

# The Reiad

Albion College Albion, MI 49224 Volume 115 Number 12

Friday, February 6, 1998

### **NEWS**



#### What is tenure?

Read about the criteria for tenure and how tenure decisions are made.

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#### **Black history review**

Pleiad staff writer Tiffany Gates offers an African American point of view on Black History Month as well as writing about upcoming events to celebrate black history.

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John LaPietra of Marshall criticizes Representative Nick Smith's social security bill.

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## Off campus opportunities abound

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- One of the newest programs
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Ingeborg Baumgartner's "Tale of Three Cities" freshman seminar will visit the three cities they have studied over spring break.

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## Britons make a splash

The swimming and diving teams are off to a good start and have high expectations for the rest of the season.

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#### **ON-LINE**



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## A taste of Kenyan culture...



photo courtesy of Brenda Gree

Brenda Green, Downers Grove, III. junior, celebrates with the winners of a Nairobi, Kenya music and culture festival. When Green asked the women if she could take their photograph, they replied, "Only if you dance with us," so Green joined in the festivities. Green spent the fall semester in Kenya studying Kenyan music and religion. Other off campus programs are featured on page 5.

## Virtual open house is first of its kind

Mary Summers Staff Writer

Albion is boldly going where no college has gone before.

"We are establishing the new way to recruit students," President Peter Mitchell said about America's first virtual admissions tour and on-line live chat, making its debut from 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Feb.15 here on Albion's campus.

The on-line live chat, being called

a "virtual open house" on campus, has placed Albion in the national spotlight, as Mitchell has already had interviews with such publications as U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today and Business Week.

The virtual open house will consist of approximately 70 chat rooms in which prospective students can meet with and ask questions of members of the college community. Each room will contain at least one mem-

ber of the faculty and one student. There will also be a room in which prospectives and their parents can talk directly with Mitchell.

A "dry-run" of the open house will be conducted Monday, Feb. 9 with six high schools in southern Michigan's largest television market so that the event may receive some television coverage as well.

Jason Allgire, '97, was hired recently as the electronic admissions representative. His position is the

first of its kind in the country. It was created by Mitchell in an effort to apply technology to the admissions process.

Allgire's responsibilities include e-mailing prospective students, answering on-line questions, developing Albion's web pages and showcasing new technology to prospective students. In essence, he is a "virtual recruiter."

\_\_\_\_ see 'Virtual,' p. 2

## Students upset with Bousé's tenure denial

Rebecca Little Staff Writer

The rumors about the tenure results have been confirmed and many students are infuriated about the decision not to recommend Derek Bousé.

Their concerns have raised many questions about the actual tenure process, and the influence that students have on the results.

Deborah Kanter, assistant professor of history, E. Dale Kennedy, assistant professor of biology, and Bille Wickre, assistant professor of visual arts, were all recommended for tenure. The fourth candidate, Derek Bousé, assistant professor of speech communication and theatre, was not recommended. Jeffrey Carrier, vice

president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, confirmed this in a Jan. 29 interview with *The Pleiad*.

Many of Bousé's students disagree with the decision.

"I thought he was a fantastic professor and I'm ticked he didn't get tenure," said Ian Kesler, Birmingham junior.

"I don't know what defines tenure, but his energy, creativity and dedication to making students learn should have qualified him," said Susan Cunningham, Harrison Township senior.

"I think he should have received tenure. The things we speak about valuing in professors are qualities he has," said Jane DeCourcy, Plymouth senior. "He's published, he cares about students and he's a great educator." The Albion College Faculty Handbook, a legal contract between faculty members and the college, ranks criteria for tenure in a hierarchy. The list begins with "value to students," continues with "scholarly activity" and concludes with "community contribution."

"Bousé signed a contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press to publish his book on wildlife and natural history films, and their role in the social construction of nature," stated *The Deanery*, Albion College's academic newsletter.

According to *The Deanery*, he has been published in many journals, including *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*, and will attend the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival in September to give a presentation

and seminar on the history of the wildlife film genre.

In addition to publication, the faculty handbook states "the ability to teach effectively is of first importance."

"He brought a fresh perspective, and he made class interesting and exciting," Cunningham said. "He didn't follow the format most professors follow."

For example, Bousé's 1997 spring semester Media Theory class was divided into sections dealing with the media's effects on society. One of these sections dealt with pornography, in which the class watched a pornographic film to illustrate the issues studied.

— see 'Bousé,' p. 2

## Tenure process is collaborative

Rebecca Little Staff Writer

Exactly how are tenure decisions made?

According to Jeffrey Carrier, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, the process of obtaining tenure begins with the interim review, during the third year of employment.

"A faculty member is evaluated, and the interim review serves as a sort of progress report for the candidate," said Carrier. "The interim review measures potential, while the tenure review measures accomplishment."

According to the Albion College Faculty Handbook, to qualify for tenure a candidate must have completed a terminal degree and be in his or her sixth year of employment.

Once the tenure process is set in motion, the Faculty Affairs Committee starts to review the candidates. This committee is comprised of six tenured faculty members who serve three year terms.

After reviewing all of the information, including teacher evaluations, student and alumni surveys, letters of recommendation and the candidates themselves, the committee makes its decision.

"We write a letter that goes to the President [Peter Mitchell] and Jeff Carrier. Carrier writes a separate letter to the president, so he has two recommendations to go on," said Hal Wyss, professor of English and member of the Faculty Affairs Committee. "At some point, the president will meet with the committee and discuss the recommendations, which will then go to the Board of Trustees. They do have the power to overturn it, but what has been recommended is generally what will be carried out."

The Board of Trustees will meet in April to finalize the tenure decisions

"It's a very collaborative process," Carrier said. "The president meets with the committee at several points during the process, to make certain there's community support and issues of concern are thoroughly addressed in the review process."

As vice president for academic affairs, Carrier's job is that of a coordinator.

"I sit with the Faculty Affairs Committee, review the information, oversee the process, make certain that the guidelines in the faculty handbook are followed, and serve as a liaison between the committee and the President," he said.

The process itself continues to receive criticism, but it does adhere to consistent standards.

"Most faculty need some kind of job security, and tenure is better than a union system at a school like Albion," Wyss said. "It's a myth to say that you will automatically have a job for the rest of your life. But it does mean that there had to be some good reason for letting someone go."

"Tenure exists so faculty can be free to teach in their discipline without the administration placing limitations on it," Wyss said. "It's to preserve academic freedom."

## Virtual open house to premiere

continued from page 1

Another aspect of Albion's electronic recruiting effort is the Albion Connection CD-ROM.

The CD-ROM combines the latest in computer technology and digital imagery with a virtual reality tour of Albion College. It features video footage of buildings on campus and live interviews with current Albion students and professors.

The virtual open house and CD-ROM were created to increase national awareness of Albion to prospective students. A high school student could sit and visit Albion through his or her computer and get a sense of what it would be like to actually be here.

"[The virtual open house] meets or improves upon an admissions event on campus," Allgire said. "Every campus organization will be represented, and you can talk to any group you choose. Any experience we have as Albion students we're trying to convey to prospective students."

"It's been quite the collaborative effort," he continued, "connecting with students across the state, country and even across the world. I have many e-mails from international students requesting information about international admission. So much information and ideas are transmitted through e-mails; this lets us take that to a bigger perspective."

Will these new virtual visits detract from personal visits to Albion's campus?

Mitchell said he thinks that is unlikely and hopes that they might increase visits to campus.

He continued to say that this unique and trendsetting event will pave the way for other schools to use this new technology, and soon students will be pre-screening schools and visiting their favorites.

Mitchell's upbeat reply was a quotation from the CD-ROM, "If you liked us in virtual time, you'll love us in real time."

## Students upset with Bousé's tenure denial

"I learned so much from that about the issues of pornography, but the college didn't care," Kesler said. "The administration had a really bad reaction to it. We were there because we wanted to be, we didn't have to be. We were sitting there with notebooks and applying what we had learned. How were we supposed to learn about something without seeing it?"

"Maybe he was unconventional, but they should listen to what the students think when deciding tenure," Kesler added.

In actuality, the process does have some student input, according to Hal Wyss, professor of English and a member of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

"Student Senate has a committee that does a student survey of current students, we do a survey of alumni who have had the teacher, and we look at teacher evaluations," Wyss said. "We have quite a bit of information about their teaching style and the input of the students."



Pleiad file photo

Derek Bousé

But most students are unaware of the complicated factors in the tenure process.

Carrier explained the many criteria considered.

"We look at excellence in teaching, significant professional development and scholarship achievement, and faculty must demonstrate commitment to and belonging to the community," he said. "And we mean community in the broadest sense of the word–department, campus and city."

Some sources speculate that

Bouse's degree of involvement in campus wide issues and activities hurt his tenure case.

"He may be aloof to the college community, but look what he does as a teacher," said DeCourcy. "I didn't come here so all the professors could sit around and have tea together. I am here for a great education and that's



photo courtesy of communications

E. Dale Kennedy

what Bousé provides. I think he's wonderful. He's brilliant."

"My opinion is that he went against the grain, which a lot of people here couldn't handle. But I



photo from 1996 Albionian Bille Wickre

think it would be a better college if more professors did that, or were allowed to do that," Kesler said. "He was dealing with things other professors wouldn't deal with. That's the kind of professor we need at this school, not the kind we should be

Bousé declined to comment on the tenure denial and the contributing factors.

getting rid of."

Bousé arrived at Albion in the fall of 1992 as an assistant professor of speech communication and theatre.

continued from page 1

He received his bachelor's degree in English at the University of Montana and went on to New York University for a master's degree in cinema studies. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania for a second master's degree and a Ph.D., both in communications.

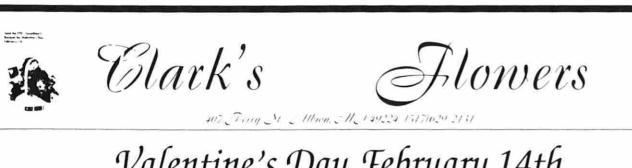
This is not the first time students



photo from 1995 Albionian

Deborah Kanter

have reacted negatively to a tenure decision. Last year, the decision not to grant tenure to Theresa Stojkov, assistant professor of foreign language, caused considerable student protest.



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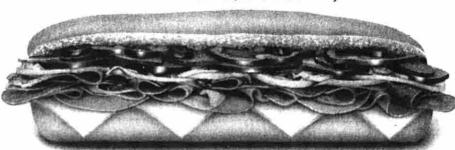






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## As We See It

## **Electronic recruiting** looks promising

Virtual open house is a valuable tool for attracting new students

Albion College is taking a step in the right direction with its virtual open house and Albion Connection CD-ROM.

Yes, we at *The Pleiad* have to admit that we were skeptical when President Peter Mitchell announced last fall that he hoped to attract 510 students for the class of 2002. How could a little college in the Midwest hope to ever accomplish this feat? Albion's efforts at developing electronic recruiting methods seem to be the answer to this question.

In a world that is ever more being dominated by computers, e-mail and the world wide web, utilizing electronic media should be an incredible way to sell the fine product known as Albion College. Further, the innovative ways in which Albion is using technology as a recruitment tool are so unique in the field of education that the national attention the college is receiving alone is worth whatever price it may cost to produce it.

Some may worry that personal attention will get lost amidst the e-mail messages, virtual chats and on-line campus tours. We argue, though, that technology will supplement the personal attention for which Albion College is already known. The admissions office has just as many staff as ever, faculty are still willing to meet with prospective students, and attendance at visitation days seems to be increasing each time. We believe that Albion's "e-personality" is a perfect match to the friendly college we already know.

an unsigned "as we see it" represents a majority consensus of the editorial staff

## Student Celebrates African American Heritage



Where would our country be without stoplights, clocks, heart surgery, synthetic rubber and plastic?

Few Americans have been taught that people of African descent discovered and patented these inventions and many others.

Garret A. Morgan invented the stoplight, Benjamin Banneker built the first clock and Daniel Williams performed the first heart surgery in the world. From a simple peanut, George Washinton Carver extracted synthetic rubber and plastics.

My ancestors shed their blood, sweat and tears to help build this country. By tilling the land to produce crops and textiles, such as cotton, African Americans plowed the way to make America prosperous.

That is why, during the month of February and all year round, I reflect upon the courageous, intelligent African Americans who endured slavery and segregation. Through their strength, spirituality and adamant ambition they became a vital force in this country's growth and development.

Several years ago it was brought to Congress' attention that it would be denying the educational literacy of all Americans to exclude African American culture from school curricula. Congress resolved this conflict in 1976 by devoting the month of February to African Americans and their vital culture.

Many people remember the first year Black History Month was observed.

"Black History Month began when I was in elementary school," said Richard Bray, assistant director of multicultural affairs.

Bray, along with many Albion College students, cherishes black history and believes that it should be celebrated throughout the whole year.

This explains why the Black Student Alliance annually organizes various programs for Black History month. The motto for this year's Black History Month extravaganza is "Exploring the African Diaspora: Images, Contributions, and Expressions."

As vice president of the BSA, my objective is to educate people about the impact African Americans have had on America.

Albion's Black History Month celebration began with a presentation from Bruce Bridges on "African Contributions to World Civilizations" yesterday in Norris 101.

"A Soulful Prose," which will be conducted by James Dixon, will take place at 8 p.m., Feb. 17 in the Coffee House. Dixon will be presenting his ethnic interpretations of poems that exemplify the attributes and emotions of African American writings.

Sabrina Sojourner will also be sharing her presentation on "Psychic Scars and Other Mad Thoughts" at 8 p.m. Feb. 17. Another Black History Month activity, "Story Time and Then Some III," will be from 1-2:30 p.m., Feb. 28 at the Albion Public Library. Students from the BSA will be reading exclusively black literature to elementary students and teaching them about the African culture.

In honor of Black History Month we will also be showing the film Black Is...Black Ain't at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24 in Norris 101. This film will explain what blackness means to African Americans.

Our biggest Black History Month affair is the legendary "Taste of Blackness," a celebration of black culture. This affair will be held at 1 p.m., Feb. 21 in the Kellogg Center.

At the "Taste of Blackness" you are likely to partake of mouth-watering collard greens, crispy chicken wings, candied yams, rich banana pudding, honey baked ham, homemade macaroni and cheese, blackeyed peas, potato salad, tender portions of catfish, tantalizing peach cobbler, beverages and much more.

The tentative schedule for the entertainment of the "Taste of Blackness" includes a wax museum where students will dramatize the roles of prominent African Americans, a flamboyant fashion show and Gospel selections from a choir.

Join us in these festivities. Be enlightened through your participation and acknowledge that African Americans have made many sacrifices to cultivate and diversify this country.

## The Pleiad is the Albion College Weekly, Founded by the Class of 1883

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## La Pietra criticizes Nick Smith

To The Editor:

This summer, Nick Smith promised his new Social Security privatization bill had a cap on commissions. He said he'd ask investment bankers if limiting them to one percent of the amount invested was reasonable.

By the time the bill went public, the cap was gone.

lic, the cap was gone.

Why? SSA overhead is below one percent of revenue. Isn't one percent of principal - billions of our tax dollars - enough for brokers? (Were the "thrift-savings people" Smith consulted the New York investment bankers who gave him \$11,000 in 1996, and thousands more this spring?)

Supporters of privatization tout high stock-market earnings...but Smith's bill assumes a 3.7 percent return in adjusting regular benefits to reflect his new PRSA accounts. Factor in commissions (at two percent, say), and we're back down to what the SSA earns now.

And we might have to spend more - on oversight and enforcement. In the British social security system (one of Smith's models), insurance companies had "mis-sold" as many as 558,000 personal pensions by the end of 1996. Financial Advisor reported 7,000 claims paid...and 18,748 "daisy" cases where people died while waiting for settlement - and insurers got off with reduced "life cover" payments.

The "crisis" scenario being used to sell privatization assumes economic growth for the next 75 years will be slower than in the depression years of the 1930s. With two percent annual growth, Social Security can stay solvent as

Let's save our money, and reject Nick Smith's latest scheme to put the private corporate welfare of investment brokers ahead of the public good.

John A. La Pietra Marshall

The Pleiad welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be not more than 300 words in length and may be submitted to the *Pleiad* box outside of campus programs and organizations or via campus mail to 4929 Kellogg Center. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, *Pleiad* style and space limitations and to reject letters that may be slanderous or libelous. Due to space limitations, letters may not always be printed the week they are submitted.



# EXPLORING THE PAST Black History Month

Joselyne Hoffmann Staff Editor

"It's an opportunity to be educated about black culture, black history... Part of the liberal arts education is being able to be exposed to a diverse atmosphere... It's an opportunity and I know I'd take it."

This is what Nadia Thomas, Detroit sophomore and president of the Black Student Alliance, said regarding the celebration of Black History Month.

If you want to take this opportunity, this year's program, "Exploring the African Diaspora: Images, Contributions, and Expressions," offers "a few quality well attended events," said Richard Bray, assistant director of multicultural affairs.

This office and the BSA sponsor all the programs. The events featured are from the calendar distributed by the office of multicultural affairs.

"African Contributions to World Civilizations," by Bruce Bridges, started the celebration yesterday with a lecture and slide presentation.

Bridges received a Ph.D. in African History from the University of West Indies, and is presently teaching at North Carolina State University.

He organized and hosted two talk radio programs and was recently featured in the Arts and Entertainment Network documentary,"A Dream of the South."

He owns the Know Book Store in Durham, North Carolina, and is the author of "The Ghetto Mind" and "The Roots of Geography."

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, the

Coffee House will present "Soulful Prose: Poetry Reading & Other Dramatic Interpretations" featuring James Dixon. Dixon's poetry focuses on the African American experience. It is his fourth year on campus.

An open microphone will be available for all students who want to participate by reading poetry on this topic.

The event "Taste of Blackness" will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, in the Kellogg Center. During this celebration, those present will explore some different flavors from Baldwin Hall dining room as

Bray said he chose this movie because it helps to internalize issues such as prejudice and racism within the black and African American community.

"It presents the poor versus the rich, light versus dark, educated versus the noneducated, the HIV positive...Riggs died of AIDS while doing the film," said Bray.

To remember the history of African Americans in Albion, a group of Albion citizens will participate in the panel "Black History of the City of Albion." It is scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Kellogg Center.

The last program is "Story Time & Then Some III" scheduled from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the

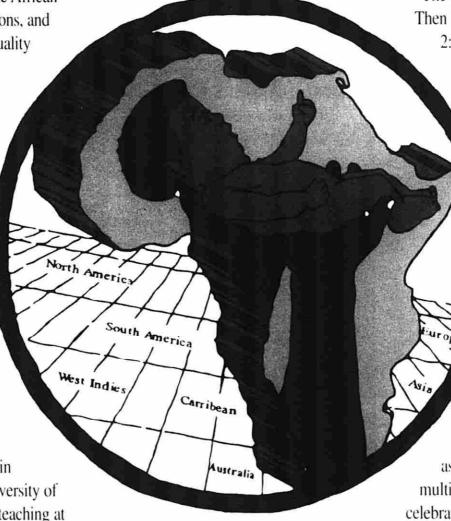
> Albion Public Library. Albion community's elementary school children will share with BSA volunteers in this cultural experience.

In addition to this program, a Black History Month Quiz is available all month, throughout campus and in the office of multicultural affairs. The winner, who will be announced later, will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the college book store.

Thomas, who defines herself

as a black American with a multicultural background, said that celebrating Black History Month means "a positive movement for black people or minorities, giving us a month in which we can express who we are, and talk about the richness of our history."

"It's a month of reflection for me as well as for other blacks or African Americans," Thomas said. "It's a month in which I can reflect on those who paved the way, so that I can be here at Albion-a predominately white school."



"We expect the same attendance as Kwanzaa," said Bray.

well as music, art, fashion and language.

The movie Black Is...Black Ain't by Marlon Riggs is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Norris 101.

Among other topics, it will investigate the idea of what "blackness" means to African Americans.

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#### Amistad:

F-6:45 Sat.—2:20, 6:45 Sun.—2:20, 6:45 M-Th.-6:45

#### Wag the Dog:

F, W-5:10, 7:10, 9:20 Sat.—2:45, 5:10, 7:10, 9:25 Sun.—2:45, 5:10, 7:10 M, T, Th.—5:10, 7:10

#### Half-Baked

F, Sat., W-9:45

Ticket prices: \$2.50 before 6 pm and \$3.50 after 6

Wednesday is College Night-Buy one ticket, get another free (with College I.D.)

## UB will be showing these two movies in Norris 101 this weekend:

Vegas Vacation 8 p.m. Friday 10 p.m. Saturday

### Ghosts of Mississippi 10 p.m. Friday 8 p.m. Saturday

## Off-Campus programs have many possibilities

Melissa Driessche Staff Writer

Tired of the same old scene? Vera Wenzel, director of off-campus programs and coordinator of international student activities, invites students with a passion for adventure to visit the office of off-campus programs.

There are opportunities for Albion students to study and travel almost anywhere in the world. Just a few possibilities are London, Aberdeen, Heidelberg, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and even a semester on a sailboat.

The options for those willing to stray from Albion's campus are virtually limitless. One can study off campus in any semester.

"There are even some students who go off [campus] for a semester and then come back and immediately want to know where they can go next," Wenzel said. "It is even possible to go off campus second semester senior year— if that is what you want to do and you have met all of your other graduation requirements."

Aimee Lashbrook, East Lansing junior, said she is glad she studied in London in the fall.

"It's just a great opportunity to get out of America and see what other cultures are like," Lashbrook said.

"Anyone can go off campus, but some students need to plan very carefully depending on their majors," Wenzel said. Biology majors and students in the education program usually have to do the most preliminary planning.

Students must meet some additional requirements to study in any of the Albion approved off campus programs. The

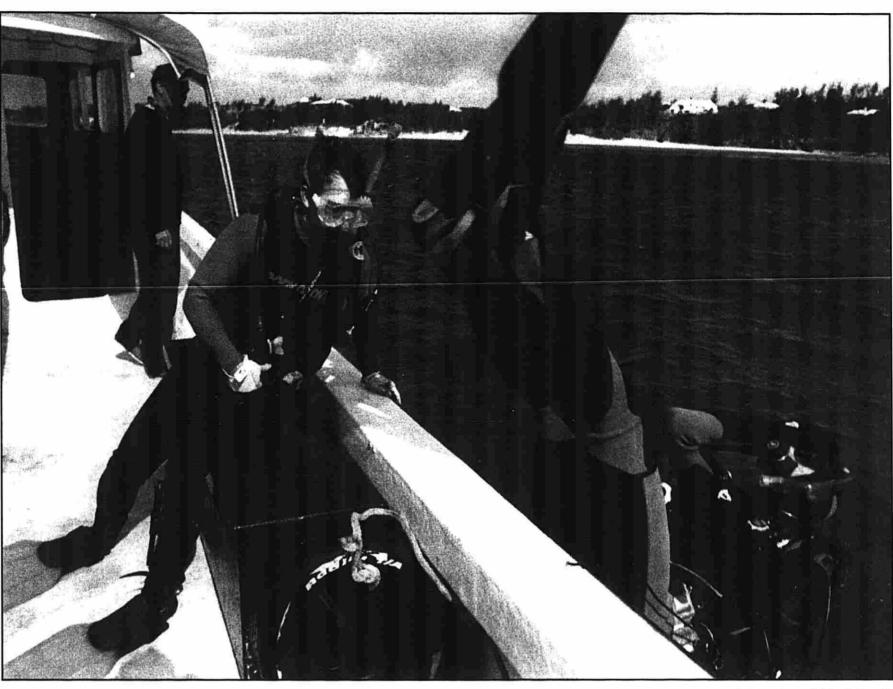


photo courtesy of Duke University

Eric Smail, Gambier, Ohio senior, dives into his off-campus program. Smail participated in Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and spent seven weeks in North Carolina, then went to the marine laboratory research vessel to finish his semester in Bermuda.

requirements include having junior or senior status, a minimum 2.7 grade point average, good social standing with the college and exhibiting the maturity to participate in the program.

"Each individual program also has its own rules and regulations for what you need to apply," Wenzel added.

A higher grade point average, for

example, is sometimes required for certain programs.

Lee Hull, Tipton, Ind. junior, who spent the fall semester interning for the Public Broadcasting System through the New York Arts Program, also said she treasures her offcampus experience.

"You have no idea what it's like when you're just in Albion," Hull said.

Wenzel urges interested students to visit her office, located in Gerstacker International House, to investigate the possibilities for an off-campus excursion. The deadline for applications for the summer or fall 1998 semesters is Feb. 24.

"Come and ask us your questions, Wenzel said, "if we don't have the answers ... We'll find them."

## Binner shares experiences of new Albion program

GLCA off-campus program combines international experience with a Texas University

**Beth Flintoft** Staff Writer

Where can you study abroad for a semester and still live in the United States? Where can you speak two languages and cross an international border daily?

Albion Students in the Great Lakes College Association Borders Program in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, can do all of these things while earning credit.

The GLCA Borders Program is a new fall semester program available to Albion students.

"The program is designed to examine culture and identity, politics, economics, literature and the environment in the largest metropolitan area on the Mexican/US border," said Patty Lamson, Director of International Programs at Earlham College, the agent college for the program.

Elizabeth Binner, Erhard, Minn. senior, is the first and only Albion student to attend the program. Binner traveled to El Paso in the fall, interning at the Rio Vista Community Center in Sorocco, Texas. Binner examined how the community has developed over the years as a result of immigration.

"The supervised field study or internship



photo courtesy of Betsy Binner

Elizabeth Binner, Erhard, Minn. senior, spent last semester in El Paso, Texas with the new GLCA Borders Program. Binner studied the effects of governmental immigration laws and policies such as NAFTA. The program helps students experience border problems that many only study in textbooks. Said Binner, "You actually see first hand what is going on and realize not everything you learn here is true."

is a vital part of the border semester where students are active participants and share time, space and the social setting with people who live their daily lives in a different context," Lamson said. Students spend 10 to

20 hours a week working at their internship.

"I have met numerous members of state and local government, lawyers, civil rights activists, professors, artists and authors who work on issues related to the border," said Binner.

Deborah Kanter, assistant professor of history and member of the Advisory Committee for the Borders Program, visited El Paso in October.

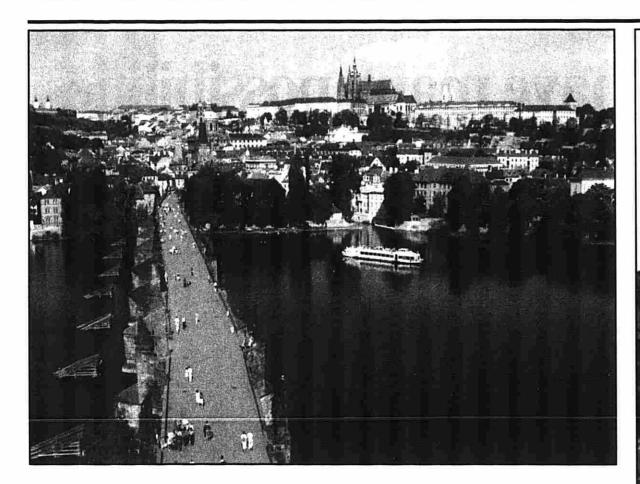
"Many of these students are living, working and studying in the United States, but they're also having a totally foreign experience," said Kanter.

Students live with bilingual host families in El Paso or Ciudad Juarez, providing students with an opportunity to be immersed in daily life on the border. In addition to the internship and host family experiences, students attend classes at the University of Texas in El Paso.

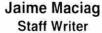
The program is open to juniors and seniors of all academic majors, although students must have completed three semesters of college Spanish. Binner stresses, however, that students should not be "scared" of this requirement.

"It's not a program just for Spanish majors." She added that students were involved in a wide variety of internships, including art, writing, human relations and political science.

For more information about this program, contact the off-campus programs office or the Border's web site at www.earlham.edu/www/ borders.







What would it be like to move an Albion classroom to Europe for nine days?

Eleven students from the freshman seminar, "A Tale of Three Cities," will find out first hand. They will be accompanied by Ingeborg Baumgartner, professor of foreign languages. This trip, her first with Albion students, will complement the material explored in her semester-long seminar.

Inspired by the Dickens novel, A Tale of Two Cities, Baumgartner uses the seminar to explore her three favorite cities: Prague, Vienna and Berlin.

Her intent is to introduce students to Eastern Europe, Baumgartner said, because Western Europe has dominated our educational experience for so long.

According to the program's homepage, the course explores these cities with respect to their historical background, cultural significance and place in the imagination of writers, visual artists and composers.

Freshman seminars provide professors the opportunity to teach students about a specific area of interest.

"This seminar has allowed me to go beyond my field of general literature," Baumgartner said, "to examine relationships between place, literature and history."

Structured to create a stimulating learning environment in the small classroom setting, Albion's freshman seminars initiate the intensive contact with our extraordinary faculty that has been recognized as Albion's greatest strength, according to the Albion homepage.

The small class of seven students doesn't have a textbook. Knowledge is conveyed through novels, which lead to class discussion, according to Stacy Warner, Gladstone freshman, who took the seminar in the fall.

Heather DuRussel, Manchester freshman, said that her trip to Berlin and Prague two summers ago inspired her to take the class. She said that Baumgartner's excitement for the class reflects on the students' willingness to learn.

"She is very enthusiastic," DuRussel said, "and encourages students to participate in discussion."

"In the beginning, I didn't even know where Prague was and now I'm going to actually see it first hand," Warner said.

When asked what prompted her to take the course, Warner said, "What—besides the trip?"

The class departs for the trip on Friday March 6. The group will travel to Vienna first, the capital of Austria. There, they will experience the architecture, cafés, museums, musicals and cuisine.





photos courtesy of Ingeborg Baumgartner

Top left: The Charles Bridge in Prague, with a castle in the background. Top right: A typical apartment house in Renaissance style in Prague. Above: Ingeborg Baumgartner with a background view of a castle in Prague.

The next stop is Prague, which lies in the heart of Bohemia. They will visit a hotel and attend the puppet opera version of *Don Giovanni*. They will also visit Karlstajn, a gothic castle on a rocky hill above the city, which will serve as the highlight of the trip, according to

Baumgartner. This historical landmark was built by Emperor Charles IV from 1348-1357, for safekeeping of the imperial Crown Jewels and relics of saints.

After spring break the students will leave the heart of Eastern Europe and head back to Albion and the classroom.

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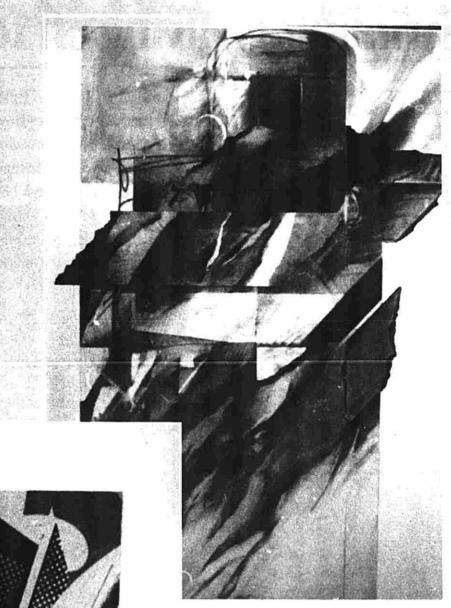
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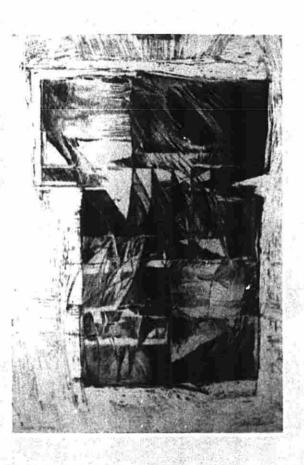
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Left: "Gates & Gateways: Talking Out Both Sides of Your Mouth", graphite on paper, by Jim Krehblel. Middle: "Homage to Joost Schmidt", hand-colored Cyanotype Diptych, by Justin Kronewetter. Right: "The Metz Grass Flasco", graphite on paper, by Jim Krehblel.

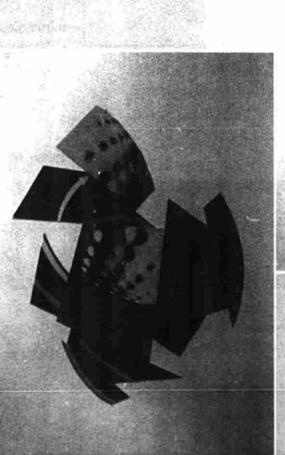


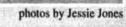
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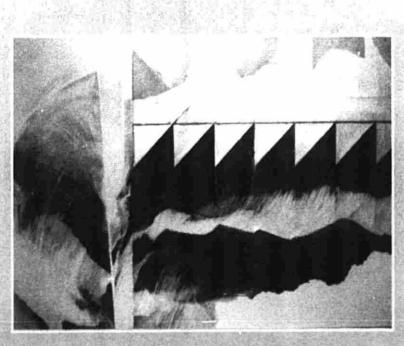


The Ohio Wesleyan Faculty Art Exhibit, featuring the works of James Krehblel and Justin Kronewetter, will be on display in the Elsie Munroe Gallery in Bobbitt Visual Arts Center until Sunday, Feb. 15. The exhibition is free and open to the public from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

Clockwise from right: "Under Attack", intaglio, by Jim Krehbiel; "Chrome Still Ruts", graphite on paper, by Jim Krehbiel; "Abstraction: (Golfball)", hand-colored Cyanotype collage, by Justin Kronewetter; and "Homage to Dessau Bauhaus", hand-colored Cyanotype collage, by Justin Kronewetter.







## Swimming, diving off to good start

Martha Huckle Staff Writer

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams head into the MIAA championships Wednesday with competitive records.

"The women's record has been 5-3 and the men's 3-2. We're really aiming for the MIAA Championship. This will be the important meet. I would like to see us get third in both the men's and women's," said Keith Havens, director of the Dean Aquatic Center and head swim coach.

Havens, who has coached swimming at Albion for 13 years, says the men and women have done well this season.

The MIAA championships are Wednesday through Friday at Hope College. Nationals are March 12 in St. Louis, Mo. for the women and March 19 for the men. "

Only a few will make Nationals," Havens said.

"Heidi Pierce, [Rochester Hills sophomore] and Katie Waters, [Troy sophomore], aren't far off from qualifying. [Thomas] Scott Johnson, [Gobles senior], has been close the past couple of years. We're also hoping Britt Johnson, [Gobles freshman], Matt Fetzner, [Alma junior], and Will Brunner, [Hamilton, Ohio sophomore], will make the cut."

Havens said the team's goals this season have been to improve individual times, score as high as they can in the MIAA, and also have fun.

"If you're not having fun swimming, then you might be approaching it with the wrong attitude. I think our people are having fun," Havens

Pierce said she thinks the season has gone really well so far. "I feel I've got some personal best times along with some other team members."

"They work really hard and I love working with them. They're doing pretty much exactly what they should be doing at this point," said Terry Howard, who has coached diving at Albion for 10 years.

Denise Routhier, Flushing junior, and Molly Maloney, Kentwood sophomore, are the women divers. Travis Sterner, Ionia freshman, and Brad Taylor, Clarkston freshman, are the two men divers. The swimming and diving teams went to Florida for ten days over winter break to train.

"Travis and Brad have been working really hard," Howard said. "Denise and Molly worked out really hard even under the bad weather conditions."

"I expect Travis, Molly and Denise to place in the top three at MIAA. Denise and Travis have a shot to qualify for Nationals if they put a good meet together. Molly has already made the National cuts. If she keeps working hard and dives well at Nationals, she should place in the top three," Howard said.

Maloney placed fourth last year



Members of the swim and dive teams cheer on their teammates at a meet last season.

in the one meter at Nationals. She was also an All-American and received Honorable Mention on the three meter.

Sterner has been pleased with how well the season has gone.

"The team has worked well together, making the season a lot of fun," Sterner said.

Howard expects the depth of the team will be there next year. "Denise and Molly will be back. There will probably be two more coming next year and I'm trying to get one more boy," Howard said.

"There will be a good amount of experience returning. They have good attitudes and work ethics."

On the other hand, Havens says a lot will depend on the number of swimmers they can recruit. "A lot of our women are relatively inexperienced and the men's team is smaller this year," Havens said.

"As a coach, my goal is to see them do their best and enjoy what they do."

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