

Alma students committed to service, receive recognition

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
STAFF WRITER

Over 20 Alma students will be recognized with awards at the 15th annual Outstanding Student Service Awards Ceremony in East Lansing on April 9. Alyssa Walters ('11) is one of these people.

“Service is a great way to learn about the needs of the community and to help address the issues even when you don’t have other resources to offer. Through services, I explored career options, made friends and learned about my own values and abilities.”
-Marcy Gilstad ('11)

She will be one of only six statewide recipients of the Outstanding Community Impact Award. Walters, who lives in the service house and works closely with the service learning department, is the chair of Alma’s Alternative Break program, organizing four trips and leading three. She also helped organize two April alternative breaks, for which there are still spots



Simone Boos: Staff Photographer

Marcy Gilstad ('11), above, along with Alyssa Walters ('11), are the two recipients of the Commitment to Service Award from Alma’s campus.

available, according to Walters. One of these trips is for environmental education and will travel to Grand Rapids, and the second addresses migrant and immigrant issues and will travel to Holland and Grand Rapids.

“I love getting groups organized and motivating them to get involved on a larger scale,” said Walters. “Not only is it national service, but when students come back, they contribute to their local communities.”

Walters identified her first alternative break for disaster relief in Greensburg, Kan., in 2009. “In that community, the need was visible,” said Walters. “There’s always need, it’s just a matter of finding out what that need is and what you can do for the community. It’s important to work with the community to assess what they need, and if they want help.”

“I love getting groups organized and motivating them to get involved on a larger scale. Not only is it national service, but when students come back, they contribute to their local communities.”
-Alyssa Walters ('11)

Along with the award, Walters will receive a \$200 donation in her name to the charity of her choice, Help Furry Friends, an animal shelter organization in Gratiot County. Walters and Marcy Gilstad ('11) will receive the Commitment to Service Award, given to only two individuals from each Michigan Campus Compact member campus. “Service is a great way to learn about the needs of the community and to help address the issues even when you don’t

have other resources to offer,” said Gilstad. “Through service, I explored career options, made friends and learned about my own values and abilities.” Gilstad and Walters both maintain a strong faith in the value and power of volunteer and service work. “Beyond the direct service that a person has to offer, you have the ability to create synergy by helping others to help others,” said Gilstad. “The ability to inspire others to engage in service means the potential of one person is unlimited.” Among the extensive credentials in her service portfolio, Gilstad’s favorite experience was volunteering with the Special Olympics basketball program, which allowed her to meet new friends and stay in touch with her passion for the sport. Erica Adams ('12), Katie Arnold ('11), Ashley Arquette ('11), Brandt Ayoub ('11), Andria Baker ('12), Alissa Coldwell ('11), Katie Crombe ('11), Matt Davis ('11), Adam Ellsworth ('11), Carrie Gaudard ('13), Christopher Graham ('11), Sara Hirschman ('11), Alexandra Kirchner ('11), Emma Kornelis ('11), Mike Malloy ('10), Latisha Misenhelder ('11), Mallory Quackenbush ('11), Ben Roberts ('12), Katie Umbarger ('11), Heather Walendzik ('12) and Kyla Wojtas ('11) will also receive the Heart and Soul Award for their personal commitment to the national community through service.

Endowment approved by Student Congress in honor of former student Sarah Grether

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

Student congress voted to approve a proposal that will create an endowment in the amount of \$50,000, the accrued interest from which will be usable for Student Congress operations in years to come.

“This endowment will help us to create and maintain a more sustainable and stable Student Congress budget not so dependent on enrollment.”
-William McHenry ('12)

The endowment was named in honor of former student, Sarah

Grether, now deceased, who was “very involved on campus,” according to William McHenry ('12), Student Congress treasurer. Over the years, the Student Congress reserve account has accumulated \$100,000 from unspent contingency that, due to current accounting policies, no one could access. “The school couldn’t touch the money, and the student organizations couldn’t either,” said McHenry. “Putting the money into an endowment will benefit us both.” Student Congress’s funding heavily depends on student enrollment—a swing of 10 students means Student Congress will gain or lose \$2,500. “This endowment will help us to create and maintain a more sustainable and stable Student Congress budget not so dependent on enrollment,” said McHenry. The money in the reserve account will be placed into an endowment in order to supplement the funding Student Congress receives from tuition,

“Currently, the student activity fee is what funds Student Congress,” said McHenry. “This will give us another source of funding for events.”

“This money probably won’t be seen in your career as an Alma student, but money from the interest the endowment makes will go into contingency in a few years.”
-William McHenry ('12)

At the end of this year, \$50,000 will be transferred into the endowment. Whatever remains will be left in the reserve account. In the endowment, the money will be invested with Alma’s endowment and should continue to grow. “After three years, the rolling average will be measured and five percent of the interest will go to Student Congress,” said McHenry. During the next three years, \$10,000 can be used per year from the reserve account. \$2,500 will be added to contingency and \$7,500 may be used only with approval of the Vice President of Student Life. “This money probably won’t be seen in your career as an

Alma student, but money from the interest the endowment makes will go into contingency in a few years,” said McHenry. At the end of each fiscal year, 50 percent of the remaining funds in each organization’s account will be added to the following year, while the other 50 percent will be transferred to the reserve account. “The reserve account will be capped at \$40,000. Any excess will be moved into the endowment,” said McHenry. The endowment’s interest will be used as a supplement for contingency, emergency usage, and other occasions such as bringing a speaker to campus, according to McHenry.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Showers 45°	Partly Cloudy/ Wind 42°	Few Showers 58°	Mostly Cloudy 48°	Showers 51°	Showers 57°	Showers 57°

Popular meal plan to change for fall semester

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

As Alma College looks to expand student food services, there will be changes and cutbacks in the upcoming fall semester regarding the most popular student meal plan, the 210 block plan.

The 210 block plan, which began in fall 2008, is a convertible plan allowing students up to 210 meals, plus \$100 in Munch Money for the semester.

Students can convert any and all of their meals into Munch Money each semester, at the rate of \$4.50 per meal.

Steven Watkins, general manager of Sodexo Food Service at Alma, said that this plan is “by far and away” the most popular plan, and the amount of students on the plan has quadrupled since fall 2009.

“It’s flexible, students can do what they want with it and can budget themselves based on their individual schedule,” said Watkins.

However, this upcoming fall, Watkins said he has to put up some “guardrails” on that plan and cap how many meals students will be allowed to convert for the term, capping the number at 70 meals per semester.

“The reason I have to do this is because since 2008, we’ve been able to grow all the things we’ve done here; we’ve added service lines,” said Watkins.

Watkins explained that the capping of the number of meals students can convert is able to maintain those service lines.

“We just need to make a modification instead of allowing you to convert as many as you want to continue to offer the

programming we’ve been able to offer until now. We don’t want to take anything away,” said Watkins. “This is basically to enable me to continue the path of growing.”

The current programming available includes being able to go into a restaurant downtown and use Munch Money to pay for the meal.

Watkins explained that, at 66 converted meals being the average per term, this change “won’t impact most students.”

“Students can still always purchase more Munch Money,” said Watkins.

“The reason I have to do this is because since 2008, we’ve been able to grow all the things we’ve done here; we’ve added service lines.”

-Steve Watkins

With the 210 block plan, converting 70 meals would essentially even out to 10 meals per week, similar to an old plan, with \$415 in Munch Money.

“It’s a generous amount of munch money and should be doable for students,” said Watkins. “Students shouldn’t be too stressed.”

Watkins added that in a way, this change may force students to be a bit more proactive in budgeting in addition to removing the huge skew when students are sometimes converting so many meals.

The other meal plans—the 14 meals per week plan

with \$150 in Munch Money and 19 meals per week with \$100 in Munch Money—will remain the same for the fall.

In addition, Watkins said he will be able to continue the 160 block plan, exclusive to Wright Hall residents, with \$150 in Munch Money and a maximum conversion of 20 meals.

“There are some that will have some stress with this change and it’ll change the picture for them a wee bit, but overall, it will keep the programming in.”

-Steve Watkins

Watkins also said this plan will apply for the students living in the recently purchased Wright Avenue apartments.

The conversion dates for Munch Money for fall 2011 are Sept. 6 to Sept. 9, and October 24 to October 28.

The conversion dates for winter 2012 are Jan. 9 to Jan. 13 and March 5 to March 9, 2012.

As of the fall, Watkins also said that students will be able to use their Munch Money at the Kiltie Korner, though they are still defining the parameters on what in the Kiltie Korner students can use that money for.

Overall, Watkins explained that he does not want to take away the 210 meal plan, as it is so popular with students.

“There are some that will have some stress with this change and it’ll change the picture for them a wee bit, but overall, it will keep the programming in.”

This week at Alma College

Wednesday, April 6:

“Who Said You Could?” Finding the Path to College at 10:30 a.m. in the

Heritage Center

Senior Awards Dinner at 6 p.m. in the Hogan Lobby

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

Senior/Junior Lottery Night at 7 p.m. in North and South Commons

Richard Heinzl speaks at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Thursday, April 7:

Honors Day!

Sophomore Lottery at 6 p.m. in North and South Commons

Neon Trees Concert at 9 p.m. in the Hogan-Smith Arena

Friday, April 8:

Hogan Sculpture Dedication at 11:30 a.m.

Inaugural Symposium: Building Sustainable Compassionate Communities at 12:30 p.m. in the Strosacker Theatre

Inauguration Ceremony for Jeff Abernathy at 3:30 p.m. in the Hogan-Smith Arena

Post-Inauguration Reception at 5 p.m. in the Hogan Lobby

“Three Nymphs” at 6 p.m. in Jones Auditorium

Saturday, April 9:

Hall of Honors at 12 p.m. in Jones Auditorium

Senior Art Show Reception at 2 p.m. in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery

“Three Nymphs” at 4 p.m. in Jones Auditorium

Masterworks Concert at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Sunday, April 10:

“Three Nymphs” at 12 p.m. in Jones Auditorium

Masterworks Concert at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Student Life sets up question board

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

Student Life has set up a new question board across the hall from the offices for students to post questions.

Nicholas Piccolo, vice president of Student Life, said the question board, set up last week, is a low-tech method to answer any questions that students may have, both general and personal.

“The easy thing is if a student has a question and doesn’t know where to go to find it, we can be a clearing house,” said Piccolo. “If it’s a more personal thing, we’ll get back to them individually. If it’s a general question and we can put it out there, we will.”

Piccolo explained that if there is something a student wanted to know but didn’t know whom to ask, and Student Life can’t answer it, they will direct the question to the right place.

He also said that the goal will be to try to answer the questions within 48 hours of receiving them.

“The idea is much like the comment board at Hamilton Commons—people will see the comment cards,” said Piccolo. “Some will be made public, some will be passed on.”

Piccolo said the board was specifically placed outside of the Student Life office because it is in a high traffic area.

Piccolo also added that the idea for the question board came up at a recent meeting with the Student Life Committee, a committee with both student and faculty members.

“One of the things which came out that is a struggle for colleges in general is communication, so one of the ideas that floated around was a simple question board,” said Piccolo.

Overall, Piccolo said that this is a trial run, and Student Life is merely seeing if students will use the board.

Chippewa Cabs now serves Gratiot County

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

Chippewa Cabs, a cab service in 10 cities across Michigan, is now serving Alma as well.

As of March 28, Chippewa Cabs has been serving Gratiot County.

The cab service is 24 hours, 7 days a week. For in-town cab runs, there is a \$5 minimum and \$12 maximum charge.

“For out of town runs, we’d do a special rate for the students here and it is done per person instead of by the mileage,” said Brian Lombard, dispatch and promotion and sales of Chippewa Cabs. “The more people that ride, the cheaper it is.”

The cabs are seven, 15, or 20 passenger vans.

Party vans and handicap accessible vans are also available.

“Chippewa Cabs is just an alternative for students, instead of Dial-a-Ride,” said Lombard. “We do transports to Tiger Games, Cedar Point trips, large fraternity and sorority parties, church, doctor’s appointments—you name it, we’ll take you.”

“We do transports to Tiger Games, Cedar Point trips, large fraternity and sorority parties, church, doctor’s appointments—you name it, we’ll take you.”

-Brian Lombard

Lombard said that students can use the cabs to go anywhere—in state or out-of-state. He also added that the cabs

go to the airports throughout Michigan “on a daily basis.”

“We can take students to any airports, and we can also go to any airport or bus stop to pick students up and take them back to campus,” said Lombard.

Lombard also said that Alma College students riding with Chippewa Cabs will get a discount off the overall price.

Lombard explained that the Chippewa Cabs is doing a special promotion starting this month with some of the local clubs, including Ghost Town Saloon in Elwell and River Rock Bar & Grill in St. Louis.

When people ride with Chippewa Cabs to these locations, they will get a “wooden buck,” which is a token that students can use for a dollar off cover charge or a dollar off any food or beverage at the locations, according to Lombard.

The number to call for Chippewa Cabs is 800-298-7801.

Learman to compete in Miss Michigan pageant this summer

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

One of the 38 women competing in this year's Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant is also an Alma College student.

A native of Linwood, **Cameron Learman ('12)** will be participating in the competition, which takes place June 15-18 in Muskegon.

According to the competition's Website, the "Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant is a not-for-profit corporation that has maintained a tradition for many decades of empowering Michigan women to achieve their personal and professional goals, while providing a forum in which to express their opinions, talent and intelligence."

Learman said participants are required to have a platform, or an area of service, they choose to act as an advocate for when competing.

Learman's platform is dementia awareness and education.

"Pageants hold a very special place in my heart," said Learman. "They have provided me with a voice to promote my platform and truly make a difference in the lives of those living with dementia and in their loved ones' lives."

She added, "I think what keeps me competing is the understanding of how much

pageants have impacted my life; I have grown tremendously as an individual because of them."

According to Learman, the Miss Michigan pageant is a scholarship and preliminary round to the Miss America competition.

In order for her to qualify for Miss Michigan, she has to win a local title.

Learman earned the title of Miss Lady of the Lakes, which

"I think what keeps me competing is the understanding of how much pageants have affected my life; I have grown tremendously as an individual because of them."

-Cameron Learman('12)

was held in Novi in February.

The Miss Michigan pageant consists of five phases of competition.

"I privately interview with five judges for 12 minutes, answer an on-stage question and perform a talent—I sing," said Learman. "Then there is a physical fitness in swimwear phase and an evening wear phase."

This is Learman's second time competing for the

Miss Michigan crown.

She said, "I was 19 during my first year and I was the youngest girl competing, but I was awarded \$2,000 in scholarship money for winning the community service award as well as physical fitness in swimwear."

Learman started competing in pageants after her sister told her how fun the experience was.

"All I ever heard about was how much fun she was having and what wonderful people she was meeting, so I thought I'd try it!" she said.

Learman says she will continue to compete until she reaches the cut-off age of 24, and she hopes to make it into the top ten when competing for the title this summer.

"If I can do that, I will be more than happy," said Learman. "More than anything, I really just want to give it my all and have no regrets."

Learman also competes in the Miss USA affiliated pageants, owned by Donald Trump.

She said, "Several years ago at Miss Michigan Teen USA, I was the first runner up."

The 38 women competing in this year's Miss Michigan pageant are all between the ages of 19 and 24.

Learman is involved in several campus organizations, including the Alpha Xi Delta sorority and the biology honorary, Tri-Beta.

She is also a mentor for UHPAC and sings in the Alma College Chorale.



Photo Courtesy of Cameron Learman

Cameron Learman ('12) will be participating in the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant in Muskegon this June.

SIFE wins 10th regional award

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

The Alma Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team returned to campus after the annual Regional Competition in Chicago with its 10th consecutive Regional Championship award.

"The SIFE presentation team did an excellent job presenting the 12 community outreach projects to a panel of business executives," said SIFE advisor Ronald Lemmon, assistant professor of business administration and international business.

"By virtue of the regional championship, the team now moves on to the SIFE National Competition in Minneapolis held May 10-12 with an opportunity to advance to the International Competition in Malaysia's capital city of Kuala Lumpur in October."

"SIFE regionals was a great chance to network with both my peers and hiring companies," said **Rob Armbruster ('12)** who presented in Chicago. "Nationals will be a great opportunity to further showcase Alma SIFE's commitment to community dynamism."

"I attended both competitions last year, as well as the regional competition this year and I think these competitions are extremely beneficial for us to go to because it gives our team the opportunity to see what the SIFE teams at other schools are doing," said **Christine Vicari ('11)**.



Elaine Cunningham: Staff Photographer

Alma College's SIFE team presented in the annual Chicago Regional Competition last week. The team won its 10th SIFE Regional Championship award.

"It is really incredible to see the amount of community service work these SIFE teams, including ours, have done over the course of one short year."

During the competition, a total of 60 teams from schools in the Midwest presented. Four presenters from Alma College described projects such as Community Café, work in

Uganda, and the Highland Java.

"Presenting our accomplishments at regionals brings us great pride in our service work," said **William McHenry ('12)**, president of SIFE.

"This is my fourth year in SIFE and it has helped me to see things I wouldn't have otherwise seen and help people in the community and even outside the country."

"This was my first regional experience and I absolutely loved it," said **Allison Meurer ('12)**.

"It made me realize how SIFE is really reaching out to impact campuses and communities around the United States. We learned from other schools' projects and presentations and how they are reaching out as well. It was a powerful thing to see."

According to Lemmon, the SIFE team members completed 12 community outreach projects, encompassing over 3,900 hours of volunteer service. They focused on teaching the principles of the free enterprise system and educating the local community and our campus on the merits of entrepreneurship, ethics, environmental sustainability, financial literacy, market economics and success skills.

"Competition is a great way to showcase student talents," said Lemmon. "These students find a need, self-develop a project and design a way to help. They're applying knowledge in a creative and innovative way and building skills for the future."

"This is my second year in SIFE and I have really enjoyed being a part of the team because it has enabled me to get to know other Alma students and reach out and give back to the community," said Vicari.

According to McHenry, 200 teams will compete during nationals in Minneapolis and be judged upon the economic, social and environmental impact of their projects.

"Regionals definitely made me proud to represent such a great school in support of a great organization," said Meurer. "As we will be continuing on to Nationals, it is important for us to stay sharp and focused as this year comes to an end, and I'm sure it will be an amazing experience."

Theatre explores “Anatomy of Gray” in next production

By **JOSHUA ZEITLER**
STAFF WRITER

way of thinking and the villagers are soon forced to find a balance between the spiritual and the scientific as a new and deadly plague spreads through the town.

This tension, yet coexistence, between science and religion serves as the primary thematic underpinning of the play.

“[The playwright] intimately understands both sides of the argument,” said Josh Olgine, director. “He doesn’t tell you which side to pick.”

“There are certain things that religion offers that science doesn’t and vice versa,” said **Natividad Salgado** (‘11), assistant director.

While “Anatomy of Gray” tackles some of the most serious issues and emotions in life, it does so in a playful manner that leaves the overall mood of the performance in the hands of the viewer.

“Even though there’s all this death, sickness and sadness, there’s still plenty of laughter and fun in moments of comedy and a sense of hope behind it all,” said Salgado.

“It’s a modern play in that it’s not really a tragedy or a comedy, but rather a true slice of life, with a little bit of everything,” said Olgine.

In addition, the play imitates a fable through the frequent narration of events by the characters on stage directly addressing the audience.

“It makes everything more personal,” said **Tara Riedel**



Simone Boos: Staff Photographer

Logan Ricket (‘11), **Kathryn Wiltz** (‘13) and **Tara Bouldrey** (‘11) rehearse for “Anatomy of Gray.”

Alma students will perform Jim Leonard’s “Anatomy of Gray,” a children’s fable exploring adult topics such as loss, love, pain, suffering and death April 14-17.

The tale begins in the 1880s in the small folk village of Gray, Ind., with the young June Muldoon, played by **Emily Roberge** (‘14) who struggles to cope with the recent death of her father. In a moment of desperation, June writes a letter to God asking him to send a healer to her hometown to prevent the people she loves from dying.

As if in response, a terrible storm threatens the town, bringing with it Dr. Galen P. Gray, played by **Logan Ricket** (‘11), whose hot air balloon is carried and grounded by the twister.

“One of the hardest parts of this show is dealing with things that aren’t really there,” said Ricket.

“Not everything is physically realized on stage—for example, food, water, the hurricane and balloon,” said **Tara Bouldrey** (‘11), who plays June’s mother, Rebekah Muldoon.

The doctor from the outside world introduces an entirely new

relationship between the audience and the performers can give each individual performance a unique feeling from one night to the next as the performers play off the reactions of the audience. “It makes for a very welcoming

atmosphere and gives a feeling of community,” said Olgine.

“Anatomy of Gray” will be performed in the Strosacker Theatre of the Heritage Center Thursday, April 14 through Saturday, April 16 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m.

Douglas prepares for change as the new Student Congress president

By **ELISABETH BLETSCH**
STAFF WRITER

Q&A with **Shane Douglas** (‘13), the newly elected Student Congress president:

Q: When did you find out you were elected president? What was your initial response to the news?

A: I received a call by our current president, **Catherine Finley** (‘11), just after five when the voting had ended. I was not too surprised by the results; I had a pretty good lead on the other candidates. However, it added a great smile to my day and a great start to the weekend.

Q: When do you officially take over as president?

A: I will be taking over the meetings starting today, and I will be shadowing Catherine as she attends meetings with administrators for the remainder of the year. I will reserve the title of president to Catherine for the remainder of her final weeks as a senior here at Alma College. I will have the official title when this semester comes to a close.

Q: What changes do you hope to implement next year?

A: Changes I would like to make in the upcoming year include



Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

Shane Douglas (‘13) was elected new Student Congress president.

creating a better “spirit” for student congress in an attempt to get students to stand behind their suggestions and actually start making the difference they

talk about. Student Congress is not just the executive council board or myself—it is the student body as a whole. I’d also like to continue the regular

meetings and interactions with the administration of the school as they come in to the Student Congress meetings and seek opinions, support and suggestions from the student body representatives before making their decisions. Finally, later in the week, I am planning on meeting with the new executive committee to talk over my other goals and hopes for Alma College. I will include their goals and hopes in the process as well; once again, taking energy and spirit from everyone involved on campus is key.

Q: Is there anything that you want to keep the same?

A: The room that we currently hold meetings in. I think that with every change of office it’s good to bring new ideas and ways of thinking about things. If they work out, well great! If not, well, I tried. Change is not always a bad thing when taken step-by-step.

Q: What is your vision as Student Congress president for the 2011-2012 school year?

A: To let it be known that students have the power to make a change at their school, simply by voicing their opinion. We can better address their concerns by becoming a more approachable Student Congress. I also want to become more public with Student Congress to help improve the

spirit. I envision us working next to President Abernathy and becoming part of the choices in his five-year plan. I envision a new voice that roars at Alma College—the voice of the students. I envision a place where students really do feel that they are making changes.

Q: Are there any key issues you plan to focus on?

A: This is something that will have to be talked over with Student Congress as a whole. At the start of the school year, I plan to distribute a survey to students about campus issues and then we will move forward from there. I will also be meeting with my new executive committee to ask what goals they feel we should focus on. All of our endeavors will only be successful when tackled as a group.

Q: Do you plan on modifying the structure of the weekly Student Congress meetings?

A: Over time there may be some slight changes. One thing that will be changing is that any voting done for contingency reports will be done via secret ballot. There was a large concern for this in the surveys we received back from the Student Congress at the last meeting, so we plan to address the issue directly. I will also be sending an agenda e-mail ahead of time, so everyone will have a feel of what to expect at the meeting.

Another school year in retrospect

By MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

Well, dear reader, the end times are upon us. The year is drawing to its close with only two more academic weeks left in the term. Registrations are (mostly) in, housing arrangements have been made, and people are already ready to dread their finals. Time to look Alma College's 125th year over. It started off back at the end of August, with sweltering heat that made life fun for preterm freshmen who forgot their fans at home. President Abernathy was

the new guy on campus. Alma was chosen to receive a selective \$100,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools had granted Alma College full re-accreditation. We had the highest enrollment in Alma College's history. Campus organizations welcomed in new members. We were off to a good start. Delving deeper into the fall, we saw some changes. Wright hall students petitioned for, and won, changes to their meal plan. Alma College found itself the recipient of the Presidential Plaque from

Governor Granholm's office for beautification of the state through our campus landscaping. Homecoming saw an outpouring of spirit and support, as well as a flood of alumni come to visit. Fundraisers for a slew of charities kicked off about this time, too. Once the winter semester began, everything started anew as the campus was covered in snow. A new computer portal and e-mail system was implemented. Greek organizations went into crunch time in preparation for Walkouts and Runouts. New Greek members were accepted with open arms. The Alma College Dance Company continued its

season with the Student Choreographer's Concert. Seniors grappled with theses. Model U.N. brought home the gold at St. Louis. We had a few close calls with spring, but even now the campus in blanketed in white. More recently, a new program, New Media Studies, was approved, and already has a few declared majors. Phi Sigma Sigma raised a ton of money for kidney research with Greek God. The Spring Concert by the dance company

was a major success. Our Student Congress hammered away at assigning housing for campus organizations and budgeting for the coming year. And now we prepare for the important business that finishes out the year: spring term, graduation, and the formal inauguration of our thirteenth president, Jeff Abernathy. Bagpipes are everywhere, just waiting to blare at 9 a.m. once more. A lot more than I've mentioned happened this year. I'm glad I got to experience it. Aren't you?

House Republicans aim to do away with AmeriCorps

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Along with the mass amount of public services, House Republicans intend to eliminate AmeriCorps, which is an instrumental national and community service program. AmeriCorps is a U.S. federal government program started by President Bill Clinton through the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Funny how House Republicans want to stop funding federal programs that seem to be the most beneficial, eh? AmeriCorps was seen as so influential after its beginning that President George W. Bush decided to increase it by 50 percent while he was in office. AmeriCorps members help in areas of the public that are most understaffed and underfunded, assisting the people who most desperately need help. Members fulfill various roles, such as mentors and tutors in public schools, park

maintenance workers and employment training instructors. While AmeriCorps is also funded by local communities and states, loss of federal funding would, at the very least, cripple the program. This is an especially difficult situation as members are not allowed to lobby for the program while, at the same time, stating that they work for AmeriCorps. This is specifically stated in their contracts. My sister is an AmeriCorps member. Currently unable to defend the program, she intends to do so adamantly once her term is over next year and, hopefully, it will still be around by then. AmeriCorps members are only paid tolerably, if they are even paid at all, so this is not a financially demanding program that is sending the nation into ruins. According to the service program's Website, "Many AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance. You will not get rich from it, but

"AmeriCorps workers could easily find better pay and benefis at just about any other job, but they join because they want to create positive change and help those who would probably remain unreached otherwise."

-Elizabeth Corbin ('12)

most AmeriCorps members have found that it covers their basic expenses." Fittingly, this statement is listed under a heading asserting, "You will be able to pay your bills." Note that this would not be an especially enticing declaration to the average person seeking employment. AmeriCorps workers could easily find better pay and benefits at just about any other job, but they join because they want to create positive change and help those who would probably remain unreached otherwise. This is something that we need more of in our nation. Furthermore, one of the

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Puzzle courtesy of dailysudoku.com

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

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting, accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

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New registration has more problems than it's worth

By MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

As any returning student has surely found out by now, the new registration system is a hassle and a pain.

Due to a drastic departure from last year's registration system, coupled with the new portal layout, many students find themselves unable to decipher what it is they should be doing if they want to take any classes next semester.

The new portal layout, first of all, is a problem.

Equal parts "arcane," "wicked," and "ugly as the devil's face," it obfuscates every part of the data you want to see.

It's like some Scottish Frankenstein tore apart the

old portal we all knew and loved and reassembled it into a mockery of its former self, unrecognizable as our InsideAlma.

Don't get me wrong, there are useful things in there.

I love having the food menu there. (Even if it is a fork-tongued liar some days, luring me in with promises of savory meats and then delivering a taco bar.)

But the whole of it is counter-intuitive and cluttered with wholly unimportant "widgets" and boxes whose sole purpose is to occupy valuable screen real estate.

But back to the black heart of this throbbing nexus of data.

The registration system, crannied off in the corner, next to some news feeds that nobody reads (and for some reason lacks the Almanian's web version, which would improve its usefulness a thousandfold,) has been the

cause of much grief recently. There are a few main problems.

If you interact with that vile portal with any frequency, you noticed an "Advising Hold" alert pop up some few weeks ago.

Curious, I took the subject up with my advisor, who explained that it was like a child-lock that kept irresponsible and helpless students from accidentally falling down the metaphorical concrete staircase that is class registration.

Once you had cleared a schedule with your advisor, the hold would be removed and you would be allowed to attempt to register.

This, for some, didn't happen by their registration dates, causing the students who were able to fumble in the dark competently enough to register for the actual classes they wanted

to rush by and fill up their classes, while those whose advising holds were still engaged were trapped like third-class passengers in the steerage of the Titanic.

The next problem area was not so much a train wreck as it was inconvenient.

You're no doubt aware that incoming seniors are meant to register first, then juniors, then sophomores.

This would have been fine and dandy, except that the system doesn't take into account your Winter 2011 credits, the classes you're taking right now.

This meant that only seniors who were a semester ahead got to register on last Monday, and juniors who were ahead had to compete with the rest for their classes with seniors scrambling to finish their distributive

requirements.

The final problem is at the core of the thing.

The system is simply profoundly stupid.

I won't even delve into the maw of the prerequisites system, which was a difficulty I faced personally.

It wouldn't allow students to register past capacity for classes, which was a problem because some classes had erroneously had their caps set much lower than intended by professors.

All this taken into account, the new registration system is brand new.

The kind people down at the Registrar's office are working hard to sort through the problems, and hopefully next semester the system will be a bit smarter.

And if you're still having problems yourself, stop in and they'll be sure to lend a hand.

Gaddafi urges citizens to kill opposition through media

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, dictator of Libya, has recently encouraged his followers to slaughter political dissenters through his three state-run television stations.

Meanwhile, all media broadcast other than these three channels have been banned within the country.

According to the Freedom of the Press Index, Libya has been the most censored country in the Middle East during the time that Gaddafi has been in reign.

This is not hard to believe.

In February, Libyans protested against Gaddafi's regime in hopeful reflection of Egypt's

successful overthrow of President Mubarak.

Gaddafi is harshly lashing back on this attempt to undermine his power, stating that, "We are not Egypt, we are not Tunisia."

It is also thought that he has been sending coded instructions to the military and hired mercenaries through his stations.

This state-run television is broadcast solely by Nilesat satellites and the world needs to command the company to stop allowing Gaddafi to use media as a weapon.

Doing so could possibly prevent a mass slaughter of innocent Libyans.

Gaddafi established himself as head of Libya through a military coup and has been in power for 42 years, which makes him one of the longest ruling leaders in history.

However, Gaddafi has

"Those who go against this law understand Gaddafi established that 'execution is the fate of anyone who forms a political party.'"
-Elizabeth Corbin ('12)

stated that he will die a martyr while fighting enemies and opposition rather than peacefully step down from his position.

And he means it.

Gaddafi has even made contention illegal since 1973.

Those who go against this law understand Gaddafi established

that "execution is the fate of anyone who forms a political party."

In the midst of this stronghold, Gaddafi has used state television to broadcast the murder of dissenters as examples to all others considering acting against him.

Citizens were brave to demonstrate a mass uprising against his government while knowing the severe punishments that are possible.

However, this is not the first time that Libyans have tried to overthrow Gaddafi.

There have been assassination attempts and numerous riots protesting the dictator, but each time citizens were put back in their place by violent force.

In fact, Gaddafi's power is so great that, in the past, he has even orchestrated

assassinations around the world of those who criticize his regime.

Gaddafi also tries to censor information that is taken out of the country which often makes it hard to know what is really happening within Libya. The statements of cooperation made on his state-run channels cannot be trusted.

The world can't stand by in good conscience while blatantly unethical practices such as these are happening.

Because Libyans are unable to protect themselves, they rely on the actions of those who know their extreme situation.

You can go to Change.org to sign a petition demanding that Nilesat satellites stop broadcasting Gaddafi's stations.

We can prevent another genocide, such as Rwanda, from happening.

Following the Beat with Ben King: Reconsider thoughtlessness

By BEN KING
GUEST WRITER

Several weeks ago I read an article about a man who murdered one of his coworkers.

It was one of those disturbing cases in which an introverted man finally snapped after taking too much abuse from his colleague.

Allegedly, the victim had, for five years, parked his vehicle in his murderer's designated parking space.

Being obviously emotionally disturbed, the killer finally went "postal" and ended the offender's life on the second

floor of a parking garage.

This article got my mind whirring in frantic and paranoid worry.

I spent several sleepless nights tossing and turning in my bed wondering if I had unknowingly offended another person.

I lay in my bed staring blankly at the ceiling asking myself, "Have I been inconsiderate to anyone else?"

In a painful moment of catharsis, my crimes against my fellow man came to me in a horrifying rush.

As a writer for The Almanian, it is my job to turn in my articles every Friday evening, as well as reread my articles, check for grammatical and spelling errors and double check the coherence of my work.

Sadly, more times than not, my laziness gets the best of me and I do not reread or double check my articles.

After not rereading my work, I ignorantly and blissfully e-mail my article to my copy editor, who then diligently reads and corrects the errors in my articles.

This would not be a problem under normal circumstances but, because of my laziness, my poor editor has to force herself thorough my articles.

She bravely reads my "awful bad" grammar and "turible" misspellings.

Yet, every week I happily send in my articles with just as many errors as the last.

However, the murder of the parking space thief has given me pause.

Am I not as guilty of being inconsiderate as the victim?

Should I avoid parking garages?

While the answer to the second question is no, it does give me reason to reconsider my thoughtlessness.

In a place like a college campus where many people live so close together, it is not unlikely that one may unknowingly offend another through inconsideration and thoughtlessness.

It is important to consider how your actions may affect another.

If you are guilty of offending another, take the time to apologize and make amends.

Even the most subtle of insults are like infected wounds; they will fester if they are not dealt with quickly. Making amends with another is such an important

part of being a member of a community, especially a college community where everyone knows one another.

Word travels quickly, and a person's wrongdoings can taint or ruin his reputation.

Making amends is a part of life and it can be damaging to one's pride to admit that he has been in the wrong.

However, it is important to do the right thing when the situation calls for it.

So, to my dear copy editor, I sincerely apologize for being inconsiderate.

I truly hope that my laziness has not inconvenienced you in any way and I would really appreciate it if you would let bygones be bygones and not leave me dead in a parking garage.

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

Women's bowling introduces head coach for upcoming 2011-12 season

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

Alma College has added women's bowling as a sponsored varsity sport. The team will be expected to start competing in the 2011-12 season.

The addition of the new varsity sport increases the number of varsity sports at Alma college to 22—11 for women and 11 for men.

Bowling is sponsored by more than 300 high schools in Michigan, one of them being Alma.

Ken Shunk was announced as the new bowling coach for Alma College last Monday. Shunk graduated from Alma High School in 1990, and currently resides in Alma with his wife and three children. He owns ISP Management in the town of Alma and has been working with engineering for 10 years at the Gratiot Hospital.

Shunk is also a seven-year varsity bowling coach at Alma High School, as well as a 17-year softball coach.

Along with being a coach, Shunk likes to bowl and play softball as well. Shunk said that he made a professional softball team in Ohio called the Steel Silver Bullets and played with them for a couple of years. He has also been bowling for 25 years. Although his

high school did not have a bowling team while he was there, Shunk played on bowling leagues and now bowls about three times a week.

Shunk said that Alma is the sixth school in Michigan to add bowling as a women's varsity sport. His goal for the program next year is to bring in 14 girls and have two teams he said.

"I've been to the state tournaments and seen other girls play and I believe that we are going to do just fine."
-Ken Shunk, head coach

The bowling team will begin practices in September and will be traveling around to play different teams competitively.

"Unfortunately, there are only three varsity teams in our area, and you need five for a conference," Shunk said.

"We will have 10 tournaments that are covered by our budget. We are also planning a trip to Las Vegas for a tournament in two years, which we will fundraise for," he said.

Shunk said that the bowling tournaments usually last eight

hours, with only breaks to eat.

The girls will practice at 300 Bowl in Alma. Shunk says that he is not worried about the skill level of the new team.

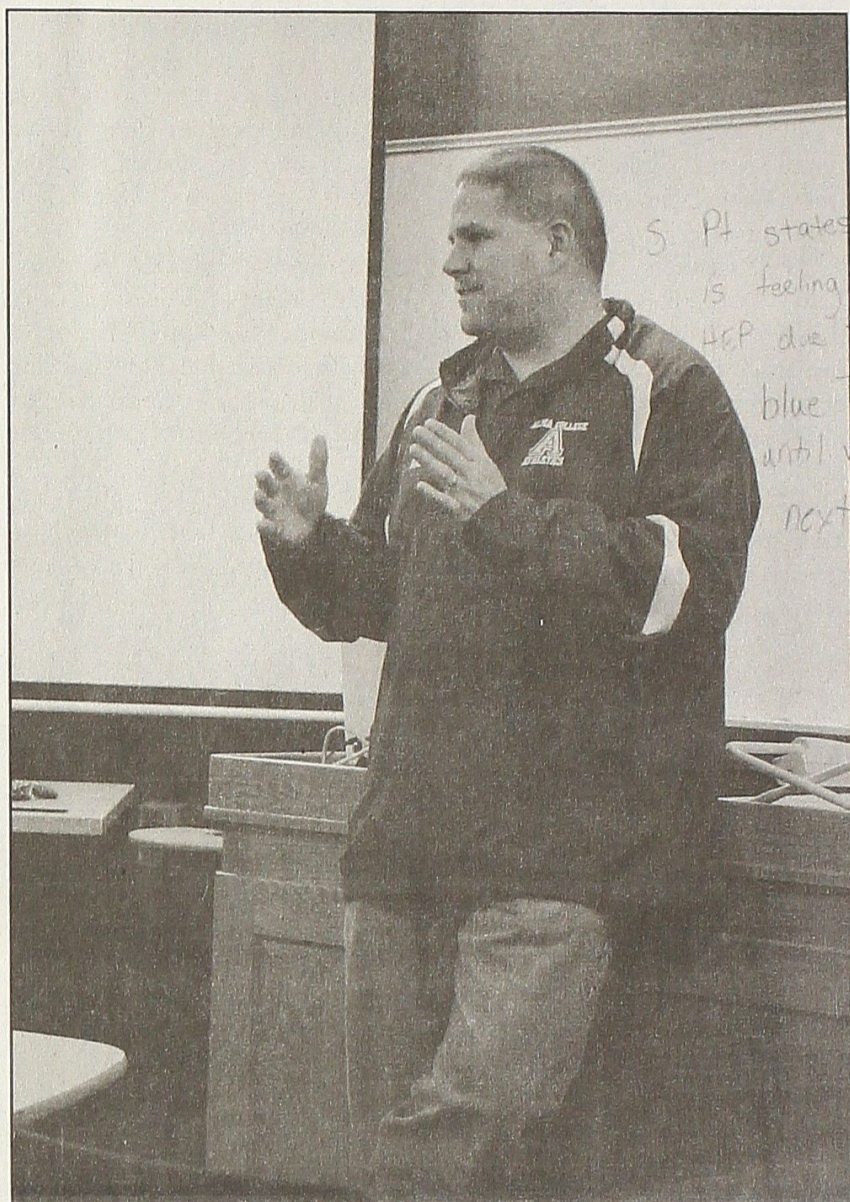
He has seen girls in high school progress drastically in just one season, although the challenge of bowling at the local alley in Alma is the girls will have late practices because they will have to bowl after leagues.

During their tournaments, the team will get the opportunity to bowl against the University of Michigan, Saginaw Valley, Grand Valley, Eastern, Florida State, Western, Toledo, Wright State University and many other big universities.

"The only challenges that I see with starting the new program is getting the word out and getting it going. This is new for me also. As far as recruiting, girls want to bowl at a varsity level, so it will bring them in," he said.

Shunk has went to high school bowling regionals and states to start the recruiting process, and has also sent flyers out to 237 schools in Michigan.

"I think that we are going to have a competitive team," Shunk said. "I've been to the state tournaments and seen other girls play and I believe that we are going to do just fine."



Kayla Roy: Staff Photographer

Ken Shunk speaks in a classroom at the Hogan Center. The athletic department invited the college to meet the new head coach for the women's bowling team.

Spotlight: Chasnis leads lacrosse team

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

Bobby Chasnis ('11) was an all around athlete in high school. He participated in two years of baseball, one year of track, four years of varsity soccer, one year of basketball and golfed.

He also graduated with honor cords and was a member of the National Honor Society, as well as a Michigan Scholar.

Chasnis originally came to Alma College to play soccer, but he said because of his summer job, he could not attend summer practices. Chasnis said that he got started playing lacrosse because he saw an e-mail about it and went to practice the very next day.

"I am very excited for the growth of the lacrosse club team to become varsity next year."
-Bobby Chasnis ('11)

wish I could have been a part of the varsity team in my tenure at this college," Chasnis said.

"It is a very quick sport with flash and excitement in every second of the game."
-Bobby Chasnis ('11)

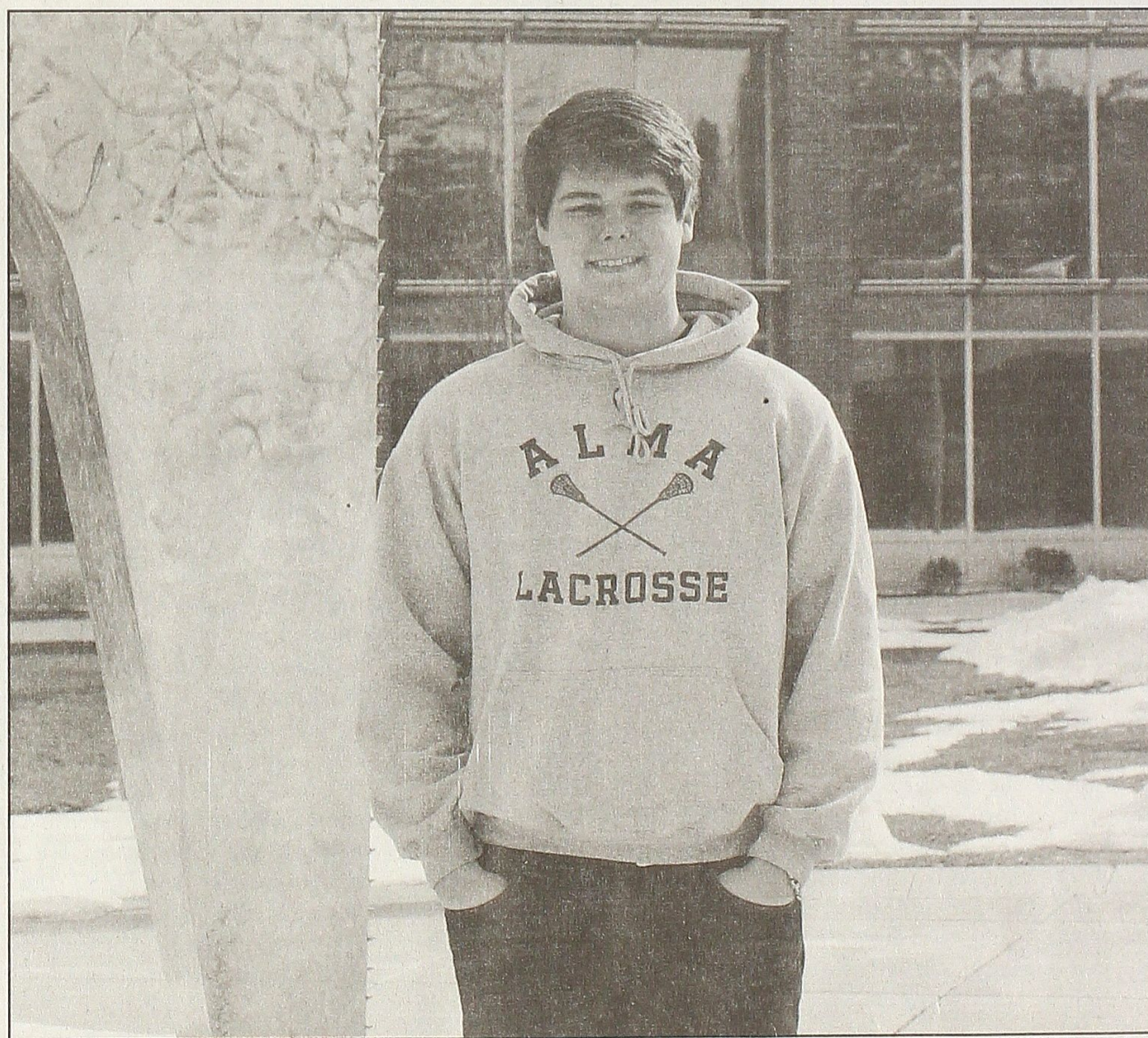
Chasnis said that his favorite thing about playing lacrosse is the pace and competitiveness of the game.

"It is a very quick sport with flash and excitement in every second of the game. Personally, I enjoy the teamwork and mental part of the game as well. I think myself, as well as anyone, would say that scoring goals or hitting someone would be the highlight of the game," Chasnis said.

Alma was Chasnis's number one choice for college because he enjoyed the small school aspect and because of its reputation for being a great place to get an education. Also, his older brother attended Alma, as well as his cousins.

"My favorite thing about Alma would have to be the faculty. They are helpful in every aspect of the word. Every student has the chance to connect with the professors here and the faculty truly care about students' futures," Chasnis said.

Chasnis is majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry and is also a brother of Sigma Chi. Even with his busy schedule, Chasnis still finds time to



Simone Boos: Staff Photographer

Bobby Chasnis ('11) played a key role in the development of the lacrosse team at Alma College.

participate in intramural sports.

Chasnis says that his favorite class taken at Alma is biochemistry with Dr. Beckmann and ecology of lizards in Bermuda with Dr. Clark.

After college, Chasnis says his ideal job would be to work as a biology professor at a university. Other than that, he said anything that would include working

with animals and their behavior would be the job for him.

Chasnis said his biggest heroes are his parents.

"My biggest heroes would be my mom and dad for putting up with three sons and seeing them through college," he said.

While at Alma, Chasnis said he has learned appreciation

for the coaching staff.

"The level of commitment that coaches devote to the team and the community is greatly underplayed," Chasnis said. "It is tough to pick up a new sport and try to be the coach all at one time in a four year period. I have learned a lot about myself as well as what it takes to keep a sport going."

Men's and women's tennis continue with MIAA play

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College women's tennis team began MIAA play last Wednesday afternoon as they traveled to Olivet College.

The Comets defeated the Lady Scots, coming away with the 6-3 victory. The loss drops the Scots to 0-1 in MIAA league play and 3-6 overall for the season.

"We need to go into every match with confidence," said **Lauren Stevenson ('12)**. "As a team, we have improved a lot this year. We have so much potential to do well, even against tough teams. Now it's

just a matter of believing it and fighting for every single point no matter how close the match is."

The Lady Scots were swept in doubles but came out on top in singles winning three of the matches.

Number three **Amy Baranowski ('12)** defeated Kelsey Singer of Olivet 0-6, 6-3, 6-3, number five **Katie Meloche ('13)** defeated Paige Sedgewick 6-2, 6-1, and number six **Lauren Moreau ('14)** defeated Jordy Burgeron 6-0, 6-1.

"We got off to a slow start during doubles so we all had to pick up the pace for singles," said Stevenson. "Even though we

lost, I thought we played well."

The team is scheduled to host Calvin College Monday afternoon beginning at 4:00 p.m.

"The court surface inside the recreation center is extremely fast paced compared to the normal clay courts we play on," said Stevenson.

"We try to counteract this by using pressure-less tennis balls, but it has still been a challenge for us to constantly adjust our style of play. The court surface dictates the strategies you use in a match and it can also mess up your timing. That was one challenge we faced at the Olivet match."

The Alma College men's tennis team traveled to Lansing March

26 where they faced division II University of Findlay and lost 7-2.

Leading the Scots on the day was **Gordon Rumschlag ('14)** who was a part in both victories for the Scots on the day. Rumschlag paired with **Mark Hotz ('14)** at number three doubles to take an 8-3 win. In single play Rumschlag dropped the first set at number six before coming back to win, 6-7(4), 6-2, 10-7.

"I think collectively as a group we played very well," said Rumschlag. "Findlay is a division II school and we didn't let that intimidate us. I think our level of play has to be consistent. We need to play the tennis that

we know we can play and keep it up throughout the season."

The scheduled season opener against league opponent Adrian College Bulldogs was postponed due to weather.

"I did not like that the match was postponed," said Rumschlag. "But I realized that it will probably benefit us because it will give us an opportunity to readjust to playing outside."

The men had an opportunity to begin MIAA play several days later as the Scots hosted Trine University Thunder last Saturday.

The Scots came away with a victory, beating Trine University 6-3.

Softball sweeps Anderson University

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College softball team traveled to Anderson, Ind. last Tuesday where they faced the Anderson University Ravens. The Scots took both games.

Winning the first game 5-4, they scored two runs in the top of the seventh, and finished strong, winning the second game of the double header 9-0.

"During the first game when we were down going into the last inning we kept a positive attitude and we never once thought we were going to lose," said **Grace Westermen ('14)**. "Everyone stayed focused and we had a few consecutive big hits that helped us win the game."

In the opening game, the Scots scored two runs in the top of the first inning and scored another in the top of the second giving the team an early 3-0 advantage. The Ravens scored four runs on three hits, including two homeruns, in the bottom of the fifth taking a 4-3 lead.

"The key to success is teamwork," said **Louise Rezmer ('13)**. "As long as everyone comes to play and contributes in her own way, all of our individual strengths will come together and pick each other up."

In the top of the seventh inning the Scots scored two runs and held the lead throughout the bottom of the seventh to gain the 5-4 victory. **Erin Pintek ('12)** came through with a crucial double that scored the pinch runner, **Chanler McCaskey ('14)** the game winning run. "As a team, our strengths were



Elaine Cunningham: Staff Photographer

Camille Dittmar ('12) bunts the ball in the women's softball game against Saint Mary's College. The game ended with a 10-6, 7-1 Scots victory. Dittmar went 2-3 at bat, and earned one RBI and one run.

our hitting and our attitude," said Rezmer. "Even though Anderson came back and was winning in the 5th inning, we still had no doubt in our mind that we could win that game. The fact that we were in the gym for a week didn't show either."

In the second game of the double header the Lady Scots scored four runs in the first two innings and continued to score as they went on to the 9-0 win. The sweep improved the squad to 17-2 for the 2011 season.

"The fielders have been doing spectacular also," said Rezmer. "They are hustling hard for every ball and never give up. Batting wise, everyone is producing. The stats may not show that,

but everyone is hitting the ball."

Rezmer led the Scots in the nightcap as she pitched a complete game, giving up only three hits, and gaining the shutout, while allowing just one walk with 11 strikeouts. In addition to Rezmer's work on the mound, she chalked up her first collegiate homerun.

"Our pitchers have been doing a great job so far," said Westermen. "Tara [Leddy] is continuously solid and Louise [Rezmer] has been very successful both on defense and offense as she had her first career home run during the Anderson game. Batting has been very strong for us as well. Many people have already hit home runs and others

continue to make clutch hits when we need them the most."

Becca DeWyse ('12) went three for five with three runs batted in and **Erin Rodas ('13)** added a sole homer for the Scots.

After several postponements, the team played its first MIAA game last Saturday where they hosted Saint Mary's College.

"Every game that we have been fortunate to play thus far we have been ready," said Westerman. "With all of our postponed games, we have taken the time to work on our individual skills and grow as a team."

The Scots defeated Saint Mary's 10-6 in the opening game and went on to win 7-1 in game two.

Staying on top of the game: This week in sports

Women's Softball:
Monday vs. Adrian
at HOME 3:30 pm

Men's Baseball:
Tuesday vs. Albion College
at HOME 2 pm

Women's Tennis:
Monday vs. Calvin
College at HOME 4 pm
Friday vs. Trine University
at HOME 4 pm

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