

Ramos speaks of human trafficking in honor of national Women’s Month

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
STAFF WRITER

In the Dunning Memorial Chapel last Wednesday to honor Women’s Month at Alma, Norma Ramos addressed the public on understanding and combating human trafficking. A renowned public interest attorney, eco-feminist, co-executive director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) and winner of several awards for her legal and humanitarian work, Ramos developed an early interest in women’s issues. “The seeds of my actually doing this work started when I was...in college,” said Ramos. While interning in legal aid in the South Bronx, Ramos had her first encounter with the victims of prostitution. As the surrounding attorneys and legal professionals laughed and made jokes, she knew that she had to do something to help these women, who were the most broken human beings she had ever encountered, Ramos said. “At the time, there was no social justice movement addressing commercial sexual exploitation,” said Ramos. “Violence against women just wasn’t a priority of the popular liberal movement.” Ramos began to work with Women Against Pornography, doing media and educational work to raise awareness of the link between pornography and violence against women. This work soon led to the founding of the first international



Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

Norma Ramos, the award-winning executive director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, spoke last Wednesday of how women suffer and cope with lives in prostitution.

non-governmental organization to focus on the issue of human trafficking, the CATW. Since its founding in 1988, CATW has worked on both the national and international levels to improve the lives of victims of human trafficking and protect those who have not yet been victimized. Ramos sought to dispute common assumptions about the causes of commercial sexual exploitation, such as arguing against the conventional theory that women who go into prostitution, who she was reticent to call ‘prostitutes,’ are not usually drug addicts. The addiction begins afterward to help numb their emotions, Ramos said. She also expressed a strong belief in male privilege and its contribution to the issue of violence against women. Much as white Americans played an instrumental role in the abolition of slavery,

males’ contributions are essential to the success of the abolitionist gender movement, she added. “Poverty makes it worse and increases its incidence, but it is ultimately gender inequality that causes women to turn to prostitution,” said Ramos. Above all, Ramos emphasized the importance of action as a supplement to critical analysis of society’s gender messages. “It is not enough to be analytical,” said Ramos.

“There’s a phenomenon we call the paralysis of analysis, but we know enough to act.” Ramos particularly encouraged students and faculty to write letters to their senators to encourage the inclusion of Mann Act language in state and federal laws, as has been done in New York. This would end the prosecution of female victims and turn the legal responsibility back to where it belongs: on those who purchase these services.

Third annual ‘Race Week’ to be hosted by MCSU

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

Alma College’s Multicultural Student Union (MCSU) hosts the third annual “Race Week,” beginning today, to promote diversity and end discrimination on campus. “For MCSU, Race Week is a week that we focus on diversity on campus, making people aware of other cultures and differences on campus that you may not run into everyday,” said Rachel Assendelft (’11), vice president of MCSU. “We are trying to bring it to light and highlight some of the differences between people, whether that’s through a Hollywood movie or programming we’re putting on; we want to make people aware and hopefully stop or at least hinder some of the discrimination.” In order to accomplish this, MCSU hosts events every day this week. Tonight at 7 in Van Dusen, there will be round table discussions.

Assendelft said students will break off into small groups at tables, with each focusing on a hateful term. She added there will be a professor with each group to give an academic point of view, as well as a MCSU member to facilitate the discussion. There will also be a Hate Wall put up in Hamilton Commons today, which will stay up all week. “We want people to write down different racial slurs and terms of hate, even some personal stories of times when they have been confronted with issues,” said Jamie Young (’11), MCSU president. “These don’t have to be about race, it can be GLBTQ students who have had run-ins with discrimination, any religious persecution that someone has underwent... we want students to have the opportunity to share that with the campus.” Brittany Jones (’12) added that students can even write inspirational quotes on the Hate Wall for others who are dealing with hatred. Wednesday is Stereotype Day. MCSU members will pass out nametags to students

at Joe’s Place, Van Dusen, and Hamilton Commons. People will write down on the nametag stereotypes of the group they’re in but they don’t fit into, Young said. “A lot of people think stereotypes are just negative, but there are also positive stereotypes which can put a lot of pressure on people,” said Jones, giving the example of the stereotype that “all Asians are smart.” “Stereotype Day shows people that stereotypes are generally false representations of how people are—people are too different to be generalized in that way,” said Jones. There will be a multilingual poetry slam on Wednesday night, time and place currently unannounced. Thursday night, MCSU

will be showing the movie, “Crash” at 7 in SAC 113. On Friday, there will be a bonfire to burn the Hate Wall, taking place behind the Wilcox Medical Center. MCSU will also provide s’mores. “It’s a ceremonial burning, to dispel all hateful things or negative stereotypes and comments,” said Jones. Saturday night is Soul Food Night, from 5-7 in Van Dusen. “We’re cooking all the food, it’s all recipes from home that we’ve had passed down from families,” said Young. “Students have always loved Soul Food Night. It’s always been a blast to do; everybody has always enjoyed the food, and we get to eat well. It’s a fun time.” Jones added that Soul Food Night is not merely people

coming to get food, but it’s about the message of the whole week leading up to it, which is why it is placed at the end of race week. Young said that, overall, Race Week is meant to be educational and enlightening. “We’re not preaching to people, we don’t talk to the participants but give them the opportunity to talk and think amongst themselves to come to their own realizations about race,” said Young. “We have a very homogenous campus as far as racial diversity, a lot of people get comfortable with that, they look around and it’s white people everywhere, more or less. People won’t think about such issues because they don’t have to. We want to draw their attention to discrimination so people won’t get to thinking it’s not an issue.”

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mostly Sunny 34°	Mostly Sunny 40°	AM Clouds/ PM Sun 40°	Partly Cloudy 49°	Few Snow Showers 39°	AM Clouds/ PM Sun 52°	Showers 49°

Alma celebrates 125th anniversary with inauguration ceremony

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

The upcoming presidential inauguration will offer students a chance to take part in the making of college history.

Mike Silverthorn, director of college communications and chair of the 125th anniversary celebration and inauguration steering committee, said, "Inaugurations do not occur very often, but when they do they are occasions of great celebration in the history of a college. I encourage students to attend and celebrate our history, the institutional values we hold dear, and Dr. Abernathy's vision for Alma College."

Jeff Abernathy, president of Alma College and honorary member of the 125th anniversary celebration and inauguration steering committee, added, "I'm just humbled, and delighted, to be a part of this remarkable college. As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, all of us at Alma College can be proud of our accomplishments and confident of our future."

The college's anniversary and

presidential inauguration will be commemorated through a variety of events from Wednesday, April 6 to Sunday, April 10.

The theme, "Changing Lives, Building Community, Leading Change," will guide the week's events, said Silverthorn.

One of the first is a speech from Richard Heinzl, Honors Day speaker, on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Classes are cancelled on Thursday so that students can attend Honors Day presentations and the Neon Trees concert is at 9 p.m., in the Smith Arena.

"Some of the activities are events that take place every year, like Honors Day. Others are new. We are excited about the Neon Trees concert, which the students have been planning," said Silverthorn.

Friday will include a morning chapel service, Hogan sculpture dedication, inaugural symposium, and the presidential inauguration ceremony.

Silverthorn said, "The inauguration ceremony is a formal event of celebration acknowledging the arrival of a new president."

"Dr. Abernathy's inauguration will include some traditional elements, like the procession of

faculty, trustees and delegates from other institutions; the investiture of the president; and Dr. Abernathy's inaugural address that will identify a future vision of his hopes and goals for the College."

"This has been a team effort, and I am so grateful to Mike Silverthorn who has orchestrated the event, working tirelessly for months to pull it all together."
-President Jeff Abernathy

The ceremony will also include student involvement.

"The pipe band, choir, percussion ensemble and Kiltie Wind Ensemble all will perform and students will present a video on the college's 125-year history," said Silverthorn.

Silverthorn is also anticipating the inaugural symposium, which focuses on community.

"The Center for Responsible Leadership co-directors, Michael

Vickery and Murray Borrello, are organizing the symposium, which features a panel of highly respected experts on how colleges and communities can work together to build sustainable and compassionate communities in the 21st century. We expect a provocative discussion," Silverthorn said.

"While we anticipate a good attendance at both the symposium and inauguration, we also are planning to Web stream both events live to alumni and friends around the country and globally."

Abernathy said he is looking forward to each and every event the weekend holds.

"Honors Day will be a terrific day for all of us, and I am looking forward to seeing presentations throughout the day. Friday will be filled with special events for the college: the dedication of the statue honoring Dr. Tracy, our symposium on sustaining community, and the inauguration itself. It will all be a joy," Abernathy said.

Saturday will include the senior art show reception in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery and the athletic Hall of Fame reception, dinner, and ceremony.

The weekend will come to a close on Sunday with

the Masterworks Concert.

A full schedule of events for the weekend can be found online.

Silverthorn said the 125th Anniversary Celebration and Inauguration Steering Committee was formed in November 2010.

"Last fall, President Abernathy asked us to plan a series of activities during the week of Honors Day to celebrate the college's 125th anniversary, student accomplishments, community building, and the inauguration," said Silverthorn.

"The committee includes individuals from across the campus. All have been extremely helpful in the planning efforts. The committee has met weekly to plan the various events, logistics for set-up, invitation lists, scripts, and much more."

Abernathy said, "This has been a team effort, and I am so grateful to Mike Silverthorn who has orchestrated the event, working tirelessly for months to pull it all together."

In addition to the scheduled events, there will be a few surprises throughout the weekend.

Silverthorn said, "We also are planning a couple of fun surprises; you will have to attend to see what they are."

Writer Geok-lin Lim shares story in personal memoir

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

As a part of Women's Month, writer Shirley Geok-lin Lim came to campus to read and speak to students.

Lim is described by Carol Bender, professor of English, as a "generous poet, scholar, and feminist critic," is a professor at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

Lim immigrated to the United States from Malacca in the 1960s and has since taught in many different places and countries, including Australia, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

She spoke to students last Thursday night, reading from her own poems and her memoir.

Lim read multiple poems from her collection, "Walking Backwards," including "Keeping Her Distance" and "Passport."

Lim also read "Learning to Love America," a poem that has become very popular and has been anthologized everywhere.

In addition to poems, Lim read sections from her memoir, "Among the White Moon Faces."

Last Thursday afternoon, she spoke to the Introduction to Creative Writing course, taught by William Palmer, professor of English, where she offered workshop time, for students.

Lim also had dinner with students in the Ethnic Literature course, taught by Chih-Ping Chen, chair and associate professor of English, and the senior seminar course, taught by Bender.

"Bender has been teaching her memoir and poem for years and then I started teaching her memoir and so we talked about asking her if she wanted to come. We e-mailed her and she said she was willing," said Chen.

"We planned this a year in advance so that we could not

only chat with her about when she's coming but we also thought about what courses we should teach to make her work more integrated into student learning."

Chen explained that she and Bender tried to plan courses surrounding Lim's visit to try to be more creative in terms of integrating the writer's visit into student learning, as well as to prepare them to learn about the writer and the contents, rather than merely having students go to the reading.

Prior to Lim's visit, Chen said she was most looking forward to having her at Alma because of her inspiration, her life-journey, her enthusiasm about learning, her international perspective about the world, and her passion for teaching.

Despite having a memoir and

many poetry books published, Lim, who said she has been writing poetry since she was about 9 years old, explained at her reading that she often experiences "writer's remorse."

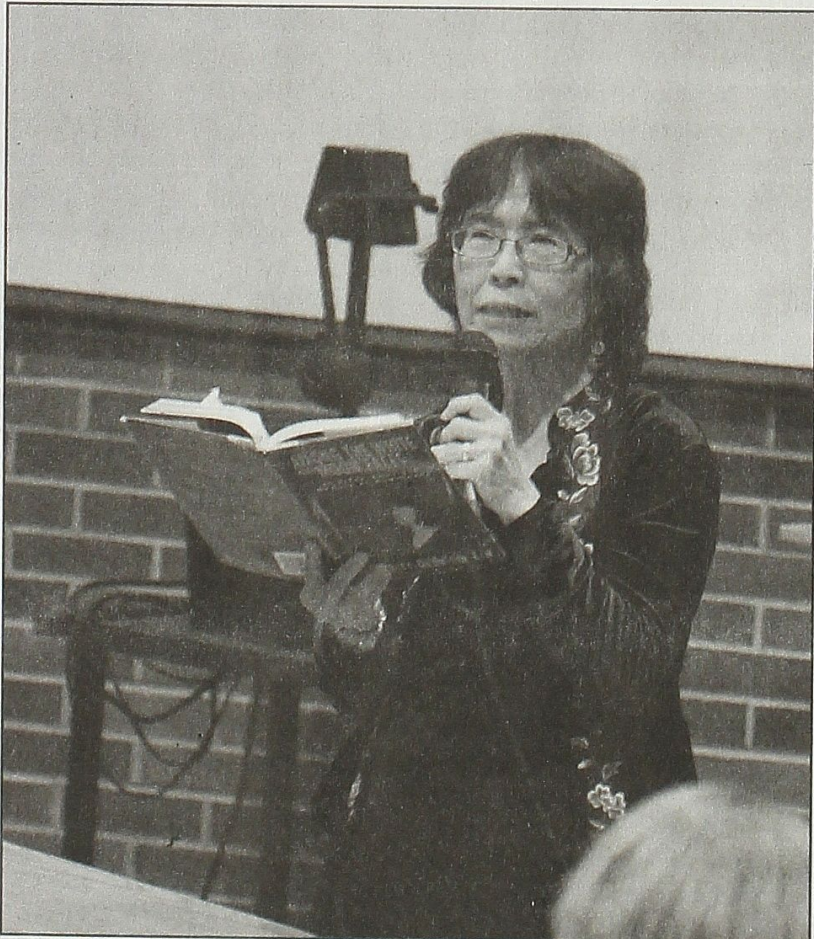
"I have a benchmark of perfection in my head and it's very hard to ever arrive there," said Lim.

Lim also described that her inspiration for poetry comes from merely observing the world.

"The world is full of fascinating things, and as a writer, I am seized by it," she said.

Overall, Chen explained that Lim's creative work really shows that she connects that work to her life journeys as an Asian American.

"She really enriches our learning here and it's great to be able to see someone who is looking at literature in a very real way," said Chen.



Elaine Cunningham, Staff Photographer

Geok-lin Lim read excerpts from her memoir, as well as some of her poems, last Thursday at Alma.

This week at Alma College

Monday, March 28:

Lawrence La Fountaine-Stokes to read his works at 7 p.m. in Anderson Reading Area in the Alma College Library

Wednesday, March 30:

Wright Hall Lottery at 11:30 a.m. in the Rotunda

KOJI Concert at noon in Jones Auditorium

Senior Off-Campus Lottery at 7 p.m. in Fireside

Saturday, April 2:

Spagammi at 5 p.m. in Jones Auditorium

Kiltie Wind Ensemble at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Sunday, April 3:

Bicentenario Soccer Day at 10 a.m. at the football field

Jazz Band at 3 p.m. in the Heritage Center

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Relay for Life supports cancer victims, encourages awareness

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

Relay for Life increases cancer awareness and gives both participants and cancer survivors hope for the future.

Kim Thompson ('13), Relay for Life committee entertainment chair, said, "This is a giant 24-hour fundraising event for the cancer society; we raise

money to help increase cancer awareness and for research."

Relay for Life took place in the Stone Recreation Center from 10 a.m. last Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday.

"Relay for Life is a 24-hour walk for cancer and each team is responsible for having at least one person walking at all times around the indoor track," said **Rebecca Mortensen ('11)**, Relay For Life committee team development chair. "Every team has a campsite and at that campsite they usually



Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

Attendees play a game of inflatable Twister during last Saturday's Relay for Life event.

bring furniture, blankets, pillows and other homey comforts.

"Our hopes for this year's Relay are to raise \$35,000 for the cause, honor 50 survivors and host 35 teams."

There were also events throughout the day and night to keep participants entertained when not walking.

At noon on Saturday there was an opening ceremony where parents and cancer survivors of two Alma College students spoke.

At 3 p.m., the Mr. Relay event took place and the luminaria ceremony was at 8 p.m.

The luminaria event is Mortensen's favorite throughout the day.

"Luminarias are small white paper bags decorated in honor or in memory of someone with cancer," she said. "The track is lined with these bags and they are lit with candles. Many people are very touched when they walk around the track at this time."

"To see all of the names of

people fighting cancer and who have been lost to the disease is staggering. At such a small campus we will have hundreds of bags, hundreds of friends and family members battling cancer."

"This event is important to me because my life has been directly impacted by cancer and this is one way that I can give back to others who are also impacted."

-Danielle Jacobs('12)

Mock Rock was at 12:45 a.m. last Sunday.

There was a scavenger hunt at 1:15 a.m. and musical chairs at 6 a.m.

Team awards were presented at 8 a.m. and the closing ceremonies

took place shortly after at 9.

Themed laps also took place throughout the night.

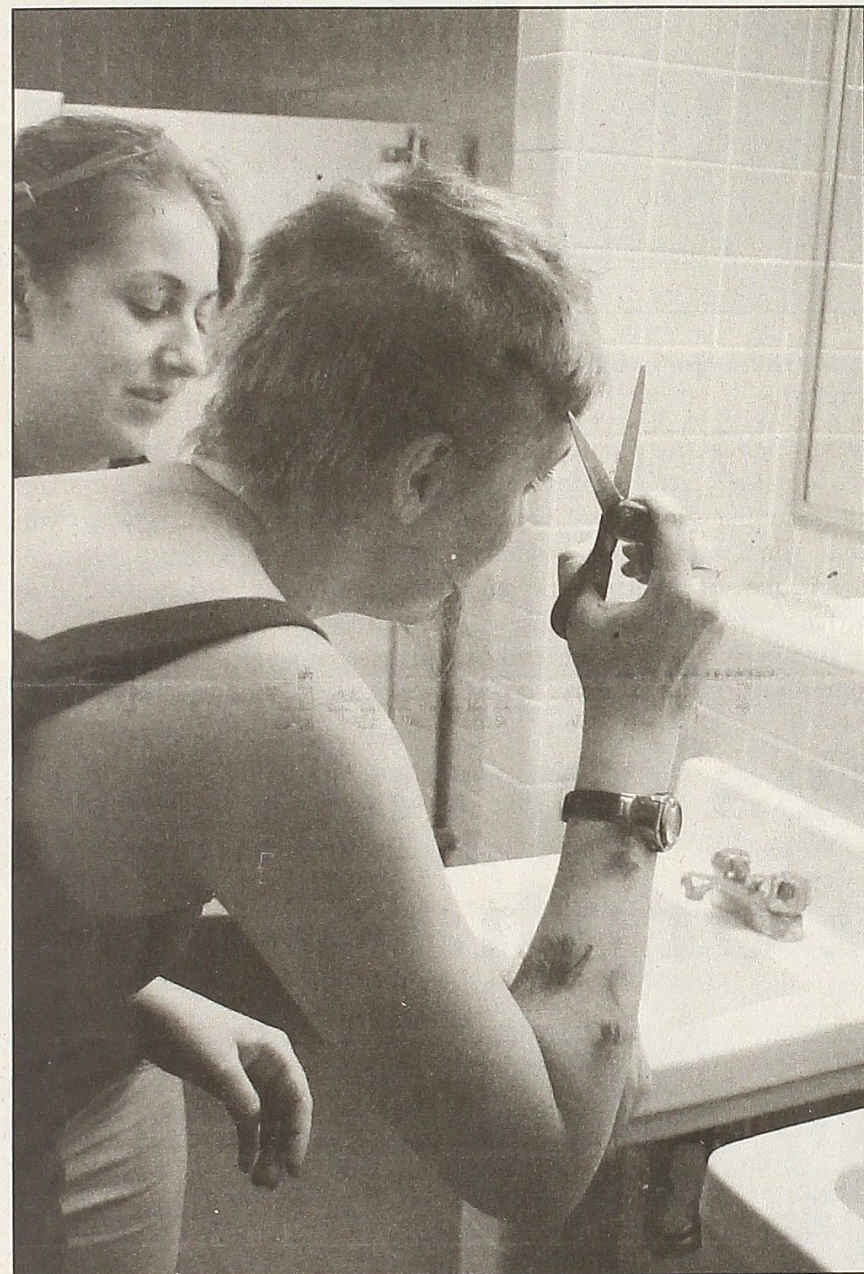
Themes included Hawaiian, 80s, disco, sports, country, rock 'n' roll and Alma College colors.

"It's important that this event takes place every year because it really increases campus awareness about cancer," said **Andrea Garrett ('12)**.

This is Garrett's third year participating in Relay for Life. She was a team captain for Alpha Xi Delta the past two years.

Danielle Jacobs ('12), Alpha Xi Delta team captain for 2011, said, "This event is important to me because my life has been directly impacted by cancer and this is one way that I can give back to others who are also impacted."

"Relay for Life is an important event for college students because it makes them aware of issues bigger than their own lives," said Kappa Iota team captain **Kat Goffnett ('13)**. "This event is also a lot of fun!"



Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

Amanda Coe ('14) gathered funds by asking people to put money towards whether or not she should keep her hair. She raised more money towards losing her hair, so she cut it all off.

Kiltie Wind and Jazz Ensembles perform, premiere new ensemble

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

Alma College's Kiltie Wind and Jazz Ensembles will fill the Remick Heritage Center with a variety of music – from jazz classics, to Scottish folk, to a Latin big band on Saturday and Sunday.

"The evening's concert will feature the premiere of a new work for Wind Ensemble by Alma graduate Justin Rito, performed by a new ensemble called the Alma Wind and Percussion Consort," said Director of Percussion Studies Dave Zerbe. "The Consort was formed in response to the growth of the band department and will become

the major touring ensemble for the concert bands. Members are selected from the ranks of the Kiltie Band by audition."

The Kiltie Wind Ensemble will perform "La Fiesta Mexicana" composed by H. Owen Reed, which is divided into three movements: The Prelude and Aztec Dance, Mass and Carnival.

"The band wants to recognize the college's 125th anniversary and bicentenario in Michigan celebrations with Malcolm Arnold's Four Scottish Dances and H. Owen Reed's La Fiesta Mexicana," said Zerbe.

After intermission, the Alma Wind and Percussion Consort will perform a piece entitled Impromptu, composed by Rito.

"This piece is meant to sound just as its title suggests: it is an improvisational piece for band," said Rito. "Although the aleatoric section is the nearest to improvisatory this piece actually gets, the remaining sections are meant to sound as if they are spontaneous."

"I am proud that we will be performing a piece written by an Alma College grad, Justin Rito," said Zerbe. "It is gratifying to see our students make their way in the world and Justin is definitely doing just that."

Four Scottish Dances composed by Malcolm Arnold and arranged by John P. Paynter will be played by the Kiltie Wind Ensemble.

Composed in early 1957, the dances are dedicated to

the BBC Light Music Festival and are all based on original melodies except for the one composed by Robert Burns.

"This year's ensembles are an outstanding group of young women and men," said Zerbe. "They have worked hard to bring the music to life and I think you will agree that they have achieved that goal."

The final piece is entitled "The Footlifter" and is composed by Henry Fillmore and edited by Robert E. Foster.

Written in 1929 during The Great Depression, the march was composed at the request of one of the sponsors of Henry Fillmore's popular radio program, according to Paul E. Bradley. Henry completed the march four days later and when the

president of the agency heard the new piece he told Fillmore that it was certainly a "footlifter."

"The bands and I would like to give special thanks to Michael Shelton for arrangements regarding this theater, Nan Freed for program design, Renee Willoughby poster design, Mr. Bob Murray for his continued energy with the Uniform Fundraising Initiative, Dr. Ray Riley, Dr. Will Nichols, Dr. Scott Messing, Dr. Murray Gross and Kelly Masley in the Department of Music for their support of the continued development of these ensembles," said Zerbe.

Tickets for each concert are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors 62 and up and free for Alma College staff, students and youth 18 and under.

Senior Show displays mark the end of an era for art majors

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
STAFF WRITER

After years of hard work and self-exploration, 12 seniors have gathered work from throughout their Alma experience to assemble a cohesive picture of what they have learned and accomplished.

Shaina Buhl ('11), Chelsea Clark ('11), Amanda Cruickshank ('11), Dani Cunningham ('11), Jaclyn Dittmar ('11), Thomas Hardin ('11), Renee Willoughby ('11), Elizabeth Webster ('11), Aleigha M. Sova ('11), Alicia Monday ('11), Sarah J. Linsley ('11) and Joseph Kobayashi ('11) all selected the best of their works from the past four or five years to display together in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery for their senior capstone project.

"I see it as not just representing those students, but representing the whole program," said Carrie Anne Parks-Kirby, professor of art and design and chair of the art department.

The work presented by the students equally reflects on the faculty's teaching

work and dedication to the students, Parks-Kirby said.

The diversity of forms and mediums within the Senior Show highlights the variety of directions offered by an Alma education, but the students have also learned several universally applicable lessons about being an artist.

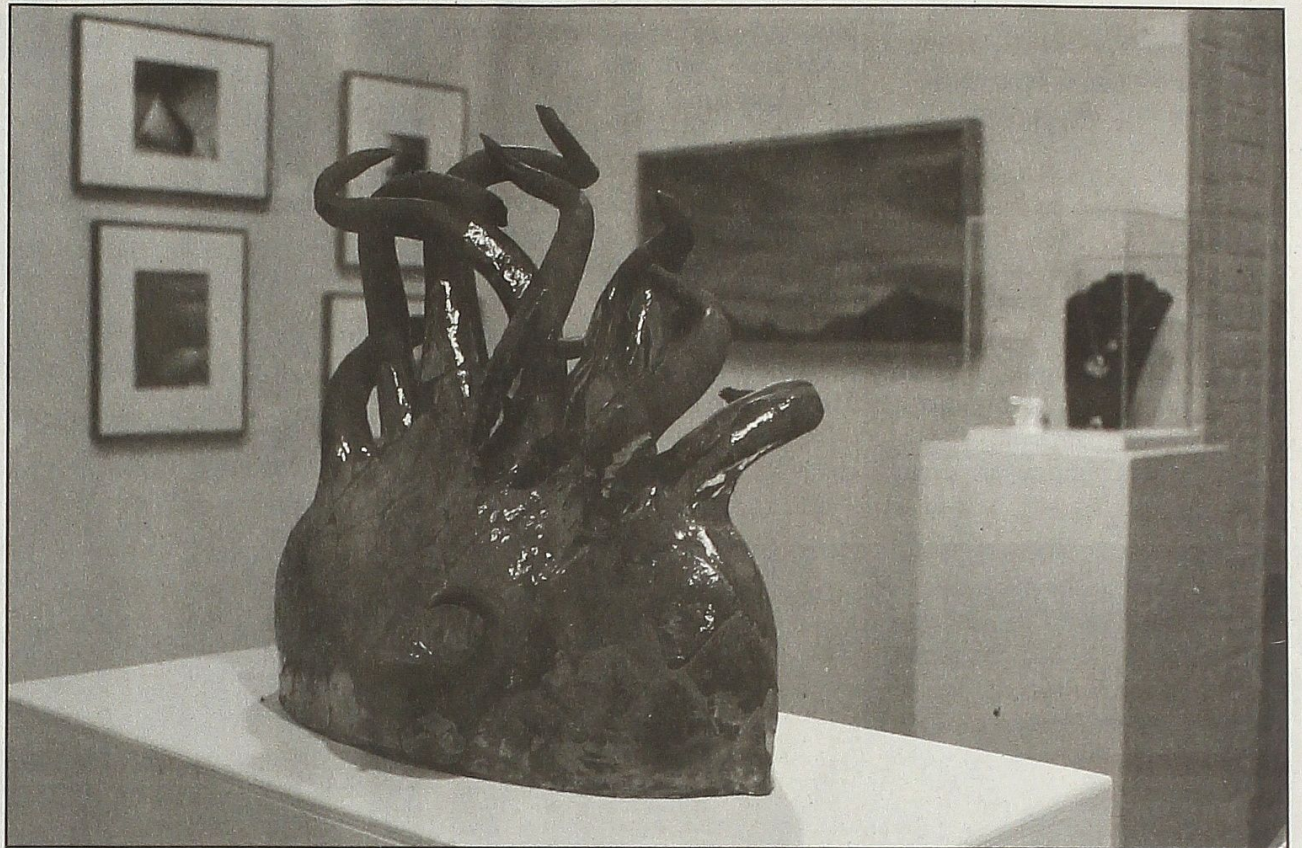
"I've definitely learned to have more of a personal meaning or take on the work I do, rather than just doing it because it looks cool," said Cunningham.

In Cunningham's work, the creative influence of music is often present, but where she would often draw still instruments for their aesthetic quality before she came to Alma, during her time at the college she began to depict the motion of the hands playing the instrument.

"There's a lot of work that goes into having a group show," said Cunningham. "You have to make sure the art is going to flow from one room to the next and from one person to the next."

To decide which works to display, the art students met with each of the department professors to determine which pieces were objectively the strongest.

"One of the things that is the most important when you're



Elaine Cunningham: Staff Photographer

A panel of art professionals will examine the senior exhibits and offer students official critiques.

putting up a show, is to take a step back and look at a work objectively," said Parks-Kirby.

"It's a sign of maturity to not just see your own attachment to the work, but to look at what it might mean to someone else and how it could function as a communication."

On April 14 at 7 p.m., in an event open to the public, a panel of outside art professionals will examine the gallery for the first time and offer students a critique of their work and advice on their future directions.

"It never feels like the end of something; the advisory board

is always talking about what comes next," said Parks-Kirby.

The show opened last Monday, but an opening reception will not be held until April 9, from 2-4 p.m. The artists will also be presenting on Honors Day, in case anyone wishes to speak with them about their work.

Orphanpalooza focuses on raising money for Ukrainian orphanages

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

Sponsored by Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe (FCEE), Orphanpalooza was held last Thursday to raise money for orphanages in Ukraine. Three bands performed and "I 'heart' Orphans" t-shirts were sold and ultimately raised \$600, according to **Chelsea Duff ('13)**.

"We try to hold one fundraiser per month," said Duff. "In the past, we have raffled off 'pamper packets' or Valentine's Day gift baskets and, earlier this year, Pizza One helped host a benefit that gave 10 per cent of the proceeds to FCEE."

FCEE was founded in 2002 by Svitlana Kobzar, a Ukrainian student who completed her undergraduate studies here at Alma. FCEE works to provide funding and support to orphanages in Ukraine that often lack the financial resources to cope with the overwhelming orphan population in the country.

"So far, FCEE has raised \$3,000 this year and is still accepting donations of clothes and money, which can be given to FCEE President **Heidi Beckmann ('12)**," said Duff.

Each year, P-Global sends two students to Ukraine to aid orphanages. Last year, **Ethan Gensler ('13)** took the trip and visited UNICEF's shelter called "The Way Home."

"In Ukraine, the government does little to nothing to provide



Elaine Cunningham: Staff Photographer

A band performs for last Thursday's Orphanpalooza event, which was held in the chapel.

for children who are considered 'social orphans' if they have living relatives," said Gensler. "The problem with this is that, since Ukraine is such a poor country, many parents turn to abuse, drugs and alcohol, which in turn, creates a hazardous and harmful home environment."

According to Gensler, many children run away from home and wind up on the streets where they then turn to the same things their parents did for comfort. It is not uncommon for them to resort to prostitution, begging, cutting and any number of

things to survive and feel better.

"Recent studies put the number of orphans in Ukraine at over 100,000," said Gensler. "So far, FCEE has worked with two specific orphanages to put a new roof over one building, install a playground and work on the heating units."

While in the Ukraine this past summer, Gensler helped rebuild bicycles for children, sponsor a child to take karate lessons and learned first-hand about the problems facing children in the country.

"Our support helped to provide clothing for the children at The Way Home in Odessa, as well

as supplies for a short summer camp for children at multiple orphanages throughout town," said Gensler. "This summer camp helps to provide a great stress reliever for the children, a place to make friends and an opportunity to draw kids off of the streets and into orphanages."

Gensler also added that many children who live on the streets seek refuge in places ranging from hand-made shelters in abandoned lots and the sewers to old run-down buildings—none of which provide protection from winters where the average temperature is below zero.

"While in Ukraine, I had an amazing and life changing experience I will never forget and I still have contact with some of the people I met," said Gensler. "While the language was a barrier, I nonetheless had a great time meeting and spending time with both kids on the streets and at the orphanage."

This summer, P-Global will be sending Duff and **Alejandro Orellana ('13)** to the Ukraine as representatives of FCEE.

"Ethan inspired us," said Duff and Orellana.

"As an elementary education major, I love working with kids, so I'm excited to go to Odessa in June," said Duff. "I know it will be hard but good to face the adversity."

"I'm very excited to travel outside the country for the first time since coming to Alma and experience a new language," said Orellana, public relations coordinator for FCEE. "I want to see first-hand what is happening, gain a new perspective on things and put a face to our work."

FCEE members hope to raise community awareness and advocate volunteering, both abroad and locally. FCEE members are regulars who donate time at the local community café.

"Our organization is small as of now, but I hope that in the future we might take the group in a more community oriented direction," said Gensler. "We hope by focusing on the city of Alma in the time between our fundraisers, we can raise awareness of our group and the problem at hand."

Stink bugs unfortunately on the rise

BY MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

Stink bugs, the smelly scourge of the mid-Atlantic, are multiplying and spreading across the country. Formally known as the brown marmorated stink bug, sightings of the pest have been reported in 33 states, an increase of eight states since last fall. The National Pest Management Association warns U.S. homeowners this week that the bugs' growing populations are likely to make infestations significantly worse this year. "This season's stink bug population will be larger than in the past," said Jim Fredericks, director of technical services for the National Pest

Management Association.

The bugs have been spotted as far west as California, as far north as Minnesota and as far south as Florida; only the Rockies and Plains states have escaped thus far.

The eight states recently joining the stink bug party are Arizona, Iowa, Georgia, Minnesota, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and dear old Michigan.

As someone who absolutely hates insects and has a sensitive nose, this is shockingly bad news.

Not only will there be more creepy beetle-looking bugs crawling all over everything, now they're going to smell bad.

Stink bugs are named for the strong smell they emit when frightened, disturbed, squashed, or feel like being cheeky, which is probably a lot of the time.

The good news is that they aren't poisonous, don't bite, transmit disease or suck blood.

However, they are great at hitchhiking, sometimes getting picked up by the wind and deposited at the whimsy of the air current, but they prefer to hide in people's personal belongings and in cars. And in your ears.

Have fun imagining that in bed tonight.

However, entomologists think they didn't arrive in Michigan in anybody's pockets.

They're just a stinky nuisance for most of us, but the bugs can be devastating to farmers.

They feed on a wide range of important food crops, such as sweet corn, apples, pears, grapes, berries, peaches, tomatoes and peppers.

"However, [stink bugs] are great at hitchhiking, sometimes getting picked up by the wind and deposited at the whimsy of the air current, but they prefer to hide in people's cars."

-Mason Warling ('14)

More than a few farmers have lost their entire annual crop to stink bug infestations in states where they already existed.

One of the problems with the blasted bugs is that they

have no natural predators in the U.S., which is why they've been allowed to become so prolific.

Luckily (or unluckily, depending on which of these two evils you prefer) they have one natural predator, a tiny parasitic wasp from Asia known as a Trissolcus wasp, which is literally smaller than a gnat.

This whole thing is terrifying.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is looking into bringing these little stinging horrors into the U.S., as they eat exclusively stink bug eggs.

I think I might prefer the smell.

Rebecca Black finds support for her music off the Internet

BY ELIZIABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Eighth-grader Rebecca Black has received excessive amounts of criticism and mockery for her new song "Friday" but the teen has been able to move beyond the garnered negativity.

Shows such as "Good Morning America" and "Late Night with Jay Leno" have invited Black to share the experience of her overnight fame and defend her song.

The eighth-grader admitted to having been initially devastated by the cyberbullying.

Black encountered numerous hateful comments stating that she should cut herself out of embarrassment and develop an eating disorder in order to become more attractive.

For goodness sakes, she's just 13!

How many children the same age have the determination to take on a similar project?

The sad fact of the matter is that most of this unfavorable response probably came from

unsuccessful adults who have nothing better to do than troll the Internet looking for someone to put down.

"Friday" is definitely not the worst song that I've ever heard.

There are popular songs on the radio that are just as nonsensical and repetitive but, for some reason, Black has been targeted in the midst of this spectrum of poor quality music and harshly ridiculed for her attempt.

Black shouldn't have been expected to produce the world's greatest song with no musical background.

She didn't even write "Friday," so she can't reasonably be held accountable for pokes at the lack of caliber in the lyrics.

Fortunately, Black says that she now refrains from paying attention to these cynical responses.

Boldly, Black admitted on national television that she has "BieberFever" and consecutively asked young pop star Justin Bieber to perform a duet with her.

In the face of such heavy assault, Black continues to have courage.

Other than the two major

"The eighth-grader [Black] admitted to having been initially devastated by cyber bullying."

-Elizabeth Corbin ('12)

discrepancies of 13-year-olds being able to drive and attend big weekend parties, the music video depicts young teenagers fairly accurately.

There are no glamorized pop stars in "Friday."

Instead, it looks as though Black did her own hair and excitedly went a little overboard on applying her eye shadow for the party scene.

I especially have to give her credit for not insisting that they Photoshop out her pimple.

These teenagers are gawky and realistic.

Two of her friends even have braces, which is the absolute epitome of the awkward middle school age.

"Friday" has gained Black the endorsement of major celebrities such as Lady Gaga and even the ruthless music critic Simon Cowell.

PUZZLE CORNER

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

Puzzle courtesy of [dailysudoku.com](#)

"I say Rebecca Black is a genius and that anybody telling her she's cheesy is full of shit," said Gaga.

Perhaps Black did become an instant hit for all the wrong reasons but the level of attention she has gained shows that her song really can't be all that horrible.

Within one day alone, the song had two million downloads.

People having been listening to "Friday" for a reason: It's catchy even though it may be equally hilarious.

Black has been raking in

the money as her song currently stands at number 16 on the iTunes charts.

According to the Los Angeles Times, she is expected to profit approximately \$24,900 each week for iTunes sales of "Friday."

To all of the lazy Internet roamers mocking Black's venture, it looks like the joke's on them.

However, Black isn't being greedy with her new found wealth. The teen has stated that she will donate proceeds to provide relief in Japan.

the Almanian.

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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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YogaToes: Yoga for your toes has never felt better

By MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

This week I had an opportunity to try out a new product that will supposedly improve my whole life by the simple application of a piece of plastic for a short time each day. Naturally, I was skeptical. The product, invented and manufactured in my hippie-rife hometown of Ann Arbor, was YogaToes, a courtesy afforded to me by the kind folks at Yogapro.com. YogaToes is the invention of Frederic Ferri, Ann Arborite and thaumaturge. They're a silicone jelly device

that you wedge between your toes that are meant to "work between, above and beneath toes to stretch them apart from each other, away from the ball of the foot and down from the top of the foot," according to Ferri. And boy, did they do that.

The items I received, in particular, are a brand new model of YogaToes called Gems, which kind of look like diamonds. **"[YogaToes] is a silicone jelly device meant to "work between, above, and beneath toes to stretch them apart from each other, away from the ball of the foot and down from the top of the foot."**

-Frederic Ferri

The material was soft and pliable, and the two parts of the matching pair kind of stuck together if you pressed them together.

The idea is that since our feet have been shoved inside shoes for so many years, you can relax the muscles by separating them back out.

This process is intended to cure, correct, or reduce the effects of bunions, hammertoes, plantar fasciitis, crossed toes, poor circulation, flat feet, and foot fatigue by giving the feet long-term stretches.

The YogaToes are meant to be worn for periods of time between 15 minutes to one hour.

They felt a bit uncomfortable at first, but soon I didn't notice them at all.

I didn't really feel any improvement happen while the

"The idea is that, since our feet have been shoved inside shoes for so many years, you can relax the muscles by separating them back out."

-Mason Warling ('14)

YogaToes were actually on, but once I took them off I could tell they'd made a difference.

My feet felt lighter and stronger almost immediately.

My toes stayed noticeably further apart, as I could actually feel air between my toes for once.

There are a few things to note about these things.

First, you can't wear shoes over them.

They're a bit bulky, by necessity, and YogaPro doesn't recommend walking while

wearing them for safety reasons.

They did make it a bit difficult, in my experience, but I was careful.

They are also "One-size-fits-most."

They're made to fit men's shoe sizes 6.5 to 9.5, or women's 7 to 11, but my own feet, 11.5 men's, fit just fine because I have narrower feet.

Take width and narrowness into consideration if you find yourself considering a purchase.

These YogaToes really did live up to their namesake, in my opinion: they really felt like yoga for my toes.

Now, I've only had very brief experience with yoga, but the sensations were very similar: deep relaxation, except just in my feet and calves this time.

I heartily recommend these, and they're available for \$20 at Yogapro.com.

Factory work: Good summer job for students

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Two years ago I was desperately looking for a place to work over the summer and, after a month of frantically searching, I was finally offered a full-time job at a factory.

At first, I was ready to turn down the offer despite being so badly in need of money.

Working at a factory simply wasn't something I could ever imagine myself doing.

You see, I held this deeply-embedded stereotype that people in factories were ignorant, unskilled, and horribly low class.

Being employed in such a place would only be a source of embarrassment and I

couldn't possibly fit within that kind of environment for four consecutive months.

But the thought of possibly being unable to return to college due to lack of funds eventually led me to accept the job, and I'm glad that I did because it turned out to be one of the best experiences I have ever had.

The absolute best part of the job was getting acquainted with the people around me.

Upon the first day of work, everyone wanted to know about me and they didn't ask questions merely out of politeness; these people were genuinely curious about my life and they shared their own stories.

Something about the environment made it safe to divulge personal information.

If nothing else, working in a

factory is a valuable experience for having the opportunity to comprehend the lives of such a variety of people.

I honestly understand people better because of this experience.

However, the actual work was in no way enjoyable nor stimulating.

Factory jobs are known for being repetitive, and there's no way of denying this.

It's very possible that within one day you can do the same exact thing over a thousand times.

Because of this, it is rather essential to talk to those around you when working in a factory, otherwise, everyone would become absolutely bored out of their minds.

Having to work up to 12 hours a day while standing, we all did our best to fight this

and heavily combated it with conversation, lest weariness start to emerge and overcome us.

Through these conversations, I learned that the people I was working with were, in fact, intelligent and thoughtful people.

My coworkers would make sure to give parties during lunch breaks for birthdays and, at the end of each summer, they threw me a going away party.

I also appreciated the ethnic diversity within the workplace.

Immigrants often work in factories and it was beautiful to hear the various languages spoken and to become familiar with the unique cultures.

The monetary gain was also a great benefit.

In what other jobs accessible to college students can one earn far above minimum wage

or even simply above minimum wage?

Virtually none.

Working in a factory over the summer is an excellent way to make a large amount of money, at least in college student terms, within a short period of time.

Even with it being a great temporary occupation for college students and other people in need of an immediate cash flow, I felt that it couldn't possibly be a satisfying job for those who had been there for years.

However, the majority said that they were happy there even if only for the friends that they had made and being able to support their families.

Although I will no longer return to this job over the summer, I do remain in contact with my former coworkers.

Following the Beat with Ben King: Work in the summer can be found, if you look

By BEN KING
GUEST WRITER

With only a few weeks left in the school year, thousands of college students will begin hunting for full time employment or summer jobs and internships.

While many of us are simply looking forward to the many pleasures that summertime brings us, like warm weather, swimming, fishing and mainly just the free time to do whatever our little hearts desire, it is important to remember that a summer can be used to one's advantage.

The summertime can be interpreted as a period of time in which an individual can

make oneself more appealing to potential employers after graduation.

This means obtaining some work experience such as summer jobs, internships, volunteering or participating in academic activities such as taking a course or two at a college.

However, these kinds of positions are not waiting for students to finish up the school year.

In a job market as competitive as the United States', it is imperative that college students act fast and not wait for their school year to end before they start hunting for summer jobs.

Interning is without a doubt one of the best ways for students to gain work experience in a field they are interested in.

"Interning is...one of the best ways for students to gain work experience in a field they are interested in."

-Ben King ('14)

One of the easiest ways to find an internship is to visit the Websites of businesses or organizations that seem to interest you because some may have an employment section that offers and describes internship positions.

If an organization does not specify if they take summer interns or not, inquire online or via telephone.

If they do take interns,

many employers see this kind of initiative as responsibility.

This demonstrates that a student is not simply looking for work, but that they are an interested and determined individual.

Some internships can stem or bridge into full time employment opportunities after graduation.

Taking a few credits at a community college over the summer is not a particularly bad idea either.

There are some many great things that stem from volunteering, too.

Not only is it good for a person's soul, but it also can be something one can put on a resume.

By volunteering, one can collect valuable experience that can later be applied to employment

situation.

If you are unable to obtain work over the summer, check out some community outreach programs in your area.

Consider coaching a youth basketball team or lend a hand at your local soup kitchen or at the Salvation Army.

When a potential employer sees these things on a job application, he or she will be led to believe that the applicant is a good hearted, honest, altruistic and a hard worker because it is very rare that a slothful person will go out of his way to volunteer.

There are many different opportunities that a person can pursue over the summer, but remember that summer in itself is an opportunity, so be wise and do not waste it!

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

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

Student Athletic Advisory Committee puts on the second annual Jock Rock

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) put on the second annual Jock Rock last Friday night. The event started in October of 2009 and has since become a tradition at Alma.

"The Jock Rock is a fun event for athletes and non-athletes to come together and get to know each other," said **Christine Vicari ('11)**, who organized the event this year.

The participants get together in groups and make up a routine to different songs and perform them in front of an audience and judges. The group with the most points wins. The volleyball team won the

event last year and the women's soccer team took second. The winner of this year's performance will be announced at the Scotty Awards on April 15 where team members are represented with awards voted on by their fellow athletes.

"The Jock Rock is a fun event for athletes and non-athletes to come together and get to know each other."
-Christine Vicari ('11)

The judges of the Jock Rock were **Drew Johnson**, an athletic trainer at Alma, Alma lacrosse coach **Jason Levesque** and former SAAC president **Sarah**

Seals ('09). **Ryan Duckworth**, the men's golf coach, was the master of ceremonies.

Duckworth started the night off with a rendition of "Ice, Ice Baby."

"The judges chose the winner based on the creativity and overall best dance put together," **Lauren Haines ('12)** said. "The purpose of Jock Rock is really just a way to get all the athletes at Alma together in a fun setting to show off their dancing skills."

The athletes who participated thought that the event was both entertaining and fun.

"We choreographed our dances with everyone on our team and made sure that everyone was involved, so it was pretty cool," said women's basketball player **Alyssa Adams ('14)**.

"I'm sure 'Shawty It's Your Booty' won the crowd over."

"The purpose of Jock Rock is really just a way to get all the athletes at Alma together in a fun setting to show off their dancing skills."

-Lauren Haines ('12)

"I like how it is a spirited competition and it's always fun when you can make a fool out of yourself in front of people. It really was a team bonding experience. We had a lot of fun with practicing and doing something else instead of playing basketball. It also made some people come out of their

shells. We had so many laughs!"

The teams that participated this year in the event were women's basketball, women's soccer, swimming and diving, men's golf, volleyball and football. The judges said that each team was very creative in constructing their dances.

The audience members also agreed that the event was hilarious to watch.

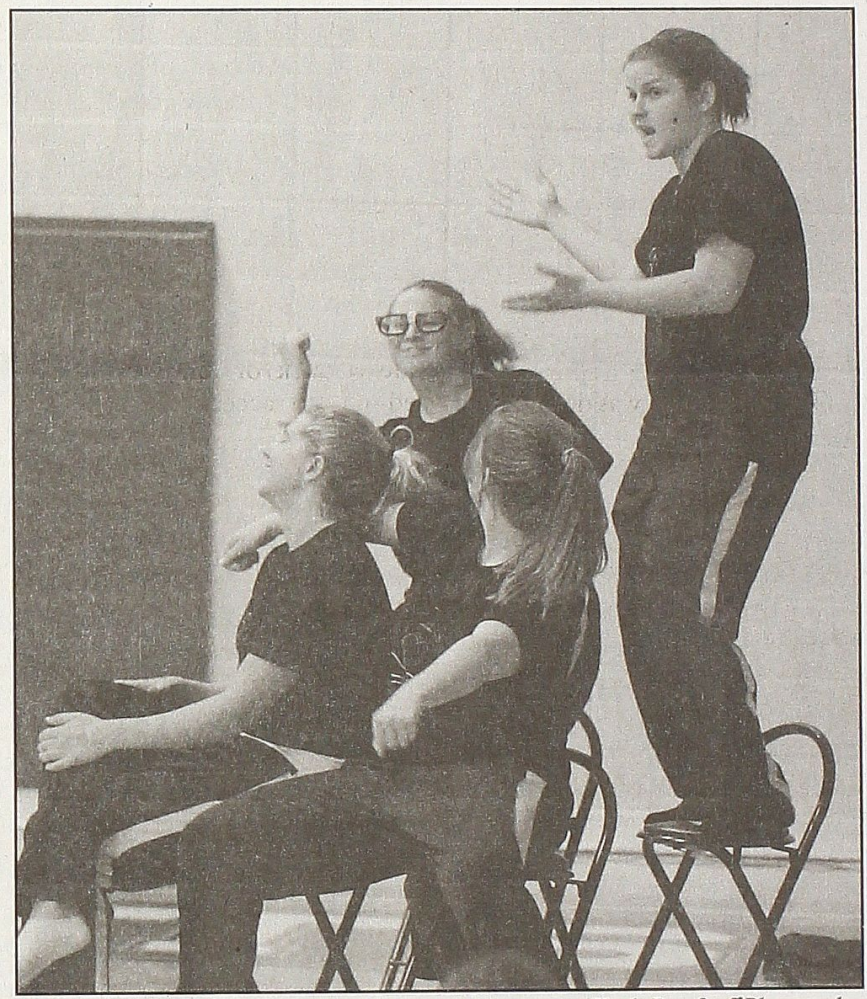
"All the groups had really funny dances, but the women's basketball dance was probably the funniest," said **Annette Stromberg ('12)**, a member of the women's soccer team. "It was really creative and had a lot of energy from the dancers."

The athletes are waiting for the results on April 15.



Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

The women's volleyball team, one of the squads competing in Jock Rock, used pillowcases among many other props in their skit last Friday night.



Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

Gwen Greer ('14), **Miranda Anderson ('14)**, **Claryce Porzondek ('14)**, and **Mariah Nawrot ('14)** represent the women's swimming and diving team.

Spotlight: Henris returns to baseball

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

Kyle Henris ('11), a member of the Alma College varsity baseball team and a senior, is just now seeing his first action on the field.

During the 2008 winter semester Henris discovered that he had to have surgery on his lower abdomen: a bilateral pelvic repair. After recovering from surgery, Henris suffered hamstring injuries the following two seasons keeping him out of baseball for three years.

"I never really quit, I worked with some good doctors, kept working hard and got out there this year," said Henris.

"I think it means a lot more to me now, now that I can finally play. The first three years were really tough because I love baseball and not playing was really hard. Now that I am finally on the field it means the world to me."

During the recovery phase,

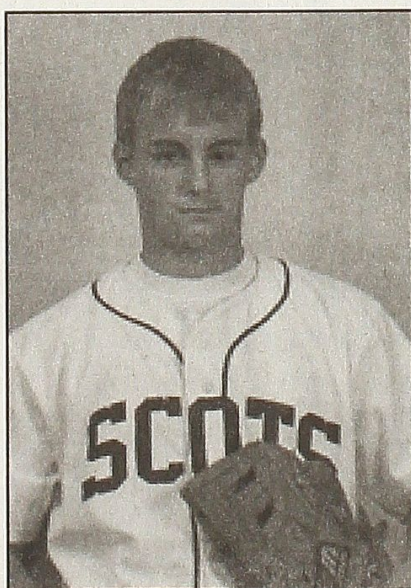


Photo courtesy of www.alma.edu

Henris attributes some of the motivation to his teammates.

"During my whole injury phase a big part of what kept me going was that my teammates were very supportive of me," said Henris. "They always had my back and wanted me to pull through."

Henris came to Alma from

Saginaw, where he attended Nouvel Catholic Central High School.

Outside of baseball, Henris enjoys hanging out with friends and going to his family's cottage during the summer where he enjoys spending time on the lake and boat.

"My dad had me swinging a bat and throwing before I could walk," said Henris.

Henris started playing baseball around age 5 at South Little League in Saginaw. He played on various teams all the way through his teenage years until he reached high school. During the summers he spent time with friends playing in a summer league.

"My dad coached me all the way up until high school. He was always my head coach," said Henris. "My mom, she is my biggest fan, she is crazy at games. I always had pretty good coaching in high school, but as far as inspiring me to be better, it was a personal thing for me. I always want to do the best at everything I do and baseball is

my favorite thing. I have always wanted to be good at baseball."

As a prep athlete, Henris played both football and baseball all four years. During that time, he won a state championship in baseball during his sophomore year and a state championship in football during his senior year, as well as receiving all-state honors in baseball his senior season.

"I love the game and I love to play but it's more than that, I love competition, too," said Henris. "My love for baseball and my love for competition just came together."

As a student at Alma College,

Henris is studying business administration with an emphasis on accounting. He will graduate in the spring and is leaning toward Northwood University, where he would continue studies in its graduate program.

"When it came to Alma, I was looking at a couple of other places but I liked the fact that it was a smaller school that was kind of close to home," said Henris. "My athletic director and high school football coach actually went to Alma and recommended it and I went from there—I came for a couple visits and I just liked it."



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Baseball: Two one-run losses against two Division I schools

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

The Alma baseball team traveled to Eastern Michigan on March 18 to take on the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and Oakland University in the Oestrike Classic Tournament.

The Scots ended the weekend 0-3 with two very close games.

"The team was satisfied with the way we played in the first two games," said Alex Kravat ('14). "We were partially upset because we lost, but still felt good and confident that we hung with two Division I teams." Squad members were proud of the way that they played against the Division I schools, and say that it was definitely a confidence booster.

"We were partially upset because we lost, but still felt good and confident that we hung with two Division I teams."

-Alex Kravat ('14)

"We had great pitching, played hard on defense and showed up with a lot of enthusiasm," Kyle Henris ('11) said.

"The team played with great intensity and backed good pitching with great defense—we had clutch hitting in the late innings," Kravat added.

The Scots started the weekend by playing Division I University of Michigan and ended the game with a 4-3 loss 12 innings.

Michigan took a 3-0 lead with single runs in the first, fifth and seventh innings, but Alma managed to bring home three runs.

Ryan Henris ('12), Adam Rezmer ('11) and Nick Townsend ('11)

scored the runs for the Scots. Richard Schreiber ('12) pitched for seven innings, while Corey Brohl ('11) pitched for the remaining four.

"If we play with the same effort and intensity as we did in the first two games of the weekend, we can beat anyone."

-Kyle Henris ('11)

The next day Alma played Eastern Michigan University at the opposing team's home field, with 239 fans in attendance.

The game ended with a 7-6 Alma setback and a total of 10 innings.

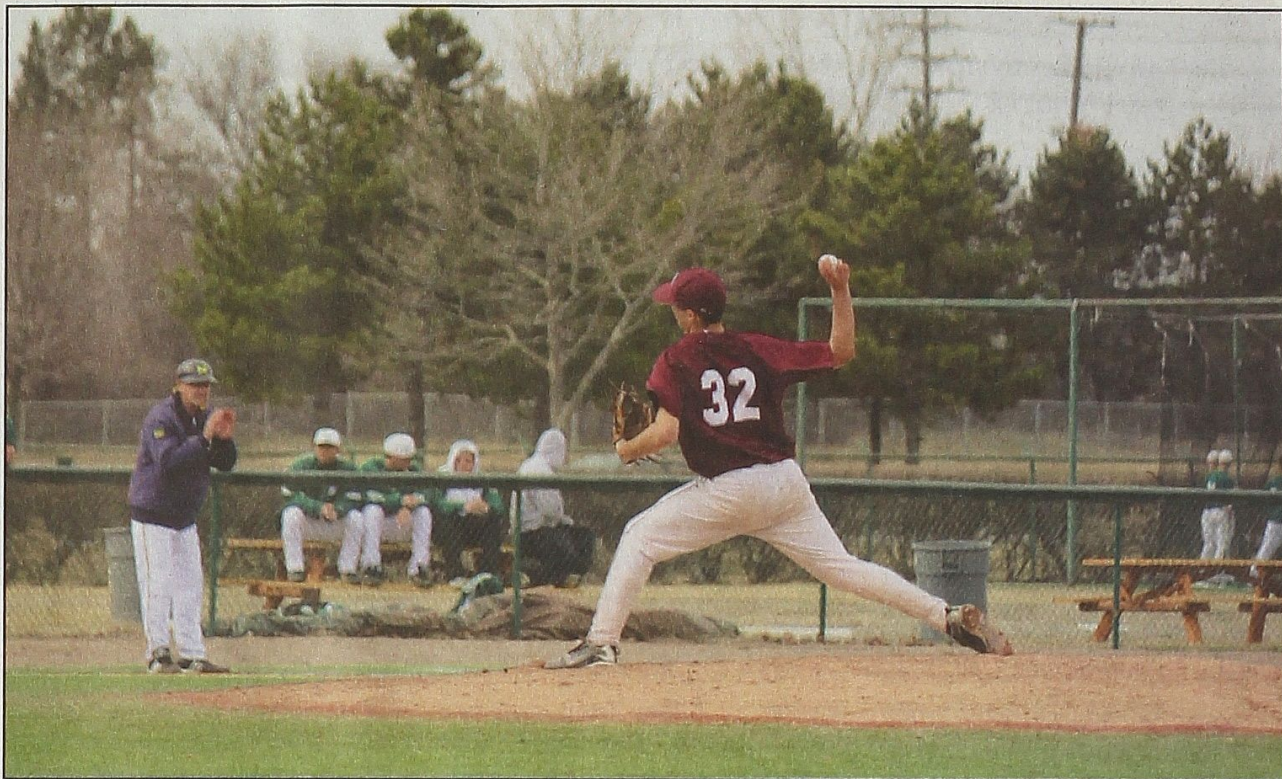
In the third game of the weekend, the Scots played Oakland University and ended with a loss of 13-1 to the Grizzlies. This loss put the Scots at 1-9 on the season.

"Our team could improve on our consistency," said Kyle Henris. "If we play with the same effort and intensity as we did in the first two games of the weekend, we can beat anyone."

Kravat said that the team could improve on limiting walks and being more aggressive at the plate.

Henris was named a member of the Oestrike Classic All-Tournament Team for the weekend and was the only player from Alma to receive this honor.

"It was pretty awesome to represent Alma in that way," he said. "I would've much rather won one of those games against Michigan or Eastern, though."



Elaine Cunningham: Staff Photographer

Richard Schreiber ('12), top photo, pitches against the University of Michigan in the Oestrike Classic Tournament. Schreiber pitched for seven innings of the game, which Alma lost 4-3. Jay Sackett ('11), bottom photo, catches in the game against the University of Michigan. Sackett, a pitcher and a catcher, went 1 for 3 at bat.

Women's lacrosse falls to Albion

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College women's lacrosse team traveled to Albion College last Monday where the squad was defeated by the Albion College Britons 15-7.

"The girls played a really great game," said Christie Havrilla ('13). "It was our first legitimate lacrosse game. We had played games in the fall but they were 20-minute halves instead of 30 minutes and the rules weren't very enforced. In this game it was regulation everything—there were three referees on the field."

The Scots started out strong and fast as they took the early lead scoring the first goal.

Goals were exchanged back and forth until the tail end of the first half where the Britons pulled away from the Scots scoring the last six goals of the half.

In the second half, the Scots only allowed three goals.

"One thing we noticed was that they were in a lot better

shape than us," said Ella Blowers ('13). "I think that it's something that is going to come up a lot just because there are only three girls on the team who have ever played before. We can't really focus on conditioning when we have to learn how to play."

For the Scots, Havrilla led all scorers with three goals while Blowers, Erica Kettlewell ('14) and Brittney Cole ('13) each put one in.

"It was really hard for the defense against Albion because they were so fast," said Havrilla. "The communication was rough on defense and then on offense we didn't have a set play to run. We need to improve upon communication and being organized."

Havrilla added that the Scots set small goals to strive for during the game such as winning the majority of the ground balls.

For the upcoming game, especially the one against Olivet College the team wants to focus on a solid defense and offense.

During the winter the women practiced on half of a basketball court in the Hogan Recreation

Center for an hour, four times a week while sharing the court with the men's team. Once the snow is gone the team will be taking practice outdoors behind the Recreation Center.

"We have been working on set plays that we can use in the games," said Tracey Giannola ('13). "We are trying to improve our catching and ground balls. Whoever gets the most ground balls is who will win."

The team will have three more games the rest of the spring season and will be hosting Olivet College on April 5 at Bahlke Field for the women's first ever home game.

Originally scheduled for March 25, the game was

postponed due to cold weather.

The team will return the favor traveling to Olivet on April 15. The Lady Scots will also host Kalamazoo College on April 23.

The Scots beat Olivet once in the fall during the first Alma College women's lacrosse victory.

"The first home game for women's lacrosse in Alma College history is the most important thing to the team," said Havrilla.

"We hope a lot of people will come out and support us because we are making history on that field. Win or lose we would love to have the school come out and support us, a lot of our families are coming and we are really excited and hope everyone can make it."



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Wednesday vs. Olivet College