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# ALMANIAN

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Swim team has last home meet  
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## New members join Greek community

By SHANDEN DELAMATER  
STAFF WRITER

Greek Recruitment was the talk of campus this past week, as hopeful students made effort to become official members of the Greek Community. The men, participated in Smokers to meet and greet the brothers of the six fraternities, allowing the brothers to vote on bids to offer to potential members. The women participated in teas, spreads, and desserts, assisting in their decision making process.

The Greek systems for men and women differ greatly, as do their processes to recruit new members.

When asked why students go Greek, members cite many reasons. Social interaction was one of them. She said greek life has introduced her to many people she might have not otherwise met. There is also a chance to grow as a leader within the Greek organization. Due to the relatively large size of Greek organizations, there is a need for organizational structure, which allows students to take up leadership positions.

There is a board on campus made of women from each social sorority called the National Panhellenic Council. This board is responsible for promoting intersorority relations, Greek week event organization, and the recruitment of new women. The recruitment

chair of the board is responsible for winter recruitment, and her assistant is then responsible for informal fall recruitment. The board for fraternities is called the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

Panhellenic advertises recruitment starting three-four weeks prior via the portal, daily general announcement e-mails, flyers, banners, and invitations. One week before recruitment, Panhellenic officers host a sign-up list at lunch and dinners in Hamilton Commons. Panhellenic and IFC members are "neutral" during recruitment, meaning they do not wear letters and are well educated on the facts regarding Greek life on campus.

Being neutral is a chance to promote Greek life as a whole, not choosing to join any specific sorority or fraternity. Non-Greek women that sign-up must sign a grade release form stating they have the required 2.5 GPA. This is verified with the Student Life Office. This year the men interested in going through the recruitment process could sign up using the Portal.

Friday night before recruitment begins, Panhellenic holds a "required" informational meeting. The president of each sorority (Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Xi Delta, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Iota, and Phi Sigma Sigma) makes a short presentation, and the recruitment chairs explain



Photo by Devin Brines

**A new member of the fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon is hoisted in the air by his brothers at run outs. The event took place Sat. night in the rec center, while walk outs were Fri. night.**

the upcoming week to the potential new members (PNMs). There are three rounds during winter recruitment; teas, spreads, and desserts. Teas begin the Saturday morning directly after the final informational meeting. During that day, PNMs visit every sorority's house on campus for 1/2 hour in assigned groups. After spreads a woman must be invited back to the next rounds of recruitment, spreads and desserts. Each round gives the PNM more time to get to know the sororities and therefore make a more informed decision.

Desserts are 1 hr and 15 minutes and the most formal of the three rounds. Sorority members and PNMs get to know each other on a more personal level. After a PNM's last dessert, she fills out a preference list. On this list she writes anywhere from 1 to 5 sororities that she would most definitely accept a final bid from

if she receives one. Only the Panhellenic Recruitment chair knows what a girl puts on this list. The sororities have their last round of confidential voting and make their own preference list.

On Friday morning, an alumna/neutral member of each sorority meets with the Greek life director at the Student Life Office to match up the PNMs and sororities mutual preference lists. Every girl that receives a bid, attends Walk Outs on Friday night where she announces which sorority she is joining. The sororities do not know the PNMs decisions until this moment. "This really makes for an exciting event", says Panhellenic chair Mallory. On the other side sits the fraternity.

Some reference to the fraternity recruitment process as less stressful and demanding. Recruitment rules remain the same for fraternities as sororities. Fraternities only have one night

for recruitment though. From Saturday to Thursday, each frat has a night dedicated strictly to them (Sigma Chi, Zeta Sigma, Theta Chi, PMA, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Tau Kappa Epsilon). These events are called Smokers. A dinner and presentation are given, followed by a mass lighting of cigars in which PNM's smoke cigars and get to know the current brothers of the fraternity.

The process appears less stressful, but for those deciding where to pledge, guys and girls, the decision is of no less value to either individual. As the crowds gather to watch the recruits make their decision on where they will pledge an anticipation spreads across the crowd, followed by an uproar from the crowd and supporters of the respective frat, a sympathy follows, as a long road lay ahead for each new recruit in the process of pledging, and becoming a true member of the Greek system.

## Aspinall describes upcoming consortium

By SETH FAULK  
GUEST WRITER

On March 27, the First Annual Medieval and Renaissance Studies Consortium will convene.

"We will meet...at Adrian College, and it will be a day long conference," said Dana Aspinall, assistant professor of English and one of the people behind this student convention.

The day will unfold in eight sessions, during which attending students will be allotted time to read their papers and undergo respective question and answer sessions.

"It really puts students on the spot," said Aspinall, who explains that the question and answer session will invoke the participants to "do all the things a professional person does."

The idea for the medieval and Renaissance consortium came to Aspinall during his tenure at a college in Massachusetts.

After being involved with this college's English consortium, he began to imagine these conferences with a Shakespearean twist.

Aspinall decided to enlist the help of surrounding schools in forming this modified consortium.

"I contacted eleven schools similar to ours," he said, a number that included Albion, Adrian, and Kalamazoo Colleges.

Upon achieving contact with the Shakespeare professors of each school, Aspinall worked with these professors to devise a blueprint for the convention.

Realizing the importance of the affiliation between literature and the other humanities, the consortium committee enlisted the participation of the humanities departments of these schools.

A "working committee" was formed to distribute posters promoting the event throughout the colleges, garnering a generous amount of submissions from students.

The responses were presented to a panel of representatives from four different schools who chose to accept 32 of the submissions.

"I am very pleased about [the number of acceptances]," said Aspinall, citing that it is a very encouraging number,

given that this is the first year of the consortium.

**Lauren Sypniewski ('10)**, who will be reading her exposition on the poem Sir Orfeo during the consortium, claims that she is "really excited" about her upcoming experience.

"I think it will not only be good for me to be put in that sort of environment, but also a good thing to include in a resume," said Sypniewski. "I'm nervous about the question section of the presentation...but I'm looking forward to it all, nonetheless."

Like Sypniewski, student participants will be allowed to read essays they have constructed on any topic in medieval and Renaissance studies, including literature, art, music, philosophy, history, and religious studies.

Aspinall elects that the consortium will be "good professional training for advanced study," as it was contrived to assist students who are preparing to enter graduate and law schools.

"This really is a big deal," he added. "It will hopefully go on forever."



Photo by Devin Brines

**Natalie Owens ('11) is presented with a t-shirt by Sarah Scow ('10). After saying her name, Owens announced that she was joining Alpha Xi Delta and ran to her new sisters.**



# SUN plans third annual recycling competition

By HUGH JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Students United for Nature (SUN) has teamed up with the Alma College recycling committee for the third annual recycling competition.

Each year they strive to have better participation than the last, and the results a showing.

The recycling competition shows students the importance of respecting nature with the help of a little competition.

"I try to recycle. I don't take it too seriously, but I feel the little bit I do helps" said **Dylan Snyder ('13)**.

The competition works with each hall consisting of a team, and each team completes to have the most recyclable material

and smallest amount of trash.

"Last year the halls did a great job keeping trash out of the bins. I hope this year's competition will show the halls the importance of recycling, and also to not put garbage in the bins and recycle the recyclables," said **Bailey Buyak ('10)**, President of SUN.

The competition starts this month.

Organizers advise all halls to do the best they can to keep trash out of the bins and recycle whenever possible.

The winning hall will be known as the greenest hall and be the recipient of the first place prize.

"I think having a recycling competition is a great idea. If there's an actual competition, I think a lot more people will strive to do it. I'm going to try to get my hall to win,"

said **Chelsea Wolfe ('13)**.

In addition to the annual recycling competition, SUN encourages environmental education and activism.

SUN is a student-led environmental organization at Alma College. They promote environmental education and environmental awareness.

TheSUNgroup has worked closely with the local schools to promote environmental awareness. They work with the local community by organizing and implementing river cleanups, adopt-a-highway cleanups and tree-planting/green space plantings.

They have been voted most active and influential student group at Alma College two out of the last five years and have received distinction by the Service Learning Program on campus.

# Vivian publishes second novel in 'Tall Grass Trilogy'

By SEAN WEBBER  
STAFF WRITER

Robert Vivian, associate professor for English, has come to see the second installment of his *Tall Grass Trilogy* come to fruition.

The Alma College professor followed up his flagship novel, *The Mover of Bones*, with *Lamb Bright Saviors*, a novel "driven by voices," said Vivian.

He spent three years sculpting the text and underwent at least seven revisions, he said, to polish the 198-page novel.

*Lamb Bright Saviors* has already been praised as "A brave and profoundly moving novel of faith and forgiveness. A closely observed novel of voices, it speaks the tongues of America's impoverished underbelly and reveals, amid the squalor, mystery, goodness, and salvation," by Douglas Glover, author of *Elle* and *The Life and Times of Captain N*.

*Lamb Bright Saviors* explores redemption and forgiveness and centers around four men in their thirties who are haunted by a crime they committed together in their youths.

Vivian's characters are confronted by an apocalyptic preacher whose life's work is to die in front of them.

"Each novel is told by several different voices," he said.

Each installment of the *Tall Grass Trilogy* is set in Vivian's native Nebraska and is told from the point of view of several characters.

"The landscape and the fictional technique are really what make it work as a trilogy," he said.

"Writing novels is a wonderful, arduous, solo journey," said Vivian. "I am very lucky to have that kind of work."

Vivian has been a member of the Alma faculty since 2001, the year his first book, *Cold Snap as Yearning*, was published, which won the Society of Midland Authors Award in nonfiction and the Nebraska Center for the Book Award.

"Writing influences the teaching I do," says Vivian, "I look at novels as a reader and a teacher but also as a writer."

Vivian's monologues for men and women have been

published numerous times in *The Best American Monologues* and twenty of his plays have been produced in New York City.

His short story, "Apocalyptic Scars," won editor's choice award for Drunken Boat's First Annual Panliterary Award and his adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*, written for Studio Arena Theatre, ran in the winter of 2006.

Vivian's essays, stories, plays, and poems have been published in *Harper's*, *Georgia Review*, *Glimmer Train*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Ecotone*, *Cross Currents*, and many others.

Publisher's Weekly described Vivian as "a latter-day Faulkner set loose with no editorial restraints," while Sven Birkerts has declared, "Robert Vivian's

prose is lyrical and harrowing—harrowing in the Biblical sense."

Vivian considered the comparison to Faulkner an honor because the literary megalith served as an inspiration for his transition from poetry and drama to prose.

Author of *Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You*, Sue William Silverman stated: "Even when writing about violence, Vivian's prose glows with an internal light that creates a continual sense of wonder. With its multiple voices and keen sense of place, *Lamb Bright Saviors* takes those qualities that so defined a writer such as Faulkner and makes them new for a changed world."

The final installment of the *Tall Grass Trilogy*, *Another Burning Kingdom*, is currently in the works.

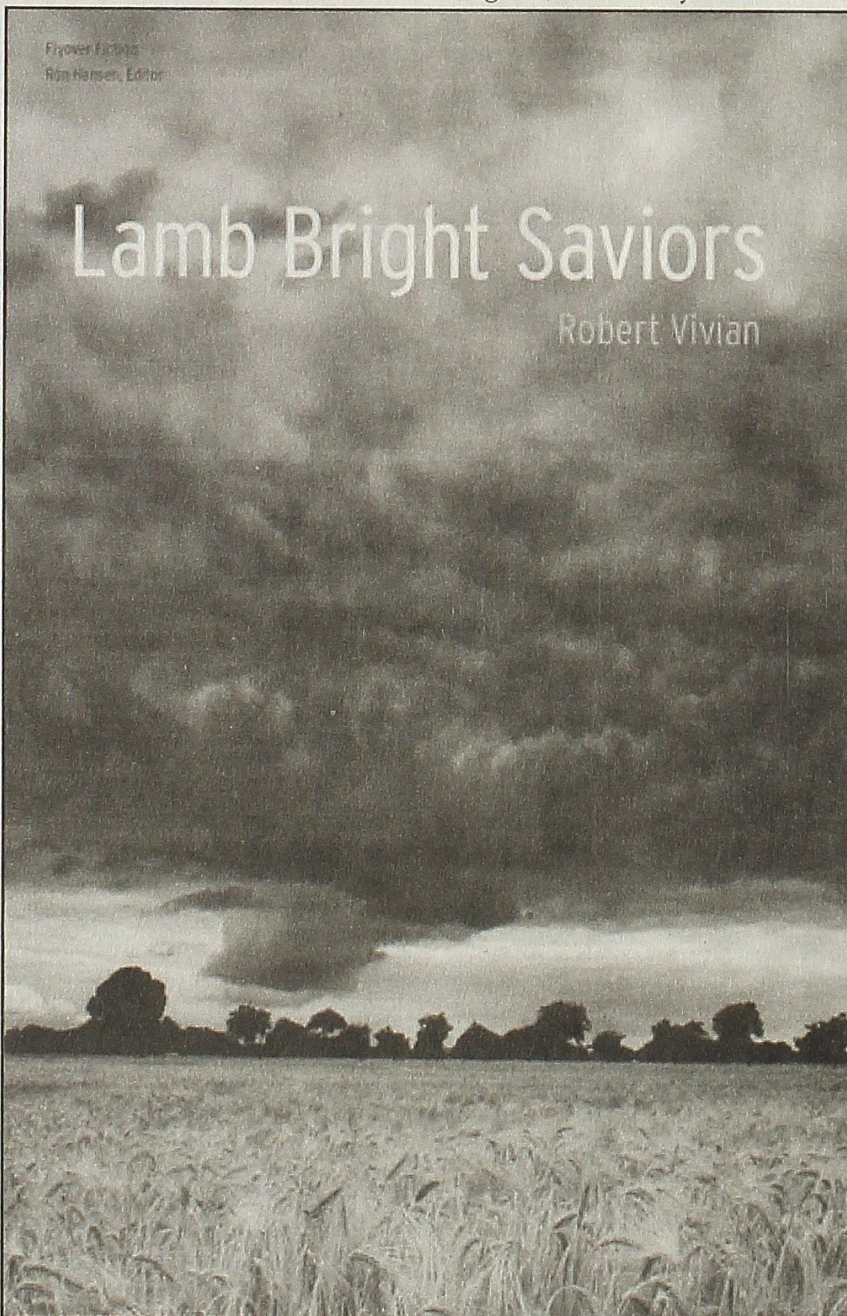


Photo courtesy of Robert Vivian

Vivian's novel, 'Lamb Bright Saviors,' has already received praise. He is now working on the third novel for the 'Tall Grass Trilogy.'

# Labov speaks on 'changing field of science education'

By ADAM ELLSWORTH  
GUEST WRITER

"When we think about the issues of evolution and sustainability, they are not strictly scientific," and despite the increasing specialization of our culture, "no one field can fully address them," said Jay Labov, a visiting Woodrow Wilson Fellow from the National Academy of Sciences.

"We need people who are able to work across disciplinary lines and (international) borders."

Labov spoke Tuesday, January 26, in the Heritage Center about the changing field of science education. Based in Washington DC, Labov is the Senior Adviser for Education and Communication for the National Research Council's Center for Education and contributing author to "A New Biology for the 21st Century."

Labov devoted his talk "Sustainability and Evolution: Rethinking Science Education" to "help us think a little bit different about science education in the future" where "Biology will be to the 21st century what Einstein and physics were to the 20th."

"People need to be able to make connections," Labov said, between both the diverse fields within science and those areas utilizing science to make decisions like business, economics, education, and public policy.

Labov, a former Biology Professor at Colby College, said, "The kind of education we need is not the kind we currently provide," with most science courses fashioned in what he called the "memorize, regurgitate, and forget" model of education.

"Today's introductory biology textbooks have more technical terms than introductory French textbooks have French," said Labov.

Citing studies that have found roughly half of all science undergrads change majors to a non-science within their first year, Labov challenged science professors to do a better job applying the material taught in 100-level courses to the students real lives.

"Most students don't make it past the introductory class, making them terminal courses" in fields outside their majors," Labov said.

The problems with science education are nothing new, as Labov believes the way in which he was taught science growing up lead many of his generation to hate science. Labov notes that many of those people who hated science class are now politicians and leaders who make decisions

based on input from scientists.

"All the folks going into positions of responsibility have been college students at one point and have had science classes," Labov said.

Labov spent some time discussing the trouble with teaching evolutionary concepts in America compared to the rest of the world, citing multiple polls done in the last few years.

According to a recent poll, Labov said 31 percent of science teachers "feel pressure" to teach non scientific alternatives to the concept of evolution. This is due in large part to the high number of people who deny evolution. In another survey, 97 percent of scientists in the United States were found to believe the statement "humans and other living things have evolved over time" to be true, compared to the 61 percent of the general public that believe the statement.

Biological evolution is the central organizing principal of modern biology, Labov said, and teaching biology properly without approaching evolution in some fashion is not possible. For one of the previous publications he helped work on, titled "Evolution, Creationism, and Intelligent Design," the National Academies of Sciences set up a series of focus groups to study the best methods to teach evolution to the public.

One of the findings, according to Labov, was that discussing whale evolution was much more explanatory and clear to those in the focus groups compared to teaching about Charles Darwin's Galapagos Island Finches. With whales, the changes from land dwelling to ocean dwelling organisms were large enough for people to observe compared to the less visibly significant variations in beak shape.

"The people in the focus groups thought Darwin's finches were just little brown birds," said Labov.

Connecting biological science concepts to real life has been made slightly easier as of late, Labov says, due in part to shows like "Cold Case" or "CSI" that use forensic science. Labov notes judges, lawyers, and those working in law enforcement have to deal with evidence that requires scientific processes and knowledge all the time.

Labov said he has done multiple classes and workshops with authorities so they can better understand scientific evidence like DNA and how to identify bad science.

"We can also use the same principals to know what happened 200 million years ago," said Labov.

## Attention Seniors:

Student Barlow Trophy Award invitation letters were sent out to qualifying students on January 28, 2010. Faculty received nomination material on January 29, 2010. If you did not receive a letter and believe you should have, please notify Kathy Wilk in the Provost's Office wilk@alma.edu (x7236). The faculty nomination deadline is February 3, 2010 and the self-nomination deadline is February 8, 2010.



## Internationally acclaimed and Grammy-nominated choir to perform alongside Alma Choir this weekend

By ANGELA FLYNN  
STAFF WRITER

The Central State University Chorus, a Grammy-nominated choir that has performed with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Alberta Walker and Termaine Hawkins, will be performing at the Heritage Center on Saturday, Feb. 6.

The choir rehearses for 45 minutes a day under the direction of William Henry Caldwell, the director of choral and vocal activities at Central State University.

"Choir rehearsals provide learning experiences but also present the student the opportunity to be expressive and creative," Caldwell said. "Every student makes a musical contribution and works hard."

There are various styles of music that the CSU Chorus will cover in their performance. They will perform music ranging from African American spirituals to contemporary gospel, according to Caldwell.

"We perform Western European Music in the style and manner in which it is supposed to be performed and yet we are very Afro-centric in our spirituals and gospel performances," Caldwell added.

He notes all the students in his choir are well-versed and can sing music from all periods and styles.

According to the CSU Chorus website, the choir traveled to Washington to perform for President George Bush in 1988. They also have recorded with Bill Cosby, Arsenio Hall, and the President of Senegal.

In 2001, they had their first tour of England and France where they performed at the Holy Trinity at Stratford Upon Avon, St. Paul's

Cathedral, the Canterbury Cathedral, the Cathedral of Notre Dame and the American Church in Paris.

William Nichols, chair and secrest professor of music and director of choirs at Alma, and the Alma college choirs will be joining the CSU Chorus during their performance, Nichols said.

This will not be the first time that the two schools have met though.

A few years ago, the Alma College Choir visited to Central State University as a part of their February tour, Nichols explained.

"I think every member of the Alma Choir that year would say that the concert at CSU and the party we had with their singers after the concert was the highlight of our tour and a valued memory," he said. "We are hopeful that the CSU singers will feel the same about their visit to our campus."

At this part of the tour, Nichols explained how Caldwell had arranged for the CSU Chorus to learn some of the songs that the Alma College Choir had been rehearsing so that the two choirs may combine.

"With their roots in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the CSU choir members will have had many musical and worship experiences that Alma students may not have had," said Nichols.

"But singers from both choirs will approach music in the same way: prepare the notes and rhythms, work to build the strength and beauty of our voices, and strive to sing from the heart."

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors over 62, and free for all Alma College faculty and students. Tickets for children under 18 are also free. Seating is reserved. For any ticket information, call (989) 463-7327.



Photo courtesy of Scott Shaw of "The Plain Dealer"

The esteemed Central State University Chorus will be singing on campus this Sat. The AC Choir will be joining them during the performance.

## National Breast Cancer Awareness Month creates an opportune time to address self-exam techniques

By ELEANOR KING  
STAFF WRITER

February is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and, being such, now is an appropriate time to re-address some techniques to predict, prevent and catch breast cancer early.

In the United States one in eight women has been diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their life.

The incidence of breast cancer in the United States is one of the highest in the world. Fortunately, many significant medical advances in the past decade have helped to prevent death as a result of breast cancer and breast cancer metastasis.

Early diagnosis is the best pre-

ventative over innovative treatments. While only 7 percent of breast cancer cases are found in people under the age of 40, regular self-examinations is an extremely beneficial practice to begin while still young.

The best way to remember to regularly complete a breast self-exam is to get in the practice of doing it after you take a shower. While it may seem awkward or invasive, it is essential to be familiar with the regular shape and form of your breasts so as to actively recognize any abnormalities.

To properly administer a breast self-exam, you should use only your three middle fingers. To examine the left breast, lie down and raise your left arm above the head. Slowly move your fingers in

a dime-sized motion around the outside of the breast.

Three different types of finger pressure should be used to properly examine each breast. Pressing down lightly helps to discover any abnormalities in the tissue closest to the surface of the breast.

Similarly, using medium pressure allows you to examine tissue a little further down.

Finally, in order to check for problems next to the rib cage, you must press down rather hard. However, if it is painful, then you are pressing too hard.

The over-all movement of your hands should start near your armpit and travel straight down until the skin under the breast is checked. Then start again slightly to the side of the armpit and re-

peat the procedure moving in another vertical line.

This should be done until you can only feel the ribs and clavicle.

Another examination procedure suggests moving in a circular pattern inwards towards the nipple. However, the most recent studies by the American Cancer Society suggest the vertical method.

Most importantly it is essential that the complete area is examined. Tumors can develop outside of the fleshy region of the breast. So, what do you do if you discover something strange during your self-exam?

If you feel pain or discomfort during your self-exam this could be due to something other than cancerous tissue. Pain can be a result of your typical menstrual

cycle, birth control pills or potential pregnancy.

On the other hand, the presence of a lump should be discussed with your physician immediately. While a lump may not necessarily signify cancer, it can be an indicator of something that can put you at a greater risk of developing cancer later in life.

Women with relatives who have been diagnosed with breast cancer are at a greater risk of developing a tumor and they should be more aware of changes in the tissue.

A breast self-exam is the most assertive way to prevent serious issues as a result of late stage breast cancer. Take the time this month to get in the habit of doing something undeniably good for your health.

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## Theater prepares for upcoming show

By MOLLY HENNING  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Theater is preparing for the production of the play, "Crimes of the Heart," which will be performed Feb. 18, 19, 20, and 21.

**Tara Bouldrey ('11), Paige Davis ('12), Amanda Ewing ('11), Logan Ricket ('11), Tara Riedel ('13), and Okwara Uzoh ('09)** are cast in the play. Ashley Sawatzke, the theater intern, will be directing.

"We're in the third week of rehearsal process," says Joseph Jezewski, the director of theater. "The process is important as a teaching tool for the students to apply what they learn from class."

Jezewski described that for the casting process, the directors make the scripts available as early as possible so the students can read the play to see if they're interested in auditioning and which roles they'd be interested in.

"It's important for someone who's auditioning to be as prepared as they can be," said Jezewski. "It's important to not only have read the play and the scenes for the audition, but for them to make choices about how they're going to act out the scenes."

Sawatzke said that she had an idea of what actors she had to cast before she picked the show.

"This show is a lot smaller, so things got competitive for awhile," Sawatzke said. "Only six people were going to be cast, which is less than half of the people who auditioned."

It was especially competitive for the two male roles.

"Normally, all the guys that audition are cast, with the exception

of one or two. This time, only two were cast," Ricket says.

Jezewski explained that putting a play together is a six-week long process, with rehearsals four hours a night, six days out of the week.

"The majority of rehearsals are spent on smaller rehearsals, working very intensively on specific scenes," says Jezewski. "One day a week each week we put large chunks of the play together—we might do act one, we might do act two, we might put it all together."

"The nature of theater is that

it's collaborative—all of the people are involved, whether they're a faculty designer or actors or student designer or the people who are running the lights... every individual piece of the whole play is very important," Jezewski said.

"With a specific scene, it becomes very difficult to say 'that was the director, that was the actor, that was the script.' It was the way all of those things worked together."

This show is even more intense for everyone than previous shows due to the small cast.

"At least two or three people

are in all night, every night," Sawatzke said. "Everyone knew it would be much more intensive than previous rehearsal processes. Everyone's been having to put in more time."

Sawatzke, Ricket and Uzoh agreed that the most strenuous time when putting a play together is tech week.

"It's when we add all the technical elements," Sawatzke said. "We look at costumes for the first time in the light, some props will be added for the first time that night... It's the most intensive and hectic things get around here."

The very roles in this play have proved challenging for the actors as well.

"This role is really emotionally demanding," said Ewing. "In the past I'm usually the comic relief roles. This one is a lot darker, so that's been really strenuous trying to find the dark place, the scary place."

Despite the strenuous efforts, Ricket enjoys the challenge.

"The best part is growing as an actor," Ricket says. "Every time you work, you learn something new. That's always the reward in the end."



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Some of the same students from last semester's performance of "An Absolute Turkey" (pictured above) will be acting in "Crimes of the Heart" later this month.

## Area band nominated by Grand Rapids radio station

By KATIE GORDON  
STAFF WRITER

The Borogoves, an acoustic duo consisting of locals Erin Cheyne and Danny Cook, have been nominated by the Grand Rapids radio station WYCE for two "Jammie" awards for 2009.

The duo was nominated for Best New Group as well as Best Folk Duo by WYCE 88.1 FM.

The band was established in the spring of 2009 when Cook and Erin Cheyne were set up by friends. While the relationship didn't last, they've been singing together ever since.

"It's pretty amazing to get noticed like that after only a few months of playing out as a duo," Cook said. "We've been lucky enough to get some pretty cool opportunities and I'm just thankful for the chances we've had."

The album for which they were nominated, "Bottlecap Throttle-knob," is their first and only album officially out.

It was made on the "cheapest little six-track system money can buy," said Cook. "If we can get noticed with a recording I made in my own bedroom, think of what could we do with a fully produced album?"

The Borogoves' music is inspired by simple, every day encounters.

"I don't decide to sit down and write a song; it comes when it comes," said Cook. "Sometimes I'll be going about daily life and an interesting turn of phrase will come to my head. Then I'll build a whole song off of that one phrase."

"Other times the guitar comes first and I'll put together a song built off of some groovy guitar bit I stumbled across," adds Cook.

Their sound is relaxed and fun, but very poetic and "relatable to our generation," said **Meghan Cheyne ('13)**, Erin Cheyne's sister.

The award nomination is a big step for Cook and Cheyne, who have been working hard on getting their name out there.

They have enjoyed mostly playing at music festivals and bars around Michigan.

"[The nominations] are a really good thing for them, it gets them a lot more recognition than festivals do," said Meghan Cheyne.

"Hopefully the [recognition] will open up some opportunities to get into a good studio and make something even better," said Cook.

Last fall, the Borogoves played at Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe's annual "Walk for Orphans."

"It was a cool opportunity to go



Photo courtesy of The Borogoves

and experience a bit of Alma culture," said Cook.

The event took place in the middle of McIntyre Mall with the audience sitting on blankets.

"It was really relaxed, but you could tell everyone really enjoyed it," said Meghan Cheyne, who set up the gig for the Borogoves.

"As people walked by, the music grabbed their attention to stop by and listen, as well as gain awareness of the cause," said **Rachel Blackhurst ('10)**, who attended the event. "I love that they had a sense of humor."

Cook said he had a lot of fun performing "for a great cause."

From this visit, Cook was attracted to the location and reputation of Alma, and he began considering enrolling as a student himself, according to Cook. The fact that Meghan Cheyne is a student at Alma as well is an added incentive.

Cook plans on attending next fall.

The Borogoves have been taking up every opportunity that comes their way, especially to perform.

"Performing is a rush," Cook said. "It's like an addiction. If I have even one person listening I will play for hours."

To check out some of this band's potential, become a fan on Facebook or listen on Myspace.



Ugg boots and muscle shirts: fashion woes on campus

By LAUREL TILOT  
STAFF WRITER

Here at Alma College we have a very diverse population, in all senses of the word: many races, many interests, many majors and minors. There are also many different senses of fashion. In this sense there is good taste, bad taste, and really no tasted at all, and it's pretty apparent when sitting in SAGA that all of these have plenty of advocates all over campus. In the good taste category, we have clothing that fits in a flattering manner, accessories that match this clothing, and a hairstyle to match both of these.

In the bad and no taste categories we have many more items that have dredged themselves up from past eras. One of the items that fits into these latter categories is the skin tight leggings. Now, I haven't worn leggings since the fourth grade, so I may have missed something somewhere along the lines of fashion, but what I understood them to be when I wore them was an undergarment; something worn under a school uniform skirt when it was too cold outside to wear shorts. Nowadays however, we see them worn as pants, tights, and everything in between. It's not nearly as offensive when girls have the courtesy to

wear a long shirt or skirt over top of these, covering their behinds in a tasteful manner, but when leggings are paired with a sweatshirt that does nothing to cover the unmentionables of the human body, often times it's a sight that makes both myself and more burly sailors blush. Another bit of fashion that I don't quite understand is the need for survival gear in the summer. That's right, I'm mentioning fur-covered or suede Ugg Boots. I hear they're comfortable, I hear they're warm, but I don't think that Michigan weather truly constitutes the need for Arctic footwear. On Alma's campus the sidewalks are often salted and clear of

most deep snow, but people still feel the need to protect their extremities with a boot that would make most Eskimos jealous. It's not only the ladies though that make little faux pas; our male counterparts are the perpetrators of a few as well. The idea of the muscle shirt often confuses me. I understand that many sports require a great range of motion of these beefy arms but is there truly an exercise or sport that requires a man to show his nipples? Again, this is something I've witnessed in our supposedly family-friendly cafeteria and it baffles me and makes me more than a little skeptical of the sense of taste and courtesy of our student population. Finally, the one norm that many students practice that is completely related to what I believe is a lack of respect for the faculty here, and that is the wearing of pajamas to class.

I've never truly understood what it is about college that makes people think that it's okay not to get dressed in the morning. The professors, coaches, TAs, and maintenance workers get dressed in order to their jobs, why is it that students don't get dressed to do theirs? Personally, if a professor came in to teach me in their flannel pants and a thread bare t-shirt, I'd be more than a little offended and I'd wonder at the level of their competency to teach me, so I assume that professors would wonder about the competency of the people that they're supposed to be teaching when they can't be bothered to get dressed. All in all, the styles of the Alma College campus are a wonderful and enjoyable experience for myself and hopefully many others here, but when fashion goes from edgy to offensive, I'd hope we could all learn to draw a clearer line.

Multitude of organizations hinder philanthropic reach

By CHRIS CHESNEY  
FREELANCE WRITER

With so organizations on campus asking for money, why do we blame Alma College for making us broke? This is what I find asking myself about once a week after seeing a new philanthropy event, fundraiser, or charity auction. It was even brought up in the Student Leaders' luncheon with a presidential candidate not too long ago. The candidate responded to a question about student activities by questioning whether Alma had the capacity to handle so many organizations. I find myself agreeing with him more and more, and glad that an administrator will question our ability to have yet another money-seeking, event-creating, time-taking organization. Yet, as a senior with graduation almost here, it is up to the younger students to take charge in what could be an extremely prosperous proposition: consolidation. Go to a Student Congress meeting and look for yourself. With almost 50 organizations on campus as members of Student Congress (with several more not yet attaining that status), attendance can lack. Why? Because those in charge of one organization are most likely in charge of another, but can only

vote in attendance for a single group. Too many groups on campus are run by the same people, as many fall by the wayside in terms of importance or effectiveness. The types of fundraisers are limited, so often on campus you will see several organizations "create" the same event throughout the year and receiving the same disparaging result: lack of participation. But why would we, Alma College students with intellect and drive, fail to see that by joining together and creating massive events that we would have more fun and be more successful than if we continue with the status quo? I understand that many of these organizations have different purposes. At Alma College, where you are able to develop into the person you want to be, interests diverge and ideas arise. But with over 1300 students on campus, student participation is only so limited. There are structural boundaries that limit participation, not to mention that whole class and homework thing. And yet we continue to see the same thing time and time again. My proposal, in which I invite others to amend, establish, and utilize, would be to have joint philanthropy events and donate to a charity the amount of money that would truly make a difference.

Organization specific fundraisers can be cut. Each group does not need to make their own money to continue to survive and plan fun activities and events for its members and the community. That's what Student Congress budget allocations are for. All that is needed is to just show up to Student Congress, ask for money for events, and continue to be leaders on campus. Major fundraisers should contain pooled resources as well. We could generate a large enough sum to battle breast cancer, autism, or whatever is deemed appropriate. Currently, we throw small amounts of money every direction to every charity imaginable. If we consolidate, come together as a group of organizations, instead of an organization by itself, we could plan large fundraisers like Relay for Life regularly. Obviously some charities may not gain donations from Alma College students during a single year, but one Alma College campus fundraiser aimed at any local charity could keep them going through the years. Rotate the philanthropy events with entire campus involvement by every organization instead of small, barely felt hiccups on the radar of Alma College fundraising. This is how Alma College could truly raise money with effective and far-reaching ends.

PUZZLE CORNER

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

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## Video advertisements are annoying

By STEPHEN SORENSON  
STAFF WRITER

Ah, 2010.

America has seen the first year of the first African American's Presidency.

Musicians everywhere witnessed the death of The King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

It was nostalgically popular for the film and video game industries to produce remakes and rebirths of old series from the 90s.

And finally, video advertisements really started to flood all over the Internet.

I speak for everyone when I say that, generally, video advertisements are annoying.

Unless an advertisement is new, features one's personal interests,

and is entertaining to watch, nobody ever particularly wants to see them.

We've had to suffer their appearance in internet video players everywhere.

Nowhere is safe; YouTube, Skype, and even Game Trailers are all victims to the ads.

Just when I've clicked on the play button and think I'm about to watch the latest entry of Hard News on ScrewAttack.com, bam! I get 20 seconds of McDonalds showing me McCafe deals.

At some point, we all wonder why these ads had to break free of television where they have always just been.

Sure, businesses must take advantage of new marketing opportunities to grow but, in a way, this method feels unfair because

there are currently too many kinks in the system that must be worked out.

I've noticed three main types of video ads, each having fatal problems.

My least favorite is the ad that continuously plays outside of the video pane. These ads tend to have quite an impact on the load time of the movie I'm trying to watch and sometimes plays sounds against the movie sound I'm trying to listen to.

Probably the most common type is the ad that doesn't necessarily play video, but pops up along the bottom of the video pane roughly five seconds into your movie's time.

Their goal is to be seen while your attention is on the pane, but most people have already learned to leave the mouse over the general close button area to get rid of it as

quickly as possible.

It seems the only ads that make sense are the ones the play before your desired movie.

They may delay the load, but once they've finished playing, they don't affect the movie at all.

However, they are repetitively used and usually aren't easily compatible with the website's flash player, causing them to freeze, thus indefinitely increasing the wait time for your desired movie.

The website that best handles video ads is YouTube followed by Game Trailers.

Game Trailers used to allow your Internet cache to remember loaded ads.

The ads would load as they play, so you'd have to see them once, but every time the same ad showed up, you were able to skip it, entirely eliminating repetition.

YouTube is great because of its player compatibility, so the ads never freeze. It also keeps track of the length of your movie so you'll never find yourself stuck having to watch a 30 second ad for your 60 second movie.

Since YouTube now features TV shows, they place one ad where commercial breaks would normally take place. The only problem is repetition.

I want to see more marketers advertising on the Internet, not because I like the ads, but because I want to see a variety.

Once enough ads are in circulation and once enough websites decide to follow YouTube's method of handling them, we will have achieved the perfect balance of content marketers, content web hosts and, most importantly, content browsers.

## Bagpipes deserve appreciation

By LAUREL TILOT  
STAFF WRITER

Alma College, being a liberal arts institution, sports a huge range of disciplines that hopefully appeal to many students from around the United States and other countries.

One of these disciplines displays a group of the most skilled and gifted students that any institution could hope for, and this is the music department.

Whether you play a trombone or triangle, saxophone or musical saw, the music department will find a way to fit you in and push you past a level of skill you have never dreamed of achieving.

There is one group of these students, though, that get a little less mention, although they are an inherent part of Scottish heritage: the bagpipers.

Being a bagpiper myself, I strive to find a way to use my talent in a way that others can enjoy.

Our group plays for events like the Kiltie Band Indoor Show, Honors Day Convocation, and many sports events in-between

these, but once these shows finished, the bagpipers seem to cloister themselves away into Jones Auditorium on Thursday nights.

Over the years that I've been playing pipes here for Alma College, I've come to understand that not only are people surprised when they find out the bagpipers play for so little, but there are also a select few that truly dislike the sound of bagpipes.

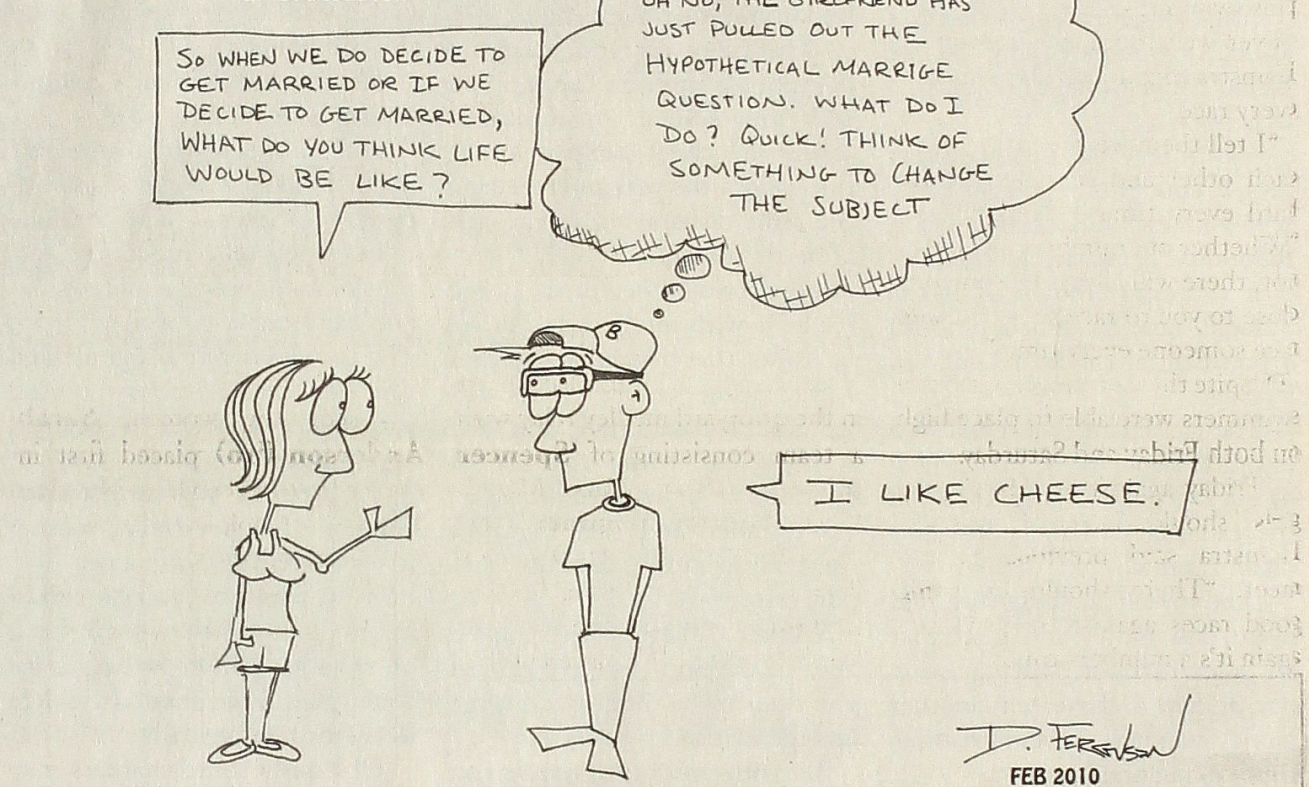
I've heard it compared to the sound of a dying cat more times than I care to mention and I'd like to disagree most heartily—I've never heard a cat discipline their voice boxes into a three way harmonic chord, even when they are dying.

Bagpipes just aren't obnoxious! They're a wonderful part of the Scottish heritage that Alma College is known for and it seems rather ironic that people who really don't like bagpipes to come to a school so steeped in this particular culture.

Alma is even known as Scotland, USA—I know, I saw it on the

## APPETITE FOR ALMA

By D. Ferguson



sign.

This being said, I'd desperately hope to see the bagpipers involved in more on campus.

Be it a presentation, a concert, or just a celebration of Alma

College's heritage, the bagpipers should be more than welcomed to play where they wish and not bashed in hushed conversations outside of the practice rooms.

Alma College should be proud

of the huge amount of talent that graces the campus and hopefully someday soon the pipers will get a little more recognition and little more public air time so that everyone can enjoy.

## Evolutionary apologetics should not be necessary

By SEAN WEBBER  
STAFF WRITER

Guest speaker Dr. Jay Labov spoke last week in the Heritage Center about the Theory of Evolution and the nature of science.

He discussed the nature of the scientific method and some misconceptions about Evolutionary Theory which I have found troubling since I first heard about them.

For instance, some who are critical of Evolutionary Theory suggest that the Theory is little more than an educate guess, and that Intelligent Design is just as plausible in relation to the

creation of life. Such is the case with the Kansas School Board.

Now, I don't want to criticize the realm of belief, but it seems to me that the case is no longer about belief as much as it is about education.

I am not going to go into the dogged and fatigued territory that comes with citing separation of church and state, but I will pose a simple experiment concerning the nature of the scientific method.

You, darling reader, would agree with my hypothesis that the colors blue and yellow mixed together produce green. I

f I were to mix blue and yellow together a hundred, a thousand, or a million times over the

combination would yield the color green every time.

You would accept that blue plus yellow equals green as being as close to proven fact as possible.

This is the nature of the scientific method, as well as the process by which the Theory of Evolution was conceived and tested, and like the results from our cognitive fun-time, repetitive testing has supported the hypotheses of the Theory.

It is as close to fact as possible.

Now to address the primary issue: I was troubled that a college professor, in our progressive and technological society, found it necessary to travel from event to event and campus to campus

addressing these misconceptions.

In a society that at the forefront of science has managed to stop light itself, we are culturally restrained by a lack of exposure to science.

This is a lack of exposure to logic that will continue to restrain us from discovery.

I find it particularly tragic that Dr. Labov is essentially acting (forgive the religious term) as an Apologist for Evolution.

I find college a wonderfully enlightening place. I have access to so as much knowledge as I can sink my teeth into. I love learning.

However, in the months and years to come, college enrollment

is bound to plummet as a result of the economy.

High school dropout rates will increase.

We will become even more constrained by the lack of exposure to science. I must apologize for being so morose, but sometimes I have to admit that living in a society so constrained by ignorance bothers me.

Being more honest, it terrifies me.

We came to college for a higher education. We are in a bubble with a bird's eye view of the rest of the world, orchestrated as if on a stage.

If you can see it, it ought to bother you, too.

## 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 Almanianî & tell us whatís on your mind!



# Swim team nears end of season

By MARIA CASTANEDA  
STAFF WRITER



Photo by Devin Brines

Madison Behmlander ('12) participated in Alma's swim meet against Kalamazoo Saturday, winning the Open 200 Breaststroke.

This past weekend the men's and women's swim team competed in back to back meets, facing Calvin College and St. Mary's College on Friday and Kalamazoo College on Saturday.

The men and women lost to both Calvin College and Kalamazoo College but the women beat St. Mary's College with a score of 125-97.

During both meets, the men and women's team had close races but were deterred by the low number of swimmers.

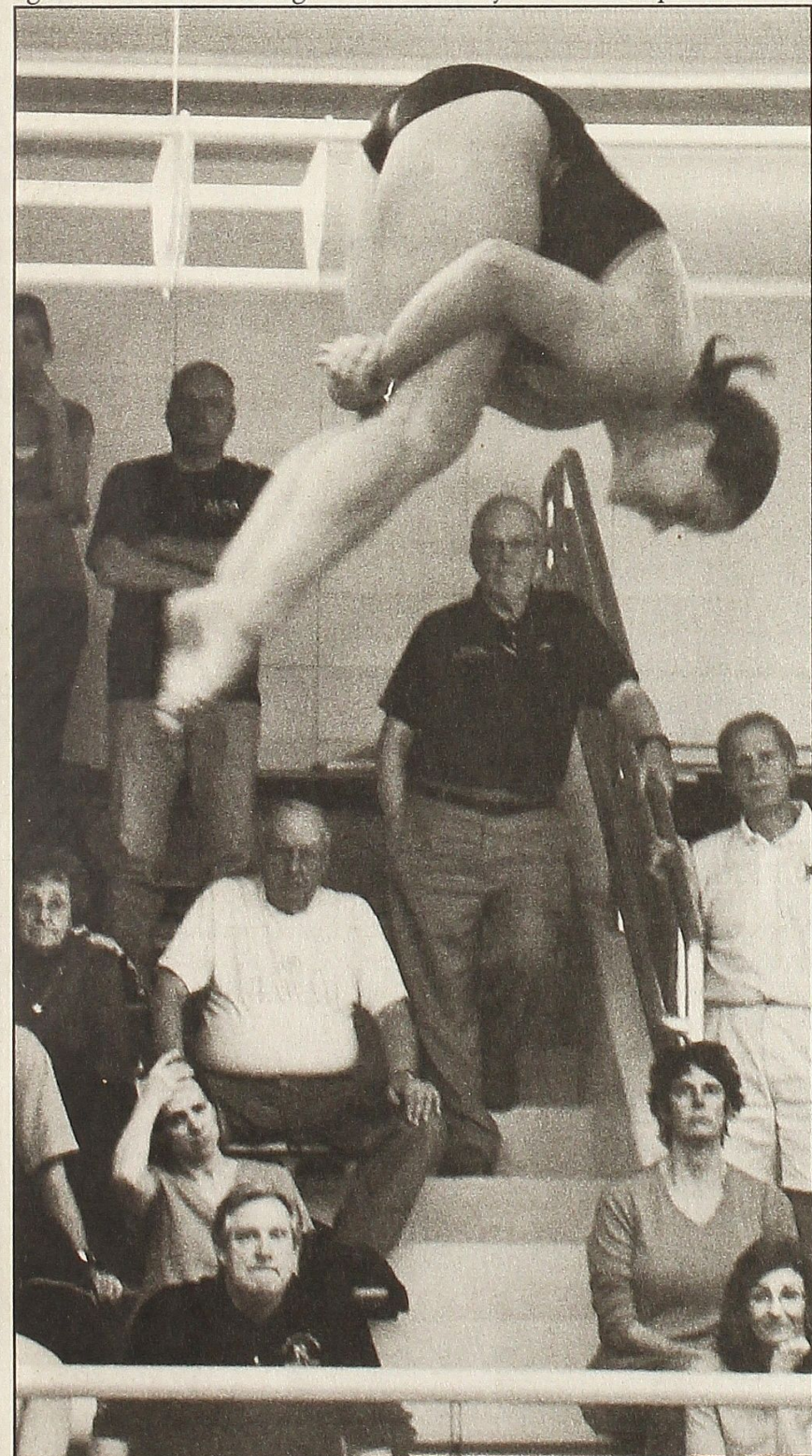
"It's just a depth issue," head coach Chris Hamstra said. "We have eight on the roster. Calvin and Kalamazoo both have twenty plus swimmers."

Even with the lack of swimmers, Hamstra encourages his swimmers every race.

"I tell them we need to support each other and go out and race hard every time," Hamstra said. "Whether our numbers are low or not, there will always be someone close to you to race so go out and race someone every time."

Despite the low numbers, several swimmers were able to place high on both Friday and Saturday.

"Friday against St. Mary's, the girls should be really good," Hamstra said previous to the meet. "There should be some good races against the guys but again it's a numbers thing."



On Friday the men placed first in the 400-yard medley relay with a team consisting of **Spencer Johnson ('10)**, **Max Marsh ('12)**, **Andrew Brunner ('11)** and **Tim Imber ('13)**. Also, Brunner placed first in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard freestyle and Marsh placed first in

200 yard IM.

For the women, **Sarah Anderson ('10)** placed first in the 100-yard freestyle and **Jordan Bryde ('11)** placed first in the 100-yard backstroke.

On Saturday, the men and women's swim team competed at home and again had several good races.

Brunner placed first in the open 200 free and Anderson placed first in the open 100 free. Bryde placed first in the open 200 back, **Madison Behmlander ('12)** first in the 200 breast stroke, and a team consisting of Anderson, **Shaina Buhl ('11)**, **Jordan Newhouse ('12)**, and **Christine Vicari ('11)** placed first in the

open 200 free.

These back-to-back meets were the last on the swim teams' schedule before the league meet. Using these to prepare for the MIAA championships the swimmers did not swim their usual events.

"Most people won't swim their main event. I don't want people to swim the same thing back-to-back," Hamstra said.

The league meet is a three -day tournament, so this weekend also helped the swimmers prepare for the length of this competition.

"We're going to take this weekend to prepare for the three day competition," Hamstra said. "Having this weekend is a good

learning experience to get us ready for the big meet."

The swim season is quickly coming to an end, but the swimmers have the biggest part of the season ahead of them and hope to drop many of their times.

"We expect big time drops at the end of the year," Hamstra said. "It's hard to tell how the season went until after the last meet."

Aside from places and numbers, the team has grown closer than before this year.

"As a team we're closer than any past years. We're a really close knit team," Hamstra said. "As a coach I really couldn't ask for anything more from my athletes."

## Track and field starts season before snow melts away

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Winter is nearly over. The snow is (supposed to be) beginning to melt and days are getting warmer. Spring is approaching and that can only mean one thing—track season! But the Alma College track team certainly isn't going to wait for the snow to be gone to get started. They have been practicing in the Recreation Center in preparation and anticipation for the 2010 season.

This year, the men's team has over 30 members and the women's team has over 20, competing in events including sprints, middle distance, hurdles, long distance, shot put, discus, high jump, and pole vault.

The Scots have already participated in four indoor competitions. There will be three more indoor competitions (hosted by Trine University and Central Michigan University) before the outdoor season begins.

The Scots were on the road for the Holiday Open on Dec. 18, the Mike Lints Open on Jan. 15, and the Bob Eubanks Open on Jan. 22. All of these were held at Grand Valley State University. Results for these meets are not available currently.

On Saturday, the team took part in the Collegiate Open event at Grand Valley State University. The Scots went up against some very stiff competition that will likely be tougher than anything they will encounter from other MIAA schools.

Other schools present included Hope College, Northwood University, Aquinas College, Ashland University, and the University of Detroit Mercy.

Members of the team have been preparing for competition for months by putting in the many miles necessary to be in top form.

The hard work has already paid off—many competitors posted personal record times at the Grand Valley State events.

**Emily Scherer ('10)** placed 15<sup>th</sup>

overall in the women's 60-meter dash event.

**Kellee Lemcke ('11)** took third place in the women's 5000-meter run.

**Abby Witham ('13)** placed fourth in the pole vault.

On the men's side, **Matt Deja ('12)** placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the 800-meter run.

**Garrett Lacy ('13)** and **Mike Bremer ('11)** placed fourth and ninth, respectively, in the 5000-meter run.

**Kyle Payne ('11)** placed seventh in the pole vault.

A full schedule of more than a dozen events is on the horizon for the Track and Field team, both indoor and outdoor.

Remaining indoor events include the MIAA Invationals and the NCAA National Indoor tournament. Outdoor events include two official MIAA events as well as many invitational events.

Top performers will be invited to Regionals and then Nationals in late May.

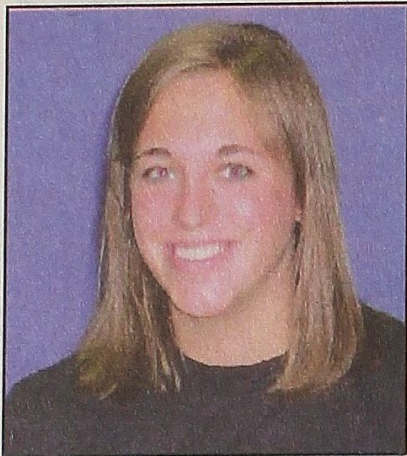
Photo courtesy of Skip Treynor

Hanna Leestma ('11) dives from 3m board in senior day 2010 on Saturday. Alma men's swimming and diving team lost 180-64, while the women lost 145-97.



## Scotlight: Hoblet unsuspected success

By MARIA CASTENEDA  
STAFF WRITER



When Meagan Hoblet began playing basketball, she never thought she would continue playing it up through high school and even college.

Hoblet did continue playing all through her four years in college and recently became only the 14<sup>th</sup> player in Alma women's basketball to score 1,000 points in her career.

Hoblet reached this milestone in the women's game against Calvin College. She scored the 1,000<sup>th</sup> point with a jump shot hit at the 16 minute mark.

Standing at 5'9", Hoblet is one of the taller girls on the team and plays center and forward.

"I started playing basketball because I used to love slamming on the Little Tike hoops, the small red and blue hoops, with the little basketball," Hoblet said as to why she began playing. Her career began in second grade going to camps near her hometown of Cadillac until seventh grade when she joined a competitive league.

"The first competitive team I played for was Cadillac in seventh grade," Hoblet said. "If you can say seventh grade basketball is very competitive."

Hoblet graduated from Cadillac High where she earned several awards including All Area Dream Team and Big North Conference Second Team. During high school Hoblet mostly focused on basketball but she did also played volleyball.

"In high school I played

volleyball through sophomore year," Hoblet said. "However I was the awkward kid in spandex sitting on the sidelines the entire time. I did love it when I got to play in practice though."

After graduating from Cadillac High, Hoblet did not plan on continuing her basketball career. "I never planned on playing college basketball," Hoblet said. "In high school, I was not a starter, I was not amazing, but I loved playing."

During her senior year though, Hoblet received a recruitment letter from Sienna Heights. "I never entertained the thought of playing college basketball, so with this letter I obviously reconsidered," Hoblet said. "I wasn't interested in Sienna, but coming to Alma I decided to try out in hopes of getting a spot on the team."

"Sometimes I still ask, why Alma?" Hoblet said of her decision on coming to Alma. "But really, I wanted to be a part of team, I didn't want to attend a huge school. Also, I'm a family person and home is only an hour and half away."

Hoblet graduates this spring with a Sociology major and a Psychology minor. After Alma she plans on going to Western Michigan University. "I'm going into Western Michigan University's graduate program for school counseling. I'll be living in Cadillac during this time and substituting and helping out with the girls' basketball program there," Hoblet said.

Being at Alma, Hoblet has made memories she will never forget. "Individually scoring my 1000<sup>th</sup> point at Calvin is pretty memorable," Hoblet said. "What sticks out the most to me over the four years though, is from freshman year when Kathy Bigelow and I were named the freshman tandem. This is when I knew that I would connect with my team and that college basketball was going to be a great experience."

## Women's basketball upsets St. mary's

By SHANDEN DELAMATER  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday, the women's basketball team upset Saint Mary's by a three, in a 79-76 contest here in Alma. The Scots, previously 3-15 (2-7) improved to 4-15 overall, (3-7) in league play. Saint Mary's previously setting in a three way tie for third in the league, drops to (5-6) in the league and 10-9 overall. The Scots performed in a whole new light today. The Scots seemed to play a whole new game today, with composure and persistent. Only committing 19 turnovers, the Scots played a clean game, seemingly a whole new team. "I am very proud of the team today, because they played at their

level", said Coach Brown.

The Scots who normally average scoring rounds-out in the 50's, shot lights out this afternoon at 49 percent from the floor, and 83 percent from the free-throw line. The Belles (Saint Mary's) shot 47 percent from the floor and 70 percent from the free throw line. Although the Belles dominated the glass with 38 rebounds, the lady Scots prevailed in a game that went to the end.

After trailing at halftime 37-38, the Scots came out with a new determination. After a close, back and forth half, the Scots still trailed until **Megan Hoblet (10')**, scored and was fouled by Anna Kammrath. The field goal was good followed by the free-throw giving the Scots a two point lead 68-66. Saint Mary's would answer,

but **Lacey Best-Rowden (10')**, Hoblet, and **Katheryn Bigelow (10')** combined for three free-throws which would eventually give the Scots their fourth win of the season 79-76.

The Scots were led by Hoblet with 25 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals, and 9-10 from the free-throw line.

**Sydney Beckwith (11')** followed with 20 points, 5 rebounds, and shot 50 percent from the floor. Also scoring for the Scots was Bets-Rowden with 16. 8 Scots contributed points today.

For Saint Mary's Kelley Murpy led with 19, followed by Anna Kammrath with 18.

The Scots continue their season looking forward to improving their conference record, and their momentum heading into post-season.



Photo by Devin Brines

Senior forward Kathryn Bigelow ('10) scored the last point of the St. mary's game with a free throw to put Alma up by 3 for the upset.

## Men's basketball loses game to MIAA leauge-leader

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Despite playing solid basketball against some very good teams, Alma's men's basketball team was on the losing end of both its games last week, losing at home on Wednesday to league-leader Calvin College by a score of 73-59 and on Saturday at Kalamazoo by a final score of 56-53.

The Scots drop to 0-8 in the MIAA and 3-16 overall.

Coming into Wednesday, the Calvin College Knights were at the top of the MIAA with a record of 6-0 while the Scots sat at the bottom with a league record of 0-6.

Though trailing for most of the first half, the Scots hung close with the Crimson Knights and went into halftime down by only one point.

Despite improving their team field goal percentage by almost 10 percent in the second half of the game, the Scots were unable to stay strong in the final minutes.

Calvin College went on a 15-4 run with six minutes remaining and never looked back.

**Kevin Ginther ('11)** led the offense for the Scots with 21 points while **Isaac Thaler ('12)** added 13 and **Terry Brown ('12)** scored 10 points. Brown also led the team with six rebounds and added two steals and a block.

Saturday's game at Kalamazoo

was another defeat. The Scots have lost six games by four points or less.

Thaler led the Scots with 12 points and **Cory Schneider ('12)** added 10 of his own. **Tommy Erickson ('12)** led the team with nine rebounds and was impressive on defensive with two blocks and two steals.

The Scots once again proved to be a better shooting team in the second half, improving from 32 percent in the first half to 40 percent in the second half from the field.

Though their record won't show it, there have been many positives for the Scots this season.

"We understand we are a young team and have lost some players

this year, but I think we will be heading in the right direction once our freshmen and sophomores develop," said Erickson.

"The biggest thing holding us back right now is not having a lot of upperclassmen to lead," said Erickson.

The Scots only have two seniors and two juniors on the roster.

"Losing five guys midseason this year has hurt us so we are scrambling and trying to play with just eight or nine players," he added. "Now we are just trying to improve team chemistry and are trying to understand how we all like to play."

Though the men's basketball team does not have an impressive number of wins to show for this

season, there are some intangibles that cannot be overlooked, including staying mentally tough even during a disappointing season.

"The team has stayed positive and is just trying to focus on constantly improving," said Erickson.

"Individually, each one of us has improved tremendously since the beginning of the season. We are starting to understand coach's philosophy and once we completely believe in ourselves we can be a dangerous team with nothing to lose," he added.

The Scots next game is scheduled for tip-off at 7:30 p.m. at home on Tuesday when the Hope College's Flying Dutchmen come to town.



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!  
T-Shirts are \$12 and can be bought with cash OR Munch Money!

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