

# President Abernathy sees vision for change

BY LAUREN ANDALORA  
STAFF WRITER

Although President Jeff Abernathy has not been here long, he said he has gotten a feel for the college and is trying to make it the best it can be. “[Alma College is] a perfect balance for my values as a faculty member and administrator,” Abernathy said. Since moving to Alma, Abernathy had the chance to see Michigan, which he said he is excited to promote as part of the college’s appeal. “There is much work that we’ll do with the local community to build connections between the college and community, as

**“For me, it’s an opportunity to listen, learn, think and hear from the community what our strengths are and what our challenges are and then address those in the plans to come.”**  
-President Abernathy



Photo by Lauren Andalora

President Abernathy has many goals and changes in store for Alma.

well as the broader region of mid-Michigan,” said Abernathy. In his three months, Abernathy said he has already gotten a sense of opportunities for change at Alma and a vision of what he would like to accomplish in the future. “This is a college that is very deeply engrained in local culture,” said Abernathy. “For me, it’s an opportunity to listen, learn, think, and hear from the community what our strengths are and what our challenges are and then address those in the plans to come.” Abernathy considered the Ecuador program a great model for the school.

“This is something we can learn from and build upon in the years ahead,” said Abernathy. “Also, can we bring more students from Asia, Africa, South America, and other countries here?” One of Abernathy’s wishes for the college is to develop stronger local and international partnerships. “I’d like to see us partnering to help solve problems throughout Alma, Gratiot County, Mid-Michigan, and Michigan itself,” said Abernathy. “At the same time I’d like to see us reaching out for more global, intercontinental partnerships, and becoming more diverse.”

Abernathy plans to work toward gaining national recognition for how Alma College students have changed lives. “If you go to Chicago, it is very unlike that anyone will have heard of Alma. I want them to know us in Chicago, Washington DC, and California, because it’s a great story to tell,” Abernathy said.

**“I’d like to see us partnering to help solve problems throughout Alma, Gratiot County, Mid-Michigan, and Michigan itself.”**  
-President Abernathy

Abernathy admitted he has plans for higher enrollment rates, but not for the immediate future. “Once we can be successful in telling the story of Alma across the country and internationally we can grow, but in the years to come I expect our current size is best for us,” said Abernathy. As for some smaller-scale plans, more picnics are planned for all classes at Abernathy’s house during the spring. “It’s a great way to relax and get to know people,” said President Abernathy.

## President Abernathy’s Goals

- Bring students to Alma from a more diverse group of students around the world from places like Asia, Africa, and South America
- Work to develop stronger local and international relationships
- Work to gain more national recognition for the work that Alma students do to change lives around the world
- Higher enrollment (not anytime too soon)
- More picnics!

# Cosgrove tells untold tales of Mexican immigrants

BY JOSHUA ZEITLER  
STAFF WRITER

As a part of Alma College’s Bicentenario celebration of Mexican independence from Spain, West Cosgrove gave a presentation addressing the topic of illegal immigration.

**“You have to risk your life, but then if you make it in, we’ll reward you with a job. It’s a bit of a schizophrenic message.”**  
-West Cosgrove

Cosgrove, director of Project Puente in El Paso, Texas, has visited about 10 colleges and universities in the Midwest region in the past two weeks for his “Borders, Immigrants, and National Values” tour. The purpose of the presentation was to raise awareness of why Mexican immigrants are entering the United States undocumented, as well as to propose alternate solutions to the issue. “It has become a very emotional issue in the U.S.,” said Professor of History and Political Science, and Public Affairs Director Ed Lorenz, who helped coordinate the Bicentenario event. “Because there are so many misconceptions, it’s important for people to come and listen,” he said. Cosgrove emphasized the dire situation faced by

most Mexican immigrants. Due in part to the North American Free Trade Agreement, over 1.5 million Mexican small farmers have been pushed off of their land, leaving them with no source of income, said Cosgrove. Even though the trip across the border is dangerous, the farmers usually obtain a low-paying job that most Americans are unwilling to take, he said. “You have to risk your life, but then if you make it in, we’ll reward you with a job,” said Cosgrove. “It’s a bit of a schizophrenic message.” Cosgrove emphasized how difficult it is for immigrants to enter the U.S. legally. For many immigrants, the waiting period for family sponsored immigration is 16 to 18 years. In addition, the act of entering without inspection, which accounts for more than half of all undocumented persons, is considered a misdemeanor.

**“The insightful points he raised, together with concerns over Mexico’s civil war, stress the need for a third solution to the immigration problem.”**  
-Hunter Hill (‘12)

For solutions, Cosgrove promoted fair trade and sweat-free movements, as well as the DREAM Act, which would allow eligible undocumented youth



Photo by Devin Brines

West Cosgrove speaks of the hardships Mexican immigrants face in search of a better life in America.

a six-year conditional path to citizenship, with the condition that they obtain a degree or serve two years in the military. He also encouraged open discussion, and a departure from the bipartisan “us versus them” approach. After the presentation, Cosgrove led a question and answer session in order to open up a dialogue with the audience. Wesley Cloyd, resident of Midland, who heard of the event on National Public Radio, expressed several concerns that he had with Cosgrove’s delivery of the facts. In particular, he believed that the security issues involved in loosening the border patrol were not sufficiently addressed. “I believe he’s being less than candid with the students,” said Cloyd. “Also, the presentation was lacking in scope. This is not a Mexican problem; this is a global problem.” “The insightful points he raised, together with concerns over Mexico’s civil war, stress the need for a third solution to the immigration problem,” said Hunter Hill (‘12). During an earlier address at Oakland University, Cosgrove said he faced a significantly more hostile crowd. Wayne County Commissioner Jim Runestad and about 20 followers frequently interrupted the presentation with belligerent comments, according to Lorenz. In the end, however, Cosgrove’s message is one of communication and compromise. “There are many legitimate positions to take on immigration. People with different opinions have to respect the other, and they have to start talking,” Cosgrove said.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly Cloudy 59°	Sunny 63°	Sunny 64°	Sunny 67°	Partly Cloudy 67°	Few Showers 65°	Sunny 61°



## Career Expo welcomes alumni from 1969 to 2010

By MOLLY HENNING  
STAFF WRITER

The Academic and Career Planning office will run a "Career Expo" on homecoming weekend for students. The event will take place on Friday, Oct. 8 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Stone Recreation Center. Lou Ecken, career-planning coordinator, said the Expo will be mostly alumni, with only a few non-Alma alumni coming. The alumni range from 1969 to 2010 graduates.

***"The Expo is a chance for students to ask questions and to build a network with people who know what Alma is and what Alma produces."***

***-Lou Ecken***

The majors of the alumni attending range from business to physics, and from sociology to biology. All of the alumni have also been involved in programs other than just their jobs, such as Head Start, Guide Dogs

Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, and more.

"The Expo is a chance for students to ask questions and to build a network with people who know what Alma is and what Alma produces," Ecken said. The alumni at the fair will also share contacts with students.

"Networking is so important in finding jobs, internships, and even getting into schools now," said Ecken.

The Expo will be in a fair-style format, with each alumnus at a table.

Students are free to walk around to whichever tables interest them most.

Ecken said that many students are scared to go to career events, but once they get there and usually right after talking to their first person, they start having fun.

"It's a lot easier to talk to alumni who have been to Alma," said Ecken.

Some alumni will have giveaways at their tables as well, said Ecken.

Some are recruiting for internships or jobs, including Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and Dow Corning Corporation, said Ecken.

In addition to the alumni

at tables, Student Life will have refreshments and events in the lobby, including opportunities to win cash prizes.

Ecken said that, overall, it is a great event for not only students but alumni as well.

"The alumni are going to have a blast," said Ecken. "If they get here, they usually love having the chance to talk to students."

Ecken said that it is tough to get alumni here during the daytime and to make it work to get the students there.

"It's a battle in making both sides feel it's productive and helpful," said Ecken. "And it is—it's just a matter of getting people there and helping to facilitate those conversations."

Ecken encouraged students to wear business casual if they can, but suits are not required, and the alumni will understand if people come and are dressed as "college students," she said.

"The alumni have a lot to offer as far as having been here and knowing what the experience is like at Alma and then going out in the real world and working. They can show the value of an Alma education and show what you can do with it," said Ecken.

## This week at Alma College

Tuesday, October 5:

Flu Shot Clinic between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. at Wilcox Health Center

Interviewing and Networking Tips with Paul Heymoss at 7 p.m. in DOW L1

"Holy Wars" speech by Dr. Robert Nelson at 7:30 p.m. in DOW L4

Wednesday, October 6:

Ecuador Spring Term Meeting at 7 p.m. in SAC 110  
Shannon Brownlee giving speech on health care reform at 7:30 p.m. in DOW L1

Thursday, October 7:

National Depression Screening Day at Hamilton Commons during lunch  
Philadelphia Center Student Panel at 5 p.m. in SAC 110

Friday, October 8:

"Try SCUBA Night" with Michael Nichols of ZZ Underwater World at 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Center Pool  
Alma College Career Fair in the Rec Center multi-purpose room between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Dedication ceremony for the Art Smith Arena at noon  
Percussion Ensemble Homecoming Concert 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Saturday, October 9:

Matt Reinke Run Registration between 8 and 10:30 a.m. at Bahlke Stadium

Alma College Choirs at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

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**With so many newspapers going online, the Almanian felt it was necessary to keep up with the changing media.**

**"The Almanian staff felt it was important to create a Website that adds to the print edition of the paper and keeps up with the media trends," said Anna Dysinger ('11), editor-in-chief.**

**The Website also enables viewers to post comments on any of the articles that are also in the paper.**

**If you are craving more from the Almanian—more picture, more articles, more options—be sure to visit [www.almanian.org](http://www.almanian.org).**

## Alma has fifth highest enrollment in 124 years

By LAUREN ANDALORA  
STAFF WRITER

This year, 398 students joined the Alma College community, along with a nearly 90 percent overall retention of returning students.

This has resulted in the school having its fifth highest enrollment in 124 years, according to the Alma College Website.

"We face a lot of challenges in enrollment with rising costs, the down economy and smaller high school graduating classes," said Bob Garcia, director of admissions. "But the great thing is that through all of that we've had some of our most successful enrollment years in the college's history."

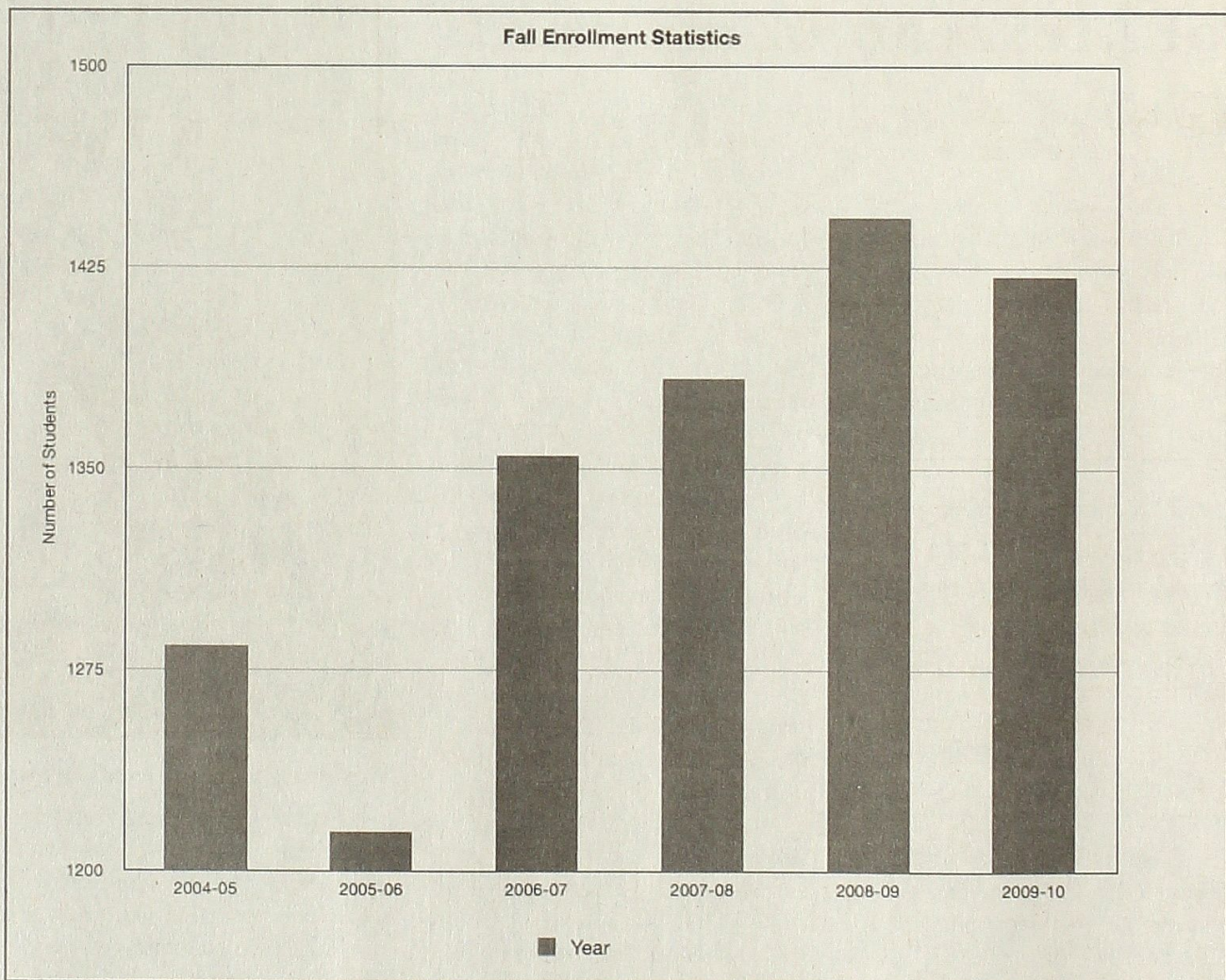
This year, new students number the fifth highest incoming class since 2000, and the total head count of 1422 students is only 20 short of last year's enrollment.

"I really think we are starting to do a better job of telling the story of what makes an Alma education so special," said Garcia. "Despite having some of the biggest environmental forces working against us, with little prospect of those trends turning around yet, we are only 25 students shy of our highest ever total enrollment of 1447 students."

Regardless of a rough economy that has challenged many students and their families, Alma College has maintained an enrollment above 1400.

Garcia believes this is due to the fact that students are treated with a personal touch and care for their future during the admissions process.

"The recruiter, professors, coaches, current students, and everyone come together to make students feel welcome," said Garcia. "Recruiting and retaining students



Graphic by Catherine Finley

**Fall enrollment at Alma College has shown steady growth since the 2005-06 school year, as the diagram shows. The college is only 25 students short of its highest enrollment ever.**

requires a full campus effort."

"This year we saw a higher retention rate that is a higher number of students returning to continue their education at Alma than we have in years. Our goal is, of course, to have every student return and graduate within four years and go on to graduate school, so to see these numbers increasing is very heartening," Garcia said.

To support retention efforts, Alma has launched First Generations Connections, a campus-wide mentoring initiative

designed to help students who are the first members of their families to attend college learn about college expectations and connect with peers, according to the Alma College Website.

"Our positive enrollment momentum is driven by strong academic programs, student interaction with faculty and opportunities for students to engage in the life of the College outside of the classroom," said Karen Klumpp, vice president of enrollment.

According to the Alma College Website, most students are from Michigan, but Alma's total head count includes students from 25 other states and 15 countries. "Alma is always working to bring students from across the United States and around the world to help foster a diverse learning environment," said Garcia. "Our job is to prepare graduates who think critically, serve generously, lead purposefully, and live responsibly, in accordance with the Alma College mission statement."



## Surfscape Contemporary Dance Theater visits Heritage Center

By MOLLY HENNING  
STAFF WRITER

The Surfscape Contemporary Dance Theater, which features an Alma College alum, performed last Friday in the Remick Heritage Center.

Surfscape is a professional dance company based in the Daytona Beach area. The directors are Rachael Leonard and **Kristin Bender-Polizzi ('95)**. The company was incorporated in 2005 and has been performing since 2006.

"We're not strictly modern dance... we call ourselves a contemporary which leaves it more open-ended," said Leonard. "We have ten dancers, with sometimes as many as twelve. They are paid professionals. All of them have trained and danced for years—for most of them, dance is their primary career."

Surfscape is a non-profit company, and most of their funding comes from public support and grants.

"It's very exciting to bring back Kristin as a full-fledged professional in the field," said Carol Fike, Chair and Professor of Theatre and Dance. "I knew she had it then, she was motivated and driven. She lived and breathed dance. Now she is a professional and has a very successful career."

The show on Friday had twelve pieces. Bender-Polizzi explained that they brought many shorter pieces to showcase the various styles of dance.

"We are the only dance company in



Photo by Simone Boos

**Couples perform together during the Surfscape Contemporary Dance Theater event at the Heritage Center last weekend.**

our area, so we feel a responsibility to show people all the facets of dance," said Leonard. "We wanted to do the same thing here."

Bender-Polizzi said it was important to them as well to give the Alma dancers the opportunity to audition and dance with the company. **Anna Dysinger**

**('11), Jacquelynn Olson ('11), Simone Boos ('12), Jaclyn Bodary ('12), and Devon Brisbon ('13)** were selected.

"The company does a lot of different stuff, so it's really cool to be a part of that," said Bodary.

Bender-Polizzi and Leonard agreed that they would be

shocked if there wasn't something in the show for everyone.

"Someone that's never seen dance will have something new to grab onto, people who are dance enthusiasts will be moved by the virtuosity of the dancers," said Leonard.

In addition to performing the show, Bender-Polizzi and Leonard are teaching classes with the company members in the classes. They are also choreographing a piece for the November show for the Alma College Dance Company, featuring 13 of Alma's dancers.

"While dancing in the class it's clear that the students are very energetic," said Kristen Wheat, a Surfscape member. "It's nice to dance with people who are so excited about dancing."

Leonard also said she enjoyed the open and welcoming atmosphere of the college.

"We feel embraced by the students and the faculty... to feel so welcome here has been really nice," said Leonard. "The facility is extraordinary, there's a big beautiful stage that's so well kept. It's a pleasure for us to be in such a big open space for class. From the outside, this is an anomaly."

Bender-Polizzi also said that being able to come to Alma is a huge step in the dance company's career.

"We're just really thrilled that they brought us in and that Carol went to bat for us and really worked to get us here," said Bender-Polizzi. "It's easy to book a theater, but to be a part of a programming series is fantastic."



Photo by Simone Boos

**A group of dancers rehearse a scene from Kristin Bender-Polizzi ('95) and Rachael Leonard's Surfscape collection. Surfscape is a professional dance company from Daytona Beach, Fla.**

## Professor Emeritus Joe Walser to be homecoming Grand Marshal

By MARGO BRINES  
STAFF WRITER

Joe Walser, retired professor emeritus of religious studies, will wave to the Alma College community as Grand Marshal in the homecoming parade Saturday.

"I was overwhelmed with surprise that I was being invited," said Walser. "I'm delighted. I'm looking forward to seeing some wonderful old students and having time with some wonderful old colleagues."

Walser taught at Alma College from 1964 to 2000, teaching courses about the Bible, world religions, Islam and Judaism, and he said he enjoyed building relationships with colleagues and students.

"I have to say that I was blessed beyond compare with wonderful colleagues," Walser said. "We worked together; we picked each other up when we were

down; we urged each other on."

In 1971, Walser began taking students to Israel to study field archeology.

"I think the best classroom in the world is an 8 by 8 meter square with students learning on it... all history comes alive. It was kind of a spring term course before there were spring term courses [at Alma]," he said.

After joining forces with the archeology program at Baylor University of Texas, Walser continued bringing students to Israel for archeological digs until 1995.

In addition to teaching, he coached the men's tennis team and actively supported the women's softball team.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church, he also served as Chaplain and performed over 100 weddings.

After his time at Alma College,

Walser settled in Wilmington, North Carolina with his wife, Cathy.

"I have been supported tremendously by my wife, who is the world's greatest volunteer," said Walser.

Still passionate about educating others, Walser is now involved at an adult learning program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and supports the Ability Garden, a program that helps physically and mentally challenged people participate in gardening.

He has helped many Alma students with their leadership abilities overseas, providing Walser International Fellowships for students studying abroad.

"Education is about leading more than the amassing of skills," said Walser. "It's about learning how to think, to ask questions, to be responsible."

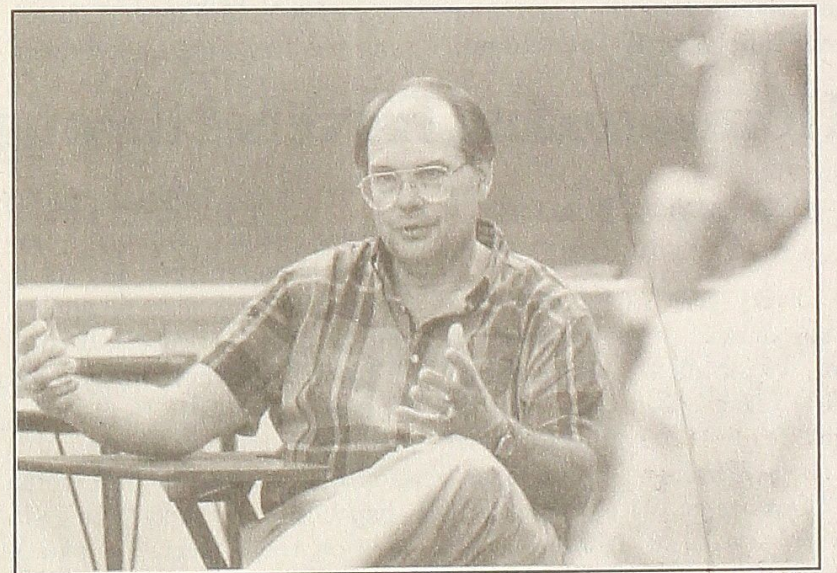


Photo Courtesy of Library Archives

**Retired Professor Emeritus Joe Walser will perform the Grand Marshal duties in the homecoming parade. Walser began teaching at Alma College in 1964 and retired in 2000.**



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## Greek community plans homecoming celebrations

By LINDSAY WALSH  
STAFF WRITER

This week the Greek community on campus prepares for homecoming events to entertain students, provide service, and welcome alumni.

Zeta Sigma is starting their celebrations early with their 15<sup>th</sup> annual canned food drive for the Salvation Army that starts on Oct. 3 and runs through homecoming. President of Zeta Sigma, **Ryan Horton ('11)** encourages all students to stop by and drop off one or two canned food items.

On the Sunday of homecoming, Zeta Sigma will be playing their third annual game of flag football against Tau Kappa Epsilon. The proceeds of the game will be donated to charity.

Zeta Sigma will also be participating in the parade. "As for homecoming we plan on having a float entered and can't wait to see our alumni and will be capping Saturday night off with a Homecoming party that will be open to all of campus," said Horton.

Like Zeta Sigma, Tau Kappa Epsilon will be in the parade on Saturday and will also be organizing additional activities.

"Tau Kappa Epsilon will be making a float for the parade, hopefully celebrating an Alma Scots football victory, showing off an open house, and having a reunion dinner in Van Dusen on the 9th, with an open party following at the house," said President **Luke Gill ('12)**.

Down the street Sigma Alpha Epsilon will be hosting a very special Greek reunion. "We are having the biggest known reunion in Alma College history," said President **Brian Rabediox ('12)**. "Over 300 have already sent an RVSP for the event."

Starting on Friday, they will be having a golf tournament and lunch with the alumni.



Photo Courtesy of The Scot

Each Greek chapter on campus will have its own way of celebrating homecoming weekend, including reunions, barbecues, and flag-football games.

Saturday's activities continue with another special lunch and dinner for the alumni.

"There is a circus size tent being set up across from the SAE house for lunch before the football game, followed by a formal dinner at Shifters on M46 and President Abernathy has been asked to give the opening speech," said Rabediox.

Theta Chi will be playing on their by having a "Red Party" that encourages them to be communists for the night. President **David Wagner ('12)** wants to make sure everyone knows they aren't really communists; they are just having a good time. After the Red Party, they have their pinning ceremony to conclude their celebrations.

"Our pinning ceremony is where we give pins to our new pledges for the fall," said Wagner. "There's song and dance and a good time."

Sigma Chi also has a special year for homecoming planned. Some of their earliest members will be coming back to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> reunion. They will be opening up their house for alumni and guests to tour at 9 a.m., and then they will be participating in the parade.

At the football game they will be tailgating and afterwards, they are having an active vs. alumni football game. They even have alumni coming from different chapters in Michigan.

"At 10 p.m. there will be the traditional Homecoming Party at the house, to which all of our alumni brothers are invited (wives, Sigma Chi Sweethearts, and Sigma Chi Sisters are also welcome)," said President **Brian Wagner ('11)**.

"In addition to alumni, we usually have brothers come to Alma for Homecoming from other chapters within Michigan

and sometimes even the Windsor Sigs stop by for the day."

Phi Mu Alpha is celebrating with pride towards their new house.

"We will participate in the homecoming parade, have games on our lawn, have pizza for [alumni and students], let them sign a wall in our house, and finish the evening with a movie," said President **Dan Krauss ('11)**.

The sorority Phi Sigma Sigma will be participating in the parade on Saturday by wearing their jerseys and singing their traditional songs. They will be having a lunch for the sisters, alumni and parents of the sisters.

"We also have a lot of sisters in the marching band, so we will most likely be representing at the football game as well," said President **Morgan Valko ('11)**.

"Kappa Iota participates in the homecoming parade,

and in the afternoon we host a barbecue/open house for our alumni," said President **Danielle Cunningham ('11)**.

Alpha Gamma Delta is also having a special year. President **Kate Love ('11)** said this is their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being on Alma College's campus.

Alpha Gamma Delta members are going to participate in the parade, as well as host some of their own celebrations.

"Not only are we walking in the parade and cheering on the Scots at the football game, but we are celebrating by inviting back all of our alumnae and having a great day of fun, bonding, and sisterhood," said Love. "Even some of our founding members are returning."

President **Liz Webster ('11)** said that Gamma Phi Beta is excited to have their alumnae back for their annual barbeque.

"Every year our house is overflowing with alumnae support, so we give back by having a cook-out for them, and giving them a chance to buy alumnae Gamma Phi Beta shirts," said Webster.

Gamma Phi Beta was also planning on hosting the fundraiser, Alex's Lemonade Stand, but decided to save it for Halloween weekend.

Alpha Xi Delta is also celebrating a special year. They will be participating in the parade on Saturday and then having a barbeque on their house porch.

"This year is different than homecomings in the past because it is AZT's 30th year reunion," said President **Courtney Martin ('11)**. AZT was Alpha Xi Delta's equivalent before the sorority gained national status.

"We have invited all of them back as well as sent out 750 invites to our other alumni," said Martion. "During the BBQ we will have house tours, old scrapbooks, composites, and great food for the alumni to enjoy."

## Homecoming travels "through the seasons"

By LINDSAY WALSH  
STAFF WRITER

Every year students, faculty and alumni look forward to an event-filled homecoming. This year's edition on Saturday will feature the theme "Alma College Through the Seasons."

"Our theme is a reminder that every season at Alma College brings its own set of traditions, memories, experiences and beauty," says **Carol Hyble ('78)**, vice president for advancement. Friday will start the festivities with a grand opening and dedication of the Hogan Center at noon. At 8 p.m. the Alma College Percussion Ensemble will be performing in the Remick Heritage Center. Tickets for Alma College students, staff and youth under 18 are free. Adult tickets are \$10 and Seniors 62 and up are five dollars.

Dave Zerbe, director and founder of the ensemble, says the group will perform a variety of jazz pieces that are high-energy to cater to a large audience. Some songs that will be played include, "Love for Sale" by Cole Porter, "Kiss My Axe" by Al Di Meola, "In a Hurry" by Christian McBride and "Ode to Billie Joe" by Bobbie Gentry.

"We hope to see a lot of students and alumni," says Zerbe. "Reserve your tickets in advance, because seats fill up fast, and be sure to bring a friend."

Saturday's events include the Matt Reinke 5k Scot Trot starting at 9 a.m. and the alumni memorial service in the Dunning Memorial Chapel from 10:30-11 p.m. In addition, the homecoming parade and alumni picnic will be on the Chapel lawn at 11 a.m. leading to the football game at 1:30 p.m. Former religious studies professor, Joe Walser, will be serving as grand marshal for the parade.

At 8 p.m. the Alma College Choirs will be joining former choir members for a specialty concert and an alumni awards ceremony. This performance is free and open to the public.

Outside of the main events, the 50-year alumni class of 1960 and the 25-year class of 1985 will also be having reunions. To further celebrate homecoming, four awards will be given out during the weekend's celebrations.

**Dave Provost ('76)** will be receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award for his dedication to serving the community of Alma through his career in banking. He

is president, chairman and CEO of banking at First Michigan Bank. He has also been on the Board of Trustees since 1994.

**Don Fullenwider ('65)** of Plymouth will be receiving the George Hebert Lifetime Service Award. Fullenwider has attended nearly every alumni event and contributes his service to the Alumni Board and the Metro Detroit Roundtable. He is also president of CityStimulation of Plymouth.

The Young Alumnus Award will be presented to **Scott Hill ('00)** who helped form and lead the West Michigan Roundtable while becoming a partner with his law firm, Varnum LLP. Hill has a law degree from Wayne State University and is a part of the State Bar of Michigan, the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Economics Club of Grand Rapids.

**Alan Otis ('71)** is receiving the Smith Distinguished Service Award and is heavily involved with the West Michigan Roundtable. He has hosted events, served on the Alumni Board and assisted students with job placements and internships. He is vice president of investments at Stifel Nicolaus in Grand Rapids.

## Alum recalls homecoming

By MASON WARLING  
STAFF WRITER

Homecoming has long been a time of excitement at Alma College.

Every year, students build floats with their favorite student organizations for the parade and participate in the many Homecoming events.

"My favorite memories of homecoming were Senior year

when my friends and I were involved in putting together our float," said **Lynette Roy, ('85)**.

"We won the pep assembly with our chant, 'We're the class of '85... (stomp, stomp, stomp)...and you're NOT!' It was so non-traditional that the whole class really cheered and we won the spirit jug."

"That was also the first year of our Scotty dog mascot," said Roy. "He was a real ham."



Photo Courtesy of Lynette Roy

**Lynette Hanus Roy ('85), Laurel Fricke Frederick ('85) and Jenny Kilburn ('85) fondly remember homecoming.**



The delicate art of balancing your life as a college student

By ELIZABETH CORBIN  
STAFF WRITER

With all of the opportunities offered with college life, how can you draw the line on how much is too much? There is the overwhelming feeling that everything I complete is mediocre. I want all of my undertakings to reflect my best and most careful work but this is simply impossible with all of the constant assignments and deadlines. Add a job—or multiple jobs—and a mixture of activities including sports, performing arts, and organizations, suddenly you're in over your head.

For college students with planners filled to maximum capacity, it is an accomplishment to get everything done, disregarding the fact that it may or may not be quality work. What can you do when you realistically discover that you have taken on more than is feasibly possible? There is always the option of dropping a class, activity or job, but that admits defeat. For most, the only acceptable answer is to keep on keeping on. It is as though students in college should be able handle taking on an indefinite amount of tasks. Attending a liberal arts college

such as Alma means that you'll be required to study a variety of subjects rather than focusing only on courses that pertain to your chosen major, like at a vocational school. At a liberal arts school, you'll be concentrating your mind and time in many different directions. Perhaps a liberal arts education suggests that you most likely won't be able to excel in any specific area, but will instead become a well-rounded individual. This is a bit disheartening if you expected to go to college and dedicate the majority of your concentration

on one specific area. In the intervals when I am firmly pressed for time, my ritual of taking a shower every other day seems luxurious. Honestly, college has a way of turning me into a hot mess. Throughout the years, I've realized that I waste a good amount of time with distractions in my room. A great way to counteract this is to refrain from going to my room from the time that classes start in the morning until I get my work done. This has meant that the library has become a sort of second home to me. Forgetting my laptop

charger at home has been a wonderful accident that has helped me manage my time by forcing me to work on papers in either the computer lab or library where I am less likely to end up on Facebook. After the majority of my tasks are complete, I feel a sense of satisfaction. But until that time comes, it is an absolute living nightmare. That's simply the plight of the college student. I just have to keep telling myself that one day it will be over and I won't have to have twenty tasks on my mind at all times. Maybe.

What is success and how do you achieve it?

By JOSHUA ZEITLER  
STAFF WRITER

How do you measure success? There will always be the easily calculated answers related to wealth or fame, such as the amount of money you earn, the combined value of your possessions, or the number of people who have heard of you. Then there are the less materialistic answers, which are harder to quantify. For example, you may be able to say that you have made an impact on the world or in your particular field, but you may not be able to compare with the objectively with the accomplishments of others. Finally, there are the abstract answers from the people who claim that no matter how much you earn or what you accomplish, true success lies in the love you have felt or the family you have raised. Although no one can ever agree on a consistent way to measure or even define success, everyone seems caught up in society's drive to achieve it. At the end of the day, what good can success do you if you are not sure what it is? You can follow the three-step program and, if that fails, you can try the seven-step program.

But if you don't have a destination in mind, all the steps in the world cannot take you anywhere. Even if you set a goal and strive for it, who can say that the particular goal you have chosen will bring you what you truly want? Imagine all of the other goals that could have been just as satisfying if only you had known you wanted to achieve them. The truth is, the best things in life come when you are not looking for them. Think about where you are in life today. Where do you think you will be five years from now? Where do you want to be five years from now? Now think about where you were in life five years ago. Where did you think you would end up? Where did you want to end up? Just one year ago, I wanted to go to college in New York. I was caught up in the messy business of ideals at the time and thought that I was willing to do anything if only I could study film at a school that could ensure my success. Eventually I realized that it was less about where I studied than about what I learned, and that not being up to my ears

in debt for the first 20 years of my independent life would also aid me on the road to "success." There are many ways to get to where you want to go and the least decisive leaves the most room for growth. Naturally, I chose to pursue two of the most useless degrees that exist: English and philosophy. Had I followed through, however, I probably would have been equally convinced that I had made the right decision. Both paths could be called "successful" in hindsight, but the label holds no meaning. To dig up yet another cliché, satisfaction does not come from accomplishing what you want to accomplish, but rather from wanting to have accomplished what you did. Your hopes and expectations have probably changed considerably over time, and are likely to continue changing until you die. Especially in college, your view of the world and how you fit into it is likely to change more than once. So live a little! Success is fine and dandy, but for now, just get involved and see where life takes you. Most importantly, do not let yourself be overly preoccupied with where you need to be, as long as you are satisfied with where you are.


PUZZLE CORNER

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## Migrant farm workers: Give them a break

By MASON WARLING  
STAFF WRITER

Everybody is aware of the controversy over Mexican illegal immigration, but who is it really hurting? Last Wednesday, September 29, West Cosgrove of Project Puente, a non-profit organization that has hosted several alternative breaks for Alma students in El Paso, Texas, addressed some 150 students, professors, and Alma community members. He covered several topics, including the reasons why immigrants come to the U.S. illegally, the realities illegal workers in the U.S.

live in, their contributions to our national economy and what's being done in regards to allowing or denying more foreign workers access to the U.S. Something Cosgrove said really stuck out: 94 percent of adult male illegal aliens are employed full-time. They do not collect welfare and leech money from the government. Cosgrove explained that in El Paso, an onion-picker would have to pick and haul over 3600 pounds of onions per day in heat of over 100 degree weather to earn the equivalent of an 8-hour minimum wage; this task would usually take well over eight hours. No American would work that job as it is. He would demand hourly wage,

not a piece-rate pay scheme. And if he did get an hourly wage, the price of onions would have to go up significantly to cover his labor costs. Migrant workers are the ones who make it affordable for the average person to go to the store and buy balanced servings of fruits and vegetables to provide nutrition for his family. They're the reason so many American farmers can afford to run farms and compete in the food market. Stephen Colbert saw fit to address the House of Representatives about the issue on Friday, September 24. He mentioned similar concepts, citing that the recession had actually moved 84,000 acres of farm production and 22,000 farm jobs into

Mexico, a blow to the American agriculture industry. Something that Colbert did not address, but that Cosgrove did, was the common American misconception that illegal aliens do not pay taxes. Cosgrove explained that most aliens, upon reaching their destinations, acquire fake social security cards and pay regular taxes, just like American citizens. The IRS has an account for fraudulent, duplicate, and erroneous Social Security payments, and illegal workers are expected to pay the overwhelming proportion of its income, over 13.4 billion dollars annually. Illegal workers do indeed pay taxes and fund a large amount of public services that every citizen benefits from.

However, according to Cosgrove, our government still spends over 1.3 billion dollars annually on trying to secure our borders against further immigration. And they are not even doing a good job of it, as the trend of immigration doesn't follow border security spending; it follows the state of our economy. Immigration is at a low point, lagging well behind former President George W. Bush's increase to border enforcement, only decreasing appreciably because of the U.S.'s poor economic performance and the failure of pro-immigration legislation like the DREAM Act. Why does our government insist on fighting this battle so fiercely, as if the immigrants were some sort of plague?

## Why don't American men wear engagement rings?

By ELIZABETH CORBIN  
STAFF WRITER

Engagements provide women with flashy rings, but what do men have to show for their newfound commitments? When people think about men wearing engagement rings, they may recall the episode of "Boy Meets World" when Cory declares that he also wants an engagement ring after proposing to Topanga. In the episode, Cory is mocked by his male friends for being effeminate and a push-over. In some countries, such as Sweden, it is customary for both the female and male to wear rings during the engagement period, it is a rarity to see a man wearing an engagement ring in the U.S. I strongly feel that both parties should wear rings in order to show their mutual commitment. Why should a woman have an engagement ring showing that she is off-limits to all other men while her fiancé is free to appear single? Relationships are not one-sided and it should logically follow that both parties publicly show their engagement to be married. My significant other and I have both been wearing

promise rings for over two years. While he says that he wants to wear it, he admits that at times it makes him look like a "tool" to other men. The common attitude in the U.S. is that a man shouldn't have to wear a ring unless it signifies marriage. However, many married men even refrain from wearing their wedding rings. The common excuse is that the type of labor required in their field of work would either make wearing a ring dangerous or would damage the ring.

***"Whether or not it is actually practiced, couples are now viewed as equals in relationships."***  
***-Elizabeth Corbin***

One alternative that I've heard for this case is getting a ring tattoo so that even when the ring is removed the tattoo declares that the person is in a committed relationship. I have never actually seen this in person, although the number of married men I have seen without wedding

rings is quite staggering. Previously, men were the ones who approached women about relationships, but things have changed and women commonly initiate relationships and even propose to men, although it is not entirely common. Whether or not it is actually practiced, couples are now viewed as equals in relationships. Perhaps the biggest reason that men don't wear engagement rings is that women simply don't think of presenting a man with an engagement ring. Just as men must earn money in order to purchase an engagement ring, women should also be expected to save money and present their significant others with a symbol that shows mutual commitment. Society has taught women to anxiously await a proposal so that they can show off their engagement rings and plan weddings where they can be princesses. This process is seldom questioned and essentially implies that weddings and relationships are a woman's domain and that the woman is the one who should put in the primary effort while the man stands by passively. Although it is a more subtle depiction of equality, both men and women should be expected to wear engagement rings and openly show that they view each other as equals in a relationship.

## Moving beyond Stereotypes

By SEAN WEBBER  
GUEST WRITER

Here at Alma College, we have an amalgam of on campus organizations, groups and activities. We cater to nearly every sport, from football to lacrosse. Between SIFE, Student Congress, and the Squirrel Club, there's something for almost everyone. Then, of course, there is Greek life. Unfortunately, it often gets a bad rap on campus. Negative stereotypes surround it. This is understandable, since most stereotypes are borne from a truth. Issues such as binge drinking, hazing, and date rape linger like a cloud over the Greek system, as these problems have arisen from Greek institutions in the past. College in general, in fact, has had to grapple with these issues for many years now. It is one of the tragedies of our society, in my opinion, that higher education has been tied to these issues. They are real issues, and they are dangerous. While these issues exist on Alma's campus as well, there can be no dispute that Greek life, and the College as a whole, is hyper-aware of them. For instance, no-hazing week was observed last week, resulting in an alcohol free campus for the duration of the week. In fact, many events are

set up during the year to make students aware of these issues. I believe that our campus in particular approach these issues with a very mature and responsible attitude. I also believe that Greek life comprises a large part of the awareness. Fraternity and sorority houses participate in Take Back the Night, an event designed to increase the awareness of domestic abuse and sexual assault. At Alma, Greek life has begun to move beyond these stereotypes, and I believe it plays a major part in creating awareness against them. Greek life is also responsible for an enormous amount of philanthropy on campus, and contributes thousands of hours of community service. As homecoming approaches, looming ever menacing and joyous on the horizon, we have to consider that the vast majority of the returning alumni are linked to this campus through their Greek affiliation, and much of the alumni donations to the college are from Greek alumni. From my personal experience, being Greek at Alma College is absolutely not about partying or any of the other generic stereotypes portrayed by the media, but rather, it is about campus involvement and giving back to our community.

## Following the beat with Ben King: Euchre with A.C.U.B.

By BEN KING  
GUEST WRITER

Alma College is the home to many events and social gatherings. many organizations host, organize and run events for students. One organization in particular runs numerous events and activities for students during the school year. The Alma College Union Board (A.C.U.B.) is an organization dedicated to entertaining the College Community. This week on September, 30<sup>th</sup> A.C.U.B. hosted a euchre tournament in the Tyler-Van Deusen Community

Door prizes were given to those who attended. "I was disappointed that I didn't win the euchre tournament, I love to play euchre so it was kind of a letdown to lose. However winning a door prize definitely made up for the fact that me and my partner lost in our second game," said Josh Spratt ('14). A.C.U.B. member Ryan Olson ('12) said "Everyone has a chance to win prizes, A.C.U.B. gives away a lot of free items to those who attend our events." It is important to remember that attendees can still win prizes even if they lose. It is also important to remember that attending social events is not specifically about winning. There are a multitude of reasons for why students

should attend A.C.U.B. events. Whether it is because they love to compete, meet people or just do something fun for a change. "I really fancy euchre, it was nice to see how organized A.C.U.B. made the tournament for those who wanted to play," eloquently stated Hilary Miller ('14). Miller further went on to say "These events hosted by A.C.U.B. are an excellent way for me to add variety and fun to my schedule, they offer a break from studying and homework." This organization offers a wide variety of entertaining activities for Alma College students. These events range from movie nights, tournaments, and trips to major sporting events and amusement parks. This fall A.C.U.B. will be

organizing game show nights which will be imitations of television game shows such as "A Minute to Win It" and "Deal or No Deal," and contestants will have the opportunity to win a plethora of prizes. A.C.U.B. will also be organizing a Songfest, which will be comparable to a talent show in which vocalists showcase their singing capabilities. A.C.U.B. Games & Activities Board Member Sophia Hrutkay ('12) stated "A.C.U.B. is about making campus fun. We hold a variety of activities so that more people will get out and enjoy their life on campus. Not only do I recommend that students come and attend these events I also recommend that interested students join

A.C.U.B. and participate in the organizing and running of these enjoyable events." Any students who are interested in becoming a member of A.C.U.B. may do so by coming to an A.C.U.B. Representative Meeting. These meeting are held in the A.C.U.B. offices every Monday evening at 8 p.m. The A.C.U.B. offices are located next to Joe's in the Tyler-Van Deusen Center. "I will continue attending A.C.U.B. events throughout the year, I had a lot of fun. A.C.U.B. events are an excellent way to socialize and interact with other students," stated Chelsea Radgens ('14). Many of those who attend A.C.U.B. events would agree with Radgens. These types of activities and events are most enjoyable.

If you see anything in the Opinion section that you want to respond to, please write a LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

E-mail 11lckimp@alma.edu with any thoughts/feelings on the articles



# Women's lacrosse: A fresh start



Photo by Kayla Roy

**Ella Blowers ('13) cradles the ball as teammates Christina Dionne ('13) and Bianca Jones ('12) run after her. This is Blowers first year playing lacrosse.**

By ADAM MUNCY  
STAFF WRITER

Women's lacrosse has become the newest member of the Alma College club teams.

Until this fall the women players have been playing on the men's club team. There are many differences between men and women's lacrosse. Unlike men's lacrosse, there is no body contact between the defender and the player with the ball.

After vouching for club approval from student congress as well as writing a constitution the formation of Alma College women's lacrosse club team was approved with a contingency fund.

"From an administrative standpoint we are thrilled," said Vice President for Student Life Dr. Nicholas Piccolo.

"There was leadership from the very beginning; [Christie Havrilla ('13)] contacted me before she came to school and started working on the project. She dedicated time to the team last year and it seems to be bearing fruit this year.

"Anytime students can own the place, leave their fingerprints or build something for future students, it's a way to connect, compete, and have fun. We are just thrilled."

When Havrilla arrived on

campus ready to start a team, she too said she was excited.

"We bought sticks and goggles and started having practice immediately after girls contacted us about our notice in the daily general announcements," said Havrilla.

"It was rough, when we didn't have equipment. We had to share, use tennis balls, and do minimal things for practice. Not everyone even had a stick."

A lack of a head coach left the team's captains (Havrilla, **Brittney Cole ('13)**, and **Trisha Reynolds ('12)**) as both players and coaches.

*"Men's lacrosse is excited that there is now a girls team, the guys support us and we support the guys. I hope we make Alma proud."*  
-Christie Havrilla ('13)

"It's hard to be on the field as a player and coach at the same time," said Havrilla. "During games, we aren't always going to be there on the sideline telling girls to substitute in."

The women's lacrosse team averages an attendance of 18 girls a practice. The roster contains 27 active members on the team

with more to come in the spring after the conclusion of fall sports.

"It's a little scary knowing that only four of us have played before," said **Samantha Bohy ('13)**. "I think that we are ready, everyone has progressed really well in the past three or four weeks, and everyone is staying dedicated."

"We have the same group of girls showing up all the time, it looks promising as far as dedication. As a team I think it is important to get experience and have repetitive practice. We try to get everyone to throw multiple times a day and play a lot of wall ball. It's about having a feeling for the stick."

The women are scheduled to play three games in the fall against Aquinas College, Olivet College and Kalamazoo College. They also have tentative games scheduled against Albion College, Grand Valley (club), Central Michigan University (club) and Saginaw Valley State University (club) for spring.

"I know a lot of people on campus, just by talking to friends, that are really excited about this team starting. They are looking forward to coming to games," said Havrilla.

"Men's lacrosse is excited that there is now a girls team, the guys support us and we support the guys. I hope we make Alma proud."

# Women's soccer takes MIAA opener with a 3-0 victory over Olivet College

By ADAM MUNCY  
STAFF WRITER

The women's soccer team took the field at Scotland Yard on Wednesday, opening up MIAA play as they hosted the visiting Olivet College Comets.

The Scots won against the Comets with a 3-0 victory. This left the Scots with a 7-3 record while the Comets fell to 9-2-1.

The Scots took the lead at the 8:31 mark with a goal from **Autumn Root ('14)**, assisted by **Becky Marton ('12)**. The goal was Root's first as a collegiate player.

"It felt great," said Root. "I wasn't supposed to play offense at all, I was going in as an outside defender."

The Scots scored another goal by **Ali Meurer ('12)** that was unassisted in the 41st minute of play. As they headed into the second half the Scots were winning with a score of 2-0.

The only goal of the second half came at the 72nd minute and was scored by **Elaine Cunningham ('13)**. This was Cunningham's second goal of the season. **Annette Stromberg ('11)** picked up the assist to give the Scots a final score of 3-0.

"There were 15 minutes when we were really frustrated and nothing was getting done, but we were able to pull ourselves out," said Root.

"Olivet came at us hard. We weren't winning every ball but we eventually got out of that slump. We were able to do so by communicating. We kept each other strong."

The Scots out-shot the Comets 26-7 placing nine shots on goal. They were led by **Taryn Hanyside ('14)** who took six shots, and **Jessica**

**Swan ('11)** who took five. Each placed two shots on goal.

**Monica Witt ('12)** was in the goal for the duration of the game and recorded five saves. The victory marked Witt's fourth shutout game of the season.

"In the beginning of the second half Monica had three great saves in a row," said **Catherine Olson ('14)**. "She made saves on shots that should have been goals."

"Monica's saves pumped us all up," said Root.

Although the Scots have found seven wins this season, injuries are beginning to play a role for the Scots. Both Swan and **Brooke Bergeron ('11)** have recently experienced knee injuries.

"They are two of our top seniors on the team," said Olson. "Brooke is a solid defender who always voices her opinion and helps us on the field. Even though Swan was hurt, she played through injuries and scored goals."

The women will complete the season traveling. Four of the remaining six MIAA games are away. Tuesday they travel to Grand Rapids where they face the Calvin College Knights. The Scots finish up the week in California to face the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps College on Saturday.

"Going into our next games we need to keep our cool and composure," said Olson. "I think that we played down to the level of our opponents when we could have played so much better. I feel everyone can hold their ground. If we come and play our own game then together as a team we are going to kick butt."

"I think all of our away games have been played pretty strong," said Root. "If we play to what we are capable of we will be fine."

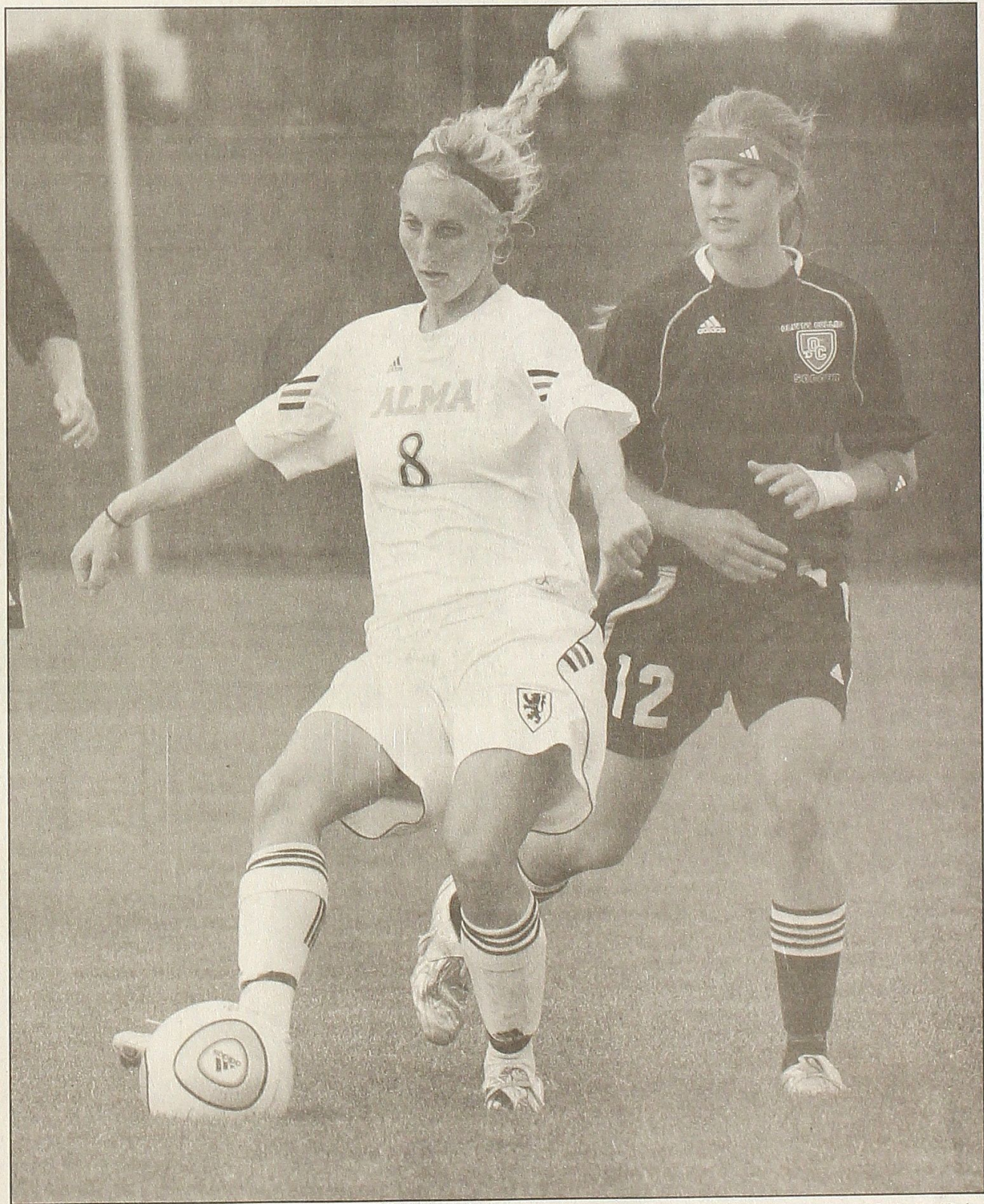


Photo by Catherine Finley

**Elaine Cunningham ('13) looks to pass the ball in the Scot's game against Olivet College. Cunningham scored the third and final goal in the victory over the Comets. Playing forward and outside mid, Cunningham has scored twice for the Scots and earned several assists.**



## Homecoming football game brings hype

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI  
STAFF WRITER

In just one week, students, faculty and alumni will flock to the campus of Alma College to revel in the spirit of homecoming. Included in the festivities will be a parade, choir performances, the Kiltie Marching Band, and—of course—a football game.

"The homecoming game is the best game of the season," said senior **Heath Laugal ('11)**. "The football team gets to showcase their talent in front of a larger crowd than usual and there is a lot of pride because former players and graduates get to see how well we represent them on the field."

The Alma College Football

Team takes on the Albion College Brits Saturday.

They head into the game looking to overcome a 1-3 start to the 2010 season. They will also look to erase the memory of the 51-14 loss to Trine University last year and win their first homecoming game since 2007. The players are aware of the importance of winning on homecoming. "There's no way to really describe the emotions of a homecoming game, but it's safe to say that we are jacked out of our minds," said Laugal. "Even though we haven't been as successful as we would have liked the last couple of years on homecoming, this year should be different. We are off to a 1-3 start this season but have made incredible improvements on both sides of the ball and as an overall team."

According to the players, the atmosphere surrounding and during the game plays a huge role in getting the team pumped up to play.

"There is a huge sense of pride to play in front of the alumni. A lot of them come back specifically to see their former teammates and to see how the current team is shaping up," said Laugal. "We want to put on a good show for the alumni and show them that Alma is still one of the teams at the top of the MIAA and that we are one of the better teams in the nation."

According to Laugal, some players talk to their older siblings who played football or other sports for Alma to prepare for the big weekend.

The team maintains a positive outlook on the season despite encountering minor stumbles along the way.

"We had issues getting the entire team on the same page on game day, but over the past four weeks we have shown that we can compete with some really good teams and even beat them if we can keep our composure," said Laugal.

All of the games in the first four weeks were against non-conference opponents as a warm-up for the conference schedule. Now the team gets down to games that determine the MIAA champion.

"We are extremely excited to be competing in the MIAA again, especially against Albion after the loss we suffered to them last year in the final game of the season," said Laugal. "If we continue to get better with each passing week and we can fix the few mistakes we have, we should have no problem running Albion into the dirt; or anything other team in the MIAA for that matter."

## Staying on top of the game: This week in sports

**Women's Soccer:**  
Tuesday v. Calvin College  
Friday v. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps

**Volleyball:**  
Tuesday v. Calvin College at HOME  
Friday v. Kalamazoo College at HOME

**Men's Soccer:**  
Wednesday v. Calvin College at HOME

**Football:**  
Saturday v. Albion College at HOME

**Cross Country:**  
Friday: Michigan Intercollegiate at Oakland University

**Golf:**  
Monday MIAA #7  
Saturday MIAA #8 at HOME



Photo courtesy of Dudley Campfield

The Alma cross country teams competed in the MIAA Jamboree in Olivet on Saturday, Sept. 25.

**Top Photo:** The men's team was paced by Michael Bremer ('11) and Garrett Lacy ('13). Bremer came in 28th place with a time of 27:33. Lacy finished fifth with a time of 26:17. Also competing were Talon Morris ('14), Thomas Griffith ('14), Zachary Caverley ('13), Max Morrison ('13), Matt Deja ('12), Brent Buchholz ('13), Zachary Medici ('14), Jonathan Gwizdala ('11), Stephen Schlaak ('12) and Nick Pawlowsky ('14). The men's team came in fifth place overall with an average time of 27:50.

**Right Photo:** Kellee Lemcke ('11) and Anna Sall ('14) led the women's team. Lemcke finished 11th with a time of 23:21. Sall came in 45th with an overall time of 25:03. Also running in the meet were Taylor Corbett ('12), Shelby Harris ('12), Julie Helm ('13) and Jennifer Pearson ('13). The team came in sixth with an average time of 25:28.

Both cross country teams will compete Friday in the Michigan Intercollegiate meet held at Oakland University.

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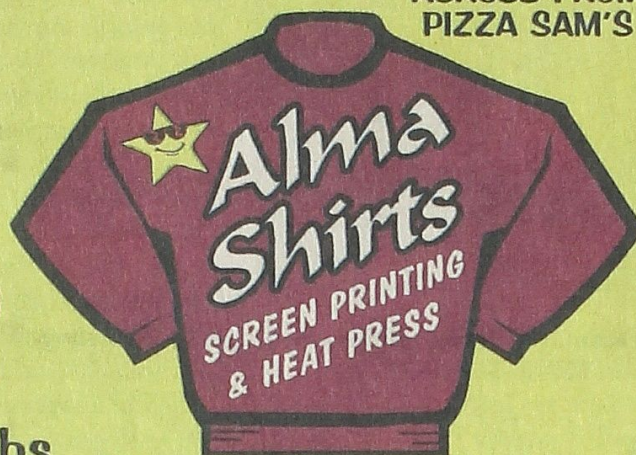
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