

# The Almanian

Volume C

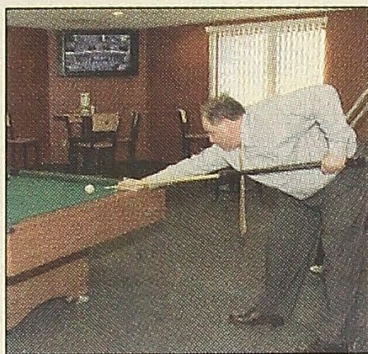
Issue 14

Friday, February 9, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

## UNDER THE COVER

*Administrators help break in the new game equipment in the Hole.*



SEE NEWS PG. 2

*Alma College is one of just 300 colleges nationwide to be recognized as a "College of Distinction" by a new independent committee.*

SEE FEATURE PG. 4

*Bruske residents find frustrations as stairwell renovations continue in their dormitory.*

SEE OPINION PG. 5

*MIAA conference meet symbolizes culmination of swim season.*

SEE SPORTS PG. 7

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 200-300

The number of people that were interviewed for the WQAC poll.

### 1886

The year Alma College was founded.

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## Hole re-opening signifies start of other renovations

*Ribbon cutting ceremony yields great board member and student turnout*

JORDAN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

President Sandra Tracy didn't get to catch the football game this past Sunday at the 'Hole', but she did help cut the ribbon that allowed everyone else in to watch it.

This past Friday Tracy, alongside the Alma College

Board of Trustees, was present to introduce the newly renovated area of Tyler-Van Dusen to the Alma College campus.

Students were also in attendance of the ribbon cutting.

"All the board and the people who were there looked excited about the new stuff,"

said Martin Kuustik.

The 'Hole' has two new pool tables, an air hockey table, wireless internet, repainted walls and a new plasma television.

For the past few weeks, none of this could be seen though, because sheets of plywood blocked the general

SEE HOLE PG. 2



Photo courtesy of Skip Traynor

David Provost, chair of the Alma College Board of Trustees, cuts the ribbon to signify the grand re-opening of the new and improved "Hole." Provost is joined by **Meredith Campbell (09)**, President Sandra Tracy, **Megan Gillespie (07)**, **Samantha Lyttle (08)**, and **Jared Stephens (07)**. The Hole opened this past Friday and contains new paint, a new plasma screen television, two pool tables, and an air hockey table. It has already become a very popular attraction among current students and is hoped to be viewed as an attractive area by visiting perspectives.

## Board of Trustees on campus for business

*The past weekend brought members together to discuss key issues like budgets and tuition*

ANNA ZICHI  
NEWS EDITOR

Over this past weekend the Board of Trustees were here on campus for their annual meeting. While here, they discussed many issues and were able to experience Alma College life.

The Board of Trustees is an important part of any college and was founded in 1886 when Alma College was chartered. "They [the Trustees] are a policy making board with legal responsibilities and act as a governing body for the college," said Sandra Tracy, president of Alma College.

They meet three times a year on a formal basis on campus to discuss various different issues. "The Trustees feel it is important to be a part of the Alma environment when discussing the issues

affecting the students, faculty and campus, so we conduct our meetings on campus," said **Dave Provost (76)**, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

At this meeting they discussed the budget for next year, voted on the graduating class, voted on promotions, tenure, and approved sabbaticals for faculty, along with voting on the honorary degrees for Honor's Day. "There is very little they do not cover at their meetings," said Tracy.

Other topics that are usually discussed include: academics, the campus's facilities, athletic activities, other student activities, enrollment, and Alumni support. At each meeting they also have a one-hour interactive board education program, lead by an outside

person, that helps them evaluate their programs.

Along with being part of the Board, each Trustee also serves on at least two committees. There are eight committees over all and most met over the weekend. Each committee took half a day to discuss issues on their agenda and then reported back to the full board by the end of the weekend.

Not only are Trustees members of the committees but students are too. "I am on the Faculty, Academic, and the Student Affairs Committee," said **Mollie Smith (07)**. "It is an honor to be able to participate at the meetings."

"Students are there to offer valuable opinions that might otherwise not be considered," said Smith.

There are times when a

special task force is installed as a committee. The most recent one was when they discussed enrollment. However, these committees are only temporary and are used to help with pressing issues the college may be facing.

Only about half of the Trustees are actually Alumni of Alma College, but despite that, all work hard to understand the issues and challenges we face.

Besides having attended Alma, some are prestigious business owners, three are parents of Alumni, for others Alma is their hometown and they simply wish to see the College succeed. However, no matter what their background is they are united for one reason "Our

SEE BOARD PG. 2

## Change in broadcasting draws near

ANNA ZICHI  
STAFF WRITER

Over the last few months there has been much discussion about changing Alma College's radio station, WQAC, to being solely broadcast via the Internet.

After many long meetings and input from students and faculty, the verdict is in—the station is to be broadband-only.

Toward the end of the fall semester, surveys were sent out to residence halls asking what the students preferred to see happen.

"A majority of students and faculty told us that they would rather go strictly online than continue with the poor coverage that is broadcast on air now," said **Colin Wasiloff (08)**, WQAC general manager.

In total, the radio station interviewed 200-300 people, which it felt was enough to base the decision on.

"We had a group of students actually go through each dorm and ask people what they would prefer too," said Wasiloff. "Again we received



*Board of Trustees from pg. 1...*

as its ambassador," said Provost.

A unique opportunity they were allowed on this visit was to interact with students and once again live the college life. On Friday night they attended dinner at Hamilton Commons with a student. Afterwards, many went into the residence halls and went out for the night to help themselves better experience Alma.

It was a busy weekend here at Alma and much was accomplished. "It has been an honor for me to serve on the Board since 1994, and as its Chairman since 2005," said Provost. "Helping to lead Alma College is not something I imagined I would be doing when I graduated from Alma back in 1976, but it certainly has been an extremely rewarding experience."

*WQAC from pg. 1...*

overwhelming support."

Initially all of the plans to move to online broadcasting were thought to happen over holiday break. But like many other projects, obstacles arose and the date had to be moved back.

Despite the fact that listeners will not be able to tune in on their radio anymore, nothing else is expected to change. Wasiloff said, "Our policies will be run the exact same way then as they are now.

"We will have the same quality radio that we have [now]," said Wasiloff. "And everything will still be kept clean with the same format."

WQAC is currently working on getting new equipment that will allow them to broadcast via the Internet. "We are looking to finalize the Internet radio software and the computer, and as soon as that is done and we receive the money we will be up and running in no time," said Wasiloff.

They are also working with the Information Technology (IT) department to make sure that their broadcasting does not affect the rest of the campus's Internet connection.

They believe that the initial cost of the equipment and broadcasting online will be about \$15,000.00. "All and all the cost is not too horribly bad," said Wasiloff.

Due to the issues that they have experienced over the last few months, WQAC considered putting the move on hold until the next academic year. The problem with that was the inconsistency of officer positions.

Wasiloff said, "We have not had a consistent executive council, which makes it difficult to keep track of the money that we have set aside for this change in broadcasting."

At the end of December the station actually ran a couple of undercover tests that went extremely well. "We had people listening in from California to Pennsylvania, and everyone said that it was crystal clear," said Wasiloff.

**Kathleen Maheras (09)** said, "I think it is an excellent idea since it allows people like me that did not even bring a radio to school to enjoy their talents."

On March 26, 2007, the station is bringing in many musical talents for the College to be entertained by. They are also always looking for new DJs and encourage anyone that may be interested to apply for the position. Applications are available outside their office in Tyler Van Dusen Commons.

There are many changes in the air for Alma College's radio station. With these changes, it is well worth students' time to check out what they are all about, and most importantly to connect and listen whenever possible.

*Hole opening from pg. 1...*

public's view, this past ribbon cutting though has opened the new equipment up for that general public's use.

"It was a great deal of fun," said President Tracy, "But the Hole is just the first of the renovations happening on campus."

And it is just the first. Renovations in Van Dusen and the entire campus can be seen in the works. Most notably are the stairwells in Bruske and Mitchell halls, the lobby in Bruske, and Rotunda in Tyler-Van Dusen. These won't be the last projects on campus though, as Tracy was quick to point out.

These renovations are taking part after a student survey was sent out through campus email, and the responses were put into action—and the renovations that are happening came from those results.



Photo courtesy of Skip Traynor

President Tracy takes a break from her board meetings to try out the campus's newly added pool tables.

there. The Alma College Union Board held a Super Bowl party, viewing the game on the new plasma television that is set on the back wall in the 'Hole'.

The television is open for anyone to use, but to get at the pool and air hockey tables students just give their ID's to a Joe's worker and the equipment is given to them. Students can use the game tables for as long as they please, and then return the equipment for their ID's.

The question as to whether or not students will actually use this new equipment seems to be answering itself.

"Yeah I'm going to use the stuff," says **Evan Finley (09)**, "it's right on the way to Joe's, and it's a good place now to hang out."

While some students are happy with the hours, others are still expressing the desire to use the equipment when Joe's is not open.

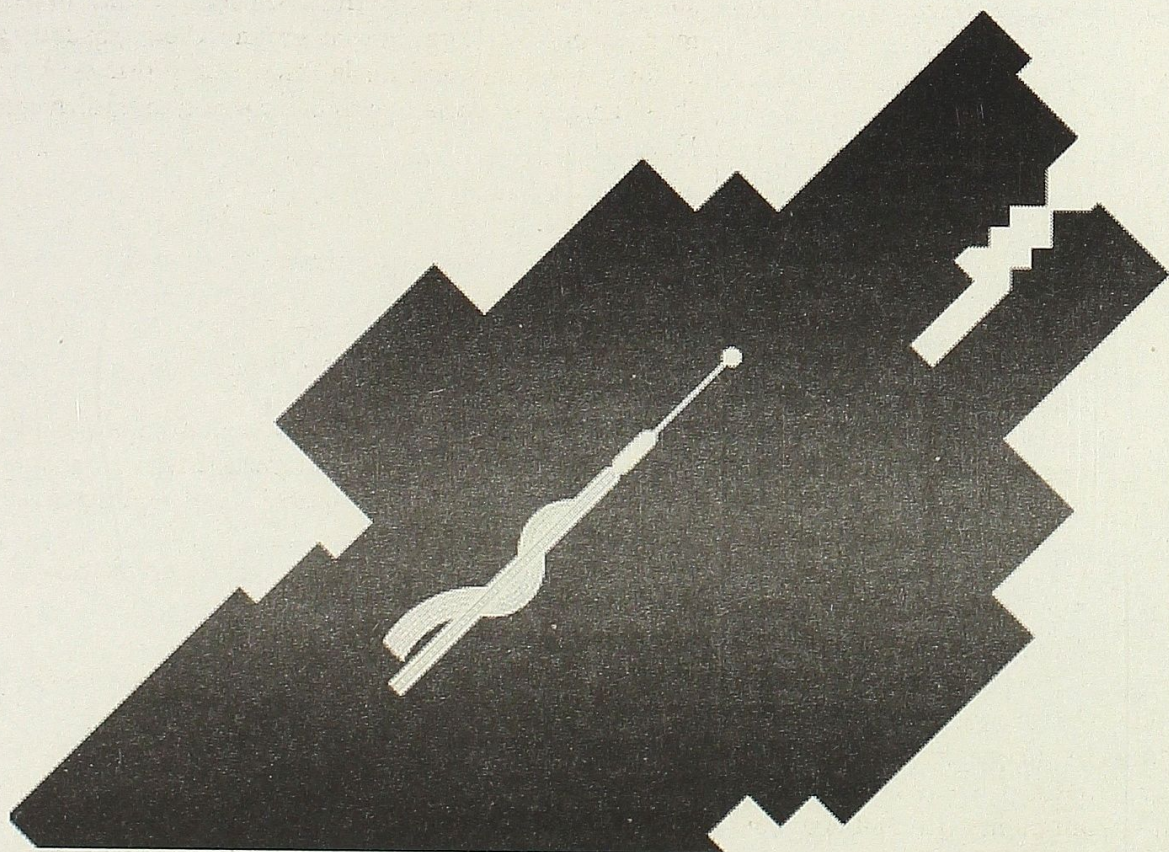
"I'm gathering opinions about possible spring changes from the dinner meetings with students at my house," said Tracy.

Being the first finished project, the hole has already had some activities held

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## Flute-guitar duet brings tango to center stage

**KRISTINA SCHWAB**  
STAFF WRITER

Beginning today, the Alma College Music Department will be sponsoring a show detailing the evolution of the tango. The flute-guitar duet, Foliás, will be performing at 7:30 p.m. in the Heritage Theater.

Along with playing live music, the performance will

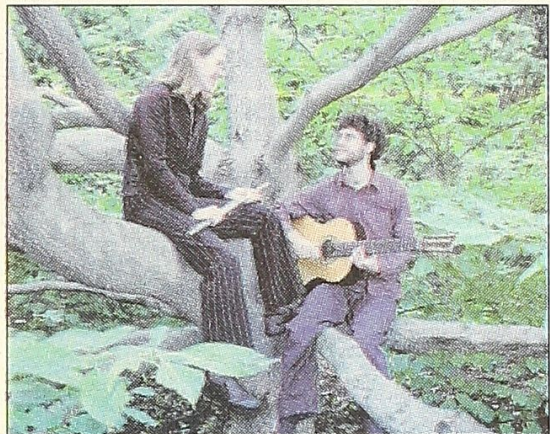


Photo courtesy of [www.foliasmusic.com/Promotion.htm](http://www.foliasmusic.com/Promotion.htm)

entail a demonstration of the dance steps involved in the tango. On February 15 at 11:30 a.m., Foliás will be presenting a master class with Alma College students with performances—including the Alma Symphony Orchestra—at 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 17 and 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 18.

This event is ticketed. To get tickets, call the Alma Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at (989) 463-7304.

Carmen Maret and Andrew Bergeron, the two members

of Foliás, are trained in jazz, tango, and classical music, frequently basing their duet compositions on hiking and backpacking experiences.

One of their most recent compositions from 2006, entitled “Lake Superior Suite,” and others similar to it, are part of a continuous pursuit to bring awareness to Canada and the United States about environment quality and preservation.

Maret and Bergeron toured areas around Lake Superior playing and dancing to these songs in hopes of raising money to support their cause and the Great Lakes Division of the Nature Conservancy.

For those students from the Grand Rapids area, or those who wish to commute to learn, Maret and Bergeron are both skilled tango dancers and instructors. They hold lessons weekly and perform tango music for dancers at tango dances, referred to as milongas, throughout the country.

Andrew Bergeron has a master’s degree in composition from Michigan State University and his

undergraduate degree came from Grand Valley State University. He still spends as much time composing as he does performing.

During his quest for his master’s degree, Bergeron composed music for a variety of ensembles, including solo guitar, guitar and flute, electro-acoustic music and chamber music. He has performed solo guitar recitals throughout mid-Michigan before co-founding Foliás.

Bergeron is also a member of the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet and founded the Suzuki guitar department at Grand Rapids Community College. Other than being a tango instructor, he is a guitar instructor there and at Aquinas College.

Maret studied tango as an ethnomusicology master’s student at Michigan State University. Ethnomusicology is the study of folk and primitive music and of their relationship to their peoples and cultures.

Maret also received her bachelor of music in flute performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City along with her master of music in flute performance from MSU. She teaches Suzuki flute at Grand Rapids Community College.

For more information, call the Alma College Box Office at extension 7304.

## Speaker makes case for intelligent design

**KRISTA PENNINGTON**  
STAFF WRITER

In the first of a series of two speakers, Dr. Michael Behe of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, argued that humans, specifically our cells, are too complex to have developed over time, and that they have to have been designed. “This is a chance for people to hear two first-rate thinkers and writers on the topics of intelligent design and evolutionary development,” said **Brian Stratton**, chair of religious studies at Alma College.

Behe’s reasoning for this was laid out in five main points.

Behe continued, saying that even if you have a stockpile of parts, if they are arranged to create function, it is design. It is imperative, he said that, “the strength of the indifference is quantitative.”

The familiarity can make us forget that what we live with everyday is really astounding, commented Behe, “It’s really quite special,” he said. In a comparison, to help the

audience understand the cell as a tiny machine, Behe related it to Star Trek. “In this regard, you are the Borg, you are run by nanotechnology,” he said.

Next, was the notion of Irreducible Complexity, or

### ***Behe’s 5 Arguments***

1) *Design is not mystical but deduced from the physical structure of a system.*

2) *Everyone agrees aspects of biology appear designed.*

3) *There are structural obstacles to Darwinian observations.*

4) *Grand Darwinian claims rest on undisciplined imaginations.*

5) *The bottom line? Strong evidence exists for design, little for Darwinism.*

the idea that there are a lot of parts, and put together they can fulfill a function, but alone they cannot. “You need the whole thing put together before they work,” said Behe.

Behe is a professor of biochemistry, and most notably, has published a book entitled “Darwin’s Black Box,” which has received many reviews on both sides of the spectrum. Behe was careful, in the beginning of his lecture, to issue a disclaimer stating that his views did not reflect the views of his home university, and that they were strictly his own. “Intelligent design points beyond nature,” said Behe, and then jokingly added, “some scientists don’t want to go there.”

“It is Darwinists who have a problem recognizing when things don’t work with their processes,” said Behe, in reference to a study conducted trying to disprove some of the theories in his book, about the cell as a machine, one that is too complex not to be designed.

Behe spoke in Presbyterian Hall for a little over an hour, and then fielded questions from the audience, which was largely comprised of students, but with many community members in attendance as well.

## Food Fancy: St. Valentine’s Style

## Chocolate isn’t the only gift you’re giving

**JENNIFER ANDERSON**  
SPORTS EDITOR



The number-one gift of Valentine’s Day is chocolate. New research has linked dark chocolate to a healthy heart, making it a gift from the heart and to the heart.

Chocolate has been in the headlines for several of its more than 300 chemically-identifiable compounds, including anandamide (bliss chemical), arginine, dopamine (neurotransmitter), antioxidants, histamine, magnesium, serotonin (anti-stress neurotransmitter), tryptophan (anti-depressant), and tyramine. These substances are part of the cacao bean (which is truly a nut), seeds of the cacao fruit. These grow on jungle trees. Interchangeable names to the bean are cacao seeds, cacao seeds, cacao nuts, and cacao nibs.

Dark chocolate is one of the healthiest ways to consume the treat because the cocoa bean is dark chocolate. One of the most surprising healthful substances in chocolate (especially dark chocolate) is its antioxidants, which surpass blueberries and other mediated antioxidant sources.

In fact, the ORAC (Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity) levels per 100 grams for dark chocolate is 13,120 and milk chocolate is 6,740. To compare, the following high sources are listed as follows: prunes (5,770); raisins (2,830); blueberries (2,400); blackberries (2,036); kale (1,770); strawberries (1,540); spinach (1,260); raspberries (1,220); brussel sprouts (980); plums (949); alfalfa sprouts (930); broccoli (890). Cornell University food scientists discovered that cocoa powder has nearly twice the antioxidants of red wine and up to three times that found in green tea. That is why chocolate isn’t the only gift you are giving.

Magnesium found in chocolate is essential for a healthy heart. Also beneficial is theobromine, a cardiac stimulant that has been used to treat high blood pressure. Many have been concerned with the caffeine levels in chocolate. However, though researchers are unable to agree on a specific number, they believe chocolate to be a poor source of caffeine (relative to decaffeinated coffee). Consuming caffeine raw is also found to not have the stimulating effects that cooking it produces.

It is important to note that the health benefits are from raw cacao beans and dark chocolate with no added dairy products or refined sugar. Ancient cultures of Mexico and Central America were the first people known to have made chocolate. They mixed ground cacao seeds with various seasonings and made spicy, frothy drinks. Enjoy the origins of chocolate with a loved one this Valentine’s Day.

### Chocolate Nut-Milk Recipe

#### Ingredients:

- 1 liter (4 cups) of coconut water
- 20 cacao beans (preferably peeled)
- 10 raw cashews
- 3-5 tablespoons of carob powder and/or maca powder (maca is a powdered root from Peru that is an amazing high-protein superfood aphrodisiac, strengthener, and fertility enhancer)
- 3-5 tablespoons of honey and/or agave cactus nectar
- 2 tablespoons of hempseed oil
- 2 tablespoons of coconut oil/butter
- 2-3 pinches of sea salt (preferably celtic sea salt or Himalayan pink rock salt)
- 2-3 sprinkles of cinnamon



**'Recipe' from pg. 3**

Directions:

Blend all ingredients and enjoy.

-Recipe from author David Wolfe (www.davidwolfe.com)

**Ice Cream and Dark Chocolate Sauce**

(Make Crepes Ahead)

Ingredients:

1/3 cup half-and-half

2 tablespoons honey

3 ounces semisweet or bittersweet chocolate, chopped

8 Espresso Crepes

2 cups low-fat coffee ice cream

Directions:

Combine half-and-half and honey in a small saucepan over medium heat; cook 3 minutes or until tiny bubbles form around edge of pan, stirring frequently (do not boil). Remove from heat. Add chocolate; stir until smooth. Fold each crepe in half; fold in half again. Place 1 crepe on each of 8 plates. Top each serving with 1/4 cup coffee ice cream; drizzle with 4 teaspoons sauce.

(Yields 8 servings)

**Espresso Crepes**

1 cup all-purpose flour (about 4 1/2 ounces)

2 teaspoons sugar

2 teaspoons instant espresso powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 cup low-fat 1% milk

1/2 cup water

2 teaspoons butter, melted

2 large eggs

Lightly spoon flour into a dry measuring cup; level with a knife. Combine flour, sugar, espresso powder, and salt in a small bowl. Combine milk, water, melted butter, and eggs in a blender. Add the flour mixture to milk mixture, and process until smooth. Cover batter; chill for 1 hour.

Heat an 8-inch nonstick crepe pan or skillet over medium heat. Pour a scant 1/4 cup batter into pan; quickly tilt pan in all directions so batter covers pan with a thin film. Cook about 1 minute. Carefully lift the edge of the crepe with a spatula to test for doneness. The crepe is ready to turn when it can be shaken loose from the pan and the underside is lightly browned. Turn crepe over, and cook for 30 seconds or until center is set.

Place crepe on a towel; cool completely. Repeat procedure with the remaining batter, stirring batter between crepes. Stack crepes between single layers of wax paper to prevent sticking.

(Yields 13 crepes)

**"Moo-vin" Chocolate-Cherry Milk Shake**

Ingredients:

1 pint low-fat sugar-free chocolate ice cream

3/4 cup drained canned pitted tart red cherries

1/4 cup fat-free (skim) milk

1/4 teaspoon vanilla

1/8 teaspoon decorator sprinkles (optional)

Directions:

Combine all ingredients except decorator sprinkles in blender container. Cover and blend until smooth. Pour into 2 small glasses. Add decorator sprinkles, if desired. Serve immediately.

-Recipe from the Editors of *Easy Home Cooking Magazine***'A College of Distinction': Alma lives up to old motto****PAULINE HAGEDORN  
STAFF WRITER**

You know you go to a high-quality school when that institution is one of just five colleges from Michigan chosen to be profiled in a new guidebook titled "Colleges of Distinction." An independent committee made up of admissions professionals from high

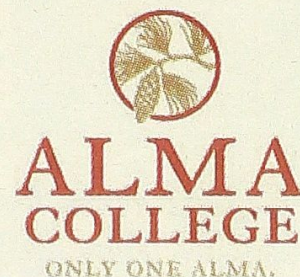
and successful outcomes. Clearly, Alma College did just that. "We are very pleased to be recognized as a fine example of higher education," said **Saundra Tracy**, Alma College President. "I am glad that the evaluation was done on four factors; they are an important experience for students to have, and it is a good way to evaluate schools. This is the kind

managers, college presidents, faculty, high-school parents, and college and high-school students will all contribute to the introduction. The "Colleges of Distinction" guidebook plans on surpassing 100,000 books at its first printing.

Colleges and Universities that made it into the "Colleges of Distinction" guidebook are from every corner of

***"Alma College provides every student with a personalized education, and the students are more engaged because they receive more than generic lectures and texts."***

-Colleges of Distinction



schools and colleges across the country selected Alma as one of the nation's best bets in higher education. We are one of less than 300 colleges and universities to be selected for this honor.

Ruth McClelland-Nugent, an editor for the "Colleges of Distinction," said, "[the guidebook] honors colleges that excel in educational quality. The schools in this book are some of the very best in the country."

To land a spot in "Colleges of Distinction," schools had to excel in all four of the evaluation categories: engaged students, vibrant communities, great teaching,

of information families and prospective students should most seek in considering which college is right for them."

Being published in March 2007, "Colleges of Distinction" was devised to assist individuals—especially high school students and their parents—seeking out an institution that would fit their personality as well as their career intentions. Each school listed in "Colleges of Distinction" will have their own multi-paged profile, as well as an introduction composed of how influential the four criteria are. Academic deans, enrollment

the country. Average class sizes are around twenty, and the average student-faculty ratio is thirteen to one. The size of the profiled schools varies from small, liberal arts colleges with fewer than 1000 students to Universities with 7000 students.

Alma College's average class size is 16, with a student-faculty ratio of 13 to 1. Currently, Alma has 1,215 students enrolled and is looking to increase in size.

The other three Michigan schools to receive this honorable distinction are Calvin, Hillsdale, and Hope Colleges, along with Lake Superior State University.

**WIAB looks forward to event-filled month****KRISTA PENNINGTON  
STAFF WRITER**

The Women's Issues Advisory Board (WIAB) was founded in 1992 by Carol Bender and Roseanne Hoefel.

Their main goal was to be a group that represents all women on campus, including students, staff, faculty, maintenance/household workers, and administration.

With Women's Month quickly approaching in March, the WIAB has many events planned. In the past, they have sponsored the Labyrinth in Jones Auditorium. Among other things, they participate in Relay for Life and help coordinate Take Back The Night, a march and rally to help stop sexual abuse against women. The women's house, MacCurdy, is a safe house on campus and also promotes many events during March,

some coordinated with WIAB.

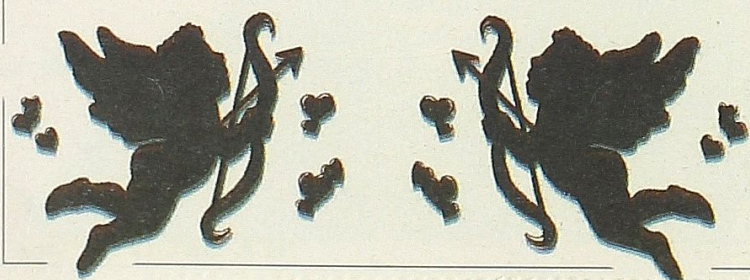
WIAB has resources and support to offer to various groups on campus. They are interested in all issues of safety on campus, as well as equality for all students, faculty and staff.

Joanne Gilbert, associate professor of communication, is the co-director of the Women's Studies Department, and a consultant to the WIAB. "The WIAB was created with a dual purpose, policy and program," said Gilbert, though currently, they are devoting more energy to the programming. A large part of what the WIAB does is support Women's Month, and they are supposed to work in an advisory capacity to President Saundra Tracy about women's issues on campus.

The WIAB, along with the goals of Alma College, states

that it is "imperative that the changing role of women in society be recognized and studied and that women's roles and contributions to our college be fully affirmed," said the WIAB website. Some of the goals of WIAB are to "explore and report on climate issues for woman on campus, to educate and raise awareness of all members of the college community, to encouraged personal, professional and academic development of women in the campus community, and to advice and assist residents, managers and advisor of the MacCurdy house.

The WIAB represents all of campus, staff and faculty included. Each of those representatives holds a two-year term. Student representatives hold a one-year term. Coordinators of the Women's Studies minor, such as Gilbert, serve as consultants.







**KEVIN BILBREY**  
STAFF WRITER

Do you remember that day when you first put the keys in the ignition and took off on your own, without your mom or dad sitting next to you? Do you remember how great it felt to have the freedom to go wherever you wanted without anyone looking over your shoulder?

I do, and I miss that

## Students need transportation, alternative entertainment

feeling.

See, this year at college I have been without any mode of transportation other than my feet (which is especially annoying after having had one last year), and I have to say that it is a loss that I am feeling rather greatly.

There are many of you out there who understand my pain—who have sat at your computer late at night, wanting some Taco Bell, but being unable to go. Who have wanted to go shopping, but can't because your roommate is out of town. Who want to just get away from Alma, if only for a few hours, but instead sit in your room

wishing you were somewhere else.

Those are just the everyday things, though. Sometimes, as was the case for myself this weekend, you find yourself in need of leaving campus for an extended period of time for a conference and must hope that there is someone who is willing to go with you just so that you don't let everyone who is depending on you down.

Basically, it makes you feel like you are back in high school, needing to depend on your parents to take you around and make you sure you do what you have to do. While it is nice to be

absolved of responsibility for things like that, I would rather be an adult and have the opportunity to take responsibility for myself. I know that not having a car doesn't really affect this in any way, but it certainly feels that way sometimes.

Plus, I have to say that, at least in my experience, having to constantly mooch off of your friends for rides leads to mooching off of your friends for everything (though I am trying really hard to not do that).

Then again, there is at least one advantage to not having a car here, and it is simply that you are forced to be much

more creative in staying here on campus and finding stuff to do when you get bored.

For instance, when you want to go shopping, it works rather well to walk around downtown Alma and just look around (having an interest in quirky little shops helps here), and when you want to socialize, just walk into any dorm and start talking to random people (it really does work).

If all else fails, find a friend who has a Nintendo Wii...trust me, you'll be entertained for hours, and if they happen to have Excite Truck, it'll almost be like having a car again.

## Bruske stairwell renovations cause irritations for residents

*Untimely asbestos removal, repainting keep students from normal walking routes*

**KRISTINA SCHWAB**  
STAFF WRITER

One topic of controversy on Alma's campus has always been the lack of communication between faculty and students. This past month is no exception.

For whatever reason, Physical Plant has decided to fix the asbestos problem occurring in the residence hall stairwells. They've started with Bruske.

While there normally would be a lack of complaining, since the school trying to save us from cancer and a horrific death (though it's been said that asbestos would only hurt students if it was in the air) a little notification would have been nice—to say the least.

On the way back from class one day, I was walking to the northeast door of Bruske, as was my everyday routine, when I noticed caution tape on the door. I figured it was

just a way of saying "we're doing some construction, so be careful when entering" since there were no other signs indicating anything.

I was wrong. Upon opening the door, plastic sheets and a cloud of what I'm assuming was asbestos dust flung out the door and I quickly shut it before it reached me. I walked around to the front door, disgruntled that I wasn't informed of this inconvenience before I realized it on my own.

The door on the inside of my building was covered in one strip of caution tape as well, so I went to the opposing North doors and entered my quad that way, only to find that the door to the closed stairwell was covered in a plastic bag.

The southeast stairs had been closed a few days earlier and renovations had already commenced. There were accounts of extremely



*Photo courtesy of Kristina Schwab*

Residents endure frustration of renovations while heeding signs and e-mail warnings.

dusty air on the second floor quad attached to that staircase, if not all the quads.

Apparently the dust from the scraping and peeling

had floated under the door and had been being inhaled by the students for a few days before the Physical Plant even thought about it.

Now isn't that ironic? They caused the thing they were trying to protect us from.

The solution to this

**SEE STAIRWELLS PG. 6**

## The Almanian

*"Alma College's student run newspaper serving the campus community since 1907."*

### Statement of Purpose

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

### Publication

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus Thursday evenings and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, with the exception of academic recesses.

### Letter Policy

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. *The Almanian* reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Tuesday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at o7dtharr@alma.edu or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

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# Evolution, intelligent design equally worthwhile

*Finding dissatisfying compromise between arguments of speakers Behe, Carroll*

MIRIAM JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

If you are anything like me, after the final speech on intelligent design versus evolution, you rushed to your computer to research the two opposing sides in order to come to a conclusion.

This being sufficiently done in my case, I feel that I must stand by my initial unsatisfying, yet logical opinion: both men are correct.

Dr. Behe is correct in his idea that much of life continues to be irreducibly complex. Dr. Carroll is correct in his idea that evolution exists, but it cannot (for now) account for the origin of life, humanity, and the universe.

I believe that each speaker did as much as could be expected of a scientist. Each presentation was a reflection of data, facts, and statistics that revealed truths, but also inspired questions.

Dr. Behe's presentation was founded on the idea that many things in the scientific realm remain unexplainable. He presented the idea of "irreducible complexity." This, in my opinion, does not prove anything. Rather, it presents the idea that we don't know how it came to be. During the Q&A session he said, "Intelligent Design is not an argument against

evolution." I think that this is very important. He did not, like many creationists, want to deny scientific fact.

Behe simply seemed to want to present the example of a single part of the human machine: the flagellum that is so intricate that it could not be a result of random mutation.

It appears, judging from Dr. Carroll and his reference, Ken Miller of Brown University ([www.millerandlevine.com/km/evol/design2/article.html](http://www.millerandlevine.com/km/evol/design2/article.html)), that this theory has actually been proven wrong. However, despite whether it has or hasn't been disproved, Behe's idea remains: Evolution cannot be the single answer to life on earth. There is more to it that is not explained.

Dr. Carroll's presentation was the most satisfying of the two. He explained in a very easy-to-follow manner his knowledge of evolution and of Darwin's theory of "survival of the fittest."

It was very easy to digest in general because it only reiterated everything that we have all learned in middle/high school. His basic argument did not conflict with Behe's until the Q&A, and as I said before, he appears to be correct in the fight over the complexity of the flagellum. To read for yourself, see the web page cited above.

I feel like I was very lucky



Photo courtesy of Derek Harrison

Bishop Thomas Makarios stands humbly before the crowd in Presbyterian Hall and alongside Dr. Sean Carroll. He proclaimed that the simplest compromise between evolutionists and intelligent design advocates is that each side must admit that neither truly knows the answers.

to be able to attend speeches given by two such esteemed scientists. Both men were very decent public speakers and conveyed their topics well. My only complaint was in regards to Dr. Behe's faulty Q&A session. He definitely was not prepared

for the questions that were asked and did not know how to answer anything outside his realm of biochemistry.

However, I thought that his actual message was interesting and enlightening and I was able to look past its discrepancies.

As a final thought, I hope that Alma continues to host such intellectually stimulating presentations as this in the future. I enjoyed it immensely and look forward to having some really good debates in class about the origin of species.

## Stairwells from pg. 5...

potentially harmful side effect was to put a blanket down in front of all the doors inside the quads, plus duct tape plastic bags to the doors. The bags promptly fell down after a day or so and the blankets stayed in relatively the same position, but seem to be a hassle for the women who want to vacuum our floor.

The air has stayed relatively clean from what I can tell, so obviously the blankets worked to a certain degree, but the question on everyone's mind seems to be: why didn't this get done over the summer. How about last year when they did renovations the entire semester? How about Christmas break?

There have been plenty of opportunities to complete this inconvenient and timely construction project when the portion of the student body that resides in Bruske would not have been so disturbed from their daily life.

Last year, for those readers who do not know what I'm referring to, only South tower was open during first semester due to renovations they had to complete, but which could not be done with students living in the rooms. After Christmas Break, students had to switch all

their belongings to respective rooms in the opposing tower.

It would have been so easy for the workers to complete these last year, during the 5 months when the entirety of the rooms were empty, seeing as it is only taking them three weeks to do.

Meanwhile the residents of Bruske will continue to walk around the entire building, trying to find a door to enter while it is 5 degrees below zero. That's pretty good timing on the school's part. They could have at least done it during warmer weather.



Photo courtesy of Kristina Schwab

Workers block off Bruske doors to prevent particles, noise.

## 2008 Election in Question

*Alma Student Opinion Poll*

***Is the United States ready to vote  
a woman into the presidency?***

**52% Yes**

**48% no**

***Is the United States ready  
to vote a racial minority into the  
presidency?***

**48% Yes**

**52% No**



# Swim team looks to MIAA meet as testament of rigorous training

**JORDAN BROWN**  
**STAFF WRITER**

"There's only 131 hours left." Swimmer **Corey White (09)** sees the ending season not in terms of the week, but the hours that remain—a testament to the encompassing nature of Alma's swim team.

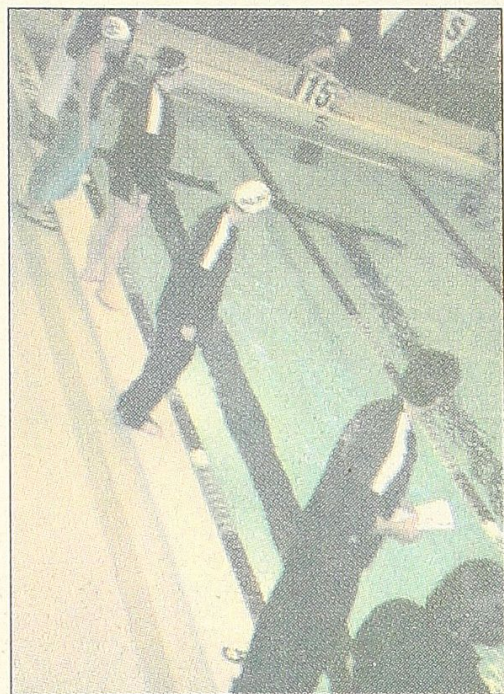
The Scots' swim team is set to finish its season this week with a multi-day MIAA Conference Championship Thursday to Saturday.

Coach **Kyle Schack** sees things on the up and up: "Things are going well," said Schack, "We haven't slowed down."

The team, viewed on a win/loss percentage, might not look so good. Both the mens and the womens teams have yet to win a meet, yet in terms of rebuilding—the main focus of the season—they are well on their way.

"We said that this season we wanted to work at scoring at least 100 points at the conference championships," [something Alma's team

hasn't done in some time] said Schack. "And we're going to be either real near it [or] above. We could get 90, but we could get 150, too."



Some of the matches this season have come very close, and against some staunch competition at that.

In a season where the team has lost players and suffered injuries, there have been some individual class acts.

Freshman **Spencer Johnson** has been a highlight at nearly every match, placing high nearly every time, and setting some personal bests this season. Other key players for the men's side are **Brent Gostomski (07)** and **Steve Rose (09)**.

For the lady Scots, Schack is looking to **Sarah Anderson (10)**, **Emily Smith (10)**, and **Nicole McCarthy (09)**. Anderson was injured earlier this season, and is returning for the Championships to make an impact.

This will be the final swim for some seniors. **Luke Livingston** on the Men's side didn't start the season, but came in to lend a hand after break.

"Swimming is one of the most important things that I've done at Alma," said

Livingston, and that's from someone who is a Senior resident assistant, a pre-law student, and the President of his fraternity.

Other seniors being lost this year are **Kelly Marks** for the ladies and **Brent Gostomsky** for the men's side.

This makes the Scots a fairly young team with room to build. Coach Schack already has the future set though.

"Next year will be a substantial improvement, like this year. Not a worst-to-first like the Tigers, but we're going to be an impact team now," said Schack. He feels that with the addition of the 2011 class to the already dedicated returning team,

Alma could put on a good showing.

Schack said the recruitment is looking good, with a possibility of eight new men and six new women for the team, all of whom, he said are going to be impact players in the water right away. He said that those recruits are just waiting for their financial aid to come through, and they will be on deck.

"I think we might be looking at a relay team for nationals next season," says Schack, "and within two to three years we want to be contenders at conference."

White may be counting down the hours, but it's in anticipation of a bright future for the Alma swimmers.

## Brehm to receive highest of DIII honors

**JAMES THRUBIS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

**Josh Brehm (07)** has led quite a successful football career here at Alma College. Josh has been a four-starter for the Scots as well as a two-time team captain, selected twice to the first team MIAA squad the MIAA 2006 Offensive Player of the Year and most recently has been named the Gagliardi Trophy winner.

For those who are not aware of the Gagliardi Trophy, it is the Division III equivalent to the Heisman Trophy and is awarded to the top player of Division III football. The award also honors excellence in football, academics and community service.

Let's first take a look at the record-breaking career Brehm has had while at Alma College. This past season, Josh set five school records, including passing yards (3,448), pass completions (305), touchdown passes (30), fewest interceptions (3), and total offensive yards (4,084). Brehm has also broken four school records and broken an NCAA all divisions' record with 288 completions without an interception. We can sit here and talk about numbers all day and night, but in addition to Brehm's football excellence, he is a great person as well.

I had the chance to catch up

with **Mike Tobin (07)**, who was not only a teammate with Brehm all four years, but lived with him this past fall. When asked what it was like to live with Josh, Tobin said, "It was interesting to see the relaxed side of Josh." Relaxed? It's

***"It will all come down to whether or not someone is willing to give him a shot, because I believe he has what it takes to play at the professional level"***

**-Mike Tobin (07)**

hard to think that someone who carried a 3.78 grade point average with a double major in business and psychology could ever find time to relax. Not to mention the fact that he has been named to the Dean's List each of the last seven semesters and has maintained a 4.0 in his last three semesters.

Well, this is where it ends, right? Think again. Brehm has been an active member of the Alma College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and has actively served the Alma community for the last four years. This past fall

break Brehm and a number of his teammates spent one of their days off painting a new gymnasium for the Alma youth.

Brehm recently graduated in December and is now training in Canton, Michigan with a number of possible NFL, CFL, and AFL prospects. Last year no Division III football player was selected in the NFL draft or signed by and NFL team, so what are the chances for Brehm playing professional football? "It will all come down to whether or not someone is willing to give him a shot, because I believe he has what it takes to play at the professional level," said former offensive linemen, Tobin.

The presentation for the Gagliardi Trophy will be held on Saturday February 10. Starting at 2 p.m. in the lobby of the Hogan PE building, all students and members of the community are welcomed to join Brehm in his accomplishment.

There will also be an opportunity for the community and students to have their picture taken with the Gagliardi Trophy.

Brehm is one of the greatest football players to ever play for the Maroon and Cream. He is humble, a true leader, and most importantly, a class act. Please help honor him with this prestigious award.

## Scots prepare to welcome newest class of Hall of Fame inductees

**JAMES THRUBIS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The Alma College athletic department has announced that in the fall of 2007 it will be inducting a new class to the Alma College Hall of Fame. Alma was the first Michigan college or university to establish a Hall of Fame and is excited to keep the long tradition alive.

The last time Alma College inducted new members to the sports Hall of Fame was in 2005. The class had six members, three of whom played for the women's basketball National Championship team in 1992: Colleen Wruble Pricco (93), Katie Mans Gorno (94), and Amy Doucette (95). Also in the class were Mike Burns (76), who played baseball; Roger Frayer (69), who played both football and baseball; and Robert Smith (78), who was a stand-out in track and field as well as in cross country. The Alma College Athletic Hall of Fame was an outgrowth of series of three lettermen dinners that dated back to the late 1960s to rekindle alumni enthusiasm and enlist support for the development of athletic and recreational facilities. The original Hall of Fame event was held at the former Olds Plaza Hotel in Lansing, Michigan in 1971 and has been a strong tradition in the history of Alma College.

The original significance of the Hall of Fame is best stated in this quote found on the Alma College website, "It is the intent of the Alma College Hall of Fame to celebrate the past, present and future of Alma College through the recognition of excellence in those who have made significant contributions to the Scots' athletic tradition."

Even though the new Hall of Fame class event has been announced, there has not been an official list of inductees posted. To nominate a former student athlete for the Alma College Hall of Fame please visit the Alma College website and submit a nomination via the internet or contact Tracey Castallon at x7279 in the Hogan PE building.

The 2007 Alma College Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be on Saturday, September 29, 2007. The festivities will take place throughout Saturday on campus, and immediately following the football game against Tri-State on Bahlke Field, a cocktail reception will be held at 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Hogan Physical Education center. A dinner and induction ceremony will follow in Cappaert Gymnasium. Tickets are on sale for the event. For further information visit the Alma College website.

Remembering our great heritage of sports and the quality of the student athletes at Alma College is absolutely important. We must give praise and thanks to the student athletes that exemplify everything Alma College athletics stands for: class, excellence and pride.



# Conditioning class raises questions over intent

**LAUREN RUSSELL  
STAFF WRITER**

Two Exercise and Health Science (EHS) classes — Conditioning and Strength Training — have been criticized for being “football only” classes. Though the majority of the classes are filled with football players, some argue that they actually are for everyone.

“Students will benefit in overall health, but more importantly, their cardio conditioning and confidence will improve as well,” said **James Thrubis (07)**, who helps out in the Conditioning class by preparing and running in-class activities.

The class is instructed by head football coach James Cole and coach John Lewis, alongside four student coaches: Thrubis, **Joseph Wymierski (06)**, **Andrew Garno (07)**, and **Ryan Coon (07)**.

Though the class is instructed by football coaches and players, Thrubis argues that it is not intended for just football players.

“[It] might seem as if [the class] is only for football

players, but the drills can be beneficial to all athletes and non-athletes alike,” he said. “The goal of this class is to improve the overall health and athletic ability of the students.

agility and strength. Another benefit of this course is team work. Teammates in the course work together and make each other better overall athletes.”

The Strength Training class,

football players.

“The class is basically a conditioning course [with] mainly football players— ‘mainly’ being everybody but me,” said **Martin Kuustik (10)**, who is currently

session that makes sense to you, and the football players have different goals in mind than I do,” said Kuustik. “... It’s a good workout class... It’s not too long, it’s not too short.”

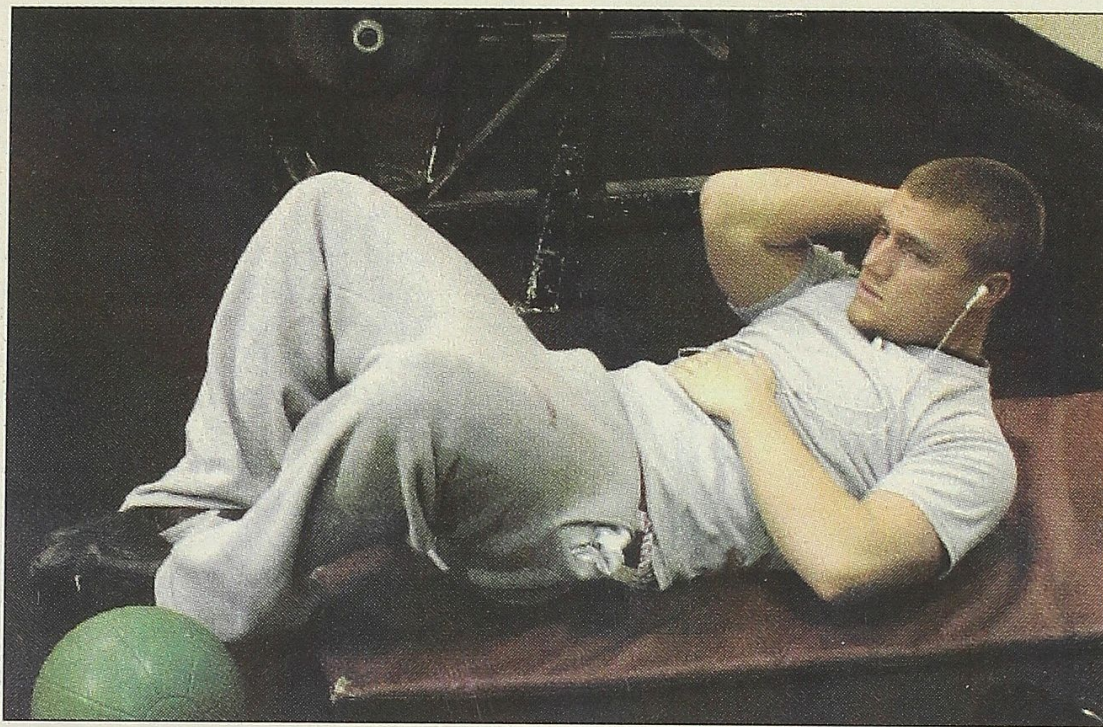
Though Kuustik believes that the class may have been designed for football players, he says the class is still “doable” for students, but should be done with a companion.

“[The class] is better if you are doing it with a friend,” he said. “Most people lack the motivation [without someone]... It’s a good class for friends, if you have someone you want to work out with.

Kuustik has seen the benefits of the class and of his own motivation to do it.

“I’m doing better. I am motivated. I want to do better and perform better. I can see it if I work hard at it,” said Kuustik.

A fitness class, a football practice or an extra credit— no matter what the classes may seem to be, they are offered to all students on campus and offer benefits to everyone.



“Students should take [Conditioning] to challenge themselves physically and mentally,” he said. “Students will also gain confidence in themselves and enhance their overall fitness level... Athletes will improve their speed,

which is a seven-week course that meets three times a week, receives similar criticism as the Conditioning class about who the class is intended for. The class is instructed by coach Lewis, and the majority of participants are

enrolled in the class and is the only non-football player.

Kuustik, who joined the class because he wanted to get in shape and start lifting again, was able to make up his own workout regimen.

“You have to have a workout

## NSO provides unique opportunity for special group of athletes

**MIRIAM JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER**

As most of you are probably aware, on January 20, Alma College was able to host this year’s Special Olympics basketball tournament in our very own recreation center. The event was put on by Non-traditional Students Organization (NSO) but ended up involving a lot of different groups and even sports teams. This activity

other students and faculty. Judging from the accounts of two students, **Sofia Medina (10)** and **Kelsey Rightenburg (10)**, the project was a huge success.

Medina, who volunteered for a few hours at this event, did it simply for “The experience.” When she walked out of the rec center that day, she felt that she had gained just that. She had gotten the chance to work for the first time with mentally

athletes were “extremely involved and got really excited during the games.” Medina even got the chance to teach some of the athletes some cheer routines so that they could support their teammates from the sides.

While all of this was going on, Rightenburg was helping the softball team work a bake sale in the multipurpose room. Although she didn’t get involved in the basketball games, she was able to meet some of the participants and witness the event. One particular memory of the event

shared by Medina and Rightenburg is of an athlete who came up to Rightenburg and asked her to sing the national anthem with him. She obliged, and afterward he gave her a

little heart that he made. In the past, the basketball tournament has been held at Alma High School, but due to a current lack of court space, teams were returned down. This year, NSO made the decision to reserve the Alma recreation center, hoping to get the school involved. It is apparent that they were successful in this endeavor.

Seventeen teams from across the state participated in this event that drew more than 500 athletes, spectators and volunteers. These statistics make this Special Olympic event one of the biggest projects that NSO has ever done. The entire thing was put on thanks to the time, talent, and resources of all of the volunteers involved. According to **Hilary Miller (07)**, President of ALA, “About 10 members” of the Alma Leadership Alliance worked, and about the same goes for the involvement of



Alpha Phi Omega.

Overall, this event was another indicator of the good values of Alma College. The morals of a smaller campus, as demonstrated through characteristics of kindness, definitely showed through all who participated. It was a great opportunity for the students and faculty to help others and an example of what can happen when many different altruistic organizations of our school work together for a common purpose and to help the special Olympic athletes who, as Medina put it, “all worked very hard to get to where they were that day.”



attracted members from the Alma Leadership Alliance (ALA), Alpha Phi Omega, the softball team, and various

disabled children and adults. On top of this, however, she was able to have fun.

She mentioned that the

She mentioned that the