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VOLUME CII ISSUE III



Photo by Catherine Finley

Homecoming King and Queen hopefuls Ian Rideout, Antuan Davis-Featherstone, Jake Hanley, Chris Francis, Will Allen, Paula Colburn, Margaret Hewitt, Samantha Lazarowicz, and Sarah Nicholas. Not pictured: Ruth Nardecchia

Sypniewski picked for opportunity of a lifetime

BY MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

"It was my dream job," said Adam Sypniewski ('09). This year, he had the opportunity to be part of a groundbreaking experiment.

Sypniewski traveled to Switzerland to work on the Large Hadron Collider. This project, better known as the LHC, is located at CERN, between the French and Swiss border. CERN, a French acronym, means European Organization for Nuclear Research.

During his sophomore year, Sypniewski saw a poster about the project but had to wait to apply until he completed his junior year. Two days after applying, he was accepted.

As one of 15 other American students (and the only Alma College student), Sypniewski was directly responsible for the LHCb, a small detector of four on the LHC. "The LHCb does things with matter versus antimatter, and I was responsible for managing data flow to computers all over the world," Sypniewski said.

To put it simply, protons are smashed together in a 27-kilometer long tunnel, at almost the speed of light and create matter. "These created particles are what we studied," Sypniewski said.

"The research is trying to understand more fundamental origins of the universe," Sypniewski said. "It will help answer a lot of questions we still

have."

CERN has made many advancements in science in the past. "They created the PET, which can give you more information than an MRI," Sypniewski said. Among other things, CERN has developed methods of cancer treatment and invented the World Wide Web that everyone uses today.

"Many of these discoveries came out of experiments," he said. "Is something indirectly going to come out of this project? Yes. We don't know what it is yet, but something good will come of it."

"The physicists really work for the love of it and just for the beauty of the science," Sypniewski said. "Much of this technology they give away for free, like the World Wide Web."

During his time there, Sypniewski had the opportunity to travel around Switzerland and France, climb mountains, and visit Geneva.

One of the only difficulties Sypniewski faced was the language barrier but he quickly overcame that. "I really enjoyed everything about it. Even getting lost on a mountain was semi-enjoyable," he said.

Sypniewski continues to work with CERN. "I'm still computing research for CERN from here," he said.

As a physics and math major, Sypniewski hopes to go to graduate school and attain his doctorate in physics and return to work for CERN.

Homecoming energy spreads school spirit

BY ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Student Homecoming activities planned this Saturday aim to energize school spirit and revitalize campus traditions.

"The week of homecoming is when we try to provide a lot of things for the students themselves," said Margaret Hewitt ('09), president of the Alma Leadership Alliance (ALA). Activities begin Tuesday, September 23, with contests where students could win a cash prize.

These contests are a McDonald's Happy Meal eating contest, an ice cream sundae relay, an egg toss, and a tug-of-war. All of these will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Newberry Beach and are sponsored by ALA. Team sign-up for the events are September 22 and 23.

Thursday night is traditionally movie night in Jones Auditorium, but because homecoming week

also coincides with season premier week on the television, they decided to co-host the showing of the season premier of Grey's Anatomy in Jones at 9 p.m. Accompanying the movie will be pizza and other refreshments.

"We picked these activities because they were, in years past, the most successful and the ones with the highest attendance," said Hewitt. "The homecoming committee wanted to draw students in and get them involved and excited for homecoming. Plus, it is a welcome break."

Since Friday night is believed to be the beginning of homecoming on campus, there have been several activities scheduled. The activities begin at 8 p.m. with a concert by the Percussion Ensemble in the Heritage Center. At 9:30 p.m. students are encouraged to attend the "Calling of the Scots," the traditional rally and bonfire, which will take place behind the Wilcox Medical Center. ALA will

provide cider, doughnuts, hot chocolate, and pizza from Pizza Sam's, along with music and a couple of short talks.

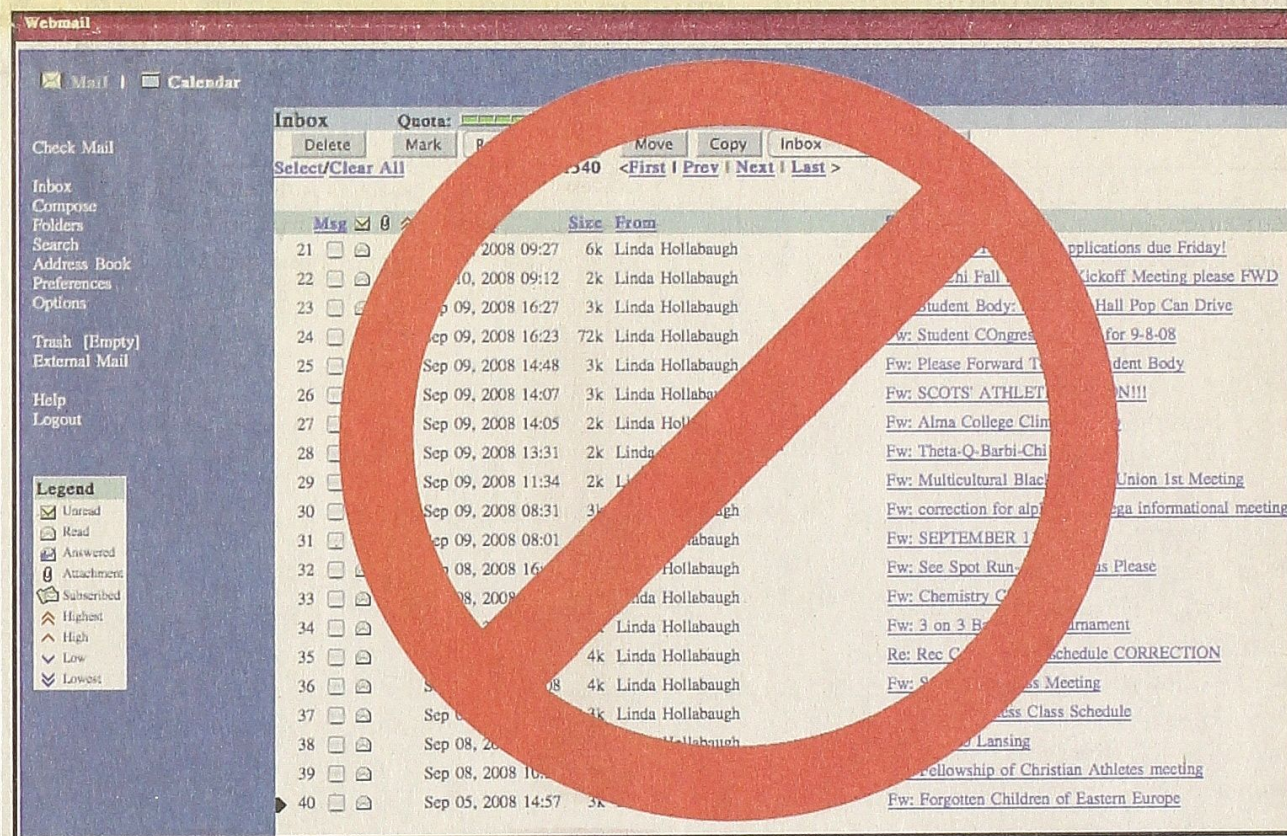
"I like the bonfire best because it brings all the students together and it really is the kickoff event for homecoming weekend," said Hewitt.

Finally Friday night there is a free concert in Cappaert Gymnasium by Bless you Boys, featuring alumnus Chris Andrus ('02).

Homecoming is the time of fall when students past and present come together to show their pride in their school. But the week before homecoming day is the time for current students, from first-year's to senior's, to come together and get to know one another so that the game is that much more exciting and enjoyable.

Hewitt said, "On a campus this size, it reinforces the tight-knit community, and is one thing that spans the generations."

Intranet cleans inbox



Graphic by Catherine Finley

BY ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

Overwhelmed by the vast amount of e-mails sent throughout the day, many announcements get thrown to the wayside without even being opened, let alone being read.

Fortunately, an improved Student Announcement Intranet system is being adapted to the Alma Portal which will hopefully, according to Nicholas Piccolo, Vice President for Student Life, "make life easier for everyone involved, and make communication more effective."

The general consensus is that this new Student Intranet system will provide students with an easier way to submit and receive announcements in a much more consolidated format.

Previously, to submit an announcement, students e-mailed the information to the appropriate faculty member or secretarial staff member, who then sent the announcement out to the correct students on campus, often all of

campus.

In contrast, in order to submit an announcement, students can log on to their Alma Portal, click on the Student Intranet tab, and then fill out a General Announcement Form for their announcement.

This form is then electronically submitted to the Student Life Office where it is reviewed and either "approved as is, approved with edits, or not approved," said Piccolo.

Furthermore, instead of the approved announcements being sent out singularly at various times throughout the day one email will be distributed to students daily at 3p.m., Monday through Friday.

"The 'announcements' email will contain a brief a summary of the event or announcement, pertinent information, and a link to more information," said Piccolo.

There were many motivating factors behind the adaptation of this new system. First, feedback from students, faculty, and secretarial staff in terms of how

much clutter was filling up their inboxes made evident the need for an improved format. Also, faculty and secretarial staff will now be freed of the responsibility of personally reviewing all announcements sent to them.

Communication will be improved as announcements will be located in one place and distributed one time a day.

Finally, this new system will "allow students to submit announcement requests any time rather than office hours," said Piccolo.

Rosemary Dutka, Associate Web and Database Developer, was heavily involved in the launching of this new system. She provides support and maintains the program.

Dutka believes that the new system will offer more interaction with the Alma Portal for students as well as being much more informative with easier access.

Regarding additional changes to

Continued on page 2

Bless You Boys provide free concert for homecoming

2002 alumnus performs as lead vocalist

BY ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Friday night is the official homecoming kickoff where current students and Alumni join together in the spirit of homecoming. This year an exciting event for all is the free performance by Bless You Boys featuring **Chris Andrus ('02)** as the lead vocalist.

Everyone is invited to listen to their music at 10 p.m. in the Cappaert Gymnasium where they will fire up the homecoming spirit in everyone.

"We thought it would be great to get Chris back to campus and also showcase the band," said Alumni Director **Brent Neubecker ('95)**. "Bless You Boys are doing very well and are becoming a very popular and we are fortunate to get them here for Homecoming."

The band is a four-piece indie-rock combo, which got its start in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2006. Andrus put the group together and since then they have only flourished according to the Grand Rapids Press. Along with Andrus the band includes guitarist/vocalist Brad Lawrence, bassist Steve Sullivan and drummer Brad Harris.

"The band has cultivated a truly original sound, blending the pop glory that characterized the music of the sixties with the guitar aggression of nineties alternative rock," as stated on their website: www.myspace.com/blessyouboys. "Drawing influence from artists like the Beatles, Brian Wilson, Jeff Buckley and Radiohead, Bless You Boys write songs that feature inventive harmonies, unique melodies and chord changes, and concise arrangements."

Currently the band has released two albums: one in 2007 and the other in 2008, both of which are available for sale on iTunes.

Student Intranet

from page 1

make to the system in the future, Dutka said, "There are always ideas for the future. We are always making changes and improving the system currently set up."

She would like to see Registrar drop/add forms on the Student Intranet tab in the future, while Piccolo hopes to see an interactive bulletin board where students can leave questions for the food service and IT members.

Piccolo believes that the new system will provide students with a more concise connection with what's happening on campus.

In terms of the effectiveness of this new Student Announcement Intranet system, Piccolo said, "It's not going to happen all at once, but it will catch on."



Photo by Catherine Finley

The Smith Alumni House plays an intricate role in hosting homecoming festivities including the presenting of the Smith Distinguished Service Award.

Alumni events to begin this Friday

BY ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Friday morning will mark the beginning of Alumni arriving on campus. From 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. the 50-year class reception and dinner will take place at the President's House and Tyler-VanDusen/Heather Room respectively.

Beginning at 6 p.m. the rest of the Alumni are invited to enjoy Pizza Sam's again. This will be in Tyler-VanDusen and the Rotunda, depending on weather.

From 9 p.m. until midnight the 25-year class social will take place at the Pine Knot.

Alumni are also encouraged to attend the Percussion Ensemble concert, the Calling of the Scots, and the free concert.

Saturday, Alumni will continue to trickle in. The Kiltie Alumni band rehearsal at Bahlke Stadium

starts at 9 a.m. This is the 85th year this tradition has occurred. At the same time the 50-year, the 25-year and the all-Alumni breakfasts take place in the Tyler-VanDusen and Rotunda areas.

At 10:15 a.m., the Golden Thistle photo on the steps of the Dunning Memorial Chapel will take place. At 11 a.m. the Alumni picnic with entertainment being provided by the Kiltie Marching band on the Chapel lawn will take place. Afterward the decade photos will be taken, the 5-year reunion pins and the Smith distinguished service awards will be given at the Smith Alumni House.

Following the football game there is a reception in the Smith Alumni House as well as department receptions and fraternity and sorority open houses.

From 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., the 25-year class reception and the

photo will occur at the President's home.

Immediately afterwards, at 6 p.m., the All-Alumni dinner takes place in Hamilton Commons. At the same time, the 25-year class reunion dinner/program and pin and certificate take place in the Tyler-VanDusen Commons.

The Alumni Choir rehearsal in the Heritage Center begins at 6:30 p.m. with the concert and awards at 8 p.m.

From 8 p.m. until midnight, the 25-year class reunion open house will take place at the Smith Alumni House.

Homecoming festivities will conclude on Sunday with the Alumni breakfast from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in Hamilton Commons with a chapel service in Dunning Memorial Chapel beginning at 11 a.m. This year **Reverend Jeffrey Weenink ('77)** is officiating.

New services from the 2008-2009 Academic and Career Planning Office

BY MEREDITH BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Academic and Career Planning Office is a support system for Alma College students in their academic lives while on campus, and in the search for further education or a career after graduation.

This year they are providing five new services to our student body.

"Last year we asked students what kind of services they wanted in the future, and this is our response to that feedback," said Ginna Holmes, the director of the Academic and Career Planning Office. "Having these programs online makes them easily accessible to students at any time, so that it fits their schedules. Now they can work on their resumes at two in the morning, if that's what they want to do."

The first program is called Experience, or eRecruiting, a program that serves to help students look for career and internship possibilities by providing personal information and their resumes to recruiters.

"This website is comparable to Monster.com, but it goes beyond it. It provides data

to help us track students and increase communication between students," said Lou Ecken, the Career Planning Coordinator.

The second is a website called Going Global, which, as one might guess from its name, deals with finding international jobs, as well as postings in larger cities of the United States.

"Students returning from international exchanges wanted to learn how to find jobs in a different country. This website provides cultural information which helps students know what to include on their resumes and what to leave out. For example, there are several countries that look down on community service hours, as it shows the candidate for the job did not spend as much time with their own families, something very valued in various cultures. It's beneficial to know these idiosyncrasies while searching for a job abroad," said Holmes.

The website also contains forums with information about housing opportunities, as well as the nightlife of the area they are interested in moving to.

The third program is Optimal Resume, which is set up to aid students in creating a professional

resume and portfolio.

The fourth service is SIGI 3, a website with survey and inventory programs which help develop a personal understanding of what field of study a student's personality, passions and skills fit into, and related job information to that field of study.

Lastly is Vault, a compilation of information about businesses, providing guides to how to successfully present oneself in a case interview, build resumes, and create cover letters.

"These programs are not only for upperclassmen ready to exit Alma College. We hope that freshman will also take advantage of these learning experiences," said Ecken.

"We've gone from having no Internet resources to five, so please do have patience with us," said Wendy Radaz, Academic Support Coordinator.

The five new services are a fabulous opportunity for students in any year to begin learning how and where to enter the professional world.

The Academic and Career Planning Office will be moving locations this month, though staying in the library basement.

Green ideas with a visible return

Student Leader's Group begin plans

BY AARON POOLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The college has yet again promised \$50,000 toward improvements on campus—this year with a focus on environmental sustainability.

"As an institution we've said we're committed to a green campus, but we want to take steps toward this with active student input," said President Sandra Tracy.

Last Tuesday Tracy and Vice President of Student Life Nicolas Piccolo met with class presidents, student media, Student Congress, residence hall and athletic leaders to launch plans to make such improvements.

The group agreed that a campus survey planned in upcoming weeks would collect the information on just what changes should take priority.

A campus improvement survey last year surprised student developers.

"We found after breaking down the student survey that wireless Internet was far more important than what had been originally thought," said class President **Michael Malloy ('11)**.

Some ideas presented this year included more trash receptacles, a permanent sprinkling system, reduced water showerheads and a switch in campus lighting from time to sensor control.

"It could be as simple as replacing each burned out light bulb with an energy-efficient bulb," said **Alex Bouwhuis ('09)**. "In some areas on campus this has already started, but a total transformation to the new bulbs would dramatically save energy."

Other suggestions included an online message board for students, faculty and staff to post green ideas, possibly included on the new student intranet.

More immediate replacements suggested focusing on student recreation and outdoor furniture, including a reorientation of the volleyball court, a new volleyball net, bike racks, and replacing rusted picnic tables.

"We want this survey to come out in the coming weeks — start making changes that students can see before the weather gets in the way — and know they are the voice of making these changes to help our college help the environment," Tracy said.

Homecoming puts city of Alma in the spotlight

By ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

From the parade Saturday morning to the game in the afternoon to the choir concert at night, students will find it difficult not to have fun this homecoming.

Activities begin early at 9 a.m. with the annual Matt Reinke 5K Scot Trot at Bahlke Stadium. At 10:30 a.m. the annual Alma Leadership Alliance (ALA) parade will take place through downtown Alma. "We have over 40 entries and many of the student organizations are participating," said Alumni Director **Brent Neubecker ('95)**. "The Alma Leadership Alliance is organizing the parade and they will have a banner and float contest." The prize for the winning banner and float is cash.

Not only students and school organizations will be participating in the parade. "We have a lot of community involvement with the parade, not just from the high school, but other groups as well," said **Margaret Hewitt ('09)**, ALA president. The community groups include: the Masonic Home, various dance companies, and local politicians. This year the theme is "Alma in the spotlight," and banners and floats are encouraged to incorporate the theme.

Following the parade, students

are encouraged to stay downtown to see all that Alma has to offer and then head over to Bahlke Stadium at 1:00 p.m. for the traditional homecoming football game. This year the Alma Scots will play the Wisconsin-River Falls Falcons.

During the game students are also encouraged to go to the women's soccer game (12 p.m.) and the men's soccer game (2 p.m.) both occurring at Scotland Yards.

After the game each department, fraternity, and sorority will be hosting a reception for Alumni and current students in hopes of allowing students and alumni to connect even more.

The night concludes at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center for the annual choir concert. This concert will be comprised of both current students and Alumni.

Finally, Sunday morning at 11 a.m. there will be an open service held in the Dunning Memorial Chapel. This year **Reverend Jeffrey Weenink ('77)** will be officiating.

"I hope that the students look at homecoming and see how many alumni come back to campus, and that they continue this tradition after they graduate," said Neubecker. "I also hope that current students and alumni can interact with each other throughout the entire weekend and some connections can be made to help our current students with their careers."

We walk because they walk:

Campus and community connect to fight hunger in Gratiot County's 26th annual CROP Walk

By MEREDITH BROWN
STAFF WRITER

October 5 marks the date of Gratiot County's 26th year participating in the CROP Walk, an event to raise awareness and money for worldwide relief, development, and the support of hunger-fighting organizations.

CROP stands for "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty," a wide goal that has been successfully met to a large extent over the history of the walk, with over \$264 million raised.

25 percent of the money raised from CROP Hunger Walks will stay in Gratiot County, and go to support 5 local organizations including Community Café, Ithaca Food Pantry and the Salvation Army.

"We are finding more and more new families from the community that lack funds for their own food. This really helps people within our own county," said Craig Zeese, Director of the Gratiot County Commission on Aging and organizer of this year's local CROP Walk.

The other 75 percent of funds are distributed by the Church World Service, and used both nationally and internationally to immediately respond to food needs after crises such as natural disasters. "CROP Walk money has already been used for relief work in Texas after Hurricane Ike," said Zeese.

The target goal for fundraising in Gratiot County this year is \$16,000. "Michigan has always been the leading state in the country for raising funds," said Zeese. With student support,

though in the past ten years has been very low, this trend just might continue.

The walk itself begins at 2 p.m. in the Heritage Center parking lot on Sunday, with registration at 1 p.m. and an opening ceremony at 1:45. There are several variations of the walk: a quarter mile walk on the athletic track, a one mile walk around campus, as well as a three and a five mile walk throughout the city. The route for the three and five mile walks will go through the Pine Riverside walkway and the southern part of Alma.

The Walk's motto, "We walk because they walk," will be symbolized during the event, when participants will have the opportunity to carry jugs of water for a mile or so to learn what it is truly like for the thousands of people who walk long distances to provide clean water for their families.

Students can get involved in multiple ways. Of course, all are

encouraged to do the actual walk and to raise funds through pledges, but students can also bring canned food goods to be directly donated to local food pantries, as well as to volunteer in the organization of the event.

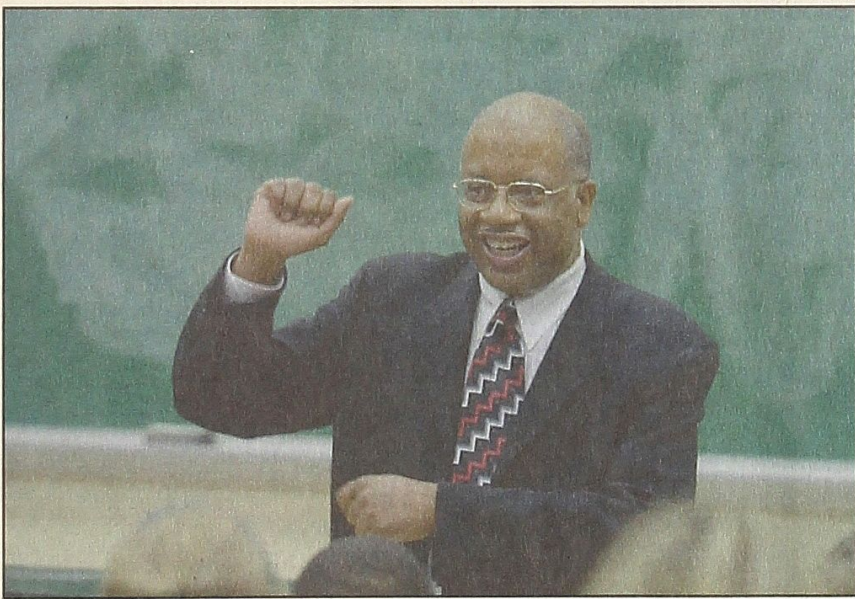
"We need students to volunteer at the sidewalk chalk art competition and at the CROP Walk itself. At the sidewalk chalk event volunteers will help sign-in participants and supervise the event. At the CROP Walk volunteers play a vital role in safety by being crossing guards. CROP Walk volunteers may also be at pit-stops with water and make sure that walkers are feeling good," said AmeriCorps Vista Alisa Dean, who is the on-campus contact for the walk.

The Side-Walk Art Competition will be October 4 at 1 p.m. All the art should be related to stopping hunger. Any student wanting to participate should contact Dean at least a week before the event.



Graphic Courtesy of Church World Service

Shultz ('77) gives speech



Amnesty International field organizer Robert Shultz ('77) expresses the need for presidential hopefuls to speak out against social injustices while out on the campaign trail.



Shultz talks with DeAnna Daniels ('10) and Maria Quintana ('09) Wednesday following his discussion of Amnesty International and his success following graduation from Alma. Shultz was invited to speak by the College chapter of Amnesty International.



Photos courtesy of Skip Traynor

Shultz accepts a T-shirt from his Zeta Sigma brothers who listened to his speech from the front row.

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Strengthening ties with Ecuadorians before exchange students arrive at Alma

By MEREDITH BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Those who have traveled to another country to study call it a life-altering experience. Alma College students who wish to improve their Spanish language skills and learn a new culture have the opportunity to study in Quito, Ecuador, for a semester.

"I went to Ecuador my freshman year for the spring term and it was an unforgettable experience," said junior **Emily Neil**.

The exchange can occur in both the fall and winter semesters, and is occasionally offered as a spring term course. Students take Spanish classes at a variety of levels, depending on their experience.

"At the end of every week each student is evaluated individually and placed in the appropriate language level class," explained Provost Michael Selmon. "It's very personal."

Students may also have other classes such as economics or a service-learning project, which vary from year to year.

The program began as an extension of students desiring to study Spanish in a Latin American country, but has expanded over the years to address the interests



Photo courtesy of Emily Neil

A field outside of Quito, Ecuador. Alma students will have the opportunity to participate in academic endeavors as well as trips to the countryside as part of their cultural immersion.

of students studying business and environmental studies, as well as history, literature and anthropology.

Margarita Krakuisn, a now retired Spanish professor, was the first instructor to encourage de-

veloping the Ecuador program for all students about five years ago.

"She was the inspiration to internationalize the Alma College campus in this way, and to expand the relationship the college has with Ecuador beyond Spanish stu-

dents," said Deborah Dougherty, a Spanish professor and instrumental part of the Ecuador-Alma relationship.

The positive points of international exchanges are endless, added Selmon.

"Students who go on exchanges learn so much about the world; a new people, a new place, different ways of making decisions and the premises under which those decisions are made," he said. "In the process, they learn so much about themselves. It's life changing."

The program was first linked with Academia Latino Americana, a school for the Spanish language. The director of the school, with the help of Alma College, is working to develop Ecuatorialis University, a school with environmental studies and business programs.

"Ecuatorialis has an impressive amount of people working to launch the school who have previously held high government positions, or are very respected academia," Dougherty said.

Ecuadorian students attending Ecuatorialis will be encouraged to work on their English skills and to come to Alma College during their senior year, helping to diversify both their own experiences and that of all on Alma's campus.

About 10 Ecuadorian students, independent from the exchange program, have already participated in Ghost Ranch, a leadership training and formative experience created by the Center for Responsible Leadership.

Elections class studies media's spin on politics

By KRISTEN HAIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It's presidential election season again, and Alma College is offering a class designed to teach students everything they ever wanted to know about electoral politics.

The class, called *The Press and the Presidency*, is technically listed across multiple disciplines, including communications and public affairs. The class is co-taught by Edward Lorenz, Professor and Department Chair of History, Professor of Political Science, and Public Affairs Director, and Michael Vickery, Professor and Chair of Communications.

The class has been offered for every campaign in the last twelve years. It focuses about half of its time studying the media, examining the ways in which the campaigns are presented in television, internet, and print. It will focus on such issues as media bias, inadequate coverage, and the way candidates must tailor their campaigns to specific forums in order to ensure maximum coverage.

The other half of the class time will be spent looking at presidential politics. This includes issues like electoral process, campaign finance, and possibilities for dem-

ocratic reform. The students will also be well versed in the issues of this particular campaign season, like environmental policy, economics, and the Iraq War.

It meets Monday and Wednesday afternoons, but also Tuesday nights. The Tuesday night slot is meant to allow the class to watch political broadcasts as a group. Lorenz explained, "We watch Lou Dobbs rant about stuff one week, and then we go to the News Hour on public television, or we go to Bill O'Reilly on Fox. If something is happening we'll skip around, or we'll watch *The Daily Show*, which is great. And even if you hate one of these programs, part of the idea is that we're learning about how they spin things. We try to be balanced, but everyone spins it a different way."

Lorenz and Vickery have also designed outside projects for the students, allowing them to apply their knowledge in a practical way. Lorenz noted, "The whole idea of doing this is so the students can get involved in the election campaigns, and then use the course to learn about what they're experiencing." According to Lorenz, the class is split roughly into thirds for their projects: one third works for the Gratiot County Democrats, one third for the Republicans, and one third is involved in

independent Get Out the Vote activity.

Those students with party affiliations canvas and make phone calls for their party. But Alma College students are more likely to notice the efforts of the Get Out the Vote group, which is in charge of creating voter registration events. It also supposed to coordinate with Gratiot County political activist groups to distribute independent informational pamphlets on candidate policy to students and citizens of Alma.

As anyone who pays attention to the news will know, the campaigns for this election have been unusually long and intense. Lorenz commented, "It's unusual to see campaigning like this, this early. It makes us all wonder what's going to happen in October. But it's perfect for this class, because we're trying to give an opportunity to people who are seeing that, to talk about it and to at least learn about what they're doing to us with their ads that sometimes literally don't have truth in them."

With many conflicting advertisements and biased news stories out there, a class like this is a perfect way to try to sort out the truth from the lies. And with the emphasis on voter registration and education, the entire campus may benefit from it.

Michigan is site for the developing film industry

By HILLARY BARD
STAFF WRITER

Michigan will likely never get mistaken for the lights of Hollywood but new state legislation is resulting in a growing movie industry, which could mean a boost for the economy and the state's arts scene.

Governor Jennifer Granholm recently signed a bill offering tax breaks and rebates for films shot in Michigan. The bigger the film, the higher the tax and rebate savings.

Alma graduate and current theatre intern Ashley Sawatzke, who was a paid extra in the movie "Street Boss" shot in the state, says Michigan's economy will only be helped on a small scale and mainly through increased food business.

"I think that Michigan will benefit but it won't have as dramatic effect as people were anticipating," Sawatzke said. "If you are paying people from the community to act and you're paying businesses from that community to feed those actors, you're going to see a short-term jump in the very localized economy around the shoot."

Economy growth aside, some Alma students believe that Michigan will artistically benefit from this new bill and its residents will regain a sense of pride for their state.

It is exciting for artists seeking work in Michigan, like senior **Andrea Martz**, who acted in the

independent film *The Cassandra Complex* during the summer.

"It makes the prospect of being closer to family in Michigan and staying here for work a lot brighter," Martz said.

The Cassandra Complex was shot in Detroit, a place where Martz hopes to see some positive change with the new bill.

"I think it will benefit the larger areas of Michigan," Martz said. "I think it will bring arts back into Detroit, or life back into Detroit."

Similarly, sophomore **Amanda Ewing**, who was an extra in the shooting for *Prayers for Bobby* is glad to have more openings closer to home.

"[The bill] opened up a lot of opportunities to be in film and be involved in an area where theatre and film can be very closed off," Ewing said. "I think the Detroit area will hopefully see a revival of arts where once (it was) a center of theatre, music, and film."

Ewing, Martz, and Sawatzke are all theatre students and because of the new bill were given the opportunity to expand their training to film without traveling outside of the state.

Martz said that her education at Alma helped her be ready for the demands of being in front of a camera.

"I was much more prepared than any of the other extras that were there," Sawatzke said. "And I think that my advantages were

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The life and times of Vincente Fox, part III

By KRISTEN HAIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Since leaving the Mexican presidency in 2006, Vicente Fox has remained quite busy by writing a book and delivering policy lectures on the international stage.

Immediately following his removal from office in late 2006, Fox began to speak out in Mexico as well as in other countries such as Nigeria, Canada, and the United States, covering the always vital and often controversial political issues of time, including the Iraq War.

Fox has been criticized for both the nature of his opinions and the fact that he offers them so publicly, but he deflects such criticism, noting, "Now that Mexico is a democracy, every citizen has the right to express himself, even a former president."

In addition, though Fox is unable to run for the office of president again, he hasn't completely stepped back from political life. He has expressed interest in assisting members of his National Action Party (PAN) with their future campaigns, and as Fox's approval rate at the end of his term was above 60 percent, it is possible he may still hold some political sway.

In September 2007, Fox released his autobiography, entitled *Revolution of Hope: The Life, Faith, and Dreams of a Mexican President*. The book debuted to mixed reviews, and the *New York Times* observed, "It offers colorful accounts of Fox's childhood and of his presidential travels, but gives only shallow treatment to the forces that blocked him from implementing the reforms that are crucial to making Mexico a full

democracy." The book showcases the extraordinary passion and enthusiasm which allowed him to reach a fatigued Mexican public and convince them of the possibility of change.

The same month he released his book, Fox was elected Co-President of the Centrist Democratic International, an institution which functions as an international coalition of 110 Christian Democratic parties and which includes PAN as a member.

In his capacity as president of CDI, Fox is voicing his support for opposition parties in Cuba and Venezuela. Fox reasoned that such support was the most effective way to support democracy and defeat Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. Fox censured Chavez for his "demagoguery" and referred to him as a "loudmouth intent on derailing a plan for development

for Venezuela."

In addition to speeches and book tours, Fox has undertaken a post-presidential project that will look familiar to most Americans: he is the first Mexican to construct a presidential library, an institution modeled after the Carter Center and entitled Centro Fox. Along with containing a library of documents, records, and memorabilia of his administration, the Center will house a museum, a hotel, art galleries, and a study center.

Built in his home state of Guanajuato, the library offers educational programs in such areas as democracy and government. Fox has said the such education is vital for the people of Mexico as they continue to work towards building a stronger democracy. Of Centro Fox, Fox said, "We are putting together a network so that through educational programs, masters,

seminars and workshops, we help people to discover their leadership. We are all leaders. We just need to know ourselves and exercise that leadership within."

Such an active post-presidency is a rarity in Mexico. By thrusting himself into the public eye, Fox has opened himself up for continued criticism of his policies and the current state of the Mexican crime rates, migration policies, and economic woes. And yet, as Peter Hakim, president of the Inter American Dialogue, states, "I keep hearing that the problem with Latin America is that we have no ex-presidents. Nobody whose real interest is not partisan or ideological. Somebody who has the country in mind." As Fox continues to crusade for democracy and reform, it is possible that the obstacles which faced him as president might not stop him now.

President Tracy hopes her message touches students

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

A college president is constantly bombarded with endless commitments: meetings, business trips, traveling, speech after speech, and so much more. Thus, one may wonder why Alma's President, Saundra Tracy, makes time every fall to speak at chapel.

President Tracy spoke at chapel Sunday night, September 21.

Carol Gregg, Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life, said that it is "pretty unique for a college president" to make this sort of commitment.

According to Tracy, "Chapel is an important part of my life and of campus life." This is, in part, why she saves one Sunday night each fall to speak at chapel.

In addition, she hopes "that something I say will touch someone there in some way," and that her speech will be "meaningful to students."

Tracy continued that speaking in a worship atmosphere is very different from her other public speaking commitments.

She spends a great deal of time preparing her sermon because she feels it "should convey spiritual teaching."

Tracy said she puts "prayers, energy, and time" into preparing her sermon. Because of this she feels that she learns more and gains more from preparing her sermon than anyone who listens to it.

For Tracy, speaking at chapel is "a personal growing experience."

The Student Ministry Coordinators are responsible for setting up speakers for chapel, accord-

ing to Gregg. Because of her busy schedule the coordinators invite Tracy to speak months in advance, often during the Spring Term.

When an individual is invited to speak at chapel, they are not given an assigned topic. However, they are asked to prepare something that revolves around the theme of the month. September's theme is service.

The Student Ministry tries to coordinate speakers with themes that will enhance their character and experiences.

As part of our mission statement, Gregg believes that service is an excellent theme for Tracy to focus on.

In regards to why Tracy, with an ever-busy schedule, still makes time to speak at chapel, Gregg said, "She is a person of faith. She's an ordained elder in the Presbyte-

rian Church. That's a piece of it. Also, she is supportive of chapel programming."

While Tracy believes that the Alma experience is holistic, composed of academic and social aspects, she also feels that it is "up to the college to provide spiritual growth" for the students during their time at Alma.

She went on to say that "college is a critical time for exploration of one's own faith."

"Alma College was founded in 1886 by the Presbyterian Church, giving the school a historical value," said Tracy. Moreover, it has also shaped the core values of the college and "how we define education here."

Alma's association with the Presbyterian Church means that, according to President Tracy, "We don't apologize for praying."

Film industry

from page 4

apparent for the people who were running the shoots and they kept brining me back for additional scenes."

Even if you're not theatrical, film might be something to experience, Martz added.

"It was definitely an exercise on thinking on your feet," Martz said. "Even if you're not an actor, we now have the opportunity with this funding in Michigan and people should definitely try to take advantage of it."

Because of their summer experiences, Sawatzke and Ewing, who were extras in larger films, are able to bring knowledge and advice back to campus for anyone who might be interested in seeking out an offer like they did.

"I bring back to campus a clear idea of what a bigger film shoot really is like," Sawatzke said. "When people are interested or they do find casting notices I can be honest with them about what that's really going to be."

The reality of an extra is what Ewing experienced over the summer as well, but she did not get paid for it.

She said actually being an extra in a movie isn't glamorous, but "telling the story about it rocks. Actually doing it...It's 19 hours of the same 30 seconds over and over again with no emotional journey."

Many times it is the extras in a film that complete it. And now with the tax breaks and rebates for films in Michigan, you might start spotting your friends in a film or be in one yourself.



Photo by Catherine Finley

The Alma College chapel lies in the middle of campus and is the center of faith life for the student body. Chapel services take place at 9 p.m. Sunday.



See next issue for
the WQAC radio
schedule.

Changes in SAGA all but miraculous, still could be better

BY AMANDA LABBY
STAFF WRITER

Walking into SAGA is a spooky event when comparing things to how they were last year. It's almost like walking into another dimension, the Twilight Zone, if you will. Then I look at the food and reality sets in, but, at least for a short moment, everything is different.

New changes in SAGA go on as far as the eye can see. Some are great, some in-between, and some belong in the garbage with the food.

Pesto and various other fancy sauces have made an appearance beside the pasta section. With the little glass jars and individual spoons, students could almost mistake they walked into a fancy restaurant. Almost.

Another new feature is the grab and go meals situated near the entrance of SAGA. As much as it would help students on the run, one has to wonder if occasionally missing a SAGA meal altogether may actually be a good thing.

Cereal can be a major staple in a college student's diet but, upon entering SAGA, there is hardly any cereal to be found. Instead of half of an island table dedicated to our favorite anytime food, there are only a few options, and new containers that cut back drastically on any hope for getting Cinnamon Toast Crunch anytime soon.

Two other sections have had their selections reduced as well. Someone can no longer get cucumbers, banana peppers, and a plethora of other things in their sandwiches at the sandwich area,

unless he or she is willing to get the fixings at the salad bar. Since the missing ingredients from the sandwich bar are in the salad bar, why not just do away with the sandwich bar entirely, instead of having to go two places?

The other missing section is the fruit bar. Although the portions are bigger, I would rather have a larger selection than be faced with an overabundance of cottage cheese. Last year, not only could we have chips and salsa with red Jell-O, but also peaches and pudding.

Also missing is the delicious cheese sauce that used to be served with the marinara sauce at the pasta section. And, as gross as it sounds out of SAGA context, there was nothing I enjoyed more last year than putting orange cheese sauce on my pasta.

Another food staple was stir-fry, which now is nowhere to be seen. Now I can no longer get a heaping bowl of random vegetables, like bamboo shoots and bok choy, accompanied by the occasional chickpeas and pineapple bits, mixed with chunks of tofu the size of mountains.

The last, and most important, missing piece from SAGA is Robert, who runs the Red Hot Chef station. He used to have his own booth where students could chat about their day with the friendly chef while he prepared salads and fried bananas. The pancake lines were legendary. Unfortunately, Robert is now pushed aside, squished between the pasta section and the grilled cheese, where the stir-fry was served last year.

Now, hearing a friendly "goodbye"

as one leaves SAGA is rare since Robert is not at his usual post, and his popularity creates trouble during the rush hours. Not only do you have to worry about asking for no bacon on your salad, but you also have to hurry to grab your plate, wish Robert a good day, and apologize to the person behind you for dropping forks on their feet.

The new things around SAGA are nothing short of a miracle, but some seem to have come at the expense of old favorites. While I have to commend SAGA for the few but world-shattering changes, I can only hope that one day we will live in a world where stir-fry and Cinnamon Toast Crunch can walk harmoniously hand-in-hand through Hamilton, where neither will be judged unnecessary, but by the content of their character.



Companion piece to SAGA article (above)

Illustration by Chris Schneider

Night classes offer greater value, less joy

BY AMANDA LABBY
STAFF WRITER

There is absolutely nothing I enjoy more than night classes. I love staring through my morning classes, getting through a SAGA lunch, going to another class, trying to finish some homework, being thrust off to choke down another equally terrifying SAGA meal, and then taking the dreaded steps back towards SAC to sit through a three-hour class. It's about the most fun thing I've ever done, only tied for first with eating a sheep's eye, or something equally as gross.

Oh, wait. I eat more disgusting things at SAGA everyday.

When the United States decides to repeal the death penalty, they should issue something more intense. A life sentence in prison may not be enough to crack a criminal, but if you sign him up for fourteen straight weeks of a once a week-night class, he'll be in tears by the end of the first week.

I bet prisons would be half as full as they are now if people were

threatened with night classes instead of just time behind bars.

Once I'm done with my morning classes, the only thing I want to do is finish up my homework and relax. The last thing I want to do is go to another class.

Alma offers more night classes than I ever thought possible. Not only do they have the killer three-hour classes, but everything in between: some starting at six and ending at seven, some ending at eight and nine at night.

I took my first night class the first semester of freshman year and was glad I got it out of the way—I would make sure to never take another night class. Little did I know that I would be forced to take more classes, not because I wanted to, but because certain classes are only offered at night.

Walking to night classes is like walking the last distance to a death sentence, especially when you get strapped down to your desk after a brief glance at the clock to gauge the time. If the three hours ever ends, it's just a matter of remembering to wipe the drool off your face and seeing if you can remember how to walk.

When I took my first night class,

when I was still young and naïve, I thought night classes were a great idea. Who wouldn't want to lock themselves into a room for three straight hours once a week? At least I wouldn't have to go to that class multiple times that week.

Then I learned how to do math.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are, individually, 50 minutes. For an entire week, that is two and a half hours in class.

At 80 minutes individually, Tuesday/Thursday classes are close behind with a total of two hours and 40 minutes weekly.

And coming in last place are those dreaded night classes, adding up to a whopping three hours, 180 blissful minutes of class time. What's not to love?

Maybe Alma is onto something with this, having night classes an extra half hour than regular classes. Maybe for once Alma is looking out for its students' interests, offering more for our money. Maybe I should redo my class schedule and put in only night classes from now on. After all, I could make friends with the hardened prisoners in the back row.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The phrase "the Alma family" rings hollow sometimes. Consider Mark Starkweather, the recent manager of Sodexo.

After working here for 13 years, he returned from his vacation this summer to discover he had been fired. Beloved by students and faculty alike, Mark was an ambassador of great food and good will.

Over the years Mark had helped produce quality food for us all: we could choose among various hot meals; there were pies and cakes; there were surprise lunch days when a chef from out of town came and made London broil, carving it for anyone who wanted some.

Many times I went home and told my wife I could not believe how good the food was at lunch that day. Mark would often stop by the faculty dining room to ask how the food was and to ask how we were doing, always with a smile.

Several of Mark's co-workers have told me they were shocked by his firing. They didn't understand how it could happen. Some reported that the problem was money; he was not as cost-effective as Sodexo wanted. He offered too many selections, too many treats, too many surprises.

I don't know who is responsible for Mark being fired. Was it Sodexo? Was it President Tracy and Vice-President Scoby? Was a combination of Sodexo and Alma's administration?

Since Mark's departure, the quality of food has changed. There has been a surge in student complaints, I have been told.

Mark Starkweather was never at the table in "the Alma family." He was too busy making sure everyone at the table was satisfied and happy. But now there is a huge place missing, and it does not seem right.

Dr. William Palmer
Professor of English

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Photo by Catherine Finley

Alma's offense came up 59 points Saturday in order to come away with a 59-21 win against the Regents of Rockford. This takes the Scots' record to 2-1 this season.

Scots win in decisive fashion

By LAUREN SHAW
STAFF WRITER

The football team posted a huge win against Rockford College on Saturday with a final score of 59-21.

The Scots led the scoring the entire game, with eight touchdowns and a field goal. The Rockford Regents were held to three touchdowns by the formidable Scots defense, which forced several fourth-down punts. The Scots are now 2-1 for the season.

The Scots put up nine points in the first quarter, beginning the scoring with a beautiful 26-yard pass from **Mackenzie McGrady ('10)** to **Matt Brown ('09)** in the end zone. The extra point attempt bounced off the uprights and was no good. A 29-yard field goal from **Dan Seals ('09)** for the Scots at the end of the first quarter brought the score to 9-0.

The game was closest early in the second quarter, when Rockford's first touchdown brought the score to 9-7. The Scots quickly scored again, with a touchdown by **Andrew Schaar ('11)**, who recovered a fumble by **Tyler Periard ('10)**.

The Scots were answered by a Rockford touchdown with 41 seconds remaining in the first half.

The Scots nearly scored again as the clock ran out, but the intended receiver was out of bounds in the end zone, and the first half ended with the score at 17-14.

The Scots came out of the locker rooms reenergized and scored four unanswered touchdowns in the third quarter to bring the score to 45-14.

Periard began the quarter with a 30-yard touchdown run less than two minutes after halftime, and McGrady scored the next touchdown on a 3-yard run.

McGrady then threw a 51-yard pass to Brown for his second touchdown of the game, followed by an 11-yard pass to Schaar, completing his second touchdown.

The Regents scored their third and final touchdown at the beginning of the fourth quarter. The Scots scored soon after when **Nate Smith ('11)** completed his first collegiate touchdown pass, a 17-yard throw to **Marc Mankowski ('10)**. In the final moment of the game, the Scots defense forced a fourth-down punt, which was returned for a

touchdown by **Corey Wangler ('10)**. This brought the final score to 59-21.

McGrady threw 19 completed passes on 27 attempts for 315 yards and four touchdowns. Periard gained 117 yards on 12 carries. Brown gained 127 yards on seven receptions.

Nick Merlo ('09) led the defense with 12 tackles, a forced and recovered fumble, two pass break-ups, and a sack.

The Scots were coming off a tough 48-34 loss against Illinois Wesleyan University on September 13. According to Head Coach Jim Cole, "We played well, but we gave them two easy touchdowns." However, the time at Monday's practice dedicated to reviewing film and identifying mistakes clearly paid off, as the Scots made fewer errors against Rockford.

Cole believes that the team's dedication is also a large factor in winning. "We want to have fun playing," he said, "But we're focused on the outcome."

The Scots set six team goals rather than focusing on individual goals each week. Reaching at least four of these six goals usually means a win. The system helps keep players focused on the end



Photo by Catherine Finley

Students come out in large numbers at the Cole Mine to cheer on the team. The 100 miners hats that were ordered for the game did not come in on time, but should be available for the homecoming game.

goal of a win and the team's season record rather than individual statistics.

Saturday was also the second week of "The Cole Mine," which Cole referred to as the best student section in 25 years. According to Cole, "There's no

substitute for enthusiasm." The noise created by the students and the Kiltie Marching Band created a formidable atmosphere for the Regents, who are now 0-3.

The Scots' next game is at home on September 27 against Wisconsin-River Falls at 1 p.m.

Hogan Center renovations to start soon, building updates with more varsity teams

By MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

Before this year's freshman class graduates the Hogan Center will have undergone major renovations. On February 2, Alma College trustees authorized a \$12.6 million project to renovate and add to the Hogan Building.

"The biggest part of the addition is the new performance gym and convocation center," said Dr. Karen Ball, associate professor of exercise and health science. Ball is one of the 13 members of a "Task Force" making decisions on the renovations.

This committee, chosen by President Sandra Tracy, includes administrators, professors, alumni, and two students.

The new gym and convocation center will be used mostly for athletic events as well as large ceremonies. Other renovations include the locker room area. "We will have added varsity team rooms and added locker rooms for officials," Ball said. "The training room will also be another major renovation."

Several renovations will also begin in academic buildings and housing, however, Hogan will undergo the major construction. "The building is about 40 years old and has had no major renovations since it was built," said Vice President for Finance and Administration Jerry Scoby. "A significant number of our students are student athletes, so the reconstruction will serve many students."

What now serves as a training room will become a girls' locker room and the room across the hall will become the new training room. "The insides of the locker rooms will be demolished, and everything will be rebuilt including new flooring," Scoby said.

"This space has never undergone renovations, and is poor at best," Ball said. "The existing gym is just not sufficient."

The Hogan Center was built when Alma College had no women's varsity teams. Now, with nine teams, the building is due for remodeling.

"The building, in its current condition, is less than what many students are leaving at their high schools," Scoby said. "We want

to move from a high school style gym to a more collegiate."

The new gym will hold an arena style scoreboard in the middle of the court instead of the scoreboard on the wall, and what is now the main gym will be available for practices.

Another addition includes a sculpture in the new entrance of Hogan. "The campus doesn't have many sculptures, and President Tracy has already committed to putting a sculpture in the exterior," Scoby said. "It's just one more piece add to the whole project."

"The construction will also help us compete with other colleges to recruit new students," Scoby said. With colleges such as Hope and Olivet adding to their buildings, renovations are necessary.

The first phase of the project is planned to begin in spring 2009. "There will be very little disruption that the student athletes will see," Ball said.

"The project, in its entirety, is exciting," Scoby said.

By the fall of 2012, students should enjoy a brand new Hogan Center.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Tuesday, September 23

Volleyball vs. Adrian @ Alma 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24

Men's soccer vs. Adrian @ Alma 4 p.m.

Women's golf vs. Calvin

Friday, September 26

Cross country at MIAA Jamboree #1

Saturday, September 27

Football vs. UW-Riverfalls @ Alma 1 p.m.

Women's soccer vs. Albion @ Alma 12 p.m.

Men's soccer vs. Calvin @ Alma 2 p.m.

Men's golf at MIAA Jamboree

Tough start to season for men's soccer, defense keeps games close for opponents

By LAUREN SHAW
STAFF WRITER

The men's soccer team fell to Hiram College in a non-conference game on Saturday with a score of 2-1.

Both teams failed to score early in the game, with Hiram posting the first goal with 6:01 left in the first half. Hiram scored again with 21:54 remaining in the second half.

Mark Daisy ('09) scored the Scots' only goal with 16:28 to go in the second half, bringing the score to 2-1. The remainder of the game was scoreless.

The Scots' season record is now 1-5, but according to Daisy, "Our record doesn't reflect the amount of talent and potential this team has. It is still early and there are still a lot of games ahead of us to turn things around." There are 14 games remaining in the season, all of which are MIAA conference games.

The game was very physical, including an injury to Dan Laatz ('09) with 8:42 left in the first half. Laatz sat out the remainder of the game.

"We have had a tough beginning to our season because we can't find the back of the net!" said Coach Nathan Kronewetter. The Scots have scored only five goals this season, one in the loss against Hiram and four in the September 3 game against Rochester. Several

scoring chances were created in the game against Hiram, including four great chances after Daisy's goal. Unfortunately, the Scots weren't able to capitalize on any of those chances.

"All of our losses have been close matches that could have gone in our favor," Daisy said.

The Scots defense has been strong this year, keeping games

"Our record does not reflect the amount of talent and potential this team has. It is still early and there are still a lot of games ahead of us to turn things around."

close and allowing only nine goals. Official MIAA play has yet to begin, and the Scots still have the time and skill to earn a winning record in their conference.

According to Kronewetter, "We have a solid team and have a great work rate, but are down on confidence because we have

outplayed teams and lost." Regaining that confidence will be a determining factor for the Scots as they begin conference play.

Much has been made of the youth of the Scots, who field only four seniors this year. However, Daisy feels that the young team has the ability needed.

"Getting used to the speed of the game at this level is challenging for any younger player," said Daisy. "But... our freshmen and sophomore classes have talent beyond belief. They have stepped up to the challenge and are playing superbly for us."

Kronewetter believes the Scots have the ability to turn the season around. "We are certain that we will pull it together," he said. "We are a much better team than what our results dictate up to this point."

Laatz agreed, saying, "We just need to get back to the basics and remember that we love this game and we have fun playing it. There is a lot of season left, and we are looking forward to it. We are excited for it and have the attitude that we can beat any team we play."

The Scots have 14 games left in their season, all of which are conference games.

The next game is also the beginning of MIAA play. The Scots will face off against Adrian on September 24th. Last year, the Scots posted a 6-1 win over Adrian. The game will begin at 4:00 p.m. at Scotland Yard.

Climbing provides challenge, activity for active students

By LAUREN FORREST
STAFF WRITER

Rock climbing can be fairly dangerous, yet it has a thrill factor that ultimately leads to a fun time. The Climbing Club at Alma College desires such a thrill.

The Climbing Club meets every

"I met my best friends in the club, and it's been an experience I wouldn't have had if I hadn't joined the club and got involved."

week on Tuesday at 10 p.m. where they discuss future plans and the budget. They talk about trips they wish to take later on in the year and of course, rock climbing. The climbers are supplied with gear, so the cost of helmets, harnesses, ropes, and other accessories is not an issue. They meet in the recreation center, which has a rock wall for them to practice on before they move into the outdoors.

"I met my best friends in the club, and it's been an experience I wouldn't have had if I hadn't

joined the club and got involved," said Rachel Rochefort ('10). "The memories I've had in the club I will never forget, and it has just been an over all great experience for me."

Rochefort is vice president of the Climbing Club, and Chris Noel ('09) is the president. The group has about 15 to 20 members, with attendance numbers varying week by week. The club is comprised of about half upperclassmen and half underclassmen. This allows students to interact with people outside their graduating class, meet new friends, and have fun in the process.

"The trips that we take throughout the year give us a real outdoor climbing experience that we don't have at meetings," said Rochefort. "The trips are also really affordable. They don't normally go over \$40 per trip."

The club plans on traveling to Kentucky in the fall and going to West Virginia between the winter and spring term.

The club will end for the year with a trip to Alabama.

These three outdoor trips will allow the climbers real rock climbing experience. They will set up camp and spend the entire trip outdoors for a very low price with gear supplied to them.

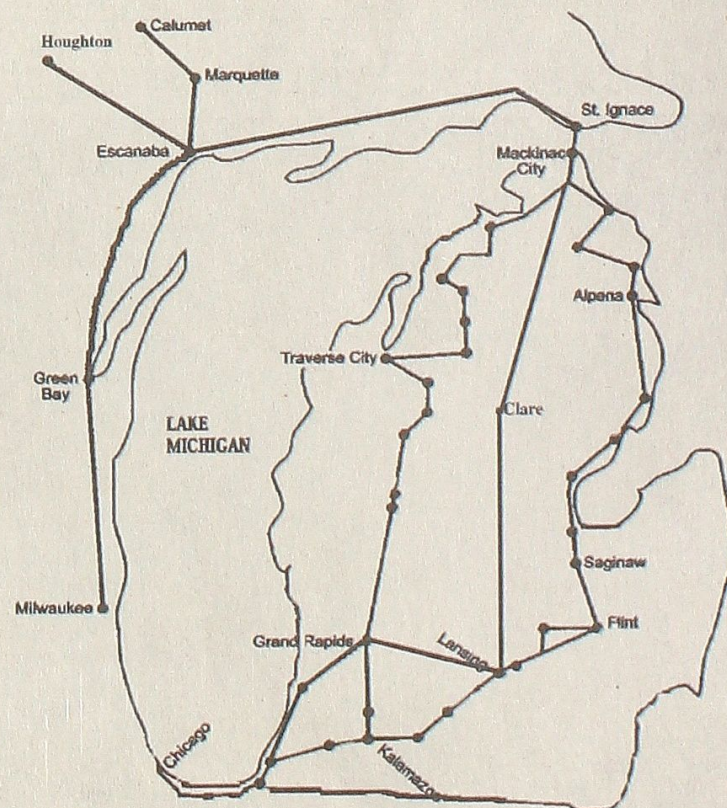
The club comes together to enjoy leisure climbing time once a week with a mix of different people.

It's a way to have fun and be involved in a club on campus, which is the main theme this year. Do Something.

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Women's soccer battles hard at home, prepares for start of conference play



Photos by Catherine Finley

Brooke Bergeron (11) puts the ball back into play during a corner kick against Wooster College.

By CHELSEA CLARK
SPORTS EDITOR

While many of the student spectators were at the football game this past Saturday, a few headed out to the Scotland Yard in order to cheer for the soccer teams. The women played Wooster College and battled to the last second to a 0-1 loss.

Six Sigma Chi brothers came painted in maroon and cream. "School spirit is fun," said **Chris Duymich (10)**. "We went to the volleyball game too, but they lost. It was still fun."

"The paint is acrylic and it chips off, but we still cheer," said **Bobby Chasnís (11)**.

"It's exciting having such a

great turnout for the games today (Saturday)," said President Sandra Tracey, "good turnout means a lot to the athletes. I know it does to the coaches. I really hope it stays a trend."

"It was a close one," said Chasnís. "They played tough. It was fun coming out here and everyone enjoying the fine weather."

"Our strength is we play well as a team and can pass right to each other's feet, but when we don't do that, it's one of our biggest weaknesses," said goalie **Alexandra Kirchner (11)**.

The last 30 seconds of the game, the Scots rallied to try and tie the score. Alma was not able to score. They sent one shot just above the crossbar, which was followed by a

corner that hit the side of the net to end the game.

Kirchner said, "I'm a little disappointed right now. If we would have played with a little more heart, I think we could have won."

The Scots will have all week before their next game to recover and prepare for the start of the season. "Kill Albion on Saturday, that's what we need to do," Kirchner said. "We lost to them two times last season, once with a second left. We want to start the conference games off with a bang." Before the start of conference play, Albion is 2-3. Alma's record so far is 4-4.

David Neilson, the MIAA Commissioner, said, "I love coming up here. I have three

cousins who graduated from Alma, so I have been coming up here for a long time."

"The facilities have developed a lot in the past year," Neilson comments on the Scotland Yard, which was built in 2003 and had a lot of water drainage problems in the first year.

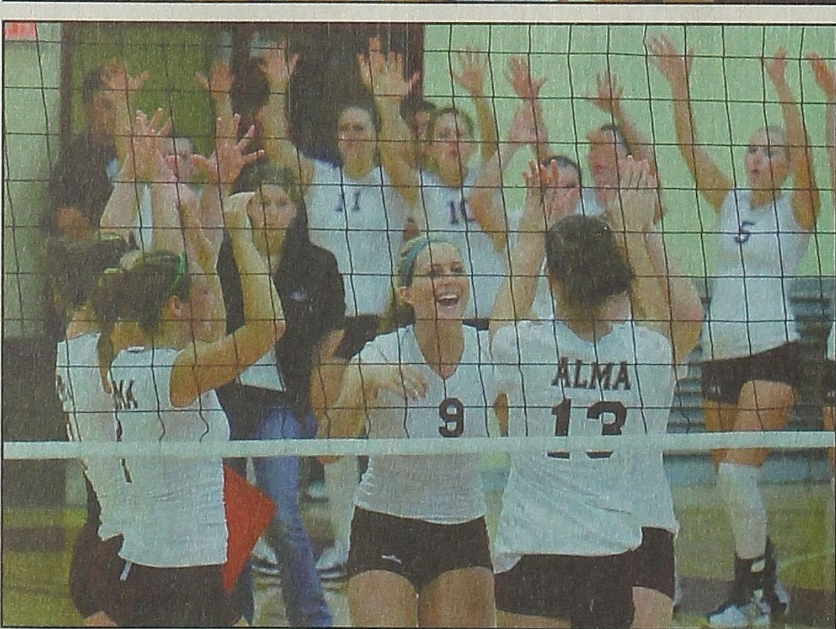
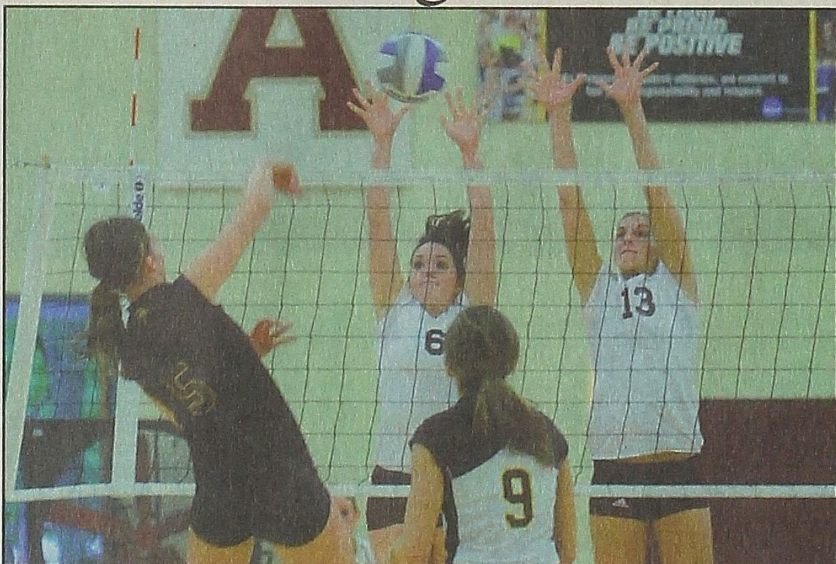
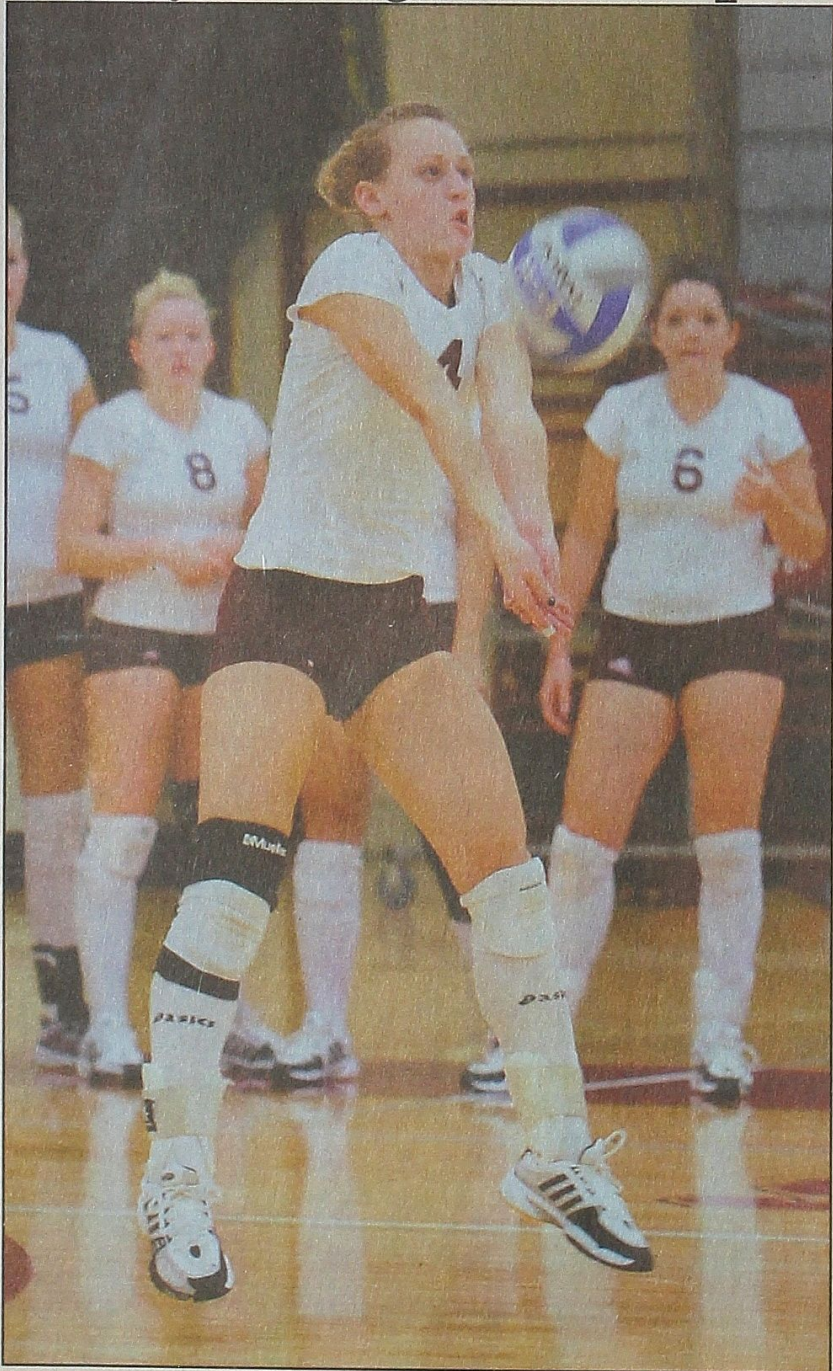
Wednesday the Maroon and Cream hosted Finlandia University from the Upper Peninsula. They were able to put 11 goals in the net the first half and added another four goals for a final score of 15-0. Ten different Scots scored in the game. **Annette Stromberg (12)**, **Britni Patrick (10)**, **Jessica Swan (11)**, **Tara Fitzsimmons (11)** and **Katie Boss (11)** each scored a second goal.



Photos by Catherine Finley

Alma player works to keep the ball away from their opponent.

Volleyball fights for top of conference against Calvin



Photos by Brent Riley

The Scots played the Knights, two time defending conference champions, to a 1-3 loss. The scores were 21-25, 25-16, 14-25 and 23-25. Calvin is ranked 15 in division III volleyball, and Alma's strong showing despite the loss leaves a positive outlook for the rest of the season.

Second season coach looking for continued improvements

By LAUREN FORREST
STAFF WRITER

Cross country is not just running but running with a purpose—to get the best time possible. The Alma College men's and women's cross country team are making every one of their strides count. They are working hard to improve individual performance and their standing in the MIAA conference.

Coach Gordon Aldrich leads the Scots for the second year of his present tenure after joining the coaching staff in the summer of 2007. Assisting him are Matt Chovanec, Charlie Gray, Joseph Whitman, and Grant Woodman. Aldrich believes his teams are improving and could possibly run with the best of the MIAA.

"The team this year came in with more knowledge and a bigger training base," said Aldrich. Eventually, in time, they will run faster for big results."

Which, as Aldrich points out, is the Scots main team strength: youth.

"We are very young with a lot of freshmen and sophomores, and few upperclassmen," continued Aldrich. "This is somewhat of a strength now, but should be more in the future."

The men's and women's teams are both dominated with young minds and fresh legs. Few upperclassmen have their name on the roster, and this could be a preview for Alma College cross country in the future. Many talented and quick freshmen contribute to the teams' success and continue to lead even at the college level.

In the average meet most everyone competes. Sometimes the contests only require a certain amount of runners, and Aldrich makes the decision of who runs given the best times.

"My first meet was at MSU, and I was so nervous beforehand because we had to run a 6K and it was the first time I ran one in a meet," said **Shelby Harris (12)**.

Harris adds, "I'm so glad I ran for Alma cross country because it's a great experience, and with it being small team, you get to know everyone on the team. Coach Aldrich is great because he really brings out the best in his runners. He works on the mental aspect of his athletes and I think that is very important in Cross Country."

The cross country team competes until November, with important meets such as the MIAA Jamborees, one taking place September 26 and the other November 1. The Scots will face teams of their conference and strive to wear the MIAA crown.

Before and between the meets of the conference, the Scots have contests to help them prepare and stay in shape. The teams will travel to The Calvin Invitational on September 20, and Parkside Invitational on October 11, among others.

The Scots have the opportunity to prove themselves this year and set a precedent for next season. Their youth will soon turn into experience, and Alma cross country will have the times to beat.