

Greek life welcomes new members

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

Sororities and fraternities at Alma have now finished winter recruitment and as a result are all receiving new members. Recruitment is a two-week process. The first week, beginning Jan. 23, is List-Signing. During List-Signing people sign up if they are interested in going Greek and informational meetings about Greek life also take place during this time. The second week of recruitment for fraternities consisted of

Smokers, which began last Saturday. "Each house hosts an event and it includes a meal and speeches by the brothers to talk about the specifics of that fraternity and what it means to be a brother there," said David Blandford, director of campus life. Brian Wagner ('11), president of Sigma Chi, added that it is a time to get to know the potential new members (PNMs) and for them to get oriented and familiar with the Greek system. William Dresser ('11), president of Zeta Sigma, said that each fraternity sends a representative to each smoker

and that the Inter-fraternity Council (IFC) president and the two Rush chairs also attend. Drew Lindamood ('12), IFC president, said the representatives attend to ensure all the fraternities are following all the rules and regulations of IFC. On Saturday evening there was a banquet where all the male PMNs and the Greek chapters are invited to have dinner. There is also a guest speaker. This year the speaker was the Vice President of Greek Life at the University of Michigan. For sororities, the second week

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Photo by Kayla Roy
Zeta Sigma welcomed new members at run outs last Saturday.

Four Alma students selected as Fulbright finalists

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
STAFF WRITER

Continuing a long-standing tradition of academic excellence at Alma College, four senior students were recently selected as finalists for a prestigious international scholarship opportunity. Chelsea Clark ('11), Kathleen Crombe ('11), Lisa Biering ('11) and Michael Malloy ('11) have all been selected by the United States government as candidates for the Fulbright Scholarship, which would pay for them to spend a year abroad teaching English as a second language. The Fulbright award allows for students to design their own course of action to contribute to foreign communities through universities in participating nations. The scholarship leaves a great deal of responsibility and initiative in the hands of the student. "The Fulbright application process helps students reflect both on their college experience and on their future goals," said Derick Hulme professor of political science.

"Students invariably comment on how the process of writing and rewriting essays sheds light on the true value of their liberal arts experience and enables them to grow as more thoughtful and reflective people." As for the journey that each recipient would embark on, there is a wide variety of interests and aspirations among the candidates. Clark aspires to incorporate art into the learning process of middle or high school students in Malaysia, while corroding racial barriers in and out of the classroom. In addition to teaching



Photo by Simone Boos
Lisa Biering ('11), Kathleen Crombe ('11), and Chelsea Clark ('11) are three of the students selected as candidates for the Fulbright Scholarship. The other Scot selected was Michael Malloy ('11).

English as a second language, Clark plans to work with an environmental NGO to make the island more sustainable and study climate change in relation to the work on her senior thesis. "As a foreign service major, I'm really looking forward to learning another language," said Clark. Crombe hopes to work with middle and high school students as well but will also be working with a service organization in South Korea to combat poverty in the community. Biering's destination is Indonesia, where she would

supplement her teaching with a women's rights outreach program in the community. "I'm not sure exactly what I want to do after college, but teaching English as a second language is a major possibility," said Biering. "This is an amazing opportunity to test out the field and I look forward to immersing myself in different cultures, ethnic groups and languages." Malloy, who graduated this fall, would like to teach in Spain and research alternative education programs for immigrant students. "The success of our

scholarship applicants testifies to the commitment of the entire Alma College community to foster excellence and identify life-altering opportunities for our students," said Hulme. "The record of Alma's Nationally Competitive Scholarship Committee in producing scholarship winners has distinguished Alma College as a truly exceptional liberal arts institution." Since 2000, 33 Alma College students have been awarded nationally competitive scholarships, 17 of which

received Fulbright scholarships. Undoubtedly, the Alma experience provides students with the skills necessary to make a difference far beyond its own small community. "Alma College has really brought in my capacity to learn, not only from my own life, major and experiences, but in the context of worldly issues," said Biering, who spent her first year of undergraduate study at Michigan State University. "[Alma] offers an excellent, well-rounded liberal arts education, in every sense of the word, which you really can't get anywhere else." The finalists were also very appreciative of the extensive faculty support they received, particularly that of Hulme, who helped prepare the applications which were due at the beginning of October. "A lot rides on these two, one-page essays, the personal statement and the statement of purpose," said Clarke. "There's been a lot of revising and a lot of waiting." "I was counting the number of drafts at first, but then we were rewriting and meeting with Dr. Hulme every day," said Biering. "Everything began to jumble together after a while but in the end I think I wrote 15-20 drafts." Clark was also appreciative of the support of Edward Lorenz Reid-Knox professor of history, professor of political science and public affairs director. She and many other Fulbright applicants have had his continuing input through the process as well as through the entirety of their Alma experience. Finalists were chosen by the U.S. government, but the scholarship winners will be selected by the destination countries sometime in the next three months.

Two SIFE members work on business plan in Uganda

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

Two members of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) got a taste of African culture during last winter break. Bill McHenry ('11) and Holly Oemke ('12) traveled to Uganda to implement a sustainable business plan created by members of SIFE. McHenry said people often misunderstand African culture. "The most meaningful part of the trip was how open they

were to us, but also how similar they were to us," said McHenry. "People have misconceptions about African culture. I never felt out of place or uncomfortable. I always felt very accepted." McHenry and Oemke were in Southwestern Uganda for over a week in January. McHenry said the Ugandan people they were assisting wanted help creating a sustainable business plan to better their lives. Once arriving in Uganda, McHenry said he and Oemke set up a business plan, created an

inventory system, and developed new ideas for hand crafts. "We opened up the dialogue for them to talk to each other and help themselves out," said McHenry. "The evaluation of the

impact Bill and Holly had this year is currently ongoing," said Ronald Lemmon, assistant professor of business administration and international business and advisor of SIFE.

Lemmon said there is an evaluation process after the students return from Uganda. "The process we use is as follows.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Snow Showers 25°	Flurries 17°	Flurries 14°	Partly Cloudy 14°	Few Snow Showers 22°	Few Snow Showers 27°	Mostly Cloudy 30°

UHPAC to hold fair next Friday

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

Eugene Applebaum, a representative from the Wayne State College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, will be at Alma College on Friday Feb. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in Jones Auditorium to talk about programs offered at the college.

“Physical therapy, physician assistant, pharmacy, and occupational therapy are the main four,” said Carolyn Commissaris (’11). “They’ll give general information about their programs as well as how to prepare for them in undergraduate school.”

“I am attending because it will be interesting to hear about other careers in the health care field besides MD,” said Joani Schmeling (’11). “It will also be informative to hear about other options and, who knows, maybe they will spark my interest.”

“I would say this presentation is aimed at underclassmen,” said Commissaris. “A lot of kids come to college knowing they’re interested in science of medicine and only know of the doctor route – this will help them get exposure to other fields.”

There will be a health symposium on March 12 with a lot of different health professionals, possibly from various schools.

“This is a smaller version of that, with an admission’s representative from a school with a lot of great programs,” said Commissaris.

“At United Health Professions of Alma College (UHPAC) and ACP we are working to diversify

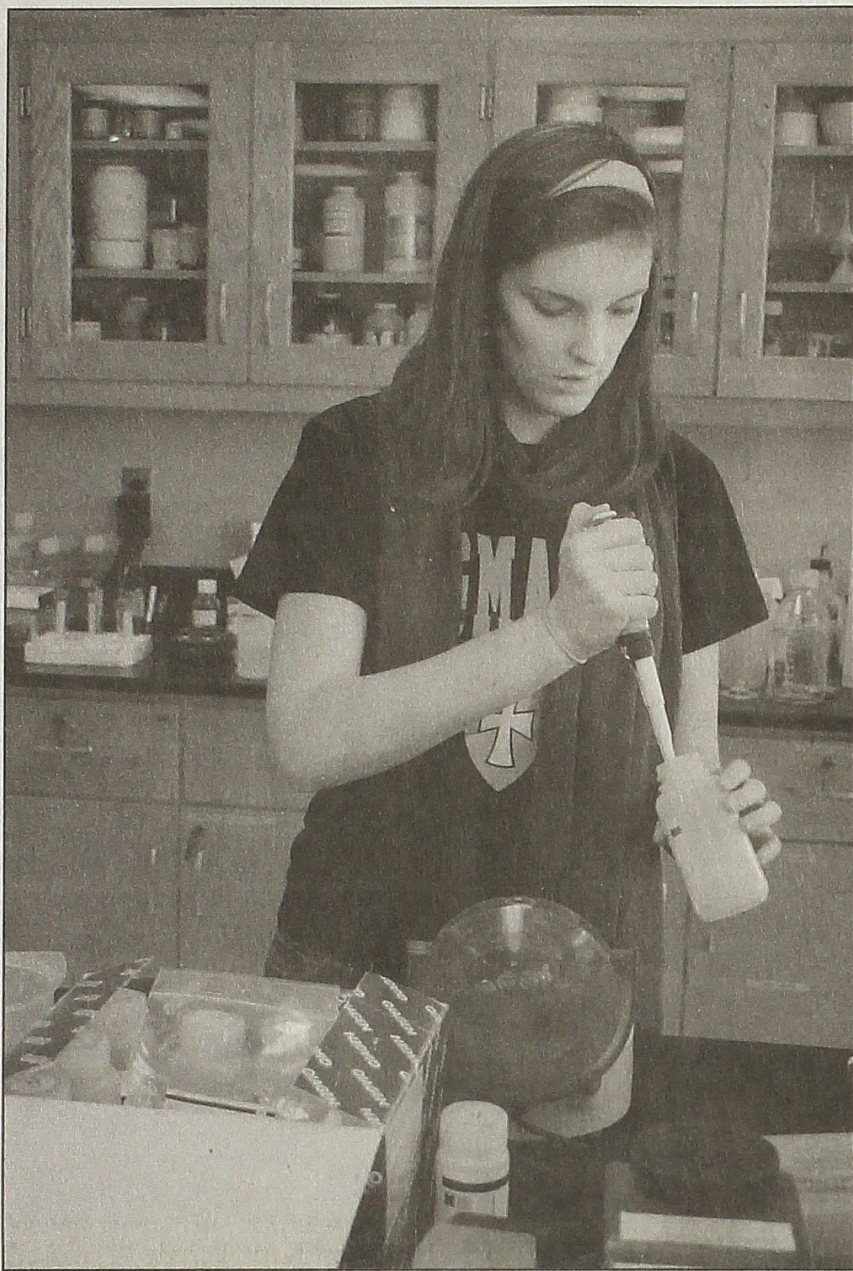


Photo by Kayla Roy

Emily Moe (’12) is part of United Health Professions at Alma College. UHPAC plans on having a fair, Friday, Feb. 18, to expose students to various opportunities in medical studies.

our resources,” said Commissaris. “We want to broaden ourselves and help those in all health fields, not just medicine.”

There is Health Profession Peer Career Mentoring every

Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the basement of the library. UHPAC is looking for mentees, so if you’re interested, contact the Molly Steere in the Academic and Career Planning (ACP) Office.

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Students evaluate the team’s success on the recent trip, and that includes the need for and likelihood of future success by continuing the project, and they then make the recommendation to continue or discontinue the project to me and the executive committee of SIFE,” said Lemmon.

As advisor of SIFE, Lemmon helps students make independent decisions.

“My involvement is more of an advisor, not a decision maker,” said Lemmon.

“I want to make sure the reasoning is sound to continue or discontinue the project with clear cut goals established and I also look at funding issues to make sure we can find funding to continue the project,” Lemmon added.

Lemmon said that a goal for Students in Free Enterprise is to help fulfill the needs of others.

“SIFE is all about the students themselves leading and creating these opportunities with a focus on filling a need,” said Lemmon.

“They have done an amazing job with the Uganda project thus far and my job is to support their efforts,” Lemmon added.

This week at Alma College

Wednesday, February 9:

ACUB Movie Night at 7 p.m. in Jones Auditorium

Friday, February 11:

The Vagina Monologues at 8 p.m. in DOW L1
Alma Con from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Rotunda, Fireside, North and South Commons, and Jones Auditorium

Saturday, February 12:

Alma Con from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Rotunda, Fireside, North and South Commons, and Jones Auditorium

Sunday, February 13:

Alma Symphony Orchestra at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Faculty work to control various issues of academic dishonesty

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
STAFF WRITER

The availability of technology has made academic dishonesty more easily available, some Alma faculty have realized, but they are doing what they can to stop it.

“Academic dishonesty violates the notion of independent inquiry and independent learning, as well as growth as an educated citizen,” said Robert Cunningham, chair and associate professor of economics and associate provost.

The argument that students are only cheating themselves borders on cliché; however, those who avoid learning material in basic foundational courses will only find it more difficult to keep up in more advanced classes rooted in the same concepts, according to Cunningham.

Even if the information is not essential to the student’s later career, Cunningham said, getting caught cheating can cause irreparable damage a student’s academic career.

“Alma College policy is that faculty members can deal with

academic dishonesty however they see fit,” said Cunningham. “In some cases, this could only mean failing a quiz, but in others, it could mean failing the entire class.”

“We all write in a different way, and as a professor, you can easily get a feel for what that looks and sounds like for each student. The Internet makes it even easier to detect. All you have to do is Google a small phrase, and you can tell almost immediately.”

-Robert Cunningham, chair and associate professor of economics and associate provost

In addition, professors can choose to report the case to the provost’s office, where Cunningham will meet with

both professor and student to determine the student’s guilt.

Any incident will remain on the student’s record for a full year and, if a second offense should occur within that time, the student is placed at the mercy of the judicial board, a situation which could potentially result in expulsion, according to Cunningham.

While the vast availability of resources on the internet may make plagiarism seem that much easier, students must also realize that it makes detecting plagiarism equally simple.

“We all write in a different way, and as a professor, you can easily get a feel for what that looks and sounds like for each student,” said Cunningham. “The internet makes it even easier to detect. All you have to do is Google a small phrase, and you can tell almost immediately.”

Most cases that come to the provost’s office are related to younger students and plagiarism, according to Cunningham.

“With first year level classes, it’s entirely possible that they don’t really know what plagiarism is, or so we would like to believe,” said Cunningham.

Another possibility is that students do not understand the gravity of using someone else’s words and ideas without due credit.

“At the end of my junior year [in high school], my principal even plagiarized his graduation speech,” said Michael Cataldo (’14). “They made a big deal out of it and removed him, but I heard he just got put in a higher position with less work. Nobody seemed to really care.”

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Cataldo attended Naperville Central High School, which is included in Newsweek.com’s list of top American high schools. According to the Chicago Tribune, the valedictorian was discovered to have lifted a good portion of his address from a popular satirical news Website, The Onion, that same year.

Despite these negative influences, Alma students seem to be receiving the proper messages from their professors.

Since Cunningham took over the role of associate provost from Marc Setterlund, professor of psychology, last August, only one incident of plagiarism has been brought to his attention, indicating a decreased rate from previous years.

To my knowledge, we don’t currently have any kind of systemic problem with academic dishonesty,” said Cunningham. “The faculty seems to be handling the issue very well.” “I always study hard to make sure that I’m prepared for any and all quizzes, tests, and exams, and I’m always sure to put plenty of time and effort into my papers,” said Cataldo.

“Esmé’s Traveling Gender Show and Tell” performs for students

By **LAUREN ANDALORA**
STAFF WRITER

“Esmé’s Traveling Gender Show and Tell” came to campus last Wednesday through the combined efforts of many Alma interest groups.

It was the collaborative force the Women’s Issues Advisory Board (WIAB), Co-Curr, the Counseling and Wellness Center and the departments of Women’s and Gender Studies, Communications and English that made the event a possibility.

“When I received the email about this event I was really intrigued and showed it to my colleagues who were very supportive,” said Joanne Gilbert,

Charles A. Dana professor and chair of communication.

“I was especially excited that they were offering a Q&A panel so students could ask questions and not simply distance themselves from the entertainment aspect of a drag show.”

For Professor Gilbert, one of the most influential theorists was Judith Butler, who said that ‘gender is only real to the extent that it is performed.’

“Consequently, I teach the social-constructionist approach to gender and am particularly interested in marginal groups,” said Gilbert.

“I hope students come away from this experience understanding that the two gender binaries, male and female, are not applicable to everyone. I want them to see the need to

value differences and embrace alternative gender identities.”

The director of the drag show, Esmé Rodriguez, teaches women’s and gender studies at Macalester College. She also directs a bi-monthly show called “Dragmanity” and performs regularly at the Bryant Lake Bowl Theatre.

“I wanted to do this panel because a lot of people go to a drag show but never get to see the performers under the makeup and costumes,” said Rodriguez.

“I like exploring the concepts of femininity and ethnicity as well as explore the academic theories attached to drag.”

“I love playing with makeup and having fun,” said drag queen Jeremy Johnson a.k.a Ravalution.

Former Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) president and MacCurdy House director **Jessica Paige**



Photo by Simone Boos

Jeremy Johnson emceed for the show under his drag queen persona, Ravalution.

(’12) had the opportunity to escort the troupe around campus.

“As a women’s and gender studies major this was very much in my realm of interest,” said Paige. “They were great people to talk with and the show was phenomenal. To be in that space of incredible energy was a natural high.”

The drag show included performances of pop songs such as Katy Perry’s “I Kissed a Girl,” Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance,” Beyoncé’s “Halo” and Christina Perri’s “Jar of Hearts.”

Some of the more classic musical artists heard in the show were Bonnie Tyler, Joan Jett, Queen, Journey and Cyndi Lauper.

“I do drag for fun, to entertain and show different sides of my personality in an artistic way,” said drag king Jorge Sanchez.

Because a main focus of the event was education and student participation, Alma students had the opportunity to coordinate and assist with the event.

“I helped with costume changes and really anything they needed,”

said **Elizabeth Armstrong** (’13).

“Esmé makes almost all of the outfits for the show and they’re absolutely fabulous.”

Jones Auditorium was “overflowing,” according to Armstrong. “Next time they’ll have to do two nights to accommodate all the people,” she added.

“I had a ton of fun; it was a blast,” said **Emily Hollenberg** (’14). “It was really a once in a lifetime experience that I’m really thankful for.”

The layout of the auditorium allowed for the performers to move through the crowd and interact with the audience.

“I like how involved they were with the students,” said **Lauren Quaal** (’14). “Inviting everyone up to dance between sets and mingling with the professors was very cool.”

“I’m very impressed with how receptive and welcoming the campus was,” said Paige. “I chatted with the performers after the show and they were so excited about the turnout and really want to come back next year with the full cast.”



Photo by Simone Boos

Drag queen Esmé Rodriguez performed with her traveling gender show in Jones Auditorium last Wednesday night, after a question-and-answer session with students and faculty that afternoon.

Housekeeper photographs campus in downtime

By **ELISABETH BLETSCH**
STAFF WRITER

The different events held on campus are an open canvas for photographers and Trent Wiederhold, Alma College housekeeper, couldn’t agree more.

“I started taking photos around campus just days after I bought a new camera because I needed the practice and I found it to be an easy target,” said Wiederhold.

Wiederhold has worked at Alma College for 24 years.

He said he has always enjoyed photography, but just recently purchased a professional camera after saving change he found while cleaning dorm rooms during the summer months.

Wiederhold creates photo albums on Facebook with the pictures he takes on campus and he encourages students to tag themselves and hopes students enjoy each picture he shoots.

“I think alumni like to see the pictures as a way to keep up with what is happening on and off campus,” said Wiederhold. “I’m

just glad to put a smile on someone’s face. It’s a way that I can give back to Alma College,” he added.

Wiederhold said he never plans to sell his shots.

“I was at commencement in April two years ago taking pictures and I posted them on Facebook,” said Wiederhold.

“A day or two later I had a mother of a graduate email me. She told me that once her family got to Alma for commencement, she discovered that their camera did not work and that the only photos of her son being at the ceremony were the ones that I had took and posted,” he added.

The mother asked Wiederhold if he could send her the pictures and said that she would pay for them. Needless to say, he sent the pictures at no cost.

Though his main outlet for his photos is Facebook, Wiederhold does plan on giving his pictures to the Alma College library for the archive’s department.

He said working at Alma College has allowed him to encourage students to always better themselves.

“I’m proud to be a housekeeper and I’m proud to be a part of the Alma College family,” said Wiederhold.

He feels that photography is unique because it is a moment in time, a narrative and a form of history.

Wiederhold does not however, just have a camera’s perspective of campus; he interacts with fellow photographers regularly. He continues to learn about photography from students, including **Devin Brines** (’12), **Simone Boos** (’12), and **DeAndre Crenshaw** (’12).

Wiederhold has lived in Michigan for most of his life and said he would not want it any other way.

“My family moved to Alma in 1981, the year I graduated from high school,” said Wiederhold. “My dad is an ordained Lutheran minister, so my family moved a lot.”

Throughout his life, Wiederhold has also lived in Ohio, Texas and just outside of Washington, D.C. but he has never felt more at home than he does in Alma.

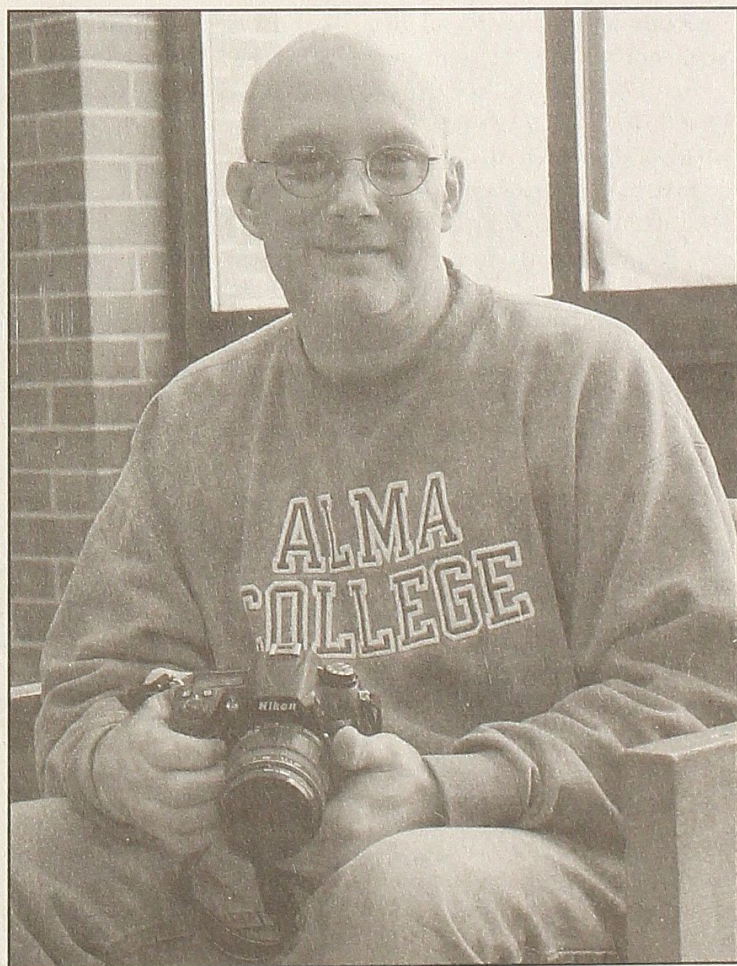


Photo by Simone Boos

Trent Wiederhold plans to give his campus photograph collection to the Alma College library archives.

GLAM Ensemble visits college

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

The Great Lakes Art Music Ensemble (GLAM) performed at Alma last Saturday in the Dunning Memorial Chapel. The concert was free and open to the public. GLAM is a quartet comprised of two flutes, a guitar and percussion. Visiting Instructor of Music

Tess Miller is one of the flutists in the group. She explained that GLAM considers themselves to be a composer collective that creates music for the concert art stage. "Two members—Andrew Bergeron on guitar and Scott Harding on percussion—have studied composition in college," said Miller. "Carmen Maret on flute took up composing when she and Andrew formed their duo,

Folia, in the early 2000s. And I, on flute, have just begun the process of learning to compose."

Miller said that the group began in 2006 when the four of them, all alums of the Michigan State University Music Department, decided to collaborate and perform a concert together. The group began performing in 2007 and has since played concerts in many locations.

"We each had a strong desire to not only work together but also eventually develop a repertoire, either from arrangements of already existing music or new compositions created by us and for us," said Miller.

In 2008, the group was invited to perform at the National Flute Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. They have also performed concerts at Albion College, Aquinas College and Mackinac Island.

"We recorded a new CD entitled 'Latin Dance Project' on the White Pine Records label and are doing a few concerts this winter to begin the promotion of this new disc," said Miller.

In addition to the Alma College performance, GLAM is playing a concert on Monday, Feb. 7 at Michigan State University.

For this performance, the concert art music includes pieces by Astor Piazzolla, J.S. Bach and works by members of the ensemble.

The group began preparing for the concert in May 2010, with a meeting to decide what pieces they wanted to perform for the upcoming concert series.

"After deciding on pieces some members got busy composing while others got busy arranging," said Miller.

The rehearsals for the concerts began in November and the first concert in this series took



Photo by Kayla Roy

Scott Harding plays percussion during last Saturday's ensemble performance in the Dunning Memorial Chapel.



Photo by Kayla Roy

Music instructor Tess Miller accompanies Carmen Maret on the flute. GLAM has been performing as a quartet since 2007.

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of recruitment is comprised of three main events, explained **Holly Graham ('12)**, president of Alpha Gamma Delta. The three events are Teas, Spreads and Desserts.

Teas took place last Saturday. **Alison Bohnhoff ('12)**, president of Gamma Phi Beta, explained that girls are broken up into groups and taken to all five sorority houses for an overview of the different sororities.

After Teas, sororities vote to pick which girls they want

to invite back to Spreads. PNMs could only attend three different sorority Spreads.

The sororities held their Spreads either last Sunday or Monday and Bohnhoff said that Spreads are more personal.

After Spreads the sororities again vote to come up with a list for who to invite back to the last round, Desserts.

Sororities hosted Desserts either last Wednesday or Thursday and PNMs could only attend two different sororities Desserts.

"Desserts are way more

formal and the sororities do some kind of intimate ceremony showing how much their sorority means to them," said Bohnhoff.

"If the girls come back to desserts, it shows that they're really interested or perhaps that they may be on the fence about the sorority. Desserts can help girls decide."

"The rounds are essentially a narrowing down process, to see which sorority the girls feel most comfortable with and which girls the sorority feels most comfortable with," said **Veronica Hill ('12)**, president of Kappa Iota.

The process of receiving and signing bids for the women is called Walk Outs and it took place last Friday night. The sororities all lined up and the girls who accepted a bid announced their chosen sorority and ran to join their new sisters.

Andrea Garrett ('12), President of Alpha Xi Delta, said that walk outs is the most fun time of the year for sororities.

"It brings the whole chapter together and the excitement is high as we are getting new girls and seeing which girls fit into our chapter and will help advance the sorority," said Garrett.

Courtney Clafin ('12), president of Phi Sigma Sigma, added that walk outs are very suspenseful for the sororities and PNMs.

For fraternities, the process of receiving and signing bids took place last Saturday night at "run outs."

Dresser described run outs as an "adrenaline-filled experience," while Wagner said that walk outs and run outs are unifying.

"Fraternities support the sororities at walk-outs on Friday, and sororities support the fraternities at run-outs on Saturday," said Wagner. "It's really a unification of the Greek system."

Overall, Graham, Bohnhoff and Dresser stressed the excitement of recruitment and said they enjoy seeing the Greek system expand.

"Anyone who is interested in the Greek system should

definitely go through recruitment," said Graham.

"It is a wonderful experience and you get the opportunity to meet so many people."

"It's exciting to see more and more people interested in going Greek," said Bohnhoff. "Greek life is such a great opportunity and it's good to see other people on campus feel the same way."

"I want Greek life to grow... I want sororities and fraternities to improve," said Dresser. "The sky is the limit for Alma College Greek life, so I hope it

"Greek life is such a great opportunity and it's good to see other people on campus feel the same way."

-Alison Bohnhoff ('12)

continues to grow in future years."

After walk outs last Friday night, the sororities welcomed forty new members. Phi Sigma Sigma, Alpha Xi Delta, and Gamma Phi Beta each received ten new recruits. Kappa Iota received one, and Alpha Gamma Delta received nine.

The fraternities welcomed forty-two new members after run-out last Saturday. Zeta Sigma and Sigma Chi each welcomed eleven new recruits. TKE and PMA each received eight, and Theta Chi received four.



Photo by Elaine Cunningham

Members of Alpha Gamma Delta and Alpha Xi Delta await their new recruits.

Campus may be safe, but still lock your door

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Although Alma's small campus may seem like a safe environment, theft happens to be an issue on our campus, according to the Student Life Office. I remember that when I had my first tour of Alma's campus; I was under the impression that the college held an anti-theft mentality. The tour guide led my dad and me on a walk through the library and we saw that students nonchalantly left their iPods, laptops and other valuable belongings on their carrels although these owners were nowhere to be seen.

This led me to feel as though I would be going to a safe college where everyone is friendly and trusting of each other. In my own personal experience throughout the past three years, this is what I have felt. I've never sensed that I was in danger of having something stolen. There's never even been the slightest suspicion that someone would ever try to take my items. I mean, who on our campus would even want to do such a thing? However, I have never been so trusting as to tempt thieves by carelessly neglecting to lock my room door. If someone where to steal another person's jacket and then proceed to wear it the next

day, for example, it would be immediately obvious and the person would ultimately be caught. In my mind, you would have to be a pretty dumb thief to steal on a campus this small. However, it turns out that it does take place. If nothing else, daily announcements have disillusioned me. Numerous postings of people searching for their stolen items such as bikes and iPods provide evidence that theft does indeed take place on our college campus. "Theft was a pretty big issue last year," said Dave Blandford the Director of Campus Life. "Since we have added campus security, the number of thefts have decreased

dramatically. I think having security walking around buildings and talking to people when they notice things out of the ordinary has been extremely helpful." However, I still do not feel as though stealing is as common a crime at Alma when compared to larger campuses. For example, at schools such as Michigan State, bikes that are chained up are literally stripped down to the frame after thieves remove the tires and seat. This is not an issue on our campus. Instead, the bikes that are stolen are those that are left unchained. "I feel that theft is an issue on all college campuses," said Blandford. "At Alma it can

sometimes be compounded by the fact that students frequently leave their doors unlocked and valuable items laying around places like the library and SAC. In my opinion, most thieves are opportunistic and commit thefts when it is easy to get valuable items without much effort. "So my advice to students would be to keep their room doors locked when they aren't there and don't leave laptops, iPods, et cetera unattended in public areas," Blandford continued. Following these simple guidelines should keep you from being a victim of theft. It is necessary that students don't create an environment that is conducive to theft.

Egyptian protests still rage

By MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

Protests continue in Egypt, as you've no doubt heard, and President Obama has finally opted to openly involve himself and the U.S. in the conflict. The Egyptian protests, which were kicked off in the wake of similar protests in Tunisia, protest the continued 30-year presidency of Hosni Mubarak, started January 25, which was National Police Day in Egypt. Since then, the police have brutally fought back in the name of Mubarak's government. There are 105 deaths reported, and those injured number 750 policemen and 1,500 protesters. Shortly after the riots began to spread from major city centers due to organization over the Internet, the Mubarak government threw their "Internet Kill Switch," which shut down all Internet access flowing in and out of the country. Coincidentally, Senator Joe Lieberman is attempting to introduce a bill to provide a similar power to the U.S. President. While this is a complicated

"Shortly after the riots began to spread... due to organization over the Internet, the Mubarak government threw their 'Internet Kill Switch...'"
-Mason Warling ('14)

organization, the protesters were not dissuaded, and they continued to join in by the hundreds, shouting slogans and demands upon the government. After a slight hesitation, the Egyptian military began to intervene on the side of the protestors, engaging in shooting matches with the police and hanging anti-Mubarak banners from their tanks. Protesters and soldiers embrace in the streets, in some of the stunning pictures taken by photojournalists on the ground in the protests. In other photos, non-Islamic protesters linked arms to create a protective circle around hundreds of praying Muslims during one of their daily prayers, and create civilian watch

groups, arming themselves with whatever is at hand, to ward off looters from neighborhood homes, and museums. However, last Thursday, a systematic attack began by pro-Mubarak mobs on journalists in Egypt, with beatings that smashed cameras and computers and even broke some of their hands. Among the journalists attacked was CNN's Anderson Cooper, as pro-Mubarak mobs punched him and his staff in the head as they attempted to approach the protesters. Cooper continues to report inconspicuously from hiding, but other journalists have been driven into their homes, scared to emerge and continue reporting. Mubarak attempted to mollify the protesters early on by dismissing the existing government, completely ignoring the core concern of the protest, that being his personal resignation. He proceeded to appoint officials loyal to him to high positions, creating as nepotistic a regime as he had before if not worse. In light of this, Western

Letter to the editor

Dear editor:

I'm writing to give a HUGE thank you to Elizabeth Corbin and The Almanian for writing and publishing the January 31-February 6 article regarding menstrual cups.

Too little attention is given to these products and to the waste created by disposable feminine products. I have many environmentally-conscious friends who regularly use these cups and love them.

Ms. Corbin's article is a great reminder that eco-friendly alternatives often benefit the consumer as well as the environment!

Thank you for helping to spread the word about this important issue!

Katherine Gagnon
MCC AmeriCorps*VISTA, Center for Responsible Leadership

governments, including the U.S., have entered into dialogue with Mubarak and urged him to allow a transition of power that respects the right of self-determination of the Egyptian people. Some say that Obama's stance is, in essence, urging Mubarak to leave his government and abandon the government to the

people's will, will cost the U.S. influence in the Middle East, who often align themselves with Mubarak and back his decision. There's a popular saying, though: "As Egypt goes, so goes the Middle East." It remains to be seen what this potential shift in power will do to the region going forward.

the Almanian.

"ALMA COLLEGE'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY SINCE 1907."

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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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Smoking bans everywhere in U.S. squash our personal freedoms

By MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

We're all aware of the current smoking bans in Michigan: There is no smoking in restaurants, bars and businesses (including hotels and motels), or any place of employment. Some states and universities take oddly unique or strict approaches to the smoking ban, including some interesting proposed measures in other states as of late. Most recently, a measure was defeated in North Dakota that would punish anyone found smoking in a vehicle that contained a minor aged

13 or younger with a \$50 fine. This was an effort to "protect the health of young people," according to N.D. Rep. Patrick Hatlestad. In New Orleans, a veritable haven of personal liberty, it is against the law for anyone who is participating in a carnival or a parade to smoke. Not only that, but each and every float entered in a parade must have a plainly visible "No Smoking" sign attached to it, in an effort to not exclude anybody from the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations. Very high on the strange scale, in the little town of Zion, Indiana, people are not allowed to give lighted cigars

to domesticated animals. This law also applies in New Jersey zoos, as it would happen. Inexplicably, in New Port, Rhode Island, it's perfectly legal to smoke a pipe anywhere, but only before dark. After dark, you'll receive a hefty civil infraction, bub, so stow the pipe. In some small towns in Missouri, it's perfectly legal for teenagers to buy loose tobacco and rolling paper, but they cannot buy a cigarette lighter. Matches are right out. Alma College requires that any smoker be 25 feet from a building entrance. Many colleges, including Michigan State and Northwestern

University, have identical policies. Others, including University of Michigan and Pennsylvania State, have policies of restricting smoking within "a reasonable distance" from university buildings. Ostensibly, this is enforced by the universities' roving gangs of professional "Reasonable People," who pass judgment on any and all smokers. Some colleges prefer to simply ban all smoking outright on campus, among them Purdue University and the University of Iowa. Ohio State has established designated "Tobacco-Free Zones," where smoking is prohibited but, on the flip

side, has designated areas of residential halls that allow smoking indoors. Personally, I identify with a lot of progressive political initiatives, but in the case of smoking I choose to differ, even though I am a non-smoker. The choice to smoke (or not) should be the right of every individual to make and, therefore, sweeping smoking bans stomp on everybody's personal freedoms. The widespread success of smoking bans lately has been disappointing to me as someone who values individual rights, and I look fondly back on the days when you could smoke on an airplane and not be harassed or get nasty looks.

Snow days: A scarce, lingering memory in adult life

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Snow days are perhaps the most iconic memory of winter but, unfortunately, after high school they become exceedingly more scarce and then almost non-existent in the adult world. Upon moving from California and into the wintry state of Michigan, snow days have been my favorite part of winter. The snow at first looked pretty, but it quickly lost its magical quality once the feeling of perpetual cold set in. Even back in middle school I would wake up early to check the radio or television for an announcement that my school would be closed. Then, after being confirmed in the school closing, I would proceed to go back to sleep and later partake in activities of snow day bliss. I did the same thing last Wednesday. I woke up at 6 a.m. to check the college website because that's when we were told that there would be an update

on the weather situation. I had literally even dreamt about the possibility of having a snow day, but actually seeing the words on my laptop screen was elating. Then, being under a high from the learned knowledge of our snow day, I didn't manage to go back to sleep until two hours later. From elementary to high school, snow days are a sort of expected rite. In college, snow days are more are more of a surprising and well-deserved luxury. Students at Alma were only hopeful for last week's occurrence because the night before virtually all other colleges and universities had already announced their closure for the next day. Unfortunately, for the majority students, it is very likely that the previous week's snow day was perhaps the last official one they will ever have. However, for myself and others going into the field of teaching, our futures in snow days are pretty secure. Winter makes everything

so much more complicated. There's the need to bundle up in extra layers to fight off the cold each time you walk out the door. Getting around by car, foot, and plane becomes a challenge that is largely dependent on the weather conditions. It plainly takes longer to do just about anything during the winter. Snow days allow us to slow down and consider the beauty of winter without actually having to go outside unless we actually want. It could be posed that the holidayseasonallowsusampletime to relax but, in reality, it is a very busy time of the year that doesn't offer a lot of time to slow down. Without the occasional snow day, how would we be able to appreciate winter? Even though there may be another "Snowpocalypse" that causes your driveway to be completely snowed in, your future employer will probably still expect that you'll make it into work. Really, some people don't feel the slightest hesitation or sympathy in forcing others

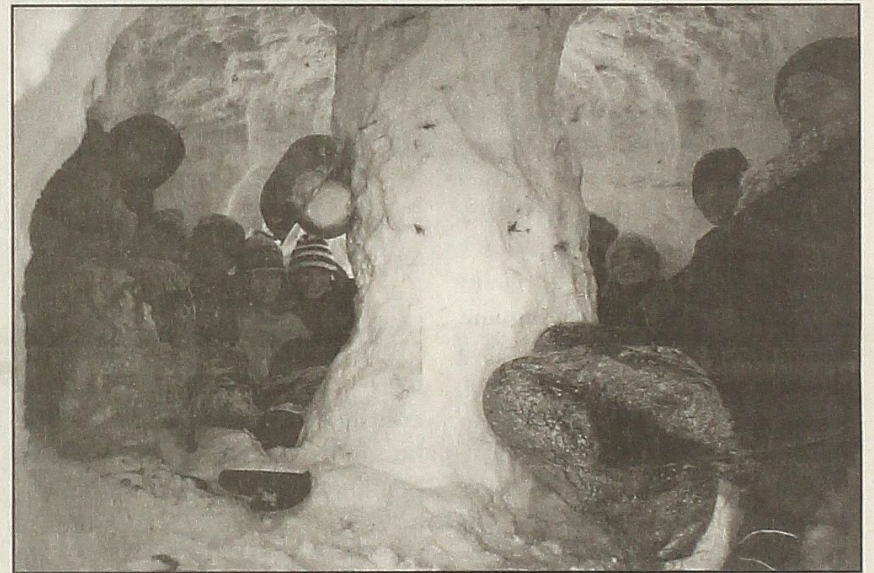


Photo by Kayla Roy

Snow days at Alma are a rare occurrence, but students took advantage of last week's blizzard. Some students spent the day making igloos. President Abernathy stated, "Closings of any sort will be rare for Alma. In this case, the blizzard conditions meant that we weren't able to clear sidewalks. Likewise, side streets remained impassable. For the safety of students, faculty and staff alike, we decided it was best to close for the day."

into "Snowpocalyptic" dangers. Yes, there will be the option of calling in, but the chance of more freebie days just given to you are slight. If you do encounter a snow day once you start a full-time career

after graduating, you should consider the occasion to be a miracle. With the possibility of snow days looking dim in the future, I hope you enjoyed your snow days while you had them.

Following the Beat with Ben King: Make delicious alternatives instead of complaints

By BEN KING
GUEST WRITER

Complaining about cafeteria foods seems to be a popular sport amongst most college students. Alma College students in particular seem to possess a special fervor in the art of bemoaning breakfast, lunch and dinner. Whether it be the quality of the food or the common occurrences of certain dishes, Alma College students are never without a culinary complaint. Alma students employ many tools to aid them in combat against their complaints. Some write scathing comments on the complimentary comment card while others take their grievances to Student Congress.

However, there are other avenues of combat against cafeteria food that few students choose to employ. Over the past few months I have noticed several students using both creative and innovative techniques to improve upon their meals. There are many techniques one can use to spruce up their breakfast, lunch and dinner. For breakfast I recommend making a breakfast sandwich. This is a simple breakfast treat that only requires two main ingredients: a bagel and one fried egg. In order to improve upon such a simple bit of food, I recommend placing a slice of cheese, taken from the sandwich bar, and

placing it upon a toasted bagel along with a few strips of bacon. Another interesting breakfast delicacy can be created through the mixing of cereals. This can be used to add variety to a simple bowl of cold cereal. Instead of just having a plain bowl of Raisin Bran or Cheerios, toss in a few spoonfuls of a more sugary cereal and enjoy the sweetness. In regards to beverages, try mixing different drinks from the soda fountain and juice dispenser. Cranberry juice and Sprite make a refreshing drink that goes down quite smoothly. Sprite makes for a good mixer with most of the juices available in the cafeteria. A more adventurous

individual may dare to venture into the realm of colas. One of my favorite cafeteria concoctions is chips and cheese or nachos. The constructing process of a good plate of nachos is almost as enjoyable as eating it. For this simple snack, I recommend placing a handful of corn chips upon a plate followed by a generous amount of well-distributed grated cheese atop the chips. It is important to spread the cheese evenly or one will have a ball of cheese sitting upon his or her chips. After distributing the cheese, one can continue constructing his or her nacho platter. This is done by selecting a

variety of vegetable toppings from the salad bar: peppers, onions, black and/or green olives and many other toppings. After choosing your toppings, place them (evenly) upon the plate. The final step of this process is cooking the nachos. Place them in the microwave and allow them to cook between 30 and 60 seconds. This time varies, depending upon the amount of cheese placed on the corn chips. Then, proceed to enjoy your nachos with salsa or hot sauce or maybe even with no sauces at all. Complaining is often counterproductive. It is important to take matters into your own hands and make any situation your own.

If you see anything in the Opinion section that you want to respond to, please write a letter to the editor!

E-mail 11amlabbb@alma.edu with any thoughts/feelings on the articles

Swimming and diving teams end regular season; prepare for MIAA championship

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

The Alma swimming and diving teams ended their regular season last Saturday at Hope College. The men took on the Flying Dutchmen, while the women competed against both the Flying Dutch and Saint Mary's.

"The women's team did really well at Hope and there were a lot of people who stepped up and swam different events—events they have never swam before, to get more points for the team," said **Miranda Anderson ('13)**. "The men's team had a lot of close

races and rose to the occasion."

The Flying Dutchmen outscored the Scots 134-89, while the Scots women fell to the Flying Dutch, 164-103 and the Belles, 137-126.

For the Scots, **Jacob Hammer ('14)** competed and earned second place in the 500 and 1000 yard freestyle with respective times of 5:05:17 and 10:21:90.

Andrew Brunner ('11) came in first place for the Scots in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 53:29 and took second place in the 200 yard IM with 2:07:07.

Two more second place rankings came from **Kaleb Hebert ('14)** who competed in the 100 yard breaststroke (1:09:29) and 200 yard backstroke (2:17:86).

In the 100 yard freestyle,

Adam Karson ('14) earned second place for the Scots with a time of 51:10 while **David Case ('14)** came in second with 1:50:27 in the 200 yard freestyle.

With a time of 23:58, **Max Marsh ('12)** took second place in the 50 yard freestyle and also ranked second in the 100 yard butterfly (56:64).

On the women's team, Anderson placed second for the Scots in the 1000 yard freestyle with a time of 11:31:10 and **Jordan Newhouse ('12)** earned third place with 1:05:99 in the 100 yard backstroke.

Shaina Buhl ('11) competed in the 100 yard breaststroke and placed third with a time of 1:15:67 and **Madison Behmlander ('12)** took first for the Scots with 2:41:65 in the 200 yard butterfly.

With 5:57:80, **Jordan Wildermuth ('14)** had a personal best in the 500 yard freestyle.

The Scots will be competing in the MIAA championships in Jenison from Feb. 17-19.

"One thing I'm sure people hear over and over again is that we constantly train for our MIAA conference meet," said Behmlander. "That meet is what the five previous months of training is all for. It comes down to one weekend."

Since competing at Hope, the teams have been reducing their practices so that they can rest for the MIAA tournament.

"We taper our practices as a way to prepare for the MIAA championships, which means we do less yards and difficult

workouts to allow our bodies time to recover and rest for the races coming up," Case said.

Since the swimmers have been preparing for the MIAA conference meet the entire season Anderson said it is going to be really fun to see how fast everyone is swimming when the time comes.

Aside from the swimming and competing, Behmlander says that the bonding and friendships that have developed throughout this season have been fantastic.

"There are some amazing people on the team," she said. "We have doubled in size this year with the incoming freshmen. They are quite talented and have so much potential and include some pretty fantastic people that I've become really close with."

Spotlight: Greer restarts diving career

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

Gwendolyn Greer ('14) is making the most of her freshman year as a member of the varsity swimming, diving and cheerleading teams as well as a member of the concert band.

Greer came to Alma from Novi where she has lived her entire life. As a Wildcat at Novi High School, Greer participated in both the marching and concert bands and led as the drum major during the marching season.

"I had never done swimming, diving or cheerleading in high school," said Greer. "I just kind of began all three of them in college."

However, Greer did have some experience in the swimming pool. She actually began swimming when she was just six years old on a swim team, however, she had to stop as she entered high school due to habitual knee problems.

"I really liked the idea of a small school and I really liked it once I came here. I love Alma--it's the perfect school for me."
-Gwendolyn Greer ('14)

"It was definitely hard to get back into shape for swimming," said Greer. "It took a great deal of effort. I have always really liked swimming and my surgeon cleared me to play sports again so I wanted to take the opportunity."

Although Greer's parents have always been supportive of her endeavors, it was her oldest sister that first sparked her interest in swimming and joining the swim team at a young age.

As a member of the swimming and diving team, Greer began competing for Alma just several weeks ago and has found returning to the pool and learning to dive both enjoyable and exciting.

"Diving looked fun and at the time we didn't have any divers so I randomly decided to try it and coach supported me," said Greer.



Photo by Simone Boos

Gwendolyn Greer ('14) is now one of the two divers on the Scots' swimming and diving team. Greer restarted her diving career and now has two competitions under her belt.

"I just started a few weeks ago and I have had two competitions so far."

In addition to restarting her swimming career and developing her diving skills, Greer decided to try something entirely new at Alma so she became a member of the cheerleading team.

Though her new commitments monopolized much of Greer's time, she still found it possible to maintain her passion for music in the concert band. Greer currently plays the flute, but can also play the piccolo.

Greer plans to again participate in the cheer squad in the fall of 2011 and is considering focusing on only diving for the 2011-12 swim and dive season.

Though she is certainly a dedicated athlete, Greer's experiences go far beyond sports: she is majoring in biology and minoring in German with hopes of attending medical school in the future. She aspires to become an orthopedic surgeon but for the time being she is just really enjoying the community and opportunities that Alma offers, she says.

"My god-mother was a guidance counselor and she told me about Alma," said Greer. "I really liked the idea of a small school and I really liked it once I came here. I love Alma—it's the perfect school for me."

It was this love of Alma and a dedication to the athletics here that has helped Greer during a very busy school year. Throughout the cheer season Greer was attending

three practices a day, swimming from 5:45-7:30 a.m. as well as 2:30-4:30 p.m. and cheerleading from 5-7 p.m. With cheerleading finished for the year, her commitments are down to only two practices for swimming and diving.

"Practice for swimming is primarily in the water, but a great deal is also a weight program," said Greer. "Diving practice occurs only once a day with a bit of dry land workouts focusing a great deal on abs."

Greer is currently preparing for the MIAA championships Feb. 17-19 held in Jenison.

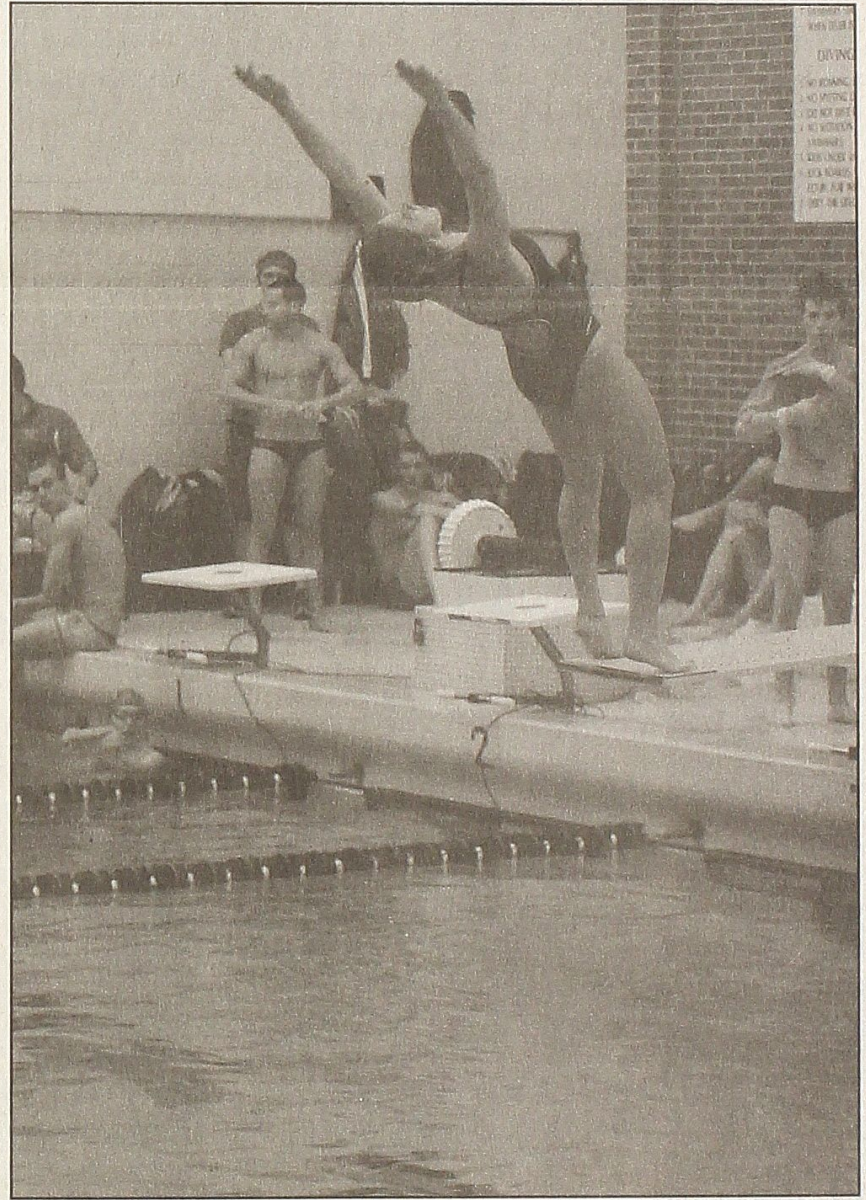


Photo by Kayla Roy

Gwendolyn Greer ('14) dives in a meet against Olivet College on Jan. 22. The women's team lost to the Comets, 108-105.

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Women's and men's basketball host the 2nd annual fundraiser for breast cancer

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team held a breast cancer awareness game in the Art Smith Arena against Albion last Saturday and left with a close loss of 56-55.

"When Albion made a run we would battle with them and keep them from continuing with the run," said **Sydney Beckwith ('11)**. "We contained them defensively."

The game started with two made free-throws from Albion and a quick rebuttal from Alma when Beckwith hit a jump shot at the 19:37 mark.

Albion was up by a margin of 13 points at the 10:47 mark until **Anna Mattson ('14)** made a layup and brought the score to 17-6. Alma ended the half with a made shot from Beckwith, putting the score at 25-24.

The second half opened with a layup by **Danielle Hicks ('13)** and for the rest of the half, Albion only managed to lead by a margin of six points at the most. Hicks put the score at 52-50 when she made a layup at the 2:55 mark and then made a 3-point shot to put Alma up by one point with 1:53 left in the game.

After a layup from Albion, the score was 54-53 in Albion's favor, but with nine seconds left in the game, **Bailey Gooding ('14)** put the score

at 55-54 when she made a layup.

Seven seconds later, Albion came back and hit a layup to leave the score at 56-55.

Beckwith lead the Scots on offense with 20 total points, while Hicks brought in 14 points for the team.

Mattson contributed an additional eight points for the Scots and **Stephanie Faller ('13)** earned four assists for Alma.

On defense, Beckwith earned 15 rebounds while Hicks and Mattson added seven and five, respectively.

"Both teams played great games for a great cause."

-Sydney Beckwith ('11)

Though it was a close and exciting game, the Scots had other motives for day; the girls were wearing pink jerseys and shorts to support breast cancer awareness. In fact, the entire week was spent collecting pennies and change throughout the community and on campus on behalf of the Angel Wings Foundation.

In the lobby of the Art-Smith Arena people were getting their hair cut to support the cause. The team also held a bake sale, a raffle and information about breast cancer for all of those interested.

Angel Wings Foundation was created by Head Coach **Keisha Brown** and is a charity that raises money for college for children with parents that passed away from cancer.

"I will absolutely, 100 percent, put on another breast cancer awareness game next year," said Brown. "This is our second year doing it and it turned out very well."

The girls on the team said that they were proud to be apart of an awareness game.

"Our coach had breast cancer twice and we wanted to do something to support her," **Sarah Stinson ('14)** said. "The game is for a good cause, and we brought in a lot of fans and many donations."

The Alma men's team also played on Saturday and showed their support in their pink warm-up t-shirts.

The men played Hope College in the Art-Smith arena and ended with a loss of 85-71.

Greg Silverthorn ('13) led the Scots on offense with 27 points and one assist, while **Cory Schneider ('12)** contributed 17 points and one assist. **Brandon Krause ('14)** also gave the Scots 11 points and one assist.

Brown said that the breast cancer awareness games were a success and her athletes agreed.

"Everyone came out to show support for not only breast cancer, but cancer in general," Beckwith said. "Both teams played great games for a great cause."



Photo by Elaine Cunningham

Anna Mattson ('14) goes up for a layup last Saturday in the game against Albion College. The Scots fell to the Britons, 56-55, and Mattson contributed eight points during the game.

Men's basketball falls to Albion College

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

The men's basketball team hosted the Albion College Britons last Thursday evening where the Scots lost 74-55. The defeat leaves Alma at 1-8 in the MIAA and 5-14 overall. The Albion College Briton's are now 5-4 in the MIAA and 11-9 on the season.

"It comes down to competing and not being dominated by your opponent," said Head Coach Charles Goffnett.

Apart from two tied scores during the first nine minutes of the contest, the Britons led for

the entirety of the game. The Scots trailed by a margin of 12-5 at 15:13 mark of the first half.

"We played well in the first half for the first 10 minutes and competed well, but our defense got a little bit lazy and we gave up some easy baskets," said Brandon Krause ('14).

The Alma College Scots proceeded to go on a run of 9-2 to tie the game at 14-14 as Greg Silverthorn ('13) converted a tip-in with 12:24 left in the half.

The Albion College Briton's led at halftime by a score of 33-24, as they finished the first half shooting 46.7% from the

field. The Alma College Scots shot just 8 of 24 in the first half giving them 33.3% from the field.

"Defensively we did not stop their inside game at all," said Goffnett. "We gave up far too many easy post-ups, guard penetration for lay-ups and offensive rebound put-backs. This translated into a 52% shooting percentage for Albion. Couple that with our 39% shooting and you get steam-rolled."

The Albion College Briton's scored the first ten points of the half jumping out to a 19-point lead in the first three minutes play (43-24). The Britons attained their

biggest lead of the game at 60-33 with 8:38 remaining in the game.

"This is one of the best basketball conferences in the country," said Goffnett. "To be successful on the scoreboard we have to play the game the right way...we must have an extraordinary effort and level of execution in our play."

Alma went 19 of 48 from the floor on the day, shooting 39.6% for the game. The Scots were led in scoring by Cory Schneider ('12) who finished with 12 points. Silverthorn added 11 points while Dustin DeShais ('13) added eight points in 19 minutes.

"As a team we have been

putting a lot of emphasis on playing better defense and rebounding better," said Krause.

The Scots also hosted league-leading Hope College last Saturday in the Art Smith Arena. The game was the second in a women's and men's doubleheader and a part of the school's annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

In this game against Hope College, the Scots came out on the losing end, with a final score of 85-71.

"For the rest of the season we want to play as hard as we can and then we will compete and get some more wins before the end of the season," said Krause.

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