

One Act Play Festival showcases student actors

Kath and Danny.
Lauren Kittrell ('13) directs "Truth and Sex", featuring **Shelby Schroeder ('14)** as Laurie and **Nathaniel T. Hudeck ('14)** as Keith.

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

These shows are the acting students' "babies," as some would say.

All semester long students in the directing class have been preparing for this upcoming weekend, working toward the One Act Play Festival.

The Festival is a collection of individual plays that last a bit over 10 minutes each. These are plays students have "built from the ground-up."

Such building involves learning the ins and outs of the theater business, from narrowing down and selecting their plays, to hosting auditions and callbacks, the eventual castings of who they fit their characters best and the rehearsal process.

It's all coming to an end, but not without 3 opportunities for all of campus and the local area to come witness what they have created. The shows will be at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The final performance is Sunday at 3 p.m. All will take place in Strosacker Theatre in the Heritage Center.

This year the festival has six acts to be performed.

"Go Look" is directed by **Olyvia Brown ('14)**, with **Erin Murphy ('16)** and **Cavin "CR" Mohrhardt ('13)** starring as

"My favorite part of the One Acts is the rehearsal time. We get to do so many activities with the amount of time we have. It's a lot of fun."

-Sara Day ('15)

Graham Morgan ('14) directs "Compatible" showcasing **Samantha Arthur ('15)** and **Jake Armentrout ('15)**.

"The Blocking Maneuver" stars **Chelsea Martin ('16)** as Gretch and **Joshua Craddock ('15)** as Drilling, they are under the direction of **Tara Riedel ('13)**.

Natividad "Nati" Salgado ('11) directs "Anything For You" featuring **Erin Shanahan ('16)** and **Kathryn Wiltz ('14)** as Lynette and Gail. Salgado also is directing "So Tell Me About This Guy" showcasing **Shanyn Rapson ('16)** and **Hannah Korell ('15)** as Marla and Angie.

"My favorite part of the One Acts is how non theatre majors get involved, it truly shows the diversity of the liberal arts spirit at Alma College," said Director



Joshua Zeitler: Editor-in-chief

Cavin "CR" Mohrhardt ('13) and **Erin Murphy** take part in the "costume parade," where the directors inspect their costumes on stage.

Salgado. Salgado is a theater intern working alongside Joe Jezewski, associate professor of theatre, since May.

"I just love all of the fellowship in the One Acts. We have been preparing for them since the end of October," said Erin Shanahan.

According to Salgado, "So Tell Me About This Guy" is about 2 friends sitting in a living room, while one discusses about a guy she's seeing and "Anything For You" discusses the lengths one will go for their best friend.

Shanyn Rapson enjoys the experience itself.

"As a freshman, being able to be in a show and experience Alma College Theater had been my favorite part. The people I'm working with are simply fabulous. This show has been a wonderful experience, a great success."

"My favorite part of the One Acts is the rehearsal time. We get to do so many activities with the amount of time we have. It's a lot of fun," said **Sara Day ('15)**, stage manager for "Go Look."

Others involved in this year's performances include **Matt Crossman ('13)**, who is the production stage manager, and **Edward "Ted" Webb ('14)**, the master electrician. **Trevor Epplett ('15)**, **Cody Beebe ('15)**, **Susan Christensen-Rasmussen ('16)**, **Katherine Kurz ('15)**, **Brandon Newton ('13)**, and **Tara Bentley ('15)**.

"Everyone should come out and support all of these talented actors and directors," Salgado said.

Festival of Carols to draw wide audience

For those who did not purchase tickets or are not able to make it to any of the shows, a live Web

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

"Last year I thought to myself, 'If the world ends on December 21, 2012, I would be okay with that because I would still get to have another Festival of Carols.'"

-David Kramp ('14)

Next weekend, the Alma College Choirs will help to spread the holiday cheer once more with their annual Festival of Carols.

"It's such beautiful music," said **Marta Perez ('13)**, a member of the choir. "[And] when you go to the Festival of Carols, it's not always the obvious songs — you get a taste of different Christmas choral music."

Show dates are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

All of the shows are already sold out other than a few seats on Friday night.

This is an honor, said Director of Choirs Will Nichols.

"Frequently, it wasn't sold out until a couple days before the show," Nichols said of previous years. "It's just encouraging to know people are planning ahead and making room in their schedules for this."

stream will be available on the college's Webpage for the Sunday performance.

Festival of Carols has been a tradition for a number of years, said Nichols.

"It really started when we built the Heritage Center, which was in 1993," he said. "It gave us a home for a more formal Christmas celebration." Previous concerts were held in the Chapel, he

noted.

And Nichols is also looking forward to a long-standing tradition in the Festival, he said.

"I always love 'O Come All Ye Faithful,'" Nichols said. It's been the processional song since the beginning, he explained.

"The tradition of that is important to me," he said. "It gives me chills every time the sopranos start to sing the descant."

The Alma College Glee Club, the Chorale, and the Choir will be performing traditional Advent and Christmas carols, Nichols said.

Advent carols, he explained, are songs that are meant to remind people to prepare for Christmas. Some examples are "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

and "O Come All Ye Faithful."

"My favorite song that we will be performing is 'Oh Be Joyful in the Lord,'" said **Chelsie Myers ('14)**, who sings alto I. "This is a song that all three choirs will be performing. It is a beautiful arrangement with wonderful lyrics. I love when all three choirs sing together: there is so much energy and excitement....I find it kind of magical."

This will be Myer's third time participating in the Festival of Carols.

For **Justine Cowan ('13)**, it will be her final time.

"[Festival of Carols] is something I'll miss most after graduation," she said. "My favorite piece is 'In the Bleak Midwinter' because it's a really creative take

on a traditional Holst tune, has really beautiful meaning and melodies, and I get to sing a duet with **Emily Noble ('14)** in it."

Cowan said the choirs have been practicing the songs for the performance since homecoming.

"This is my third festival of carols, and I'm super excited," said **David Kramp ('14)**, who sings tenor.

"Last year I thought to myself, 'If the world ends on December 21, 2012, I would be okay with that because I would still get to have another Festival of Carols,'" Kramp said.

Nichols said he expects the show will last about 80 minutes.

Pretty in Plaid and Scots on the Rocks will also be making an appearance.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Fog, a shower	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Times of cloudiness	Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Snow
58°	51°	37°	41°	42°	36°	37°

Staff, professors display works in Faculty Show

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

The Flora Kirsch Beck Art Gallery, located in the Clack Art Center, plays host to different art shows throughout the year.

Presentations vary from student works to the current display, which showcases pieces created by the Alma College Department of Art & Design faculty and sabbatical replacements. The purpose is to show off the work completed on sabbatical by the professors.

The Faculty Show is biannual and comes around twice every school year. Professors Tina Vivian, Beth Purdy, and Ryan Flesher, all of which are Alma graduates and former students of the other exhibitors, are the featured artists in this falls show.

Vivian also works in the theater department, and Flesher is filling in for Parks-Kirby as she is on sabbatical this semester.

“Studio faculty present their work on a regular basis in the Biennial Faculty Show, just as the faculty musicians do concerts and recitals, the dance professors mount dance performances, and the theater professors produce plays,” said Parks-Kirby. “This gives our students and other members of the community the opportunity to know us as practitioners of our art, as well as instructors.”

A series of ceramics and drawings dealing with the seven deadly sins are on display, all works of Parks-Kirby.

Joshua Grove ('14), an art major and gallery assistant, said

the seven deadly sins exhibit is his favorite.

“I enjoy the attention to detail and ornamentation regarding her theme - the seven deadly sins - incorporating her own self portraits and a variety of animals and intriguing imagery,” he said.

“[She] puts an extraordinary amount of detail and effort into each of her pieces that mirrors the complexity of the subject that she’s portraying,” said **Kathryn Goffnett ('13)**, also an art major.

“I enjoy the bronze skulls by Ryan Fletcher,” said Goffnett. “They are often described by fellow students as ‘creepy,’ but I guess I tend to lean toward that aesthetic. Beth Purdy’s paintings possess so much detail it’s easy to miss some whimsical addition. I find something new to look at or to read each time I look at her wolf painting.”

“Their mediums vary from printmaking, oil painting, ceramics, bronze cast metal, pencil drawings, and digital photography,” said Grove. “They are all very interesting and different, yet echo some of the same themes throughout the gallery space even though none of them had prior knowledge of the other work being put in the show.”

Mary Ellen Yost, secretary of the art department, admires everyone’s work and cannot choose a favorite.

“I enjoy working with the faculty and the student docents on the preparation for this exhibit,” said Yost.

The Faculty Show runs through Thursday, December at 5 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and most Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Alternative break applications open

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Students who are looking for service opportunities can now apply for an alternative spring break.

Five different options are available to choose from and offer students the opportunity to travel to various places across the country. The deadline for applications to be turned in is January 11. Service teams will not be organized until January.

The site leaders for these trips have already been chosen and one of them is **Amy Smith ('15)** who is co-leading the immigration trip. According to her, you get assigned the trip based on your preferences. Depending upon your qualifications, you are matched with the spring break best suited to you.

“I love alternative breaks,” said Smith. “It’s such a great experience and you get to serve others in your country all while creating new friends.”

All the trips available are equally fantastic, according to her. There are different ones to choose from and there are descriptions of each one that is offered.

According to Sara Scheide, the administrator for alternative breaks, the trips provided are a mixture of different types. Some are “new and exciting” opportunities while others are repeated trips with agencies that are partnered with Alma College.

“Some trips we repeat every year or every other year, but we always leave room for other or new ones,” said Scheide.

The trips are decided by a board made of students, the alternative break board. Typical trips that tend to be featured are Habitat for Humanity and

the Presbyterian Disaster Relief. Even though trips sponsored by those agencies are essentially repeats, they usually have new locations, according to Scheide. The decision on what trips are made available is partially decided by the Alternative Break Student Advisory Board.

A trip to the U.S. border is one that is arranged by Professor Ed Lorenz every other year. According to the flyer, there are two locations still in contention: El Paso, Texas or Nogales, Arizona.

Scheide mentioned that there are two alumni that helped to plan two of the spring break trips. Mary Sugiyama, who is an art major that currently works for Walker’s Point Center for the Arts. The other alumnus is Christina Steeves who currently teaches at a charter school. They both assisted in constructing the

Multicultural Arts and Urban Youth trip to Milwaukee, Wis.

“It’s really neat to see this come full circle,” said Scheide. “This is the first time this has happened.”

Scheide has noticed a lot of change in the ten years that she has been working with the alternative break program. Originally, she used to be the only person organizing the program. Now, there is a student board that helps with the program and is backed by student congress.

Scheide is glad that these students are given this opportunity and have become more invested in it. According to her, it opens their eyes to other communities; it allows them to see things they’re not able to see in Alma.

“It helps for them to see poverty and need outside their own community,” said Scheide. “Then they’ll be able to come back and see it next door.”



Photo courtesy of Alexander Sprague

One of this year’s fall alternative breaks tied together service and interfaith education.

This week at Alma College

Tuesday, December 4:

Faculty Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9 a.m.

“Lights Out” with Dr. Molina in SAC 109, 4 p.m.

Friday, December 6:

Faculty Show in Beck Art Gallery, 9 a.m.

An Evening with Chekov in Stucchis, 6 p.m.

Festival of Carols in Presbyterian Hall, 8 p.m.

One Act Play Festival in Strosacker Theater, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 7:

Faculty Show in Beck Art Gallery, 10 a.m.

Festival of Carols in Presbyterian Hall, 8 p.m.

One Act Play Festival in Strosacker Theater, 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 8:

Faculty Show in Beck Art Gallery, 10 a.m.

Festival of Carols in Presbyterian Hall, 3 p.m.

One Act Play Festival in Strosacker Theater, 3 p.m.

Alma Symphony Orchestra prepares Mendelssohn, others

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

The Alma Symphony Orchestra plays its second concert of the season, “Mendelssohn and More!” this Sunday, December 2.

The concert takes place at 4 P.M. in the Remick Heritage Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults age 18 and up, \$5 for seniors age 62 and up, and free for Alma College staff, students, and youth 18 and under.

“Every concert is individually designed to have the right flow,” said Alma Symphony Orchestra Conductor and Musical Director Murray Gross. The symphony will play “pieces that have completely different characters,” he said, and “a mix of pieces that are familiar and unfamiliar.”

Gross notes that an Alma Symphony Orchestra concert is a unique experience, both for the musicians and the audience.

“[There is] a certain thrill about the sound of a live orchestra,” said Gross. “[Everyone can] feel the excitement of all the strings, brass, and woodwinds coming together.”

The concert takes its title from Concertmaster and professional violinist Takeshi Abo’s performance of Mendelssohn’s “Violin Concerto in E Minor.” Abo performs with both the Alma and Midland Symphony Orchestras.

“The centerpiece of the concert, the most substantial piece, is Mendelssohn,” said Gross. He notes that there is nothing holiday-ish about the concerto.

However, the concert does include some seasonal flavor. The symphony will play “a few holiday pieces that will be familiar,” said Gross. “[The concert is a] great opportunity to hear some great arrangements of familiar holiday tunes.”

Pieces to be performed include a holiday medley featuring Engelbert Humperdinck’s “Evening Prayer” from Hansel and Gretel; two renditions of “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming;” J.S. Bach’s “In Thee is Joy;” the traditional “Coventry Carol;” Mendelssohn’s “Hark the Herald Angels Sing;” and pieces by Philip Lane and Leroy Anderson.

“With the coming holidays promising to be a very busy and hectic time, we invite you to relax

and enjoy the moment as the symphony performs for you this evening,” says Alma Symphony Orchestra Council Chair Kim Karl in the program notes. “[This concert is] a perfect start to the wonderful season ahead.”

One pleasure of Alma Symphony Orchestra concerts is the communal aspect. “[There are] close to 50 students [in the symphony orchestra],” said Gross. “Watching fellow students perform” is an experience not easily forgotten.

“You might have someone in your psychology class,” said Gross, “[and] you have no idea [they] play the violin or the flute.”

Gross is also insistent on the power of live music. “We’re spoiled by recordings,” he says. “Reality, in a way, is sometimes more exciting than clean perfections.”

The performance is communal in more than one way. It features accessible, relatively short pieces. “[The] concert is very family-friendly,” said Gross.

“[It is a] good concert for someone who has never been to the symphony before,” said Gross. “Even people who are not musicians will recognize terrific talent when they see and hear it.”

Fair Trade Sale aids worldwide artisans in need to distribute their goods, crafts

BY ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Christmas is coming, but Christmas shopping needs to happen before it does. Students, faculty, and the community recently had a shopping opportunity that would brighten the lives of their families and friends as well as those of people in need.

The third annual Fair Trade Sale was held at College Corner last Tuesday, drawing students and community members together in an effort to help others.

The sale was hosted by the Alma College Chapel in partnership with the nonprofit organization SERRV.

"It was wonderful to watch people's excitement as they found the perfect Christmas present for friends and family and know that, not only would the item make their Christmases special, but it would help make the life of an artisan somewhere better as well," said **Katie Krauss ('15)**, who helped run the sale.

All of the profits went directly to SERRV, which will then give the money directly to the farmers and artisans who made the products, said Chaplain Carol Gregg. The sale earned over \$1600, which was comparable to last year, Gregg said.

SERRV is one of the first alternative trade organizations, according to the organization's website.

"SERRV is a nonprofit organization with a mission to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide," the website said. "[It]

is a founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization (formerly IFAT) and a founding member of the Fair Trade Federation (FTF)."

All of the items sold last Tuesday were Fair Trade products, Gregg said. These included wooden puzzle boxes, jewelry, baskets, wooden dishes, and Christmas decorations from places like India, Peru, Cambodia, and Indonesia.

It was also a consignment sale, Gregg said.

"I love both the craftsmanship and supporting a global mission of helping people 'fish' to feed their families... I like to balance the materialism that is so much a part of [Christmas] with taking the idea of loving others."

-Keith Nelson

"It means whatever we don't sell, we can send right back at no loss," she said.

Kylie Babcock ('14), one of the main organizers, said that "the biggest challenge in planning the sale [this year] was finding a place to have it that would reach students, faculty, and community members."

For the past two years, the sale was held during Come Home to Alma for the Holidays, Gregg said. The city sets aside one weekend in December when it blocks off

the streets for shopping, hosts a Christmas tree decorating competition, and has a parade, among other activities.

"There was already traffic downtown, already people milling around," Gregg said, so the Fair Trade volunteers had set up a booth in a closed storefront and had been able to reach students and community members alike.

But this year the weekend will be held on Dec. 14 and 15—after students have left for the winter break—so the organizers decided to hold their sale earlier.

"College Corner opened their doors to us, and for that, I am so thankful!" said Babcock.

And although the large majority of shoppers were students, many community members still came specifically for the sale, Gregg said.

"The biggest highlight for me [was] having fun interacting with the community while knowing that the fun I am having is benefiting people that are in extreme poverty around the world," said Babcock.

Keith Nelson, chief technology officer, has purchased a few Fair Trade products in the past, but this sale inspired him to buy more, he said.

"I love both the craftsmanship and supporting a global mission of helping people to 'fish' to feed their families," said Nelson. "Christmas is a wonderful holiday and I like to balance the materialism that is so much a part of it with taking the idea of loving others."

"I am so grateful to be at a school full of people that are so willing to help others," Babcock said. "One step at a time, Alma College students are going to change the world together."



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Stancroff

Top: Students, faculty, and community members gathered to shop and to raise money for SERRV, which fights to end poverty and aid artisans worldwide by helping them sell handcrafted goods.

Bottom: Many used the Fair Trade Sale to find Christmas gifts for friends and family.

Hispanic Coalition's bilingual story time connects Alma children with language

BY LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

The sound of voices speaking multiple languages fills the small room. Various local families interact with each other, and kids wander around under the watchful eye of their parents. Crafts are constructed and stories are read to an eager young audience learning to become bilingual.

The Hispanic Coalition (HisCo) hosted a bilingual Christmas story event last Saturday at 10 a.m. It was open to the public and encouraged families in the Alma community to attend. Christmas stories were read, including *The Grinch*, and at least two different crafts were offered. The event also provided healthy cookies as a snack, courtesy of The Flour Uprising in Mount Pleasant.

"It is our first time doing a holiday event," said Stephany Slaughter, assistant professor of Spanish.

This event was a special one hosted as a part of the bilingual story time offered throughout

"It allows parents and children to be around other languages and cultures. I hope to provide an opportunity for folks to be around other languages."

-Stephany Slaughter

the semester by HisCo. Slaughter has helped to craft and support Spanish story time since its inception last year. According to her, this is the first year that the event has been partnered with the Alma Public Library.

"It allows parents and children to be around other languages and cultures," said Slaughter. "I hope to provide an opportunity for folks to be around other languages and for kids to be around it."

Slaughter approached Tina Leonard, children's librarian for the Alma Public Library, last summer. They arranged for the event to be held there and Leonard has seen it as a positive thing for the library too.

This is the last story event of the year. However, it plans to resume during the winter semester, from Jan. 12 to Apr. 13.

Other professors, such as Marcus Richter and Anthony Collamati, participated in this event. There are also students who helped to read to the children and to run the events.

Patrick Vanegas, a student at Alma High School, has been able to use the story time event to improve his own Spanish speaking skills.

"It's a great learning

experience," said Vanegas. "I can read Spanish and work with all these kids."

He has been involved for the majority of this year through reading at the September and October events. His father is Ecuadorian and his mother is

"I like [story time] a lot. I was a little apprehensive in the beginning, but the children make it worth it. You get to help them learn more about languages and help you learn as well."

-Olivia Herrera ('15)

American, so he has grown up speaking Spanish and English in the household. Slaughter, who knew his family through the

college, offered him the chance to read Spanish stories. Vanegas said that participation was a great way to learn Spanish.

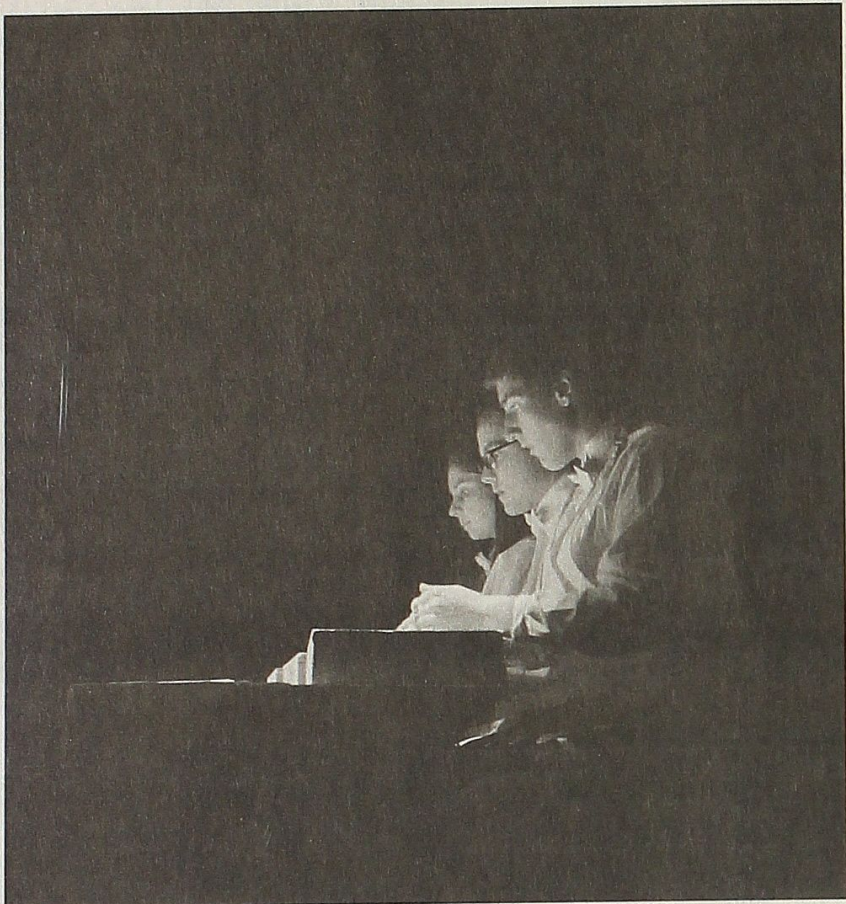
This year Slaughter has been able to appoint a student coordinator to help create some interest in the student body. **Olivia Herrera ('15)** has been a member of HisCo, but this is her first involvement with the bilingual story time.

"It's been easier to get students involved," said Herrera. "This is an opportunity that isn't offered by classrooms."

She hopes to get more Spanish children's books for the collection in the Alma College Library. According to Slaughter, there are about 40 books currently available to read to children.

"I like [story time] a lot," said Herrera. "I was a little apprehensive in the beginning, but the children make it worth it. You get to help them learn more languages and help you learn as well."

Percussion Ensemble performs variety of music at fall concert



BY BENJAMIN KING
STAFF WRITER

Although marching band ended a few weeks ago, that didn't mean that student couldn't hear percussion music again until next fall.

The Alma College Percussion Ensemble performed its annual

"The piece had its world premiere this past March and the composer had expressed his desire to send me a score and parts for us to perform the piece as we have recorded and performed a number of his works and he very much likes our interpretations. And here we are."

-David Zerbe

The evening also featured Harbor Springs senior **David Fair ('13)** as a marimba soloist on the Michigan premiere of David Maslanka's piece "Hurling Through Space at an Unimaginable Speed." Fair will be student teaching in Alma this winter semester.

"We were quite excited to be performing the Michigan premier and second overall performance of renowned composer David Maslanka's 'Hurling Through Space at an Unimaginable Speed' [at the concert]," said David Zerbe, percussion ensemble conductor.

"The piece had its world premiere this past March and the composer had expressed his desire to send me a score and parts for us to perform the piece, as we have recorded and performed a number of his works and he very much likes our interpretations. And here we are."

The first Michigan performance was a piece composed for 15 players on mallet percussion, timpani, piano, and the stringed bass.

The concert's other pieces employed many different instruments, including rain sticks and a wind machine built by the members of the percussion ensemble.

The piece "Musique de Table" by Thierry De Mey featured three percussionists who used their hands to play and tap lightly on tables.

Miki's piece "Marimba Spiritual" also featured Fair and had three percussionists, who employed Japanese Taiko drumming techniques.

The title of Emmanuel

Sejourne's humorous piece "Vous Avez Du Feu?" translates roughly from French to "Do You Have a Match?" and had four players producing different sounds and visual images with cigarette lighters.

The second half of the percussion ensemble's performance emphasized jazz music. It featured three pieces

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arranged by students **Ari Kornelis ('14)** and **Ben Brow ('14)**. The concert allowed for variety in its selections.

"We played another arrangement written by my friend Dr. Stephen Martin of a piece by Mindy Smith entitled Tennessee," said Zerbe. "[It was] performed by Dave Fair, percussion intern Mark DeMull, and myself. It was a fun little piece and I enjoyed the chance to perform with Mark and Dave."

The next opportunity to see and hear the percussion ensemble in action will be at its spring concert in April.



Kayla Keenan: Staff Photographer

Top: Kelly Gervin ('13), Kegan Ball ('15), and Tony Audia ('15) performed "Musique de Table" using only their hands and wooden boxes.

Bottom: The Alma College Percussion Ensemble was the second group ever to perform David Maslanka's "Hurling Through Space at an Unimaginable Speed."

Alma Symphony Orchestra prepares Mendelssohn concerto, holiday music

BY RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

If you've been craving some elegant music as a relaxation strategy before finals, you're in luck.

Last Sunday, the Alma Symphony Orchestra played its second concert of the season, entitled "Mendelssohn and More!"

The concert took place at 4 p.m. in the Remick Heritage Center. Tickets were \$10 for adults aged 18 and up, \$5 for seniors aged 62 and up, and free for Alma College staff, students, and youth 18 and under.

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Gross insists on the power of live music. "We're spoiled by recordings," he said. "Reality, in a way, is sometimes more exciting than clean perfections."

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However, the concert did

include some seasonal flavor. The symphony played "a few holiday pieces that will be familiar," said Gross. "[The concert is a] great opportunity to hear some great arrangements of familiar holiday tunes."

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said. "[W]atching fellow students perform" is an experience not easily forgotten.

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Experience contradicts stereotypes about fraternities

BY RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

There are a lot of ancient stories about travelers receiving wisdom from a sage sitting cross-legged on top of an impossibly pointy mountain summit.

There are also a lot of less-ancient stories about unfortunate individuals who ignored sound advice from their elders, whether or not those elders were accomplished mountaineers or orange-robed monks.

In fact, most of the time these elders were parents saying things like “eat your vegetables, Johnny,” or “don’t play in the street, Johnny,” or “that’s pointing the wrong way, Johnny.”

I’m almost nineteen years into this life, and I’ve done my best to follow one of the most common pieces of that advice: Don’t judge a book by its cover. Or, don’t judge a scroll by its seal, in the case of the previously mentioned ancient stories.

As I write this I am about three hours away from being initiated into a fraternity. That sentence in itself should astound me, but it doesn’t anymore.

Right away, you, dear reader, probably got a new impression of me. Regardless of how well you may know me, if you didn’t know this little snippet of information

before reading the last paragraph, something has shifted in your perception of who I am as a person.

I figure most of those impressions you just got are well-known enough to the point that I don’t need to elaborate on them.

If you had asked me a little over one year ago whether I would ever consider joining a fraternity, I would have made a dismissive “psssh” noise and a joke about fraternity stereotypes based on some movie I’ve never seen. Then I probably would have made a few more jokes until you got tired of hearing me talk and left.

Now it’s a full set of seasons later. I have changed in many ways since fall of my freshman year here at Alma, but those ways are topics for another time. Or perhaps for another opinion column.

Anyway. Fraternities. I have circled around into the other camp, but not necessarily the one that supports all the stereotypes of obscenely no-holds-barred partying and unforgivably mean or disgusting pranks and panty raids (whatever that means anymore). I have found the camp that I feel fits me best. If you’ll allow a strange metaphor, the camp I’ve found most likely has a Ray-shaped tent.

To say I have more respect for Greek life is fair at best. To say that my perceptions of what a fraternity means to me have drastically transformed? That’s the truth.

I can’t speak for everyone, obviously. (If I did, nobody would be able to tell what I was saying because I would say everything



Photo courtesy of Colin Silkwood

The brothers of Phi Mu Alpha welcomed Ray Visser (‘15), as well as four other new probationary members who have now been initiated, with a dinner at Pizza Sam’s at the beginning of the semester.

all at once.) Different folks of different strokes can have vastly different experiences with fraternities or sororities.

Maybe I’m just one of a lucky minority. Maybe I’m joining a fraternity which doesn’t subscribe to many of the stereotypes our culture has ingrained in every one of us.

There’s a reason most stereotypes exist. Certainly some are true some of the time. For instance, most Americans can walk up to a fast-food counter and

order a large greasy McWhopper, a pound of fries, and a “Diet” Whichever Cola You Prefer, without any hint of the irony of the situation.

But the point I’m getting at here, in a roundabout and distracted way, is that something has changed within me. I still hold fraternity stereotypes in my head, and I sometimes see them on display. Stereotypes are true sometimes, yes, but all of them, all the time? Not at all.

Now I see that stereotypes

don’t define a group of people any more than other factors. I’ve learned about a fraternity from the inside. My impressions have changed unexpectedly. And here I am, about to join something I never could have predicted in nineteen years.

So, the next time you find yourself stuck only with preconceived notions of someone or something, take the advice of the elders: open up the book. Read the pages. You might find things you never expected.

Students consider planet’s health as well as their own

BY BEN KING
STAFF WRITER

With winter approaching, cold season is almost in full bore. This year’s strain of flu will soon rear its ugly head, knocking countless students on their backs and leaving them ill and incapacitated.

In a collegiate atmosphere, it is key to maintain your health and immune system. When you allow one of these to become compromised, you may risk missing lectures, school work, and even exams.

Maintaining your health is vital in obtaining an education and having a successful college career.

There are many ways for a person to stay healthy while helping the environment.

Sleep is key to maintaining a healthy immune system. This winter try and go to bed at an appropriate time. The less time you are awake during the night, the less energy and electricity you use powering lights and devices.

If you wish to maintain a healthy life, it is very important to ensure that you are getting the proper amount of vitamins and other nutrients. You can obtain these by either eating foods rich in certain vitamins and minerals or taking health supplements.

Since campus cafeteria food can sometimes be lacking in healthful food, taking a daily vitamin or supplement is never a bad idea.

While local produce is starting to become scarce as winter approaches,

try buying other local products as much as possible. Transporting nonlocal fruits and vegetables uses large amounts of energy, while local foods do not.

Surprisingly, turning down the temperature of your dorm room to a reasonable level on the thermostat can be beneficial to your health as well.

Humans have the ability to control body temperature by adjusting their metabolisms. When

Once these enter the environment they can leech into the ecosystem, having negative effects on plants and wildlife.

There are hundreds of healthy alternatives that can prevent a person from getting sick.

Placing a few potted plants in your room can increase the air quality of a small living space. The

plants will work effectively as air filters, removing some negative components in the air that can be harmful to health.

In your free time, research hygiene products like soap, lotion and shampoo. Oftentimes these products contain chemicals that are bad for one’s long term health. These chemicals eventually end

up in the environment. As with pharmaceuticals, there are many simple natural remedies. If you have dry skin caused by the cold weather, try eating foods with omega-3 fatty acids such as avocados. These foods will help restore your skin’s health.

This winter, as you try to stay healthy, keep the health of the planet in mind as well.

“Placing a few potted plants in your room can increase the air quality of a small living space. The plants will work effectively as air filters, removing some negative components in the air that can be harmful to your health.”

-On staying healthy

air temperatures are in the thermo neutral zone—the 70s—we burn fewer calories. So by adjusting your thermostat, you may keep your metabolism from getting lazy and also reduce your energy use.

Look to alternative and natural ways to staying healthy.

While medications and pharmaceuticals are very helpful and beneficial, they are not always necessary. Many times medications that are not taken are flushed down the toilet or thrown away.

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Women's basketball earns first win of season, 65-44

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team opened its 2012-2013 season with a loss against St. Mary's College (Minn.) at a tournament at North Central College (Ill.). The Lady Scots had a rough game and lost the opener with a score of 67-36.

"Our first half was not good as we allowed them to come out on a 7-0 run in the first 90 seconds, and we didn't recover confidence-wise," said Alma head coach Keisha Brown in a press release.

"Offensively in the first half we weren't hitting shots and didn't get many second chances and they were transitioning well.

"First game jitters really bit us in the butt to start, but we did much better in the second half. **Danielle Hicks ('13)** really gave us a boost in the second half and the whole team played better. But, we dug ourselves a hole that we could not get out of and that was the difference."

St. Mary's had an early lead and led the game through the first half, entering halftime at 43-14. Alma had a much better second half and was outscored 24-22 only in the final 20 minutes.

Hicks led her team with seven points and seven rebounds, and

Courtney Waara ('16) was next with six points for the game. **Logan Rowell ('16)** added three blocked shots and three rebounds for the Lady Scots.

The women's basketball team played again on Saturday and dropped the 70-67 decision to North Central College (Ill.).

Last Saturday, the women took on Kalamazoo College in their first home game of the season.

The Scots defeated the Hornets 65-44 to earn a win and become 1-3 so far this season.

The Scots had a 31-25 lead at half time, as **Kassidi Adams ('16)** notched 10 points.

Alma shot 33 percent in the first 20 minutes while the Hornets finished 47 percent.

Kalamazoo cut Alma's lead to 36-33 on a three-pointer at 14:19 in the second half. The Scots then went on a 23-4 run over the next 9:53 and took a 59-37 lead.

Adams led the Scots with a career-high 20 points and added two blocked shots on defense. **Mallory Pruett ('15)** had 15 points and three assists, while **Bailey Gooding ('14)** notched 10 points and eight rebounds.

Mary Schlicher ('14) contributed six points and 10 rebounds, and Hicks finished with four steals and seven assists.

Alma will continue play this Wednesday night when it hosts Calvin College at the Art-Smith Arena at 7:30 p.m.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Above: Olivia Bishop ('13) had three rebounds and two points last game against Kalamazoo. Below left: Kassidi Adams ('16) has 29 points so far this season. Below right: Danielle Hicks ('13) had two points, four steals and three rebounds in the game last Saturday.



National news: NHL lockout ongoing

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Fans throughout North America are growing more and more frustrated with the drawn-out National Hockey League lockout, and no solution appears to be on the horizon.

The labor disagreement, which began two months ago when the previous collective bargaining agreement between the players and owners expired, was in its 75th day as of last Saturday. The talks turned for the worst again last week, when the federal mediators brought in to help the two sides reach an agreement announced that the two sides are too far apart

for a deal to be brokered.

All games this season through Dec. 14 have been cancelled, in addition to the 2013 All-Star Game in Columbus and the Winter Classic. The Classic, the popular outdoor game played on New Year's Day, was supposed to be played at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor between the Red Wings and the Toronto Maple Leafs.

There is no tangible end in sight to the lockout, as the players and owners remain very far apart on the core economic issues that deal with how to divide the hockey-related revenue stemming from merchandise sales and the NHL's television deal with NBC

America.

The owners had previously offered the players a 50/50 split of the revenue in an earlier proposal, but NHL Players Association President Don Fehr shot the agreement down, saying that some of the small print included in the proposal would hurt the members of his union over the agreement's six-year span. In the meantime, the only option that the players have is to decertify the union and challenge the lockout as individuals in court.

This is the third lockout in the past 20 years under league commissioner Gary Bettman, and the last lockout in 2004-2005 resulted in the loss of an entire

season. While the NHL's revenue is dropping due to the lost ticket sales so far this season, these losses pale in comparison to those of small business owners and the TV networks.

NBC, who has been the NHL's broadcast partner since 2003, has sacrificed a large amount of advertising revenue due to the fact that it has had to replace previously scheduled NHL games with second-rate programs that advertisers aren't willing to pay for. Also, the small-business owners that have establishments near the NHL arenas are taking a serious financial hit stemming from the lack of hockey-fan traffic upon which they depended in the past.

Last, and most importantly, the NHL risks pushing away a loyal fan base in both the USA and Canada that might not be willing to come back after yet another canceled or strike-shortened season. Many fans on the NHL message boards have already said they will not watch the league if and when it returns.

"It's very frustrating as a fan," said Canadian citizen **Brayden Fischer ('15)**.

"With the Pistons struggling and hockey being one of my favorite sports, it's going to make the winter's season go by very slow. Both sides can hopefully come together and reach an agreement that works for everyone."

Solid 75-73 win for men's basketball in home opener

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

The men's basketball teams travelled to the season opener last Friday at Wheaton College in Illinois' Tip-Off Classic.

The Scots opened their season against Capital University (Ohio). After a heated four quarters, Alma dropped the 83-73 decision to Capital.

"I'm really happy with our effort tonight as we knew Capital

would play much more inspired after their loss to Wheaton on Thursday," said Alma head coach Sam Hargraves in a press release.

"They are a veteran team and they played like it tonight. They made a big shot every time they had to and our defense was much better than you would think by looking at their shooting percentage.

"This game is something that we can definitely build on going forward into another very tough game against Wheaton."

The game was tight through much of the first half. The Scots had their last lead of 10-9 after **Charley Helmer ('16)** made a

shot at 15:08. Capital then had the lead for the rest of the game, and held onto it, heading the game 42-31 at the halftime break.

The Scots fought coming into the second half. In the final 20 minutes the deficit was cut to 45-40. Even though Alma outscored Capital in the second half, 42-41, it came up short in the end.

For the game, **Isiah Law ('14)**, a transfer from Muskegon Community College, led the Scots with 21 points and three steals in his Alma debut. **DJ Beckman ('16)** contributed 11 points and four rebounds, while **Ivy Johnson ('16)** added nine points and a team high of six

assists. **Brandon Krause ('14)** scored 10 points for his team, and Helmer tallied five rebounds and four points in the loss.

The Scots played again on Saturday and lost to Wheaton College (Ill.), 76-49.

Last Saturday was a different story for the men's basketball team as they defeated Baldwin Wallace, 75-73.

The game started out at 9-6 in favor of Baldwin Wallace at 15:09., when the Yellow Jackets went on a 17-6 run over the next six minutes to take the lead of 26-13.

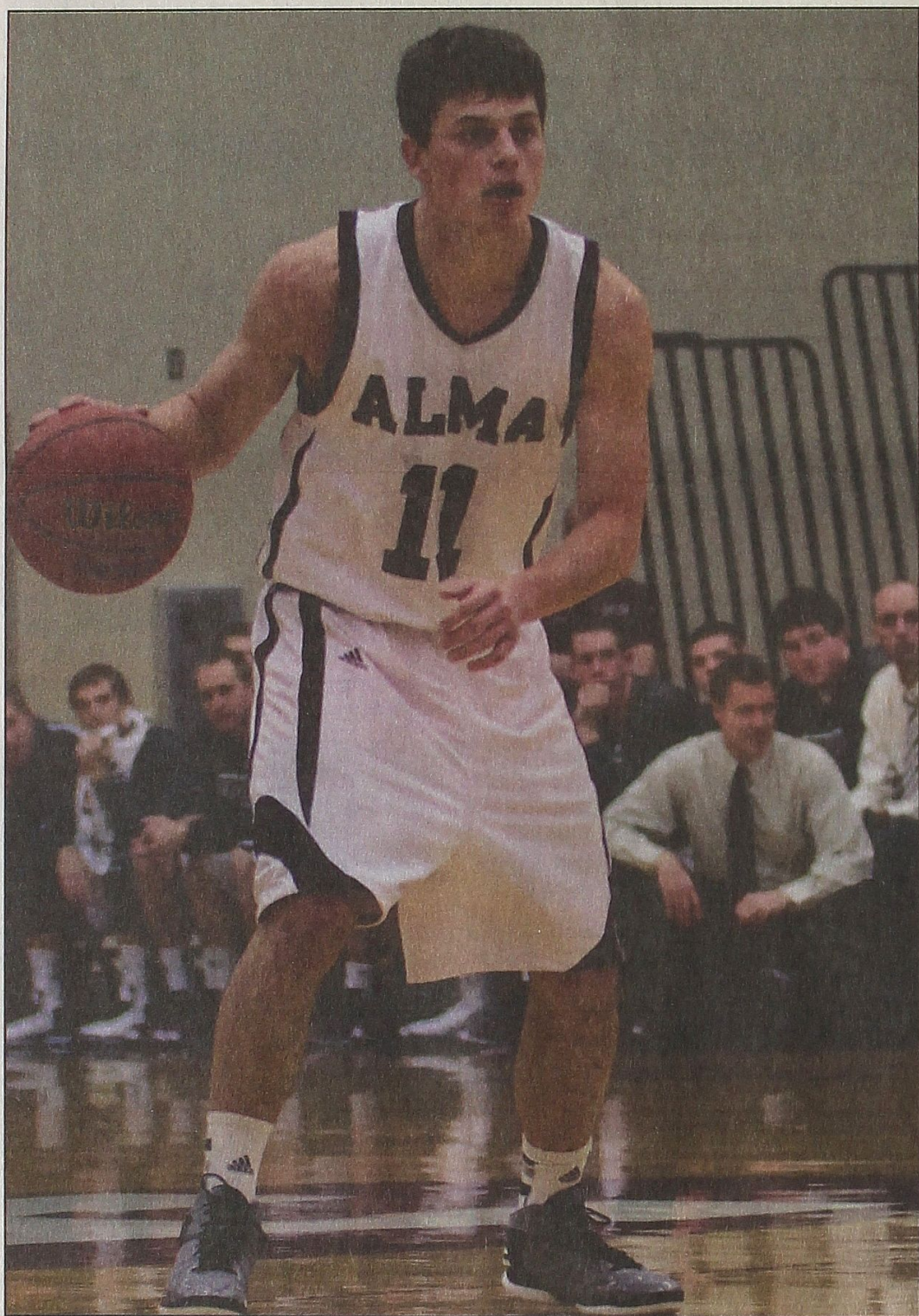
The Scots cut the deficit to one at 32-21 on a three-pointer by Law at the 3:25 mark. The Yellow

Jackets then took the lead of 39-35 before half time.

Greg Silverthorn ('13) hit a jumper at 10:27 to give the Scots at 60-59 lead in the second half, and they did not trail again.

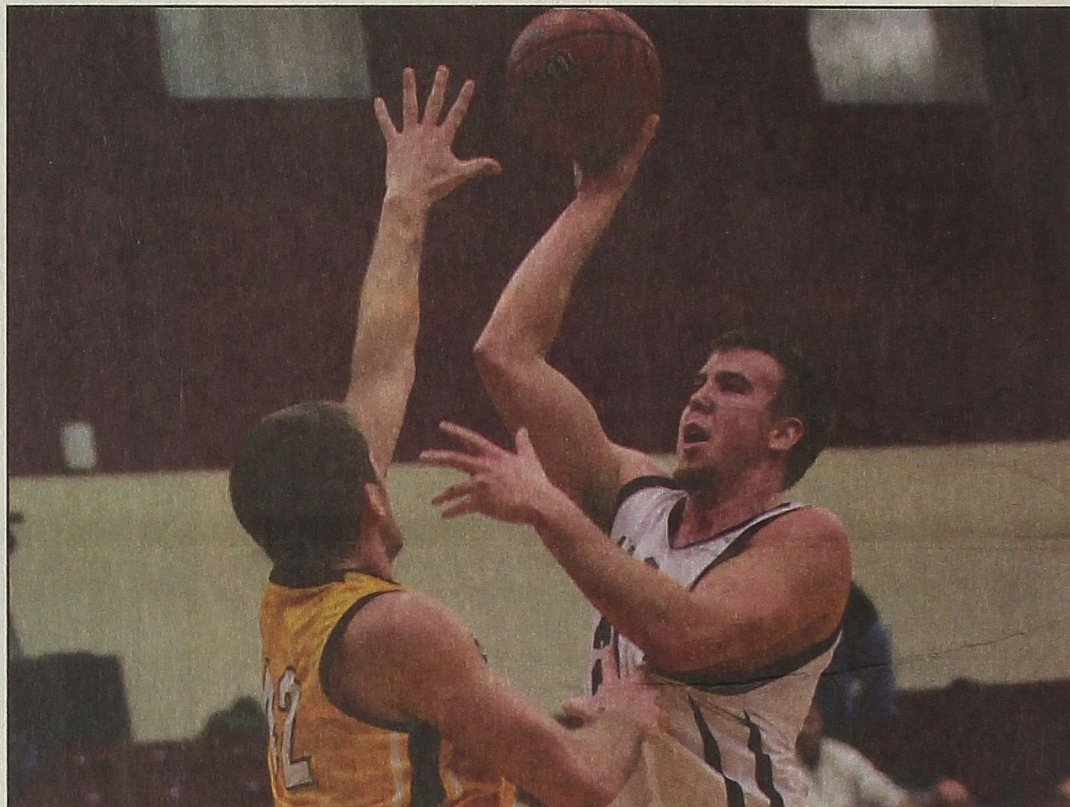
Law led Alma with 23 points, three assists and three steals. Silverthorn notched 18 points and four assists. Beckman finished with 12 points, while **Brian Sheridan ('13)** had 10 points and ten rebounds.

This win brought Alma to a 2-4 overall record. The Scots will be back in action at home on December 15 at 5 p.m. against Spring Arbor University.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Above: **Brandon Krause ('14)** had two points and one assists last Saturday for the Scots. Right top: **Brian Sheridan ('13)** notched 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Scots. Right bottom: **Isiah Law ('14)** led the team with 23 points against Baldwin Wallace last Saturday.



Scots' roundup: A look back at hockey, wrestling

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Alma's men's hockey team placed in Mt. Pleasant last Wednesday for their Championship final game. The men on the team have been traveling to play with Mt. Pleasant's club teams all season. Impressively, they never lost a game and went 7-1-0 for the season.

"We had a great handful of players this season who were very enjoyable to play with," said **Eric Plisko ('13)**.

"We prepared by going over what we knew best and the

position we preferred to play. My personal goal was to have a lot of fun actually and score a few goals; our team goal was to win out the season, and I think we accomplished both.

"I had a blast and a great season. [Since] we finished the season 7-1-0, we did not lose a game and we won the championship, so [overall] it was a great season." Plisko wasn't the only hockey player enthused about the successful season.

"The team consisted of some new guys, a couple of freshmen, and we really gelled well from the beginning and got on the winning streak," said **Brad Tippett ('14)**.

"The only preparation was over the summer—we as individuals participated in our hometowns, playing drop I games..

"Our main goal was to win the league but [also to] have fun doing it. My personal goal was to help the team as much as possible and continue to get better. I did achieve my goal—I participated in every game, playing sufficient time, and I scored my first goal since I was little."

The wrestling team participated in the very competitive Ohio Northern Invitational and finished the day with fourth place out of 16 teams. For Alma's team, seven wrestlers

placed as winners, which included two champions. Overall, the squad had a successful day.

"The Ohio Northern tournament is one of the strongest ones out there and for us to do as well as we did is very exciting," said Scots Head Coach Todd Hibbs in a press release.

"To place fourth with this solid of competition is something to build on as we get ready to host our first meet next weekend against Tiffin."

The Scots had many notable performances. **Matt Tuttle ('13)** won at 165 pounds, and **Adam Robinson ('16)** took heavyweight honors for his team. **Collin**

Lesko ('15) placed second at 125 pounds and **Casimer Strzynski ('15)** earned a fourth place spot in the same class.

At 149 pounds, **Caleb Huff ('16)** finished fifth, while **Trevor Maresh ('16)** came in sixth at 197 pounds. In addition, **Tyler Foley ('15)** placed eighth at 125 pounds.

Each weight class held 32 wrestlers.

"I performed near my best today, and I plan on getting better throughout the season," said **Brock Neeson ('15)**. "I intend to become an All American this year. I'm really proud of the guys—they wrestled well and it made me proud to be a Scot."