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VOLUME CV ISSUE I

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2011 EDITION

The Academic and Career Planning office: Workshops, mentoring, internships and more

By ANGELA FLYNN
NEWS EDITOR

The Academic and Career Planning office is something that students can use to help them get ready for life after college. The office can help students find jobs, internships, and compose resumes in preparation for interviews in whatever career they choose.

It is important to know about this service and to be familiar with its resources in order to make your time at Alma as fulfilling as possible.

To begin with, the ACP office offers academic support, special career services, opportunities for off campus studying, as well as many more resources to help students get as much preparation as they can for their futures.

Recent graduate Heather Spratt worked in the ACP office her junior year and has some thoughts of her own on ways to take advantage of all that the ACP office has to offer.

"The ACP office has a number of workshops throughout the year where you can learn interviewing tips, and resume writing skills," she said. "There are also career fairs the office helps plan. The ACP office also handles all of the semester off campus study info."

Adjusting to the academic side of college is not always simple, so the ACP office accepts individual appointments, as well as learning classes and workshops, as the Alma Website states. These classes or appointments can help make this transition a bit smoother on new students.

Of course, it's never too early to start planning for future

careers, and the ACP office is the perfect place to go with questions on how to get great jobs once graduation is over.

"I have used the ACP office when it came to writing my resume and I also attended a career fair in Lansing my senior year," said Spratt. "Students can go to the workshops but on by the office or stop by. It's located in the basement of the library."

The office is also a great place to get information on internships, as those are a good way to get experience with whatever future job you may want.

"The ACP office really helps with post graduation plans," added Spratt. "It would also be a very useful resource for underclassmen that are interested in internships."

Another option that many Alma students take advantage of is off campus studying. If this is something you are thinking about, be sure to keep the ACP office in mind when you decide to take a trip away from the small town setting here at Alma!

Another alumna, Maureen O'Connell, is a student that used the ACP office to fullest extent when she studied for a semester abroad in Europe, primarily in Granada and Barcelona, Spain.

"When I was planning to study abroad, I knew I wanted to study through a program where I would be able to fulfill art history credits for my art and design major, as well as Spanish credits for my Spanish major. I found a program, outside of the ones already affiliated with Alma College, where I would be able to do both," said O'Connell.

"The ACP office worked with me to make my wishes possible, so that I was able to study abroad

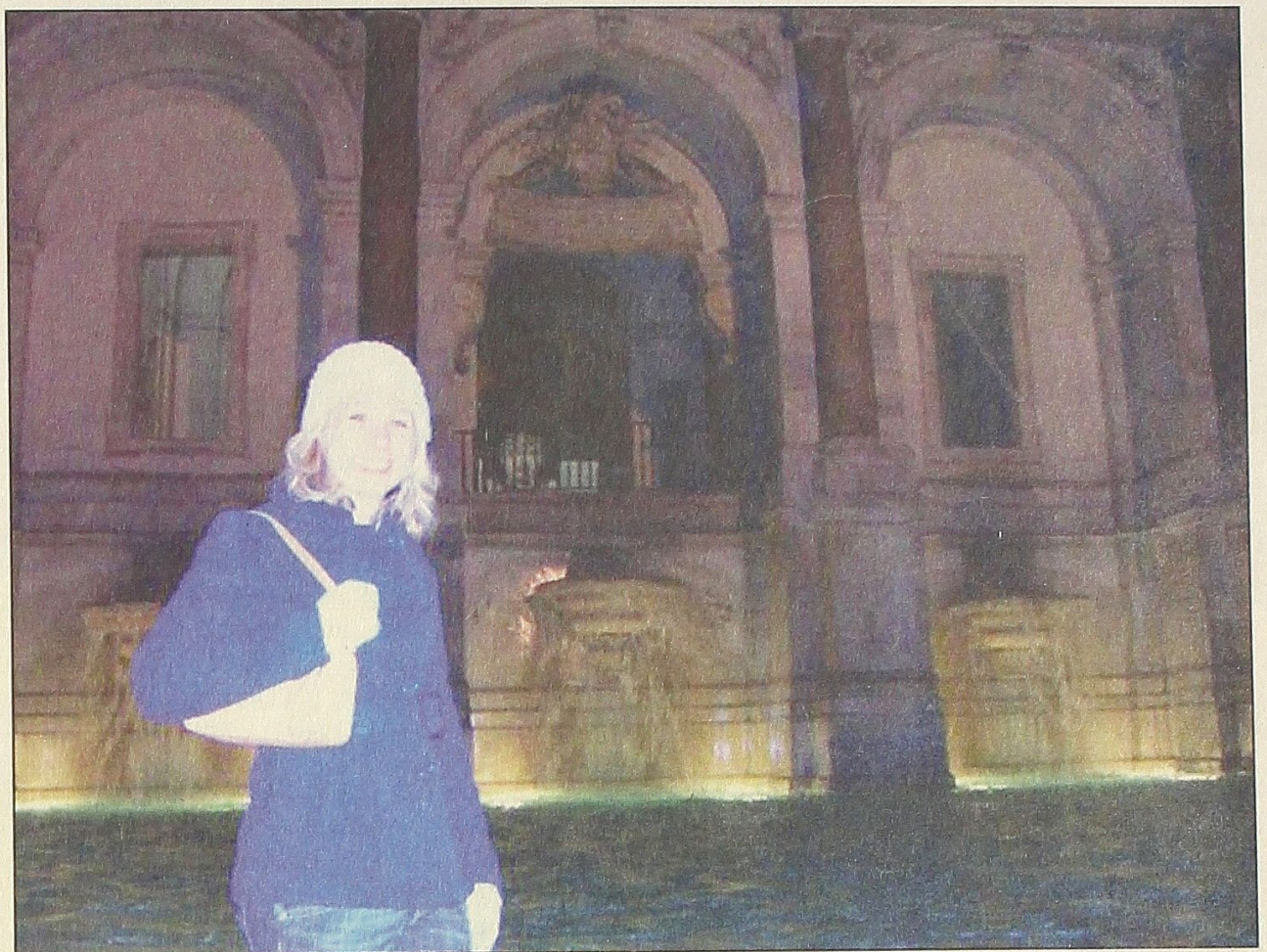


Photo courtesy of Maureen O'Connell

Maureen O'Connell, a recent graduate who took advantage of the Academic and Career Planning office, is shown here in Spain during her semester abroad. The ACP office helped her plan everything for a safe learning experience away from home.

through this particular program that I wanted."

But that is not where the ACP office stopped in helping her trip possible.

"The ACP office also got an ISIC card for me (an international student ID which helps to get a lot of discounts while abroad), and had an orientation to help with other logistics before leaving, such as learning about how to keep safe while abroad," she added.

As far as advice for the incoming freshmen, she had plenty to say to encourage

you to study abroad.

"It is the absolute best opportunity to learn about the world, about people, about cultures, about you," she said. "The memories, experiences, and friendships formed through studying abroad are irreplaceable."

The mentoring program is another resource, especially for new students, that helps them get more acquainted with the college and everything it has to offer. The Website states that it "support the transition experience of Alma College students," as well as

"enhance a connection with the campus and community" along with aiding "in the career exploration process."

Overall, the ACP office has plenty of resources to help students of all standing here at Alma. Their office is located in the basement of the library, and checking out www.alma.edu/academics/acp can also give students links to different online resources.

"My study abroad experience has truly shaped me into the person I am today, and for that, I am incredibly thankful," said O'Connell.

Surviving free time in Alma

- 1.) During the fall and spring when the weather's nice I like to use the trail that runs behind the Hogan Center and either bike or rollerblade. It's a great way to get off campus and get some exercise at the same time.
- 2.) Go to College Corner, Main Street Cafe or Pizza Sam's downtown to eat with friends. College Corner is great especially since they serve Stucchi's ice cream, Pizza Sam's is classic (and delicious), and the Main Street Cafe is so quintessentially Alma.
- 3.) In the fall I always try to go to Uncle John's a few times; it's not really in Alma, but it's close. It gets pretty crowded in the fall, but it's fun to watch the cider press and roam the pumpkin fields - plus the donuts and cider are delicious!

Simone Boos ('12)

- 1.) Attend the various shows put on by the college! They show off the abilities of some really talented people on campus, such as the members of theatre, dance company, and band.
- 2.) Go to a football game. This is the best way to show your Alma spirit! The student section tends to help the team score and beat our opponents as we are accompanied by the marching band!

Devon Brisbon ('13)

- 1.) Get to know your hallmates! Walk into their room (knock first!), introduce yourself, spend time together hanging out. They will become your family away from home.
- 2.) Go to Joes - pool tables, air hockey, music, TVs, computers, food, and friends. What more could you ask for?
- 3.) Hang out at Highland Java in the library. The snacks are delicious and the staff is super friendly too!

Krystine Elchuk ('12)

- 1.) Well, there's the play place in Wright Park. It's always a fun time to go there with friends and play hide and go seek. Also just fun to hangout somewhere off campus.
- 2.) There's Mancino's. Good food and pretty much free 'since you get to use your munch money. As well, it's always nice to have free wifi somewhere else that's off campus.
- 3.) There's the Alma Riverwalk, which is nice. Another nature thing. Plus it's nice to bike along on a nice day. Plus, there's the Fred Meijer trail, which is great to walk on, but even better to bike on!
- 4.) There's the Gratiot County Forest, which is across the river. I like going there a lot because it's nice to get outdoors. There's a lot of trails to explore and it's always fun to experience a little nature and get away for a little bit.

Tyler Sheets ('12)



Photo by Kayla Roy

Pizza Sam's is just downtown and is a popular place for students to hang out with friends and get some good food.

Get Out Bike Program supports community, environment, fitness

By JOSH ZEITLER
FEATURE EDITOR

President Jeff Abernathy collaborated with Jennifer List, director of the Stone Recreation Center, and Terry's Cycle, a local bike shop, to offer this fall semester's incoming students a unique deal.

Influenced by a similar program introduced at another college and also by his own love of cycling, Abernathy launched a pilot program to provide new bikes at a discounted rate in exchange for a signature.

"We want to do our best to make Alma a more friendly community."
-President Jeff Abernathy

a healthy lifestyle," said List. One of Abernathy's goals since achieving the presidency has been to better integrate the college into downtown Alma.

"We want to do our best to make Alma a more friendly community," said Abernathy. Through the Get Out Bike Program, students are encouraged to explore the unique local shops along Superior Street.

Abernathy has also branched out by opening College Corner, which combines a new bookstore with Stucchi's at a location just outside the campus.

"For the college to move past Wright Avenue really says that we're a part of downtown Alma," said Abernathy.

The president also encourages students to take the time to enjoy the many beautiful bike trails in and near Alma, including the 41-mile Heartland trail that leads all the way to Edmore.

Additionally, he invites program participants or anyone with a bike on campus to join him for a ride during orientation week.

"The trail passes bogs, woods and nature of all kinds," said Abernathy. "It's impossible to see that perspective of Michigan if you're driving around."

Each bike comes with lights, a lock, basic safety training, unique numeric decals (which help to identify the owner of the bike in case it is stolen), and a year of free maintenance at Terry's Cycle.

"The nice thing about buying from a local bike shop is the specialized service," said List. "It's worth spending a little extra to support local businesses."

"We offer normal factory warranties, repairs on any make

or model, and a free year of some services for any bike purchased in the store," said Terry Clements,

"Department stores will say that one size fits all, but bikes fit just like underwear."

-Mike "Napper" Napieralski, co-owner of Terry's Cycle

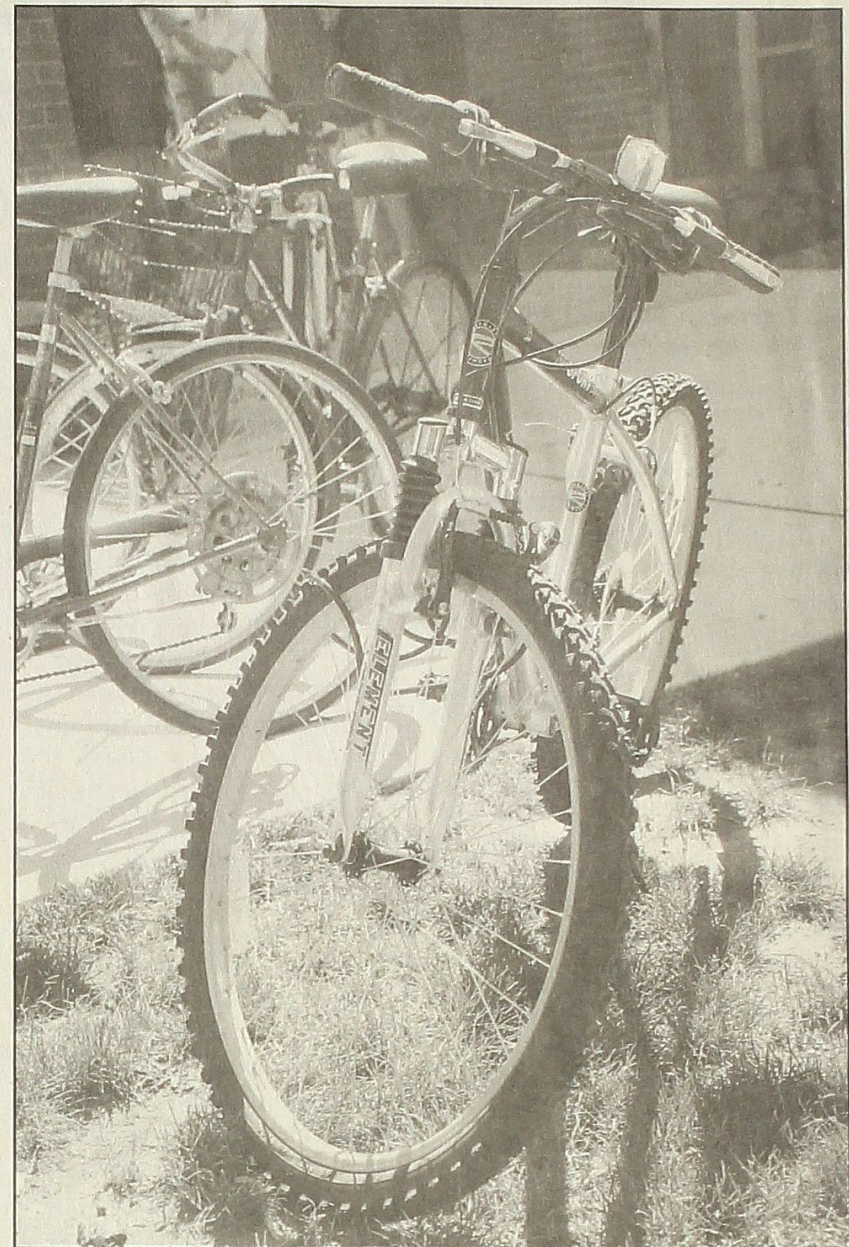
founder of Terry's Cycle. "We currently have a three stage set-up, and we check each others' work to make sure every bike we sell is set up properly."

"Department stores will say that one size fits all, but bikes fit just like underwear," said co-owner Mike "Napper" Napieralski.

In addition, Clements encourages students and community members to be more environmentally conscious by committing to bike instead of drive for commutes under two miles. By visiting rworld2wheels.org, anyone can enter the weekly number of miles they commit to bike instead of drive and see the number of calories they would burn, the money they would save on gas and the pounds of CO₂ pollution they would prevent.

So far 32 bikes have been sold; however, 33 students have signed a pledge.

List said that anyone can sign the pledge, which can be read on the Alma College website, regardless of eligibility



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

Terry's Cycle in downtown Alma offers Trek 3500 and Skye bikes to incoming freshmen, transfer and exchange students at a discounted price.

or desire to purchase one of the discounted bikes.

The college will continue to sell Trek 3500 and Skye bikes, a \$380 value, at the reduced price of \$100 to incoming freshmen, transfer and exchange students on a first-come first-serve basis.

There are approximately ten to fifteen available, depending on the sizes of the bikes sold.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to sign a pledge, email Jennifer List at lstjl@alma.edu or stop by the Stone Recreation Center.

Incoming freshmen arrive early to tackle global issues

By JOSH ZEITLER
FEATURE EDITOR

Pretending to be 13 of the 15 countries represented on the United Nations Security Council, 13 ready-minded Public Affairs students banded together from dinner on Wednesday

night to dinner on Friday night to draft resolutions regarding what action to take in response to recent unrest in Syria.

In particular, the incoming freshmen had to determine whether to bring President Bashar al-Assad, who has been violently suppressing protestors after the torture of students

who put up subversive graffiti in March, before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"Syria was one of the most prominent issues the international community had to deal with, and we wanted a real-time simulation and discussion," said Dr. Derick Hulme, professor of political science, who led the model Security Council with his colleague, Dr. Edward Lorenz.

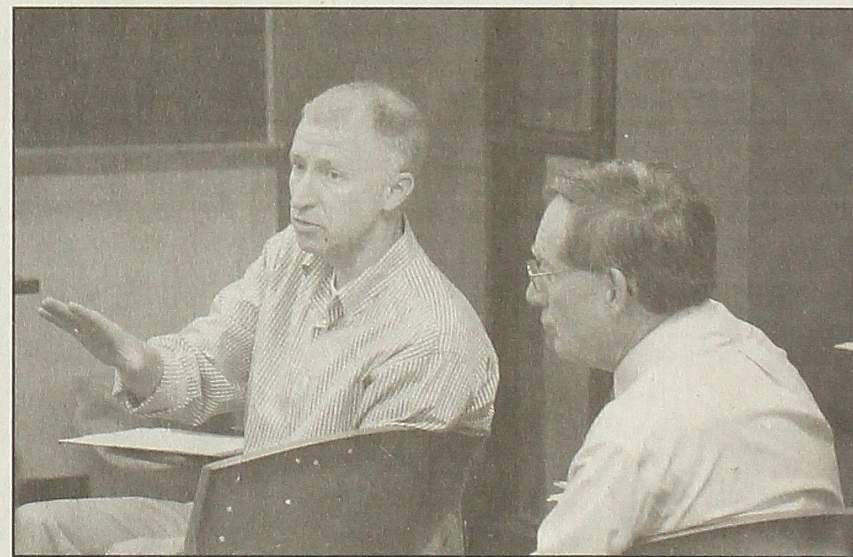
The students took their first step in a long journey towards understanding the intricacies and complications of international law.

For example, the ICC only has jurisdiction to try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes of aggression and crimes against humanity in countries that have agreed to and ratified the conditions of the Rome Statute. Neither Syria nor the United States has ratified this statute.

Through a resolution by the Security Council, however, the ICC can be given jurisdiction over an individual in a country that has ratified the UN Charter.

Obtaining the required consensus to hold Assad responsible under the laws of the international arena is not as easy as it sounds. Any of the five permanent members of the security council have the power to veto a resolution that interferes with their political or economic interests.

"The activity forces students to recognize the complexity of international relations and figure out how to deal with them as best they can," said Hulme. "This opportunity is unique,



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

(Left to right) Dr. Derick Hulme and Dr. Edward Lorenz teach Public Affairs students about the intricacies of international law.

not only to a small school, but to Alma," said **Caroline Asiala ('15)**. "Opportunities like this are the reason that I chose to come to Alma."

Alma College has also recently become one of the few undergraduate institutions to open up a chapter of the ICC Student Network (ICCSN).

"The aim of the ICCSN on Alma's campus is to educate students about the ICC, support its existence and improvement and give students the chance to travel, be published and interact with other networks in reputable universities such as Duke and Cambridge," said **Morgan Beeler ('14)**, president of Alma's ICCSN and a Public Affairs mentor.

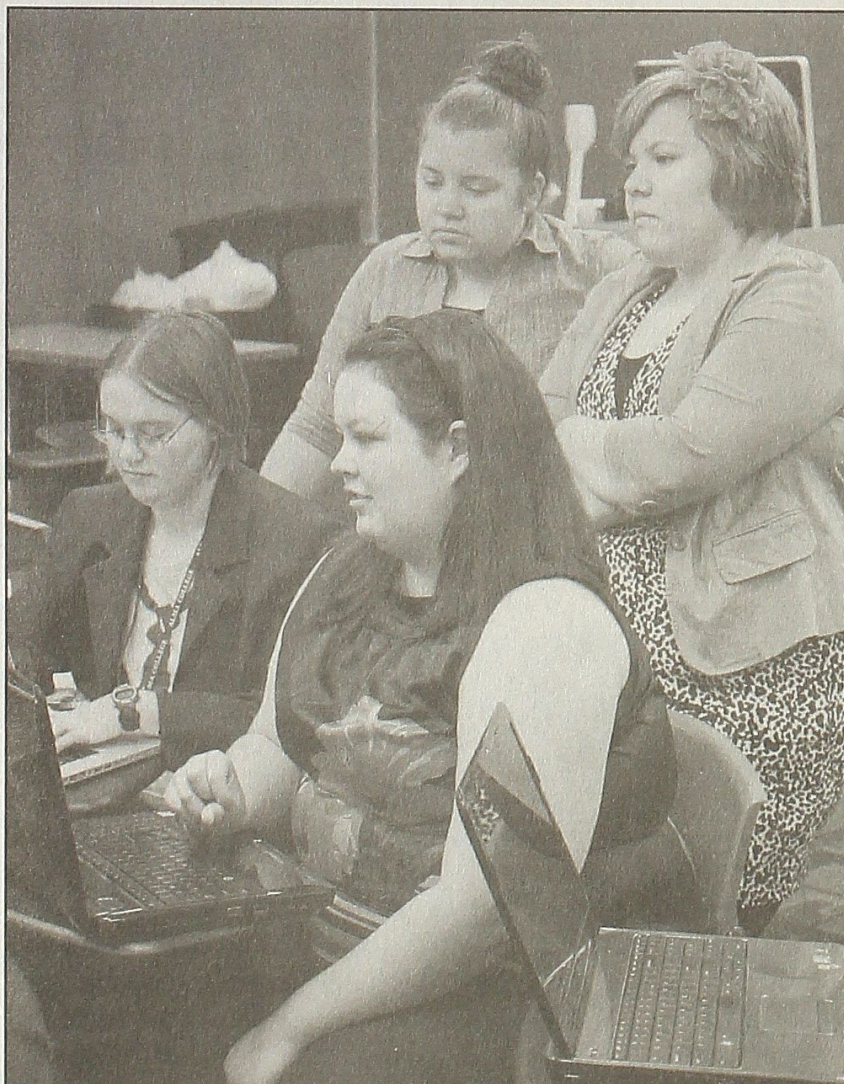
In addition, Alma's Public Affairs Institute and Center for Responsible Leadership are working with George Mason and Georgetown Universities—

among others—to hold an academic conference on religion and human rights on the 500th anniversary of Antonio Montesinos' groundbreaking defense of universal human rights in the Americas.

"The U.S. isn't doing a very good job of defending human rights; we won't even join the International Criminal Court," said Lorenz. "This anniversary is an excuse to bring together a bunch of people to show that we do care, and we want more support for universal human rights."

Eight upperclassman mentors who helped guide the freshmen's research also informed them of all these and more opportunities that Alma has to offer.

"The past few days have opened my eyes to the international opportunities that are available to me, especially through P-Global," said **Isaac Burrell ('15)**.



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

Public Affairs mentors Rebekah Miller ('14) and Chloe Secor ('14) stand behind Kily Buta ('15) and Maggie Peacock ('15), representing Brazil and India, as they negotiate to resolve Syrian unrest.

OPINION

August 29-September 4, 2011

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Student organizations: what's the deal?

By MASON WARLING
OPINION EDITOR

joined. So don't feel like you have to be a member of 10 different groups. Pick a few that you really like and stick with those.

Third: You need to make some decisions when it comes to the clubs you decide to be interested in. If you like a club in theory—for example, you really like casual dancing—but can't stand the people in that club, don't stick around and be unhappy. It's probably best to find a more enjoyable use of your time. But do try and get along with people; most folks are pretty agreeable here.

So, where are you going to find the right student organizations? There are a few places you can look for things that interest you, mostly by attending events and meetings put on by those groups.

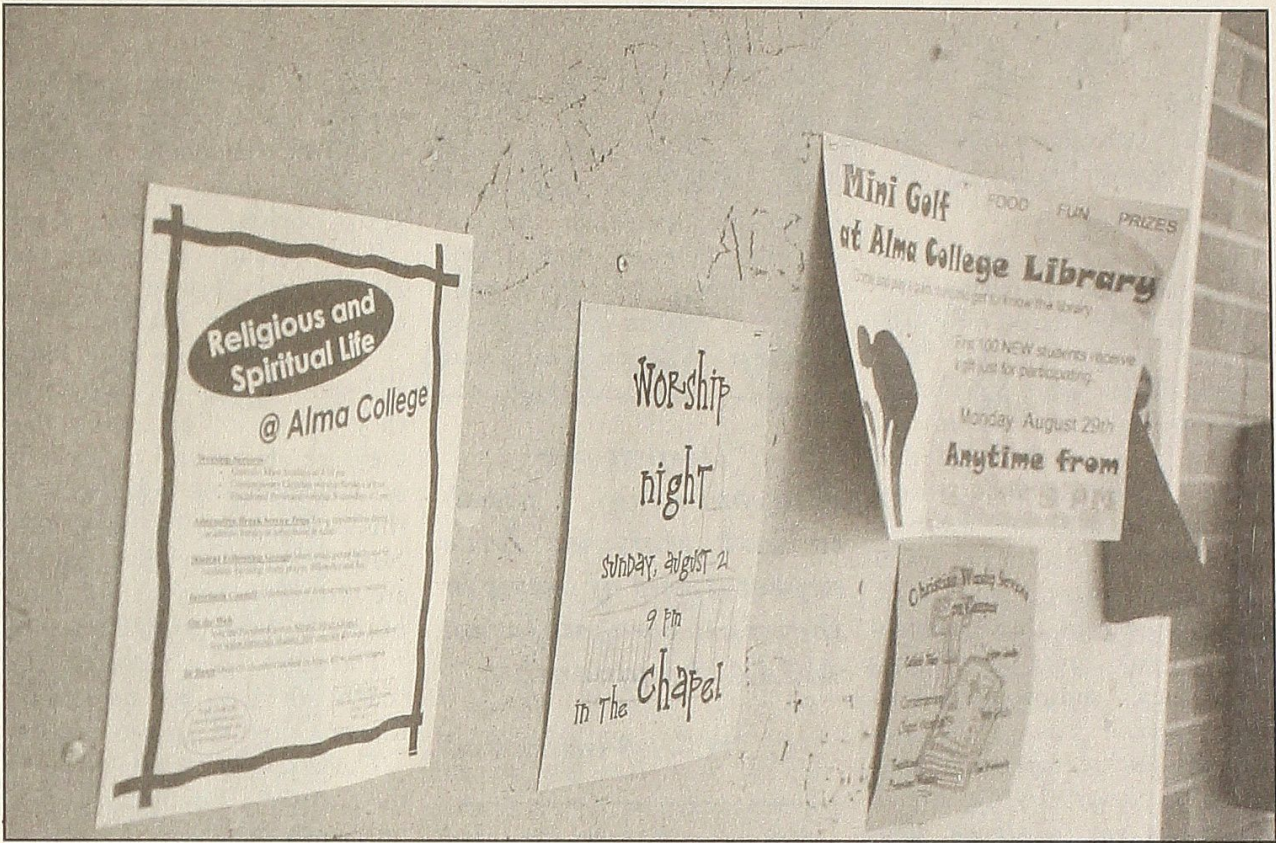
First, are you interested in a club related to a subject you're taking? Ask your professors if they advise any clubs related to their field of study. There are a lot of academic organizations that put on a lot of great events throughout the year.

Second, you may see, especially this week, a lot of flashy posters with events set up for this week's evenings. Pay attention to these, as many of them are put on completely by student organizations. For example, this Wednesday, Alma College Otaku and Gamers will be hosting their pre-term Video Game Tournament (VGT).

Posters get put up in Swanson Academic Center (SAC)'s stairways and halls, as well as on bulletin boards at Saga and the residence halls.

In a slight variation on this for bigger events, some student groups (usually Greek organizations, but not always) will hang sheets advertising their events on the rails of the library's entrance way, visible from McIntyre Mall.

The third way you'll see events mentioned is right underneath your feet. The wide open tiles of McIntyre Mall are frequently decorated with drawings that advertise the dates and times of events. However, this gets less common when it rains a lot since



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

the chalk is easily washed away.

Definitely do try to go to a lot of events, especially this week, and then make decisions about what sort of organizations put on events that you enjoyed. That's

Above: A bulletin board near Saga frequently posted with fliers. Below: The library railings are a common place to advertise important events. They are usually one-time only, so take note!

a great indication of just what sort of people are a part of an organization, and what they will continue to do all year round. Above all else, have fun with your Alma experience!

the Almanian.

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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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Freshman? Fancy seeing your name here? Come to our meeting, in the Newberry basement, at 9:15, September 13th.

SPORTS

August 29-September 4, 2011

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Fall squads anxious for seasons

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
SPORTS EDITOR

The fall sports teams have been working hard over the summer to prepare for their seasons. There were eight teams that reported to campus in mid August: golf, soccer (men and women), volleyball, cross country (men and women), and football.

The men's golf team has seven returning golfers and spent the remainder of their summer on the golf range practicing.

The men's and women's golf teams agreed that Calvin is their biggest competition this year. "We always play Cavin and our scores are so similar that we may beat them or lose to them by only a couple strokes," said **Danielle Craft ('14)**.

"Despite our disappointing finish to last year, we have expectations of being in the mix to compete for an MIAA championship. Calvin won the league last year, and Hope and Trine will be strong again this fall," said **Chris Pronick ('12)**.

The men's soccer team trained for their fitness tests all summer. "For this season many of us have been running and working out over the summer. We also do a lot of fitness during practice to prepare for the season to come," said **Cameron Alman ('12)**.

The men's team is

looking forward to playing Hope, Olivet and Calvin.

"They are all really talented teams. Hope has quick play, Olivet has speed up top and a solid defense, and Calvin always comes out with a good team and is always at the top," **Graham Wallace ('14)** said.

"Despite our disappointing finish to last year, we have expectations of being in the mix to compete for an MIAA championship."

-Chris Pronick ('12)

The women's soccer team has been working out and getting touches on the ball all summer. "We had a training packet that we had to follow to prepare us for our mile run and preseason fitness tests," said **Autumn Root ('14)**.

"I think our biggest competitors this year are Kalamazoo and Calvin," **Becky Marton ('12)** said. The girls' team was picked in a pre-season coaches' poll to win the MIAA again this year. Calvin was picked to come in second, and Kalamazoo was ranked third.

The volleyball team had summer workouts that included a running and sprinting workout three days a week and a lifting and jumping workout the other three days.

"We held open gyms and team retreats to help the transition with the incoming freshmen into our team atmosphere," said **Erica Adams ('12)**.

The team believes that Hope and Calvin will be their biggest competition.

"We are not sure how Hope will show up this season because they lost a lot of seniors, but they are always still a threat to us. Calvin is our biggest threat this season because they were National Champions last year and are returning this year with most of the same players," Adams said.

The volleyball girls have a new coach this year and are looking forward to a great season.

The cross country team spent their summer doing a pace-per-mile program which consists of a daily running routine.

"If one is healthy and injury-free, these runs build up to roughly a four-mile all-out run on Tuesday and anywhere from a six- to ten-mile run on Thursday. The other days are recovery-run days and we also run 10-14 miles on Monday," **Max Morrison ('13)** said.

The men's and women's teams agreed that Hope and Calvin are their top competition. "Calvin has been winning the conference for quite a while so we are hoping to get up there with them. We have been running around 40 to 50 miles a week along with workouts this summer," said **Julie Helm ('13)**.

Although the football team has a tough non-conference

"We've been pushing hard to become a great team so it should be a good year to come out and watch some good football games"

-Brad Neumayer ('12)

schedule, they are confident about their season. "I believe our team will be able to battle every week as we have worked really hard over the summer with our lifting and running schedule. The team seems to be in pretty good shape and is getting along really

well," said **Scotty Cole ('12)**.

"Trine has not lost a conference game in the last three years, but graduated nearly all of their starters. Albion will also be a tough test as they return two all-Americans, one on each side of the ball," he said.

"Both Trine and Albion have a lot of good players. I feel great and more confident this year as long as we can stay healthy. We'll be contenders as long as everyone keeps the attitude that we've had through camp and strives for nothing less than the best," said **Brad Neumayer ('12)**. "We've been pushing hard to become a great team so it should be a good year to come out and watch some good football games."



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

The football team has been on campus practicing since the beginning of August for their opening game of the season against Heidelberg University on September 3 in Ohio.



Kayla Roy, Photo Editor

Kailey Vlug ('15), an incoming freshman to the women's soccer team, takes a shot on net during pre-season practice.

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Big HOME games to watch this fall

September 10: Mens golf for the MIAA Jamboree at 1 pm
Football vs. Illinois Wesleyan at 1 pm
September 13: Mens soccer vs. Hope at 4 pm
September 24: Women's golf for Alma College Invitational at 1 pm
September 28: Women's soccer vs. Kalamazoo at 4 pm
October 7: Volleyball vs. Hope at 6:30 pm
October 12: Women's soccer vs. Calvin at 4 pm

October 15: Women's soccer vs. St. Mary's at 12 pm (homecoming)
Football vs. Trine at 1:30 pm (homecoming)
October 22: Volleyball vs. Calvin at 1 pm
October 29: Mens cross country for MIAA championships at 11 am
Women's cross country for championships at 11 am
November 2: Mens soccer vs. Calvin at 4 pm