

Demers speaks of volunteer opportunities in hospice care

By JANE ENGEL
STAFF WRITER

A volunteer coordinator from Heartland Hospice’s program came to Alma Thursday to speak about the training needed to become a hospice volunteer and to share with students the types of opportunities available. Diane Demers, who has spent five years working in hospice and has a degree in medical technology, gave students an introduction to hospice care and explained the many misconceptions about working in a hospice setting. “A lot of people ask me how I can work in hospice,” Demers said. “The myth is that it is very sad, but it is just the opposite. It is very rewarding to help people at that time, especially when working with [those in their] 90s and 100s. The life review and the stories you hear are just amazing.” According to Demers, hospice care is intended to provide psychosocial support for those in their final stages of life and with a terminal illness. Heartland Hospice gives help to patients and families in the areas of “death, dying, and bereavement.” Their staff includes physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, social workers, home health aids, counselors, and volunteers. Demers also said that volunteers do not need any medical knowledge to help with patients; they are simply needed to share their time and support with

patients and give them company. “When volunteering to work in hospice, students can choose from many different jobs, such as reading to patients, going for walks, or even holding a patient’s hand for support,” Demers said. “If you can ease their mind for even thirty minutes or an hour, it gives them peace and relaxation,” said Cristy Calhoun, coordinator of the Integrated Health Studies Institute. The Integrated Health Studies Program and Service Learning wanted to sponsor an informational meeting with Demers, who has worked with Alma students in previous years. Demers said she is willing to work with students’ schedules so they can balance their volunteer time with their schoolwork. She wants to make sure student volunteers are comfortable, so she will join students on their first visit to make sure they understand their job. “I know we are doing everything right when I have volunteers thanking me for letting them volunteer,” she said. “I have a lot of volunteers that continue year after year, so you know it is a good experience.” Calhoun said she was happy with the turnout, having 21 students attend. Students who were not able to come to the informational meeting can still contact Calhoun for more information. Training for hospice volunteer will begin sometime in January, according to Calhoun. There is an increasing need

for volunteers in the Alma area, according to Demers. So this is a good time for Alma students to get involved. “I really appreciate working with Alma College integrated health students,” she said. “It is really good that they are working with the community.” Taylor Boehler (‘13) attended the informational session and shared what she hopes to gain from this experience. “I believe that volunteering with Heartland Hospice will open my eyes to an area of the health field, one which I haven’t had much experience with,” she said. “As a volunteer, I am able to use my passion to truly make a difference in other’s lives.” Boehler has had experience working at Masonic Pathways as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and enjoys working with geriatric patients. “I love working in the nursing home setting and feel that my job as a CNA has allowed me to build amazing relationships with the residents at Masonic,” she said. Boehler wants to go to school to become a physician assistant after graduating from Alma, and she believes volunteering is an important step in achieving this goal. “I feel like this is an amazing opportunity for anyone who plans on entering a career which involves public service,” she said. “As a volunteer, you are able to develop your communication skills while also building lasting relationships with patients and families.”



Kayla Keenan: Staff Photographer

Diana Demers, volunteer coordinator from Heartland Hospice, spoke to students Thursday about positive reasons to volunteer in hospice care.

Sodexo hiring student liaison to improve dining experience

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Next semester, a student employee will begin working with Sodexo to help improve dining quality.

“I think this is a great idea. I’ve heard a lot of students ask other students where they’re gotten a particular food. With someone to direct people to where different food is, these questions and frustrations would lessen.”
-Kelsey Spencer (‘12)

According to Vice President of Business Affairs, David Buhl, the college is creating this new position because

of its goal to satisfy students’ expectations of food quality at Hamilton Commons. After conducting a survey through surveymonkey.com, the Sodexo Board of Directors found that many students are disappointed with the fact that they cannot find where foods that are on the menu are located in the cafeteria. Many also complained about the quality and choices of food, especially fruits and vegetables. This is where the new student employee is expected to help. The job is similar to that of a concierge at a restaurant: the student will be expected to greet people as they walk in and inform them of the day’s specials and where they are located. “We want to make sure that people can find everything that’s available,” says Buhl. However, the student will also be there to listen to comments about the food and answer any questions that other students may have. The hope is that other students will be more open to talking with the new employee because he or she will be a peer, thereby improving communication between students and workers at Sodexo.

“I think that this is a great idea,” said Kelsey Spencer (‘12). “I’ve heard a lot of students ask other students where they’ve gotten a particular food. With someone to direct people to where different food is, these questions and frustrations would lessen.”

“This is a good start for Sodexo to improve the quality of their service.”
-Shane Douglas (‘13)

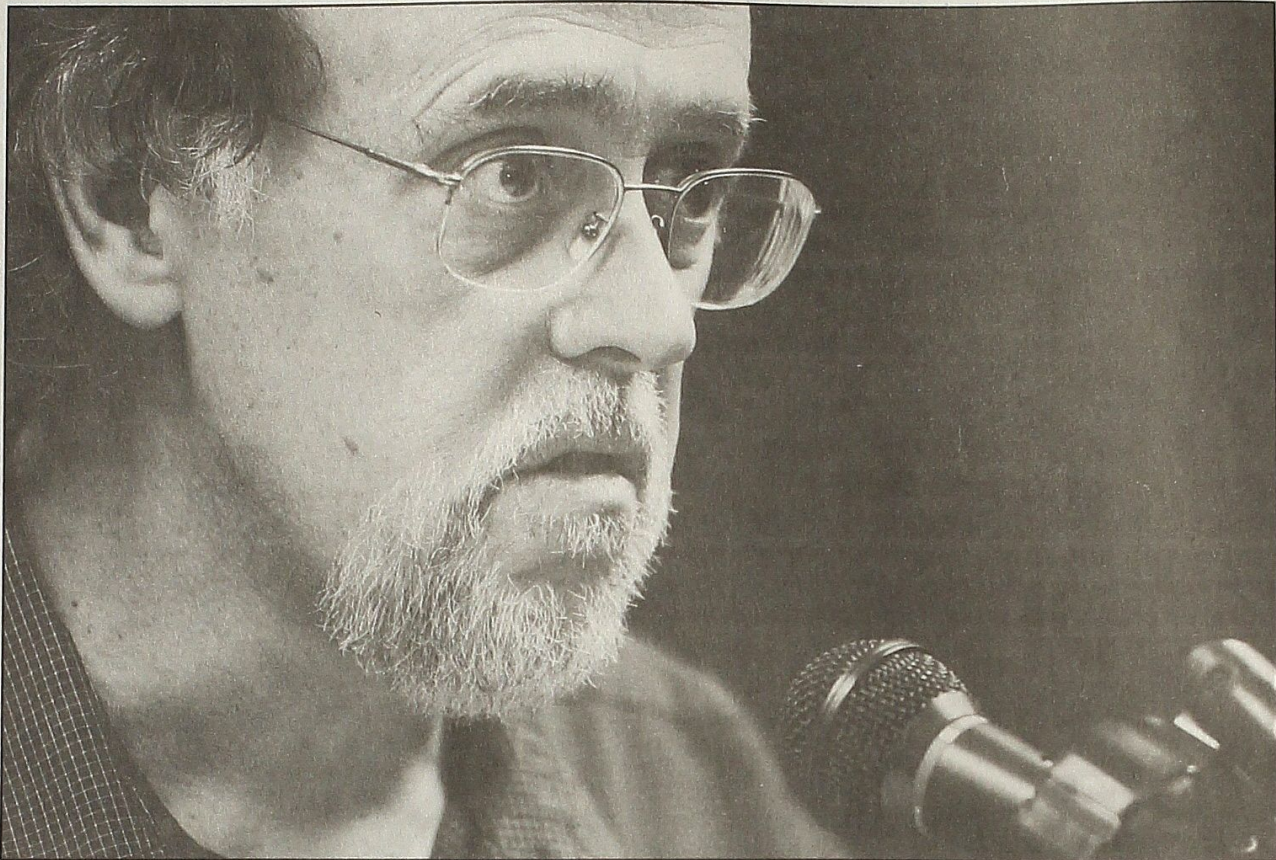
the head chef immediately. This way the issue may be resolved during the meal—rather than after the fact—and students will be served better quality food. Another responsibility that comes with this student’s job is to use the corkboards located near the entrance as a means of communication. Information will be posted about the food served and its location. The space for other students to leave comments will continue to be maintained. As of this time, the student employee will be working in Hamilton Commons Monday through Friday while dinner is being served (4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.). However, the college foresees the position developing, growing, and possibly requiring two people to work at different times. “This is a good start for Sodexo to improve the quality of their service,”

says Shane Douglas (‘13), president of student congress. As president, Douglas has attended meetings of the Sodexo Board of Directors, understands the need for improvement, and agrees that students will feel more comfortable approaching this employee with questions, comments, and complaints. Employees of Sodexo are eager to see how this new position will help change the atmosphere of Hamilton Commons. “We’re trying to work with Sodexo to improve ‘customer satisfaction,’” Buhl said. “Even though many people complain about the food served in the cafeteria, the college is doing its best to make it better. The hope is that this new student position is one of the steps that will bring about a better relationship between the student body and service at Sodexo.”

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mostly Cloudy 35°	Partly Cloudy 33°	Partly Cloudy 31°	Partly Cloudy 31°	Few Snow Showers 27°	Few Snow Showers 25°	Sunny 26°

Palmer's new chapbook celebrated with reading

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER



Devin Brines: Staff Photographer

William Palmer, professor of English, read various excerpts from his recent chapbook "Humble." This was his second solo reading in which he presented poems dealing with topics ranging from having the ability to fly to grieving over death.

in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" depicts a family's visit to a young boy who is sick in the hospital and speaks of their pain of leaving him at the end.

Some of Palmer's poems also deal with lighter subjects, such as "One Time," which describes what

it would be like to fly. The poem "A Slender Footprint," imagines the person who made the footprints in the cement sidewalk at his house.

"His poems do not call attention to themselves and they find joy and truth in the most unusual places," says Robert Vivian.

Palmer said that he began writing poetry in college. However, he has only written on the side of his other jobs and it is only recently that his poems have begun to be published.

"I try to pay attention to ordinary things that—upon closer

inspection—are extraordinary," Palmer said. He also likes to tell about things that are beauty and pain at the same time and tries to say what is impossible to say.

"Writing poetry is like making art or taking emotional photos. Poems are like emotional photos, after all, with a lot of pathos," Palmer said.

Palmer also said that his inspiration comes from the encouragement of his friends and mentors. One of these mentors, Lucille Clifton, is a renowned author who visited Alma College during the 1990s. After Palmer's reading, Clifton invited Palmer to read at a poetry festival at St. Mary's College in Maryland.

"People like Lucille Clifton have made me want to keep writing and not give up," said Palmer.

Before the reading, Palmer expressed the hope that the people who attended would be moved to laughter as well as feeling deeper emotions by experiencing little stories. It seems that through sharing his thoughts and wisdom in his poetry, he has accomplished just that.

"The images in Dr. Palmer's poems speak to the humanity in all of us," said Margo Brines ('12). "He is courageous in sharing pieces of his life in poetry and I am grateful to experience his work."

Liu awarded Fulbright Grant to attend German seminar

By ERIN STONE
STAFF WRITER

When you hear the word "college," you might think about a huge workload and lots of mind-numbing studying. Maybe you have a mental image of students struggling under an ever-increasing mountain of work. Maybe you envision those students getting rewarded for all their blood, sweat and tears with lofty and prestigious awards and distinguished recognition.

But something you might forget about is that the faculty members put in tremendous amounts of effort as well, even on top of grading your papers, presentations, and labs. They have their own studies to do, and they also are rightly rewarded for their time and work with those illustrious awards.

The latest professor to have gained such recognition is Holly Liu, associate professor of German. Liu recently was awarded a Fulbright grant to attend an academic seminar in Germany. She participated in the Baden-Württemberg Seminar for American Faculty in German and German Studies, coordinated by the University of Tübingen, from June 20 to July 2.

The program was aimed at American faculty in German and German studies. The participants had the opportunity to gain insight into the teaching methods of German institutions through interactions at the University of Tübingen and visits to other universities. They also interacted with colleagues, administrators,

experts in the field, and students.

"It was mind-opening to see what other colleges are doing," Liu said. "We discussed in detail how to teach German film and culture to our students and how we can challenge them to think critically. It's important to me that Alma students are successful."

"I found some great programs that will allow students to study German and take classes in English as well. Study abroad helps students mature, so I want them to be able to have this experience."

***-Holly Liu
associate professor of German***

According to the seminar's information sheet, the seminar program featured the following: intercultural studies, applied cultural studies, educational objectives, teaching methods and related content, analysis of a German textbook, and several workshops concerning the topic of teaching German as a foreign language.

The experience was valuable for Liu. "As we teach, we read and write about the German language and culture, but to experience it and hear directly from our German

colleagues was really helpful," Liu said. "We not only got to see how they teach German to their students, but we also got feedback from the students."

Katelyn Gentner ('14), a first-year German student, approves of the seminar.

"I think it's great," she said. "It sounds like a great collaboration by Alma and other colleges."

The discussions about teaching German have influenced some of Liu's thoughts about and methods of teaching. When she returned, she revised the syllabus for her conversation and composition class to reflect some of the new ideas she'd explored.

"It was suggested that when you have students do group work, each student should have a specific role," said Liu in a press release for the Alma College Website. "This is a way to ensure that everyone participates."

"I found some great programs that will allow students to study German and take classes in English as well," she said. "Study abroad helps students mature, so I want them to be able to have this experience."

Study abroad opportunities are attracting students.

"[Liu] made [studying abroad] sound entrancing," said Gentner. "It seems like a great opportunity for students who are interested."

Overall, Gentner is appreciative of the opportunities Liu has had and has shared with her students.

"I'm glad that her work is affecting Alma's teaching policies," said Gentner. "Also, that she's looking for less expensive ways for Alma students to explore new opportunities in pursuit of their degrees."

This week at Alma College

Thursday, December 8:
Barristers Society Movie Night at 6 p.m.
in Jones Auditorium

De-Stress To Do Your Best at 6 p.m. in
the Academic and Career Planning Office

Friday, December 9:
Alma College Theater One-Act Play Festival at 8 p.m. in the Strosacker Theater
Festival of Carols at 8 p.m. in the Remick Heritage Center

Saturday, December 10:
Alma College Theater One-Act Play Festival at 8 p.m. in the Strosacker Theater
Festival of Carols at 8 p.m. in the Remick Heritage Center

Sunday, December 11:
Alma College One-Act Play Festival at 3 p.m. in the Strosacker Theater
Festival of Carols at 3 p.m. in the Remick Heritage Center

Festival of Carols: Annual choral Christmas concert

By KELSEY BLADES
STAFF WRITER

A good opportunity to take a break from the stress of December and relax for a few hours is coming up this weekend. It's time for the annual Festival of Carols performances.

Festival of Carols is Alma's signature choral Christmas concert. Performances are set for 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The concert features performances by all three divisions of vocal music. These groups include the Glee Club, which is composed of at least 40 freshman women, the College Chorale that consists of 75 male and female singers of predominantly freshman, sophomore, and junior class standings, and the 54-voice

Alma Choir of mainly junior and senior men and women. Festival of Carols is an opportunity to enjoy the talents of each choir individually as

"Last year, I went because I was told it was prestigious, that they're the best, and they were right. They were the best."

-Erin Fleet ('14)

well as a chance to hear all of Alma's vocal performers sing together. "Each choir's going to have their own couple of

songs and we'll have a few songs where we all work together on big pieces," said **Leslie Warren ('14)**, an alto singer in Chorale.

According to Warren, the three choirs are singing the following four songs together: "Silent Night," "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and "O Come All Ye Faithful." All of the choral women are joining together to sing "The Angel and the Trumpeter."

The vocalists will be accompanied by instrumentalists, as is usual for choral concerts. However, one of the songs for this winter's concert will feature something special.

"We've got one song we're practicing that's specifically going to be done with a brass quartet," said Warren. "That'll be interesting."

The choral students have worked hard to put on a good

performance. Warren said they do "a lot" of preparation to get ready for the concert. During the week of the performances, additional hours of rehearsal are scheduled.

"There's two hours on Monday, two on Tuesday, three or probably a little more on Thursday because we're recording, and Friday's the concert," said Warren. She explained that this is all in addition to normal choir times.

Even though the preparation for the concert takes up a lot of time, it pays off. "It pulls together nicely," said Warren. "If we didn't practice as much, we wouldn't sound as awesome."

"Last year, I went because I was told it was prestigious, that they're the best, and they were right. They were the best," said **Erin Fleet ('14)**, an audience member last year. She has plans to attend the concert again because of her previous experience.

The long hours of practice are starting to tell on Warren. "We're to the point now where those are the songs stuck in my head, because we're that used to them," she said.

"Now's the fun time to have them stuck in your head. If they get stuck in my head before Thanksgiving, I get cranky. It's not Christmas yet," said Warren. "Now we're getting close. They can get stuck in my head now."

In regards to this week's concert, Fleet said she's excited to go again. "I don't expect it to be any different from last year, really. That's not a bad thing. It's kind of hard to top yourself," she said.

Warren's favorite part about the Festival of Carols experience goes beyond herself and her own feelings. "It will be fun," Warren said, and added that her favorite part of the concert is "the happiness—just watching it make people happy."

Alternative Breaks offer volunteering opportunities

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

Each of the four academic breaks during the school year offers Alternative Break opportunities to students who are interested in volunteering.

These opportunities allow students to spend time doing service work while traveling outside the city or state.

"These trips are for anyone who is interested in service over their break," said **Marissa Cross ('12)**, co-chair of the Alternative Breaks Board. "They are a good way to get out of the 'Alma Bubble', experience different local cultures, serve, and make friends."

Trips consist of over 12 people on average. A faculty advisor and learning partner always accompany the students.

"The trips are a few hundred dollars which is mostly transportation costs, and the Center for Responsible

Leadership offers scholarships for those who need them," said Cross. "Payments can be deferred and staggered over some months to make the trip as affordable as possible."

This winter, between January and February, students will be leading various service trips.

"I am leading a disaster relief trip to Tuscaloosa, Ala. this winter," said **Christina Dionne ('13)**. "I have been on two alternative breaks in the past two years. Both were disaster relief trips. The first was to Texas City, Texas and the second trip was to Austell, Ga."

Dionne decided to go on an alternative break to "make a difference in our country".

"I love doing construction projects and serving others that are in need," Dionne said. "I knew that if I went on an alternative break I'd be able to give back and help others in different communities. When natural disasters occur, the media does a good job of covering the issue for months, but after the initial

shock of the natural disasters dies down the country forgets there are still people in need that have been affected by the disaster."

Dionne describes this trip as an "eye opening and life changing" experience.

"Being able to help restore these cities was an honor to me," said Dionne. "Alternative breaks open your eyes to real issues people throughout the

"I knew that if I went on an alternative break I'd be able to give back and help others in different communities."

-Christina Dionne ('13)

country struggle to overcome and in most cases cannot defeat without others support."

One of the other trips offered

this winter break partnered with Habitat for Humanity.

"I am leading the February trip to West Virginia working with Habitat," said **Caitlin Closs ('13)**. "I am also going on the winter trip to Florida with Habitat for Humanity."

This will be Closs's fourth alternative break.

"My first trip we went to Texas with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and worked on couple of different homes that had been affected by the recent hurricanes that had struck," said Closs. "On my second trip we worked with Once Upon A Time in Appalachia in Tennessee learning about rural poverty and the Native American culture."

Closs decided to volunteer in Colorado because she was looking for something fun to do over break.

"I live in Colorado and wanted to meet new friends and I love doing service," said Closs. "I had an awesome time on both of my trips. I learned a lot about myself as a person and about

working with other people. I would encourage anyone to try these trips, I know that you will have a super awesome time."

Simone Boos ('12) will also be another student leader this winter.

"I'm leading one of the affordable housing trips in January and I'm participating in the affordable housing trip in February," said Boos. "I've been involved in service trips since I was in high school and always really enjoyed them, so it was something I wanted to continue doing in college."

Boos went to Florida in December 2008 and Alabama in January 2011, both times working with Habitat for Humanity.

"As a student leader, I really enjoyed being able to help facilitate a great experience for students who maybe hadn't been on an alternative break before," said Boos. "Some of my best memories from my time here at Alma are either on an alternative trip or back on campus with people I met through my trip."

"The Controversy of Valladolid": Tackling the Big

By LISA FOLKMIRE
STAFF WRITER

Attempting to bring attention to present day issues, some aspiring English and theater majors and minors traveled to Washington D.C. to perform "The Controversy of Valladolid" at the Universal Human Rights Conference 500th Year Anniversary of Antonio de Montesinos.

"I hope they make connections of the past and present world; the issues have not, in any way, been satisfactorily resolved," said Dana Aspinall, assistant professor of English. Although the play takes place in the 1500s, it still mirrors the questions on human rights that arise today. The 99% are still occupying Zucotti Park in New York City

in hopes of becoming more than second class citizens to their government. Same-sex couples are still unable to marry in forty three out of the fifty states. Women are still being paid an average of \$.77 to the men's dollar in wages.

The lack of representation to those perceived as second-class citizens is nothing new to humanity. From slavery to women's rights, as a human race, we have yet to come by the perfect formula for true equality.

For the past few months, the English 120 class on drama analysis has been working tirelessly to perform "The Controversy of Valladolid," a play based on the written arguments over the mistreatment of the Natives from the Americas between philosopher Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda and Bishop Bartolome de las Casas. Select members of the class traveled to Washington

D.C. to perform this play.

The class performed the play for the campus last Wednesday as a dress rehearsal to their actual performance.

On top of putting on a play, the drama analysis class had to read and analyze a series of plays that deal with human rights. The class read five additional plays, each with a different focus on minorities in society.

As a service learning course, the students were expected to put in the extra amount of work to make the play run smoothly. All this had to happen within a few months.

"I think the biggest challenge was the time frame we had to put this all together," said director **Morgan Beeler ('14)**. As director, Beeler had to work around the chaotic schedules to set rehearsal dates, to constantly attend rehearsals, and make

sure that everyone was on task.

"What surprised me the most was how dedicated everyone was and how hard they worked to put it together," said Beeler. On top of their already clustered schedules of homework, sports, outside performances, and clubs, students had to find time to rehearse, put together costumes, set designs, edit the script, and write the program.

After watching the play as a final rehearsal days before the students left for Washington, AmeriCorps worker and Alma grad, Emily Neil, was impressed with how it all came together. "I was part of the spring term that went to Valladolid. I came in with a bias," said Neil. She had thought that the play would be one-sided—that Las Casas would obviously be the good guy and Sepúlveda would be portrayed as the evil antagonist but by the

end of the play, she felt otherwise.

"I found some of the lines Sepúlveda had were surprisingly interesting," she said.

"Hearing about the mistreatment of the Indians—I didn't know it was as bad as it was—made me more aware," said audience member **Bridgett Larson ('12)**. The play covered much harsh context as it spoke about the beatings and slaughtering of the Natives. The actors left little to the imagination with their descriptions.

"It was cool to take responsibility—to be a part of something bigger," said actress **Erin Fleet ('14)**. Fleet acted as the legate or the final "judge," at the end of the play.

As a group of aspiring English and theater majors and minors, the class had a big job to complete, big issues to tackle, and a big audience to entertain.

Percussion Ensemble performs fall concert at Heritage Center

By RYAN HERZOG
STAFF WRITER

A student trio opened Friday evening's performance in the Heritage Center with the song "Trio Per Uno."

This was the first performance of the 2011 Alma College Percussion Ensemble fall concert. The student led ensemble performed eight songs last Friday, Dec. 2nd.

As the performers ended their song, the lights grew dim again. Applause rang out, congratulating the students on their work.

Songs in the show were diverse, according to David Zerbe, assistant professor of music. They ranged from the traditional Javanese Gamelan tune, "Tulang Lindung," (which translates to "eel bones") to the modern jazz-folk fusion, "Oddity" by Bela Fleck and the Flecktones.

"The show prepares students to listen to different pieces that they otherwise wouldn't hear on a regular basis," he said. "It brings something from all backgrounds, making the show more interesting. This is a concert that everyone would enjoy."

Other songs included were in the piece, "Montana Music: Three Dances for Percussion" a classical piece which comes in three movements and lasts for around 30 minutes.

The second half of the show featured songs in the style of jazz and blues. Numbers from musicians like Pat Metheny's "Spirit of The Air" and Louis Armstrong, "What a Wonderful World" were also included.

Instruments also varied from the traditional drums, gongs and vibraphones, to less



Kayla Keenan: Staff Photographer

Ben Brown ('11) arranged two pieces for the Percussion Ensemble performed last Friday night. Brown was also responsible for contacting Gary Burton in order to get his permission to play "Afro Blue" by Mongo Santamaria.

traditional noisemakers, such as books and rainmakers. Students played traditional instruments in nontraditional ways. Banging on the strings of pianos, playing gongs with violin bows and even a xylophone that created a bird-like noise, could all be heard. One song even incorporated an air-raid alarm in their repertoire.

Three songs featured were arranged by students this year. Two were arranged by **Ben**

Brown ('11), called "Spirit of The Air" and "Oddity." The other one was arranged by **Jacob Castillo ('12)** called "Big Swing Face."

Brown said the fall concert is the end result of students putting long hours of work into their pieces.

"Whenever you play a concert, all the hours you put into it become worth it," Brown said. "Everyone cares so much about the music program that we try to give our highest quality performance."

Brown was responsible for getting "Afro Blue" by Mongo Santamaria featured in the show. By contacting Gary Burton, a "legendary vibraphonist," he was able to get Burton's permission to play his version of the song.

"I'm a big listener of him, and I liked his version of the song," he said. "The idea sounded crazy, contacting a famous musician for his song. I was surprised when Burton

personally emailed me back with the score, wishing me good luck."

The percussion ensemble will also be hosting a spring concert sometime near finals week. On March 4th, 2012 they will play with the choir, the pipe band, and the highland dancers in Detroit. Zerbe is still waiting to hear back from Notre Dame to see whether they will be invited to their jazz festival. If so, it will be their seventh consecutive year attending.

Theatre department performs 16th One-Act Festival

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

Four short plays will be performed this weekend at the One-Act Festival for the 16th consecutive year.

Students in various classes — acting, directing, lighting and sound design — within the theatre department came together to put on this performance.

"These plays are an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom," said Joe Jezewski, associate professor of theatre. "It is a very practical and enjoyable learning experience."

Jezewski is directing one of the plays, called "Check, Please."

He said this "hilarious" play consists of thirteen scenes in a restaurant that alternate between a guy and a girl who both keep getting set up on horrible dates with strange people. The "dates" include a kleptomaniac, someone with multiple personalities, a little boy, and an old woman.

"It's the longest piece—about 25 minutes long—and was quite fun to direct," he said.

Shelby Schroeder ('14) plays one of the "crazies" in this play. "Pearl appears to be a very

normal girl, but when you really start to observe her, you notice that she is a kleptomaniac," said Schroeder. She said it was both fun and challenging to get herself to the point of stealing without even thinking about it.

Schroeder started doing shows with the theatre

"These plays are an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom."

-Joe Jezewski, associate professor of theatre

department as soon as she arrived on campus as a freshman.

"Last year I was cast in 'Smash' and the One-Act Festival, I did hair and makeup for 'Dancing at Lughnasa', and I was assistant stage manager for 'Anatomy of Greg'," she said. "This year, I was in 'Antigone'."

"The One-acts are unique because they are so short, so it is more intimate working with the director and you get to work

on aspects of your acting that you normally wouldn't in a full length show," said Schroeder.

Ryan Kaiser ('12) plays another character in "Check, Please."

"My character is a lot like myself, which makes it a fun part to play," said Kaiser. "He's just a normal guy, looking for someone to share his life with, but no matter how hard he tries, he is constantly being set up without luck."

Kaiser is a political science major with a theatre minor.

"The chance to be a part of the Alma theatre program has taught me a lot about myself and helped me understand what is really important to me and what drives me," said Kaiser. "Working with Joe is an indescribable experience. He has such a deep knowledge of theatre and acting and has brought this show from a jumbled mess to a working, functioning production. The best thing to do is to take to heart everything he says."

An alumnus and theatre intern, Hillary Bard, is directing a play called "Paternity Ward."

"It is a comedy set in a hospital waiting room, as three characters wait for their wives to give birth," said Bard. "They begin to come to terms with the fact that they

are about to be a parent and get over their preconceived notions of each other."

Jake York ('15) plays the Orderly in "Paternity Ward".

"It's great working with Hillary because of the experience and energy she brings day in and day out," said York. "She has made me feel welcome and has been extremely patient with me being the least experienced actor in the show. I try to bring myself to the part. That is what makes me playing the part more unique, and this is something she has taught me."

This is York's first show as an actor with the theater department.

"It has been very unique and I have grown exponentially," said York. "This festival is both challenging and beneficial for me because the shortness allows actors like myself, who are not ready for full productions, to dip their toes before diving head first into a full show. It's also challenging due to the fact that you have so much emotion to get out in such a short amount of time."

The third play is directed by **Tara Riedel ('13)**.

"The 'Affair Play' is about a man with his mistress in a hotel, and the play shows them role-

playing his break-up with his wife, although he has other, secret intentions," said Reidel. "It is very fun, and this chance to direct has helped me find my voice as a director and my craft as an actor."

The final play, directed by **CR Mohrhardt ('13)**, is entitled "Negotiating the Elusive Perfect One Night Stand".

"This play takes place in a dive bar where people go to hook up," said Jezewski. However, this play depicts a role-reversal in that the man wants to get to know the woman he is pursuing while she just wants to have sex.

The "catch" is played by **Heidi Sarles ('12)**.

"My character is fun to play," said Sarles. "She is very flirtatious and she likes to toy with her male interest."

"This is my first time performing, so I think the most challenging part for me was really getting into character and working moment to moment," she said. "Working with my director has been very helpful. He has been able to give tips and encouragement."

The One-Act performances are Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm in the Heritage Center.

Exam Treats: don't miss it

BY ISRAEL PACHECO SANTOS
STAFF WRITER

Relaxation, hot cocoa, and family are just a few days away. Soon we shall bid farewell to Alma College and head home for a couple weeks so we may partake in much needed personal time and distance ourselves from textbooks and deadlines.

However, before we bid farewell to Alma, let us not forget about the traditional Exam Treat nights that the school so graciously hosts for its students to kick off finals week.

One of the great perks about these nights is that students do not have to swipe their ID's and charge a meal to eat the food provided by Sodexo. That's right: it's free. This is reason enough to break away from notes and college books and head over to Saga to dine and relax for a brief moment.

So gather up all your friends, or just make new friends and head over to Saga and witness for yourself the fun times to be had during Exam Treats. If free food is not reason enough to head over to Saga, then consider the fact that a majority of campus will be there. A lot of your friends and many people you see in passing will follow tradition and enjoy the exam treats.

Do not let the long lines deter you from partaking in this tradition. Everyone is doing it, so you might as well head over there and feast with all of us. With a majority of campus there,

Gather up all your friends, or just make new friends and head over to Saga and witness for yourself the fun times to be had during Exam Treats.

-On getting there

In the past, I've partaken in and have seen many students participate in "wing eat-offs," which are loads of fun and also a great way to kill time.

Also, there has been a night devoted entirely to breakfast. So if you enjoy eating breakfast food late at night, come to Exam Treats and indulge in free pancakes, tater tots, eggs, and other kinds of breakfast foods. Another special reason to come to Exam Treats is to interact with the staff that serves you.

Yes, they include the same Sodexo staff we see on a daily basis, but many school officials also help serve. The president,

provost, and many other school officials will serve and converse with you. Take this chance to approach and greet the people that make Alma College function.

Though the weather this finals week may be cold and the walk may be a harsh one that

This is one of the traditions that will complete your Alma College experience.

-On exam treats

many of us would rather not make, I would suggest going to Exam Treats. This is one of the traditions that will complete your Alma College experience.

This time of year always reminds me of my freshman year when I attended these nights for the first time. Seeing all these faces and witnessing all the hustle and bustle really makes this a time of joy and happiness.

Conversing with your friends, catching up on what is happening on campus, eating all the free food, and not to mention a much needed break from studying, are all reasons why you should take a moment and come partake of Exam Treats.

Retraction: Alma College Heretics

At the request of Alma College Heretics; an affiliate of the Secular Student Alliance, the following retraction from last issue's article, entitled; "Atheist club hopes to offer a secular space to students, place for discussion" insofar as it contained a few minor factual inaccuracies.

At the request of Alma College Heretics; An affiliate of the Secular Student Alliance, the Almanian submits the following retractions from last issue's article, entitled; "Atheist club hopes to offer a secular space to students, place for discussion" insofar as it contained a few minor factual inaccuracies.

Foremost, the founders of ACH had this to say of the title, "Atheist club hopes to offer a secular space to students, place for discussion."

"Alma College Heretics", as an affiliate of the Secular Student Alliance, does not wish to brand itself as an 'Atheist club,' as our scope is much wider than that. Secular Student Alliance chapters nationally are comprised of about

70% religious students and we by no means want to exclude students who do hold religious beliefs from participating in our organization."

Second, mentions of Lauren McNabb as Vice President and Zachary Felton as President of ACH are inaccurate insofar as the group has not yet elected an Executive Council.

Additionally, there was a slight misquotation attributed to McNabb, and the statement that "[ACH has] had a good show of support from the Interfaith Council and Catholic Student Organization" is misrepresentational. Neither the Interfaith Council or the CSO has formally endorsed ACH.

End-of-term stress and how to cope

BY LISA FOLKMIRE
STAFF WRITER

The end of term is coming, and the things we may have put off are stacking up.

The papers were assigned by the professors with care, in hopes that the students wouldn't pull out their hair. The computers were up, their screens shining bright. The residents of Alma would not sleep that night. An essay by Monday, a lab report too. It once seemed like months before it would be due.

Even finals can be brightened up with a little holiday cheer! However, with a mixture of exam dread and winter break excitement, it is beginning to feel

as if I live in two different worlds.

'Tis the season to turn in those essays that were assigned at the beginning of the semester. 'Tis the season to crack open the study books and that bottle of Advil. 'Tis the season to rack the brain and shoot to ace those tests.

It is hitting us all—the upcoming finals and the stress that they carry. I personally have a giant stress ball that I brought up just for the occasion. But hey, lift your chin up, dust off your pants, and tell yourself that you can do it.

I will be quite frank: as a freshman, I honestly have no idea what to expect. I do know how I handle stress though. I have a terrible habit of waiting last minute to open up the study books and I am a nervous eater.

I also know that it is important to take a break from all of the studying. Not just five minutes

to walk around and take a shot of coffee. A real break.

Through the late nights of

From singing carols to satisfying that nervous eating tic, there are so many options within the next couple of weeks to take some time out of a hectic schedule and take a breather.

-on relaxation

reviewing and the constant compulsive snacking, it is essential to remember that there is still a silver lining.

In the next two weeks of stress infused workloads and study hours, it's going to be important to keep your head up.

Luckily, Alma has this covered. So throw on that Santa hat, set out your Mkeka, and spin your dreidels—take a moment to enjoy the season and unwind.

From singing carols to satisfying that nervous eating tic, there are so many options within the next couple of weeks to take some time out of a hectic schedule and take a breather.

Considerately so, Alma's campus provides an array of options for the average, finals dreading college student.

We have the annual Festival of Carols this upcoming weekend, displaying some of Alma's finest voices. If the joy of the season has not reached you yet, this concert is sure to take your mind out of the

continuous study mode and into the excitement for the holidays.

If music does not suit you, or if the tickets are out of your reach, you can also attend the One-Act Play Festival produced by our theater department. This will certainly provide entertainment through all of the reviewing and will easily take your mind off of your current situation for at least a little while.

And of course, there is Exam Treats, which I hear are quite the gem. Complete with junk food and an opportunity to socialize, it is the perfect break for the anxious nibblers such as myself.

So instead of dreading these upcoming finals and biting your nails over all of the work that has yet to be done, cheer up, Alma has got you covered. I see fried food coming soon in your future and that, my friend, is something to look forward to.

Small-town charm and the Alma experience

BY ISRAEL PACHECO SANTOS
STAFF WRITER

When I first came to Alma College and witnessed the small town charm, the nature that encloses the town, and the lack of an active and up-beat city life, I was ready to leave and never return.

However, what kept me in Alma was the variety, openness, and acceptance found within this small liberal arts college. Coming from Chicago, where I don't have to say "hello" or smile at every single person I pass, I found this friendly place a little intimidating.

In the city, everyone goes to where they need to be, avoiding contact with one another. Here, however, many people simple smile at you or extend a welcoming "hello" just for the sake of doing so.

At first, I was befuddled as to

why they do this to people they don't know, but now I find myself doing the exact same thing. It's true—being friendly is contagious.

Accompanying these warm welcomes are acceptance and tolerance. I was surprised to find big city tolerance in a small college town like Alma. The college students of this campus may disagree with certain topics and hold fast to some religious notions or political views, but this does not stop

I was surprised to find big city tolerance in a small college town like Alma.

-On a pleasant surprise

students from making informed decisions and co-existing with different individuals. In Alma, one learns to value and accept people of all backgrounds.

Even the campus chapel is nondenominational. This label not only invites students of any religious sect to freely practice their beliefs, but is also a symbol of how our campus is a mixture of numerous identities and not how one organization is superior to the other.

Furthermore, ever since my freshman year, there has been an LGBT group active on campus. This group marches in the town parade, holds functions, and leads informative sessions to inform the student body on the need to extend rights to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual individuals.

Acceptance and tolerance of all individuals runs deep. Even in the

Though this may be a predominately Caucasian institution, the people here do not let different race or ethnic background prevent relationships from being fostered.

-On multiculturalism

politics, festivities, and functions.

More profound is the fact that individuals of different races are equally welcomed and valued by the students and professors. Though this may be a predominately Caucasian institution, the people here do not let different race or ethnic background prevent relationships from being fostered. Coming from a Hispanic background, I have felt—if anything—that we are encouraged to share our culture and our opinions on different topics.

Overall, this campus may be small, and no big city raves may run through this town, but the acceptance and the tolerance of ideas and individuals of various backgrounds is comparable to that of any large city. Individually, we all make up one Alma, and together we give each other the genuine Alma College experience.

Learning from small town experiences

BY LISA FOLKMIRE
STAFF WRITER

Alma is different, I'm learning. I'm learning a lot more than I thought I would. Maybe that's not what I'm trying to say — because I came to college to learn. Maybe it's more that I'm learning a lot differently than I thought I would. Or many more different things. I grew up as a city kid. I was raised roughly fifteen minutes away from downtown Detroit and had all of metro-Detroit at my fingertips. I grew up with theaters surrounding me, museums right up the road, a zoo membership, a plethora of malls to spend my days at, family members every mile, friends living just minutes away, and hundreds of restaurants to choose from. In short, I grew up in a big way. Now, I live in the middle of

Things seem to move slower here. The rush of traffic that I can so often hear out of my bedroom window back home has been muted.

-On quiet living

nowhere. In a town that—up until just over a year ago—I had never heard of, at a college I never knew existed. There are farms down the road, two hours of forest between my home and school, and not a family member in sight. It's been quite the adjustment. Things seem to move slower here. The rush of traffic that I can so often hear out of my bedroom window back home has been muted. Instead of the smell of gasoline, the air holds a scent of freshness,

and, every so often, cow. In short, I no longer live in a big way. The smell of farm animals is not what I'm learning from though. As my friends from home complain about having to account for an extra half hour for every trek across campus, I am learning how lucky I am to live on a campus that takes five minutes—at most—to walk across. As my friends talk about how they are finding it hard to really make connections with new people because of scattered schedules and distant classes, I am learning to not take the close friends I have made here for granted. As I hear about how my friends can easily skip classes and not have the professors even notice that they are gone, I am learning how lucky I am that my professors can remember my name and general interests. It's a much welcomed change. A much needed change. And—as I said before—I'm learning. When I decided to come to Alma, I knew that I would be learning a

lot. I wanted to learn a lot, to have my eyes opened to everything that was surrounding me. I wanted to make improvements as a writer, to find classes that I would enjoy in math and science, to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. But I have learned so much more. It's seeing the smiley faces made out of the salt sprinkled on the pavement. It's saying hello to

As my friends from home complain about having to account for an extra half hour for every trek across campus, I am learning how lucky I am to live on a campus that takes five minutes, at most, to walk across.

-On short distances

It's the tight-knit community that seems to always be waiting for you.

-On small worlds

everyone on your way to class. It's knowing that you can make it to class if you leave your dorm two minutes before it starts. It's being able to talk to your professors about more than just academics and career choices. It's talking to the ladies in Van Dusen while your food is cooking or being greeted in the morning as you walk into SAGA by the same smiling faces. That is the true beauty behind a small campus. It's the tight-knit community that seems to always be waiting for you. It's knowing that somewhere on campus, someone has got your back. It's knowing that you are not just a student, but a part of a community. You can not learn that just anywhere.

Following the Beat with Ben King: Mono woes

BY BEN KING
BEAT WRITER

With winter approaching, cold season is almost in full swing. This year's strain of flu will soon rear its ugly head, knocking countless students on their backs, leaving them ill and incapacitated. In a collegiate atmosphere, it is key to maintain one's health and immune system. When one allows one of these to become compromised, he or she may risk missing lectures, school work and even exams. Maintaining one's health is so vital to obtaining an education and having a successful college career. Several months ago, I left myself wide open to an immune system attack. Due to the fact that I was unable to properly

take care of myself I fell ill to several bacterial infections and infectious mononucleosis. After the first week of school or so while the air was still warm I ceased taking my vitamins. With the nice weather that Alma has in the early fall months I was not concerned with falling ill. So, there my vitamins sat

Maintaining one's health is so vital to obtaining an education and having a successful college career.

-On staying hale and hearty

unused atop my dresser: this was without a doubt my first mistake. If one wishes to maintain a healthy life, it is very important to ensure that he or she is getting the proper amount of vitamins and other nutrients. One can obtain these by either eating foods rich in certain vitamins and minerals or taking health supplements. Since a usual meal of campus cafeteria food can sometimes be lacking in some of the vital nutrients, taking a daily vitamin or supplement is never a bad idea. My second mistake was stretching myself too thin. As someone who is pretty arrogant and maybe even a little narcissistic, I like to assume that I am next to invincible. I like to assume that someone as strapping and robust as myself is incapable of falling ill to something as banal as the "kissing disease."

This is where as I was wrong. I would rise early, work all day and then stay up late sometimes into the early morning. Over working myself unnecessarily taxed my immune system. However, it probably was not "over-working" that caused me to fall ill. My belief in my own invincibility probably was much more detrimental to my health. Mononucleosis, which is caused by the Epstein-Barr virus, is spread through saliva. As a fearless and foolish man, I very rarely think twice about sharing drinks, chap stick and just about everything. When one thinks he is the "baddest thing" out there, there is really no reason to be concerned about getting sick from someone else. Again, this is an incredibly stupid philosophy. I soon realized my foolishness after I experienced the symptoms of this cruel virus.

At first, I did not even realize I was under the weather. I lost a lot of energy and began taking frequent naps in the afternoon. However, because Epstein-Barr virus has a incubation period of about four to eight weeks it took me nearly two months to feel the full force of mono. Once the mono really kicked in, my throat closed up painfully and my ears became infected along with my tonsils. I felt truly awful. Among all of the things I did wrong that led to my sickness, my only saving grace was going to the doctor's once my symptoms appeared. This allowed me to begin taking the right medications and get myself back on my feet. So, in order to maintain one's health one must take care of him or herself. It is a simple prerogative, but a surprisingly difficult task. Best of luck to you in staying healthy!

the Almanian.

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

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

PUBLICATION:

The Almanian is distributed to Almost College's campus on Monday morning and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly with the exception of academic recesses.

ADVERTISING:

Ad sales managed by the business manager. Contact Jessica Page at pagej@m@alma.edu for more information.

LETTER POLICY:

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Email letters to the editor to castane-da@d@alma.edu or address letters to:

The Almanian

Alma College

614 W. Superior St. Alma, Mi, 48801

STAFF EDITORIAL POLICY:

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Men's basketball wins home opener, loses two on the road

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Alma men's basketball rebounded from a tough loss to Lake Superior State by beating Kuyper College 77-73 last Tuesday in the 2011 home opener at the Art-Smith Arena.

The Scots' next home game will be on Saturday against Oberlin College.

The Scots failed to capitalize on the momentum from the big win, for they lost two games at the Spalding University tournament last weekend.

The Scots fell to John Carroll 98-91 in the first round game before falling to host Spalding 65-54 in the consolation game.

The road does not get any easier for Alma, as they will

take their 2-4 record to Big Rapids next Tuesday to take on Division II Ferris State.

The Kuyper game saw Alma take a 37-33 lead into the locker room at halftime, despite being outshot by the Cougars 46% to 42%. The Scots came out aggressive in the second half, increasing the lead to 51-39, but Kuyper would sneak back into the game and take a 66-65 lead with three minutes left to play. The two squads would trade baskets for the next two minutes, before the Scots had possession of the ball with 45 seconds remaining.

The ball ended up in the hands of guard **Corey Schneider ('12)**, who nailed a three-pointer for the 75-73 Alma lead. After a missed Kuyper shot at the other end, two Alma free throws iced

the 77-73 for the home team.

"It meant a lot for us to be able to get a win for the great crowd we had at the home opener," said guard **Caleb Van Timmeren ('13)**.

"It was a very entertaining game, and I'm glad that we could get the job done, even though it was in dramatic fashion."

Schneider and Silverthorn both notched 15 points for Alma, and forward **Sean Clancy**

('14) had 12 points. Forward **Tommy Erickson ('12)** paced the Scots in rebounds with four.

The Thanksgiving weekend tournament was not as kind to the Scots, as they left Kentucky with an 0-2 record. Forward **Lance Jongekrijg ('13)** posted a career high 26 points against John Carroll, and Silverthorn was next on the stat sheet with 15 points. The Scots were led against Spalding by Schneider's 13 points.

Despite the close losses, the Maroon and Crème were proud of how they performed against some strong competition.

"In our first game, we played with a lot of intensity and actually played pretty well against a pretty good team. We just came up short in the end," said Silverthorn. "In the second game, we

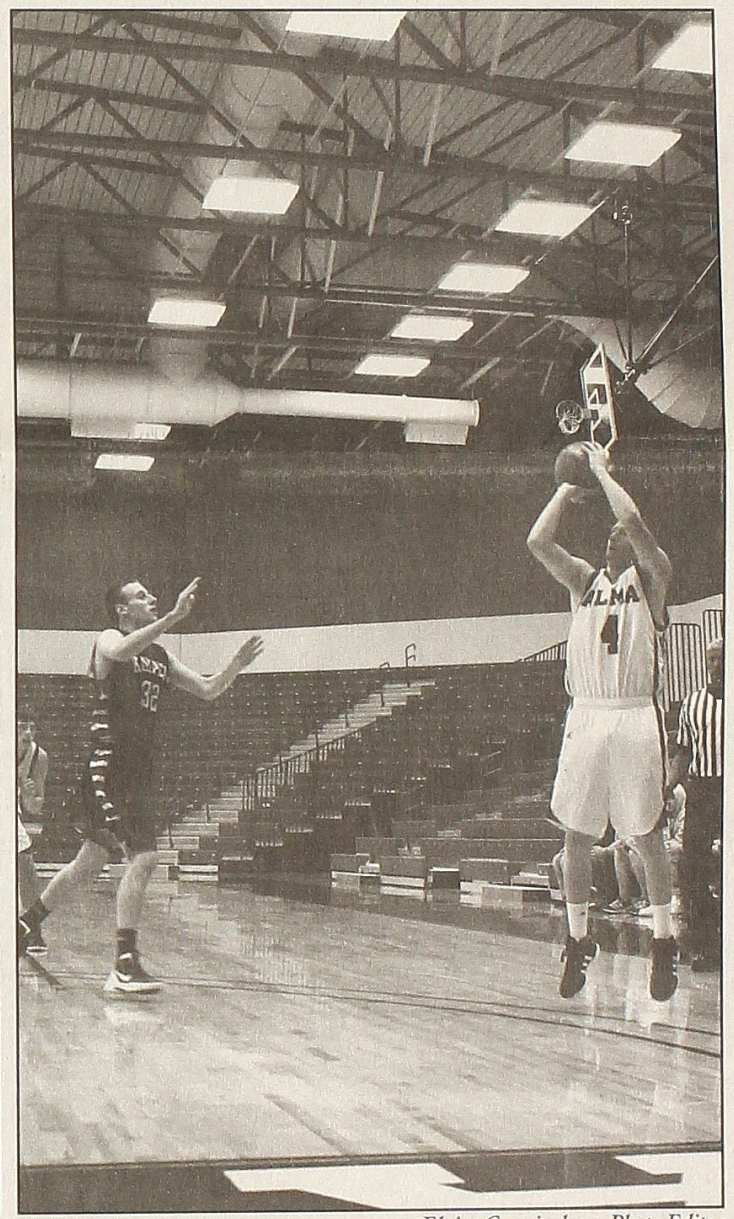
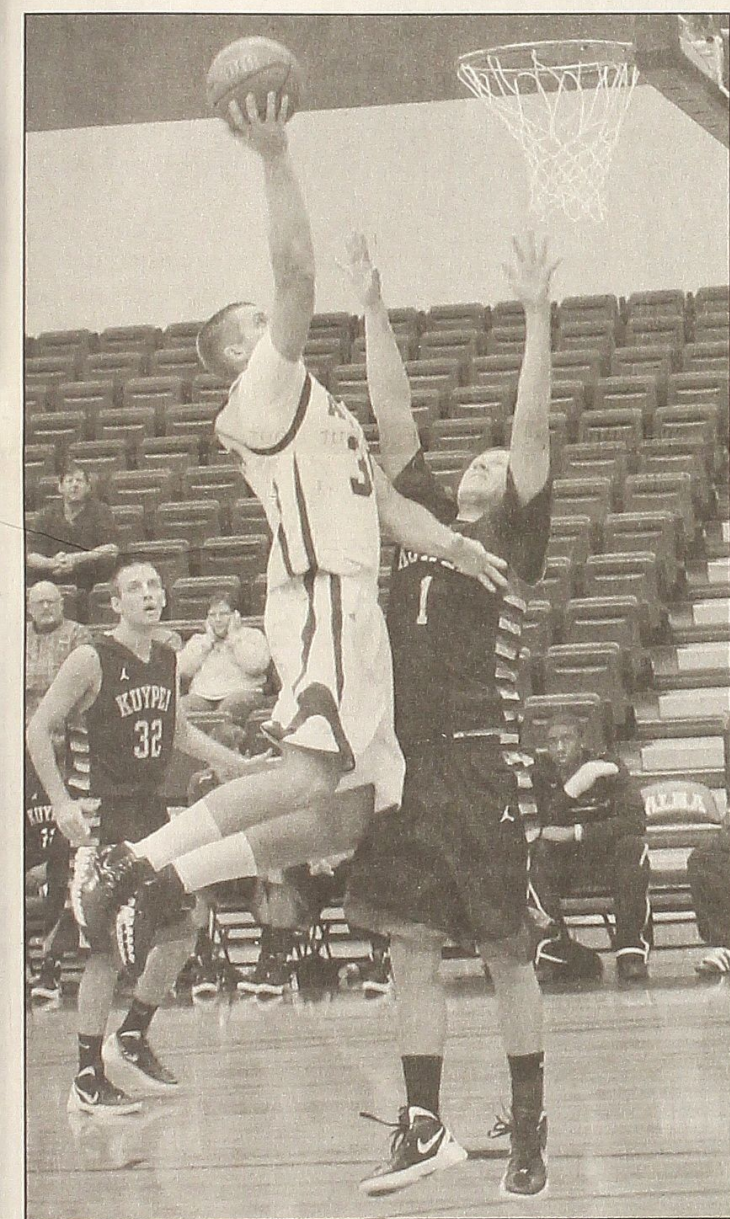
played a weaker team and did not come out and play with a lot of intensity, and it ended up showing on the scoreboard."

Erickson and Schneider are the senior leaders on a team that is confident in their ability to be successful in the MIAA.

The remaining non-conference opponents should provide a good tune-up for the Scots as they head on towards conference play.

"I believe we can be at the top of our league, battling for the number one seat in the MIAA," said Schneider.

"We have a lot of potential, we just need to put it all together in this last month before league play. Playing the tough teams now will only help us mentally and physically as we get deeper into the year."



Elaine Cunningham: Photo Editor

(Left) Tommy Erickson ('12) had 4 rebounds in the Kuyper game, while (middle) Chris Williamson ('13) earned 6 points, and (right) Greg Silverthorn ('13) put up 15. The Scots are now 2-4 in the league.

Equestrian Club begins planning events

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Of the many clubs that have been springing up across Alma's campus, one of the most unique and interesting is the Equestrian Club.

For those students who are not familiar with the sport, equestrian is the art of riding, driving, or vaulting horses.

The club looks to advance the awareness of equestrians on campus through various horseback-riding activities, and hopes to attract students anywhere from the beginner level to those who have competitive horse-riding experience.

However, because this is a brand new club, it has limited space due to facilities and animals.

"Because of the limited resources as far as horses go, we can't open the club up to as many

people as we want to," said vice-president **Jennifer Willey ('14)**.

"In the near future, if we get more horses to ride, we will be able to open the club up to more members."

The club is still in the planning stages as of now, and intends for active events and fundraisers in the future.

While they are not ready to compete against other colleges and universities just yet, the group is on their way to being able to show off their skills on a local and national level.

The planning group's goal is

"In the near future, if we get more horses to ride, we will be able to open the club up to more members."

-Jennifer Willey ('14)

to get a good feel for students who have had some equestrian experience, and to raise the money necessary for future goals.

"Next year our goal is to compete against other colleges around the country," said Willey.

Willey and the club's president, **Cheyenne Moore ('13)**, have done a lot of the work so far, but have not worked alone.

"We have worked with some great people including Deborah Daughtery, our club advisor, Teri and Haley Luneack of the Luneack Show Horses, Jeremy LaRose of LaRose Show Horses, and Beth McGuire, who has experience and knowledge of College Equestrian," said Moore.

The club has already planned events for this year; some of these are mandatory. The ultimate goal is to compete nationally but, with a limited budget, it appears this will be a practice year.

"Mandatory activities of club

"To compete and to win at the national level will allow the college to attract more students."

-Jennifer Willey ('14)

members include one lesson per week per rider minimum, barn chores one weekend per month per rider, one meeting per month, and to compete from October until May, starting next year," said Willey.

The planning group hopes that the equestrian club, will take off in coming years, to the point where it can attract prospective students to Alma. The team being able to compete nationally against other collegiate teams might be enough to do so.

"Our goal is to compete and win at the national level for college equestrian and to make a name

for the Alma College Equestrian Club, which we can then use as a recruiting tool," said Willey.

The Equestrian Club is no doubt one of the more unique clubs on campus, and it aspires to be a club that interests many students. The club provides an opportunity for students to participate in a very exciting and sometimes dangerous experience.

Moore said, "To compete and to win at the national level for College Equestrian and to make a name for the Alma College Equestrian Club will allow the college to attract more students."

"Next year our goal is to compete against other colleges in the country."

-Cheyenne Moore ('13)

Women's basketball defeats Bulldogs in league opener



Elaine Cunningham: Photo Editor

Mary Schlicher ('13) has 16 points for the Scots in the 2011 season.

By JOSH SPRATT
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team defeated Adrian College in a hard fought game to start its season 1-0 in conference play.

The next game for the Lady Scot's will be against Spring Arbor University at home on Tuesday with a tip-off slated for 7:00pm.

The game against Adrian was a defensive struggle where points were hard to come by, but in the end Alma came out on top with a close 46-43.

"Having played Division II teams and the #6 NAIA team prepared us for the pressure of this type of game. We responded well to Adrian coming after us in the second half and even though we are young, I am excited about where we are going" said head coach Keisha Brown.

The Bulldogs were up twice in the early going of the first half, but Alma came back and gained the lead with a score of 9-6 after a three pointer by

Brittany Deerfield ('14).

With 12 minutes remaining in the first half Alma had an 11-6 lead and then went on a short run headed by Grace Wheeler ('15) to extend the margin.

Wheeler put in a layup then made a steal which lead to a fast break where she pulled up from beyond the arc and knocked home a triple to put Alma up 17-9.

Going into the halftime break the Scot's lead by the score of 34-25 as they shot 43 percent from the field.

Adrian opened the second half on a 10-2 run to cut the Scot's lead to just one point at the 13:37 mark, 36-35.

The Bulldogs went on to take their first lead of the second half 40-39 with just under ten minutes remaining in the contest.

Neither team scored for the next four minutes until Deerfield nailed a jumper that put Alma up for good.

It was a one possession game for the remaining five minutes as the teams traded baskets and Alma clung to a 3 point lead.

With 13 seconds left in the game Deerfield hit from the charity stripe to put Alma up 46-43. After a

timeout the Bulldogs had a chance for one more play. The three point attempt was block by Morgan Henry ('15) and time expired leaving the Scot's with the win.

The Scots were proud of their execution in the game.

After the win Danielle Hicks ('13) said, "We won because of our persistent defense and consistent play from the whole team."

"The ability for everyone to contribute is a major strength that not many teams in our conference have this year. We lack major height, but we make up for it with our scrappiness and speed."

Alma ended the game with 36 percent field goal shooting and as a team made a third of shots attempted from three point range.

Henry led the team in points with nine and Wheeler finished with eight. Bailey Gooding ('14) and Deerfield contributed seven points and one assist apiece to help the Scot's rise to victory. Hicks lead Alma in rebounds with five.

"Based on last year the conference doesn't expect much from Alma, but this a different year and starting off with a win proves it. It makes a statement, we are different and ready," said Hicks.

Hockey team aims for club status

By JOSH SPRATT
STAFF WRITER

Over the past year, a group of hockey-enthusied students have been making a push to bring hockey to Alma's campus as a club sport.

Last January, a team headed by Drew Grant ('13), Joe Martin ('13), Jason Popiel ('13) and Chris Bilski ('13) was born. The team played games in an adult hockey league in Mount Pleasant for a few months last winter and is planning to do the same this year.

With this league, the team faces the challenges of expensive out-of-pocket costs and a commute to the ice rink. Also, the schedule includes late-night games, some of which start after 11 pm.

After last season, the team leaders looked into forming a club team to compete in the American College Hockey Association,

ACHA. In the ACHA they would be playing other club teams from schools around the state and the Midwest. Teams that are currently part of this league include Central Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, Hope College and Adrian College. As of now, Bilski and Martin

"The thing that excites me the most about this year is the new talent that is coming into our team."

-Joe Martin ('13)

have found a coach and are working on a proposal to submit to student congress. If all goes according to plan, they hope to have a club team competing as early as winter of 2013, and there is always the possibility of a varsity team in the future.

"Ideally, it would be our ultimate end goal to see hockey become a varsity sport at Alma," said Martin. "Right now, we are just working on taking the proper steps to becoming a student organization on campus. Hopefully next year we will be in

the ACHA and, maybe sometime down the road, hockey could become a varsity sport at Alma."

This year the unofficial club team has a roster consisting of Martin, Popiel, Grant, Bilski, Sage Jacques ('13), Alex Hartley ('15), Joe Hanisko ('14), Zack Roth ('14), Bobby Beauchamp ('14), Collin Hoyer ('13), Brad Tippet ('14), Bryan Wonski ('15), Michael Schulte ('13), Zachary Jacques ('15), Cory Herrmann ('14), Austin Smith ('14), Nick Woods ('15), and Patrick Curran ('15).

"The thing that excites me most about this year is the new talent that is coming into our team," said Martin. "We have many new faces who are excited and eager to play. We have about five or six incoming freshmen who have displayed some serious talent."

Martin believes that, with the support of the student body, hockey has a good

"Ideally, it would be our ultimate end goal to see hockey become a varsity sport at Alma."

-Joe Martin ('13)

chance at one day becoming a varsity sport for the campus.

"Ultimately we would like to see the team become a varsity sport in the future," said Grant.

"If the team is successful in these first few years and the team is well-publicized, I think interest will continue to grow and hockey becoming a varsity sport at Alma could become a real possibility. We are always looking for more kids on campus who have an interest in playing hockey for the team."

For those interested in playing hockey this season, contact Martin at martinrjt@alma.edu.

Staying on
top of the
game:
This week in
sports

Men's basketball:
Saturday vs. Oberlin
at HOME 3 p.m.

Wrestling:
Wednesday vs. Trine
at HOME 7 p.m.

Women's basketball:
Tuesday vs.
Spring Arbor
at HOME 7 p.m.

"If the team is successful in these first few years, I think interest will continue to grow."

-Drew Grant ('13)

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