

(A New Organ, continued)

A gift from the Irving Gilmore Foundation made the purchase of a new organ for Stetson Chapel possible. The organ will be built by Wolff and Associates, Quebec, and will be a three manual tracker, 60 mechanical action pipe organ, with a 16-level solid-state capture system. Work will begin on the new organ in August (1987) and dedication of the new instrument is planned for March 1988.

The Bells of Kalamazoo College

On June 2, 1984, a new ring of eight English tower bells was dedicated at Stetson Chapel. This set of bells is hung neither as a carrillon nor as a chime. Instead, they are mounted on frames that permit rotation through a full 360 degrees so that the ancient, intricate art of change ringing can be practiced. With this dedication, Kalamazoo became only the 14th city in the United States—and the first in Michigan—with an English bell tower.

Each of the eight Kalamazoo College bells bears the College motto, *Lux esto* (Be a light). In the rich tradition of English tower bells, each is also named for a person associated with the College during its first century, and carries a biblical inscription selected as representative of that person. Among those whose names are inscribed on a bell are Titus Bronson, the first permanent settler in Kalamazoo, *Every valley shall be exalted (Isaiah 40:3)*, and Jeremiah Hall, founder and first minister of the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo, *Praise ye the Lord (Psalm 106:1)*.

The bells range in size from the smallest, the treble, which is 23 inches in diameter and weighs 334 pounds, to the tenor bell, which is 3 feet in diameter and weighs more than half a ton. The total weight of the eight bells, exclusive of their fittings is 4,360 pounds.

Despite their bulk, the bells are precision musical instruments, each of which has been tuned by turning metal from its inner surface to bring all of the principal overtones into harmonic agreement. The bells form an octave in the key of A Major.

The bells are heard regularly before and after the weekly College chapel service, at weddings, at memorial services, and during other special events associated the College or the community. The eight Kalamazoo College bells are a distinctive voice that complements both the function and the characteristic charm of Stetson Chapel.

Deans of the Chapel

Herbert Lee Stetson, 1926-33
Marion Dunsmore, 1933-50
Roland Pickhardt, 1950-51
Lloyd Averill, 1956-67
Robert D. Dewey, 1967-87

Kalamazoo College

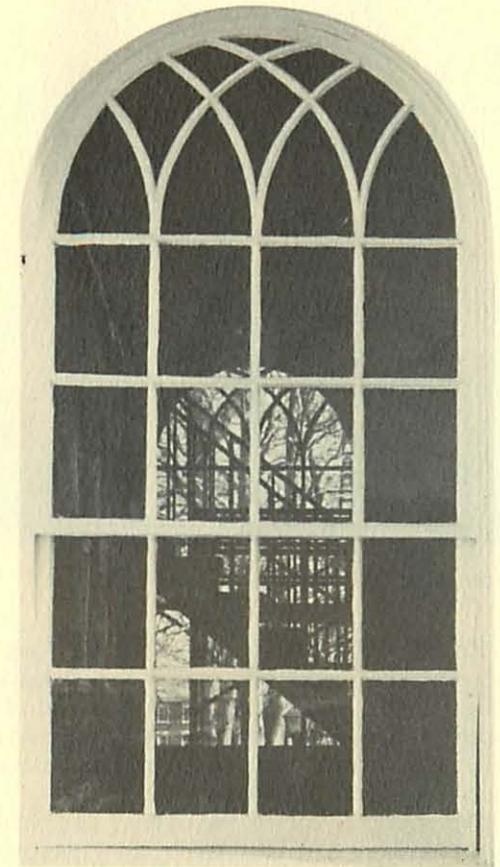
Kalamazoo College is a private, coeducational, liberal arts college. Founded April 22, 1833, it is among the 100 oldest colleges and universities in the United States. Nearly all of the 1100 students are enrolled full time and live of campus, creating a genuine sense of community on the campus.

At Kalamazoo, courses are taught only by members of the faculty, not by graduate assistants, and the College has an excellent teaching faculty. More than 90 percent of the faculty hold doctorates or other terminal degrees in their fields. The student faculty ratio of 12:1 affords small classes and personal attention to individual student needs.

Kalamazoo offers 22 majors leading to a bachelor's degree and five additional programs of concentrated study. It is noted for particular strength in the sciences, preprofessional programs, economics and business administration, and foreign languages. The career development internship and foreign study programs are exceptional among all American colleges and universities, and more than 80 percent of all Kalamazoo students participate in these off-campus experiences.

Students may participate in a wide variety of co-curricular activities and student organizations, including the student managed newspaper, radio station, and yearbook; student government; and a number of social, recreational, and interest groups. Sports include eight men's and seven women's varsity teams, and a popular selection of intramural sports. The Kalamazoo College Hornets are members of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA), founded 1888, the nation's oldest collegiate athletic conference.

Kalamazoo College
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-3295
Chapel Office: (616) 383-8609



STETSON
CHAPEL
KALAMAZOO
COLLEGE



Stetson Chapel in 1932

For 55 years, since its dedication on April 22, 1932, Stetson Chapel has graced the Kalamazoo College 'quad.' It has been called "the soul of the campus." Its 104-foot tower, complete with gold leaf and lamp, commands a spectacular view of the city of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Valley.

The chapel is named for Herbert Lee Stetson, who served as seventh president of the College from 1913 to 1922 and, after his retirement, as president emeritus and chaplain from 1926 to 1933. It has served as the College's place of worship; as the location of major convocations, lectures, and concerts; as the site, since 1947, of the annual Bach Festival; and as home to thousands of weddings and other special services and events, including the traditional Christmas Carol Service.

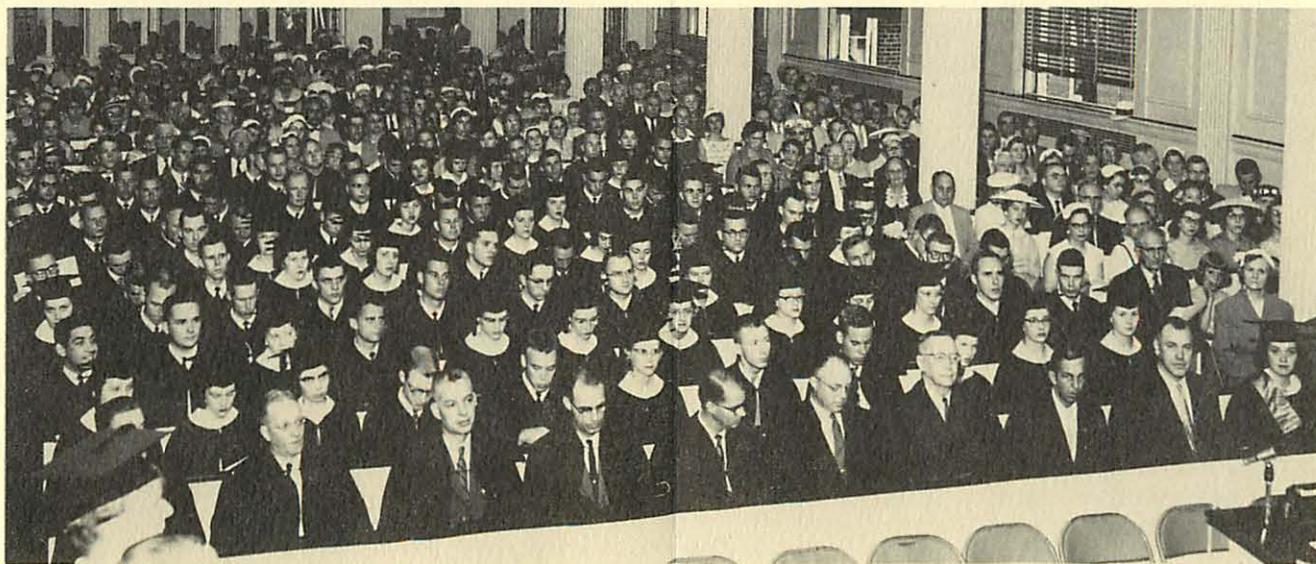
Stetson was the final achievement of the College's centennial building program, and it was no easy task—at the height of the Great Depression—to raise the \$100,000 required to build it. Under the leadership of President Allan Hoben and a committee that included Frank Bachelor, E. R. Young, F. O. Pinkham, and E. A. DeWaters, the funds were raised, and on Commencement day, 1931, Dr. Stetson and his grandson turned the first shovelful of dirt with "great rejoicing."

The building combines the New England meeting house style with an Italian tower. Ionic columns grace the porch. Corinthian columns, each topped by Acanthus leaves, provide a verticle dimension for its simple, symmetrical interior. The curved motif of the chancel is echoed in the spacious windows which look out onto the quad. It is a stately building, offering a sense of order, quiet, and peace, and calling for the best from its occupants, whether speakers, musicians, or a congregation at worship. During the College's sesquicentennial (1983), Stetson Chapel was named a national historic site.

At the time of Stetson's dedication, in 1932, the Rev. Dr. T. Torrance Phelps, pastor of the Congregational Church in Kalamazoo (1923-33) and a former Kalamazoo College student, wrote the following about the new chapel.

Architecture is a language and every structure reveals in form and design the purpose for which it was erected...But art does not express its meanings with visible letters. It speaks directly to the heart without the agency of words. Architecture is "frozen music" and, like music, strikes the chords of the mind with notes that can only be felt...So it is here. Column seems to march toward column, and line rise to line toward the perfect whole. Each springing base and tapering pillar and the great campanile, towering by day like an arm toward Heaven and by night shining like a beacon, unite in one grand ensemble to

Below: chapel circa the early 1950s



sound a single note, "Aspire. Thy only greatness is to aspire."

About the time of the sesquicentennial celebration, it became increasingly obvious that major work was needed on the half-century-old chapel. Renovation was begun in the summer of 1986 under the supervision of architect William Garzelloni of Trend Associates, Kalamazoo. The \$850,000 renovation includes a new acoustical system (designed by Kierkegaard Associates, Chicago), a new temperature control system, facilities for the handicapped, new ground-level offices, and the restoration of a gallery to the right of the chancel that was part of the original building. The historic character and aesthetic beauty of Stetson Chapel have been preserved even as it is equipped for the next 50 years of service to the College and community.

A New Organ in 1988

The first Stetson Chapel organ was installed in 1936. Built by M. P. Moller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland, the organ included three manual divisions and one pedal division, and was voiced in the "romantic" design. William Mollema, a Kalamazoo student, rebuilt the Stetson organ in 1965. This sufficed for several years, but by the late 1970s, it was apparent that the instrument had deteriorated to a point beyond repair. (*continued on back*)