

The ALMANIAN

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VOLUME CII ISSUE II

Students serve at Community Cafe

BY LAUREN SHAW
STAFF WRITER

AmeriCorps Vista's Alisa Dean and Hillary Forslund and 16 Alma College students served at Community Café last Thursday.

Community Café was founded 18 years ago by a coalition of churches that formed a committee to help people in need. According to Director Roger Allman, "Our mission is to provide a meal and fellowship for people experiencing hard times." Every Thursday, local people in need can get a free and nutritious meal at First Presbyterian Church, located within walking distance of Alma College. Community Café is sponsored financially by several churches in Gratiot County. Most of the food is donated; typically less than \$100 per week is spent on food to provide meals for between 100-200 people. Nothing is wasted; whatever food is not served during the meal is sent home with community members.

The Alma College partnership began four years ago. Once a month, Alma supplies the volunteers and the food, through meals donated by students on a sign-up sheet in Hamilton. The food is prepared at Alma by Sodexo before it is driven to First Presbyterian. Once the food arrives, students fill bread baskets, work the serving line, and wash dishes under Allman's supervision, who said that "the cooperation with Alma College has been a terrific, terrific help." Alma's involvement guarantees consistent food donation and gives the regular volunteers a night off. Allman's announcement before the meal that it was the first Alma sponsored meal of the year was met with applause.

Alisa Dean is the coordinator for Alma's involvement. Dean believes that students participate in Community Café because, "you get to learn about peoples' lives." Many volunteers develop bonds with the regulars, learning names and stories. Dean feels that more students should participate because, "they don't have that much interaction with the community members." Although Alma only

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Photo by Catherine Finley

Lexi Brewer ('12) packages extra food for community members to take home.

Quilt block connects Alma to AIDS Memorial

BY SIMONE MISHLER
NEWS EDITOR

This year marks the fourth time that a panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt has been brought to Alma College. The panel brought to the school this year is of great significance because the panel on display has a block that was made during the first display of the AIDS quilt at Alma in 1997.

"I didn't know that anyone from the college had ever done anything with the AIDS Quilt," said Alisa Dean, AmeriCorps VISTA in the Service Learning Office. "It must have been that they searched for keywords and put in Alma College to see if there was one that had an Alma College block in it."

In 1997, Alma College student Cynthia M. Miller organized an AIDS Memorial Quilt display of 200 panels. A quilt display of this size required Miller to recruit ten different committees, raise around \$8,000, and devote roughly 60 hours of her time during the week of the display. During this week a quilt block was made and submitted to the AIDS Memorial Quilt to build another panel—the panel now on display at Alma College.

"Everyone has the potential to move mountains," said Miller when describing the experience of organizing the display. "The one thing that separates those who do from those who do not is a larger belief in the power of one."

In order to display a panel of the quilt, those wishing to sponsor the panel must fill out an application and pay an honorarium of

about \$500. The application asks very specific questions regarding the security of the quilt and asks for photos of the place which the quilt will be on display. This year the panel on display at Alma College's library is being sponsored by the Center for Responsible Learning and the Service Learning Office.

When hosting the panel, the sponsors are required to organize events focused on the history of HIV/AIDS as well as prevention measures. Alma College hosted a speaker from the Lansing Area AIDS Network. PRIDE is also advertising and participating in the AIDS Walk.

The goal of bringing the AIDS Memorial Quilt to college campuses or other places to be on display is to be a visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic, according to the NAMES Project Foundation, the organization that began the Quilt Memorial. This goal aligns completely with those responsible for sponsoring the quilt coming to Alma.

"I want them to see the AIDS Quilt in Michigan because it's often seen as a problem in Africa or Asia, but it's here in Michigan," said Emily Neil ('10), a student who helped in bringing the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Alma. "It's spreading, actually in heterosexual women is the fastest growing right now all around the world, but it is in Michigan and it's not going away."

CRL under new management

BY MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

This year Murray Borrello, Instructor of Geology and Environmental Studies and Micheal Vickery, Department Chair and Professor of Communication, have taken the head positions at the Center for Responsible Leadership, replacing John and Felicia Leipzig.

Borrello participates and leads several committees and organizations around the area. One of these includes the Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force and has done work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. As Britni Patrick ('10) said, "He is involved in every committee possible and really has the best interest of the students and the community in mind. That man doesn't sleep."

A professor in the communications department, Vickery teaches classes such as communication and technology, media and public communication, organizational and intercultural communication, and communication theory and research. He is also a faculty member of the Environmental Studies Program. "Dr. Vickery is very organized," Brooke Bergeron ('11) said. "He really is on top of

his game."

Also joining the team is Marc Setterlund, Associate Provost. "We wanted to involve the provost in CRL so he will be their voice," Tara Fitzsimmons ('10) said.

Together these professors are now taking on the challenge of leading CRL. Previously, Vickery and Borrello have worked on several projects together including an exchange between Ecuador and Alma. "There's like another Alma in Ecuador," Bergeron said. "They have all of our same classes so any of our students can go there and any of their students can come here."

Aside from exchange programs CRL participates and organizes several activities throughout the year. Previously they have had speakers such as Bob Dole, George McGovern, and Madeline Albright on campus.

"Our goal is to make campus a better place with the skills we learn," Patrick said. As a group, everyone in CRL goes to "Leadershape" at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. "In New Mexico and just through CRL you learn a lot about yourself," Bergeron said. "You learn your strengths and weaknesses and how you can become a better person and leader."

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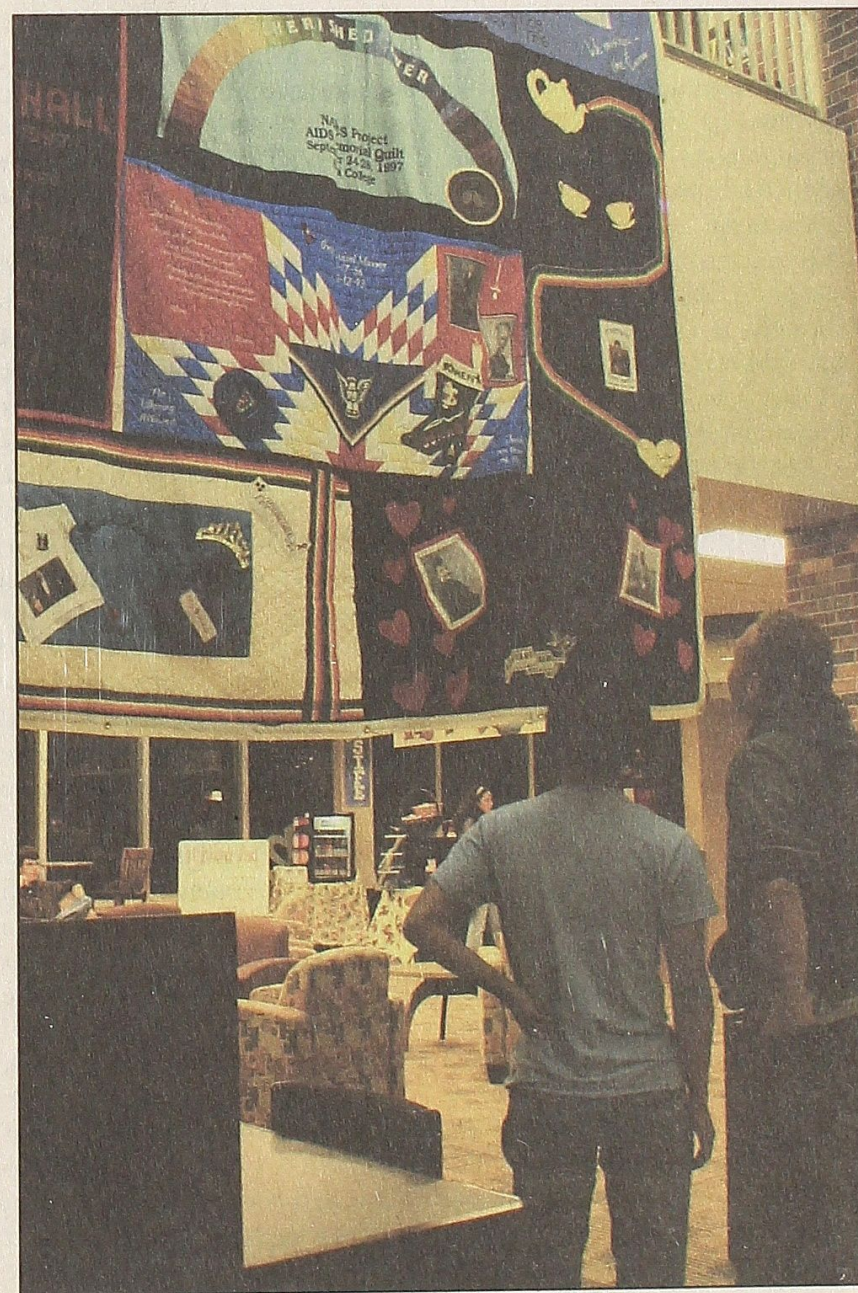


Photo by Catherine Finley

Will Allen ('09) and Brian Deakin ('09) admire the AIDS Quilt on display in the library.

Students serve at Community Cafe

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participates one Thursday per month, Dean volunteers every week.

Several student groups provide volunteers for Community Café. Last Thursday, many of the volunteers were sisters from Kappa Iota. The Service Learning house regularly sends help. Many students weren't affiliated with a specific group; however, they were all excited about the opportunity to give back. "I know we often get wrapped up in our lives at the college and we don't get to see anyone from the community," said **Anja Verhoeven ('11)**, "so it was very fun interacting with the people that live in Alma." Community members joked with

students while they waited in line, and several birthdays were announced before the meal was served.

Many of the volunteers had never participated in Community Café before. "It was a fun experience," said **Maricat Eggenberger ('11)**, a first time volunteer. "It was nice to see the caring community that we live in and to be a part of it."

Around 12 students are needed as volunteers for each week that Alma sponsors Community Café, and there are still spots open for upcoming months and new faces are always welcome. To sign up for a date, contact Alisa Dean in the Service Learning office.



Photo by Catherine Finley

Emily Neil ('10) and Annie Jennings ('10) prepare food for distribution at Community Cafe.

Peace comes to campus

By ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Everyone on earth is surrounded by violence and uncertainty. It is because of this that Barbara Gottschalk and John Wallach founded Seeds of Peace. This last week, Gottschalk spent her time on campus discussing what can be done to avoid conflict, what Seeds of Peace does, and how to resolve a dispute once it has begun.

"If more and more people have the experience of living together in peace and know what they need to have in place to live together in peace and know how to deal with people that they do not agree with without resorting to violence, then hopefully we can keep the world from spinning completely out of control," said Gottschalk.

Wallach approached her in 1993 with his idea for Seeds of Peace and asked if she would be willing to help him start this foundation. "He was the person that dealt with the outside world," said Gottschalk. "I was behind the scenes setting up the program because he did not have that experience." Other than the initial idea, Wallach's main contribution of the Seeds of Peace program was the contacts he brought in.

Gottschalk said, "He was the former editor of a newspaper and had written three books on the Middle East. Because of this, he knew all of the heads of state, middle level people, and lots of people in the news media. He could really move us along."

Since 1993, the program has taken off and has continued to grow despite the passing of Wallach in 2002. Each year, students from the conflict stricken areas are brought to a camp in Maine to learn how to foster a peaceful living situation with one another and learn how to discuss issues calmly.

"I think it is important to foster the ingredients you need for living together in peace," said Gottschalk. "I think anybody looking at that world, and we get a good look at the world all the time with the news media and access to the internet, can see that the spiral of hostility and violence can get out of control so quickly."

The students' time at camp is spent playing sports, swimming, kayaking, completing challenge courses, and eating together. What makes it truly unique is the dialogue sessions. Here

students from one country speak with students from another country about the issues that surround them in every day life. "The facilitators use a process to gradually talk about the hard topics, but first they get to know each other and develop a level of trust," said Gottschalk.

"If you come in at the beginning," she continued, "then you will see them playing games that will help them respect each other as human beings, but if you come in the middle you will see them discussing some very difficult topics, and in the end you will probably see them deconstructing what happened to them in their experience and how to deal with conversations with people back home."

Most Seeds of Peace work is not done at camp, but rather, once they are home. "The impact, we hope, is on the next generation of leaders and it has to be something homegrown or indigenous; you cannot impose peace on other people, it has to be part of their culture and part of their wish for their families," said Gottschalk.

While the work of Seeds of Peace is in Maine and in the Middle East and Asia it does not mean that Alma is not affected by violence and upset. Gottschalk said, "It is very impressive when I think of a campus like this where you are far removed. It is very important to maintain a focus on the rest of the world and to feel connected. It is important for the campus to operate as part of the world instead of as an oasis. I think people realize that and have the Center for Responsible Leadership is a huge thing to have here and is so smart do."

Gottschalk had the opportunity to speak with many students both in and outside the classroom while at Alma. "I hope that students will be inspired to create their own programs locally and internationally, because I think every step anyone takes towards empathy and reaching out towards the people that need help are a step towards a high level of functioning like a human being. I just cannot believe that war is the best thing we can come up with."

John Leipzig, Director of the Center for Responsible Leadership said, "We are simply working for a more peaceful world in the end."

CRL under new management

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"They seem to have more concrete ideas about where projects are headed," Fitzsimmons said about the new leaders. "They have more resources prepared and can help us accomplish our visions."

Christine Wheatley, a senior who has been with CRL from the beginning expects some changes for the upcoming year. "We'll

have more of a focus than in the past," she said. "Before, it's been very loose because it was new, but this year we'll have a better answer when people ask us what it is that we do."

"This year we'll be more organized," **Alexandra Kirchner ('11)** said. "We have some events that are mandatory for us, like a

speaker and a workshop and other events that are optional." The Center for Responsible Leadership is now entering its third year as a group. "CRL is really brand new," **Samantha Barsotti ('11)** said. "We still have a lot of room to grow and improve." With their new leaders, CRL hopes to do just this.

Outside the "Bubble"

By ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Consent Agenda

The City Commission approved all of the request for payment items in one resolution. These payments included: one to MDOT for annual traffic signal maintenance, two for legal services rendered by firms for July and August, another to "Gratiot Countywide Master Planning Group for the City of Alma LIAA grant match allocation," and one to "Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. for the first quarter economic development services for the fiscal year 2009."

Request for Purchase

The first request was for the purchase of one four-inch submersible sewage pump for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The pump unexpectedly failed and was not included in the Capital Improvement Program. "When something like this fails it needs to be replaced," said Melvin Nyman, Mayor.

The other purchase was to Precision Fleet Image for door repairs to the DART trolley. This was in the fiscal year 2009 budget.

The City Commission approved both of the requests.

Resolutions/Proclamations

Over the summer a street was added between the Middle School and the High School in the City of Alma. It was approved at the meeting that the street, Panther Parkway would become a public street and that stop signs would be added on Panther Parkway at Pine Ave. and Begole Rd. and no parking signs would be added on both sides of the street. The road signs have already gone up.

Reports

The City Commission received reports from the following: the Alma Downtown Development Authority, the Alma is a Bicycle Friendly Committee, DART and Depot, Alma Police Department and the Alma Fire District.

Commissioner's Comments

Nyman reminded everyone that the election season is upon us. "There is an election coming up in November," he said. "Our city clerk is hard at work keeping up with the rules, so be sure to get out and vote. It is good for our Constitution."

Meet the chief:

By SIMONE MISHLER
NEWS EDITOR

Aaron Pooley redesigns *Almanian* look and structure

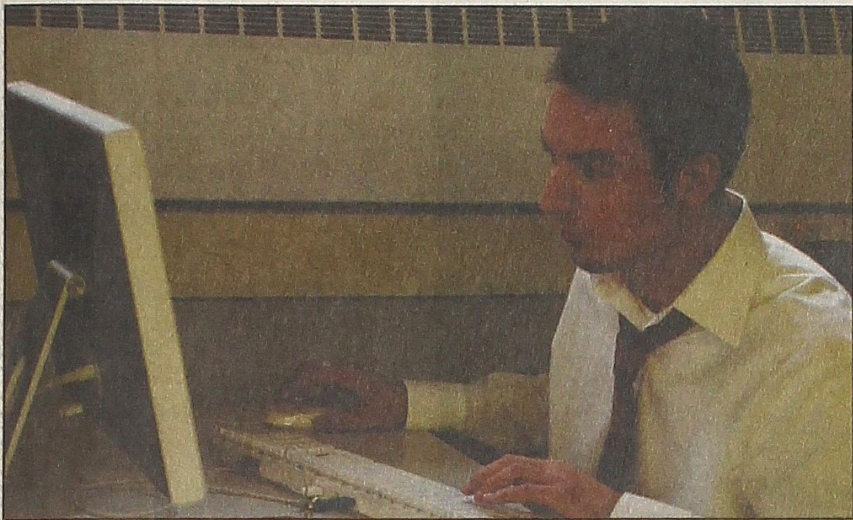


Photo by Catherine Finley

The Almanian is the collective effort of students with one common interest: writing.

One staff member has the task of leading the rest. He is the Editor-in-Chief, **Aaron Pooley ('09)**. He is an English major. He enjoys chocolate ice cream and he smokes because in Pooley's words, "people that view alcohol, nicotine, chocolate as sins—I feel for them."

He wears ties to meetings. If he could choose any animal to be he would, "probably go with penguins, because they're such snappy dressers."

He is the man behind the very visible changes made to *the Almanian*. But most importantly, he is like the rest of his staff—he loves writing.

He spent last school year writing primarily for the Feature section of *the Almanian*. Though it was a "labored decision" according to Pooley, he chose to pursue the position of Editor-in-Chief as a second year staffer.

"I wanted to improve the writing and the kind of writing that was

included in the paper," said Pooley about the motives behind his becoming Editor-in-Chief. More investigative reporting, better sports coverage, and a wider variety of previews (rather than reviews) were the goals he had for *the Almanian*.

One of his first goals was to improve print quality. While switching to a new printing company, a few other changes were also made. *The Almanian* is now a full broadsheet publication, not tabloid size. This change brought about some criticism; but, to Pooley, it was a necessary switch.

"I think the overall fact is that this is a newspaper," said Pooley. "It looks like a newspaper, it feels like a newspaper. You get ink on your hands."

Part of the newspaper's more professional look comes from having updated software in the Almanian's office. A new masthead on the front page and expanded coverage of events for broadsheet size can both be credited to the new design and software.

Along with the size change, student may also have noticed that *the Almanian* comes out on Mondays this year instead of Friday as it had in the past. The change in publication day allows the staff to more effectively cover weekend sporting events and preview upcoming weekly events; both of which were goals of Pooley's.

Because the newspaper involves more than the work of writers alone, Pooley pursued a partnership with Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) to handle the newspaper's advertising sales. He also enlisted the help of former copy editor **Jonathan Morley ('11)** to launch a website for *the Almanian*. The site, www.thealmanian.org, features archived articles as well as the latest edition of the newspaper.

With the newspaper going online, it will be easier for those outside of the Alma community to access information about the college.

"This paper is not something that stays for the campus community," said Pooley. "This paper gets sent to people all over the country to alumni, board members and anyone else with an interest in the college."

He has changed the day the newspaper comes out, he has changed the way the newspaper looks, he has changed the way the newspaper staff operates. Pooley is a leader with a vision for The Almanian who remains laid-back under the stress of being Editor-in-Chief.

"I think one good drink can make a bad day better; and a few of them can make it really great!"



Photo by Catherine Finley

During Tuesday night meetings, Aaron Pooley ('09) advises the Almanian staff on changes to make for their next issue.

PRIDE sponsors annual AIDS Walk

By MEREDITH BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College PRIDE group is participating in an AIDS Awareness Walk put on by the Lansing Area AIDS Network, in East Lansing, on Sunday, September 28th to help raise awareness about the AIDS epidemic, and to raise money to research cures and support those with the affliction.

The walk typically brings out about 1-2 thousand supporters. Registration and donations for the walk can be done online at the official LAAN website (laanonline.org), by picking up a registration form in the PRIDE room (located in the basement of Bruske) or at the actual event. Donations can also be dropped off in Alisa Dean's office, which is in the basement of the chapel.

Approximately 10-20 Alma College students have participated in the walk in previous years, but as PRIDE president Cathy Millon said, "This is open to everyone, not just students involved in PRIDE. We'd be very happy to have more attend this year."

The buses will leave from the Reid-Knox parking lot around 9 a.m. the morning of the 28th. Registration at the event starts at 10, and the walk begins around 1.

All money raised from the walk goes to the Lansing Area AIDS

Network, an organization started in 1985 that provides HIV/AIDS education and prevention information across the state, and support groups for those afflicted with the disease within the city. Services provided include, as reported on the website, "... [R]eferral to medical providers, housing services, financial/credit counseling, mental health services, substance abuse services and job training/placement services," to those HIV positive.

There are seven walks in seven cities around Michigan this year, all of them with the same purpose and the same title, AIDS Walk Michigan.

The walk itself takes about an hour, and is about 2 miles in length. Once it is over, there is a free BBQ, and massage therapy students from the Lansing Community College give free massages to participants. There are multiple booths open, with information available on GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) issues, STDs, and HIV testing. There is even talk of LAAN bringing in a band this year.

It is bound to be a very informative and fun event, and in the process, helpful to hundreds of people around the state of Michigan affected by HIV/AIDS.

Requirements change for freshmen class

By ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Freshmen students next year will follow new general education requirements that college administrators and faculty say will help them focus on necessary skills for life after college and graduate with a true liberal arts education.

Changing the general education requirements has been seriously discussed for a number of years. Current students are following requirements that have been in place since the late 1970s and administrators said a change was overdue.

One of the most obvious and drastic changes from the old system is the addition of a freshman seminar.

"What it will do is give students experience that they may not get until their final years at Alma," said Michael Selmon, provost.

Walter Beagley, professor of philosophy, calls the new program "a new kind of teaching space."

"It gets students into small classes, where they will discuss interesting topics. Essentially, they will get to the fun stuff faster." In addition to

gaining experience, freshmen will be better able to explore related classes if their seminar topic is something they wish to pursue as their major.

With this change, Selmon said administrators and faculty will examine how the Preterm program is structured.

"Since Preterm is essentially a seminar, just a week long, I would be surprised if it stayed in the same format," he said. He added although specific changes have not been finalized, he believes Preterm will continue and have an academic component to it.

Under the new plan departments will no longer get split into different sections. Instead, the Arts and Humanities, the Social Sciences, and the Natural Sciences will all require three four-credit classes, none of which can be in the same program. This allows students to have more freedom in their scheduling and expose them to more classes since the credits can be from any level class.

There are some restrictions, however. None of the distributive requirements may be comprised of business or education courses, exercise and health science courses at the 100 level, math or English classes below 110, a second language course below

112 or any independent study.

Quill course requirements are eliminated and are replaced with each student being required to successfully complete four designated Quill writing courses, which include English 101 and at least one upper-level writing course in the student's major.

The new Quill courses are different because they require written work to be evaluated, revised and resubmitted for a final grade.

"We understood that students were getting enough writing, what they were not getting is enough revision time," said Selmon.

In another change, each student will be required to complete one four-credit foreign language course and one four-credit class with non-U.S. content. This could be fulfilled by a semester abroad.

"Practice has made it clear that there was a need for change," said Selmon. "It is not a radical change, but enough of one to make it good."

Beagley said faculty members also wanted change, but each wanted very different things.

"There were many diverse opinions of what was important and there were a series of compromises that were made. In the end, we ended with a change that most feel is for the better."



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1977 graduate Robert Schultz to speak on campus



Photo courtesy of Robert Schultz

BY ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

Amnesty International Mid-West Director and Alma Alumni of the class of 1977, Robert Schultz, will be speaking on campus Wednesday, September 17.

Emerging in 1961, Amnesty International is a worldwide wave of people who advocate for human rights. The organization focuses on ensuring all individuals the civil liberties embedded in the doctrine, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

According to the organization's website, www.amnesty-usa.org, there are more than 2.2 million Amnesty Interna-

Schultz to speak on campus this Wednesday in Dow.

tional members in more than 150 countries across the globe. These members "create public pressure to stop human rights abuses by organizing campaigns on specific issues."

Several of these campaigns include "stopping violence against women, ending the use of child soldiers, and promoting access to treatment for HIV/AIDS." A complete list of campaigns can be found on Amnesty International's website.

Schultz will be speaking on campus largely due to **Chelsea Clark's ('11)** interest in human rights.

"Before I came to Alma, I spent a summer in Berkeley,

California, where I worked for ACLU," Clark said. "Someone I worked with there was very involved with Amnesty."

This spurred Clark's passion for human rights.

Last year, Clark, **Emma Kornellis ('11)**, and **Amanda Labby ('11)** attended the Mid-West Amnesty International Conference where Schultz recognized that they were Alma students.

It was at the Mid-West Conference that Schultz expressed an interest in coming back to Alma to speak.

Since the Mid-West Conference, Clark has been in correspondence with Schultz. Initially, he was going to visit last

Spring, but this fell through due to scheduling conflicts.

Schultz will be arriving in Alma Tuesday, September 16. In addition to speaking on campus, Schultz will be visiting with family in the area.

Clark anticipates a large turnout at the event Wednesday night, "There have been a lot of speeches this month, but we're hoping that a lot of people will come out and learn what Amnesty International is all about," she said.

Schultz will be speaking Wednesday, September 17. The event will take place in Dow L-1 at 8 p.m. A question and answer segment will follow the speech.

Alma College Democrats speak their mind

BY HILLARY BARD
STAFF WRITER

This election year the Democrats at Alma College are joining together to achieve goals.

Emily Neil ('10), the acting president for Alma College Democrats, and **Josh Pugh ('11)**, the Campus Coordinator for Students for Barack Obama, are combining forces to work on the Obama campaign.

"Alma College Dems are organizing by ourselves," said Neil. "But the separate groups are working together within the groups."

Students for Barack Obama and the Alma College Democrats have a liaison with the Democratic Office in Gratiot County. The office is available for any student to go and volunteer their time working for the campaign. Volunteer work before an election time may include database work, phone calls or canvassing. Phoning and canvassing volunteers either call or go door to door and ask a quick three-question survey: "Are you supporting Obama or McCain? Why or why not? What issues are important to you?"

Volunteers ask these questions in hopes of getting individuals to think about politics. Then, the Democrats would

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Annual art show cherishes variety in current exhibit

BY LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
FEATURE EDITOR

Art projects from last year's art classes are recognized in the current Annual Juried Student Art Show.

The exhibit is located in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery in the Clack Building, and is open for view until October 2 on which day there will be a gallery reception to conclude the event. More than 30 students are featured in the exhibit, with work from students of all majors. The pieces on exhibit are incredibly diverse and include paintings, sculptures, comics, welded projects, and photography.

"I like the broad selection and the fact that it is from the entire year," said **Stephanie VanSteenburg ('09)**, a Fine

Arts major.

The selection of the pieces for display took place after the end of each term from the 2007-08 school year. The board, which consists of the art professors and two student representatives, then chooses from the students' final projects, which have the potential to be distinguished in one of several places.

VanSteenburg's favorite painting did not get put on exhibit. Rather, it was selected for "The Pine River Anthology," a publication that both the Art and English Departments work on together, and include both literary pieces and artwork. According to VanSteenburg, the board does not generally place pieces of work in more than one category.

Jaclyn Dittmar ('11) added

her own insight. "The way that they pick things does not seem to be consistent, but everything is good," she said. "They do a good job varying the pieces. I

"I am personally proud of the Art Department, especially since not only art majors are showcasing their work."

am personally proud of the Art Department, especially since not only art majors are showcasing their work."

Dittmar's personal favorite of the three pieces she has on display is a large, self-portrait drawn in charcoal.

"It was an interesting project," she said, smiling. The drawing was a backwards charcoal, so that Dittmar started with a black, charcoal base and then erased to make the picture. "It was hard; there was no way to erase it."

For VanSteenburg, she especially enjoyed one of her paintings that is being showcased.

"I've never done oil painting before, so it was new," she said. "The medium is easy to work with and get the results you want." In this painting, VanSteenburg was limited to using three colors as well as white. "This limits you with color mixing," continued VanSteenburg, "but since I like color mixing, I really liked this project."

Besides the different types of artwork, varied tone and style is illustrated throughout

the exhibit. The exhibit covers everything from live action studios to comic strips and abstract art.

"The exhibit is a great example of diversity on campus," commented **Shaina Buhl ('11)**, a graphic design major. "You can see all of the imagination."

"Getting the experience as a freshman was huge for me," continued Buhl. "I felt so proud. When you find out one of your pieces gets chosen, it just finishes the semester on a good note."

Although Buhl's favorite piece is a charcoal and pastel of her swim goggles, she also painted an imitation piece. Buhl admitted this was difficult, because you "have to get in the mindset of the painter to get the spirit, but then put your own personal spirit in there too."

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hope, those thoughts would lead to action and support for Obama.

Democrats on campus are focusing on non-partisan voter registration.

Their main goal is to get 30 percent of campus registered to vote in Gratiot County by Michigan's deadline: October 6.

“A lot of people say they are voting back home,” Pugh said. “But the idea is that lots of people that are registered to vote at home aren’t going to go back home to do it, and aren’t going to jump through all the hoops to get an absentee ballot.”

If you are not a Democrat but still want to vote, Alma Democrats are more concerned about being registered and voting than who you'll vote for. It's more important just to vote.

"I really want to see a representative example," Neil said. "I want to see who represents this country best. If there really is a larger majority of this country who like McCain, I at least want the truth—even if we are going to hell in a hand basket."

That said, both Neil and Pugh are confident that with more understanding and communication, students who don't support Obama will end up on the Democrat's bandwagon.

"For one of Lorenz's classes,

they invited the democratic field organizer, Peter Gwynn-Saskson, my boss, and a republican to both speak,” Pugh said. “The contrast was just so obvious for the kids that were there. Here’s this retiree who was somehow affiliated with the Republican Party, and here’s this energetic college grad working for pennies a day in Alma.”

Neil thinks that for the individuals who don't align themselves with Obama will change their minds with a little bit more dialog and research.

"Maybe next time you see someone with an Obama shirt or with a sign ask them why," Neil said. "I think they can tell you. I think that if you read more about Obama and the issues, it can really change your mind. The more you know the more I think you might like."

For Pugh, this is a different type of election all together.

"I've never considered myself party affiliated, so this election doesn't have to be about party," he said. "For me it's about non-partisan things. It's about high gas, and dead Iraqi civilians and high surveillance and rising unemployment. The republican ticket is running this campaign as the same old stuff that we've been seeing for years. It's time to ask the question: are you better off now than you were eight years ago?"

Alma welcomes two new hall directors

BY ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

There are two new hall directors on campus this fall: Janelle Phillips, of Newberry Hall, and Kevin Carmody, of Mitchell Hall.

Newberry Hall Director Janelle Phillips is originally from Upland, Indiana. However, she comes to Alma this fall from the Detroit area.

Phillips received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Taylor University Fort Wayne. She earned her Master's of Social Work at the University of Michigan.

In terms of working on Alma's campus, Phillips says, "I really like the size and how I'm able to get to know more of the students." She also "[likes] waking up, being at work, and having a job where [she doesn't] spend eight hours in an office."

Before taking the Newberry Hall Director position, Phillips worked at a childrens' home. This was also a live-in position, and she feels that this made that "aspect of the transition easier." In addition to working at a children's home, Phillips has been immersed in social work for five years. Those experiences have helped her to develop a wide array of people skills, which she believes she can apply to "working with the students" here on campus.

Part of Phillips' role as hall director involves being in charge of Little Sibs Weekend and RA In-Service.

If asked to give advice to fu-

ture hall directors, Phillips says she would tell them to "organize their time well and to be flexible."

In regards to her future goals, Phillips says, "Right now, I'm enjoying being a hall director, and I'll see where that leads me in the future."

Mitchell Hall Director Kevin Carmody was born and raised in Madison Heights, Michigan.

Carmody received both his Bachelor of Arts degree and Master's degree from Central Michigan University. His Master's degree was in counseling.

Commenting on his favorite thing about working on Alma's campus, Carmody replied, "With 1,400 students and maybe 100 staff members, you see so many people in a day and can get to know so many different people."

While at Central Michigan University, Carmody was a Sexual Assault Advocate. He helped respond to crises and was frequently on call, which helped him transition to being on call here as a hall director. He also worked at South Eastern Missouri State University where, as a Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator, Carmody planned programs.

Finally, Carmody fulfilled his counseling internship here at Alma College at what was previously the Center for Student Development. This allowed him to learn names, faces, and how Alma differs from other schools before he was even employed by the college.

On top of satisfying his duties as Mitchell Hall Director, Carmody is the Judicial Coordinator.

Carmody's advice for future hall directors is to "really appreciate all of the moments [they] have dealing with students and to focus on the pace, because it is so intense right off the bat."

Eventually, Carmody hopes to be a Dean of Students somewhere. For right now, he just "wants to have a good hall."

While Phillips thinks that the scariest aspect of being a new hall director has been "being confused for a freshman," Carmony says it has been growing accustomed to living in a residence hall again.

For Phillips, one of the most rewarding aspects of being new hall director thus far has been “making connections with students and being able to see the events, trainings, and meetings that I’ve planned actually take place and play a part in student’s development.”

Carmody, on the other hand, feels most gratified by being able to “work with students so closely and in so many ways.”

When asked if there was any thing she would change about her job, Phillips replied with a smile, "Nope." To the same question Carmody answered, "It would be neat if the hall directors could wear capes. Although he doesn't believe any of his fellow hall directors feel this way, he said laughing that he is "prepared to do it alone."

DiFranco releases 28th album

BY MEREDITH BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The feminist folk-rock artist Ani DiFranco has done it again. September 30 will mark the date of the release of her incredible 28th album, *Red Letter Year*.

This record might be a little on the chipper side for those used to DiFranco's angrier, pensive side, though it would be going too far to say she's lost that edginess completely.

Most of the lyrical and melodic cheer in *Red Letter Year* is a reflection of the developments in DiFranco's personal life; namely, the successful relationship with her partner and producer Mike Napolitano and the birth of her daughter Petah Lucia.

Evidence of her happiness with Napolitano, as well as her beginning to deal with aging is clear in several songs on the album, particularly "Smiling

Underneath," where she sings,
*Don't mind my gums peeling back/
 Or my hair getting thin/ Long as
 I'm with you I win.*

Fans will be relieved that DiFranco still addresses political issues, as she belts in the second track "Alla This," *And I can't support the troops/Cause every last one of them is being duped/ And I will not rest a wink/ Until the women have regrouped.*

She also tackles materialism and religion in the song, quipping, *I won't rent you my time/ I won't sell you my brain/ I won't pray to a male god/Cause that would be insane.*

It seems that with age DiFranco has gained the ability to view the world, and herself, in a friendlier light, as in the song "Present/Infant," in which she sings, *Love is all over the place/ There's nothing wrong with your face*. The focus of love and peace with self in this album comes to a head later on in the song, as she proclaims her new

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The life and times of Vicente Fox, part II

By **KRISTEN HAIGHT**
STAFF WRITER

Former Mexican president Vicente Fox ran his campaign on a message of change and a promise of reform, and this platform led to his dramatic victory in the 2000 election.

Fox served as Mexican president from 2000 to 2006. According to his campaign speeches, he meant to use this time to accomplish many things. The list is long and includes such goals as a seven percent annual economic growth rate, the creation of one million new jobs per year, and a retooling of migration policy both domestically and through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Additionally, Fox promised significant reform to fiscal, labor, and energy policies and the settling of domestic unrest.

As with many high profile politicians, Fox subsequently came under fire for not accomplishing all he set out to do. The critics of his administration assert that he did not do nearly enough to help create a progressive immigration policy with the United States. When his tenure first began, Fox approached President Bush with several ideas for reform, among them amnesty for illegal immigrants, a Guest Worker Program which would allow Mexicans to work legally in the US, and an increase in visas. All of these measures were meant to lead towards open borders between the US and Mexico. But when the US began focusing on the negative aspects of immigration after September 11, Fox's ambitious initiatives lost ground and never fully recovered.

Another criticism of Fox can be found in the economy. A successful businessman, he touted the economic growth as a cornerstone of his plan for reform. But he failed to bring about the promised growth rate and did not create the one million new jobs annually that he promised.

There is also quite a bit of criticism with regard to his

treatment of workers and labor unions. While running for office, Fox spoke often of his upbringing among peasants in the state of Guanajuato, saying that it allowed him to appreciate the horror of poverty. Yet journalists note, "Fox not only failed to secure progress on labor rights, he had the audacity to support legislation that would further infringe on the Mexican worker's right to an independent union trying to represent his or her best interests." Some critics speak more harshly, accusing Fox of suppressing the "basic human rights of Mexican citizens."

It is safe to say that many if not all politicians have critics, yet even Fox's admit he has accomplished positive measures as well. At the close of his term in 2006, one journalist noted that "today the Mexican economy is sound; the annual rate of inflation was kept below ten percent; the Mexican peso's devaluation to the US dollar was minimal; the foreign debt was reduced; and central bank reserves are substantial. In these respects (up to now at least) Fox did better than his predecessors with their doctorates in economics from Harvard and Yale."

Interestingly, Fox is also credited with increasing respect for freedom of expression. Similarly, he expanded access to public information. These measures for freedom and transparency reflect the stance against government corruption that helped to get him elected.

Fox did not accomplish all he set out to do. Conflicted with an opposition, Congress led many Mexicans to the belief that "Fox would like to improve the country but he can't." Still, his successes are also undeniable, and to his last day in office and beyond he remained a committed advocate for change, saying: "We would betray Mexicans' hopes for change if we felt satisfied with what we've accomplished so far." No longer a political leader, he hopes to affect policy even now.

Still to come, life after power...

Messing: a man of many talents

By **ANTHONY WENTWORTH**
STAFF WRITER

The word "professor" has many meanings: friend, teacher, counselor, and there are many other interpretations. They impact the students around them in more ways than the eye can possibly witness.

Dr. Scott Messing, Dana Professor of Music, has been an instructor at Alma College since 1982 and has taught classes that range from musical history to music theory to guest instructing classes on how music impacted Greek Mythology.

Dr. Ute Stargardt, English professor at Alma College and long-time friend of Dr. Messing, states that "throughout the years, seldom have I met someone with such a combination of intellect, wit, and charm," and "It has always been a joy to work with such a professor."

Stargardt and Messing both came to Alma College in 1982 and stuck together through their beginning years at this college. Since then, they have been friends, and worked together on many things. Stargardt helped Messing with German to English translations for his books Schubert in

the European Imagination Volumes I and II and stated that she truly enjoyed doing so. As a token of his gratitude, Messing gave Stargardt a copy of the published book of volume I and thanked her for her involvement. Stargardt said, "I cannot think of anyone who conducts his work as thoroughly and his research as completely as Dr. Messing does."

Messing once was a guest professor for Stargardt's Liberal Arts Mythology course and explained the purpose and meaning behind the character of Orpheus, the father of songs in Greek mythology.

Messing does much more than just teach classes at Alma College though. He is the faculty advisor of PMA (Phi Mu Alpha Symphonia), member of the Pine River Arts Council, a member of the American Musicological Society, and president of the Alma College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest national honorary society that Alma College students may belong to. He is also known for his performances with the Gratiot County Players in plays such as Lend Me a Tenor.

Messing is also the Chairman of the Faculty meeting at the college and according to Star-

gardt, "even in such routine and sometimes outright boring scenarios, he makes the mundane interesting with his wit and charm."

Messing has produced many works. Aside from Schubert in the European Imagination, he also wrote a book called Neoclassicism, and coauthored the book Gaspar De Albertis' Sixteenth-Century Choir Books at Bergamo. He has, for the past two years, given readings of the Schubert book at the Library for an open audience to be enlightened. The book shows his vast musical knowledge and yet is still a very engaging book for the everyday reader.

Messing is proud of his work and his contributions to the musical world. These contributions are noticed throughout the musical literary world with many citations of his work in other publications. He had and continues to have an overwhelming impact on the way people view European music from the nineteenth and twentieth century.

"Messing is an outstanding professor and would be just as equally great at any other institution," said Stargardt. "But, we are blessed to have him here at our establishment."

Stucchi's offers great food and treats just outside campus

By **HILLARY BARD**
STAFF WRITER

Stucchi's, an ice cream parlor, opened right across from Pizza Sam's this summer.

The owners Jan and Mark Knowles are hoping to use Stucchi's to serve Alma including the Alma College students.

The Knowles, who have had children attend Alma College continue to work with the campus and students.

"We have hired several Alma College students," Jan said.

If one looks in the coupon book that all students received to kick off the term one will find a savings coupon for Stucchi's.

"Stucchi's: Ice Cream, Frozen yogurt, Hit Diggity Dogs, Sausages, Fries & Tasty Soups," it reads. The Knowles hope you come in and treat yourself to the savings coupon deal of half-off ice cream or frozen yogurt when you buy an ice cream or frozen yogurt at equal or lesser value.

According to the Knowles, the best thing to try is everything. It might be hard to make a choice on a favorite menu item since there is so much to choose from, and there are forty continuously changing

avors of ice cream.

As fall continues and the winter season hits, Stucchi's will still be open to serve the community and campus.

"Business slows down in winter a little bit, but I think when it's a nice day and the sun is shining people will still want to go out and get a treat," Jan said.

With all the sunny days ahead Stucchi's would like to remind campus that their menu offers something for everyone: ice cream, frozen yogurt that is ninety-six percent fat-free, smoothies with fresh fruit, and old-fashioned malts, as well as french fries, onion rings, and hot dogs that are served till 8:00 p.m. These are just some of what Stucchi's has to offer.

For special campus events Jan thinks it would be good to remember that Stucchi's also serves specialty frozen ice cream cakes and would prefer a twenty-four hour notice to customize. If you forget, however, some are always ready to pick up at a moment's notice.

It seems the general consensus on campus that students enjoy Stucchi's.

Sophomore, Brittani Miszkiewicz, stopped into Stucchi's as a fluke.

"We were walking by it trying to go to a coffee shop and decided to go there instead," Miszkiewicz said.

Her overall impression of the new joint was positive.

"Inside it seemed very professional and I really liked that they give out free samples," Miszkiewicz said.

Sophomore, Mike Malloy, first experienced Stucchi's on a social campus field trip.

"I heard it was amazing and brand new," Malloy said. "I live in Mitchell and we all went together as a hall activity."

While there, he ate strawberry cream cheese ice cream and he was lucky enough to get it on a waffle cone that was still warm.

"They have very friendly service, it's clean and not that expensive," Malloy said.

Malloy thinks it's nice to have a Stucchi's so close by.

"It's great for Alma College students," Malloy said. "It gives them a chance and a reason to walk off campus."

So far this term the Knowles have seen a nice response from Alma students and they expect and hope that students will find it a practical alternative to Coldstone's especially since it's walking distance from campus.

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AWKWARD MISCONCEPTIONS BY CHRIS SCHNEIDER



Amethyst Initiative causes concern

By Amanda Labby
STAFF WRITER

All around us there are signs of terror trying to scare us: stoplight colors tell us how likely we are to be attacked by terrorists, Dateline explains through hidden camera how creepy men use the internet to prey on preteen girls, and commercials tell us why we need the latest and greatest drug to cure anxiety and stress caused by the former.

Now another thing has been put on the list that doesn't involve yellow, orange, and red or Chris Hansen catching creepy suspects. This new worry is purple with smiling students toasting wine in a kitchen, called Amethyst Initiative.

The Amethyst Initiative is a movement to lower the legal drinking age in the United States. It mostly targets college presidents to support the movement, namedropping other colleges who support it and jabbing at the 10% increase in money for roadwork every state that has a legal drinking age of 21 receives.

At first glance at the website, www.amethystinitiative.com, the idea to lower the drinking age seems like a good idea; the header shows pictures of laughing girls with wine glasses and serious-looking students in a library

setting. What's not to like about that? Amethyst Initiative must be a God-sent program that turns the out-of-hand binge drinking featured on 20/20 shows into studious students who can hold alcohol and pose for the camera.

And it is: Greek mythology has a story that explains amethyst as a stone that protects someone from the intoxicating affects of alcohol. Therefore, the Amethyst Initiative must be a miraculous idea that, once it is agreed upon, will render all intoxicating affects of alcohol impossible, so everyone can be a happy, smiling personality over their wine glass with the Amethyst Initiative to protect them.

Although the Amethyst Initiative makes the assumption that it will protect the current underage population from drinking, that might not be the case. People tend to do things more often if it's illegal, if just to have the thrill, whether it's going over the speed limit or having an underage drink.

If the legal drinking age is reduced, that will open the doors to high school drinking since, with a lower legal age, high school seniors may be able to purchase alcohol. Since there is already a healthy number of high school students who drink, wouldn't lowering the age limit prompt

middle school students to do the same?

Amethyst Initiative also calls to consider the 10% increase of highway funding each state receives for having the drinking age at 21. The last time I checked, the support of highways and their funding was in the hands of the state, not colleges.

Maybe Florida can afford to have their highway funding reduced. Personally, as a resident of a snowy state with already suffering roads, I would rather have more money for roads than bad quality roads with more drinkers, a small portion of which will drive while under the influence and have a better chance of killing themselves or others in the crater-like potholes.

Despite Amethyst Initiative's solid argument to change the drinking age to stop binge drinking and the overused fact that if 18-year olds can serve in the military they should be able to have a drink, overall it's a sketchy proposal. The Amethyst Initiative claims it will encourage moderation and responsibility by putting alcohol into the hands of younger people. Yes, the United States has one of the highest minimum drinking ages, but I would be frightened to put alcohol into the hands of people who buy Paris Hilton CDs.

PUZZLE CORNER

7	3				2			5
				9	3		4	
9	8	4	7				6	
			1	6		2		4
2			9		1			6
6		8		5		1		
	7				6	5	3	9
	6		3	7				
4			5				8	7

Answer to last week's puzzle

1	8	9	4	5	6	3	7	2
4	3	6	7	2	8	1	5	9
2	7	5	9	3	1	6	4	8
6	2	8	1	4	5	7	9	3
9	5	4	2	7	3	8	6	1
7	1	3	6	8	9	4	2	5
8	4	2	5	1	7	9	3	6
5	9	1	3	6	4	2	8	7
3	6	7	8	9	2	5	1	4

Puzzle courtesy of www.sudoku-puzzles.net

SUDOKU

Fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9. Each number must occur only once in each column, row, and box.

the Almanian

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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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In offense of the “Juno Effect”: Why the media is wrong about the glamour of teen pregnancy

By SIMONE MISHLER
NEWS EDITOR

There are certain trends I accept as being in vogue for the teenage community. Scarves are currently in vogue. Skinny pants, plaid shorts, and mp3 players are all in vogue. Teenage pregnancy however is not something I consider to be in style.

According to many media outlets I should want to get pregnant. Well, maybe not me specifically, but single women of my age demographic should be going crazy to get knocked up. They are calling it the, “Juno Effect,” and apparently because of exposure to teenage pregnancy in movies, television, and the press girls are considering having babies the same way they contemplate buying a Coach purse.

As an owner of the Juno soundtrack I am slightly disturbed by this social learning theory. Am I going to wake up one morning intending to head off for my morning classes and instead be hit by the desire to settle down and start a family? It is highly doubtful I will be ready to conceive anytime soon. Why then does the news keep telling me this is a serious

American trend?

The Hollywood scene has been rather fertile in recent months. Teenage pregnancy has not only been on the big screen as in Juno last winter; this summer the debut of The Secret Life of the American Teenager brought the drama of teen pregnancy to the small screen.

make average girls think giving birth is somehow chic.

I have to disagree with the theory that coverage of these famous pregnancies makes child bearing glamorous.

Jaime Lynn Spears lost her job when it turned up that she was expecting. Unemployment does not correlate with glamour to

she admitted being pregnant. Although even after a decline in sex appeal she has much more than I could ever wish for.

It is not only the rich and famous who are pointed to in defense of the “Juno Effect.”

In June, TIME magazine reported on an alleged pregnancy pact in a Massachusetts high

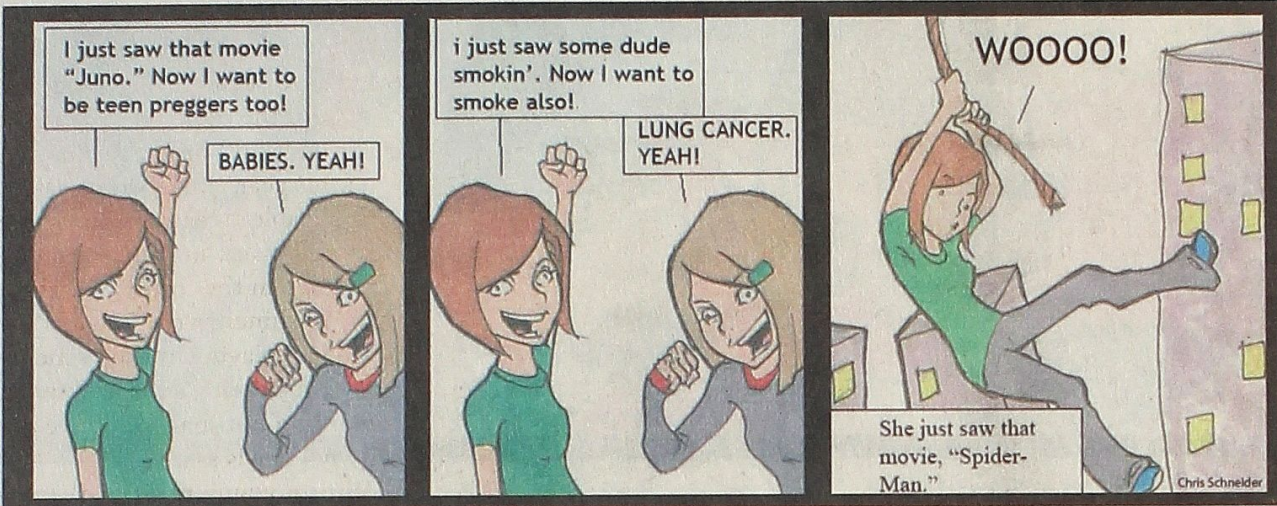
coordinated their pregnancies.

The media still waves the unnaturally high pregnancy rate at the school as proof for the “Juno Effect” theory. The media has even alleged that the city’s sex education program promotes teenage pregnancy.

It seems that sex education that promotes teenage pregnancy is an oxymoron. Abstinence and contraception were the highlighted points of any sex education that I received. It would have been hard for me to walk out of my ninth grade health class without knowing that contraceptives are available at most health clinics.

For example, Alma College’s own Wilcox Medical Center offers free condoms and birth control. And everything is completely confidential! Meaning you can walk in and get condoms and your roommate never needs to know nor do your parents.

The clinic (most commonly referred to as the “Med Shed” by students) is open for walk-ins from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and by appointment after 1 p.m. So if you, like me, do not see the glamour in getting pregnant while working on your education please use the resources available on campus.



The lives of Hollywood’s starlets have been touched by pregnancy off screen as well. Jaime Lynn Spears and Jessica Alba had daughters. Angelina Jolie gave birth to fraternal twins. The media says these high profile pregnancies

me. Angelina Jolie was reportedly worried about having to birth twins and I can only guess why. My suspicion of her thoughts: ouch. And most of my male friends told me that Jessica Alba’s sex appeal dropped in their opinions after

school. The school’s principal said the pact had been made after it was discovered 17 girls in the school were pregnant. It was later discovered no such pact had ever been made—some of the girls had never met let alone yet somehow

Alma policies discourage life skills

By KIMBERLY JOKI
FREELANCE WRITER

Recently, I have been trying to withdraw from the board plan offered by Alma College. When I entered the Student Life office and honestly explained my situation—that I will not be spending much time on campus and cannot afford to pay for meals I will not eat (“cannot afford” meaning: for the first time at Alma, I have *absolutely no money* with which I can buy books). Mr. Grant Woodman, head of Housing, was very helpful and told me that I needed to petition for permission to withdraw from a board plan. I asked him, up front, if the committee granted withdrawals in the past. “Yes,” he replied.

When I returned two days later, I received additional information; students rarely receive permission to withdraw from the board plan and many, if not all of those students, have had severe allergies or food reactions qualified by a doctor’s slip. The office’s advice to me was, “You should begin to use your plan so it doesn’t all go to waste.” I began to realize that I am stuck. I *have to* buy a board plan.

As a typical student who has taken out loans every year at Alma in order to afford my education, I am frustrated. By seeking work off-campus and maintaining a serious relationship with a non-student—by branching out beyond the Alma bubble and becoming an adult—I am being punished. Through this experience, it became evident that anyone pursuing the development of adult life skills, like budgeting for and preparing your own meals; maintaining committed relationships; finding and funding your own housing; or simply being financially responsible, those individuals are fighting rigid

policies of the College and likely will not receive accommodation or support.

With very few exceptions, every student at Alma pays \$4,160 to eat at Hamilton Commons for 7 months or 30 weeks—regardless of his or her meal plan. That is, you and I pay about \$140 every 7 days for food from Alma College food service. Clearly, students with 14-, 19-meals weekly, or 210 meal block plans get the best bargain at \$11 or less per meal and students with the 10-meal or 160 meal block plans might as well be feasting on fine prime rib at every meal at \$13 or more per meal (These figures reflect the full value of the meal plans, without modification according to amounts of Munch Money. It is my opinion that changes in the amount of Munch Money from plan to plan are virtually negligible considering the number of meals typically given up in relation to changes in the amount of Munch Money). It is, financially, more prudent for most students to buy their meals directly from Sodexo than through the Board plan. In my case, consuming only about \$50 of groceries each week, I would save \$2,700 this year. To put it in perspective, I would need to work 15 minimum-wage hours every week while at school just to pay the difference. Over four years, I could have saved enough by making my own meals that, for two years, I would not have needed my second student loan.

Noting these savings, it is ridiculous to expect that students with access to their own kitchens would want to pay for a board plan. There are, for example, 88 students living in on-campus housing with kitchen access, not including Greek housing (Student Life website). The majority of these students, I am sure, wanted to live in Wright Hall and small housing for the opportunity to

have more independence. They wanted to be able to bake their own cookies and have more privacy in the bathroom. They wanted to have these things and, consequently, to learn how to fulfill new responsibilities. Essentially, they wanted to live more like adults.

Unfortunately, Alma College policy does not encourage nor foster development of vital adult skills, such as planning and budgeting for meals. According to the on-line course catalog, “All students are required to participate in the College’s board program unless they are married, living with parents or otherwise approved for off-campus residency.” In other words: Students must be dependent on Alma College, a spouse, or parents OR they must let the College revoke 25% of their financial aid and move off-campus, in order to withdrawal from the board program. In one scenario, students must prove their dependence on an outside entity. In the other, students must agree to sacrificing part of what may be the only reason they can afford school. It isn’t much of a choice. Students with hopes of having more independence and saving some money are stuck.

In the past, at fundraisers and prospective student events, I have heard President Tracy herald the wonderful opportunity students have to cultivate life skills at Alma, especially through “new, apartment-style housing.” The fact is, students in Wright Hall and small housing aren’t cultivating any more adult responsibilities than other students on campus. They can’t. Students are still forced to rely on the school for food when, in reality, they are capable of sustaining themselves and at a lower cost. Myself and others are left without options, except—maybe—would someone like to marry me?

All for one in a small town

JOHN McDAID
FREELANCE WRITER

When a member of this tight-knit community of farmers needs a hand—a rally of overwhelming support ensues. This is exactly what happened the other day at the Alma Fairgrounds.

Family, friends, neighbors and farmers, from infant to elder, converged as one to support a fellow man who was diagnosed with a very rare blood disorder that affects Factor VIII, a clotting factor of the human blood that causes Hemophilia A. So rare, only 1 in 1,000,000 humans are ever diagnosed with this disorder. Due to its rarity, a tremendous amount of medicine and medical procedures are required.

The family decided to hold a benefit hoping for support to battle this medical giant. They received much more than money and auction items. They were exposed to a tremendous amount of humanity.

An awesome dinner was served. Roasted hog, baked potatoes, salads and dessert—everyone ate and enjoyed. Yet you could sense no one was really there for the food, they were there to support one of their own.

Lining one building were silent auction items, from hand-knitted quilts to grandma’s jam, you name it and it was probably on the tables or the wall. In the main building a live auction followed the closing of the silent auction. The three auctioneers excited the crowd, a frenzy of bids followed and everything sold, including a trip to Cancun, tickets to major sporting events and even left over baked potatoes!

I got a chance to visit with Tim, the man the event was held for. I asked him what he thought about this great raucous affair. He said, “I don’t have the words to explain how I feel. I am overwhelmed by the people, the auction items, the support of my family and friends. I can thank them forever.”

Living as a decent man and leading a good life makes it easy for people to help. And, helping others is a gift to ourselves, the good feeling we get in doing so. All for one is a way of life for these folks that has transcended for generations. Oh, the lessons we can learn from our fellow human beings.

Men's golf looks to bright future with new coach, new talent

By MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

This fall, the men's golf team had a new addition. Ryan Duckworth replaced Mark Starkweather as the varsity golf coach.

Coach Duckworth, golf pro at the Pine River Country Club, has played since a young age and was a four-year letter winner at Saginaw Valley State University. As an assistant coach of the Alma women's golf team and assistant coach of the Saginaw Valley men's golf team, Duckworth has had plenty of previous coaching experience.

Bringing this experience to Alma, Duckworth has many goals and hopes for the upcoming season. "One major goal is to improve the ability to score," Duckworth said. "We have quite a bit of talent, but we need to improve our ability to get the ball in the hole. We need to work on our short game and a lot of putting will help."

The last three years the team has finished in the middle of the conference and placed sixth out of eight teams last year.

Although the team is very young this year, Duckworth has a positive outlook. "It's a group of young men who want to work hard," he said. "They're responsive



Photo by Catherine Finley

Ryan Duckworth sits down to talk about his plans as the new coach.

at practice and that'll help us improve our ability."

The only senior, **Kyle Travis ('09)**, also believes that the team

has a lot of potential despite its lack of experience. "We are a very young team," Travis said. "I am the only senior and one of

very few with college tournament experience. Many would view this as a weakness, but it is in fact a strength for the future. The younger guys can gain knowledge from the upperclassmen on the team, all the while gaining experience of their own."

"Only a few of the guys on the team have seen playing time and they have the opportunity to gain experience and battle for playing time this year," Duckworth said.

Being able to earn playing time early will give the young team an advantage in the future. "With so many freshmen in our lineup, they will begin playing in tournaments early in their college career, something not many other teams can say," Travis said.

With a young team and a new coach the golf team has their work cut out for them and are optimistic for the road ahead. "I think Coach Duckworth has a wonderful understanding of the game of golf," Travis said. "It is what he is truly passionate about and it is reflected through his teachings. He is taking the reins of a young team. This is advantageous because he will have three years to work with many of the guys on our team. This gives both him and the players an ample chance to grow over time, both in the quality of the team's scores and the bond within the group."

Fitness options for everyone

By CHELSEA CLARK
SPORTS EDITOR

Exercise is known to be a good way to stay in shape, relieve stress and have fun: all important factors to the average college student. The Alan J. Stone Recreation Center is working to add more accessible options for the students this fall as a way to promote a healthy lifestyle.

This first intramural sport of the year is a two-week long, three on three basketball tournament. Last year there was record turnout for the intramurals that were offered, and Julian Springer, the Director of Campus Recreation, is hoping to continue the tradition. "I think it will be pretty big," said Springer. "We want to start it out big."

The last day to sign up a team is this Thursday, September 18. A team consists of four players and there will be both a men's and women's league.

Other intramurals that are set for this year's schedule are the traditional volleyball, flag football, and softball, but this year they are planning on working tennis, bowling, and ultimate Frisbee among others into the rotation. "Tennis seems to be very large on this campus, out of all the campus's I've seen tennis seems to be the largest here," said Springer. "We want to make sure to provide that option."

Another new addition to the recreational center's options is the presence of a personal trainer on campus. Brian Taylor is an Alma College alumni, and after obtaining certification by the National Federation of National Trainers in 1997, has returned to Alma. He will be offering his services for \$10 an hour and asks all interested to sign up in the Stone Recreation Center.

There are fitness classes being offered in the morning, afternoon, and night everyday of the school week in order to provide fitness options for everyone's busy schedule. "This campus really likes to get involved so it's not just one department or group of people that are coming to the classes," said Springer, "There are usually 20-25 people in a class and the best thing is you can have any level of experience. The instructors are really good at catering to who's in the class at that day."

Another Alma College alum has returned, but this time to teach hip-hop. Ricki Clarkson is teaching the class for credit this semester, but he is also providing his expertise Monday and Wednesday nights for those who would like to try it out.

Fall classes include Hip-Hop Dance, Strength Training and Conditioning, Pilates and Yoga, Kickboxing, Step Aerobics, and Zumba. A full schedule and instructor profiles can be found on the Alma website under Student Life/Stone Recreation Center.

New sports information director comes from pro team

By LAUREN SHAW
STAFF WRITER

The Athletic Department has hired Mike Hanson to take over the position of Sports Information Director for Alma College.

Hanson's job description includes the responsibility of maintaining the Athletic Department's website. This involves updating statistics, rosters, and schedules, as well as providing press releases and recaps of events. He also edits the sports programs and serves as an intermediary for the local media to promote coverage of Alma College athletics.

Hanson brings considerable experience to Alma. His career has taken him all over the country with twenty years spent at the professional level, including working as the Public Relations Director with the New England Patriots, during which time he was the youngest PR Director in the National Football League. He has also worked with the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League, as the Director of Communications for the Florida Panthers of the National Hockey League, and has spent the last six years with the Portland Trail Blazers of the National Basketball Association.

"We were very fortunate to hire Mike Hanson," said Athletic Director John Leister. "We feel Mike will do a wonderful job promoting our athletic program both within the state as well as nationally." Alma's previous Sports Information Director, Josh Ernst,

a 2006 graduate of Alma College, left to continue his education after being offered a scholarship at Northern Illinois University to complete his master's degree in physics.

Leister also said that Hanson is "a great family person and fit Alma very well." When asked why he chose Alma College, Hanson's immediate response was "family values."

Hanson is married and has a son in sixth grade and a daughter in third, and his career at the professional level required traveling with the team. He would often go on road trips that lasted as long as ten or eleven days. Hanson said he was looking for "something that better fit me being a dad, because that's the most important thing." He also believes working for Alma will provide safe surroundings for his children, stating that he felt comfortable allowing his children on campus with the Alma students. Hanson visited Alma before he accepted the job, and said that the campus environment played a factor in his decision.

Hanson would like to begin creating positive publicity for athletes based on their accomplishments in the classroom. Alma's student athletes are also very successful academically and Hanson hopes to make that recognized, because "education comes first, and athletics come second."

Hanson would also like to see increased attendance at athletic events. He said that media often takes more notice when there is large student support. Many of

Alma's teams are beginning their seasons extremely well and would benefit from the advocacy of their peers.

Hanson hasn't been here long, but says he is enjoying life in

Alma. He credits the ease of the transition to the people he has met. "Starting a new job is never easy," he said, "but if you have as many good people as here, it helps a lot."

THIS WEEK AT HOME

Wednesday, September 17

Women's soccer vs. Finlandia at 12 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Calvin College at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 18

Women's soccer reserve vs. Siena Heights at 5 p.m.

Saturday, September 20

Football vs. Rockford College at 1 p.m.

Men's soccer vs. Hiram College at 3 p.m.

Women's soccer vs. Wooster at 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 21

JV Football vs. Olivet College at 2 p.m.

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Volleyball takes two for the MIAA

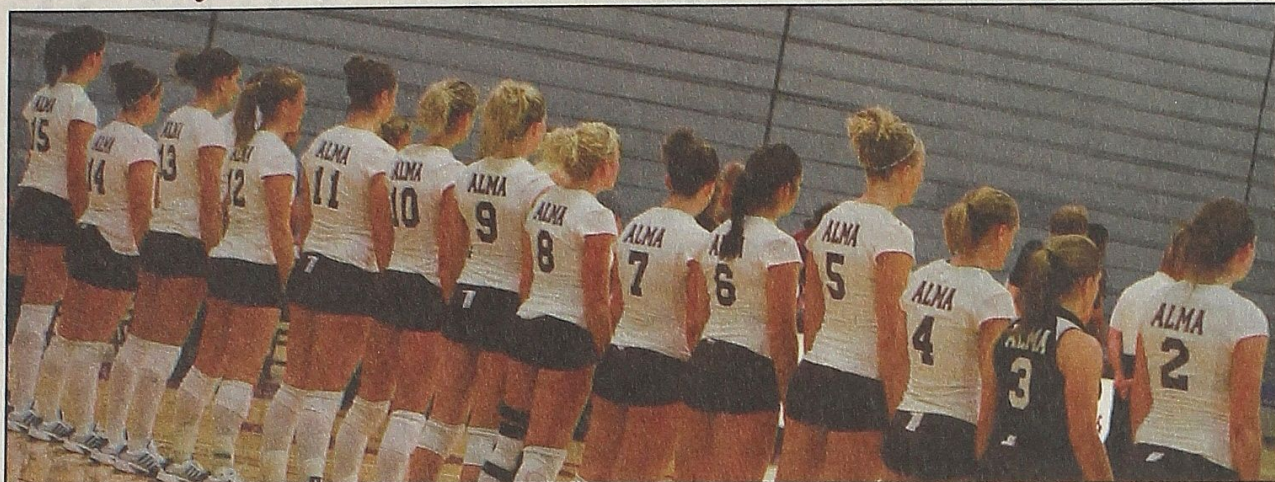


Photo by Brent Riley

The AC Volleyball team stands united as they are introduced at the beginning of the game.

By LAUREN FORREST
STAFF WRITER

The Alma Women's Volleyball team played their second game of MIAA competition and repeated the outcome with another win against the Britons of Albion. Alma handled Albion easily in three games to none with scores of 25-14, 25-8, and 25-18. The Scots stand 2-0 in the conference, and 7-3 overall.

Alma started the game on a strong note with a kill by **Kim Gillhespy ('10)**. As she went back to the serving line, Alma went on a run to pull ahead of the Britons

with a strong lead early in the set. The Britons could not catch the Scots on their trudge and they proceeded to take the first set. Alma used their momentum to have a 17-2 lead in the second set that forced Albion to call a timeout. The rest of the set and match went smoothly and the Scots protected their home court. The Scots put up strong blocks, aggressive serves, and attacked with intensity, which in the end were the ingredients needed for a victory.

Kim Gillhespy ended the home match with 18 kills, upholding her honor last week of being deemed the MIAA Volleyball Player of the Week. **Kelsey Thompson ('10)** had seven kills and two

blocks to add towards the Scots' win, while **Hannah Hewitt ('11)** contributed 30 set assists.

"We have a real competitive drive this season and I think it will continue to prove to be a positive for us," said Gillhespy. "I hope we stay competitive the rest of the season and surprise the MIAA with our intensity."

The Scots certainly blind-sided Albion and Olivet, both being strong and respectable wins that other MIAA teams should feel threatened by. Last season, Alma obtained three wins in the MIAA regular conference play and already has the opportunity to better their record this early in the season. With a strong start, such as what the Scots have had,

big things can be expected from Alma women's volleyball in the MIAA, as Gillhespy commented. Alma has already knocked out two conference opponents and has the golden opportunity of defeating the rest.

Alma travels to Kalamazoo for a match against both Kalamazoo College and Tri-State. On

September 17 the Scots have another important match against Calvin College to add to their conference record. The Scots can continue their winning streak in the MIAA if they play with the same intensity they have shown so far. The MIAA is up for grabs, and the Scots have a chance to hold it in their grasp.

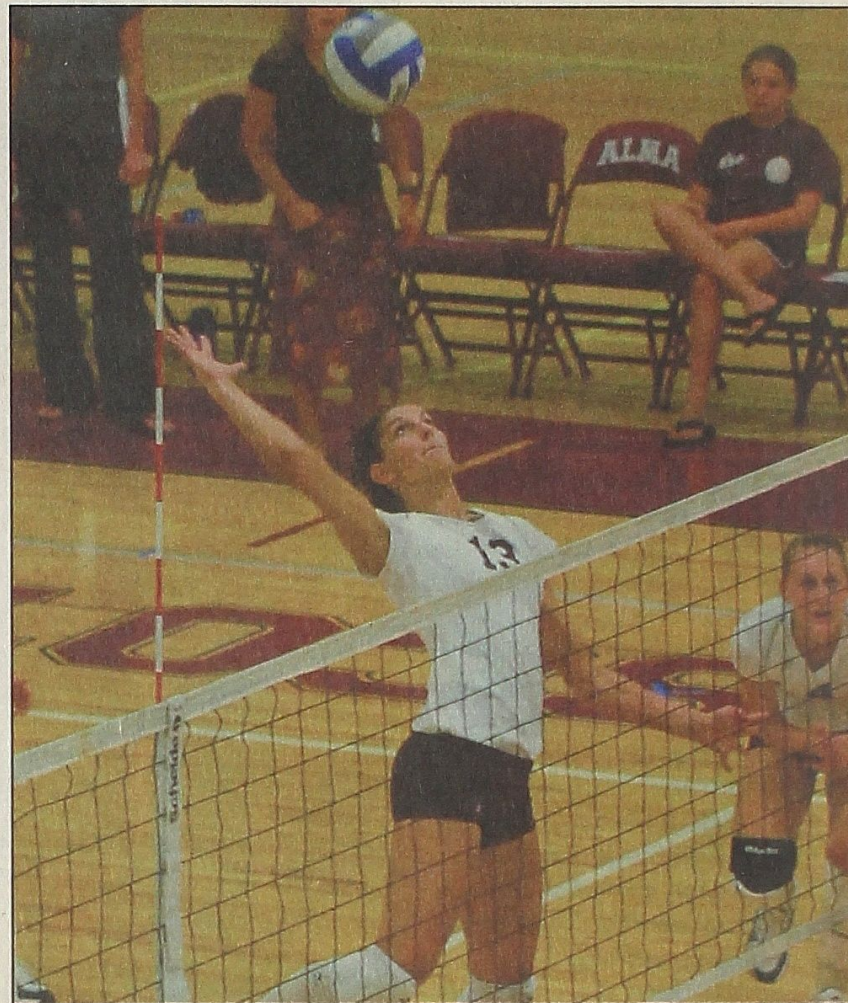


Photo by Brent Riley

Senior Kim Gillhespy was named player of the week.

Women's soccer fights through rain, tough competition

By LAUREN FORREST
STAFF WRITER

The Alma Women's Soccer team competed against Northwood, a Division II team, September 9. Alma however beat the odds and overcame the Division II team by a score of 2-1 for the win at Scotland Yard. The Women's Soccer team improved their record to 2-2 with MIAA play yet to come.

The Scots scored early in the first half due to Sarah Merritt's goal and the assist from **Jessica Swan ('11)**. Northwood was able to even the score to 1-1 before the half's end with a 4-2 shot lead on the Scots. The Timberwolves would not see another goal scored for the visiting side the rest of the game. The Scots, with a strong offensive piece of mind, pushed in the second half for a home victory. **Carly Reising ('12)** scored with about five minutes to go in the game, sealing the Alma win and defending their territory at Scotland Yard.

This was a big win for the Lady Scots, making it the second consecutive year of beating a Division II team. Alma College competes with area schools for recruits and, with Northwood being a bigger school, it generally looks to have a better package to offer their athletes. Alma is making a name in women's soccer, and coach Jeff Hosler is pleased with the results of Tuesday night. "It always helps team confidence to beat a Division II team, and it also helps for recruiting because we often have to compete with teams such as Northwood and other larger schools for recruits,"

said Hosler. "This also was a big win for us because all three captains didn't play due to injury of some form, and the young players really stepped up for us to win."

The team is comprised of many freshmen and sophomores, with some upperclassman just starting their soccer career this year. With many fresh legs and much depth, the Scots are ready to compete in league and non-league play.

The young players knew they had to step up for their team to win without their leaders on the field.

"We said before the game that we were going to play for our captains and to think about how bad they wanted to play," said **Kelci Fech ('12)**. "That thought inspired us to play hard for them, and in the end we were happy for the win. And being at home made it even better."

Next the Scots will face Heidelberg College September 13 and Finlandia University on September 14. The women's soccer team begins MIAA conference play on September 27 where they host the Brittons from Albion College on Homecoming.

"For the first time in a long time the MIAA title is wide open," Hosler said. "Calvin has won the past few years, but we're going to be competitive in the conference this year. It's hard to say because you never know with injuries, but the girls believe in themselves."

The team returned to the field Saturday, despite the torrential rainfall. They took a loss to Heidelberg, 1-2, after double overtime. By Sunday's game the rain had created unplayable conditions at the Scotland Yard and the game versus Finlandia was moved to a nearby indoor field.

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