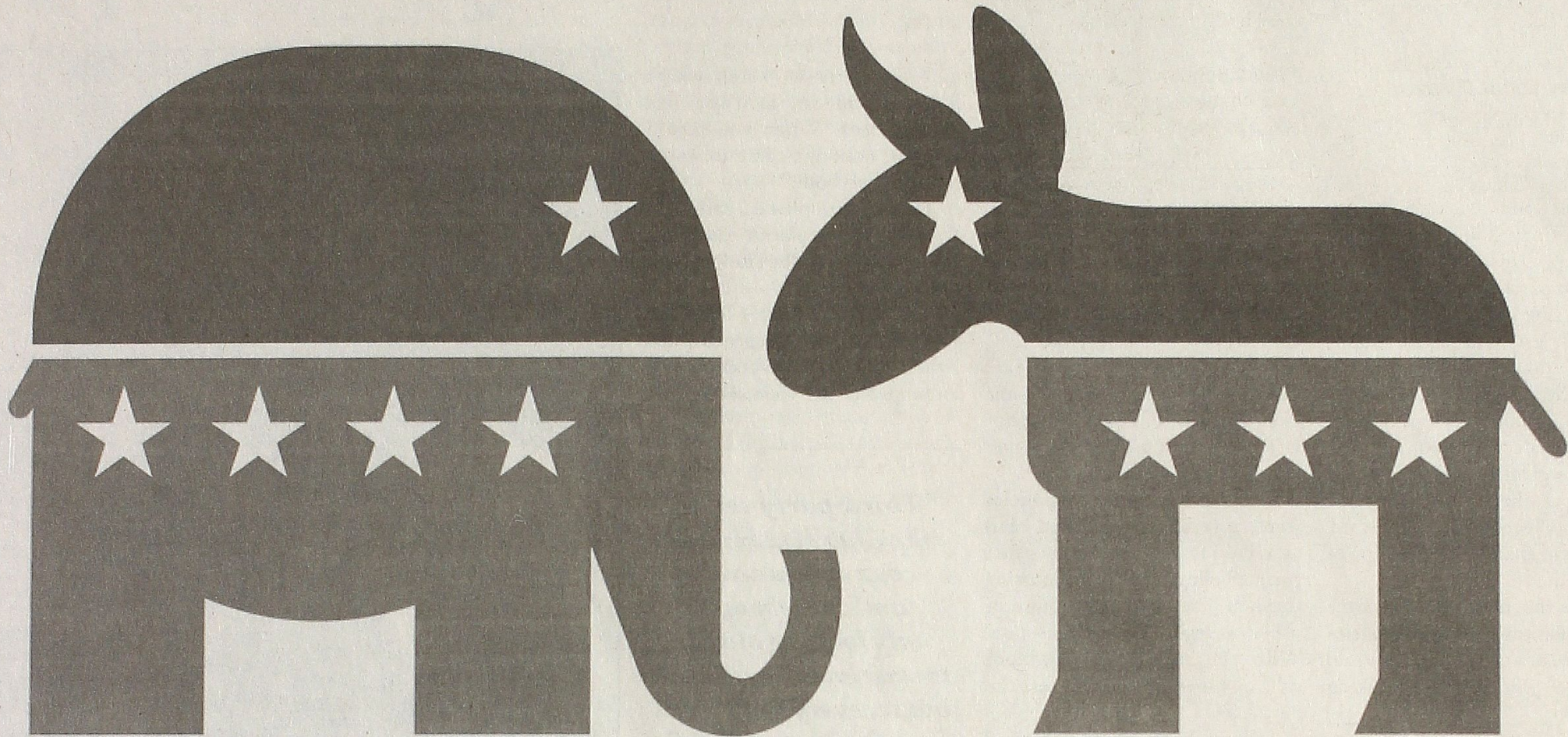
offers a multitude of ways to be involved on campus, from Greek life to student organizations to academic honor societies.

Senior Gelston Hall Resident Assistant Alice Richard ('12) has returned year after year to campus because "I love it [here]. Everything just came together. My freshman year, I changed [majors] from pre-med to English, which was a big change, and everyone was just very helpful and supportive of me."

The staff of Alma surely does much to help the students coming in. With Orientation Week—a week made so first-year students can wire themselves into the campus without being surrounded by knowledgeable upperclassmen—and a First Year Seminar where more than "how to take notes" conversations are going on, students enjoying the Alma atmosphere are ready to leave their mark on the school.



## New voters offered assistance to register for November election



DonkeyHater

Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

Alma College Democrats and Alma College Republicans both encourage students to vote in this year's election, even if they have never voted before. If students do not live in the Alma area, they can vote by absentee ballot if they contact their hometown clerk.

BY RACHEL LANE  
FREELANCE WRITER

Many students at Alma College will have their first opportunity to vote in a presidential election on Nov. 6. President of Alma College Democrats, **Chloe Secor ('14)**, has some advice on how to register.

"The Center for Responsible Leadership, Alma College Republicans, and Alma College Democrats on campus can all help you register, or you can fill out forms online," Secor said.

"We are a crucial part of society and it's important that we have our voices heard."

She says there are issues out there that affect college students every day.

Professor of Political Science Ed Lorenz agrees.

"There are a lot of political decisions that impact us," Lorenz said. "A lot of students need financial aid. And the healthcare system recently changed a law allowing your parents' healthcare to cover you until you're 26."

Lorenz said that students should help decide who their elected leaders will be. He said he has voted by absentee ballot before, a process many students find foreign.

"Get in touch with the election official in the place where you

***"There are people all over the world who die for the right to vote. It's our obligation as Americans to vote. If you don't vote in your first election, your likelihood to vote is much lower later on."***

-Margaret Peacock('13)

vote; contact your clerk," Lorenz said. "The clerk will mail your ballot to you or you can go in and pick it up. Follow directions

on the ballot they give you. Then mail the ballot in or turn it in to your local government office that runs elections."

There is a catch for students, though: "If a student has never voted before and also registered to vote via mail, then the first time you vote must be in person," Lorenz said. "You have to go home and vote or turn in your absentee ballot in person to show your ID for the first time."

Voting is legal in the U.S. for citizens once they turn 18. President of Alma College Republicans, **Margaret Peacock ('14)**, thinks Alma College students should take advantage of the right to vote.

"There are people all over the

world who die for the right to vote. It's our obligation as Americans to vote," Peacock said. "If you don't vote in your first election, your likelihood to vote is much lower later on."

Alma College is encouraging students to vote in November.

"There are a lot of events," Peacock said. "[The campus Republicans] are working on a film series showing how different groups gained the right to vote. At the first film, you can register to vote. Also, in SAGA, there will be a table where you can register to vote coming soon," Peacock said.

In order to be vote via absentee ballot, you must register for an absentee ballot 30 days before November 6.

## Three new professors join Alma's new media studies, education, and psychology departments

BY BEN KING  
STAFF WRITER

This year Alma College will welcome several new fulltime faculty members. Three of these professors recently joined the new media studies, education, and psychology departments. New visiting professors in English, integrative physiology and health science, biology, environmental science, business administration, and dance will teach classes as well this fall.

Anthony Collamati, Jessie Store, and Brandi Stupica have been placed on a tenure track as assistant professors.

Collamati will teach classes for the new media studies department. This fall, Collamati will instruct Introduction to Digital Media (NMS 101) and Media Systems and Influence (NMS 201). An alumnus of Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, Collamati

graduated in 1998 with a B.A. in English. In 2012, he graduated from Clemson University in South Carolina with a Ph.D. in

***"I missed living in the Midwest after I spent six years in graduate school at the University of Maryland. When I was looking for a job, I wanted to move back to the Midwest, and Alma reminded me of where I grew up. It already felt like home when I came for my interview."***

-Brandi Stupica

rhethorics, communication, and information design. While at Clemson, Collamati taught as a

graduate instructor.

Coming to the education department, Store will be teaching several courses, including children's literature and educational foundations. In 2001 she received her B.S. in education from the University of Malawi. Store furthered her education by acquiring her Ph.D. in teacher education and development (in mathematics) from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Hailing from the small town of Baltimore, Ohio, Stupica is joining the psychology department. Stupica was drawn to Alma's campus because "I grew up in a small town in Ohio and went to a small liberal arts college in Ohio for undergrad, so I missed living in the Midwest after I spent six years in graduate school at the University of Maryland," she said. "When I was looking for a job, I wanted to move back to the Midwest, and Alma reminded me of where I grew up. It already felt

like home when I came for my interview."

Stupica's past teaching

***"The student body was much larger [at the University of Maryland] than at Alma, so I rarely taught a student more than once...Now I can walk almost everywhere I need to go, and people in Alma are friendlier than in D.C."***

-Brandi Stupica

experiences are different from the opportunity she will have at Alma.

"I taught at the University of Maryland, which is much different

than Alma," she said. "The student body was much larger than at Alma, so I rarely taught a student more than once. College Park, where the University of Maryland is located, is a suburb of Washington, D.C., so day-to-day life is much different. Now, I can walk almost everywhere I need to go, and people in Alma are friendlier than in D.C."

There is no doubt that these new professors bring more to Alma than just their academic backgrounds. Their personal preferences and lives will add some flair to their teaching styles. Stupica said, "I have a lovely husband, Aaron Stupica, and a Saint Bernard, Charlie." Her favorite television shows include "True Blood" and "Dexter," and she is also a fan of the Harry Potter series and the band Blink-182.

Alma's new professors will bring both academic experience and their own personalities to campus.



Nature provides free fall flavors

BY BEN KING  
STAFF WRITER

With the beginning of the school season, fall has arrived. Students come to Alma College fresh faced and ready for the new year.

However, as the first semester rolls on, the wear and tear of class and other responsibilities begin to drain students of energy and good spirit. The monotony of a student's daily routine can become tiresome and even depressing at times. There are many things that Alma College students can do to erase that monotony and change up their daily routines.

Alma is in the heart of Michigan. During the fall, many different plants are in season and ready for harvest. To break this monotony I sometimes like to

*“The monotony of a student’s daily routine can become tiresome and even depressing at times.”*

-On repetitive schedules

spice up my morning routine with little tastes and treats from the wild.

Every morning after I wake up one of the first things I do is brew myself a fresh cup of coffee. While I love coffee, performing the same routine every day can wear off the allure and enjoyment of my hot morning drink.

To spruce up my coffee routine, sometimes I will add a little chicory. All around Alma and Michigan chicory can be

*“For those at Alma College who are tea drinkers there are several plants found throughout North America that are great for making delicious teas.”*

-On adding natural flavors to teas

found growing along the side of the roads and in open fields.

Chicory has small blue flowers, with a hairy stem and jagged leaves. If you wish to add this plant to your coffee to give it a sweet and savory flavor, the first thing to do is dig up the roots of the plant. After removing the roots from the ground, you will want to wash and remove all of the dirt. Once the roots have been cleaned, you will want to chop or mince them.

If the roots have been chopped into small uniform pieces then the chicory can be placed into an oven

at about 350 degrees for about 15 minutes. Once the roots are a golden brown they are ready.

When you're done, you can add one-third chicory roots to two-thirds coffee.

For those at Alma College who are tea drinkers, there are several plants found throughout North America that are great for making delicious teas. In Michigan there are many varieties of evergreen that can be used to make tasty and healthful drinks.

In making these teas one will want to harvest either spruce or cedar. Once a good tree has been found, remove a handful of needles. After collecting the evergreen, place the plant into a kettle or pot with water. Boil the water until it is an amber or golden brown color. The spruce when boiled will produce a flavor

*“It is pretty amazing how substitutes for items people use all over the world every day can be found growing in our own backyards.”*

-On using natural seasonings instead of buyng from the store

not unlike chamomile tea. If I am craving a little sweetness I will add honey. Both cedar and spruce are loaded with vitamin C, which



Photo courtesy of bookishgardener.com

Chicory--found throughout Michigan--can be used to give coffee a sweet flavor by digging up the root of the plant.

is great for strengthening the immune system.

There are so many tasty treats out there in the fields and woods. Some can even be good for your health. Using these wild foods is an excellent way to change up your daily routine. It is pretty

amazing how substitutes for items people use all over the world every day can be found growing in our own backyards. If we learn to understand what grows around us we can then use it to our best advantage - even if it only means sprucing up the morning a little.

College life hinders healthy sleep habits

BY RAY VISSER  
FREELANCE WRITER

A word of warning: an article about sleep written by a college student is a lot like a music review written by the band being reviewed.

That being said, at one point, I did not consider myself to be a typical college student. For most of my first semester of college, my roommate and I agreed that while I did, in fact, live in a college dorm room, partake of a college meal plan, and attend college classes, I was not, in fact, a college student at all.

Looking back, this conclusion was probably due to my roommate's jealousy towards my ridiculously easy and social-activity-friendly class schedule. I was able to finish what little homework I was assigned in record time, spend time with friends, and still get plenty of sleep every night.

So my knowledge of college sleep habits and norms is mostly secondhand; it is learned rather than experienced. But seeing as this column is my debut as a journalist, I figure now is as good a time as any to show off my investigative skills. Based on one year of college experience, interactions, conversations, observations, and the like, I've come up with this loose definition.

“Sleep (n.): the state of potentially restful and natural unconsciousness that generally occurs once every 24 hours and lasts anywhere from zero to nine hours, depending on the student's levels of motivation, hyperactivity, movie-marathon tolerance, blood alcohol, and unfinished homework, among others.”

Now I can get to a few clarifications. Note the “zero to nine hours” stipulation. Despite my best efforts to skew this range

*“Nobody really wants to be the one person who doesn’t quite feel like watching the entire extended ‘Lord of the Rings’ series in one sitting, but everybody secretly is that person.”*

-On staying awake for movie marathons

in the direction of “10 to 11,” I am forced to accept my abnormality in that regard.

Now for the “levels” section. Motivation factors into all the rest of the items on the list, but also stands alone as that general feeling of “I don't want to do the rest of today” that tends to strike during the slow late-afternoon hours.

Hyperactivity can either mean general energy (whether natural or caffeine-induced) or late-night slap-happiness, which factors into

the next level.

Movie-marathon tolerance: this is a divisive topic, for a simple reason. Nobody really wants to be the one person who doesn't quite feel like watching the entire extended “Lord of the Rings” series in one sitting, but everybody secretly is that person.

Blood alcohol is a touchy

subject, so I'll just leave it at this: higher levels tend to push sleep time toward the high end of the spectrum. Or something along those lines.

Unfinished homework, you say? What's that word after “unfinished”? I've never heard it before.

In case you didn't get the

impression (from my undoubtedly scientific conclusions) that I really have no idea what I'm talking about, let me tell you: I really don't have any idea what I'm talking about. That's why this is in the “opinion” section.

Now if you'll excuse me, I need to submit this article to my editor so I can get to bed on time.

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!

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



Book provides fifty shades of embarrassment

BY GARY NEMETH  
FREELANCE WRITER

The recent literary sensation, “Fifty Shades of Grey” by E L James, has sold more than 40 million copies worldwide and even set a record as the fastest-selling paperback novel of all time. With the commotion stirred by this novel, I wondered why this one in particular, over any other, has risen to the top. After partially reading the first book and researching what critics have to say about the series, answers seems to be hiding in a cloud of confusion. Is the author a literary genius or has she simply found the weak spot of many female readers? “Fifty Shades of Grey” follows Anastasia “Ana” Steele, a 22-year old college student who rooms with her best friend Katherine Kavanagh. Katherine works for the school’s student run newspaper and suddenly becomes ill early in the novel suspending her interview with an incredibly

wealthy, 27-year-old, entrepreneur, Christian Grey. She then asks Ana to interview him on her behalf, which sparks the beginning of Ana and Christian’s BDSM encounters, commonly referred to as Slave and Master. Ana’s first-person narration becomes quite redundant, whiney, and ultimately uninteresting to read. Why do people fall in love with a book that was once “Twilight” fan fiction? That may answer part of the question since “Twilight’s” main character, Bella, was just as weak and self-pitying as Ana. Plus, “Twilight” was the worst book I have almost read since, half-way through, I threw “New Moon” across the room and then shredded it page by page. Yes, Stephanie Meyer, I think you should never try your hand at writing a novel again; just because you have the ability to create interesting sentence structures does not mean you have something meaningful to say. “Fifty Shades of Grey” created similar feelings. In a society where women fight for equal treatment and to be allotted the same amount of power as men, I expected this book to be attacked for its lack of respect. Ana seems to be lacking

the abilities to stand on her own two feet, is incredibly insecure and a complete ditz. At one point in the book she believes that “putting her hair in pigtails will keep her safe from Christian’s lusty advances.” Now, I do believe that pigtails create a cheerleader or schoolgirl persona, in turn, leading to ideas of a lust filled fantasy. Therefore, women must be reading this book based on the fact that no one likes people smarter than themselves, but fully enjoy reading about the girl who fell for the handsome womanizer. There must be something mysterious and dangerous about meeting a rich guy and becoming 99% submissive to his sexual needs. It sounds as if some girl dreamed about the slave trade market way too much. A giant issue I’ve come across while researching/reading this book is the extreme use of traditional and outdated gender roles. Christian is that guy that all men want to be, the alpha male with the charm, money, and handsome features that lure women. On the other hand, Ana is portrayed as the female who is

jealous of beautiful women and insecure with who she is. These roles are intensified when Ana becomes the submissive slave and Christian the dominant master. I do believe that women ultimately enjoy reading this book for Ana’s transformation

**“I’m assuming middle aged women just want to have fun in a kinky ‘whip me’ kind of way, or many want to revert to a time when they were spanked for being ‘naughty.’”**

**- On the appeal of “Fifty Shades of Grey”**

from innocent virgin into a sexual freak. Maybe middle-aged married women need extra excitement in their lives without going into the real world and immorally cheating on their husbands. Another factor seems to be that women want something more sexually exciting in the bedroom and run with anything that will

aid the dilemma. Since BDSM is seen as taboo in today’s society, secrecy is of utmost importance. Thus, this book gained recognition due to the discretion of ordering e-books from the Internet without judgment. I’m assuming middle aged women just want to have fun in a kinky “whip me” kind of way, or many want to revert to a time when they were spanked for being “naughty”. The funniest information I discovered was the reference to this book being “Mommy porn” housewives. They can thus read and escape to their secret fantasy of a masculine man in full control without feeling shameful. There is nothing wrong with this notion and some may even see it as a sort of blasphemy. So, middle-aged women kind of fantasize about kinky scenarios leading to “Mommy Porn” and would much rather read this erotic novel while taking care of their families, which is odd but extremely funny. Either way, I believe this book deserves to be thrown in a volcano and never mentioned again.

“The Dark Knight Rises” lives up to expectations

BY DANIEL MURAWSKE  
FREELANCE WRITER

(Commissioner Jim Gordon), and Morgan Freeman (Lucius Fox).

**“This movie may be the best work that Special Effects Supervisor Chris Corbould has ever done--an amazing accomplishment, considering he also did the special effects for the two other movies in the trilogy.”**

**-On the special effects in “The Dark Knight Rises”**

The Batman trilogy comes to an end with director Christopher Nolan’s “The Dark Knight Rises” (the sequel to “Batman Begins” and “The Dark Knight”). While “The Dark Knight Rises” somewhat lacks the humor that was so brilliantly established in “The Dark Knight,” the intriguing plot, all-star cast, and stunning visual effects help make “The Dark Knight Rises” one of Nolan’s best films yet. Returning from “Batman Begins” and “The Dark Knight” are Christian Bale (Batman/Bruce Wayne), Michael Caine (Alfred Pennyworth), Gary Oldman

“The Dark Knight Rises” adds Tom Hardy (Bane), Anne Hathaway (Selina Kyle/Catwoman), Marion Cotillard (Miranda Tate), and Joseph Gordon-Levitt (Blake) to its star-studded cast. The plot was effective enough to satisfy the appetites of the hungry viewers, and the ending will leave them talking for weeks. The movie takes place eight years after Batman took the blame for Harvey Dent’s/Two Face’s murders. Bruce Wayne has not put on the Batsuit in eight years. Then the villain Bane forces Batman out of “retirement”. But with his injured leg, an injury so bad that he walks with a cane for a while, does Batman still have what it takes to go face to face with criminals? And if he does, can he compete with the mercenary Bane? After all, Bane is the toughest criminal that Gotham has ever faced. Will

Batman save Gotham City from Bane, or will Bane succeed with his horrific plan to annihilate Gotham? There is only one way to find out. While it is very hard to follow up Heath Ledger’s performance as The Joker in “The Dark Knight,” Tom Hardy delivers an amazing performance as the villain Bane. With his demeanor and menacing appearance, Hardy perfectly portrays his role, leaving the audience wanting even more. Hathaway plays an amazing Selina Kyle/Catwoman, Joseph Gordon-Levitt perfects the role of Officer Blake, and Marion Cotillard does a wonderful job of playing Miranda Tate. Bale, Caine, Oldman, and Freeman rise to the occasion, once again mastering their respective roles. The visual effects in most of Christopher Nolan’s films are

amazing. “The Dark Knight Rises” is no different. Also, the visual effects were extremely well placed. Sometimes movies have too many visual effects—to the point where they make the plot seem irrelevant or uninteresting; but “The Dark Knight Rises” has the perfect combination of plot, action, and visual effects. This movie may be the best work that Special Effects Supervisor Chris Corbould has ever done—an amazing accomplishment, considering he also did the special effects for the two other movies in the trilogy. “The Dark Knight Rises” concludes the Batman trilogy with much anticipated satisfaction. Its plot, cast, and visual effects make “The Dark Knight Rises” the best film of the summer. Prepare to be amazed.

the Almanian.

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

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# Alma volleyball starts season with undefeated 5-0 record

By **JASON POPIEL**  
STAFF WRITER

Alma volleyball is off to a very good start, notching five wins in as many tries.

First, the team traveled to Texas to compete in the University of Dallas Tournament, where the Scots went 4-0. They then returned home to defeat Kalamazoo in straight sets to capture their first MIAA win of the year.

The squad flew to Texas last Thursday to begin its unique start to the season. The Scots were the only Michigan team in the

tournament, and they competed against teams from all around the country. Alma dispatched New Jersey's Kean University in straight sets to win Friday's first game, and then kept the dominance going in the second game, winning 3-0 over Missouri's Westminster College.

Middle hitter **Leah Klooster ('14)** led Alma with eight kills, and outside hitter **Kelly Maise ('14)** served three aces in the first game. Middle hitter **Rebecca Trospen ('14)** recorded 11 kills in the second game, and Maise led the way in digs with 16.

The second day of the tournament proved to be a little more difficult for the Scots, as they won both matches in the fifth set.

Austin (TX) College was the

opponent in the first game. Alma won the first and third sets before winning the fifth and final set 15-10 behind 41 kills from defensive specialist **Megan Ballantyne ('13)** and 16 more kills from Klooster.

Host University of Dallas was the opponent in the championship game. The Scots and the Crusaders went back and forth for the first four sets, and the match would come down to a fifth for the second game in a row.

The Scots triumphed 15-11 and captured the championship and a 4-0 weekend. Ballantyne led Alma with 26 kills in the final game.

"In Dallas we did really well against really good teams, which helped our confidence in ourselves and proved that we are a great

team and have a chance to be one of the top teams in our conference and possibly go further in playoffs than in past years," said Klooster.

"But we are excited to see where this season will take us."

Alma then improved to 5-0 on Tuesday night with a dominating win over conference rival Kalamazoo in front of a wild opening crowd at Art Smith Arena.

The Scots won the three sets 25-15, 25-20, and 25-19 and were in control the whole match. Klooster had 11 kills, setter **Erika VanHavel ('14)** had 31 assists and seven kills, and Ballantyne had 13 digs.

"I think the entire team will agree with me when I say that we are definitely happy to get

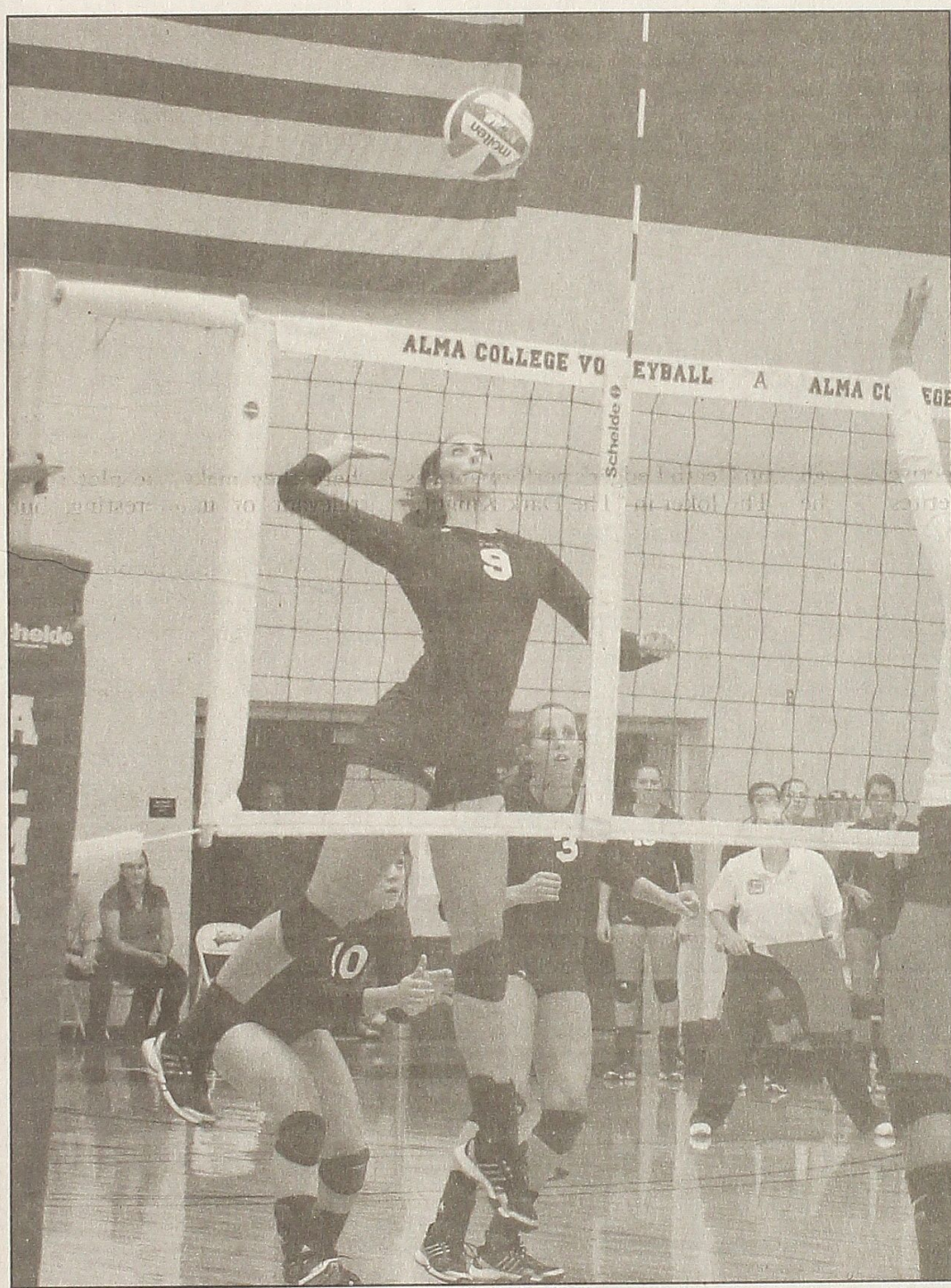
the win against Kalamazoo," said Ballantyne.

"Our serving was effective and definitely took K-zoo out of their comfort zone."

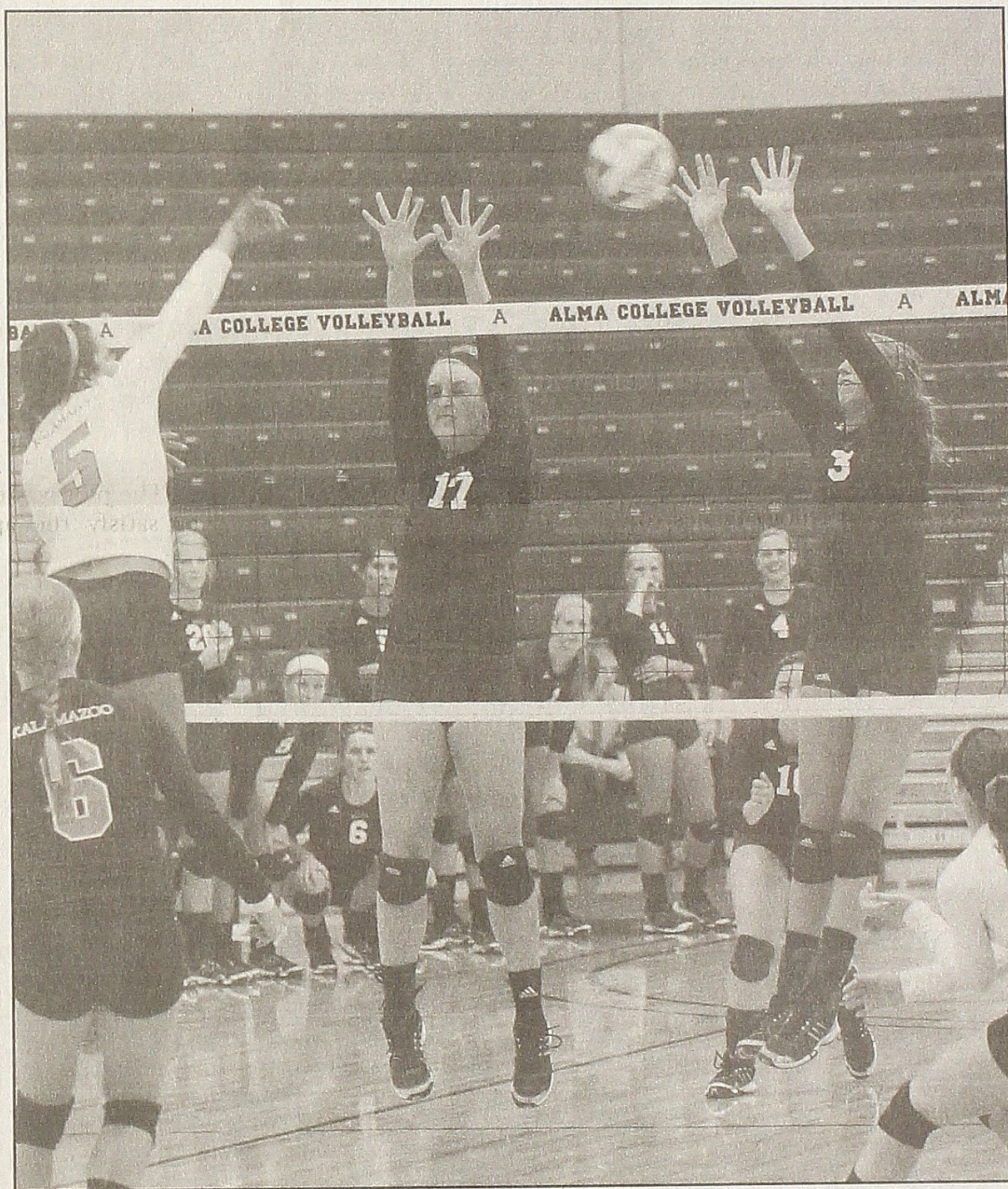
The Scots, who were picked to finish third in the MIAA behind perennial powers Hope and Calvin, have gotten out to the fast start that they know they need in order to succeed in conference play.

"During the second day of tournament play, we faced two very tough 5-set matches and came out on top in both games," said Ballantyne.

"To be able to push through tired legs and come out on top as a team showed us that we are capable of great things this season."



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Left: Rebecca Trospen ('14) spikes a ball over the net for the Scots. Above: Elisa Hobbs ('14) and Leah Klooster ('14) put up a block in the game against Kalamazoo.

## Men's soccer opens with impressive 2-1 record

By **TARYN HANDYSIDE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

This year the men's soccer team is already taking great leaps.

After spending all summer working to get better, the Scots finally opened their season with a trip to Ohio to play well respected Greenville College and Defiance College. With a total of 38 players on the team, there are just five upperclassmen.

"Our main goal for the weekend was to get two wins and gain some game experience. We ended up with one win and one

loss from two away games, two days in a row. This is definitely an accomplishment. We found out what worked and what we still need to improve on," **Graham Wallace ('14)** said.

The Scots faced a hard loss against Greenville on Sept. 1, with their opponent scoring at the 78:32 mark on a breakaway.

The second game against Defiance went well for the Scots as they earned a 2-1 win in double overtime. **Zach Vandever ('16)** found the back of the net at the 9:33 mark.

"It was exciting to score the first goal of the year for Alma College men's soccer, as well as my first goal as a college soccer player. It was a great win and a positive ending to the weekend," Vandever said.

Soon after, Defiance tied the game 1-1 with a goal at the 30:52 mark. The two teams remained tied for the rest of the game and one overtime. During double overtime, **Nathan Brown ('15)** notched the winning goal for Alma at the 107:46 mark. Wallace recorded six saves for the Scots' victory.

"It felt great to score the winning goal. I was excited for scoring and more excited that it meant that we had won the game. I was happy that I could do my part to help the team get a result," Brown said.

The guys welcomed Andrews University to Scotland Yard last Thursday for their home opener. After a hard fought 90 minutes, the Scots came away with a 4-0 victory.

The first goal of the match was a penalty kick made by **Matt Sovis ('16)** at just 3:25 in. **Michael Smith ('15)** notched another goal at 28:03, while **Matteo Capicchioni ('14)** added the third goal just before half.

The final goal was another by Sovis, assisted by **Julian Birge ('16)**, with just about 10 minutes left in the game.

The Scots ended the game with 17 of their 25 shots on goal, while Andrews only had five total shots.

"One strength we have this year is that we are incredibly close. For all the young players we have, everyone has really accepted each other and the team is a real tight group.

Another strength we have is

our speed. We have multiple guys with good pace and fitness, so I anticipate this team playing at, and sustaining a high tempo in matches," coach Joshua Oakley said.

With high expectations after pre-season, the squad will start conference play at Albion College on Wednesday at 4pm.

"The men's one and only team goal this year is to compete for a top four finish in the MIAA. We know this will take a lot of work, execution, ability to stay away from injury, and a little luck," Coach Oakley said.

After Albion, the Scots will host Hanover College at home on Saturday. Sunday the Scots invite the University of Michigan-Dearborn to Scotland Yard for their last match of the week.



# Women's soccer defeats No. 21 ranked team in the nation, 2-1

By ANNA ARMSTRONG  
FREELANCE WRITER

Earning 18 overall wins last year, Alma College's women's soccer team finished its season by winning the MIAA Tournament and making its way to the first round of the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Even after losing 10 offensive players from last year's squad, this year, according to player **Morgan Waier ('15)**, their goal is to "make it back to the NCAA Tournament and go further."

The Lady Scots started their year with a long preseason to prepare themselves for their

upcoming competition. Over Labor Day weekend, the team took a trip to St. Louis, MO to play in a tournament and experience some of the attractions the city has to offer.

The trip had a positive effect on team dynamic. "We had a whole day of activities and it really helped with our team's chemistry," **Kailey Vlug ('15)** said.

Waier said the most important impact of the journey was that it provided them with "good quality opponents." She continues to remark on some of Alma's greatest sports rivalries by saying, "we can come to our conference and be ready for teams like Hope and Adrian."

Head Coach Jeff Hosler, who has been coaching the Scots women's soccer team since 2006, saw his team win two consecutive games, one against Webster University (MO) on Sept. 2 with a score of

2-1 after going into overtime, and University of California Santa Cruz on Sept. 4 also winning 2-1. The women's soccer team of UC Santa Cruz is currently ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the country by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

"I thought our focus and energy really set the tone from the opening kickoff. We were attack minded and willing to get forward to create chances," Hosler said.

When given this statistic, Vlug proudly attributed the team's wins to the "long preseason and hard work."

Her teammate, **Samantha Woldrop ('15)** detailed her team's struggle and perseverance during their match. "We did not give up during the game. Both games we scored, then they scored, and then we came back." According to both ladies, women's soccer has a young team this year, with only

two seniors on the roster. They continued to express their hope that the team will continue to be successful in the years to come.

"A key component to our success so far is not accepting defeat," Vlug said.

In 2010, The Lady Scots made it to the MIAA Tournament Championship, and in 2011 they won the tournament. They have 19 games before they make it back to their goal of once again earning a bid to the NCAA Tournament. Eight of those are MIAA conference games.

"We expect to compete for and win championships every year, and the NCAA tournament is no different. However, the only things we can control are discipline, focus, attitude and effort and if we take care of those, we will set ourselves up for a good chance at both goals no matter how tough our conference is," Hosler said.

Coming up, the team takes on Adrian College on Saturday and Olivet College on the same day. The Alma College community has a chance to come out to Scotland Yard and cheer on their women's soccer team during their next home game against Calvin College, Wednesday, Sept. 19.

"It's hard to believe we will already be into conference play as we travel to Adrian, which won the MIAA regular season title last year. Adrian is very talented and all three of our games with them last year were battles right down to the final whistle. These will both be good measuring sticks for us."

"We'll come out hard and take our chances when we have them. We will be looking to finish the game early, then play all 90 minutes of the game like we know we can and just take it to the other team," Waier said.



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Left: **Kaylee Vlug ('15)** defends **Danielle Partika ('16)** in practice before the game last Sunday. Above: **Ann Kennedy ('14)** works on clearing the ball before last Sunday's game against DePauw University.

## Alma football drops first two games

By JASON POPIEL  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma football team has not gotten off to the start that it wanted, falling 53-7 at Illinois Wesleyan last Saturday. The Scots fell to Heidelberg 45-0 in the home opener.

Alma will be on the road next week at Illinois's Aurora University, then will return home to face Wisconsin-Oshkosh on September 22 on Community Day. MIAA Conference play will begin the following week.

On Sept. 1 in the Heidelberg game, the Scots quickly fell behind on a 55 yard scoring drive

that made the score 7-0 just a few minutes in. Heidelberg would hold a 45-0 lead at half, and that score held throughout the entire second half.

The Scots had many scoring opportunities throughout the tilt, but could not capitalize despite showing multiple different offensive sets. Quarterback **Jarrett Leister ('14)** had 117 yards passing on nine completions, and receiver **Nate Wade ('13)** notched 97 yards receiving while making eight catches, one of them a 24 yarder from Leister. Alma was outgained 449-231 against a Heidelberg team that was ranked 38th best in all of Division III.

"That's a good football team we

played today," said first-year Alma coach Greg Pscodna. "They are a top-25 team and they play in the toughest conference in the nation so I give them credit. They had a great plan and they've got a lot of good athletes and football players and hopefully that's something we can build our program around and move forward."

The road would not get any easier for Alma in its second week, as the Scots would travel to 21st-ranked Illinois Wesleyan. The game was very tight at half, as Wesleyan led 10-7 at the break. The hosts would cruise to victory in the second frame, scoring 43 unanswered points for the 53-7 victory.

"We played their offense very tough in the first half," said linebacker **Jarrod Lynch ('13)**. "Coming out in the 3rd quarter they took advantage of a few big plays and we just weren't able to bounce back like we needed to."

Wesleyan outgained Alma 415-223, and 309 of Wesleyan's offensive yards came through the air. Leister completed 13 of 28 passes for 118 passing yards and four interceptions. He also ran for 16 yards and scored Alma's first touchdown of the season.

Tight end **Nate Hudeck ('14)** led the Scots in receiving with 29 yards, and wide receiver **Joey Jerisk ('14)** led the team with 29 yards on the ground. Despite

getting outgained, Alma had over 38 minutes of possession compared to Wesleyan's 21 minutes.

The tough losses against two very good teams are difficult to take at this point in the season, but much time for improvement remains before the league schedule begins, players agreed.

"The loss was tough, but the way we played in the first half proved that we can contend," said tackle **Adam Walsh ('14)**. "It makes me feel better about playing teams in the conference."

The next contest at home will take place at Bahlke Field on Saturday, September 22 when Alma squares off against Wisconsin-Oshkosh.