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Presidential candidate visits Alma campus

By **CHELSEA CLARK**
SPORTS EDITOR

Jeff Abernathy has served as a vice president and dean of two different colleges most recently at Augustana College and on Tuesday, January 19 he visited campus in hopes of becoming Alma College's next president.

Abernathy is the father of two young children, a six-year-old and an 18 month old, and in his spare time he whitewater kayaks, rides bicycles competitively, and runs marathons. After meeting with the vice presidents and getting a tour of campus by **Alyse Redman ('10)**, Abernathy addressed the Alma community and opened himself for questions.

Q: Maybe Alma needs to be 200,000 students or maybe we need to stay the same, how do you make that call?

A: Intensive conversation with the campus. At Augustana growing by 10 percent was for us. We would have to study carefully how we would grow. In the coming years 46 percent of high school graduates will be coming from California, Texas, and Florida, many of these students will be Latinos. These are the things we need to study as Alma decides how to grow.

Q: Other than name recognition, where do you see Alma in five years?

A: Alma needs to build on its clear strengths. We need to look at the balance sheet; currently most Alma students receive a 46 to 59 percent discount (scholarships). This says that the value of an Alma education is not understood. Alma needs to tell its story in a way that people understand its value.

Q: The MIAA recently declared

the need for more presidential involvement. As a president of Division III sports how do you see your involvement?

A: Presidential involvement is important at looking out for what it means to be a student athlete, growth of a student as a whole. Looking at the issue of the day with other DIII/DIV presidents; debating what is best.

Q: How do you see a majority white campus diversifying in the years to come?

A: Diversity is a personal commitment of mine. When I started teaching at Illinois College I taught African Literature. At Augustana College we reached out to a charter school in downtown Chicago building a core group from one high school so they would have each other.

This program is terrifically expensive but it can be replicated.

Another way is to look at whether or not the ACT should be optional. In any case, a college wide commitment to support these students and to seek out a diversified staff is important.

Q: How would you relate to the average Alma College student?

A: I come to this work as a professor. I like to see students learn and grow, to see them transform. I would be involved in attending the student government, going to the weekly sports games whether it's football or basketball, and I would talk with the students.

Q: What is your perspective on the Greek community?

A: The Greek community is a great opportunity to demonstrate leadership and service on campus. When we are looking to better the retention rate, we look to the Greeks. As long as we can continue

to relate the Greeks to the college's values and balance the excesses with citizenship. (Abernathy comes from a college with 12 Greek organizations, all of which are local to the Augustana campus)

Q: What are your views on the appropriateness on technology on a campus this size?

A: Technology plays a huge role in the life of a college. It's more expensive but it deepens students learning. Online learning is more effective than traditional learning because it's more engaging and allows more time is spent on task. We should look at the possibility of blended learning to deepen the engagement of Alma's classes.

Abernathy is one of three candidates to visit Alma's campus in the next month. In his speech in DOW L1 in front of administrators, trustees, faculty, and students he said, "So the question the provost asked me is 'why Alma?' and 'why me?' First, you are remarkable. With out the benefit of Oberlin's endowment, you change lives. Without Kenyon's name, you have engaged the attention of the nation since your founding. Without Northwestern's location, you draw students and faculty of phenomenal talent.

A hundred schools with more money than you live in your shadow...What do I believe I can add? I believe I can carry your story, our story, to places where it hasn't been told and as a result help the college thrive.

Jonathan Green, the second candidate, interviewed Sunday. The final candidate will be holding a similar forum on February 1 at 3:30 in DOW L1.

Questions and Answers have been paraphrased for space reasons

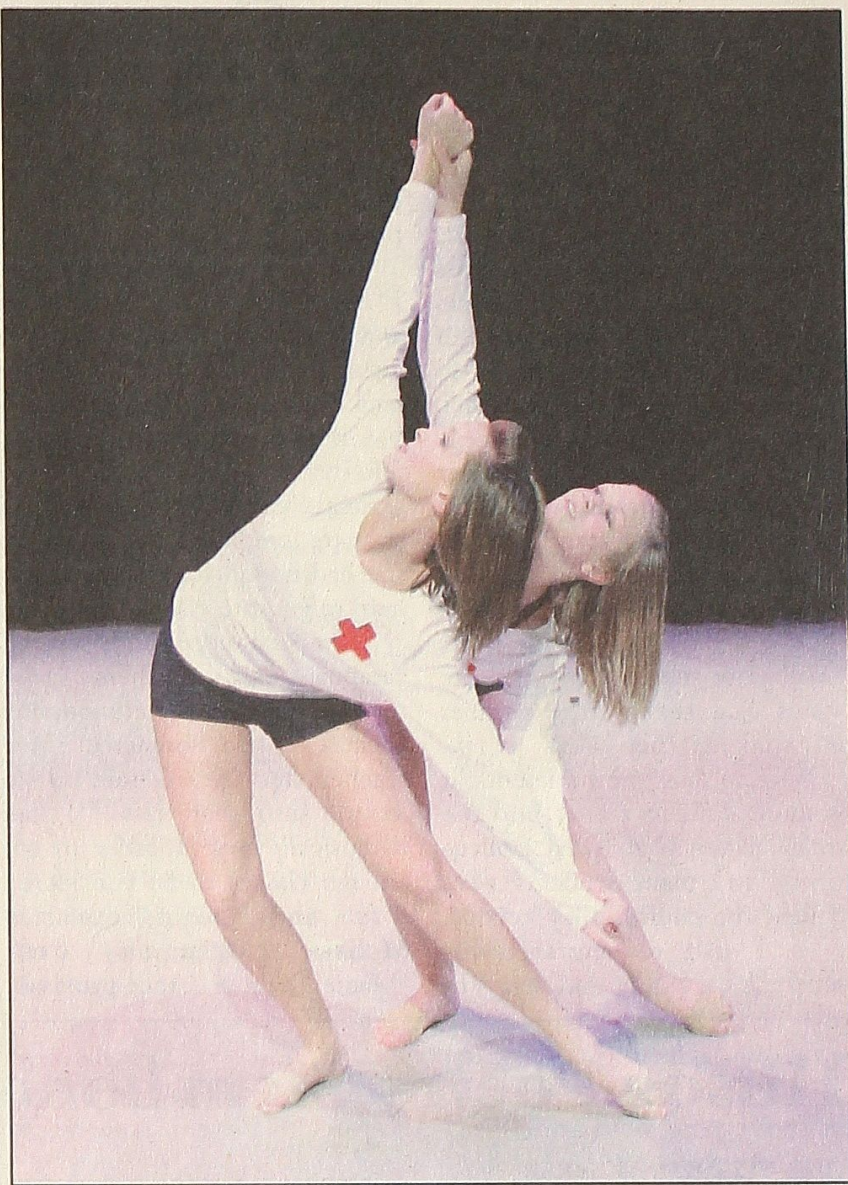


Photo courtesy of Carol Fike

Melissa McIntosh ('12) and Kori Snow ('10) were two dancers in "A Nurse's Diary," one of the pieces in the Student Choreographer's Concert, choreographed by Angela Flynn ('12). The show took place last weekend with a Friday night student concert and performances on Saturday and Sunday Carol Fike, chair of the theatre and dance department, said "it was a glorious representation of the Alma College Dance Company at its best, with the love of dance shining through. The SCC concerts over the years have matured and offered more and more interesting work that challenges the audience to think about issues, to witness beautiful heartfelt dancing and to also experience the pure joy of dancing."

Alma joins national network for vocation

By **MELISSA HUBBARD**
STAFF WRITER

Vocation comes from the Latin word vocare, meaning to call. One's vocation is the work a person is called to do by God.

During the years 2001-2006, Alma College, along with 88 other church related schools nationwide, participated in the mission Discovering Vocation: The Lilly Project. With \$2 million worth of funds, the goal was to prompt the conversation of the word vocation. All participating schools were of varying denominations and each chose to interpret the word in a different way. Alma took the word vocation in the broadest sense.

"The word vocation simply means what are you called to be," said Carol Gregg, Alma's chaplain. "Everybody wants to feel like they have a purpose in life and this word really helps us explore that on a deeper level."

This project resulted in the creation of the Center for Responsible Leadership. Though the grant has been spent, many colleges wanted to continue to explore and share their discoveries of the word vocation.

In response, a committee of five Alma College faculty members attended the March 2009 conference in Indianapolis

that sponsored the organization the Council for Independent Colleges. The colleges came up with a Website called Net VUE, http://www.cic.edu/netvue/netvue_website/index.html, that allowed them to converse and share ideas about vocation that were still being discussed around their campuses.

"The organization is mainly for college employees, but I would be delighted if students had ideas and wanted to send them to me," said Gregg, who is now in charge of this network on campus.

Students who are interested in vocation can become a member of CRL, where vocation ideas are put towards the role of leadership.

The church is also recently starting to get students more involved in retreats.

According to Frederick Buechner's "Wishful Thinking," a book recommended by Gregg, finding one's calling can be a difficult task.

"There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of society, say, or the superego, or self-interest... The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

The retreats are meant as a tool to help in this journey.

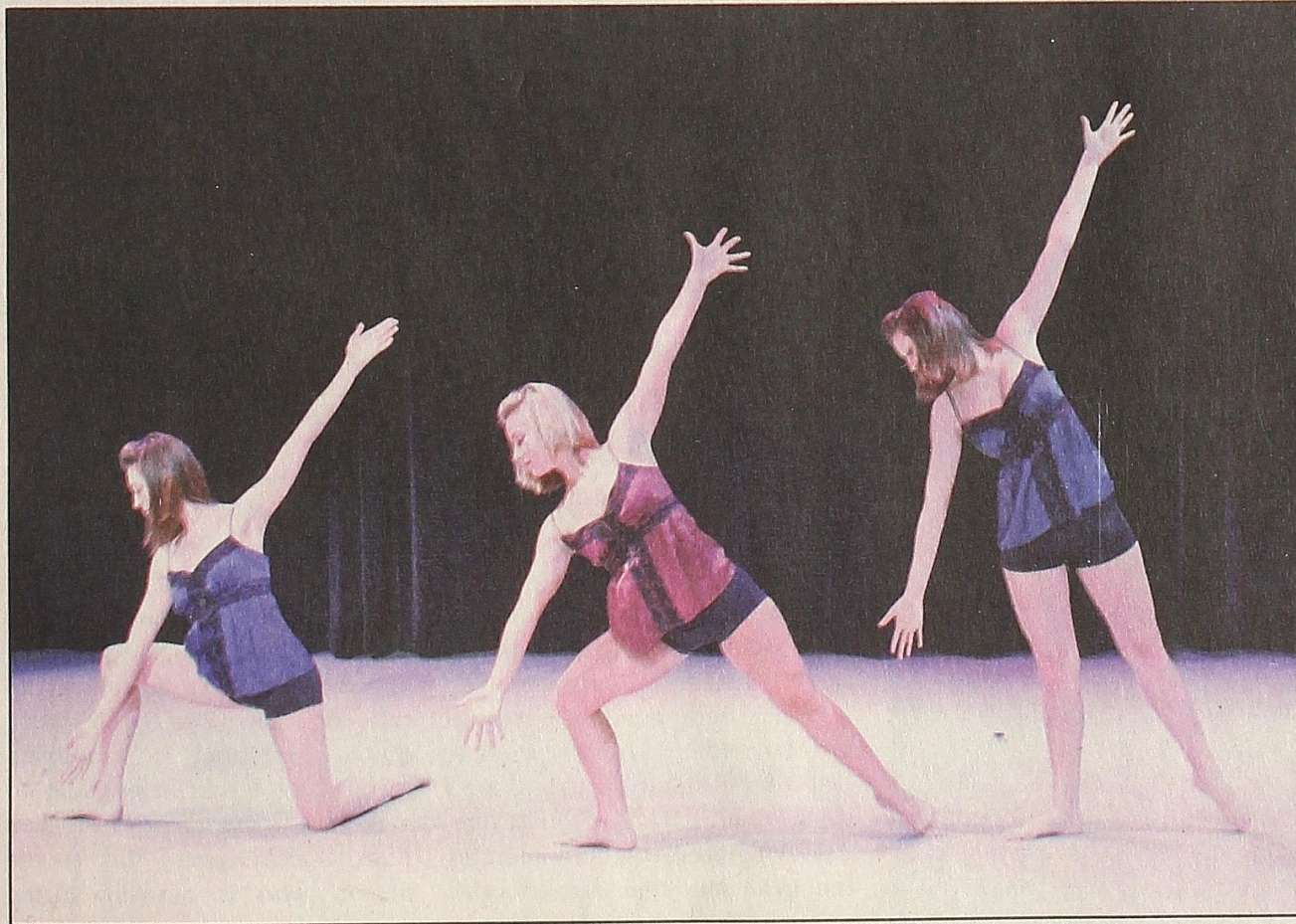


Photo courtesy of Carol Fike

Jaclyn Bodary ('12), Jacquelyn Olson ('11) and Melissa McIntosh ('12) rehearse a pose from "Breathe In, Breathe Out," a piece from the concert choreographed by Anna Dysinger ('11).

Carol Fike, chair of the theatre and dance department, noted, "It was a spectacular sensation to see every single seat filled at the Friday student night showing for SCC. It was a terrific evening. The dances were so well performed." The concert, which is entirely student run, featured a director's piece, "Danse De Trois Filles," choreographed by student directors Lauren Deustcher ('10), Kori Snow ('10), and Kayla Pesko ('10).

Student and professor views on scheduling conflicts differ

By ANGELA FLYNN
GUEST WRITER

Students naturally push to get into the classes they need in order to graduate.

Due to the increase in class sizes, teachers and professors are unable to accept all of the students that request to be enrolled in a certain class.

According to the Alma College Website, the total number of students enrolled in Alma College for this year is 1,444, which is the second highest enrollment in the college's history.

The college takes pride in its small class sizes, as the Website states that the average number of students per class is 19.

With so many new students, it is more difficult to get into the small classes that Alma College offers, and many students were denied the courses they needed.

"I had to rearrange my schedule around and try to

figure out what I needed," Devon Brisbon ('13) said.

Brisbon explained her frustration with the scheduling process and that she had to re-plan her entire semester of classes.

"There are certain classes that I need to take for my major, and when you can't get into the classes you need, it holds you back," said Jaclyn Bodary ('12).

Bodary expressed that she felt it would take her longer to graduate since she is not taking as many credits per semester as she had hoped to. "It is just too hard to get into classes," she said.

"I understand Alma is a small campus, but teachers need to be more accommodating because I had contacted three teachers and they all said no [to let me into their class.] I had to basically beg in order to get enough classes to be considered a full time student," explained Melissa McIntosh ('12).

Janie Diels, assistant professor

of communication and the co-chair of women's studies, noted that she does not notice a difference between the numbers of students who have asked to be added into her classes.

"This is hard to calculate, but I haven't turned away more students than in the past. Even when I taught three sections of COM 110 I had to turn some students away. I would have a problem with this if I didn't teach the course every term," she said.

She went on to say that, "someone who wants to take the class will get in the class eventually, and I would much rather have students take my classes because they are interested in the topic rather than because the time slot is convenient for them."

Diels said that she thinks "that many of the perceived problems will be solved with the change from the old general education requirements to the new general education requirements."



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Jocelyn Ballast ('11) performed a piano solo at the Student Honors Recital. She played Sinfonias, Nos. 3 in D Major and 13 in A Minor. The concert took place Tuesday night in the Heritage Center. Also featured in the performance were Erin Allison ('10), Dana Wygmans ('12), Courtney Claffin ('12), Dustin Sprague ('11), Kelly Hall ('10) and Masina Rose ('12).

Hilson Poetry Slam honors Dr. King

By SEAN WEBBER
GUEST WRITER

The fifth annual Hilson Poetry Slam took place last Tuesday in the Rotunda during which students and staff members recited poetry to celebrate the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Students were arranged in a circle and led by Maurie Luetkemeier, professor of exercise and health science. Luetkemeier spiced up the event by persuading the crowd to chant The Beatles' songs in unison with the drums.

Laura Von Wallmenich, assistant Professor of English, gave a brief introduction to the event and noted that the drums set the tone "just right".

The maestro behind the poetry slam, Multicultural Black Student Union President Deanna Daniels ('10), started the event with her poem "Nigger."

While Chantel Brown ('12) read Langston Hughes poem "America", students such as Celeste Morrison ('13), Melissa Quesunella ('13) and Erika Schnepf ('13) read poems in Spanish.

Stephany Slaughter, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Joanne Gilbert, professor of communication also read a poem together in Spanish.

"It would have been Dr. King's dream to see an Asian and Caucasian student read a poem in Spanish together at a Black poetry event."

Meredith Brown ('12) read Sufi mystic Jelaluddin Rumi's "Say Yes Quickly."

Dana Aspinall, assistant professor in English, read Robert Kennedy's address that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., while Von Wallmenich read an excerpt from the great Frederick Douglass.

Von Wallmenich said afterward, "I was thrilled to see poems read in more than one language. It shows that this is not only an issue in the United States."

"It would've been Dr. King's dream to see an Asian and Caucasian student read a poem in Spanish together at a black poetry event," said Daniels. "That is the kind of unity he would've wanted to see."

Daniels has been a member of MBSU for three years, and was a key member in the group's revival in popularity since her sophomore year.

The MBSU holds events around campus like movie nights in order to spread an appreciation of diversity throughout Alma.

The slam itself is named after Calvin Hilson, a 2006 Alma graduate and Las Vegas police officer who orchestrated the inaugural event as MBSU president five years ago.

Josh Cousineau ('12) said after the slam "I wish I had something to read tonight. I really enjoyed it. I will definitely be coming back next year."

Students prepare for summer job market

By HUGH JENKINS
GUEST WRITER

With unemployment rates so high, college students are struggling finding a job even though there are opportunities out there.

At Alma, the Academic and Career Planning office, located in the bottom of the library, is a good place to get started. The office offers a variety of career-forwarding services such as interest and skill assessments, internships and job search strategies, and workshops for resumes, interviewing, and networking.

First off, when finding a job, see what's available.

"[Having a resume] demonstrates the skill sets that are effective towards the job."

Social networking can be a great way to build your contacts and future opportunities.

After finding a few potential jobs, start the pre-interview steps. Get your resume up to par and, if you don't have one, build one.

"[Having a resume] demonstrates the skill sets that are effective towards the job, and gives the employer an idea of who you are," said Vaughn Brines ('10).

A printed resume sets you apart from the crowd. Even if you have no work experience, you can still give the employer an idea of what your strengths are.

Secondly, appearance matters;

make sure when you head out the door, that you are well groomed and well dressed.

"Obviously appearance is the main thing [when looking for a job]... you need to look good and present yourself professionally," said Tyler Goodwin ('13).

Most first impressions are formed within seven seconds of meeting someone.

Thirty eight percent of a first impression is based on inflection and how things are articulated, seven percent is based on what is actually said, and 55 percent of a first impression comes from nonverbal cues.

In short, more than half of every first impression is based on how you look.

Researching the place you're interviewing with is key, as is knowing your potential employer.

"I try to impress [my future employer] with what I know about the company. After all they're not going to want to hire someone who has no idea what they do," said Kristen Gaffney ('12).

Employers look for candidates who have the ability to follow up with them, because it shows your want for the position.

Always make a follow up call or get in touch with the potential employer.

"Usually, I wait a few days to make a follow-up call. When I do, I make sure I talk to the person who is actually hiring me, not some secretary," says Nathan Werner ('13).

It is beneficial to build a detailed resume, look the part, and follow up on them with a phone call.

Most importantly, you need to show the employer that you are a good investment and will make a great addition to the company.



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Dustin Sprague ('12) played the marimba in the Student Honors Recital. The piece was titled "Gordon's Bicycle" by Kevin Bobo. The recital featured instrumental and vocal performances.

Mentor PLUS celebrates Michigan Mentoring Month

By KATIE GORDON
STAFF WRITER

Alma Public School kids walking down a red carpet with their mentors acting as paparazzi, kicked off the Mentor PLUS event “Shining Stars.”

After each youngster paired off with their mentor and posed in front of the starry backdrop for a picture to bring home, the mentors and mentees took their seats.

This event was Thursday, Jan. 21, as part of Michigan Mentoring Month. The night included bonding activities such as an egg-dropping, slideshows of memories, and more.

The Mentor PLUS program is a partnership between Alma College and Alma Public Schools Explore After-school Program.

Most of the mentors are Alma College students, while some are from the community, said Coordinator of Service Learning Anne Ritz.

Funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service Learn and Serve grant, the aim of the program is to “change lives, two at a time.”

The program is “designed to provide a mentor support system for Alma school youth between

fourth and eighth grade” Ritz said.

By establishing positive mentor relationships, “academic performances have improved and disciplinary actions and unexcused

absences from school have been decreased for participating mentees,” Ritz said.

‘Mentor’ continues on pg. 4



Mentor Tyler Pettit ('11) poses with his mentee Steve Lombard, whom he affectionately calls Steve-o.

Photo by Lauren Kimpel

The Improvised Shakespeare Company to perform at Alma

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

William Shakespeare will soon make an appearance on campus. Well, almost.

The Improvised Shakespeare Company will perform at the Remick Heritage Center on Saturday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m.

“The group takes improv and applies it to different genres,” said Michael Sheldon, Heritage Center building coordinator and technical director and head of the Performing Arts Series.

“The really amazing thing about the group is that none of their material is written. The show they perform that night will be determined by the audience. They will take suggestions, and make a totally unique play basically based on the audience’s mood. This is amazing for me because I know how hard improv is,” Sheldon added.

Six men comprise the Shakespeare group.

The men play all the roles—male and female.

“They do this because during Shakespeare’s time only men were allowed to act. They want this factor of their improv to be consistent with the Shakespearian era,” said Sheldon.

The group also includes Shake-

spearian language in their improvisation.

“Viewers should be prepared for a lot of thees, doths, and thous,” said Sheldon.

This is the Improvised Shakespeare Company’s first visit to Alma.

However, if the performance goes over well, Sheldon hopes to bring them back to campus in the future.

The group does three other improvisation performances aside from the Shakespeare show, including a musical theatre performance.

The group also includes acting games in their appearances.

“They bring people from the audience on stage and teach them how to improv,” said Sheldon.

The group has been entertaining audiences for more than five years at Chicago’s iO Theatre, he added.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors 62 and older, and free for Alma College staff, students and individuals 18 and under.

Seating is by reservation; call (989) 463-7304 for ticket information.

“Students should be prepared for a lot of laughing and a very good time. Ticket prices are low; a good laugh has never been so affordable,” said Sheldon.

Alma College applauds comedian Jessica Kirson

By MELISSA HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

For comedian Jessica Kirson, stand-up comedy wasn’t always the career path she had intended on taking.

Growing up, Kirson never had any significant encounters with comedy that may have encouraged an interest.

“My mother is a therapist. She had clients in the house, so I always had to be quiet. I was like Ann Frank in my own house,” said Kirson.

Though Kirson currently lives in New York, she grew up in New Jersey. She started out doing shows at a club where she was also working as a bartender.

When she later became a social worker, Jessica took a class on comedy and realized that she had a passion for the vocation.

As her name became more and more recognizable, she moved to New York and has been doing shows ever since.

Having been a comic for many years now, Kirson has won several awards from a variety media

sources including VH1, Comedy Central, “Last Comic Standing”, “The Jay Leno Show” and many more.

Kirson gave a performance on Wednesday, Jan. 20 on campus. The event was sponsored by the Alma College Union Board.

Kirson has performed on many college campuses.

“I love college shows because I get to do a lot of time and college kids are my audience,” said Kirson, according to gothamist.com. “That’s the age group I love performing shows for. You can be free and do whatever you want.”

Kirson’s freestyle comedy was a big hit with Alma students.

“I thought the show was a huge success,” said Matthew Mansell ('11), member of ACUB. “She was really funny.”

Kirson’s extravagant use of faces, imitations and voices really made her memorable, said audience members.

“I thought some of her faces were kind of scary sometimes, but it was funny how she could make herself look so ridiculous,” said Belle Gonzalez-Morales ('12)



Comedian Jessica Kirson both enthralls and alarms the Alma audience with her odd facial contortions.

Photo courtesy of Jessica Kirson

“She kept me laughing the whole time,” said Joe Martin ('13). “There was never a dull moment throughout her whole act.”

Her master’s degree in social work really helped her to connect to the audience.

“I thought she was really down to earth and extremely funny,” said Gonzalez-Morales. “I absolutely loved that she used the audience.”

“I loved it,” said Dana Fend ('12). “I will remember her forever. She made such a lasting impression on me.”

Whether or not you attending the concert, if you are interested in hearing more of Jessica Kirson’s comedy, you can look her up on her YouTube channel called the “Jessy K Show,” or you can go online to her Website at jessicakirson.com. Her album, “My Cookie’s Gone,” is also available for purchase.

ACUB’s future events include three movie nights on Jan. 27, Feb. 10, and Feb. 24, a casino night on Friday, Feb. 5, a Pistons game on Friday, Feb. 19, the carnival of wonders on Mar. 27 and a Tigers game on April 10.

Open 11:30 - 12:30 & 6:00 - 11:00 M-Th

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Post-pregnancy options

BY ELEANOR KING
STAFF WRITER

At this time in 1973, the United State Supreme Court examined the controversial issue of legalized abortions.

After the case closed on Jan. 22, women were given the right to abortions prior to “viability” of the fetus. This is defined as any time in the first trimester.

In recognition of this historical event, groups from both sides of the abortion issue rallied to support their cause.

Because abortion is still a legal practice (as are all forms of birth control), from a medical standpoint, it is in the benefit of women to at least be aware of their options during pregnancy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately one-third of all females in the United States become pregnant before they turn 20.

As a result of the religious and cultural beliefs on birth control in the United States, this is the highest rate of teenage pregnancies within all industrialized countries in the world.

In some cases, a woman may be aware of the failure of their birth control the following day. If a condom breaks or if the couple was not using some form of contraception, Plan B is the most immediate option.

Plan B is a one time pill that terminates a pregnancy only up to around 72 hours after contraception. As of now, Plan B is the main brand of this type of birth control. Consequently, it is quite expensive.

Certain insurance companies can cover a portion (if not all) of the cost. However, without any form of coverage, which is common, it can cost up to \$75 for the one pill.

The Plan B pill can be purchased from most major pharmacies.

For a young woman under the age of 18, she must first visit her physician in order to acquire a prescription for the pill.

Certain well-funded, Planned Parenthood establishments will give the pill to women without health insurance for free.

The closest Planned Parenthood locations to Alma are in Owosso, Ionia, Flint and East Lansing. There are also a number of locations in the Detroit area.

The Plan B pill is not 100 percent effective and completely ineffective if taken after too much time has passed since conception.

If the pregnancy is not recog-

nized until well after 72 hours, there are no pills that will serve as a contraceptive.

But as a result of Roe vs. Wade women now have complete rights over their fetus until the end of the first trimester. It is in this three-month time frame that a woman (over the age of 18) can make the independent decision to have an abortion.

If this is the proper choice for the individual, it is crucial that a certified physician performs the procedure. Unregulated and unprofessional abortions can easily lead to serious injury or death of the woman.

In Michigan, the majority of all abortion clinics are located in the Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor areas.

About 14 percent of all abortions are free for the woman. This could be a result of the clinic or the woman’s own insurance.

Lastly and most importantly, it is absolutely the right of any pregnant woman (no matter her age) to carry her child to term, give birth and keep the baby. If this is the case, organizations such as Planned Parenthood offer numerous resources for soon-to-be young mothers.

Similarly the federal government supports a many Women, Infants and Children programs, which provide resources for struggling mothers. Parents can apply for some programs on line at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>. The main office for WIC is outside of Owosso. The Department of Health and Human Services also provides a significant amount of assistance for struggling young or single parents. Offices can be found all across the state. Like WIC, the DHHS is a non-profit governmental organizations designed to help citizens free of charge.

In a time of hot debate about abortions, it is vital for young adults to at least stay informed.

Being aware of the resources available in your area can help any female (regardless of her beliefs) to make her decision as easily as possible.

Don’t be fearful to take advantage of the countless supports available. Being a young adult and pregnant is surely a life-changing event, but not one that should be faced alone.

Whether you are pro-life, pro-choice or just trying to survive with or without a child, there are people and organizations working solely for your benefit.

Clack Art Center features True North landscapes

BY MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

Clark Art Center’s Flora Kirsch Beck Art Gallery presents “True North,” an art show featuring landscapes from three professional Upper Peninsula artists.

“We do five to six exhibitions each school year,” said Gallery Director Sandra Lopez-Isnardi, associate professor of art and design and the gallery director. “This is one of our professional shows.

The gallery is part of our teaching to give students an idea of what [the artists] create, why they create it, and how they made a livelihood being artists.”

Lopez-Isnardi also explained that all three artists use very different mediums for their craft.

Michael Letts has eight large-scale paintings on display. He uses acrylic on canvas. Though currently both an active professional artist and the associate professor of art education at Northern Michigan University, Letts has also taught studio art and English in the past at various middle schools and high schools.

Lopez-Isnardi described Letts as having “a beautiful sense of depth and form” using little forms to build up the image and enhance

visual intrigue.

John Hubbard has 11 medium-sized oil paintings that are showcased.

Previously, Hubbard served as the vice chairperson for the Fine Arts Division of Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

He was also the gallery director for the Lee Hall Gallery and the acting department head at Northern Michigan University.

Currently, Hubbard is a professor of art in the school of art & design at Northern Michigan University.

“Hubbard uses texture and form very differently than Letts,” Lopez-Isnardi said of his pieces included in the show. “His work is definitely about light and color.”

She also described Hubbard’s “interesting frames” around his portraits, such as truck-bed material and the Coca-Cola trademark, which she said could be a political statement.

“With Michael Letts versus John Hubbard, Hubbard is more realistic, with the trees and tire tracks [in his paintings]. Letts has more stylized work,” said Lopez-Isnardi.

Linda King Ferguson’s pieces use oil on canvas like Hubbard, but also graphite on paper, as well

as digital collages.

She has eight paintings, seven drawings, and four digital collages included in the show.

Linda King Ferguson is a 1976 graduate of Alma College.

Having been the director of the Alger Area Arts Council in the Upper Peninsula, and a curator for Oasis Gallery, Ferguson is now an adjunct art and design professor at Northern Michigan University as of September 2009.

“I create abstractions... my images originate in the natural world and my work expresses my affinity for the organic. I build and reduce visual planes through a pictorial syntax of layered impressions,” Ferguson said of her own work.

“Ferguson is... showing how she is bringing the abstract concept into digital,” Lopez-Isnardi said of her digital work. “She does digital, using some of the same techniques but adding realism of the photographs—she is playing with realism and abstractness.”

Being a 1976 Alma College alumna, Ferguson will be coming to speak at the gallery on Thursday, Feb. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m.

“True North” has been on display since Jan. 11 and will continue through Feb. 11.



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Mentor Samantha Wanke (‘12) does adlibs with her mentee Gabby Nava. This is their first year in the program.

Mentor’ continues from pg. 3

“[Being a mentor to a student was] a step up in responsibility,” said **Andria Baker (‘12)**, a Mentor PLUS intern.

Being exposed to kids who have a different childhood experience than her own has taught her a lot and prepared her for becoming a teacher, she added.

Chelsea Duff (‘13) is one of the new mentors and also sees this as a teaching experience.

“[The program will give me] more insight to what it’s like being a teacher on a one-on-one level,” said Duff.

Remembering that middle school could be tough, Duff said this was a chance to “earn a friend and help someone out.”

The program is not only a learning experience, but also very fun, Duff adds.

Mentors and mentees partici-

pate in many activities, provided by the Explore After-school Program. This includes arts and crafts, games, cooking, as well as activities that are planned on campus, such as visiting sports practices.

One of the most rewarding things Baker remembers was having her mentee get to watch her play volleyball.

“It really makes them think, ‘Wow, maybe I can do this too,’” said Baker.

Baker was encouraged through the Alma College volleyball team to become a mentor, and she applied at the end of her freshmen year.

Given this position, Baker stayed in Alma over the summer to plan summer activities for children. She also planned some events for the school year, such as this one, which is held annually.

The night was to “honor men-

tors [who have been in the program for a year], and welcome new mentors [to encourage them to stay a year],” Baker said.

She hopes nights like this signal “new growth” for the program.

“[The weekly commitment to be a mentor] doesn’t feel like work,” Baker said. “It’s a relief and de-stresser for the day.”

“[The] most impressive thing is the difference a college mentor can make to a young person,” Ritz said. “It doesn’t take any special skills, just lots of listening and support.”

Students are welcome to apply to become a mentor year round. They will be matched up with a mentee based on similarities.

“[Being a mentor] gives you a feeling that you’re making a difference,” Duff said. “You grow just as much as your mentee does through the process.”

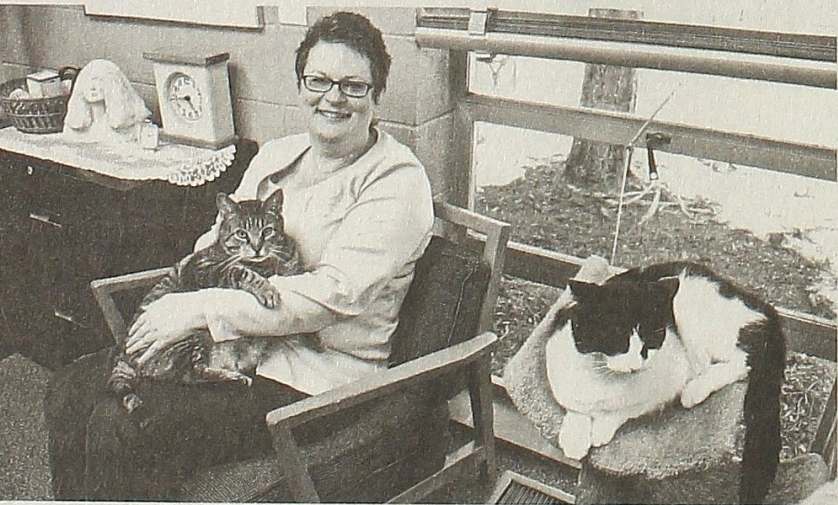


Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Terri Freeland, of the Counseling, Health, and Wellness Center, sits with Tully while his counterpart Harley lounges nearby. Questions or counseling regarding any health or wellness issues can be addressed at the center.

Message to Sodexho: mugs are not obsolete

By LAUREL TILOT
STAFF WRITER

America has gone through a large range of changes in the last century or so. Women gained the right to vote, Barack Obama was elected as the first African-American president, and our good ol' Hamilton Commons here on Alma College campus has changed to accommodate the ever multiplying comments of the student body. There are new condiment dispensers, new decorations, and brand spankin' new coffee machines for the caffeine deprived. There is a bit of a discrepancy

surrounding this coffee, however, and that is the use of these so-called "green" to-go cups. SAGA has done a wonderful job trying to keep up with the constant flow of complaints from the students on campus that range from the reasonable "Could you use less salt in the soup?" to the ridiculous "Your bowls and plates are too hot, I hate having to put cereal in a warm bowl!" The most common complaint was a request for to-go cups for those of us students who just have to have that caffeine fix but are in too big of a hurry to just come in and sit down. Styrofoam cups appeared, but apparently were not meant to be for the consumption of coffee

outside of the premises, and they stirred up a slew of comments about how they were bad for the environment. Sodexho replied by replacing mugs and Styrofoam with paper cups from Aspretto in the attempt to be more "green." Alas, there is still quite an uproar going on about these poor vessels for the holiest of beverages. Emblazoned directly on the side of these Aspretto (whatever that means) cups is the phrase "At Aspretto we believe what we serve should taste great and also respect the planet we live on. This cup is made from 90% renewable resources and contains 10% post consumer fiber." This is wonderful!

However, just because the cup used to be a magazine, a legal pad, or toilet paper doesn't mean that it is good for the environment. These cups still end up in the trash, causing more and more refuse to build up in America's landfills, doing little in the end to help the environment. They also do not help the look of the campus. Personally, I have picked up at least 10 of these cups off the ground all around campus because it's apparently very difficult to put them in the trash. Not only have these paper cups been just a tad hypercritical, but they have completely replaced the mugs that used to be available. These mugs, even though they take a lot of water to wash, were

a staple for those who didn't need a to-go cup. They cut down hugely on the amount paper waste coming out of SAGA as well. In response to one comment asking about the mugs, Sodexho said "Mugs are now obsolete." Since when has a cup become obsolete? Maybe if SAGA had a recycle bin that we could put these paper cups in, then we could really feel like we were doing something, or are these cups no longer recyclable because they are considered "soiled cardboard?" We understand that it's hard to keep up with the fickle minds of college students, but a little logic never hurt anybody and neither did an ugly brown reusable ceramic mug.

Normative relativism at its worst

By MEREDITH BROWN
OPINION EDITOR

Something was said in a class recently that upset me in a way I am still trying to wrap my head around. It was a sociology class, and my professor was talking about a discussion he had facilitated in a different course about the difference in life we, as students at Alma, would be experiencing had the Germans and Japanese won WWII. He mentioned that one student had responded saying that our lives would be better. This immediately caught me off guard. A conversation about WWII typically leads to a general berating of Hitler and a statement that the world would never forget such a huge genocide, and would do its best to prevent anything similar from occurring. But someone who thought our lives would be better? The student apparently continued, saying that a life without Jews would be fine with him/her. S/he also compared the mass extermination of the Holocaust to the current American prison system. My professor went on to explain away this student's response as being a "product of his/her

subculture". Later on in the class he told us to keep in mind that he was not ever going to try to persuade us of thinking one way or another about things. The only thing he said he would try to impress on us was to be thoughtful of the social and cultural worldview we have been handed to see through, and make following judgments from there. Now I understand the need for professors to remain objective in the classroom, and I appreciate those educators who take this seriously. But the fact that a student at this college said that he would enjoy his life more *without the presence of the Jewish people* is one of the scariest things I have ever heard. And the idea that the professor in question, nor any of the students in the class, chose to question the clear anti-Semitism of this student makes me angrier. It is no longer popular to have strong moral opinions in this culture. Relativism is something that seems to fill people with a great deal of self-contentment. To be honest, I completely understand this worldview, as I used to believe it was the most peaceful and tolerant way to pass through life. I have come to understand,

however, that the nasty side effect of normative relativism is the smearing of moral lines, especially when it comes to human dignity. The genocide of human beings not just in WWII but all throughout history should never be treated without a deep sense of regret and shame. To explain away someone's clear ignorance with an attribution to a subculture impressed worldview and *then to not educate them* on the realities of Nazi death camps blows my mind. I am begging you. All of you. Students, faculty, whoever. I understand the desire to be a tolerant person. But please be warned: if you begin to tolerate everything, you will have no grounds for calling something as horrific as genocide wrong. Forget political correctness, objectivity, sociology and subgroups. Remember that not everything in life can be tolerated. Rape must not be tolerated. Racism must not be tolerated. Genocide must not be tolerated. So many things are out there that we have to stand up against - things that truly involve the lives of our fellow human beings. Unpopular though it may be, I hope you are brave enough to do so.

PUZZLE CORNER

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If you need someone to talk to, there's a safe, confidential place to go.

MacCurdy House

(In between TKE & Creative Arts on South Campus)

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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Greek Life balances work and fun

By CHRIS CHESNEY
FREELANCE WRITER

Every student at every college has the same problem: how to balance studies and social engagement.

Here at Alma College, we have the solution: Greek Life.

While most people outside of the Greek system have a bad perception of fraternities and sororities from stereotypes shown on television or through stories told by parents or older generations, Alma College's system differs compared to the rest of Michigan's universities.

The fraternities and sororities here are just as much dedicated

to school studies and education as they are with enjoying themselves through weekend events, volunteer work and general camaraderie.

In order to join the Greek system at Alma College, a minimum GPA requirement of 2.25 is necessary as well as certain other educational criteria some organizations may have.

Several Greek organizations have mandatory study hours, especially during pledge periods that are not only for the pledges, but also for current members.

Many Greek groups also have an education or scholarship position within their group to ensure no member is in danger

academically.

Besides academics, the Alma College Greeks are dedicated to show the truth about our campus involvement.

Whether volunteering in local outreach programs or participating major campus events like Relay for Life or Up 'Til Dawn, Alma Greeks prove they are serious about growing into mature, well-rounded individuals.

Some people may claim that Greek Life and athletics are at odds, or coaches dislike their teams' involvement in a fraternity or sorority. This may have been true 10 to 15 years ago, since the Greek system was at its lowest point in those years.

But today, Greek Life is stronger and more focused on helping, not hindering, the entire campus and Alma community.

Even the football team's Coach Jim Cole, who was an Alma Greek, admitted that Greek Life is now a positive role model for all college students—including his own football team.

He said this as a guest speaker during 2008's winter recruitment Run-Outs dinner, adding that he hopes Greek Life will continue to grow.

In a matter of two years, Greek Life has grown, garnered new members and continued to be supportive of sports teams, campus organizations, volunteer

work, and fundraising activities.

Greek Life has shown its true colors, and with recruitment continuing the rest of this week, ending in the sorority Walk-Outs on Friday and fraternity Run-Outs on Saturday, new members will join the ranks as Alma College's future success stories.

From Alumni of the Year 2009 to two State Representatives, an Amnesty International Regional Director, a U.S. House Representative, from FDR's Secretary of Navy to Alma College's very own football coach, Greek Life has provided Alma, Mich. and the United States with the most highly qualified Alma alumni ever.

Democrats must earn respect

By SEAN WEBBER
STAFF WRITER

Losing Ted Kennedy to a brain tumor was bad enough, but losing his Senate seat to Republican nominee Scott Brown has made the Democrats look outright foolish.

Not only did they pretentiously assume Attorney General Martha Coakley was a shoo-in for the seat, but Coakley made a grand total of 19 campaign appearances.

Scott Brown made 66.

It is no surprise to me that Coakley lost the seat. Massachusetts is a blue state, but most of the voters consider themselves Independents, and making them angry is likely to result in a Republican vote.

This Senate election is going to be significant.

It is going to hurt the Democrats.

The Republicans now have the 41 votes they need to block any bill going through the Senate, and that includes the healthcare reform bill that Ted Kennedy had fought hard to build and considered his legacy.

He must be turning over in his grave as the GOP moves to take his seat for the first time since 1953.

The Democrats have got to stop being timid. They have got to take the gloves off and play some hardball with the Republicans.

It looks like it is too late to do that with the healthcare bill, which is likely to get tied up in negotiations for a while.

The Democrats had a majority that President George W. Bush never had during his presidency, and they squandered it. They still have more control in the Senate than President Bush did when he did pretty much whatever he

APPETITE FOR ALMA

By D. Ferguson



wanted, like give himself special privileges in times of imminent crisis.

In short, this Senate election has shown that the Democrats cannot act with the strength or intent that they should if they want to enact any real change.

They have stood between President Obama and his campaign promises since his first day in office. President Obama even shouldered some of the blame for losing the Senate seat to the GOP in a recent interview.

If the Democrats want to do

anything with the power they have, which is still very potent, they need unification and direction.

And when Scott Brown takes his seat in the Senate where the Democrat's beloved Kennedy once sat, hopefully they are going to see that.

Enough with the “buts” in relationships

By DAWN JOHNSON
GUEST WRITER

As college students, we are very familiar with the world of relationships.

Whether having frequent make ups or breakups since middle school or just starting out, we possess the gruesome and the heartfelt of stories.

The one thing that seems to stay the same throughout relationships, whether switching partners, states, or even countries, is that men and women will always resort back to the “but... it would be nice” statement.

This is the classic situation where a partner places the decision making on the other person while they smile cutely

towards the “obvious” answer.

From the male perspective, women tend to use this line more than men, but in many recent experiences I found that men just verbalize it less.

As many women would probably agree, men have the “face” or the “look”; the unconscious guilt trip that most women cave to.

The guy audience at this point is glancing back to the memories of when their girlfriends gave the puppy dog, pouty lip, batty eyelash look that signified that she wanted something.

Men, wake up to the smell of Highland Java, it is a two way street, and you are unaware of how often you use the look on us.

Men tend to use the phrase for more “personal favors”

such as a new adventurous task that may make his partner uneasy: a spontaneous act at the beach, using the backseat as more than a trashcan, or simply asking for more hands on affection.

In this situation, the man will verbally announce that it is the woman's decision, either way he is fine with the outcome.

His unconscious thoughts on the other hand are giving his girlfriend the “face” that tells her that although she isn't 100 percent for it, he would really enjoy it if she would at least try.

The relationship can be old or new, the women are the same, and we want to make our boyfriends happy.

Most often in these cases we decide to “groan and bare it.” Men do the same when their girlfriends tilt their head, smile,

perhaps say “please” sweetly, and await the soda or the massage they asked for. This also occurs when pulling our boyfriends away from their computers, video games, and cars. Our requests lean toward making us feel better, and often occurring at the same time our boyfriends are tired or unwilling.

It seems like a 50/50 guilt trip on behalf of each person in the relationship, but a large percentage of the time this leads to unhappiness or unneeded stress and strain.

Recently, I told my boyfriend that sometimes I felt like I had to do things when I wasn't really wanting to.

I did this so I was still considered a “good” girlfriend, whether he boasted or not. This is sometimes a fear many of us

experience no matter the esteem.

I found out that he felt the same, often giving in so I would be happy.

This situation can be confused for falling out of love when in reality it is simple miscommunication.

So next time if you feel irritated by having to get off the couch or give in to a certain request don't worry, take a breath, and remember we all go through it.

There are better solutions than holding it in and awaiting your next confrontation with the spouse.

Talk it over and let out your frustrations about over compromising. Chances are, your boyfriend or girlfriend is feeling the same way about your “but... it would be nice” grin.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE ARTICLES YOU SEE IN THE ALMANIAN?

Are there certain topics you'd like to see us cover that we haven't?

Would you like to see a classifieds section? How about Entertainment?

Give us feedback on our Facebook page! Just search for iThe Almaniani & tell us what's on your mind!

Spotlight: Ross works in all aspects of sports

By MARIA CASTENEDA
STAFF WRITER

As a player, coach and athletic trainer **Emily Ross (12)** has experienced sports from both the field and the sidelines.

Ross grew up in a family of softball players, with both her parents, Don and Diane, as coaches from a young age. Her older sister, Lindsey, also played the sport.

"I started playing in about second grade. Both my parents were coaches so I just kind of got into it. I have an older sister and she played too," Ross said.

Playing from a young age, Ross has now played softball for over 12 years.

"The passion for it has kept me playing," Ross said. "I have fun doing it; I meet a lot of new people and make a lot of new friends."

Ross played on her first competitive softball team, the

South County Lady Reds, when she was 10 years old.

She went to Buchanan High School, 15 minutes from the Indiana border. In high school, Ross was a tri-sport varsity athlete, playing basketball, volleyball and softball.

Despite her parents involvement in softball, they allowed Ross to balance all three.

"My parents never put pressure on me," Ross said. "Everything was my decision so that was really nice."

Ross earned several accolades in high school, including first team all-conference honors for three years, first team all-district honors for three years and was named female athlete of the year her senior year.

Coming to Alma after graduating in 2008, Ross began playing softball for the Scots.

"As an incoming freshman, you get a whole new family, that's a big thing," Ross said. "Everyone is so

supportive of you, all the coaches are."

Not only did Ross have to adjust off the field to college, but she also had to make adjustments on

"As an incoming freshman, you get a whole new family, that's a big thing. Everyone is so supportive of you, all the coaches are."

the field.

"I had never played first base until I got up here. I was a shortstop my freshman year on varsity and then I was a catcher for three more years and then I played a little second base my senior year I got here and Coach was like 'we're putting you at first,'" Ross said.

She has quickly acclimated through playing in 36 games

her freshman year, 28 of which she started and led the team in number of home runs scored.

With athletic training as a major and softball workouts in and out of season, Ross has a busy schedule to manage.

"It's really good here that they let us have time off when we're in season and don't force us to be with athletic training all the time," Ross said. "Coach is really big into education first so if we have homework or tests, anything, he's always like you need to get this done."

Balancing both athletics and academics has proved difficult.

"I remember last spring term I was taking exams in hotel rooms when we were at a tournament. There were like three girls taking exams in a room," Ross said.

After graduating from Alma, Ross hopes to continue on to graduate school, become a gym teacher and be involved in a high school setting.

Following in her parents' footsteps, Ross has already begun to coach a travel team from her hometown.

"I've thought about coaching in the future but I'm not sure if I want to. And if I did, I'm not sure if I would coach softball or another sport, too. I would like doing that because I coach a travel team in the summer," Ross said.

Ross has already experienced some difficulties of coaching.

"As an athlete you can understand things when they're being taught to you but trying to teach them to other people is very difficult," Ross said.

Ross still has three seasons left with the Scots, along with high hopes.

"We made it to semifinals of regionals last year, and I think this year we should take it," Ross said. "We won MIAA last year and a bunch of years before that so that's a legacy we need to uphold."

Intramural Sports back on track in the new semester

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI
STAFF WRITER

If you've ever walked down to the Stone Recreational Center at night to try and shoot some hoops or run on the track and have come inside only to find that every court is occupied by people playing volleyball or basketball, you might wonder what all the

"I finally got my first IM Championship t-shirt for flag football. It was the happiest moment of my athletic career."

commotion is about.

Once again it's that time of year when Alma College students get together for competition in intramural sports for the coveted Alma College IM Champion's t-shirt.

"I finally got my first IM Championship t-shirt for flag football," says **Matt Bauhof (11)**.

"It was the happiest moment of my athletic career."

So far, the Recreation Center has sponsored intramurals in seven-on-seven flag football and four-on-four volleyball.

Flag football took place during the first few weekends of the school year. Eight teams took to the Chapel lawn every Sunday afternoon for competition.

Four-on-four volleyball, which just concluded, was played Monday through Thursday.

There were three brackets of competition: Monday/Wednesday Co-ed, Tuesday/Thursday Co-ed, and the men's bracket.

Students can look forward to

even more intramural sports after returning to campus for the winter semester. It has already been announced that there will be six-on-six volleyball and team dodgeball. It is also expected that—as in past years—there will also be basketball, including a men's bracket and a co-ed bracket.

Students participate in IM sports for many different reasons.

Bauhof likes the opportunity IM's give him to compete.

"IM sports give me a chance to be competitive year-round," he says.

Eric Borgeld (12) plays intramural sports to have a good time.

"I like when people take it seriously, but still with good humor," he says.

"There's no sense in getting down about a loss, but it's best when everyone tries hard."

He appreciates a little friendly competition as well.

"Intramural sports are a fun venue for trash-talk among people who just aren't any good at that sport," Borgeld added.

"Depending on the sport, I take IMs very seriously," says Bauhof, who has participated in flag football and volleyball already this semester.

"Basketball is all business but I like to have fun in volleyball and other intramural sports."

No matter what your level of skill is in a given sport, you are still welcome to form a team and compete.

"I've been on both sides of the battle," says Bauhof.

"I've been on volleyball teams that have lost three sets to zero and won blowout basketball games and it's still fun."

For information on how to get involved with intramural sports, visit the Recreation Center during hours of operation.

Women's basketball drops one to winless Kalamazoo

By SHANDEN DELAMATER
STAFF WRITER

The lady Scots efforts to take down a winless Kalamazoo basketball team were unsuccessful Tuesday night as the Scots fell to Kalamazoo 68-52 in Alma. A low field goal percentage and too many turnovers were too much for the Scots to overcome.

A slow first half plagued the Lady Scots who were unable to get hot from the floor. **Sydney Beckwith (10)** scored the first 5 points of the game, however, with 10:31 left in the first half the Scots posted only 7 points on the board. Kalamazoo used a strong inside game to post an advantage on the scoreboard at halftime leading 26-16 over the Scots.

"The biggest struggle we faced against Kalamazoo is one that we have faced all season and that is believing in ourselves for an entire game," says Brown. "When teams make a run at us we don't respond very well, as was the case last night."

Frustration showed at halftime as Brown and the lady Scots en-

tered the lockerroom. Both teams were shooting 7-24 from the field, but Kalamazoo held the advantage on the line and behind the arc giving them the 10 point lead.

"On paper we have been similar with all of our opponents, but again it comes down to knowing how to close out games," said

"The biggest struggle we faced against Kalamazoo is one that we have faced all season, believing in ourselves for an entire game."

Brown.

The second half began and the Scots looked to be fired up. **Lauren Hasler (10)** came out shooting and scored the first six points of the half for the Scots. However the spark was brief and Kalamazoo answered shooting 9-19 from

the three-point line.

Unfortunately for the Scots, Kalamazoo slowly pulled away. With 10:32 remaining in the second half, the Hornets took a fourteen point lead and Alma couldn't answer.

Megan Hoblet (10) and **Katherine Bigelow (10)** played strong defensively for the Scots, recording four and three blocks respectively. Hoblet also pulled down sevens boards for the Scots.

The Scots fall to 3-13 overall, (2-5 conference).

"At this point in the season we focus on getting better each game and not looking at our overall record because it is not indicative of the kind of team we are" said Brown with certainty.

Alma was led in scoring by **Sydney Beckwith (11)** with 12 points, while Hasler added 10. Kalamazoo was led by Courtney Kaplan with 19 points.

Alma looks ahead with seven games left in regular season before heading to the MIAA tournament with first round action beginning on Feb. 23.

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Tell the editors what you want covered, reply to the opinion articles, look at photos from the week that didn't make it into the paper.



We now have a variety of muffins and scones available for breakfast on the go!

We also have Java Merchandise:
Mugs are \$5.99 and save you 15% on drinks!

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highland
java cafe

Half of team quits, members work to fill holes



Photo by Catherine Finley

Forward ,Tommy Erickson ('12), goes up for a layup against Trine at Tuesday's home game.

BY MELISSA HUBBARD
AND
CHELSEA CLARK
STAFF MEMBERS

Alma College's men's basketball team finds itself short on players.

The team has had a tough season this year due to the fact that half of its players quit the team, including shooting guard **Lexis Carter** and **Jordan Redditt**, who left the college.

The eleven remaining team

members all chose to withhold comments about the sudden loss of teammates while the basketball season is still in progress.

Carter, who is now currently back in Lansing taking classes at a nearby community college, was the only member who commented.

"I felt that I didn't fit in with the system and the style of play," said Carter. "I wanted to come in and help the team as much as possible, but I couldn't play with

my natural style of play giving the circumstances," said Carter.

He also had an opinion about his former coach.

"I think the coach has a lot of energy and positive outlook on things, but isn't consistent with letting the players use their natural talent on the floor. I have to believe that the team isn't coping well given the fact that the players that left did contribute while they were there and now that they have left, there isn't a

"I felt that I didn't fit in with the system and the style of play. I wanted to come in and help the team as much as possible, but I couldn't play with my natural style of play given the circumstances."

lot of help," said Carter.

Despite his decision to leave the team, Carter wishes the remaining teammates well.

"I hope all the guys who are still playing are doing well and I wish them all the best on the rest of the season," said Carter.

Wednesday, Alma had a home game against Trine losing 67-60.

With 2:39 remaining in the game Alma trailed by only two points, but the Scots missed the next 5 shots while Trine was able to score on their last few shots to widen the gap and seal the victory.

To make up for the loss of key players, other experienced Scots were asked to step up to the plate. Sophomore **Terry Brown ('10)** lead the team with 15 points and 10 rebounds to his credit, while Junior **Kevin Ginther ('11)** scored 17 points in 30 minutes of

play.

Saturday the Maroon and Cream went on the road to face Olivet. Behind the entire game the Scots lost 74-57.

This game **Cory Schneider ('12)** scored 14 points to lead the Scots with the help of nine points from **Isaac Thaler ('10)**.

Alma could not get the ball into the net at Olivet. They ended the game with a 51.9 field goal percentage and a 54.5 free throw percentage compared to Olivet's 56.3 and 80 percent respectively.

Alma is currently 0-6 in league play with eight games remaining and 3-14 overall.

The Scots next game is home Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. against Calvin. Calvin is the only remaining league team that the Scots have yet to play at least once. The Knights of Calvin are currently 6-0 in the league after defeating Albion 80-70 Saturday.

After the win Calvin's coach commented on the school's Website about the up coming match saying, "The old saying is 'Take one game at a time,' and that's exactly right. We had an emotional game today and a big rivalry game Saturday, so Wednesday [at Alma] could really be a trap game."



Photo by Catherine Finley

Kevin Ginther ('11) lead the team in points against Trine with 17 points.

JV basketball overcomes setbacks to beat Trine

BY MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

Despite losing several players, the men's junior varsity basketball team easily beat Trine University by 19 points. The Scots ended the game with a final score of 69-50.

The men's JV basketball team held a comfortable 10-point lead going into halftime. As both teams headed to the locker room, the Scots led 32-23.

The Scots were shorthanded with only eight members of the team suited up on Wednesday evening.

After several members of the varsity basketball team quit, three players from JV were moved up to varsity. The men's team was able to overcome the loss though and pull out a win against Trine.

"We've taken it for what it is," **Tyler Delap ('13)**. "They didn't have their heart in it and it's just brought us closer together because

it's made us rely on each other."

The lack of numbers on the team was a disadvantage due to the amount of fouls called against the Scots early in the game.

"With us only having eight players, we played well," Delap said. "We had a couple of guys in foul trouble, which made it worse, but some guys really stepped it

"I think we have overachieved when you look at our size"

up, which was really good for us at the time."

Both Delap and **Russel Hope ('13)** had three fouls at halftime and each earned one more in the second half. Several calls were debatable, with the Scots earning twice as many fouls as the Thunder

early in the game.

"We can't take worry with what happens with the ref. We have to play through it," Delap said. "You just have to change your mind set and change your game style. Different refs are going to let you play more physical or not and you just have to decide what style you're going to play."

The Scots overcame the referee's calls without any difficulty.

"We don't let it get to us and we don't talk or comment to the refs," Hope said. "We don't complain and we just brush it off. We just shoot through it."

Shooting has been one of the Scots' strengths this season, despite their shooting percentage on Wednesday night.

"We didn't execute well in offense like we usually do. Our shooting percentage was about 35 percent, which is pretty low for us," Delap said.

The low shooting percentage may again relate to a lack of players.

"We get tired faster and are less

"We play together well. We don't care who scores- as long as we win we're happy."

likely to run our offense," **Caleb VanTimmeren ('13)** said.

With a lack of offense, the team had to step up its defense, which has not usually been one of its strengths.

"The past couple of games coach [Larry Farmer] hadn't been happy with our defense so we practiced it all week and really stepped it up," Delap said. "We kept them

down to 50 points."

Although the Scots played well, there were areas in which they could have improved.

"We could've controlled the tempo more," VanTimmeren said. "We also could've rebounded better."

The men's JV basketball team had set out to be undefeated this season, but now holds a record of 4-2.

Losses came against Concordia University and Marygrove, both games within the losing margin of three points.

"I think we have overachieved when you look at our size," Hope said.

With seven games left in their season, the Scots hope to finish strong.

"We play together well," VanTimmeren said. "We don't care who scores as long as we win we're happy."

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Contact Josh Hodge (rojrhodg@alma.edu) for information