



THE CENTER FOR COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ALMA COLLEGE THEATRE & DANCE



Producing a musical takes a long time. Hours upon hours, weeks that add up into months, months that bridge seasons and make it hard to sort out exactly when it all began. It is a colossal act of collaboration --- actors, dancers, singers, set designers, costume designers, prop handlers, director, choreographer, orchestra, box office staff, audience --- the list goes on. By all practical measurements, it should be impossible. And sometimes it does feel impossible. So why do we do it? why do we, as a faculty, spend consecutive evenings away from our families and friends? Why do students sacrifice hours that could be spend socializing or studying? What ultimately, is the point?

The week that Cabaret opened, wars raged around the world. Political polarization pushed us to take a side, make it public, and invest in protecting our own reputations. Division is a contemporary reality, but there is really nothing new in the world. And the antidote? Perhaps it is a shared experience.

When Sally Bowles' reaches the pinnacle of the title number, frames in a tight spotlight, small but powerful, leaving everything she brought to the performance on the stage, I feel goosebumps raise on my arms. I glance to my right to see the man sitting beside me, total stranger, pushing up his glasses to dab subtle tears from his eyes. "Wow", we whisper simultaneously under our breath.

On the drive home from the theatre, I am ruminating on this moment. I recall the Native American adage, "you can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes, it is about the walk. To share an embodied experience with one another, one that catches you both off guard and overrides the impulse to critique or question, one that leaves you surprised by your own sense of awe. It is to understand why we spend the hours creating performance experiences. It puts people in a room together with one focus --- no phones, no emails, no posting on social media --- and prompts us to feel something together, leaving us no other choice but to question if this an important part of being human.

Upcoming Events

Hope House Dinners

**December, January, February 5:00-7:00
(Every day)**

Make a meal at the shelter and eat with the residents. Ingredients provided and cooking instructions if need be.

First Year Seminar Presentations

December 5 from 9:30AM-10:30AM

Join us as FYS students present their community engagement projects. Students have worked alongside community partners throughout the semester with varying themes. Visit us in Tyler Van Dusen, Clack Art Gallery, and the Andison Chapel.

Jo-Ann Morgan Quilt Memorials Closing Reception

December 7 from 5:00-7:30

Closing Reception for solo exhibition Quilt Memorials. Read more about this display below.

Day Dreams Christmas Variety Show

December 10 from 4:30-7:00

Join a fun holiday celebration at the First Presbyterian Church with some great entertainment including Alma College's own Phi Mu Alpha as the grand finale act.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 15, 2024

Kitty Fun Nights:

January 22 & February 12 from 6:30-8:00

Take a recess break and come cuddle, pet, and love some kittens and cats at Kitty Fun Night.

Recess-Therapy Dog Nights

February 7 from 6:00-8:00

Therapy Dogs are back on campus and ready for your attention in our new Learning Commons.

Clack Art Gallery Display

Jo-Ann Morgan began sewing during the pandemic. Quilting and applique' techniques seemed a perfect choice for making art that could offer comfort during trying times. An interplay between medium and message helps make her work accessible to a broad range of people. The wall-mounted hangings are constructed in layered cotton fabric. Because quilted comforters are familiar and approachable, the medium is ideal for addressing provocative topics related to the social justice and inequality. Morgan's work becomes a visual chronicle in an attempt to wrest something lovely from tragedies. The exhibit will be in the Clack Art Gallery until December 7th. Admission is free.



Title: Pledge Allegiance- Memorial for John R. Lewis
Materials: Stitched fabric
Dimensions: 58" x 34"
Date: August 2020

Featured Student: Matthew Kinney

As part of his Community Engagement Project, Alma College Honors Program student, Matthew Kinney, visited Oasis Alternative High School in Mount Pleasant this semester and talked with students about making plans for after high school. Oasis serves students who have experiences academic struggles and benefit from the small classes and other programs at this high school. Matthew had learned that many of the Oasis students would be first-generation college students and wanted to share information with them about the different opportunities that college provides. Matthew created and led two different workshops centered on career exploration and the identification of the colleges with programs that align with the student's interests.



Community Health Nursing Event

On November 1st, students from nursing, developmental psych, team members from football, basketball, cheer, cross country volunteer as family members, and over 20 community members participated in a community wide poverty simulation partnered with Hope House to complete on campus. Community members include those from Hope House, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, MyMichigan Health partial psych and community health staff, along with nursing faculty and family members of some local students.



Nursing students are required to obtain 90 hours of clinical time in community roles that represent different areas of nursing that are considered outpatient roles. They are also given the opportunity to fulfill non-scheduled hours that they want to learn more about. The concept of this hands-on learning allows students to address needs in the community they are living by utilizing the community health needs assessment in Gratiot, Isabella, & Clare counties.

This is a yearly event and the department's goal would be to engage more departments/students across campus and from the community in a collaborative effort. Please contact me for information and planning for Fall 2024. millerm@alma.edu.

Alma High School Visits Alma College's IPH Lab



On November 29th, students from Alma High School's anatomy class, with teacher Juli Della-Moretta, visited Alma College's Integrative Physiology and Health Sciences Lab. Alma College students in Professor Montoye's IPH 419 class administered the testing of the student's heart functions while explaining the reasons behind certain results of EKG results based on their knowledge they have gained throughout the semester.

This opportunity allowed for students interested or enrolled in physiology or anatomy to come and learn about a college lab setting while also reinforcing the ideas that they have been learning with Della-Moretta. Professor Montoye states that it is always fun having students from Alma High School visit, as he hopes it might light a spark for someone to see themselves in this environment during their future endeavors.

Student, Rileigh McGeorge states that this is a fantastic opportunity for all of the students as it gives you a hands on experience and first look at higher level education. She explained that it is also something that is applicable to our own lives as we can learn a lot about our bodies through activities like these.

