



Students bring recycling back to dorms

BY ABIGAIL FERGUS
STAFF WRITER

Recycling is returning to dorms on Thursday in an agreement between Climate Change Action Network, Todd Friesner, vice president for finance and administration and Doug Dice, director of facilities and service management.

Old recycling bins will be restored to their original locations in student housing. CCAN, the environmental club, will take responsibility for transporting their contents to the receptacles outside the facilities building.

Tyler Goerge ('17), president of CCAN met last Friday with Scott Dennison, associate director of facilities.

"He was very supportive of getting the volunteer effort going," said Goerge. "But he understands what happens if you rely on [volunteers to run the system]."

Recycling has gone in cycles of existence and activeness based on student interest levels, according to Goerge. When asked about the importance of separating the campus' reusable waste from trash, Goerge was blunt.

"Frankly, it doesn't matter. We're kidding ourselves if we think recycling on Alma's campus is going to make a difference.

"It won't in the grand scheme of things with climate change, but it's important to practice what you preach. Administration publicly champions its environmental



Marcella Flury: Photo Editor

Tyler Goerge ('17), president of the Climate Change Action Network, emailed Doug Dice, director of facilities and service management, every week for a month before he CC'ed Todd Friesner, vice president for finance and administration, and President Jeff Abernathy and received a response about the club's desire to recycle voluntarily.

sustainability. Half our mission statement is about living and serving to bequeath that to future generations.

"It's important for the student body and young people to get in the mindset, culture and community focused on sustainability and the climate."

Dice wasn't sure if any material beside white paper is currently being recycled in academic buildings, but said that custodians have always performed some level of recycling in them.

CCAN's work is a temporary arrangement until the new recycling program launches. The long-term plan will be more like a system of checks and balances between executive staff, Student Congress, the vice president of finance and administration, facilities, and any existing environmentally concerned organizations.

"This is the spearhead for getting a thinking, aware and caring campus about climate change," said Goerge.

Before enacting the new start to recycling, Friesner is leading the effort in ordering bins, hiring students and getting the sustainability program faculty approved. The monthly meeting of instructors has just passed, but Friesner aims to fast track approval via email.

Bins will be ordered and placed in all dorms to encourage and ease participation. Students will be paid as school approved drivers and sorters in order to power the project.

Student organizations and administrators are sketching out additional green movements. Dice wishes to find a way to put a dashboard on the school's website to track numbers such as energy usage, recycling action and printing levels.

Friesner is processing the savings and paper cutback after the first semester of a new printing policy to reassess the system. Entrepreneurs in Action is in the early phases of a composting partnership with Sodexo to reduce food waste and grounds keeping costs. The Food Recovery Network is working to increase their reach and delivery of leftover food from Hamilton Commons.

Future trips are giving students the opportunity to address water pollution elsewhere in the state. An alternative break to Flint is a possibility during the winter term recess. Sallie Scheide is in charge of these trips and can be contacted for details.

Micheal Vickery, professor of communication and environmental studies, will lead a spring term class through Canada and around the Great Lakes. The class will give students experience in conducting interviews with environmental advocates, allow them to observe water problems in the Great Lakes basin and let them assist in planning an international water conference to be held in Michigan. There is room in the class for a couple of dedicated students.

Sodexo buys Stucchi's to replace food with Starbucks

BY HALEY PARKER
STAFF WRITER

In a recent change, Stucchi's has been put under the management of Sodexo, the company that runs and manages both SAGA and Joe's. It plans to change the restaurant into a Starbucks.

"The restaurant has not received the kind of response [we expected] from the community in the four years we have operated it," said Jeff Abernathy, president of the college.

"Students certainly make use of the cafe, but we have not seen many from the community

coming in. We believe Starbucks would be attractive to students and to members of the community alike. We also believe that the brand will help to drive investment in the downtown and help to attract more businesses."

The lack of response by the community may be because Stucchi's has only been there for a few years. It may be that the community is still discovering it, much like Dianne (who did not give a last name), a resident of Ithaca—who came in to use the ATM and ended up ordering a meal.

"I am very picky about where I eat," said Dianne. "But it's good

to try something new once and a while."

The restaurant also caters to perspective students, and while it might not be a deciding factor, there could be repercussions on student recruitment.

"I think a lot of people might decide to go elsewhere," said **Margaret Atwater ('17)**.

The proposed change is not a certainty, but a possibility. Plans have been made concerning the use of munch money, student employment and costs being rolled into Sodexo's long-term contract with the college.

"We wanted to be sure that Starbucks would employ

students and they have agreed," said Abernathy. "If a Starbucks franchise comes in, it will function as any other Starbucks, so the operation [of Stucchi's] will be completely different from what we do today."

The Starbucks would be in competition with the other coffee shops in town such as Tim Hortons and Bigby's as well as Highland Java. This might threaten the livelihoods of the small businesses around campus.

"I don't like it, because Stucchi's is a student-run business and there will be a lot of people out of work," said Atwater. "And if they aren't paid to work, [they

lose out on a lot of experience]."

Students are not happy with the expected loss of quality (through Sodexo's management) and places to enjoy a meal.

"When I don't want to go to Joe's or SAGA, [I come here]," said Atwater. "And Starbucks is mostly coffee that is really overpriced and I would not go there [just] to get the coffee."

Have an opinion on Stucchi's, school policy or anything in between? Get your voice heard, evoke change and write to us: editor.almanian@gmail.com.

See page 5 for student opinions.

Student shows crumbling foundations to Abernathy

BY MARGARET RAUSCH
STAFF WRITER

President of Student Congress, **Joanna Delpaz ('16)**, brought concerns regarding the state of the campus' infrastructure to President Jeff Abernathy's attention this past Thursday.

A PowerPoint containing images of the widespread damage was presented in the hope that repairs would be made quicker.

"I wanted him to know that we see [the damage]," said Delpaz. "It's not hidden to anyone. Whether they are just visiting for the day or have been here a long time, we can see it."

Issues such as the leaking ceiling in the Kappa Iota house, the crumbling basement of the chapel, and cracks and holes in the foundation of Dow were addressed during the meeting.

"It made me feel better that I could tell that he knew exactly what was going on," said Delpaz.

Although the safety of the dorms was pressed the most, the

rest of campus was not forgotten.

"The state that the chapel is in and the state that Dow is in are the most upsetting," said Delpaz. "Our sciences are extremely impressive. The chapel is the thing on campus that everyone remembers. The fact that the basement is crumbling is astonishing."

Because the list of work orders is lengthy, damage is not fixed on a first-come-first-serve basis.

"The administration is well aware of the long list of student needs," said Abernathy. "We try to prioritize student safety."

While Delpaz was presenting her information, facilities visited the Kappa Iota house to investigate the leaking ceiling and fix the damage. A pipe in need of patching was found.

In the effort to be more efficient, plans for extensive remodeling are preferred over fixing an abundance of small issues.

"We have not done the major renovations like we have with

Gelston," said Abernathy. It is hoped that every summer new projects such as the improvement of the hall can take place.

"It's hard not to feel like facilities isn't doing anything to help, but the reality is they are," said Delpaz.

"While there [are] cracks in ceilings and holes in buildings, it is one project at a time."

Part of the reason for the build-up of damage can be traced to the time when housing and academic buildings were constructed. About 50 years ago, the campus underwent an expansion, and it is coming to the time when deterioration is inevitable.

"That is why it seems like everything is falling apart," said Delpaz. "They are all the same age."

Although everything cannot be fixed at once, it is necessary for students to report any damage that they notice.

"The student body should feel comfortable putting in any



Photo Courtesy of Joanna Delpaz ('16)

A photo of the music library in the chapel basement. Joanna Delpaz ('16) ended her slide show with the phrase "Plaid works, but our buildings don't."

amount of work orders," said Delpaz. "At least [facilities] will have a comprehensive list of what to fix."

Flint to Alma: Water pollution not anomaly

By **ABIGAIL FERGUS**
CAMPUS EDITOR

Flint's water crisis was discussed by Alma's environmental experts, students and community members last Monday. The event invoked impassioned responses on taking action to aid the struggling city, prevent future pollution incidents and address related water issues.

"We don't want to distract from Flint by saying, 'we have something equal to that,'" said Edward Lorenz, director of the Public Affairs Institute.

Flint's highest levels of lead found in children five and under is 38 micrograms per deciliter, according to Amanda Harwood, expert in toxicology and instructor of biology and environmental science. She referenced a study by Mona Hanna-Attisha, of the Hurttley Medical Center. "Greater than five micrograms per deciliter is considered a level of concern, but there are no safe levels of lead," said Harwood.

Lead's effects aren't apparent until children reach a visible learning stage, so those who consumed the foul water may exhibit learning disabilities when they start attending school, according to Harwood.

"It's hard to know whether a 2-year-old is having a temper tantrum or a cognitive disability," she explained.

In areas such as Flint where schools and families are impoverished, assets such as a high IQ are utilized to rise out of the situation. The temporary switch off Detroit water and onto Flint River water, in addition to finances, will make it difficult for those affected to receive help for the impacts of permanent brain damage and for rising out of

their socioeconomic situation, according to the toxicologist.

"Children may not be able to go to a speech therapist or have a tutor," said Harwood.

Loss of limb usage, anemia, headaches, spontaneous abortion and heart problems can also result from lead poisoning.

The discourse highlighted factors that related the struggles in St. Louis to those in Flint, underlining that water contamination is a reoccurring issue.

"There is a long term problem of growing poverty that has spun us off into a world where weird Michigan has created emergency managers focused on cutting costs," said Lorenz. "In Flint, this has reaped tragedies."

Financial dependency twisted the arm of St. Louis residents when Michigan Chemical Company was up, running and dumping. Those who weren't employed by the factory had a neighbor or relative who was. The lucrative pesticide DDT was produced in St. Louis, shipped worldwide and used in WWII against mosquitoes and malaria.

"The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that Flint had measures to treat corrosion," said Murray Borrello, instructor and program director of environmental studies. "Was that an oversight, miscommunication, dereliction?"

The poor quality of Flint's water caused lead to leach from pipes and pour from taps throughout the city. This shows the claim of effective cleansing was false.

"This is very reminiscent of what happened in 1973 when



Dow LI seats 200 individuals and was nearly full for the forum.

Abigail Fergus: Campus Editor

fire retardant was mixed with cow feed down the street," said Borrello, referring to the incident in St. Louis. "This is not an anomaly; it follows a suit."

Lorenz explained that Flint's water problems had been foretold more than 25 years ago and it was known that water pipes were held together by lead soldering. A quarter of a century ago, a spring class traveled to the city to learn about these fundamental issues.

Borrello sees a pattern between Flint's lack of aid and the MDEQ brushing off concern about high E. coli levels in the Pine River.

"What I saw in Flint is absolutely what I saw with the Pine River," said Borrello. "For over ten years we have presented on where [E. coli] is coming from. The MDEQ refused to recognize the research. There's no resolution. The MDEQ doesn't have any interest because the law allows them not to."

Various views on a course of action were offered up by the

environmental instructors.

"Flint is the canary in the coal mine," said Lorenz. "It's time for finger pointing. Some people lied and caused little kids to have lead in them. Flint drove out the head of MDEQ, they need to be reformed."

"The principle of public trust is rooted in our law," said Micheal Vickery, professor of environmental studies and communication. "We're getting to a point where people don't trust any authority. They have a duty to protect what all people have in common. Among these is air and water. Is there any stance we can take in law to hold corporations responsible?"

"The corporate mentality is something we bought into," said Borrello. "If the city manager says we should move off [Detroit] water, because it saves money and we buy into that, we allow them to put money first and our health second. Address representatives. Point fingers. Vote."

"To me the scary thing is [lead poisoning] is preventable

and is irreversible. This is 2015 and [the water situation] was not unknown."

Community members and students also shared experiences.

"If someone said, 'My water doesn't taste good,' I took that seriously," said Mark Janeczko, former water treatment worker. "There are people in jobs who don't care."

Janeczko pointed out that America has militia to protect against humans.

"Who protects us when [pollutants are put] in water or air and we die of it ten years later?"

"This isn't a science study," said **Joe Kennedy ('16)**, who calls Flint home. "My sister is trying to start a family. People have to choose to buy diapers or bottled water."

Kennedy took part in a protest over winter break.

"I walked down Saginaw Street with mothers pushing children they anticipated having learning disabilities. People can't afford to leave. Specifically, African American families."

Art, kittens, counseling bring healing

By **MICHAEL BREWER-BERRES**
STAFF WRITER

Couches and armchairs covered in pillows comprise the seating in the waiting room at the Counseling and Wellness Center at Alma College. It makes the place more familiar and comfortable, according to the director of Counseling and Wellness, Anne Lambrecht.

"Students shouldn't be afraid to come here," said Lambrecht. "We have a wonderful and supportive staff. Everyone can find someone they can connect with and work with."

Lambrecht added that over course of four years, out of approximately 1,400 Alma College students, the Counseling and Wellness Center has had 808 unique students walk through its door for support and services. Students can go to the center for any number of reasons, whether they are stressed, sad, overwhelmed, or they are worried about family or a friend

"No problem is too small or too big," Lambrecht said. "I want to help students realize that this is a safe place, and that they are not alone."

Lambrecht stated that their main focus is on everyone's well-being and mental health, and their biggest goal is to make sure

students are healthy, well and successful in their lives. She also believes that it is important for students to know about their mental health as it is linked to their physical health, and keeping mental health well is a lifelong process.

"We always know where to go for our doctor to see them about our physical health," Lambrecht said. "But I think that it is just as important to know where to go for our mental health as well. If anyone could use some support, Counseling and Wellness is a confidential place they can come to with professionals who can help."

In addition to support and counseling services, the center also hosts many events on campus, including the therapy dogs at the library (which will be held again on February 9). Also coming up in February is a Random Acts of Kindness event.

Last semester, the center brought in kittens for students to play with, which was so popular that Lambrecht hopes that they can expand it. Since they do not have set dates for most of their events yet, Lambrecht advises students to keep an eye on their emails to find out when these events are happening.

One of the students who works at Counseling and Wellness,



Annamarie Williams ('17) poses with one of her healing hands.

Abigail Fergus: Campus Editor

Annamarie Williams ('17), is currently involved with a project that combines her love for art and therapy, called "Healing Hands." How it works is you take a piece of paper and create a shape (Williams uses her hand, but she said that it does not have to be a hand), then write a nice note, and finally put it somewhere, or give it to someone as a way to brighten their day.

"This project began as a response to the Paris attacks," Williams said. "It made me

upset that everyone was hating on different religions and that people of all parties were making harsh comments. There was just a lot of hatred. To cope I started doing art therapy by making little cut-outs of hands and writing positive messages to give to strangers."

Williams stated that anyone can participate in the project by doing it on their own time or by coming to see her at Counseling and Wellness. She also said that any time there is an event at

the center, "Healing Hands" will always be there.

One of Williams' favorite messages on the hands, which was written by an old man that came by her booth at an event, reads, "Find one piece of beauty in each day. Enjoy it."

"In the words of Anne Frank, 'No one has ever become poor by giving,'" Williams said when asked why this project was so important to her. "You're spreading love, and you're spreading peace, and that can only do good in the world."