

English students dabble in theatre

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

Stucchi's didn't have a single seat open, and standing room was limited to watch Dana Aspinall's English 120 class perform three plays by Anton Chekhov last Friday evening.

The class, which is a requirement for anyone who may major or minor in English, focuses on literary analysis. Aspinall's class this fall focused on dramas by William Shakespeare and Chekhov.

The group of about 15 students acted out "The Bear," "The Proposal," and "The Anniversary." Each play was only one act that involved a small situation escalating into chaos and humor. Every member of the class participated either as a director or an actor.

The class read Chekhov's "Three Sisters" and talked about its meaning in depth, according to **Kassie VanAlst ('16)**, as well as how they relate to modern times.

"His plays are significant because they reflect reality and are thought provoking," said VanAlst.

Rebecca Blasius ('16) was one of the directors of the "The Proposal."

"The play is about a proposal

between Lomov and Natalya. These two individuals trigger many fights over ownership of land, and their dogs. These fights cause Lomov to experience many palpitations, and the problems reach extraneous heights. Finally, they disregard their differences, and move on with their lives in happiness," explained Blasius.

"I was an actress in 'The Proposal,'" said VanAlst. "I played the role of Natalya, who is a temperamental girl who stands her ground in the face of the man who wishes to propose to her."

"Through this experience I learned the huge responsibilities of being a director," said Blasius. "This included the scenery, props, costumes, designing posters, making programs, and also guiding the actors in the right direction to a great performance."

Abigail Delaney ('16) was the master of ceremonies for the night as well as Luka, the female lead's servant, in "The Bear," where a landowner comes to collect the debt from a widow's late husband.

"We've really been focusing the gender roles of both the times in the text and modern days," said Delaney. "In 'The Bear,' the widow speaks about how, in order to spite her husband's cheating ways, she will remain faithful to him until she dies. This reminds me of how in Shakespearean times and even up to the 1950s, even when a woman knew her husband was cheating on her, she was forced by social rules to ignore it and allow it to happen."



Kayla Keenan, Staff Photographer

Kassie Van Alst (left) and Savannah Ferman (right) act out "The Proposal," a satire on upper middle class courtship in the late 1800s.

"I really enjoyed the production of the plays. It is fun to be able to work together and do hands-on activities with the plays that we read in class," VanAlst noted.

The process of learning these plays and their meanings, as well as the time it took to rehearse them grew the class closer together.

Delaney was nervous about

being on stage and worried about laughing during the middle of the performance, but she said last Friday night was a success with flying colors.

Exam Treats return, menu revised

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Exam treats are back with a twist this year.

Taking place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, exam treats have been held during exam weeks for at least 30 years, according to Cindy Walz, executive chef.

"People can visit, relax, and just chill," said Walz.

And this year, Walz said she changed up the themes.

On Monday, it'll be business as usual, Walz said. College officials sponsor this night of exam treats and they will be serving the students a breakfast.

"It's an Alma tradition," said Walz.

President Jeff Abernathy will be serving fresh fruit, while Vice Presidents Dave Buhl and Nick Piccolo will be serving pancakes. Other Alma dignitaries will also be there to help, said Walz.

"It is always fun to serve at the Exam Week 'breakfast!'" Abernathy said. "We hope that students get the week off to a great start."

In addition, comedian Eric

O'Shea will be performing in SAGA at 9:15 Monday night.

O'Shea is known for his YouTube hit "Songs for Commercials," which got over 4

"It is always fun to serve at the Exam Week 'breakfast!' We hope that students get the week off to a great start."

-Alma College President Jeff Abernathy

million views, and for being the 2007 National College Comedian of the Year.

But on Tuesday night, Walz said, there will be a new theme of a nacho bar, replacing the fried food night that had been previously held. There will also be some candy.

In addition, The Scot will have a photo booth for students.

"We offered the photo

booth at the men's and women's basketball games...and wanted to host the event again to reach even more students and increase participation," said **Rachel Giza ('13)**, editor-in-chief of The Scot. "We thought exam treats would be a great time to do so as it is traditionally attended by a large percentage of students."

They have a computer program that simulates a photo booth in which four pictures are taken in succession, Giza explained. These print out in two photo strips similar to what one would get from a photo booth in a mall, and they cost only \$2.

The money raised by the photo booth will not only reimburse their expenses, but will go towards extra expenses for the yearbook.

"This year specifically, we want to upgrade the quality of the cover of the yearbook to a matte finish, which increases the production price a minimal amount," Giza said.

The Scot will also be handing out 2011-2012 yearbooks at that time, she added. Finally, on Wednesday night, there will be a coffee house theme. There will be specialty coffees and hot chocolate with syrups and whipped cream, Walz said.

There will also be treats such as brownies, cinnamon rolls, hot cookies, and fresh popcorn, she said.

There will also be some local talent performing, including **David Kramp ('14)**, who will play his guitar, said Walz.

Other changes besides the new themes and added entertainment include the layout.

"The treats will be stationed out in the dining room so there will be less waiting and more enjoying," Walz said. In past years, students have had to deal with the hassle of long lines, Walz explained, so she wants to provide a more relaxed environment.

Also, there will be no foam or plastic-ware used.

"It's so environmentally unfriendly," Walz said, so she decided they would use regular dishes.

Walz hopes students enjoy the new themes and layout, she said.

"Mark your calendars and come enjoy a treat on SAGA," Walz said. "You deserve it."

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday



Mostly cloudy

30°



Partly sunny

35°



Mostly sunny

38°



Some sunshine

39°



Rainy

36°



Cloudy, rain possible

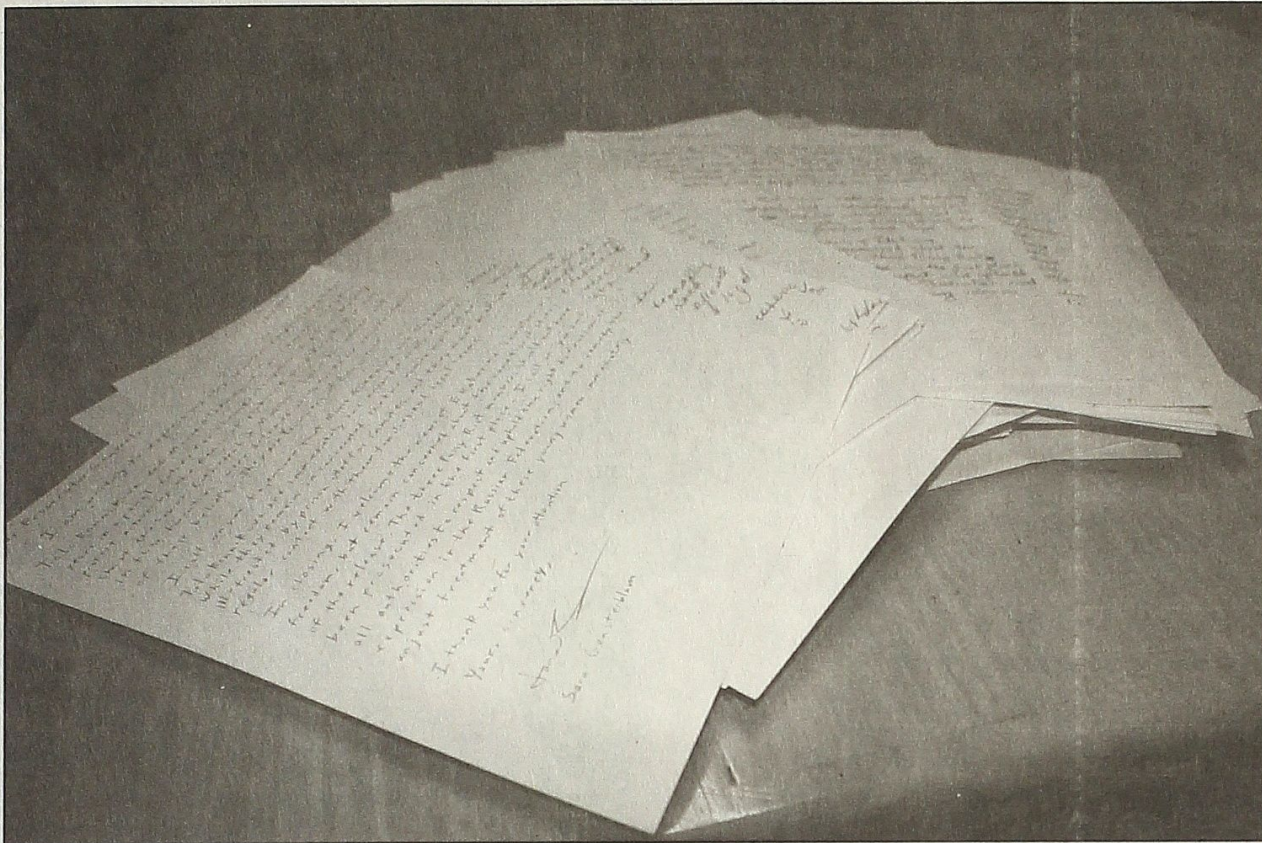
39°

Two student organizations advocate for human rights issues worldwide

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Alma College students made their mark on international human rights issues in the Rotunda last Wednesday—just by signing their names.

Two student organizations, Amnesty International and the International Criminal Court Student Network (ICCSN), co-



Kayla Keenan: Staff Photographer

Students wrote over 200 letters for various issues last Wednesday through Amnesty International and International Criminal Court Student Network. Recipients included death row inmate Reggie Clemons, President Barack Obama, the Russian Prosecutor General, President of Nigeria Goodluck Jonathan, and Columbian President Juan Manuel Santos.

“I believe in the power of numbers. Anyone can make a difference if they make the effort.”

-Emily Montgomery ('13)

hosted the Amnesty International event “Write 4 Rights.” Students wrote and signed over 200 letters addressed to politicians and leaders around the world, encouraging awareness of human rights violations.

The event got its start several weeks ago.

“Several students attended the [Amnesty International] Midwest Regional Conference,” said **Ari Kornelis ('14)**, president of Alma College’s branch of ICCSN. “They helped us with resources

and ideas to make this [event] successful.”

The issues being addressed were varied. Reggie Clemons, a man on death row in Missouri whose trial has lingering questions, will receive words of support, and President Barack Obama will be sent letters encouraging the release of Hussain Salem Mohammed Almerfedi, a man held in the Guantanamo Bay prison without charges.

Participants also confronted international issues. Letters to

be sent to the Russian Prosecutor General ask for the release of two members of a feminist punk band incarcerated for playing a protest show in February; Goodluck Jonathan, the president of Nigeria, will be addressed regarding the contamination of his nation’s Bodo community by a breached Shell oil pipeline; and Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos will be encouraged to investigate attacks against feminist activist Monica Roa and her colleagues.

The letter project was part

of a larger national effort. “This week, [Amnesty International] promotes [this event] in different student organizations across the U.S.,” said Kornelis.

Participants had several opportunities to contribute to the effort. Passersby were encouraged to take a few minutes to hand-write a letter about each issue or to simply sign their names to one or several of the form letters.

“We [were] hoping to get 200 [letters signed or written],” said Amnesty Vice President **Lauren**

Engels ('15). “Every letter counts.”

These letters, whether handwritten or signed, are not an empty gesture. “A lot of times, [politicians] will have an intern who receives letters, emails, and Tweets,” said Kornelis. “They’re responsible for keeping an eye on what people think.”

Alma College’s contribution could easily lead to results. “[Maybe receiving] 15 letters [means] they are required to go talk to the politician about the issue,” said Kornelis. “We send a lot of letters. Hopefully that’ll trigger a response, and, hopefully, positive action will come from that.”

The event also had personal connections with many students, both members and non-members of Amnesty and ICCSN.

Engels attended the regional conference and holds these human rights issues close to her heart. “I want to focus on war and the effects it has on children,” said Engels.

“I saw a lot of flyers [for the event],” said **John Julien ('15)**. “They caught my eye.” Julien, a dedicated musician, chose to write a letter to the Russian prosecutor general fighting for the release of the imprisoned punk band members. “I like to put myself in other peoples’ shoes,” he said.

Emily Montgomery ('13) was not familiar with event before deciding to attend, but realized it had relevance to her.

“I believe in the power of numbers,” said Montgomery. “Anyone can make a difference if they make the effort.”

Student’s presentation on cannabis makes points about legalization

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

The legalization of cannabis (or marijuana) is something that not only should happen in the near future but will, according to **Ric Heise ('14)**.

He presented his paper on the various reasons why cannabis should be legalized and the history behind its negative perception last Thursday at 8 p.m. in the SAC building, Room 207.

The presentation was originally meant for the Philosophy Club meeting, but ended up attracting a large audience. By the time Heise’s speech began, the room was packed and extra chairs were needed to fit everyone in.

“I had to do a presentation for

class. I ended up doing about four times more than necessary,” said Heise. “Dr. Dixon asked me if I’d like to present for philosophy club.”

Heise started the event by emphasizing that cannabis, no matter what name it was given, is still a plant. According to him, the first legal sanction on cannabis was the Marijuana Stamp Act in 1937.

Since then, it has been vilified and treated as something that only promotes violent and socially unacceptable behavior. Heise pointed out in his presentation that the reasons behind the banning of cannabis were monetary and “moral,” not actually anything to do with scientific evidence.

“Some would have you believe it’s a dangerous drug, that it causes normal people to become terrible murderers, criminals, dangerous to themselves and society,” said Heise. “Regardless of what people call it: it’s a plant. A plant that people cultivate, cure, and then smoke.”

He said that released propaganda painted cannabis as strictly harmful and would devise other means to promote all of the harm that can come from it.

He discussed how cannabis was listed as a “schedule 1” drug. Any drug given this description follows the following criteria: a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

Other drugs listed as schedule 1 are heroin, peyote, and DMT. Heise noted that methamphetamine (meth) and opium are not listed as schedule 1 drugs, despite their highly addictive nature, since they both have medical purposes.

“There is no inherent danger from cannabis compared to other drugs,” said Heise.

He compared cannabis to alcohol and tobacco, making the point that although both of those substances are highly addictive and have no medical purposes, they are legally available and not

listed as schedule 1.

Heise said that tobacco is the

“Some would have you believe that it’s a dangerous drug. That it causes normal people to become terrible murderers, criminals, dangerous to themselves and society. Regardless of what people call it, it’s a plant, a plant that people cultivate, cure, and then smoke.”

-Ric Heise ('14)

more harmful of the substances because people require a filter to smoke it but are still susceptible to its effects. However, he also

said cannabis has compounds that could potentially kill cancer.

He also noted that the high amount of cannabis-related arrests takes time away from officials solving real crime. According to Heise, half of all drug arrests are connected to cannabis use.

If the plant was to be legalized, Heise doesn’t think all usage should be permitted. He does believe, however, that law enforcement should follow its alcohol policy and only crack down on those who harm others while under the influence.

Heise is very confident in the possibility of cannabis being legalized in the future.

“It will be [legalized]. I’m sure [that] in an amount of years, it will be legalized and regulated,” he said.

This is the second year that Heise has been involved with the philosophy club and is interested in doing more presentations for the club. He said that he has a few ideas, but nothing set in stone just yet.

End of world theories appear as old news

BY JAKE BROWER
STAFF WRITER

The end of the world is always a silly topic to me. I enjoy reading or watching zombies meandering about, but the small “the end is nigh” crowd has always amused me the most. Every few years or so, it seems as though a religious leader is apologizing for persuading a group of people to sell their belongings to prepare for an apocalypse that never comes. Sometimes they will hit the national news a second time to declare that they miscalculated and the end is but a few months delayed to again apologize and disappear into well-deserved

obscurity. A popular theory for a while now has been that the end of the Mayan Calendar on December 21st of this year signals the end for us. Whether or not you truck with this idea, it is very entertaining to hear about the various scenarios people have dreamed up. There are many dramatic ways the Earth has been theorized to cease and desist. Of zombies, meteorites, volcanic reckoning, and more, my personal favorite is the Polar Shift. The subtlety and simplicity of the magnetic poles merely relocating themselves and yet causing earthquakes, disastrous weather, and messing with the ozone layer appeals to the more whimsical side of my nature.

Luckily, it is very unlikely we will have to deal with such an event. Global warming (more accurately climate change) appears to be a major factor in peoples’ belief of this theory. But still, nobody seems to be taking much heed in the possibility of a global super storm that could wipe out our entire species. Why worry about it now when you can let your future children have all of the excitement? For our generation, it is all fun and games until we lose digital television and Honey Boo Boo. The Earth has a long history of people believing that they would live to see the end of the world. Luckily for us, humankind has continually been disappointed. Maybe in nine months or so there

may be a small rise in the birth rate, but I hope that most people are not too concerned with the end of the world that they are going to sit in a bunker to wait for destruction. The unsubstantiated threat of impending doom does offer the question of how happy we would be if our lives if the world were to stop. The best suggestion is make sure to relax and enjoy the last break before school restarts. As Lyn Yutang once said, “If you can spend a perfectly useless afternoon in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned how to live.” Existentialism would suggest that the end of the world will either arrive or not arrive and nothing we can do will stop it

if it does, or something along that idea. So there is no point in making elaborate plans for if the normal course of the world takes a dramatic turn. On a final note: have a safe holiday no matter what you are planning to do. Having this weekend survived a crash that totaled my car, I personally have no desire of dying through any accident or apocalypse. After all, it would be tragic for the world to end and people to miss out on the opportunity to see the second and third of “The Hobbit” movies. Drive safely and have yourselves a merry Christmas, Festivus, or whatever suits you. Should the doomsday come, may the odds be ever supporting your endeavors.

New “Spider-Man” contributes to downfall of originality in Hollywood

BY DANIEL MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

I recently had the opportunity to watch “The Amazing Spider-Man”. This time, it stars Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone. While I like this movie considerably more than the Tobey Maguire “Spider-Man” series, I think it came out too soon. One of my biggest problems with Hollywood is how nowadays it seems that the majority of the new films are either remakes from older films, or they are sequels. Now, there is nothing wrong with remakes and sequels (one of my favorite movies, “The Dark Knight Rises”, is a sequel), but I dislike the fact that more of them are made than original movies. First of all, I do want to establish the fact that I enjoyed the movie. I found “The Amazing Spider-Man” to be more enjoyable than each of the three films in which

Tobey Maguire dons the Spider-Man suit. I liked Emma Stone as Gwen Stacy much better than I liked Kirsten Dunst as Mary-Jane Watson from the previous trilogy. Watching those three flicks made me feel that Mary-Jane was not believable as a human being. I very strongly feel that the way Kirsten Dunst portrayed her was not necessarily bad, but it definitely did not lessen my impression of her character. Tobey Maguire’s portrayal of Spider-man/Peter Parker was horrific. My problem with his performance is that he poorly portrayed what little emotion was written for Peter Parker in the previous three films. He, however, was not the only problem; the writers did a poor job with the dialogue and emotions that I believe the character should have expressed. Those are just a few of the many problems I have with the Spider-Man trilogy that originated in 2002, but the two that I listed make the trilogy impossible to stand. Those problems were not present in “The Amazing Spider-

Man”. Emma Stone did an amazing job as Gwen Stacy, the new love interest of Peter Parker. Stacy is 100 percent human. The only thing unreal about her is the fact that she is made up. But I see many Gwen Stacy’s in my everyday life. What I mean by that is she is very relatable to most American girls, unlike the Mary-Jane Watson character presented in the 2002 trilogy. Andrew Garfield’s performance as Spider-Man/Peter Parker is also one of the factors that make the movie an enjoyable viewing experience. He did a much better job than Tobey Maguire, mainly because he showed more emotion; that made his Peter Parker a much more likable character than the character from the previous films. Despite my enjoyment of the film, I feel it came out way too soon, seeing as how the third “Spider-Man” movie from the previous trilogy. Just because it was better than the three previous films combined, that does not mean it should have come out so soon. The reason I have a problem

with these movies coming out so close together is because I see it as a sign that Hollywood is heading for a downfall. I would not be surprised to learn that the majority of the movies being made today are either remakes or sequels. I think it is sad that so movies with plots that are original have become a minority in the cinematic world. Why is this happening? Who is to blame for this? Some people say the writers are at fault. Some have come to this delusional conclusion that the writers cannot come up with new, interesting story ideas. I do not think that is the case. I think the writers have many new and interesting stories to tell. I do not believe that. I think the real reason why most of the movies being made today are remakes or sequels is because filmmakers know that we will continue to see these films. Our willingness to pay insane amounts of money to go to the theater (or buy the DVD) to see these movies indicate that we do not care what is happening to Hollywood. We do not care that

the writers have so many good, original story ideas because we have an idea what we will get when we see remakes and sequels. And I admit I am as guilty of this problem as everyone else. But this is a problem that needs to be taken care of. We, as a consumer of the product that is Hollywood films, have to demand as many original ideas as sequels. Know that I am not saying that remakes and sequels are bad. I enjoy sequels, and I think a healthy dosage of sequels is necessary for maximum enjoyment of the Hollywood experience. But we have allowed Hollywood to go too far. We have led them to believe that all we want to see are sequels and remakes, which, from my experience, is a false belief. So what I say to you, as the consumer, is this: when you go to rent movies such as “The Amazing-Spider Man,” know that you will most likely enjoy this movie, but also that you are fueling the monster that has led to Hollywood’s lack of originality in films.

the Almanian.
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Alma women's basketball now 2-1 in conference play

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Road wins are always tough to come by in college basketball, but the Alma women dispelled that idea last Saturday when they traveled to Notre Dame, Ind., and defeated the Gaels of Saint Mary's 67-61.

The big win followed a disappointing 97-56 loss to a very good Calvin team last Wednesday, and puts the ladies' record at 2-4 overall and 2-1 in the MIAA. They will take the court Saturday against Albion at 3 p.m. at Art Smith Arena.

In the Calvin game, the ladies were outplayed in the first half and trailed 46-16 at the break. The Knights would hang on in the second half and would win by a final score of 97-56. Guard **Kassidi Adams ('16)** and forward **Raeanna Zink ('16)** led the Scots with 13 points.

Calvin had 43 rebounds as opposed to Alma's 29. The matchup was quite even on turnovers with Calvin's 17 and Alma's 21. Calvin had 38 points in the paint, while Alma had only 18.

"Calvin is a very good team, [the] best in our conference and [in] the nation," said center **Sarah**



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Raeanna Zink ('16), right, has played in all six games for the Scots this season. They are 2-1 in conference play.

Stinson ('14). "We lost one of our best players, **Danielle Hicks ('13)**, early in the game due to an injury and another because of a mix-up with fouls.

"It was a series of unfortunate events; however, our team stayed focused and we stayed fighting until the last buzzer.

We shouldn't have lost by 41 points. We're much better than that and we know it."

The team rebounded from the tough loss, however, and defeated the Gaels of St. Mary's in dramatic fashion last Saturday.

The Scots led 33-27 at halftime and would fight for a 34-34 split

in the second half to hold on for the win. Guard **Mallory Pruett ('15)** paced Alma with 19 points, and forward **Mary Schlicher ('14)** added 15 points. Hicks and Schlicher both had 12 rebounds in the game.

The statistics from the game show it to be a very close

matchup.

Alma had 41 rebounds and 22 turnovers compared to St. Mary's 47 rebounds and 21 turnovers. Alma had 32 points in the paint with St. Mary's earning 34. Alma grabbed 41 rebounds and 13 assists to St. Mary's 47 rebounds and 14 assists.

Swim team breaks multiple school records

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Thus far the men's and women's swim and dive teams have competed in six events this season, including three conference meets against Calvin, Hope, and Albion Colleges.

Led by Coach Chris Hamstra, the men's team won the meet against Albion and lost to Hope and Calvin. The women's team was victorious against Saint Mary's College and Albion but fell to Hope earlier in the season.

This last weekend, the swim team took to the road and competed in the Carthage Invite in Wisconsin on Friday and Saturday.

Both the men's and women's teams finished in third place. The men's team came in with 911

points, while the women's team completed the competition with 807.5 points.

The weekend proved to be very successful. The high number of points earned was attributed to several school records being broken by a multitude of different athletes. The Scots finished the weekend very strong.

"I swam the 50, 100, and 200 freestyle as individual events. I felt like I swam well and my times were very good for a mid-season meet," said Captain **Mariah Nawrot ('14)**.

"The mid-season meet is always a meet that prepares swimmers for conference since most people have to swim in the morning and at night. So it was great for the freshmen to get a chance to see what conference will feel like."

"I think the team was extremely ready for this meet, considering we took down 11 records from our board, which we have never done at mid season. The next big thing

for us is to get ready for Arizona and then continue to gear up for conference, which is only a little ways away in February."

Some of the records broken include the 400 and 800 freestyle relay, the 500 freestyle stroke, the 1000 freestyle, the mile, and were all impressively broken by **Miranda Anderson ('14)**.

"We had a rest week before, so we were a little rested and we could go faster," said Anderson. "I just swim my races every time to do my best. I was just glad to be done with my races [at that point]."

Victoria Bishop ('16), who contributed to the record-breaking 800 freestyle relay along with teammates **Carrie Berkompas ('16)**, **Jaclyn Shetterly ('16)**, and Anderson, said, "When I swam in the 800 free relay, I felt nothing but adrenaline.

"As soon as I dove in the water, my arms and legs were pulsing with energy and all I kept telling

myself was to strive for the record. After touching the wall, I [found] out I dropped three seconds from my lifetime best and that we had broken the record. It's these kinds of moments that make all the hard work and pain worth it."

Other record holders for the men's team include: **Ian Moore ('15)**, who broke the 200 breaststroke record; and **Carson Crabill ('15)**, **Daniel Biggs ('15)**, **David Case ('14)**, and **Heath Thornton ('14)**, who took the 200 freestyle relay.

For the women's team, the record for the 400 freestyle relay was broken by Anderson, Shetterly, **Katie Vargas ('14)**, and **Claryce Porzondek ('14)**.

Shetterly also took the record for the 200 backstroke. "When I was swimming the 200 backstroke, it felt easy," she said. "I just made sure to kick three times off of each wall. I suppose that must have helped me improve my time because I ended up dropping

3 seconds."

"When I finished I was so excited. I had this huge smile on my face because I hadn't expected to go that fast. It wasn't one of my goals at the beginning of the year [to break the record], so I was extremely surprised."

In total, it was a very eventful and successful weekend for both swim teams.

The women's diving teams headed to the Calvin College Winter Invitational as well last weekend. For the women's 3-meter diving event, **Brooke Peterson ('15)** placed 15th in the preliminaries, and **Rebecca Fink ('14)** placed 20th. Neither diver made it to the finals.

In the 1-meter diving event, **Kendall Cox ('15)** placed 15th, Fink came in 24th, and **Chelsea Bennett ('15)** took 25th place.

The Scots' swim and dive teams will take on Defiance College (Ohio) at home at McClure Natatorium on Jan. 12.

College football bowls: U of M, MSU, CMU

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

The end of December is upon us, and with that point in the year comes the college football bowl season. Michigan universities will be well represented in this year's games, with Michigan headed to Tampa Bay, Michigan State going

to Phoenix, and Central Michigan traveling to Detroit.

Central Michigan will face the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky in the Little Caesar's Bowl. The Chippewas, with a record of 6-6, were one of the last bowl-eligible teams selected to a bowl.

An interesting item to watch in this game will be how Western Kentucky will perform after losing Coach Willie Taggart to South

Florida. Central's season-defining win came in the third week of the season when they defeated Iowa 32-31. The pick: Western Kentucky 34-14.

Michigan State will compete in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl in Phoenix against Texas Christian in an attempt to have a successful end to a very disappointing season. Workhouse back Le'Veon Bell has carried the majority

of the Spartans' offense so far this season, due to the lack of an established passing attack featuring quarterback Andrew Maxwell.

MSU has showed flashes of greatness this year in wins over Wisconsin and Boise State, but has fallen flat in home losses to Northwestern and Iowa. The pick: Michigan State 20-17.

Michigan will face South

Carolina in Tampa's Outback Bowl and will look to finish 9-4 in Coach Brady Hoke's second season. The Wolverines have a high-powered offense featuring the quarterback duo of Denard Robinson and Devin Gardner, and they are still looking for a season-defining win. The Wolverines will look to improve the Big Ten's record against the SEC. The pick: Michigan 30-24.