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Hamilton Commons summer 'innovations' upsets students

SAMANTHA STONEBURG Staff Writer

There is something different when dining in Hamilton Commons this year. Don't worry; you haven't gone crazy. Over the summer, the dining room, as well as the staff received a makeover. The staff and the management were retrained in order to better serve the guests.

to better serve the guests.

Things such as the grill have been expanded, meals are planned to better accommodate vegetarians, and the food is prepared on the spot, which insures freshness.

Many students have voiced complains concerning the loss of the sauté station. However, the sauté station isn't gone— it has been included in the innovations station. The only difference is that the staff prepares the entrées rather than the

Some students have grumbled over the fact that they can no longer make their own sandwich. The majority of the population seems to prefer to prepare their own food, finding it redundant to watch someone else do something they've been perfectly capable of doing themselves in the

Mark Starkweather, general manager of dining services, explained that the sauté and sandwich stations were altered after much thought and observation.
"First of all our goal is to have a fresh product available for the guest. By having the staff prepare dishes such as sandwiches and stir fry on the spot, the guests are reassured of the freshness. In the past the staff prepared meals, put them on the line and were then able to watch as the guests served themselves; there was no interaction between the staff and the guests, by placing the staff in the dining room and having them serve the guests, there is more interaction, making the experience more positive. The ongoing difficulty of controlling the food students take from Hamilton was also an area of concern. When the employees, who are trained, make the food, guests receive the correct proportions, and it's difficult for them to 'sneak' food out of the building."

Starkweather also pointed out that, "Change is part of life, if you don't change anything, you'll never improve anything." Although, on the flipside, those who dislike the improvements claim "Why mess something up if there's nothing wrong with it?"

Students who are completely appalled with the improvements like to point out that even the workers themselves don't like the new way of operation.

Starkweather concluded: "We didn't expect everybody to accept the change, whether it's the staff or the guests. After about a month, this too will become routine."

Campus policies stir Greek community

JOEL RENDER Staff Writer

Alma College and its students have long been proud of the Greek program that exists on campus, but due to some problems last year and over the summer, many members of Greek fraternities and sororities were afraid that the school would impose some rather severe sanctions this year. Nick Piccolo, the new Vice President of Student Life, assures that the school has no intention of cracking down on Greek life. Specifically, he stated that the school, "Has no hidden agenda."

According to Dr. Piccolo, none of the

According to Dr. Piccolo, none of the houses of any of the Greek organizations will be closed nor will the whole Greek system be scrapped. He did make it a point to say that several improvements need to be instituted through a collaborative effort of the Greek leadership groups, such as the Inter-fraternity Council, and the administration.

Some of the improvements that he mentioned involved the cleanliness of some of the houses over the summer, which were eventually cleaned, anxiety about Runouts especially with regards to what happened last year, the declining in the membership of Greek organizations especially fraternities, and the sharp decrease in male students that were admitted this year.

Still, Dr. Piccolo has much hope for the future with regards to these challenges. He believes that with the help of students that genuinely care, the Greek program can be revised and improved considerably. With regards to these challenges facing Greek life, Dr. Piccolo

said, "Greek students have to fill the sense of urgency." Whether that happens remains to be seen, but more than likely it will.

Some of the changes to Greek Life are already being instituted via the Inter-fraternity Council. To begin with, a new party policy has been agreed upon. Under this new policy, each fraternity will be allowed to have one party per month on a date that is predetermined. All of the fraternity parties will be on the same date as well. This is designed to make it easier for students to move around between the parties and for security purposes.

The other major change involves Runouts. The format used for Runouts in the past has been scrapped due to past problems and a new proposal is currently being reviewed by Dr. Piccolo. This proposal, which was designed by the IFC, would have all of the men that were being accepted into a fraternity gather in the chapel. Outside of the chapel would be the presidents of each fraternity as well

as any members of the student body that decide to come.

One by one, the fraternities would be called out and the presidents would lead the new members to their respective houses where the other brothers would be waiting to welcome them. Many members of the IFC hope that this proposal is allowed to take place. As **Nate Belill** (05), a member of Sigma Chi fraternity



Photo by Melanie Szewczyk

Sigma Alpha Epsilon's fraternity house has been closed to campus indefinitely. The administrative decision has sparked much debate over the future of Greek Life at Alma College.

and representative to the IFC, said, "We're hoping that this proposal is accepted because we want public recognition for [the Greek community] members." Whether or not students like these new changes, they have to get used to them because it looks like they are here to stay at least for this year.

Alma students among Udall Scholarship recipients

LAURA SACHJEN Staff Writer

Two Alma students, Taylor Heins (05) and Stacey Kowal (04), are among this year's winners of the nationally competitive Morris K. Udall Scholarship. This is the fourth consecutive year that Alma students have won the Udall Scholarship and the first time that students have been nominated as sophomores.

The Morris K. Udall Foundation awards 80 scholarships per year to undergraduates studying fields related to the environment, and to Native Americans and Alaska Natives in fields related to health care and tribal public policy. The one-year scholarship helps to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books and room and board up to a maximum of \$5000.

Kowal is majoring in mathematics with minors in public health and environmental studies. She has been an active member of Students United for Nature at the College. Kowal has done extensive research in the area of environmental studies and plans on pursuing a career in the field of environmental epidemiology. Kowal, a

Curry Award winner, spent the summer studying at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and she is currently spending a semester in Washington, D.C. where she is doing an internship with Physicians for Social Responsibility.

As part of the Nationally Competitive Scholarship Committee, Sandy Hulme, associate professor of political science, assisted Kowal in the application process. "Stacey is an extraordinarily gifted student," said Dr. Hulme. "She is exceptionally committed to making a difference in the lives of others through her work."

Heins is a foreign service major who is dedicated to the issue of endangered species. She has spent time in South Africa researching elephant conservation with local environmental officials as well as conducting a year-long study on the effects of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species on the ivory trade.

Dr. Hulme attested to Heins' sense of commitment to the issue. "She is on the forefront of something that will become increasingly important in coming years." Heins has also been an active member of the College's Model United Nations team.

At the moment, she is working for the U.S. State Department in New York monitoring the U.N. meeting. Heins was also part of the winning team of 2003 Kapp Honors Day Prize that designed a plan for a residence hall.

Murray Borrello, instructor of geology and coordinator of environmental studies, also believes in the students' commitment to the issues they are pursuing. Taylor and Stacey are both incredibly motivated and have a passion for what they do, said Mr. Rorello

Both Heins and Kowal will be applying for the Udall Scholarship again this year, as well as the \$30,000 Truman Scholarship. Taylor and Stacey have an excellent chance of winning both the Udall and Truman Scholarships, said Dr. Hulme.

Kowal and Heins are part of a long line of students who have won nationally competitive scholarships in recent years. In addition to the Udall Scholarships, there have been two Truman winners and one winner each for the Gates-Cambridge, Fulbright and Goldwater Scholarships.

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News

Worms eat away at network systems across nation

JOEL RENDER Staff Writer

With hopes for a new year and dreams of summer still lingering in their heads, Alma College students returned to campus and were immediately confronted with the frustration of not being able to connect to the internet, due in large part to several viruses that were brought in on student's computers. John Behring (05) echoed many of the other members of the campus when he said, "I get the internet for five minutes, then I lose it for an hour and five minutes, it is just so frustrating."

According to David Reed, Director of Information Technology, the problem appeared just as the first batch of students returned to campus. A few of these students had viruses on their computers that began to disrupt the network status. As more and more of the campus arrived, the number of students with infected machines grew until the ability to connect to the internet was nearly nonexistent.

Dr. Reed said that two major viruses are responsible for all of these problems: Blaster A and Nachi. When on a computer, both of these viruses will attempt to make as many connections as possible to different places on the net. The network firewall, which was just installed last year during the network overhaul, sees this machine trying to make all of these connections and denies them.

This is not the real problem, however. The firewall is only designed to handle about 30,000 connections at any one time. Just one computer on the network infected with one of these worms can eat up all of these available connections. Therefore, no connections are left for the rest of the students and staff on campus.

With the help of the entire staff of the Information Technology Department, as well as the RCCs and resident life staff, software was distributed and the network very slowly began to function as normal again. However, this does not mean that more problems will not arise in the very near future. According to Dr. Reed, "Until we can find every machine that is infected, we will continue to see ups and downs."

As more and more students gain the ability to connect to the internet again, it seems as if this crisis has abated, but what about next year when students return. Dr. Reed said, "We are going to be a lot more

proactive about identifying infected machines the first time they sign on." For example, a new process that Dr. Reed labeled as Network Registration will be in place by the beginning of next year.

This will mean that when students return to campus they will not be allowed to connect to the internet until they have visited a site created by the Information Technology Department. This site will require computer registration, scan individual machines for viruses and worms, and have links to free anti-virus software as well as links to virus updates for many of the most popular anti-virus programs

This problem is not just restricted to Alma College. Colleges and Universities across the United States have encountered similar problems according to a story in from the Associated Press a few weeks ago. Dr. Reed even said that at least 40 of the 59 schools that belong to the Consortium of Liberal Arts Colleges, of which Alma College is a member, have mentioned problems of this kind to varying degrees. Hopefully, there will never a problem of this magnitude at Alma College again.

Tuition caps: the future of higher education?

AMY WILLEY Staff Writer

For the graduates of 2007, the tuition bill for four years at Alma College is 100,000 dollars. Jerry Scoby, the Vice President for Finance and Administration at Alma, reports that the cost of tuition (with fees and room and board) is up 6.9% from last year

However, the price hike phenomenon is not limited to Alma: it reaches across the state and the country. According to the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), between 2002-2003 tuition was raised 9.9% at Michigan State (MSU), and 6.5% at the University of Michigan (UM). These rising costs have students raising eyebrows, and lawmakers looking for solutions.

One potential solution is a tuition cap. Tuition caps put a limit on the amount of money a college can charge based on annual percentage raise; thus, if there had been a tuition cap of 6.5% in 2003, UM would have been permitted to make the same cost change while MSU would have had to charge less. Although these caps would be limited to state funded schools, the effects that price limitations might have on the enrollment competition are important for private schools to consider.

Some people believe that placing tuition caps on public schools will hurt private school enrollment because students will feel more financially comfortable at a school with limitations. If this is the case, private colleges will also need to limit their annual tuition raises in order to maintain enrollment levels.

However, price caps on state funded schools could have a direct positive effect for students and their families of private schools also. To stay competitive with state schools private schools must keep tuition down.

A report recently published in the Christian Science Monitor (CSM), this will lead to a new type of competition, rather competing for accomplished faculty and diverse student bodies, colleges may be forced to compete at lowering the price of tuition." The report continued by predicting that this type of "market approach" may lead to reform in schools and provide better, more cost-effective educations.

Senior Robyn Paige disagrees: "There is so much more to schools being competitive than tuition. The quality of facilities and the availability of financial aid are what keep schools competitive."

Some college analysts argue that when schools are restricted by price caps, and simultaneously receive government funding cuts, something will suffer. Senior David Hensley agrees: "If the money is not coming from the students, it has to come from somewhere," and compares simultaneous funding cuts and tuition caps to "burning the candle at both ends," said Hensley.

Greek Week fires up campus for a cause

ALEXA BOYCE Staff Writer

Greek Week was a little bit different this year with the the Fun in the Sun event and the Date Auction.

The Ice Cream Social on Monday is always a hit, and an important part of Greek Week because this is when fraternities and sororities were matched up for participation in Mock rock.

Tuesday's events were more philanthropic and included a dorm storm and a hunger banquet. During Dorm Storm, Greeks collected packaged food items including cans and ramen noodles for the United Way. The Hunger Banquet educated students on world hunger. Everyone picked a social class randomly, and then food served accordingly. The largest class was the "lowest", and they were served plain rice and sat on the floor. The middle class was slightly smaller, and they sat at tables and ate pizza. The highest class was very small and they had a full meal including salad and dessert.

Alpha Xi Delta member **Jessica Karbowski** (04) said, "These events were a great way to combine service with Greek Week."

On Wednesday Paul Sibbald and Nate Belil emceed the Date Auction. Though it was a new event this year, it was a tremendous success. Each fraternity and sorority auctioned off three volunteers. A total of \$1,111 was raised to donate to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gratiot County.

Thursday was a little less serious, with Fun in the Sun on Newberry Beach. A game of water balloon volleyball turned into a water balloon fight.

Friday night was the infamous Mock Rock, where the paired-up fraternities and sororities lip-sync a song. The contestants are judged on appearance/costumes, performance/lip-sync, originality/quality, and crowd reaction. Theta Chi and Kappa Iota were the big winners this year.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Field Day on Saturday was the most important of

the week. This event was also new, and everyone had a great time. Greek Week coordinator Sandy Patrick (04) said, "It was awesome. For one day, the whole Greek community came together in a way that I had never seen before. It was inspiring [and] made me proud to be a Greek here at Alma College." The Bigs and Littles had a whole day of fun and games. Rebecca and Michelle Monsour pulled out their craft supplies to make nametags with the kids. Kappa Iota donated a ton of prizes for the kids. The kites were an especially big hit. Theta Chi member Shawn Grutsch (06) commented, "The Big Brothers Big Sisters event was really cool because I am an elementary education major and I loved hanging out with the kids. I will probably become a Big Brother because of this.'

It seems Greek Week was a huge success for the charities and a ton of fun for the Greeks and anyone else who chose to participate in the open events. Grutsch summed it up when he said that his first Greek Week was "Definitely an intense experience."

Record companies sue file swappers

RACHEL KINGSTROM Staff Writer

The record industry is cracking down on illegal music downloading and is planning to sue Internet file swappers.

The record industry recently filed a number of lawsuits against people who copy music over the Internet. The Recording Industry Association of America has filed 261 copyright infringement lawsuits on behalf of the major record labels.

The industry holds file sharing largely responsible for a 25 percent decline in sales of CD's since 1999, when Napster, the first popular file-swapping software was released.

Today's file-swapping services like KaZaA and Grokster have survived legal attack because they, unlike Napster, do not provide a central directory of computers on the network and what files they have. Like Napster, they work like a pirate cooperative allowing individual users to make music files available on their own personal computers for others to copy. As a result, the record industry is aiming its lawsuits directly at individuals.

By discouraging people from allowing

files to be copied, the record industry hopes to destabilize the whole ecology of file-sharing networks.

Walking down any residence hall at Alma College, one is guaranteed to find at least one person illegally downloading music files from the Internet. It is such a common practice that most students have been guily of it at least once.

Many people feel that it is ridiculous for the record companies to be suing individuals, especially for something that has been around for a long time and has become such a large part of everyday life.

"Last year at Alma, IT[information technology] regulated the amount of bandwidth given to file sharing," Jen Bussell (05) said.

Some file sharers should not be held accountable since they are actually paying for what they get.

"Some websites, such as Yahoo, are sponsoring the recording companies by offering users a subscription allowing them to download files from their server for so much every month," sophomore James Walter said. "This fee goes toward what little bit the server actually needs to operate and rest goes to the copyright holders. So the users are, in effect, paying

for the files they're downloading."

The major complaint of the record companies about file sharing is the decline in sales of CD's. However, this only applies to mainstream music groups. Most indie bands encourage the downloading of their music. It is the only way that people learn about these bands and get access to their music, unless they see them perform at coffee shops or other local sites, because they are not signed under a record label. So, even if people wanted to pay for their CD's, they would not be able to. Therefore, by attacking file-swapping services and suing their users, the record companies are putting the careers of the indie bands in jeopardy.

The battle between file-swappers and the recording industry is continuing. Only time will tell the outcome of the battle.

"It all comes down to whether the copyright holders are going to be 'user-friendly' enough," Walter added, "to allow users to pay for media through a server, as opposed to directly from them."

The final decision is ultimately up to the courts and Congress. Until Congress changes the law, record companies will continue to have file-swappers prosecuted and charge them a big fine.

JPINION

The Allmamiam s

BRENDAN GUILFORD Editor-in-Chief

I recently stumbled across the newest addition to student publishing on Alma College's campus. The inaugural edition of "Alma Doesn't Mater" delivered two comedy-packed pages of satirical comments about our campus. At first I was disappointed that the Almanian was being mocked before our first issue had even went to press. Eventually I resigned myself to the fact that our campus newspaper will always be a lightning rod for students to display their differences of opinion. I also noticed that the majority of "Alma Doesn't Mater" delivered anonymous complaints about Alma's administration and even other members of the student body including accusations of bureaucratic nonsense, censorship, and oppression. Other students are complaining too, and just not about how "terrible" the Almanian copy reads. Students are upset about practically the entire gamut of the Alma College experience. Every facet of the Alma experience seems to be in decline. Parking difficulties, arguments with the Registrar over classes, ever-slipping admissions numbers, accusations by members of the Greek community that campus administration is trying to destroy their organizations, even the cafeteria is angering students. (We still don't have air-conditioning?)

The worst sign of all is that with every passing year I hear students complain more bitterly than the previous year. Perhaps surprisingly, I take "Alma Doesn't Mater" as one of the last hopeful signs of life on campus. It seems the worst thing we've done to ourselves is that we've given up on fighting for the things that matter to us. I can't offer any insightful, groundbreaking suggestions as to how to turn the campus around and make the 2003-2004 school year a banner one for Alma College. But I'm beginning to wonder if it's too late to make a difference anyway. It certainly isn't the case that students aren't complaining; it appears we only tell ourselves. I don't agree with some of the complaints I've heard about our administration from my friends. Everyone at Alma College should possess at least enough common sense to realize that our administrative staff is not comprised of evildoers out to banish all forms of fun and destroy Alma's social scene.

I do worry, not about how campus administration will react to student demands and suggestions, but if we will stand up and complain what bothers us at all. I encourage other students, whether you appreciate the Almanian or not, to use it as a means of giving your input on how the campus should operate. If you don't feel comfortable speaking your mind in this venue, start another underground newsletter. Become a D.J. for WQAC. Protest in McIntyre Mall. Do something. It's better to have people campaigning, screaming, fighting for what they believe in than them just grumbling about it underneath their breath. So to the editorial staff of "Alma Doesn't Mater", thank you for standing up and expressing your views, even if they are a little mean spirited.

The Almanian Serving Alma College since 1907

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Statement of Purpose

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 reder to inform and educate the order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of

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Staff Editorial Policy Opinions expressed in the unbylined edtorials reflect the views of The Almanian editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College

It's the end of the world as we know it, or so we hear

MATT HELMUS SPORTS EDITOR

While there have been no visions of the four horsemen yet, it is a popular trend to see the end of life as we know it on our campus. According to some students the apocalypse may not be nigh, but perhaps the end of social life as we know it is.

Giving rise to this belief are the events occurring in the Greek community. One fraternity has been temporarily shuttered and there is talk of limiting the fraternities to one open party a month. Many on campus fear that these are the first of many steps down a long road that leads to a dry campus where parties are nonexistent. Some would argue that without an active (and alcoholic) social life Alma would offer nothing to students who would promptly leave our jungle, grove, and campus fair.

Students at Alma chose this particular school for one purpose: this is where they thought they could get the best overall experience. Many people include an active social life in this experience. If this was taken away it is true that scores of them would jump ship to schools where they could live it up.

There is a fine line that has to be tread by both students and the administration on campus. The administration must balance itself somewhere between being a totalitarian state and being everyone's friend. Students must draw a line somewhere between having a good time and

causing problems for the entire campus community.

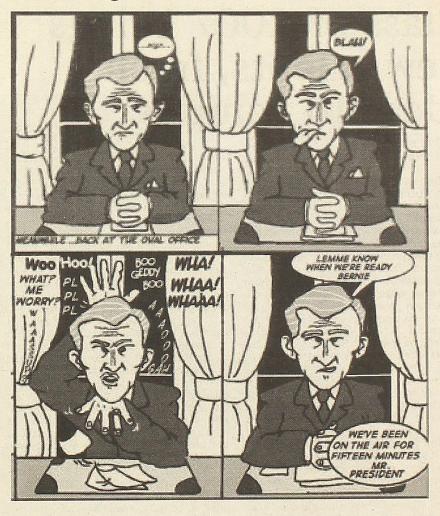
The administration must realize that Greek social organizations make up an integral part of the social scene on campus. It has been pointed out by some students that if they could not find parties on or near campus they would resort to having a good time elsewhere. If one reads between the lines it is obvious that this would likely entail drunk driving. The college needs to decide if it is willing to force students away from campus and risk the consequences.

The coming of new Vice President of Student Life Dr. Nick Piccolo and the recent addition of Dr. Tracy as President bring the college to an important crossroads. The college does not seem to have a concrete plan for its future. Without a plan in place, there are only rumors of what the administration will do next. These rumors are often not true but they can still be very hurtful in the relationship between students and those running the

Tracy and Piccolo need to share with students their plan for this institution. Conversely, students need to let the administration know their opinion of Alma's future. Unless both sides come together to share their ideas, talk things over, and be willing to compromise, problems will continue and expand. Good communication needs to be the first step in building a higher quality campus experience.

Talking Heads

by Mykiller



If you'd like to participate in next week's poll, or if you have a question to which you'd like to see the student body respond, e-mail your idea to almanianopinion@yahoo.com

FEATURE

Pre-term introduces first year students to social life, academia

RACHEL KINGSTROM Staff Writer

While the upperclassmen were enjoying their final week of freedom from academia, the first-year students were thrust head-first into the college experi-

On Saturday, August 23rd, it was time for first-year students to pack up and say good-bye to the familiarity of their hometown, friends, and familiarity of their hometown, friends, and family and get ready to adjust to life at Alma. Preterm took place from Saturday, August 23rd to Friday, August 29th.

Students' schedules were jam-packed with activity every day. They had to attend a number of meetings and take placement tests, in addition to attending class every day. There were also several social events planned throughout the week. The most notable events included the Traditions Dinner, Playfair, a concert featuring the band "Shaking Tree," and "Been There, Wish I had Done That...," also know as "A-Z." Students also had the chance to visit President Tracy's home.

Students were introduced to various traditions and historical facts about Alma at the Traditions Dinner. This eventful meal takes place every year on Sunday during Preterm. It allowed students and faculty to gather in a semi-formal setting, and it provided a chance for students to get to know each other better and share their

home town traditions with one another.
Playfair, which took place Monday night during Preterm, was a highly interactive event held in the recreation center. The focus of the evening was for stuand get to know as many people as possible. Newton, the creator and host of Playfair, led the students through the evening with enthusiasm and creative games like backwards dancing and "tiger, pistol, heart." It was an event that is beBrianna Schubert (07) said. "That's not necessarily a positive," she added. Some students agreed that they felt slightly like lemmings following one another to the same horrible death.

Preterm had a variety of meanings among students. For some, it was a valu-

upperclassmen.
"Preterm was helpful because I was able to learn my way around," said first-year Kelly Marks.

"I took Positive Psychology and I'm finding what I learned in that class to be re-

ally helpful in the psychology class I'm tak-ing now," first-year student Michelle Sibbald said.

While most of what students said about Preterm was positive, some students had negative comments. Many felt it was too much like a week at summer camp, and they resented the many restrictions such as not being allowed to cross the street. Some students felt that there was not enough time to study and participate in social activi-

"I would make the activities more optional so that people could choose what they wanted to do. There was a lot of emphasis placed on them. It sometimes made it hard to get work done," Elizabeth Espinosa (07)

Whether students had positive or negative views on Preterm, they all had one thing in common. They managed to get through a very busy week that for most people involved a lot of hard work, stress, a little

bit of adjustment, and fun. The majority of the first-year class came out of the week with new friends, insight into their future career endeavors and eagerness to start the new school year.



photo courtesy of Loren Hugget

The orientation committee, led by co-chairs Matt Baleja (04) and Michelle Monsour (04), was responsible for the first year students integration and adjustment to college life.

yond explanation. What can be said about Playfair is that students came out of it knowing a lot more people than they had

"Playfair was undeniably unforgettable,"

able learning experience. For others, it was a great opportunity to get to know their peers If nothing else, it was a great way to get accustomed to the campus and get to know the faculty, staff, and some of the

Class of 2007 brings new talents, fresh ideas to campus

ALEXA BOYCE Staff Writer

When most upperclassmen hear the word "freshman", a typical reaction is to roll their eyes and sigh. That is why Taylor Brooks (07) states that he is a "first-year student, not a freshman". It has less of the negative connotation that comes along with being called a freshman. There are actually quite a few "first-year" students on campus this year, all of whom have more talent, personality, and intelligence than your average "freshman".

Many students have likely noticed Desmond Wright-Glenn (07) walking around campus. He is a pre- law Political Science major who is fluent in French and would like to live in Europe someday. He is outgoing and fun, and is involved Cheerleading and Swimming to WQAC and the Gay-Straight Alliance. He is excited about his radio show because it is about Fashion Design, one of his passions. He says it will be like the radio version of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy". Wright-Glenn graduated with Honors from the prestigious Detroit Country Day High School where he was a member of Peer Intervention, Diversity Council, the Swim team, Cheerleading, choir and the GSA.

As a first year student, Brooks plans to join the Model United Nations team, the Alma College Peace Coalition, the Women's Issues Advisory Board and Amnesty International. Though that sounds like a lot to handle, he is confident that he can succeed. During his four years at H.H. Dow High School, Brooks was a member of the Debate Team, Forensics Team and Mock Trial, (all of which he won awards for) as well as a Political Discussion club, Diver-

sity club, Midland Animal Rights Group, and Midlanders for Peace. Brooks is also a Mc Gregor student, one of the few lucky freshmen invited to participate in a summer tutorial on Genetic Engineering. He is likely to be a success at Alma. He says that he is enjoying his courses, including Economics and a Dr. Sandy Hulme Political Science class, and that "...the professors are encouraging and helpful." With a double major in Political Science and Economics, Brooks's goal is to get his doctorate and become a college professor.

First year Santana Vermeesch of

Essexville is one of Alma's rising stars. She is one of only three freshmen to get a part in the Theater Department's upcoming production of "Our Country's Good". Intern Matt Singletary did not expect even one freshman to get a part in the play, let alone three. Vermeesch is very modest about her success so far, claiming that while she wants theater to be a part of her life forever, she really would like to be a neurosurgeon. She doesn't mind all of the extra school she will have to endure for her double EHS and Theater majors plus med school, because she really enjoys learning. While she was very involved in Bay City Central's Theater productions, Varsity Softball and Varsity choir, Vermeesch feels that Alma has everything she could dream of in a school. She has wanted to come here since she visited her cousin years ago. She says, "I absolutely love it. It feels like I am exactly where I am supposed to be."

These are just a few examples of the diverse interests and goals of the first years, and Alma is confident that all the new students will bring something fresh to the

What I Did This Summer

Discovering Vocation Interns

give presentations on their summer work experiences

Hear stories from Belize to Grand Rapids From Ghana to Grand Haven

Heather Room at 4:00pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday September 22, 23, 24

Monday September 22

Grant Kinney April LaCroix Anne Westerman Julie Lee Rita Nyomi Becky Feuerstein

Tuesday September 23

Tim Slade Elizabeth Shaffer Cathy Coffin Marie Anderson Kim Reeve Jennifer Hoornstra

Wednesday September 24

Brendan Guilford Breanne Harmon Kate Williams Lee Owens Rachel Dyke

First Presbyterian Church, Alma Target Earth, Belize Diocese of Gaylord Y.M.C.A. of Grand Haven Anloga Presbyterian Church, Ghana Arbor Circle, Grand Rapids

Provadenic, Nicaragua Praise Radio 101.7, Coleman First Presbyterian Church, Fenton Eugenesis, Guadalahara, Mexico Eugenesis, Guadalahara, Mexico Eugenesis, Guadalahara, Mexico

Texas Rural Legal Aid, El Paso, Texas Allen Park Presbyterian Church, Allen Park Presbyterian Villages, Redford New Life Baptist Church, Lake in the Hills, Illinois People Building People, Juarez, Mexico

FEATURE



Photo by Melanie Szewczyk

Teamed with Kappa Iota, Theta Chi wowed the crowd wearing drag and won first place at Mock Rock

COME SEE BIDS BASH FRIDAY September 19th, 2003 8:00 p.m. Chapel Lawn

Greek Week - Final Scores

Sororities

1st - Alpha Gamma Delta, 885 pts 2nd - Alpha Xi Delta, 841 pts

3rd - Kappa Iota, 792 pts

Fraternities

1st - Sigma Chi, 754 pts

2nd - Zeta Sigma, 723 pts

3rd - Theta Chi, 677 pts



photo by Melanie Szewczyk

Jeff Snow (05) and Michelle Monsour (04) partner up during Mock Rock. The Greeks put in a great amount of effort and pride throughout the



photo by Melanie Szewczyk Patrick Kosal (04) spends time with a friend at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Field Day.

New ASO director optimistic about working with music students

KARI JOY JOHNSON Staff Writer

As the new director of the Alma Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and assistant professor of music in the music department, Glen Tuomalla is very optimistic about the possibilities that lie within the year ahead.

'Students in orchestra are phenomenal; the wind players are terrific. All of the students' musical abilities were very noticeable and because they work so hard and enjoy it so much, it's hard to deter mine the music majors from any of the other majors here. It really doesn't matter what someone's major is; they [the musicians] love what they do and they work hard. It's striking and such a blessing.

With so much dedication and effort present, Tuomalla feels he could not have found a better job. After searching for the right place to continue his career in teaching, Alma offered "the exact kind of job [he] had been looking for: a combination of band, orchestra, wind ensemble, and teaching classes."

Alma College is the fourth college for the new director and French horn player, who came from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio. Originally from Royal Oak, Michigan, Tuomalla graduated from Kimball High School, along with Jim Cole, the Alma football coach. Upon discovering they both attended the same school, Tuomalla decided to integrate humor and harmony for the first orchestra concert, which takes place on Homecoming. Featuring a full selection of music by renowned composer Mozart, Jim Cole will guest conduct one selection to help commence the year ahead for the or-

When asked about the reason for the humor, Tuomalla replied, "This year we vant to engage the whole audience more. People generally think classical music and they put up this wall, but I want to engage college students and others who normally wouldn't come to performances. Also, Mozart himself is known for having a marvelous sense of humor. He was such a prankster, so to help bring that side of Mozart out more, Jim Cole will guest conduct one piece.'

Although Tuomalla is a recent addition to the faculty at Alma, he already feels it is a place where "...academic standards help combine music with extremely intelligent people who play well and who play musically." He added, "I should really be thanking the professors and staff. The students sound so good due to academic departments and standards here [that] make students strong. The quality of faculty im-

With students, community members, and professors all playing together, the orchestra's sound and ability are enhanced. Nevertheless, most of the individuals who create the music are also very involved in other aspects of student life on or off campus. Tuomalla insists that for many if not all orchestra members, music is something they enjoy as a break from the academic demands of college. Somehow, along with everything else that goes on, the students find time to participate. Featuring a number of community musicians, the orchestra possesses a sound unique to Alma. It is a combined effort, which can only enhance the sound and

A listing of all the concerts and what each will feature are available in the Music Department as well as online at the Alma Heritage Center Event Calendar. All performances are open to the local community and are free for students.

Tickets to concerts are free for students and to reserve seats, call the Heritage Center Box Office at x7304 on campus. Any questions about the Alma Symphony Orchestra or the Music Department, feel free to contact Glen Tuomaala at 463-7214 or via e-mail at tuomaala@alma.edu.

JPINION

INSERT YOUR **OPINION** HERE

WHITNEY HOPKINS Opinion Editor

It has been said that Alma College students are apathetic, that we reside happily in a bubble, naïve to the goings-on of the outside world and blissful in our ignorance. Considering the loudly-voiced opinions I hear over dinner at Saga or while studying in the library, I find this more than a little difficult to believe. It's not that students don't have opinions or don't know what's going on outside the borders of campus; to a large extent, the issue simply lies in the utilization of all available resources through which our voices can be heard.

Alma does not turn a deaf ear to its students. If you'd like to be heard, there are ways. Contact your friendly RHA representative. Send an e-mail to your Class President. Tell your RA about it, or hang your opinion from a bed sheet at the library. It's all been done. A huge percentage of students are involved in organizations that have direct contact with professors and administrators. Each one has the potential of being the driving force behind an issue. Of course, there are dozens of other ways to make your opinion known.

Guess what? This is one. Professors, staff, alumni, students, trustees, and even administrators read The Almanian. Do you have something you want them to hear about? Do you want to spark debate in classrooms and dorm-rooms across campus? It doesn't matter what your opinion is; if it's well thought-out and pertinent to campus, the staff at The Almanian wants to hear it. Chances are, so do your peers. You're opinion is vital.

There's a well-known saying: "if you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten. In other words, if you want to see change, it has to start with you. Convincing other people you're right is a great place to go after that. The opinion section isn't just about my opinion or those of the other staff writers; it's about yours.

That being said, if you choose to take action and make known your opinion, please do it respectfully. I said your opinions are valuable. I didn't say they are the only valuable opinions. A community is made up of ideas. Share your ideas, change your community.

Might I suggest submitting a Letter to the Editor here at the newspaper? If you have an idea for a poll or a Voices question, if you have a controversial topic you'd like to see us cover, or if you'd like to participate in the weekly poll, e-mail us at

Please, make your opinions known. It makes all the

difference.

What do You Think?

How safe do you feel on campus?

Very safe: 47.8% Somewhat safe: 13%

Safe: 39.1% Not safe at all: 0%

Is President Tracy doing a good job?

Yes: 65.2% NO: 21.7%

How is the food at Saga?

Excellent: 0% Average: 34.8%

Good: 56.5% Bad: 8.7%

Every week The Almanian will be publishing poll results to campus-pertinent questions. Next week, the questions are: "Do you currently use a P2P media-downloading program?" and "Do you intend on participating in intramural athletics this term?"



What are your opinions on the prosecution of 271 individuals who downloaded media from P2P sources?

> Computer people should have forseen this happening and they should have planned Chris Beveridge (07)

I think that society is aware that it's illegal;

people should be held responsible for



Kennerly

Darby Kennerly (04)

I wouldn't think it would be that big of a deal, except that cd's cost so much; it's a waste for people to buy them. Sarah Wasek (07)



I think that it's a shame that it boils down to lawsuits because music is a form of expression. Supporting bands by buying cd's is fine,but if you feel the need to sample a cd before you buy it, then you should be able

Jeff Snow (05)



Beveridge



Wasek

Humans on the fast track to amoeba

SAMANTHA STONEBURG Staff Writer

Snow

Holy cow! Did you know that the human race is deevolving back into monkeys? According to The Weekly World News (a National Enquirer-like magazine that I found in the checkout at Wal-Mart) and an international panel of more that 430 top biologists, geneticists, sociologists and other experts, they believe that "mankind is evolving backward both physically and socially, and if the alarming trend continues, these scientists warn that every single one of us will be walking on our knuckles and living in caves within 75

Still need some proof? Well, here's what set them off. See what you think.

Road rage is a sign that points to the decline in civilization. These "brilliant" scientists say that "resorting to violence to resolve conflict is a classic caveman trait that's now making a comeback." What? I didn't think cavemen had access to cars. Not unless you watching some cartoon about inventions in elementary school, and according to Donald Duck, the wheel wasn't even around in caveman times.

I guess brains are getting smaller too. As indicated by the information-packed article, I'm reading, a study has pointed out that the average brain size has dropped 6.5% since 1946. I don't remember getting my brain measured, do you? Maybe they only measured the brains of the Detroit Lions; because I'm certain that if they measured my brain the statistic would show the exact opposite.

Here's my favorite: the rise of rap music. Some anthropologists say that the primitive, aggressive thumping marks a return to the drumbeat of prehistoric cave cancer. You decide.

dwellers. I find this hard to believe. Which one of these anthropologists were around when the "prehistoric cave-dwellers" were beating on their drums? Were they there gettin' jiggy wit' it? Now I've seen some anthropologists that look like they could have been around that long, but I'm sure they're not quite that old. Did they forget about Polka music? What is their excuse for that? Not everybody can put together words in such a fashion, (forget about the "H to the Izzo", it doesn't count), rap is an art.

Ape-like posture is another warning sign. The slouching of shoulders and a swaying, chimp-like gait are increasingly common among teens worldwide, experts say. I'm saying this as I sit up straight in my chair, but have these "experts" heard of the term "lazy"? Things like the elevision and computers have also become increasingly common among teens, hence

Plummeting verbal skills are another thing that's got these "experts" sitting on the edge of their chairs. think cavemen had access to cars. Not unless you count the ones that Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble tries like the United States. What in the darn heck do drove around with their bare feet. Wait, I remember these fancy-schmancy science people think they's be talkin' 'bout?

There's also dumber and dumber television. Experts pointed out that mindless shows like "Survivor", with no writing and no plot, would have been laughed off the air 20 years ago, but they are perfect for de-evolving humans. What about shows like "Chips" and "The Brady Bunch"? Some shows from 20 years ago would be laughed off the air now. Just because we've embraced so-called reality shows at epidemic rates, doesn't mean we have small minds; it just means that we like spontaneity.

So how reliable are these findings? Well, on the next page there's an article claiming that beer cures

LISTEN TO 90.9 WQAC

SPORTS

Scots set their sights on MIAA title and beyond

Staff Writer

Their goal is to win the conference. They will do it with experience, depth, and heart. The 2003 Alma College Women's Soccer Team presents eight seniors who

"want to go out with a bang" according to Head Coach Chi Ly. Co-captains Alaina Sharp (04) and Megan Karchon (04) lead a team of 12 returning players and nine freshmen. Coach Ly sees these numbers as depth, and it is depth that will carry this year's team.

The defense is anchored by seniors Stephanie Krieg, Carla Soule, and Sharp. Six more freshmen provide competition and depth. Megan Murphy, Kelle-Sajdak, Ashley Moyer, Amanda Metzler, Jennifer Zernec, and Ruth Anderson all provide promise for the future.

At mid-field are four unbeatable seniors with impressive resumes. Sara Monsere and Angel Bushor were among Alma's top five scorers last year, and co-captain Karchon is the top returning scorer. Karchon was also named to the second-team all-conference last

season. Last but certainly not least is senior transfer Anna Lukezich, a dangerous threat at mid-field. One of the two returning juniors is Anna Springsteen, a starter and excellent

Though the numbers of forwards are small, the experience and talent are big. The other returning junior, Sarah

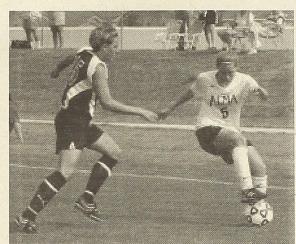


Photo by Melanie Szewczyk Angel Bushor (04) tries to elude an Albion

defender. The Scots ended up winning the game 2-0 and are off to a 5-1 start. Ruddell, started every game last season

and is an offensive threat. Freshman Kristine Husband has also been stepping up to fill varsity shoes. Various mid-fielders help out and become

field. They are Rachel Comfort, who was all state in high school, and Elizabeth Daley, another high school walls when in net. Both talented young women can be expected to post impressive numbers this year as well as in the future. McCarthy has already set the tone by being named the MIAA defensive player

of the week for week one.

Last year, the Scots were plagued by injuries and a lack of depth. This year however, the depth has helped to keep the injuries down to only one: senior Christina Leonard. Coach Ly also explained that the depth has given everyone adequate rest, and that his athletes are in better shape than ever because of it.

The soccer team began their season with a 3-0 win over Marietta and a 0-2 loss at SUNY-Brockport. Both games were played in Ohio. Back on their own turf, the Scots defeated Defiance College 2-1 and Aquinas 3-1.

For the conference opener, they headed south and for the first time ever defeated Kalamazoo College 2-0 on their home turf. Lukezich and Sharp recorded the goals while McCarthy picked up the shut-out. Coach Ly commented that this team is "history in the making.

The Scots are one step closer to their goal of conference champions and in the words of Coach Ly, "one step closer to the Big Dance," otherwise known as the NCAA tournament. They will look to continue their winning streak Saturday, September 13th at home against rival Albion College.

Best darn sports column ever

MATT HELMUS Sports Editor

Another year of Scot athletics has just begun yet has already produced some exciting games. Last week's men's soccer game was only one of these events. The Scots thrashed Findlandia 18-0. I think it was ballboy Joe Baysdell and one of the referees that got the last two goals. Everyone on the team seemed to score. I guess it just proves that the team is ready for competition in the junior-Champions league known as the MIAA. They get to start off with Hope, a game which should provide a good measuring stick for the team to

see their progress.

The women's soccer team is also on a hot start. The team is already 5-1 and 2-0 in the conference. The team is more experienced than last year and should make a stronger push for the league crown this year. They have already gained shutout victories over Kalamazoo and Albion, two of the stronger teams in the conference.

The football team will look to repeat their performance from last year. This could be the first back-to-back titles for the team since the late sixties. Next week will be the first home game where students will once again be awed by the Scotgun offense. Manchester and Defiance should provide excellent cannon fodder for the team to warm up before league competition.

In the football preview this week Coach Cole points out the irony of the season-opening loss to Wheaton. I had another thought. Wouldn't it be even more ironic if the Scots were to finish the rest of the season undefeated and beat the Thunder in the first round of the playoffs? It would be just the opposite scenario as the teams went through last year. It could quite possibly happen this year as the MIAA is guaranteed that at least one team will make the playoffs. I just found the idea to be in-

On a completely unrelated note, Detroit sports teams continue to contribute to the early deaths of Michigan citizens. At least this week the Lions didn't leave us in doubt as to whether or not they would win their game. They let the Packers roll over them in the first half with lason Hanson offering the only potent scoring threat.

Also on the losing track are the Tigers. As of printing, the team is on track for meeting or passing the Mets for the all-time record in losses. It'll be interesting to see the conclusion of this gripping race. At least they still have Bobby Higginson.

In another turn of events, it has come to my attention that the Detroit Shock are very close to winning the championship of women's basketball. I'm not really sure if they get a trophy but at least we have another winning team in this state. Grand Valley, the Pistons and the Red Wings were getting a little lonely.

scorer. Finally, two freshmen bring additional talent and depth to the mid Seniors lead the winning streak S 13th at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery their winning streak S 11sth at home against recovery the streak S 11sth at home against recovery t men's soccer team

Sports Editor

Returning senior leadership is a valuable asset to any sports team. This year's men's soccer team should benefit greatly from their juniors and seniors. Last season the team was 7-4-1 in the MIAA, good enough for a third place finish. This could possibly be the year that the Scots end up on top of the heap in the conference.

Seniors will lead the way for the Scots with five players returning. Forwards Matt Funk and Mike Worley will lead the team up front. The Scots also have a strong senior duo of midfielders with Evan Hammontree and Cameron McLoed. Hammontree had three goals and three assists last year while McLoed was fifth on the team with seven points. Overall, the Scots return four of their top

In goal the Scots have two solid keepers, senior Marty Ciurlik and Kyle Lieberman (05). The two had six shut-

keepers also had a goals-against average of less than two.

Lieberman is one of a number of juniors who will make their presence felt this season. Last year's leading scorer Wes Rasdorf (05) is back and will see if he can better his mark of fifteen points. Along with him will be junior Jamie Shooks who netted four goals in the 2002

The Scots defense will enjoy the junior leadership of Luke Oostindie, Kyle Jean, and Scott Roberts. The trio will make sure that Lieberman and Ciurlik don't have to make too many saves. Other juniors returning to the team will be 2002 Most Improved Player Bart Rizzo and Grant Sneary

Learning from the upperclassmen will be 13 sophomores and freshmen. Josh Morgan (06) had 4 points for the Scots last year and will be looking for more this season. Freshmen Matt Johnston, Nick home game against Hope on September Kost, and Dan Wiedeman have been

on fire in the 2003 season so far. Each already has at least 5 points for the Scots.

So far the season statistics for this year are lopsided in the Scots' favor thanks to their 18-0 thrashing of Finlandia University on Saturday. The win was their first after losses to Aquinas, Heidelberg and Mt.

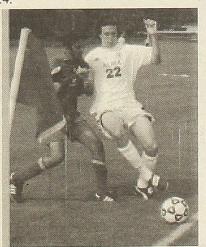
The team's loss to Aquinas was a heartbreaker with the Scots losing in double overtime after losing two players to penalties. The Saints were unable to capitalize on their two-man advantage until the very end of the second half when they tied the score at one and forced overtime. In the second overtime they once again found the back of the net for a 2-1 victory. They did, however, do so without their coach, who was also given a red card during the game.

The Scots will have one last non-conference game this Saturday at Saginaw Valley before beginning league play with a



Photos by Melanie Szewczyk

Junior Wes Rasdorf blows by a Finlandia defender and goalkeeper on his way to the net. Rasdorf was the leading scorer for the Scots with 6 goals. He already has 5 in the 2003 season.



Evan Hammontree (04) fights for possessions with a Finlandia player. The Scots won the game 18-0 after taking an 11-0 halftime lead.

SPORTS

MIAA STANDINGS

FOOTBALL

	W-I.	DE DA
		PF-PA
Adrian	2-0	38-31
Olivet	1-0	65-12
K'zoo	1-0	28-21
Hope	1-1	62-59
WI Luth.	1=1	36-36
Albion	0-1	7-34
ALMA	0-1	24-35

VOLLEYBALL

	MIAA	Total
Calvin	3-0	7-0
Hope	2-1	5-4
Adrian	1-1	6-4
K'zoo	1-1	8-3
Albion	1-2	5-6
St. Mary's	1-2	7-4
ALMA	0-1	7-3
Olivet	0-1	2-4

WOMEN'S SOCCER

ALMA Hope	MIAA 2-0-0 2-0-0	Total 5-1-0 4-0-1
St. Mary's	1-0-1	4-0-1
Calvin	0-1-1	0-3-1
Adrian Albion	0-1-0 0-1-0	0-4-0 1-4-0
K'zoo	0-1-0	2-3-0
Olivet	0-1-0	0-4-2

MEN'S SOCCER

	Total	GF-GA
Calvin	3-0-0	12-3
K'zoo	3-1-0	8-3
Hope	1-1-2	9-3
Albion	1-3-1	6-12
ALMA	1-3-0	22-10
Adrian	1-4-0	6-20
Olivet	1-4-0	3-15

MEN'S GOLF

	Strokes
Olivet	305
Hope	306
Albion	311
ALMA	313
Calvin	315
Adrian	343
K'700	346

Defending champions look forward to new challenges

AMY WILLEY

With this year's chance at the most successful record in Alma College football history, and the MIAA title to defend, every game counts. Ironically, this season's first game will be hosted by Wheaton, the team that knocked Alma out in the first round of the NCAA Division III playoffs. This irony is not lost on head coach James Cole, however, he takes it in stride: "It's been a long winter since last November when they knocked us out of the playoffs. We've reviewed our record and are anxious to do better."

Though this year's team has the benefit of lessons learned, it also has to face the reality of the many seniors, including three All-Americans, lost to graduation. When questioned about the replacement process, Cole affirmed, "We did lose 25 players, but it's a fun process to see the younger players step up." Cole seems confident that due to last year's high scoring games, many of the younger players were able to gain experience,

which will now help them in their transition to starting positions.

Cole is not the only one with confidence in this year's team. The combined effect of last year's good record, the two seniors named pre-season All-Americans, and the fact that two national publications placed Alma in the NCAA Division III Top 25 have resulted in high expectations. In response to these expectations, Cole admitted that some of that is hype saying "We welcome the hype and the challenge," he laughingly adding, "we used to be everyone's homecoming game."

Alma's homecoming game is October 11, and the team looks forward to this and every home game. According to Cole, "One of the special things about playing here is that we do so well at home." He attributes this to the student fan base as well as the band. As far as a repeat performance, and back-to-back MIAA titles, Cole is cautiously optimistic saying: "1967-68 was the last time Alma achieved that success, but we look forward to that distinction down the road."



The Scots at work on their kicking game during practice.

2003 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 13 -Wheaton (L 35-24)

> Sept. 20 -Manchester

Sept. 27 -@ Defiance

Oct. 4 - @ Hope

Oct. 11 -Olivet (HC)

Oct. 18 - Albion

Oct. 25 -@ Wisc. Lutheran

Nov. 1 - Adrian

Nov. 15 -Tri-State

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Sept. 16

7 p.m. - Volleyball Home v. Olivet

9 - 10:15 p.m. - Trinity Bible Fellowship (Jones Auditorium)

Wednesday, Sept. 17

1 p.m. - Men's Golf @ Olivet

4 p.m. - Women's Soccer @ Olivet

4 - 5 p.m. - "Travel to India" Meeting (Jones Auditorium)

Thursday, Sept. 18

7 - 7:30 p.m. - Evening Prayer & Communion Service (Chapel)

Friday, Sept. 19

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Book Sale (Library)

Saturday, Sept. 20

Volleyball @ Aquinas Invitational

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Parent Day

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Book Sale (Library)

12 p.m. - Women's Soccer Home v. Calvin

1 p.m. - Football Home v. Manchester

1 p.m. - Men's Golf Home - MIAA Jamboree

1 p.m. - Women's Golf @ St. Mary's

2 p.m. - Men's Soccer @ Saginaw Valley

Sunday, Sept. 21

2 p.m. - Volleyball @ St. Mary's

9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service

Monday, Sept. 22

1 p.m. - Men's Golf @ Hope

4 - 5 p.m. - "What I Did This Summer" (Heather Room)