

Kayaking Club takes to the water

By RACHEL LANE
STAFF WRITER

President Jeff Abernathy isn't the only one on campus enthusiastic about kayaking. This year, a small group of students has come together to form the Alma College Kayaking Club. The club will go on different excursions down different bodies of water located around the Alma area, according to club leaders **Anna Armstrong ('13)** and **Jacob Hammer ('14)**.

Hammer said he came up with the idea at resident assistant training with Armstrong.

"There wasn't an organization at the college to kayak," he said. "The goal of the group is to enjoy nature and kayaking and take trips." The club still needs to face Student Congress to receive a budget in order to go on trips past Mount Pleasant.

"It is not an official club yet though," said Hammer. "We made a draft of the constitution, but we still need to go through Student Congress."

Abernathy led a spring term class last May on Environmental Literature that Hammer took part in. Hammer said that was when he got more into the sport. In the spring term students went up to the Upper Peninsula to kayak.

The organization already had an event with a pool session last Friday at 7 p.m. There, they had a couple of Abernathy's kayaks and wanted to see how much interest there was in the group, said Hammer. Last Saturday they took a trip to the Chippewa River in Mount Pleasant. They traveled

down the river with rented kayaks and a group of students.

"This week we will have a session to learn how to roll in the pool to prepare for whitewater kayaking," Hammer said. Abernathy, who is the advisor for the club, has experience with whitewater kayaking and will teach the skill.

Abernathy has five or six kayaks with which he has floated on the Pine River with the club creators. He enjoys the sport, he said, and sees the club as "helping students who are kayakers get together with others who have the same interest in paddling the bodies of water around us."

He sees the group "taking day-long paddle trips on rivers, possibly some camping trips out to the Great Lakes and trips to mountainous areas around the country for whitewater kayaking," said Abernathy. He will be taking part in some of the club's trips and letting them use his kayaks.



Kayla Roy: Photo editor



Kayla Roy: Photo editor

The Kayaking Club tested students' boating skills in their pool session last Friday to prepare them for an outing on the Pine River. Jacob Hammer (pictured twice) administered tip-tests to participants.

Inside Alma gets a face-lift, reception mixed

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Students and faculty logged into their Inside Alma portals last week to find the familiar page layout replaced by one with a totally new style.

"It was a little confusing at first," said **Kasie Jacobs ('15)**, "but I like it!"

Larry Elliott, assistant director of enterprise info systems, described it as being functionally similar to the previous page, saying that "the look is what's changed the most!"

"It's fresh," said Keith Nelson, chief technology officer.

Whereas the old page had a simple white background with subtly-colored tabs and bars, the newly-styled page has the Alma College tartan running down the sides with vivid green and orange bars across the top, even sporting

bold blue bars across the tops of the menu items.

The Almapedia also got an updated look, featuring that same shade of blue at the top of the page and using a slightly different font format.

Besides the new color scheme, however, some changes in functionality have occurred. These include information regarding the department directory being better displayed, the dining menu and the removal of the virtual quad.

Although the department directory was always available, not many people knew about it because it was not in a good location, said Elliott. As the link to it is right in the box for the directory, it is more prominent and easier to access.

The dining menu was also moved to the home page so it will be simple for students to scroll down and see just what will be served that day in Hamilton Commons.

Another major change was that there are now personal directory

preferences that portal users can change and save.

Students can now decide whether or not all users can view their cell phone number, their advisor, campus address, and their major. If any information is incorrect or missing, then they are encouraged to contact the Registrar's Office to update it.

Finally, the new page is faster than the previous one, said Katie Conner, associate director of Web and database, and the 'Add to My Links' section works better now.

Although it had been available for a while, Information

Technology Services decided to wait until during the summer while classes were out to work on it and begin the school year with the new look.

Colin Silkwood ('14) feels that the functionality of the portal has been improved with the new page and that it is easier to navigate in general.

However, the one flaw that he finds with the design lies in the color scheme.

"The tartan on the sides and the blue for the menu items correspond with each other to a certain extent," he said, "but the

orange and green bars at the top clash with the page as a whole."

However, the page is still a work-in-progress as the IT Department continues trying to get everything working perfectly.

One problem, for example, is that the system will not properly log users out, thus forcing them to close the Internet browser entirely to complete the logout process.

Almapedia is also due to receive further updates.

"We're going to be busy for the next month!" Nelson said, laughing.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sun, then clouds 76°	Passing shower 60°	Partly sunny 64°	T-storms possible 63°	Possible rain 65°	Chance of showers 62°	Chance of showers 65°

Michigan Tartan Day stone presented to Alma College

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Alma College is the new home of Michigan's Tartan Day stone.

Donated to the Scottish American Society of Michigan in July, the stone is one of 50 that were crafted by Frank Maurer, a California carver. Maurer is creating an official Tartan Day stone for each state in the U.S.

When the Scottish American Society was looking for a location to display it, the group "automatically thought of Alma College, of which we are grateful," said Jeff Abernathy, college president.

"To us, the most logical place is Alma, known as Scotland USA," Franklin Dohanyos, Scottish American Society executive director, said. "We have come to love Alma and Alma College. We attend the Highland Festival every year, and the society donates \$500 annually to help send a student to a summer fine arts camp."

During the annual Traditions Dinner held in the Hogan Center on Aug. 30 to welcome the

incoming freshmen, Dohanyos and his wife, Jean, membership director of the Society, officially presented the stone to the college.

"We are greatly honored," Abernathy stated. "Throughout our 126-year history, we have fostered the Scottish arts with piping, Highland dancing and our own registered tartan. We are delighted to be known as the Scots and are honored that the Scottish American Society of Michigan has chosen our campus to display the Michigan Tartan Day Stone."

The stone is made of Michigan sandstone and is nearly 2 feet long, 18 inches wide, and 5 inches tall. It weighs approximately 50 pounds.

On the stone, the Michigan symbols—including the robin, trout, white pine, and Petoskey stone—are carved in Pictish style, the Picts being some of the early Celtic people who inhabited ancient Scotland.

"I think the stone is a huge honor," said Drew Duncan, Highland Arts coordinator and bagpipe instructor. "It represents all the Scottish Arts....not just piping and dancing. The stone should represent a source of pride

for all residents of Michigan who have Scottish ancestry."

Kate DeGood, director of Highland dance and Highland arts coordinator, agreed.

"For decades, Alma College has promoted the Scottish Highland Arts and Scottish culture, and we are very pleased to provide a permanent home for the stone," she said.

For the past nine years, Scottish American Society of Michigan has been the sponsor of the state's official Tartan Day, hosting it in the Detroit area in early April. In past years, Alma College has been represented by the pipers and Highland dancers who have performed at the celebration.

"Tartan Day is a national celebration of Scottish heritage that typically takes place on or around April 6," said Abernathy.

However, the question still remains of where the Tartan Day stone will be displayed.

"We are still considering locations where the stone can receive maximum exposure at events like the Highland Festival," Abernathy stated. "I anticipate it will be located in or near the Hogan Center. We will make a final decision soon."

This week at Alma College

Monday, September 17:
Poster sale in Tyler Van Dusen Rotunda, 7 a.m.
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, September 18:
Poster sale in Tyler Van Dusen Rotunda, 7 a.m.
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 8 a.m.
Resume and Cover Letter Writing, ACP office, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 19:
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 8 a.m.
Get Pinterested in KI, KI House, 4 p.m. (Non-Greek females only)

Thursday, September 20:
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 8 a.m.

Friday, September 21:
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 8 a.m.
Fall Greek Recruitment informational meeting, in Dow L1, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 22:
Parent Day, 8:30 a.m.
Student Show in Beck Art Gallery, 10 a.m.

New Greek Life Coordinator appointed to office

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

Student Life at Alma College has appointed Danielle Brandreth in the newly created position of Greek life coordinator. Brandreth also holds the title of Greek life advisor and weekend program coordinator.

Her main job is to advise the IFC (International Fraternity Council) and the PanHellenic Council, the main governing boards for fraternities and sororities, according to Brandreth.

"I am currently working with them with leadership development programs and recruitment of new

members," she said.

She has plans to set up an executive board retreat that would cover roles, responsibilities, and similar issues. She is also involved with the PanHellenic Council starting fall recruitment in the ensuing weeks. There are currently pre-recruitment events occurring in preparation for the actual recruitment, which starts on Sept. 29.

Brandreth will be a direct liaison between the students and the Alma College administration. In the past, Student Life has directly handled Greek Life and anything related to it.

"There hasn't been a specific person designated for Greek affairs, someone who has time to work with them," said Brandreth.

There are also interns working

with Brandreth; two students who have volunteered their time, **Amanda Jackson ('12)** and **Megan Lamrock ('13)**. According to Brandreth, they will be working on a "variety of projects" gaining experience with student life in general, not just the Greek Life aspect of it. They will also gain experience working with housing and student activities. They actually have not started work yet. There are still plans to finalize and they will begin work next week.

Brandreth came to Alma with the intention of getting Greek life more involved with campus life. She wants to prove that there's more to Greek life than just the social aspects. Brandreth graduated from Northern Michigan University, where she

was involved with Greek life. During her time there she had advised the PanHellenic Council and the Greek Council.

"I really love organizations that have leadership development," said Brandreth. "My experiences with Greek life will be with me forever."

Her first plan was to hold a risk management seminar for the presidents, vice presidents, house managers, and for all the chapters on campus. It happened last Sunday, lasting for about two hours. The seminar covered topics such as hazing, alcohol, fire safety, sexual misconduct, and similar topics. The overall purpose was to educate leaders about the new policy changes. Their job would then be to disseminate that information to the other chapter

members.

She's already met with the majority of the fraternity and sorority leaders, such as **Teresa Larson ('12)**, the president of Phi Sigma Sigma.

"She meets with all of the Greek Life presidents so she can help them get their chapters where they want to be," said Larson. "Danielle's also supposed to help implement the Greek Life strategic plan."

In fact, that is one of Brandreth's main goals. She also plans to organize more philanthropy events and more events that are non-alcoholic, which she believes would change the image of Greek Life.

"There's a lot to work with here, concerning the Greek Life image here on campus," Brandreth said.



Kayla Roy: Photo editor

Brandreth will be instituting new policies designed to bring Greek life more in line with the college's vision, including coordinating with Student Life to shape policies toward that goal.

Alma College hosts annual Community Appreciation Day to express its gratitude

By BENJAMIN KING
STAFF WRITER

Bahlke Field. A family picnic will be provided for those in attendance, and a series of inflatable houses and games will

For 126 years, the City of Alma has been home to the college. For over a century it has embraced the college and both its students and faculty.

"As a freshman, I have only

"It is important to show the community that we appreciate everything that it has done for us and the college for over 124 years."

-Sara Sawinski ('14)

"As a freshman, I have only been here at Alma for a few weeks, yet I already feel the support and love of the Alma community."

-Jon Clark ('16)

been here at Alma for a few weeks, yet I already feel the support and love of the Alma community," said **Jon Clark ('16)**.

Now it's time for the college to return that embrace. Saturday, the college will begin to showcase its gratitude by holding its annual Community Appreciation Day.

Festivities will begin promptly at noon near the entrance to

be available for children from the opening until the football game against University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, which begins at 1 p.m. All activities prior to the game are free.

Admission to the football game will be \$5 for community members and free for children under 12 and students. During halftime, Alma College President Jeff Abernathy will present the sixth annual Community Service Award to one citizen of Alma who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to both the college and to the community.

This year's award will be presented to James Wheeler II, president and chief executive officer of Firstbank-Alma.



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Alma's Community Appreciation Day is an event designed to express the college's gratitude toward the community, including activities such as a picnic, games, inflatable houses and the presentation of the annual Community Service Award.

Wheeler has held his position for nearly 12 years.

Besides his commitment to Firstbank-Alma, he also serves on the boards of Greater Gratiot Development, Alma Industrial Development, Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce, Alma-St. Louis Rotary Club, and the City of Alma Planning Commission.

"Jim Wheeler is a leader who works tirelessly to help Gratiot County to thrive," Abernathy said in a college press release. "From his leadership of United

Way to his current role as chair of Greater Gratiot Development Board, Jim makes a difference in the lives of so many across Gratiot County. I greatly appreciate his deep commitment to the Alma community and his interest and advocacy in the success of Alma College."

During halftime Abernathy will also recognize local attorney William Goggin for his efforts. Goggin serves as this year's chairman of the college's community fund drive.

The faculty and student body both recognize the value of showing appreciation to the community.

"It is important to show the community that we appreciate everything that it has done for us and the college for over 125 years," said **Sara Sawinski ('14)**.

"[Community Appreciation Day] will be a great opportunity for students to interact with members of the community. I am excited to attend and meet new people," said **Brad Gostomski ('13)**.

Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation welcomes new director, Erin Regenfuss

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

According to Regenfuss, she and Vice President for Student Life

"I am very excited to be at Alma College as the Director of the Stone Recreation Center. It is a great facility with a lot of potential."

-Erin Regenfuss

Erin Regenfuss is the new director of Stone Recreation Center. According to a campus press release, she started her position on Sept. 6 but has been unavailable due to previous commitments in Pennsylvania.

Coupled with her arrival to Alma College is the opportunity for a new variety of outdoor and intramural sports. In addition to those new prospects, there has been an increase of new equipment at the recreation center.

Regenfuss soon plans to add more equipment to make outdoor recreation possible at Stone.

Nicholas Piccolo have plans to add several new activities to the intramural sports program.

"Dr. Piccolo and I are in the early stages of developing some new ideas, but I don't have anything concrete yet," said Regenfuss.

The activities in mind as of right now are pickleball, wallyball, floor hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, cornhole and possibly other yard games, Battleship (a game played in the pool using canoes, where the last canoe floating wins), futsal, free throw contests, three point contests, golf, euchre, badminton, table tennis and broomball.

"I am very excited to be at Alma College as the Director of the Stone Recreation Center," said Regenfuss. "It is a great facility with a lot of potential."

Regenfuss follows after the previous recreation center director, Jen List.

Regenfuss is originally from Lansing but currently resides in Port Matilda, Penn.. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and parks, recreation, and leisure. From there, she attended Ohio State University and earned two Master's degrees in sports administration and education administration.

Regenfuss has worked a

variety of positions that involve recreation on college campuses. She has worked at Ohio State University as a recreational sports graduate assistant and as a recreation coordinator at Rhodes

"I'm excited to hear about all of the new opportunities for intramural sports. It might actually get me to participate in one."

-Katie Bremer ('15)

Indiana University and a similar position as an associate director at Pennsylvania State University. The most recent position was as the coordinator of marketing and training at the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society.

With all of the changes taking place, there are students who are becoming interested in what's happening at the recreation center.

"I'm excited to hear about all of the new opportunities for intramural sports," said **Katie Bremer ('15)**, a Bruske resident who exercises at Stone. "It might actually get me to participate in one."

This is the type of response that Regenfuss is looking for from the campus community.

"We'd like to hear feedback from the students on these ideas as well as any other ideas they might have," said Regenfuss. She distributed her e-mail address, regenfussev@alma.edu, for students to contact her if they had any questions or suggestions.

College. She has also worked as an assistant director of club sports and student development at

Meet Reese: African spurred tortoise brings Sahara to Alma

BY CRYSTAL SNOW
FREELANCE WRITER

Many know that the Dow building is home to the science departments and within its walls are the habitats of a variety of birds, fish and reptiles. One of these habitats just so happens to belong to an African spurred tortoise, also referred to as a sulcata tortoise, and his name is Reese.

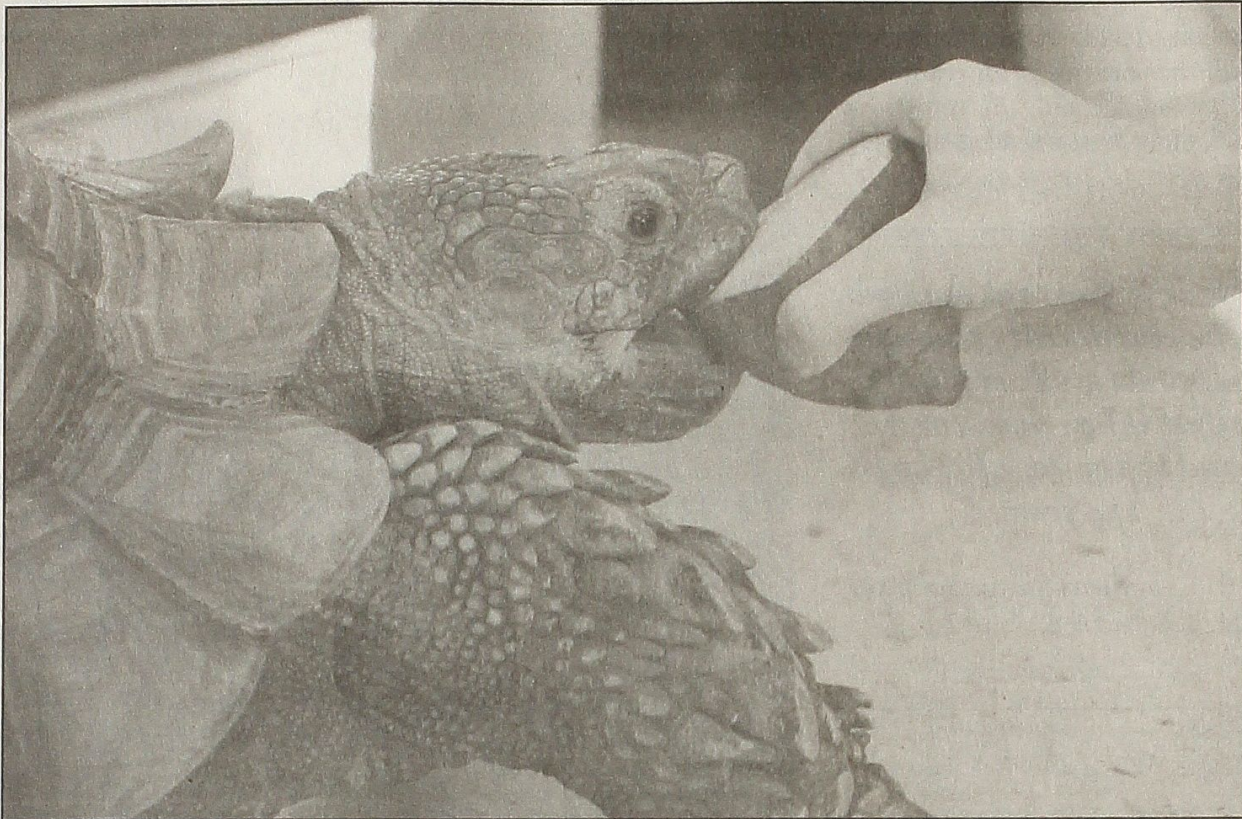
Reese weighs around 80 pounds and “was adopted by the college when a student ran out of living space for him,” said Professor John Rowe of the biology department.

His age is really unknown, but caretaker **Chloe Grounds ('14)** said that “he’s definitely in the double digits” and is estimated to be about half grown.

According to animal-world.com, a fully-grown African spurred tortoise can weigh up to 200 pounds and can live beyond 150 years. They are also the largest continental species of tortoise on the planet.

As the name *African spurred tortoise* states, these animals originate in Africa and “specifically in the Sahara Desert,” said Rowe. This may sound odd to some because tortoises are frequently misconstrued to be large turtles, but they aren’t the same.

Unlike turtles, tortoises don’t live in water; nor do they have webbed feet. Tortoises also have more dome-shaped shells, while turtles’ are more flat. Reese has “bony, sharp spurs along his legs that would cause injury if he felt threatened,” said Rowe. “In the wild, [sulcata tortoises] are in danger of lions and illegal hunting,



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Reese, African spurred tortoise, is a vegetarian, preferring fruit, including pumpkin, watermelon, and bananas, as well as dried hay, grass and weeds.

where people see them as only meat.” He said their shells have no value compared to their meat.

Here at Alma, Reese spends the warmer months wandering in one of Dow’s courtyards, where he can burrow, which his instincts call for, and munch on the various weeds and grass. When it’s cold, he lives under a specialized lamp amongst the parrots in the greenhouse.

“In the courtyard right now, he’s got a tunnel about 3 feet wide and 5 feet long,” said **Dan May ('13)**, president of the Biology Club. “Reese used to live with the campus alligator, Susie, but became too much of a bully towards her. [He is] fully able to flip the alligator over.”

“He is very powerful,” said Rowe.

Reese is an herbivore. He dines on dried hay, grass, weeds, and fruit. “He’s like a cow-tortoise,” Rowe said. “[He] eats very similar to that of a cow [and is] a grazer.”

Due to his vegetarian diet, Reese particularly favors Halloween time, according to Rowe, when he gets to indulge in pumpkins. He is also known to eat watermelon and prefers his bananas peeled.

The Biology Club hosts and sponsors three to four animal/reptile shows a year for the surrounding area. Reese is always a hit with the little kids, who continually ask if they can ride him. They can’t.

May finds Reese “more interesting than the snakes, geckos, or birds” that also call Alma home. “At the freshman

orientation Bio Club animal meet and greet, for like five minutes he just stood in a corner staring at the wall. I kept moving him, [but] soon enough he was back there again,” said May.

Grounds checks up on him every other day, making sure he has enough food and water. “Reese gets jealous when I feed the other animals, like the iguanas. He will step on my feet if he gets the chance,” she said.

Over the summer, Grounds went to feed Reese. She stopped at the door of the courtyard to see that Susie had escaped from her separated pen. Reese was chasing the alligator around, trying to “take advantage” of her. Grounds called **Adam Karson ('14)** for help in separating the two. Karson, baffled at the sight, was

more than willing to help split the animals up.

Jaclyn Shetterly ('16) fed Reese some lettuce at the animal meet and greet during Orientation Week.

“It was so cute, ‘cause [with] some animals . . . [when] you feed

“In the wild, [sulcata tortoises] are in danger of lions and illegal hunting, where people see them as only meat.”

-John Rowe

them they just walk up to the food and take it,” she said. “[Reese] has no teeth and extends his neck to reach the lettuce and [it’s] just so cute!” she said. She finds him adorable for his size and speed. “He doesn’t have any teeth and reminds me of my grandpa,” she said.

Harmony Ward ('16), a clarinetist in the Kiltie Marching Band, missed the meet and greet due to band festivities. “[I had] no idea we had a tortoise,” she said. “I’m determined that I will meet him now!” As of last Friday she had not seen Reese yet, but plans on doing so soon.

Reese has a few quirks. He only sits in water, and he somewhat floats. He likes the color red and might nip at red shoes or shoelaces, thinking they’re fruit. Like some humans, he does not like to be disturbed when he’s eating. Grounds said that he is like the “God of Dow, [and] he is social. Reese is just cute.” Check him out next time you’re out and about with some free time.

New Greek life advisor holds mandatory risk-management seminar to improve safety

BY RACHEL LANE
STAFF WRITER

said. After the seminar, the four attending members from each chapter had to go back to their

“I think it would be really great if all of Greek life in general took a stance on hazing. It would be a really positive message for us to send.”

-Lydia Anderson ('14)

individual chapters and provide a similar workshop for all of their members. Every member will be

“required to take a quiz through Qualtrics to be completed by Oct. 1 at 5 p.m.,” Brandreth said.

The goal of the seminar is to help students realize the risks they take and change the stereotypes surrounding Greek life, according to Brandreth. The hazing section of the meeting will help students understand what hazing means and what Alma College’s stance on hazing is.

“Hazing is an issue throughout higher education institutions and doesn’t just happen in Greek life,” Brandreth said. “Statistically, band, sporting teams, and Greek life have been the main groups that have been known to haze.” Alma College’s Greek Leadership Committee is working to bring a speaker to campus next semester to talk about anti-hazing and healthy lifestyle choices.

“I will also be requiring all new members to any Greek

organization to attend a risk management seminar before the completion of their first semester as an initiated member,” Brandreth said.

Lydia Anderson ('14) is the risk manager for Phi Sigma Sigma, a sorority on campus. Her job is to put on informative events for members, including anti-hazing and alcohol awareness events.

“I’m hoping we’re going to talk about events to put on and Greek unity type things just to make alcohol programs and anti-hazing more unified throughout the Greek system,” Anderson said. “I think it would be really great if all of Greek life, in general, took a stance on hazing. It would be a really positive message for us to send.”

According to a recent National Public Radio story, a professor at Franklin College in Indiana has kept a running tab on hazing-

related deaths. Since 1970, there have been 112 deaths. And the University of Maine’s National Study of Student Hazing found that 55 percent of college students in the study involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experienced hazing.

The study also found that nine out of 10 students in the study who experienced hazing behavior in college did not consider themselves to have been hazed. The study surveyed over 50 college campuses and over 11,000 people.

Alma College is attempting to be proactive with the seminar, speaker, and risk management education, say officials.

“I think it’s really important that each member of a Greek house feels at home right away, that it’s not something they have to earn a place in,” Anderson said.

Concert enjoyment outweighs sticker shock

BY RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Two weeks into the year, and already it's time to write a confessional column.

I have an addiction. Sometimes it's stronger than usual, and I work myself up into an excited frenzy when I know the time is soon. Other times, it's a mellower, laid-back sort of addiction, in which I silently but relentlessly focus on getting my fix.

The biggest problem is that getting my fix is tricky. It's an expensive habit, and the opportunity has to arise in just such a way that I have the time and resources to fulfill myself. Also, this addiction requires advanced planning of the sort

“If the pieces all fall together properly, then I have anywhere from one to four hours of sheer euphoria.”

-On going to concerts

which is not beneficial to instant gratification.

If the pieces all fall together properly, then I have anywhere from one to four hours of sheer euphoria.

Then there's the inevitable crash afterward. Thankfully, mine

are not as severe as those which accompany other addictions, but that doesn't make them any less unpleasant to experience. I also commonly have a few physiological side effects (hearing loss, mild headache) which are somewhat irritating while they last.

In the past six months, I have gotten my fix no less than seven times. I have been in locales as varied as darkened rooms, grassy lawns under a beautiful sunset, converted lofts, and dangerous cities.

Earlier I mentioned that my habit is expensive. I meant that from the perspective of a college student, however.

One redeeming feature of my particular vice is that it is relatively cheap compared to others, and that I can get a good fix whether or not I've spent a large amount of hard-earned cash.

By now I'm sure you're wondering why I would confess all this in a public forum like a newspaper. The answer is that I felt I needed to tell someone, and I'm feeling rather bold lately. So, here goes: I'm addicted to concerts.

If I see an announcement that a band I enjoy is touring, I will always check the dates list and keep my eyes focused on finding two capital letters next to a show listing: "MI."

The next step is buying tickets, and I noticed recently that this holds a strange sort of euphoria in and of itself.

For most of my life, I prided myself for not spending my money often, but now, every



Photo courtesy of Ray Visser

Andrew Bird is a musician best enjoyed live with friends. This particular concert took place on the grassy lawns of the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids.

time I pluck the gold debit card out of my wallet and type in the number that I probably should have memorized by now but still haven't, I feel immensely satisfied. Smug, even. I allow myself a brief moment of self-adulation for actually supporting a band instead of downloading their music for

“If I see an announcement that a band I enjoy is touring, I will always check the dates list and keep my eyes focused on finding two capital letters next to a show listing: ‘MI.’”

-On finding tickets for concerts

free. This is the start of the vicious cycle, because buying a ticket is intentionally purchasing delayed gratification. The anticipation for the show builds every day.

The upshot to the early purchase is that by the time the day of the show comes around, the sticker shock experienced when I bought the ticket has completely worn off, and I don't feel as though the show has to be "worth" a certain dollar amount.

And then there's the event itself. Even as a writer, I don't want to attempt to describe a fix of my addiction. You have to experience it.

I don't care what kind of music you listen to. I can definitively say, after half a year's worth of near-constant anticipation and fixes, that if you don't take the opportunity at least once to go out and support one of your favorite musicians, you are missing one

of the most fulfilling experiences young life has to offer.

You don't have to sing or dance along. But you should. You don't

“The upshot to the early purchase is that by the time the shows come around, the sticker shock experienced when I bought the ticket has completely worn off, and I don't feel as though the show has to be ‘worth’ a certain dollar amount.”

-On paying for concerts

have to bring friends along. But you should. You don't have to think of it like a drug addiction. But maybe, just maybe, you should.

Staying green and clean: natural remedies

BY BEN KING
STAFF WRITER

An individual's cleanliness is a vital aspect of his or her health. In our daily lives we use cleaners, deodorizers, antiseptics and a myriad of other health and cleaning products so we may maintain clean lifestyles.

We put these products on our bodies, on the utensils we eat with, and all over our homes.

While we use these products constantly, we do not always know what many of these products do to our own bodies and to our health. Some cleaning products containing alkyl phenol ethoxylates, a common ingredient in cleaners, have shown in laboratory studies to function as an "endocrine disrupter," causing adverse reproductive effects on both humans and wildlife.

This is not to say that all cleaning products are dangerous or unhealthy. However, I feel that we do not know enough about every chemical sold in the supermarket to indiscriminately expose ourselves to them all.

There are many cleaning and hygienic products one can make using all natural ingredients to curb a risk of dangerous exposure to chemicals.

In my spare time, I sometimes make my own toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and cleaner. While I partially do this to avoid exposure to chemicals I do not understand, I also do this simply

to save my hard-earned money.

A core ingredient in almost all of my cleaning products is vinegar. Vinegar has been used throughout history as a common antibiotic.

A simple and cheap toothpaste and be made from three to five very inexpensive products. Essentially the paste is made from baking soda and hydrogen peroxide.

However, while mixing six teaspoons of baking soda with one fourth teaspoon hydrogen peroxide will make simple and

“While I partially do this to avoid exposure to chemicals I do not understand, I also do this simply to save my hard-earned money.”

-On using organic natural ingredients for remedies

effective toothpaste, I always like to add a few more items to improve the toothpaste's consistency and taste. These extra ingredients include stevia extract, coconut oil, and peppermint extract. These flavor ingredients may be added to the brusher's taste.

With my toothpaste I will add a little bit of sea salt to give it some abrasiveness and grit.

As an avid outdoorsman, I love the smell of cedar and pine. For this reason nothing wakes me up better than washing my hair out early in the morning with fresh evergreen shampoo.

To make my evergreen shampoo, I boil cedar or juniper

in a pot until the water is slightly thickened and reddish in color.

Once I have consistent "evergreen" water, I will mix one cup of my water with one tablespoon of baking soda. Sometimes I will add a few drops of tea tree oil or eucalyptus oil to give the shampoo a little extra zip.

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!

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

New buddy system raises questions

BY GARY NEMETH
STAFF WRITER

Student life has revised its edition of the Alma College Student Handbook. This revised copy of the handbook added a new policy called the Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy, located in Section 2 on page 52.

I'm partially confused on some vague portions that may veer students away from helping a fellow intoxicated student for fear of the repercussions.

Last Wednesday, the student body received a campus-wide e-mail regarding the addition of the new policy with a message encouraging students: "In keeping with the Alma ideals of not being a bystander, we hope all students will have the courage to Be a True Scot and help another student when they are in need."

With all the new rules regarding party policies, I was beginning to believe Alma College was

becoming excessive in its control over campus situations.

The Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy states, "Students who seek appropriate help for others who are intoxicated or

"I feel less likely to walk a tipsy minor home when the Student Handbook doesn't provide a solid example of acceptable situations"

- On helping fellow students in need.

otherwise adversely affected by alcohol are considered to be acting in the best interest of the student in need."

Sounds pretty simple to me, yet things aren't always as simple as they seem. Despite the college's "desire" to excuse the students from disciplinary action, not all

cases are guaranteed the amnesty they promise.

Now I'd usually say I'm indifferent to the college's policy changes that encourage students to help one another, but I'm bothered by the section that states every situation is unique.

I personally will go out of my way, intoxicated or not, to walk another person home if the need arises.

Now I feel unsure about the possible consequences of my supposed good deed. I feel less likely to walk a tipsy minor home when the Student Handbook doesn't provide a solid example of acceptable situations.

It's arguable that such a policy can be manipulated by the students to avoid punishment. What I call the "Double Blackout Buddy System" could be used to "fool" security into believing one of the students is acting as a Good Samaritan.

Students are crafty. They will find a way to interpret the policy for their own advantage. Therefore Student Life is welcome to leave

room to withdraw the promise.

I do not agree with enforcing participation in the college's alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs.

Just because I decide to relax by drinking on the weekends does not make me an alcoholic, thus the program is a waste of time because I'm not going to retain the information presented. Some of my relatives are alcoholics— I see it first hand, the need and yearning tears them apart.

If anything, preventing students to congregate with others leads

"Instead of associating drinking with college parties, the individual may use alcohol as a coping method incorporated into their life."

- On student drinking.

to situations of drinking alone or in smaller groups. Instead of associating drinking with college parties, the individual may use alcohol as a coping method incorporated into their life.

Lately, students I converse with express the same feelings of distrust toward Alma College. Rules on top of rules never work to solve problems because eventually the students feel oppressed.

As adult customers of Alma College, we expect a certain amount of trust from the college's end of things. If administrators are going to make policies as ambiguous as this one, there is no trust. To say we want you to help your fellow students is great, yet to say amnesty is not guaranteed, the policy undoes itself, causing the students to question whether or not they're safe under the policy's standards.

So what I'm saying is next time you walk a drunk friend home, make sure you're the "right kind of drunk," according to True Scot standards, whatever they may be.

"The Descendants" connects with viewers everywhere

BY DANIEL MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

"The Descendants," an incredibly powerful movie starring Academy Award winner George Clooney, focuses on themes of family, tragedy, infidelity, and deceit. When you add those themes to great cast performances by every actor/actress, the result is a movie that is nominated for five Academy Awards (including best picture).

"The Descendants" focuses on the story of Matt King (Clooney) and his family. Their lives take a turn for the worse when King's wife, Elizabeth (Patricia Hastie), gets into a boating accident and falls into a coma.

Soon enough, Matt is told by the doctors that his wife will never wake up—the doctors have

done all they can do. In her will, it states that if a situation like this were to occur, she wants her family to pull the plug.

Matt has two daughters: 17 year old Alex (Shailene Woodley), and 10 year old Scottie (Amara Miller). Alex has been sent off to boarding school until Matt brings her home during this difficult time. Alex is in school as a result of her bad attitude in the past; she drank, did drugs, and was always with older guys (throughout the movie, she is with a guy named Sid, played by Nick Krause, but it is never specified whether or not he is older than Alex).

Matt is not very close to his daughters. He expresses this when he refers to himself as the "back-up parent." As a result, Matt tries to reconnect with Alex and Scottie.

Matt decides to tell Alex about the update on her mother's condition. Alex is not on good

terms with her mother. The last time Alex came home, they had a huge fight (Matt did not know what the fight was about). Matt tells Alex that he will need her help when he breaks the news of Elizabeth's condition to their family and friends.

Alex, however, says that she wants nothing to do with her mother. When her father gets on her about her attitude and tells her that she needs to forget about whatever it was that her and her mother fought about, Alex reveals a secret that will change Matt's life forever.

The rest of the movie deals with the themes of love, family, and forgiveness.

The performance of each actor/actress is phenomenal. Clooney proves why he is one of the best actors in the world.

Casting Shailene Woodley as Alex King was a perfect choice.

Many times when it comes to

child actors, the quality of their performance will be anywhere from average to decent. But Amara Miller's performance was beyond average, and beyond decent. It was amazing.

The performances are not the only elements that make this movie remarkable. The themes of the film are equally as important as the performances.

People cope with the loss of a loved one in different ways. Some people will cry, some people will not. Some will want to talk about it, and others will want to keep to themselves. There are so many different ways of coping, and "The Descendants" does a nice job of illustrating how these particular family members and friends cope with losing someone so close to them.

Finally, the most powerful theme is that of family. This movie perfectly illustrates the emotions between Matt and his daughters.

It realistically depicts how a family in that situation might treat each other. The movie also accurately illustrates how a person's attitude toward someone else can change over a period of time. The writers do an excellent job of making "The Descendants" realistic.

An amazing plot, stellar performances, and thought-provoking themes are what make "The Descendants" a great movie. This film was so good, viewers will find themselves watching it over and over again.

Correction: In last week's edition of the Almanian, it was published that "[The campus Republicans] are working on a film series showing how different groups gained the right to vote." However, this series is the work of Assistant Professor of History Kristin Olbertson and is not a partisan effort. We sincerely apologize for the error.

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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Men's golf places seventh in the MIAA Jamboree with a 310 score

BY ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

"Our biggest competition this year is ourselves. If we can just play like we know we can and not worry about anyone else, I really like our chances."

"If we can just play like we know we can and not worry about anyone else, I really like our chances."

-Greg Silverthorn ('13)

Head coach Charlie Goffnet led the men's team to the conference tournament MIAA Jamboree No. 1, which was hosted by Kalamazoo College. The team finished seventh overall and **Marty Predmesky ('15)** finished third overall in the

tournament with a score of 73 for 18 holes.

Other scores include Silverthorn with a 79 and **Chris Williamson ('13)** with an 81.

"Our goal for the men's team is to finish in the top four and hopefully give ourselves a good chance at going to nationals in the spring," said Williamson. "[The tournament] meant to us that we can only go up from here and we just have to keep fighting."

"Our team has put in a lot of work on the golf course this summer, as far as hitting the range, putting and chipping, and just playing a lot of rounds of golf to ready ourselves for the season," said Silverthorn. "That match just showed us there is a long way to go to get where we want to be."

With three competitions finished, player **Jake Moran ('14)** said that the goal for the season was to "come in the top four in

the MIAA during the fall so we can try to qualify for nationals in the spring."

The women's golf team will play in its first conference match, the MIAA Jamboree No. 1, hosted by Olivet College on Thursday. It has already competed in two invitationals this season.

"We want to come in the top four in the MIAA during the fall so we can try to qualify for nationals in the spring."

-Jake Moran ('14)

The women played in the Olivet Invitational on the Medalist Golf Course on September 7 and 8.

They were led by **Chelseas Erb ('14)**, who shot 87-91 for the tournament, followed by **Anna Burdick ('16)**, who contributed a 96-95. Peters earned a 97-98, and **Danielle Craft ('14)** scored a 100-99.

The Lady Scots then continued on to play in the Aquinas College Fall Invitational on September 13, earning sixth place overall.

"It wasn't a league jamboree, but it was great practice and less pressure for all of us. It gave us good preparation for our first league jamboree Thursday," said Craft.

Peters said her team this year is "dedicated because we love the game and continue to strengthen ourselves around it. Since we are a fall season, we had all spring and summer to prepare for this year. We are out nearly every day practicing and pushing ourselves to success."

Scots' men's and women's cross country teams start season with great strides

BY ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Garrett Lacy ('13) has put in the miles.

"I ran 100 miles a week during the summer," he said.

Lacy finished first for the Alma College men's cross country team at the Calvin Knight Invitational in Grand Rapids on Sept. 8, with a time of 25:36 for the 8K event.

According to the runners, this race was very important to the team. **Zach Caverley ('13)** said, "We finished better than we even had before. It meant a lot to us to see how we ranked early in the season."

Adam Sanchez ('16), who finished third at the Knight Invitational for the men's team behind **Alex Pollack ('14)**, describes his squad this year as "intense, because I know a lot of other people won't do what we do everyday."

The potential of this year's team was shrouded in ambiguity because the squad's second best runner chose to join the Army; additionally, some runners came back this year from previous serious injury. However, with two races under their belt, the Scots set their goals high.

"I just want to run in nationals. Pretty much whatever it takes to get there is my goal."

-Misty Godley ('15)

been before."

With two races completed, and after finishing eighth out of 22 teams at the Calvin Knight Invitational, the women's cross country team is currently ranked sixth in the NCAA Great Lakes Region.

At the Knight Invitational, **Julie Helm ('13)** finished first for the Lady Scots with a 5K time of 18:38, beating her preceding time of 19:25.

"[The invitational] showed that we're going to be very competitive this season," said Helm. Her goal is to run in nationals during her last year at Alma.

Misty Godley ('15) earned a second place finish for the team with a time of 19:16 in the 5K event, almost a minute faster than her previous week's time of 20:12.

"I just want to run in nationals," Godley said. "Pretty much whatever it takes to get there is my goal."

Godley said her team is "motivated and ready to tear it up this season."

Finishing third was **Anna Sall ('14)** with a time of 19:26, also greatly improving on her previous race time of 20:16. "This race was important to see where I was at training-wise, and for the team to figure out where everyone was and how we stacked up against some of the people in our conference," said Sall.

Debuting for the first time on the team was **Kara Giles ('16)**.

Giles has set her mind on running with the varsity team at the regional meet. To prepare for this goal, she said, "I ran the most miles I ever have this summer." Giles agreed on the importance of their success at this past meet. "It showed how all of my summer miles paid off, and it showed where we were as a team," she said.

Head coach Gordie Aldrich

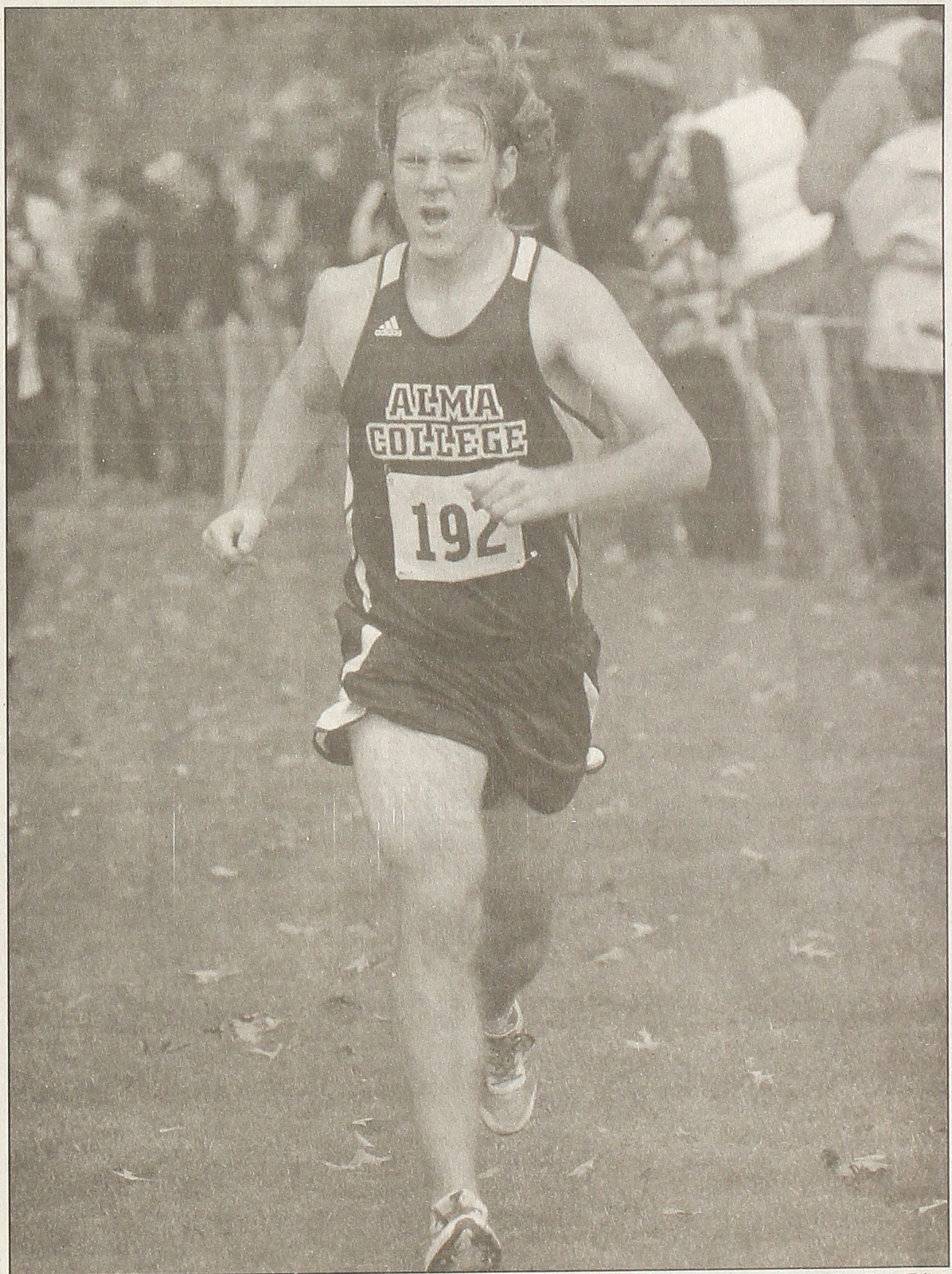
will lead both the men's and women's cross country teams to their next race in the MIAA Jamboree, a conference meet in Notre Dame, Ind. The teams

have five meets until the NCAA Division III Championship in Terre Haute, Ind.

Both teams respond with great enthusiasm for this upcoming

season.

"We're better and I feel a lot more energy that I ever have before on this team. It's going to be a good year," said Caverley.



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Max Morrison ('13) is one of three senior runners for the men's team this year.

Men's soccer on a roll with 4-2 record against tough opponents

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

It's always good for a team to start off conference play with a win, and even better when it comes against a top rival.

The Alma men's soccer team did just that last Wednesday, defeating Albion 1-0 on a goal that came very late in the second half.

Despite the big win over Albion, the Scots could not maintain their momentum. Alma fell to Hanover (IN) College 3-2 last Saturday at Scotland Yard.

This week, the Scots will be action at home against Hope on Tuesday, and will travel to Grand Rapids to take on Calvin on Saturday.

In the Albion game, midfielder **Ryan Kovach ('13)** scored the game's lone goal in the 88th minute with an assist from midfielder **Joonas Kotka ('15)**.

"This was a good way to start conference play as we were sharp the first 15 minutes and seemed to take control of the match," said Alma head coach Josh Oakley.

"However, we really struggled at times to keep things on the level we wish to play for 90 minutes. We let Albion run at us in the second half and they had the lion share of possession. That said, our team found a way to win

an MIAA game on the road. We can be, and we will need to be, much better going forward."

Both the Scots and Britons had many opportunities throughout the game, with Alma controlling the pace of play in the first half and Albion in the second.

Despite Albion dictating play in the second half, it was Alma that would break through at 87:38 when Kotka found Kovach.

Alma totaled four shots on goal for the game, with forwards **Matteo Capichionni ('14)** and **Nathan Brown ('15)** joining Kotka and Kovach.

The win against Albion was huge," said Kovach. "It starts our conference season off right and keeps momentum going in the direction we've been working

toward. We are the first team in a long time to start off the season 4-1."

Another bright spot for Alma this season has been goaltender **Graham Wallace ('14)**. Wallace recorded two saves in the win over Albion, and before the loss to Hanover had a three-game shutout streak. Previous to last Saturday's loss, Wallace had an exemplary 0.38 goals against average on the season.

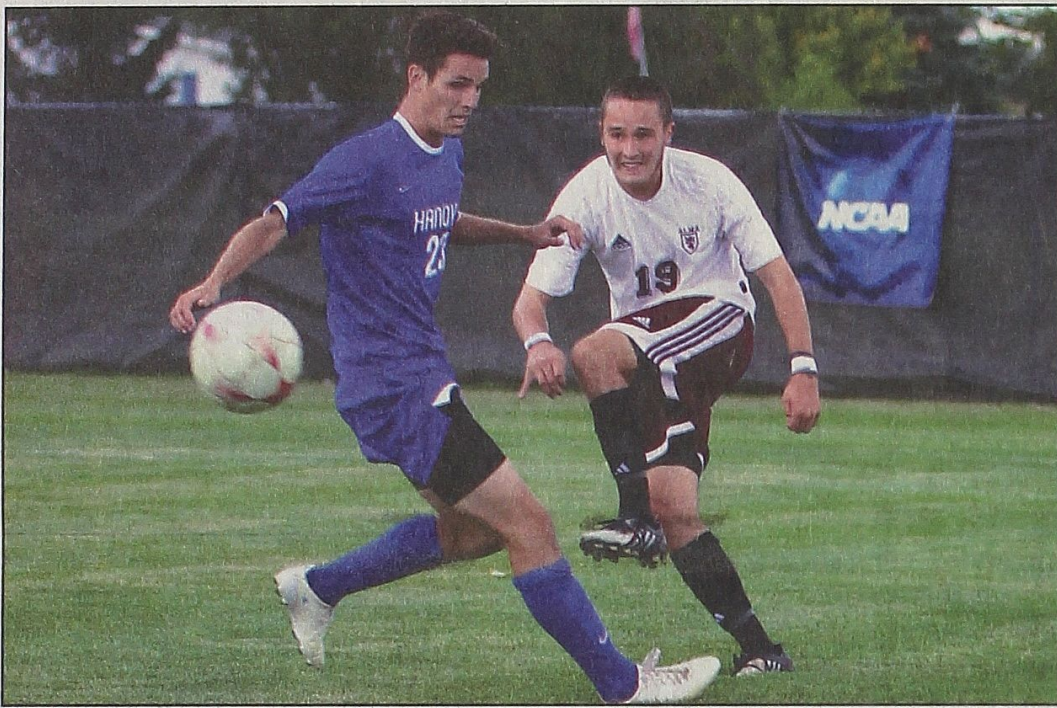
"It was great to start off conference play with a win, especially on the road," said Wallace. "I think our result displays the hard work everyone put in during the off-season. As for the rest of the season, we look to take one game at a time and use every day to get better."

The fans who made their way to Scotland Yard last Saturday witnessed a strange game that had all five goals scored in the first half. Midfielder **Matt Sovis ('16)** scored unassisted just 32 seconds into the game for Alma, but three unanswered Hanover goals within a 30-minute span followed.

Another unassisted goal, this time by Kotka, would not be enough as the two teams would play scoreless soccer in the second half.

Wallace made five saves in the contest, and Sovis led the team with six shots on goal.

The loss dropped Alma to 4-2 on the season, and the Scots will take that record into this week's important conference games against Hope and Calvin.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer



Kayla Keenan: Staff Photographer



Kayla Keenan: Staff Photographer

Left top: Connor Pace ('16) started for the Scots in their game against Hanover College. Left bottom: Mike Smith ('15) has scored three goals so far this season. Above: Matt Kuberski ('13) has one assist for the Scots.

Spotlight: MacKenzie Smith ('15) named MIAA offensive player of the week for women's soccer

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Accolades at the high school level were the norm for **MacKenzie Smith ('15)** in the past, and now she can add a college-level award to her list.

Smith was recently named the MIAA offensive player of the week for games played through September 9. Smith scored four goals in two games during that span, including a hat trick against DePauw University. The sophomore forward then scored the winning goal in the Scots' 2-1 victory over the nationally ranked Banana Slugs of California-Santa Cruz.

So far this season, Smith has been an important part of Alma's fast 3-1-1 record to start the season. She has notched five goals in five games and has added an assist. Despite her personal recognition from the MIAA conference, she is quick to recognize her teammates for helping her find this early season success.

"It means a lot and it's quite an honor," said Smith. "This is the first time I've been recognized, but I could not have done it without my team."

Smith hails from Saginaw and attended Nouvel Catholic High School. She received many different soccer awards while competing for Nouvel, including first team all-district, first team all-region, first team all-state, and

Player of the Week. She was also named to the "Area Dream Team" while leading her squad to district and regional championships.

When it comes to motivation, fans might be surprised to learn that Smith has a twin sibling. She is quick to acknowledge that her twin is one of her biggest role models and someone who she truly looks up to.

Mike Smith ('15) is on the Alma men's soccer team.

"I look up to my twin brother Mike," said Smith. "He always pushes me and I would not be where I am today without him."

Smith saw a very large amount of playing time last year as a freshman, and has built on her first season in order to become one of Alma's most dangerous

scoring threats.

Smith saw action in 21 games as a freshman and started one of them. She notched five goals last year and added an assist to come away with a season total of 11 points. She also recorded a greater than 50 percent shots on goal percentage, as 23 of her 43 shots found their way to the opposing goaltender.

The fact that Smith has already matched her point total from last season is just one of the reasons she was named player of the week, and yet another reason why she has a reason to be optimistic about her team's chances this season.

"We are a young and energetic team with lots of skill," said Smith. "We will get into the NCAA

Tournament again this year, and advance even further than last year."

Smith, a communications major, will find it hard to ever leave the world of athletics, as she plans to land a sports management job after her years at Alma. Now, she is focused on playing the sport she has always loved, and helping Alma women's soccer continue its recent string of success.

"I have been playing soccer since I was 5, and have always had a passion for the game," said Smith. "I couldn't imagine my life without soccer."

Smith and the rest of the women's soccer team will be in action on Wednesday at 4p.m., as they welcome rival Calvin to Scotland Yard.