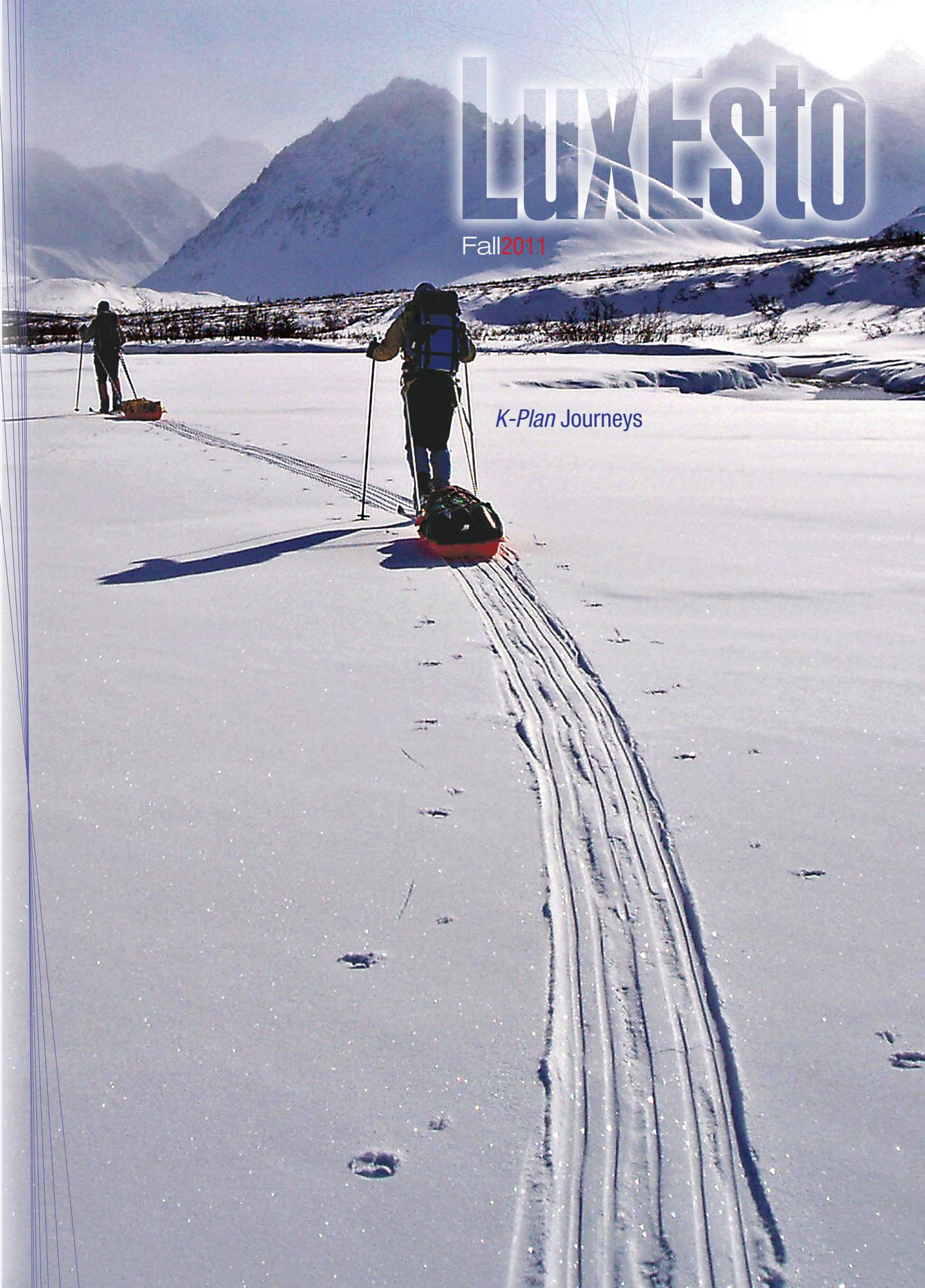


LUXESTO

Fall 2011

K-Plan Journeys



Dear Alumni, Families of Students, and Friends of **Kalamazoo College**:

Kalamazoo College celebrates the golden anniversary of the *K-Plan* in 2012. Fifty years ago, under the leadership of President Weimar K. Hicks and Board Chair Richard U. Light, the College embarked on a unique educational program, which no other institution of higher education dared to undertake. Since that time the *K-Plan* has provided an exceptional mix of liberal arts exploration and experiential learning that encourages students to be at home in the world.

This combination of a rigorous examination of the liberal arts and sciences, career service, study abroad, and the senior individualized project was conceptualized by the late Larry Barrett, professor of English and College Provost. At the time, he called it “betting the store.” This bold innovation was a big risk, with unique programs and requirements that differed greatly from those of our peer institutions. And because of that, “K” is a truly distinctive liberal arts college.

The *K-Plan* continues to flourish. Our legacy of rigorous academics and experiential learning is intact. Immersive study abroad, career exploration and development, and the SIP are still a part of the *K-Plan*. And our commitment to experiential learning is continuously evolving. Today, students have additional opportunities to learn and to make a difference through the Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service-Learning and the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership. Through the Guilds Initiative, we convene students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College around common professional interests using the professional networking website LinkedIn.

Today we do more in four years so students can do more in a lifetime. This would not be possible without the support of alumni and friends like you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support this past year. Your work as volunteers, internship sponsors, and alumni admission representatives are critical elements of the Kalamazoo College success story. Because of your generosity and financial support students from all over the country and throughout the world continue to benefit from the *K-Plan*. On their behalf, I offer my heartfelt thanks for your support.

The *K-Plan* (50 years young!) is the original “more in four.” I am sure each of you can provide an example of the way your “K” experience (classes, study abroad, career service, and SIP) has equipped you to do more. Your *K-Plans* no doubt mirror those described in this issue of *LuxEsto*. And those “more in four’s” include, among other elements: study in Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, Egypt and Ecuador; a bird study biology SIP (with a little art thrown in) conducted on the Barren Islands; the LandSea wilderness experience; law internships; varsity tennis and basketball; a student commission presidency; learning activism and leadership through participation in student organizations; and the sheer intensity of the 11-week quarter. And the “more in lifetimes” that resulted include cancer research and climate science, environmental protection work, raising families and engaging in human rights activities, a study on substance abuse and risk behavior, and a pioneer in the educational mainstreaming of students with special medical needs ... in general: work that seeks to make a difference in the lives of others.

I invite you to share your “more in four” story with us. How did you shape your *K-Plan*? And how does it influence your life after “K?” Send your short essay and a photo to Jim VanSweden (jvs sweden@kzoo.edu). We look forward to hearing from you and publishing some of these submissions in the Fall 2012 *LuxEsto*.

Yours sincerely,



Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran, President

Life Changer

On the threshold of the golden anniversary of the K-Plan (2012) it's fitting that LuxEsto feature some pretty extraordinary K-Plans, like those of Mara Kramer and Chris Wrobel (both Class of 2000). Experiences vary from LandSea to Lancaster University, but the common value is liberal arts—the way creative writing informs counseling psychology, or photography influences a field biology SIP on the effect of an oil spill on sea birds in the Barren Islands. Happy 50th, K-Plan—allowing students like Mara and Chris and countless others (including you?) to do more in four years and more in a lifetime. (page 8)



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Plus, Carrie Graveel '96, student athlete, coach, cancer researcher, hockey player, wife and mother; Writer-in-Residence Diane Seuss's cross-country **blowthrough poetry sabbatical**; the way **Hannah Reischl '12** left Michigan by staying put; a mighty big thanks to everyone listed in the **Donor Honor Roll** (the Kalamazoo College Fund shattered its goal for 2010-11); **class notes**, and more.

CORRECTIONS: The March issue misreported the name and class year of Mary Stroud Vinton '37 who passed away on September 9, 2010. The Class Notes layout in that issue left unclear the class year affiliation of Julia Littell Gray, Rachel Tepfer, Phil Gray, and Ian Littell. All are members of the Class of 2009. Andy Gray is a member of the Class of 2006.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS?

Planning a visit to Kalamazoo College? Check the Kalamazoo College news website for the latest information about campus events. Calendar listings are regularly updated at <http://www.kzoo.edu/pr/calevent/index.html>

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Editor
Jim VanSweden '73

Creative Director
Lisa Darling

Sports Information Director
Steve Wideen

Publications Assistant
Lynnette Gollnick

Writers
Kaye Bennett
Brooke (Nobis) Buys '02
Ardyce Czuchna-Curl
Margaret DeRitter
Stewart Finnegan '12
Chris Killian
Paul Morgan
Tom Nugent

Photography
Susan Andress
David Curl
Tony Dugal
Elaine Ezekiel
Chris Killian
Keith Mumma
Tom Nugent
Ed Plumb

Design
Watson DeZin

Printer
Holland Litho

Direct correspondence to:
The Editor
LuxEsto
Kalamazoo College
1200 Academy Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
269.337.7291
jvsweden@kzoo.edu

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Even On Sabbatical, Di Seuss Carries “K”

by Stewart Finnegan '12



“I’m like a liberal arts poster child,” says Di Seuss. She’s joking, explaining how the title of her new book-in-progress, *Stateline Blowthrough*, comes from a trucking term, but her assessment is spot on.

Instrumental to “K’s” creative writing curriculum, Di has been approaching poetry and teaching with a desire to integrate and understand for years—a philosophy she attributes to her time as a Kalamazoo undergrad (class of 1978). And now, after two decades of consecutive work at the College, she has taken her first sabbatical.

She was hardly idle. During the past year, Seuss traveled the country reading from her acclaimed book, *Wolf Lake, White Gown Blown Open*, while submitting her finished manuscript, *Blowtorch the Hinges*, to publishers. *Wolf Lake* won the University of Massachusetts’ Juniper Prize, and pieces from *Blowtorch* have been chosen for the Cultural Center of Cape Cod Poetry Prize and for publication in the *Missouri Review*, as a finalist for that publication’s poetry prize.

However, most of her time has been spent researching and writing her newest project *Stateline Blowthrough*.

“I grew up in Niles, Michigan, along the border of Indiana. I wanted to explore that idea of a state line, something to both honor and transgress,” she says. The book is being written from the perspective of four characters, each with a distinct poetic style and all

trying to navigate borders of their own, physical and otherwise. Its backdrop is Niles’ strange history: decrepit houses made to look like castles, Wal-Marts built on burial grounds, a missionary fort on land

violently retaken by Native Americans that’s now the site of an archaeological dig, as well as a hook-up

spot for gay men.

“It’s a lot of material, and the sabbatical let me penetrate it. I could do the research I’ve never had the luxury to do,” she says. Part of that research included actually spending time in her hometown. *Wolf Lake* was based in the imaginative space of Niles and dealt more with memories and impressions than with concrete detail or historical fact. Now, she’s had the chance to investigate local history museums, bars, stores, and fields from her childhood. “It’s a scary place,” she says, laughing. “There’s nothing there, and it’s all haunted.”

The result has been a much different writing experience, and a much different project, than anything she’s tried before. The poems are more narrative than her usual style, fitting together into a branching plot and told in vivid glimpses. She has taken her trademark wit, nuance, and unexpected imagery and applied it to stories that are not just her own. “It’s riskier because it’s less overtly literary,” says Seuss. “Whenever I try something new, many people who know my previous work resist a bit.”

But she does keep trying new things, something she attributes to her liberal arts education. And while “hometown ghost stories” isn’t one of the disciplines usually thought of as part of an interdisciplinary approach, understanding the contradictions of Niles through poetry screams: “liberal arts.”

***LuxEsto:* The liberal arts, like poetry, have been called impractical, if not outright useless. Are they?**

They’re not useless. It’s sort of like being a progressive, which isn’t the majority narrative right now, but is still very important. I mean, my son [Dylan Seuss-Brakeman ’10] would probably have an easier time finding a job if he had gone to a two-year welding program, but I think it’s valuable that he has art and reading and vigorous conversation to hold on to. I think everyone needs that during rough times, and smooth times too.

Liberal arts teaches a student how to learn, how to access information, and how to understand its context. Nearly all metaphor emerges from outside the literary discipline. Much of the good stuff that happens in the classroom does not emerge from the course’s concrete goal. If education became purely utilitarian, it wouldn’t be something I’d want to be a part of.

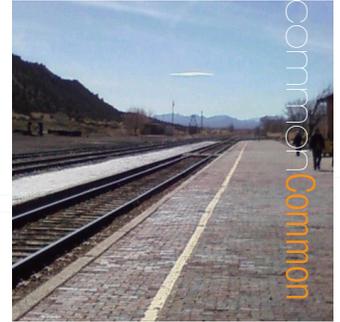
***LE:* What are some cases of students outside the English major bringing in unique perspectives to writing classes, or writing classes giving something to them?**

Gigi (Genevieve) Leet ’11 comes to mind. She created her own



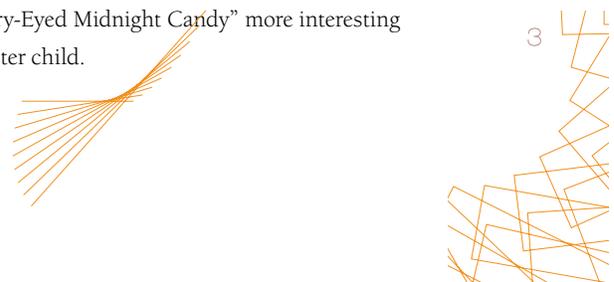
major in environmental studies and taught me that poems about environmental activism could still really work as poems in their own right, that having a political or educational motive doesn't necessarily get in the way of a piece being aesthetically challenging. Science majors in general are good at detail in a way a lot of English majors aren't, at least initially, because scientists learn how important it is to closely observe what happens in the concrete world.

The first year seminar I teach, "Spread the Word: Poetry in Community," brings together students who come to "K" with a range of strengths, from math to economics to chemistry to art. Some of them are daunted by the idea of reading in public, but as time passes, the old fears fall away, and they are able to bring their individual strengths to the whole group. Writing is the great equalizer, once you get over that "it-has-to-be-good" bullshit. One of the earliest exercises in the seminar is that students pair up and go for a walk together. The goal of the walk and their conversation is for them to find some common ground. Then they write a collaborative spoken-word piece about something they share. And then there are people like Tyrice Fitzpatrick '11 who came to "K" as a math major and then switched to English. His SIP was in poetry, but he never left math behind. He remained a math tutor, participated in Dr. Fink's math camp for local kids, and brought those experiences into the poems. Tyrice is a liberal arts success story.



LE: What has influenced your writing and your teaching outside literature?

My poetry is as influenced by music as it is by other poetry. *Stateline Blowthrough* has a lot of simple rhythms from early country music and 60's rock streaming through it. I mean, [Johnny Cash's] "Ring of Fire" is a great poem, just on its own. *Blowtorch the Hinges* has jazz at its core, especially the song "Lush Life," written by Billy Strayhorn and performed by John Coltrane. I centered the longest poem I've ever written on that song. Other influences? I've also been really affected by talks with people supposedly outside the literary discipline, like Dr. Chris Latiolais in the philosophy department. Lines from my poems have been lifted from those conversations. Finally, it's not enough to call a flower "a flower." Whenever I write about a flower, or a bird, or a tree, I research the specifics. Isn't "Starry-Eyed Midnight Candy" more interesting than "flower?" Hell, "blowthrough" is a trucking term. I am a liberal arts poster child.



Que Viva

Awesome Life, Awesome Tools

by Brooke (Nobis) Buys '02

Hannah Reischl '12 wanted out! Of Michigan.

And what a gateway she found in Kalamazoo College. First stop: the Canadian wilderness—more precisely: Killarney Provincial Park and the College's LandSea orientation program, which occurred three weeks prior to the start of fall quarter. Said Hannah about that opportunity: "Those experiences in that environment helped me reflect on my values and provided strong leadership skills. And I hadn't even started the fall quarter!"

Once on campus, Hannah discovered "K" to be a place that values close connections between students and between students and professors. And the latter, she found, could take her beyond Michigan even though she was in Michigan. Her first-year seminar instructor, Professor of Romance Languages Henry Cohen, introduced Hannah to human rights issues in Latin America, and her interest and passion on this subject has not abated. As a result of Cohen's influence, she declared herself a sociology and anthropology major (Yes, indeed, at a liberal arts school a romance languages professor can influence a student to major in anthropology and sociology!), and she decided that what she learned in this discipline she must somehow apply in service to others, particularly in the area of human rights.

Next stop: Portland, Oregon, for a Discovery Externship with attorney Jack Lundeen '69. There she engaged in career exploration in a hands-on setting, while building a meaningful relationship with a "K" alumnus. "I got first-hand experience in a field of interest and the opportunity to network," said Hannah. Given her passion about human rights and social justice, she wanted to explore whether the law might one day be the place for her to further pursue that passion. Through this externship experience she discovered that the law may not be her path. Instead, she began to see that philanthropic fundraising on behalf of human empowerment causes was a better fit for her.

Next stop: study abroad in Ecuador. In the city of Imaburra, some two hours outside Quito, she dove into an Intercultural Research Project (ICRP) at a domestic violence shelter. Hannah partnered with a social worker, an attorney, and another volunteer in order to meet the needs of displaced women and their families. In this capacity, Hannah worked on transition plans with the women and helped the team to secure loans for them.

Her education in Ecuador continued the "K" combination of academics and experience. "I finished reading 17 books in 12 weeks, but I always found time to reflect," said Hannah. "On my two-hour commute back to the city, I thought a lot about what could help these women. Lasting solutions must be more than 'fixing' one small town of women threatened by domestic violence, because the underlying problems are complex and spread far wider than that one town."



When she returned to campus after study abroad, Hannah decided to serve as a tour guide for prospective students and families. After all, the College continued to be a portal to the world for her, and she wanted to share this opportunity with others. “I talk about the high quality academics integrated into experiences,” said Hannah. “This place provides awesome tools to

included observing daily and weekly meetings, participating in visits to satellite offices, assisting in the micro-finance loan process, working on ongoing grant work, and serving as a translator.

She also chronicled the experiences of a diverse sample of women who use the services of FUDEN, including their perceptions of the changes in personal agency and material realities that resulted from their participation in the program. This research is the basis of her Senior Individualized Project, which will be completed the end of this fall, and the SIP includes interviews with participants and staff members from FUDEN’s coastal, central Andean, and jungle satellite offices. When the SIP is completed, Hannah will share her study with FUDEN to assist its own evaluation of the effectiveness of the organization in empowering women within the economic, family, and community structures in Ecuador.

Hannah’s senior year is busy with matters that share a kinship with her SIP. She works with the student organizations Amnesty International and POWER (Progressive Organization of Women Engaged in Revolution) to find creative and engaging ways to supplement their work on human rights and women’s empowerment.

“To be silent is to be an acquaintance to injustice,” said Hannah. “Having seen what I have seen, I have a responsibility to act.”

“K” has helped Hannah find and pursue her passion. Her long-term, post-graduation professional goals center on advocacy for women in social justice. Her focus will continue on women’s economic, political, and social experiences in the United States, and perhaps even at home in Kalamazoo. And that would be fine. After all, four years at “K” is not so much in Michigan as it is in the world.



Hannah in Ecuador (left)

(above) Hannah during her law externship with fellow extern Alex Morgan '11 (middle) and extern sponsor Jack Lundeen '69

succeed while nurturing students—not in a pushy way, but in a healthy way that allows passion to evolve with confidence.”

One of the “awesome tools” for Hannah was a Beeler Fellowship, which she used this past summer to return to Ecuador as an intern at La FUDEN (The Foundation for Integral Development for the Future). FUDEN empowers women by providing access to education, job training programs, micro-finance loans, and childcare. In its 17 years of existence the organization has served more than 6,000 women in 12 locations throughout Ecuador.

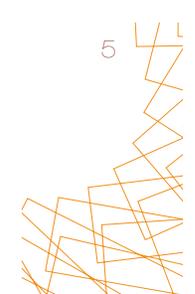
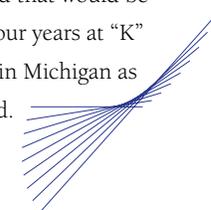
Women like Senora Ana Maria, who received a \$500 credit for a down payment on a new bakery. Her formerly street-cart operated bread business has now moved into its own space, located fortuitously on a main road.

About the loan, Hannah wrote in her journal: “Never has a woman in her community owned property of this size until today. She weeps with joy as she signs the check, stands tall, shakes the hand of the director and strides back out into the bank. The sun gleams through the white windowpane, while many other women sit optimistically against the orange clay walls.”

Hannah’s primary tasks and responsibilities at FUDEN



Hannah and her host family (l-r): Soria Calero Cuvero (aunt), Hannah, Tatiana Calero Cuvero (aunt), and Miriam Calero Cuvero (mom)



Letters



Dear Editor:

The passing of Nelda Balch touches me deeply. I didn't know that Nelda had come to "K" only three years before I arrived there as a freshman after a stint in the United States Air Force. I was recruited to read for a part in G.B. Shaw's *The Applecart* by two tenacious fellow French class students. I still wonder whether their tenacity was based on the reasonable expectation that I would get no part. I know I certainly counted on that, but somehow thought it my duty to show up at least to read because I knew that Nelda was desperately short of males for the play. To my dismay, I was given a role, though, mercifully, a small one.

The blessing, and my incredible good fortune, was working with her and a wonderful bunch of students dedicated to making those Bowen Hall performances something to remember. I volunteered a number of times after that initial experience and can still see so many happy faces, hear so many voices—including that of Don Balch, who often showed up to be our audience during rehearsals of *The Boyfriend*, *Merry Wives of Windsor* and *The Firebugs*. I grieved for Nelda when Don passed away, long before his time. He would have been terribly pleased for her and her new theater, and those of us who were part of her repertory company in 1963 were flattered to be asked back the following year to commemorate it.

Thanks to Todd Beck, a longtime friend and actual thespian (His work in *The Adding Machine*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *Mad Woman* attest to that!), I had Nelda's Venice phone number when I was visiting a sister in Florida a number of years ago and made a visit. Nothing could have been more rewarding than those few hours with a lady living alone and struggling to beat cancer. She needed only a few hints to place me among the parade of students she'd coached in her productions, and no prodding whatsoever to "go out" to have a burger. She'd been thinking bravely about lunch and a can of Campbell's tomato soup was waiting patiently on her stove. Her burger was twice too big for this now very diminutive figure, but she giggled as she took half of it back to her apartment. She said that it had been ages since she'd tasted meat.

I wouldn't be surprised to find someday that she has organized a new troupe for first class heavenly productions.

Gil Rogers '61

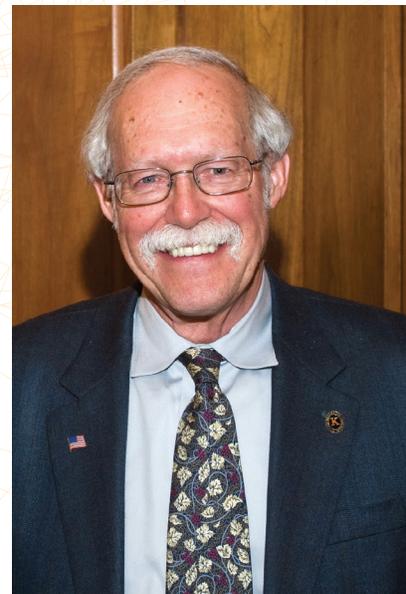
Nelda Balch

Dear Editor:

It is hard to imagine that anyone could read the Spring 2011 issue of *LuxEsto* and not be impressed with the accomplishments of the persons featured therein. I am certainly biased toward Kalamazoo College, but the leadership abilities of these graduates would make any college or university proud, and to know that we have only scratched the surface of our cadre of alumni who have accomplished many distinguished honors in life is impressive. The ideals of "K" and the preparation for life that it provides are exemplary. May we long continue to produce the leaders of tomorrow.

E. Turner Lewis '63
Trustee Emeritus

Turner Lewis



Life Changers

By Ardyce Czuchna-Curl, Photos by David Curl



A helicopter drops off Chris for a typical day on the job.

Mara Cramer and **Chris Wrobel** grew up 3,000 miles apart in the same home.

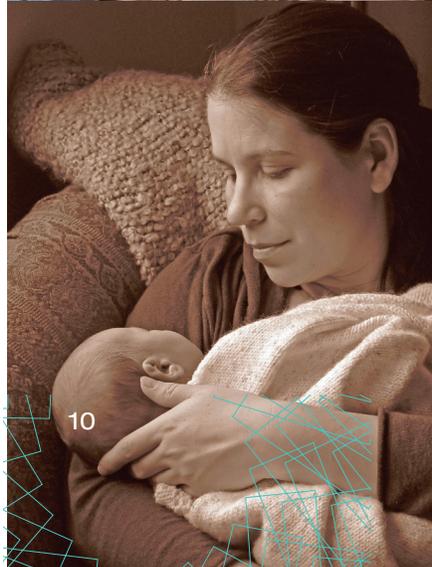
That “home” was their love of the outdoors. The two first met as first-year students in Kalamazoo College’s LandSea orientation program at Killarney Provincial Park, Ontario. It’s not surprising they thrived there, and later served as program leaders, twice.

The couple developed a lasting relationship by the time they graduated (2000) and eventually wed—outdoors, of course—at Mara’s parents’ Alaskan home (2004). Now a new chapter has opened. They are proud parents of a son, Lucas, born April 20, 2011.

Mara

Born in Glennallen, Alaska, Mara grew up at her parents’ homestead on Bartell Creek in the Mentasta Mountains, 40 miles from Tok, the nearest town.





“Since I grew up in an extremely rural area, I spent a great deal of time outdoors,” Mara said. “My brother (Eric) and I were outside playing games, exploring, and building forts in the summer months. In winter we were sledding, building snow forts and tunnels, and snowshoeing as well as accompanying my father on the trap line.

“My father bought cross country skis for my brother and me when I was about 13, and we began an annual tradition of completing at least one long distance trek or mountain/glacier climb each year. In the summer months, when my father was home, we also did backpacking trips in the area. My mom accompanied us on some of the summer trips.”

One of the most challenging experiences of Mara’s life occurred during a ski mountaineering trip in the Wrangell Mountains with her dad, her brother, and two of her dad’s friends.

“On the third day of the trip my father fell in a crevasse on the climb up Mt. Jarvis,” Mara said. “When he fell, he caught himself and the weight of his pack on his left elbow, dislocating his shoulder. When we managed to return to the tent, he instructed my brother and me about how to put his shoulder back into place. The image of the pain he was in as we tried to do this is seared into my brain. We didn’t manage to get it back into the socket, but rotated it below the socket at least, so the pain was somewhat lessened.

“But this was just the beginning. We decided to take a ‘shortcut’ back to civilization rather than the original route; but what we didn’t count on, and what the maps didn’t indicate, was a large crevasse field between us and our destination. We ended up down climbing a glacier with crampons, lowering the sleds on ropes, and crossing another glacier before reaching unglaciated terrain. By this time we were overdue, our food was dwindling, and the pilot that had originally dropped us off was searching for us.

“We continued to ski out, and the pilot eventually located us about four or five miles from the road system. He flew my father and me out that night and picked up the others the next day. It was probably a scarier experience for my mom than for any of us, but in many ways it deepened my relationship with my father and my brother.”

Compared to such an unexpected adventure, the choice of college may seem tame despite the distance. Her parents are Kalamazoo natives, and many extended family members continue to live in the area.

“My mother had mentioned there was a small school located next to Western Michigan University, where she had gone,” Mara said. “I looked into ‘K’ and was attracted by its size, its emphasis on transition into the ‘real world’ through externships,

the LandSea program, of course, and its study abroad programs.”

The distance from home precluded a campus visit, so Mara felt some trepidation the day her grandmother dropped her off at Hoben Hall to board the bus for Killarney.

She was prepared though. She said, “Since I had considerable outdoor experience already, the aspects of LandSea that most promoted my growth as a participant were developing bonds with my fellow patrol members and leader, working together as a group, self reflection, and completing the climb and rappel—not to mention long portages.

“Everyone was at about the same stage in life: the transition between home and college and adulthood,

Mara and Chris were married in 2004 in Alaska in her parents’ backyard.

Chris, Mara and Mara’s dad, David Cramer, pose for a photo in the mountains behind the house where Mara grew up.

Mara, Lucas and Chris. Lucas, born April 20, 2011, is seven days old here.

Mara and Lucas

and we all shared the prospect of entering 'K.' The bonds I developed on LandSea greatly influenced the rest of my college experience."

Later, as a LandSea patrol leader, "the responsibility of caring for the wellbeing of a group of students, as well as managing the group dynamics, was both challenging and rewarding," Mara recalls. "Looking back on the experience today, with my background in counseling and experience as a therapist, I can see areas I handled well, and I can see opportunities I missed to help those in my patrol grow. LandSea helped me develop leadership skills that I continue to use."

Attending "K" was a life-changing experience. "I came from a tiny school in rural Alaska and was fairly quiet and reserved," she said. "At 'K' I received personal attention and support from the faculty and students, rather than being just one of thousands at a large university. This attention and the strong sense of community at 'K' helped me gain confidence in myself and my aspirations. And the rigorous academic environment prepared me for graduate school.

"I took many creative writing courses with Di [Poet-in-Residence Diane Seuss]. I completed a creative writing Senior Individualized Project (SIP) that examined themes of home and place. I interviewed my parents and other family members, combining these interviews with my own experiences and perspective. The process of interviewing and writing opened windows into my parents' and grandparents' lives that I otherwise would never have experienced.

"I'm not sure I had a clear career goal when I was in college, but Di's classes definitely enriched my life." Later, for a graduate school project, Mara examined writing as therapy.

Mara earned a M.S. in counseling psychology at Alaska Pacific University and worked as a therapist in a psychiatric hospital. She has been employed at Alaska Children's Services, a nonprofit resident treatment center, working with adolescent girls in treatment for issues such as depression, self harm, suicide attempts, trauma and abuse, aggression, and substance abuse. Among other work, she writes individualized treatment plans for each client, conducting individual, family, and group therapy.

Mara said, "The strong work ethic needed at 'K' has helped me be a hard worker and dedicated employee in all the positions I've had. Persistence in the face of challenging workloads paid off at 'K' and at work. LandSea emphasized 'leading from behind' and

helping those you are working with achieve their own potential. This is a concept I've applied when working with staff."

Persistence and perseverance have been important for Mara and Chris in other ways as well. "Our main challenge has been centered on my health issues. I was diagnosed with an inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's Disease, when I was 18. Coping with this has been part of our life every day. When my symptoms were at their worst, it impacted my ability to engage in the activities we both enjoy. However, I've learned to manage it and am currently doing very well on a new treatment regimen.

"The other main challenge was getting pregnant; but this has a happy ending now that we have Lucas in our lives."

Chris

Unlike Mara's isolated rural background, Chris grew up in Harper Woods and Rochester Hills, suburbs of

metropolitan Detroit.

Biology and natural landscapes were always important to him. "I vividly remember the first time I went camping," Chris said. "As a kid I spent as much time as I could playing in small woodlots and greenbelts nearby. As I got older, my range extended, first with a bike and later with a car." In high school he was also an active mountain biker and alpine skier.

Chris had many mentors while growing up. He went backpacking, winter camping, and took long distance trips with a Scout troop. In high school he traveled to Belize with two science teachers and other students on a conservation-focused trip.

"We spent a week in the rain forest and another on a small island learning the fundamentals of terrestrial and marine ecology," he said.

Chris said he chose "K" College over several universities after meeting "K" students during a campus visit. "That sealed the deal," he said. Here he majored in biology and minored in art with a focus on photography.

"LandSea formed my initial bond to the College," Chris said. "I met a group of outstanding people and we shared amazing and hilarious experiences. Tom Breznau and Rob Townsend taught a leadership model that focused on support, listening, asking questions, and living with empathy."

One of Chris's most significant experiences was his study abroad at Lancaster University in the U.K. "There I took an environmental science



class for seniors, and every few weeks the topic changed to cover a new profession,” he said. “The class was taught mostly by guest lecturers, and we learned about real people who made a living doing stream restoration, remediating contaminated sites, managing wildlife refuges, raising organic food, and managing public lands for diverse interests.” Chris learned that the same professions were available in the U.S.

“This career exposure was eye-opening because I learned about many non-traditional career options for biologists,” he said.

For his SIP Chris worked for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a field biologist in Alaska. “We were studying the long-term impact of the Exxon Valdez oil spill on sea birds,” Chris recalls. “Our field team included five biologists, and we lived on an uninhabited, remote island in the Gulf of Alaska for three months. We had no outside contact except for a satellite phone that filled an entire suitcase and cost ten dollars a minute (to use). Our radio only picked up Public Broadcasting out of Homer. This was the most isolated I had ever been.

“The environment on the Barren Islands was wet, windy, and usually cold,” Chris recalls. “But when the sun came out, it was unbelievably beautiful. The wind blew so regularly and hard that trees could not grow, even though we were at the same latitude as Homer. Alpine conditions were essentially at sea level. I remember one storm in August that blew so hard that after five days of gale force wind nearly all of the beach grass turned from vibrant green to brown. The entire beach looked dead and ready for winter. We lived in 8x10 canvas wall tents and everything was wet all the time. I had brought a biology text so I could study for my comprehensive exams at night; and by the end of the summer the book was covered in mold. My biology text had become a medium for life.

“We worked out of Zodiac style boats and fought through high seas to gain access to an amphitheatre of sheer cliffs that was the home of our subjects, sea birds. The wildlife was absolutely amazing. We saw orca and humpback whales in feeding frenzies, young peregrine falcons learning to dive, tens of thousands of common murre chicks waiting for a full moon, and then fledging from their nests and out to sea at night. Hundreds of thousands of birds packed onto a small wildflower-covered island in the Gulf of Alaska. I was in my element.”

Campus classes affected him just as deeply.

“Kiran Cunningham’s class on the family helped me understand and improve my relationships with just about everyone,” Chris said.

“Photography classes started out as a journey to explore, meet people, and learn techniques,” Chris said. “Later it became a way to understand myself better.”

“I took ‘Vertebrate Biology’ with Paul Sotherland,” Chris said. “One spring morning we were visiting Hornet Acres. I was struggling to learn how to identify birds by their song. As we toured the trails, Dr. Sotherland not only knew every bird call, but he was full of insight about the natural and human history of the area. How did he know so much? It hit me then just how much I didn’t know about the landscape and environment around me; and at the same time I understood that this knowledge was all right there just waiting to be learned through observation and study.

“I remember joking with him (Dr. Sotherland) that ‘a walk in the woods isn’t going to be quite so easy anymore’ and I think he laughed and said something understated like ‘Yeah—that’s the point.’ This was inspiration for me about being a tireless biologist and the importance of lifelong learning. These concepts have resonated throughout my life since ‘K,’ and I’ve taken many classes and put in long hours ‘just for grins,’ as Dr. Sotherland would say. I’ve even become an OK birder.

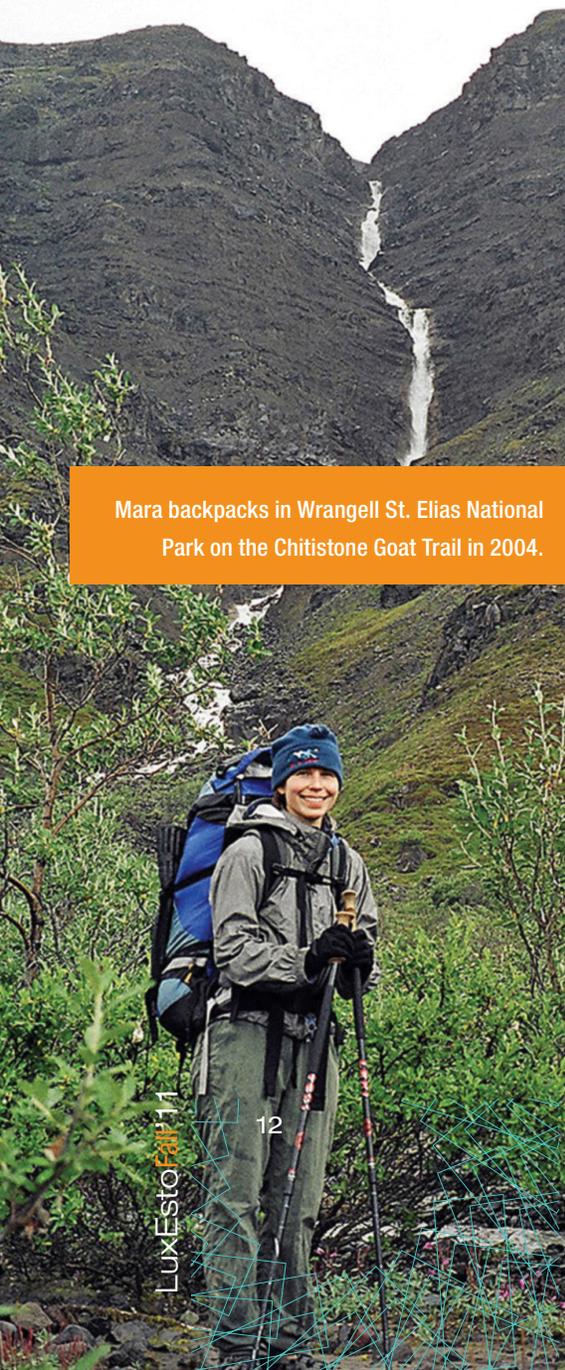
“‘K’ promoted curiosity, creativity, and an honest desire for me to keep learning,” Chris added. “Much of my job involves solving problems that are not unique to the technical side of my profession. And at ‘K,’ I learned how to write and to speak publicly.

“One regret: I wish I had participated in the New York Arts program,” he added.

After graduation, Mara and Chris rode bicycles through Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula, and throughout northern Canada for six weeks.

“We ended up in Alaska nearly broke and in need of a paycheck,” Chris said. “I got a job with a small engineering and construction company as their only environmental scientist.”

Another time the couple spent three weeks exploring the Baja Peninsula of Mexico. “Talking



Mara backpacks in Wrangell St. Elias National Park on the Chitstone Goat Trail in 2004.

to some of our 'K' College friends after this trip inspired a mini-reunion in La Paz," Chris said.

Like Mara, Chris has continued his education since graduation.

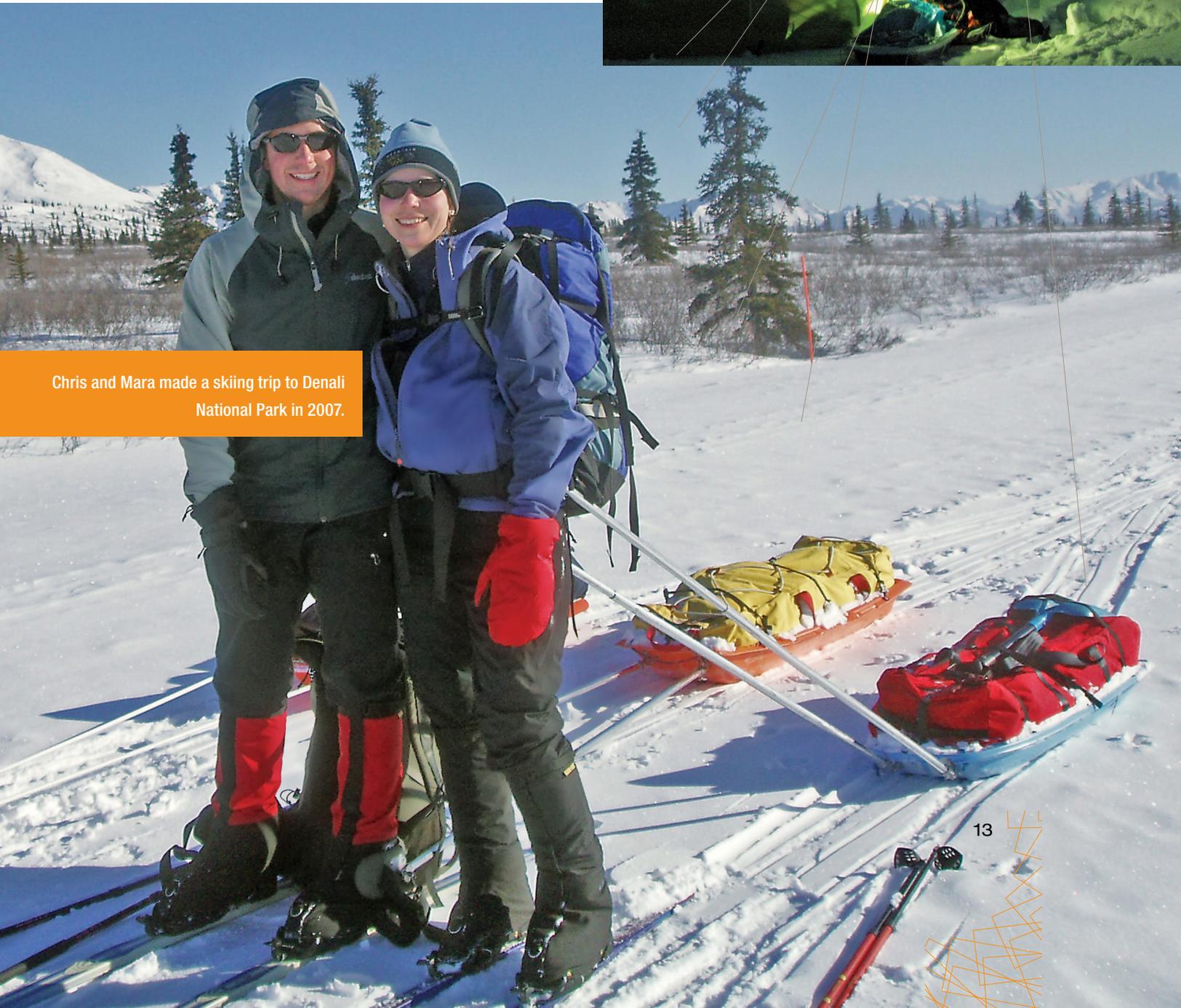
"I put a lot of energy into training," he said. "Luckily, I work for a company that values training too. Last year I graduated from the company's leadership development program. It matched younger professionals with senior leaders in a mentoring relationship. To graduate, we were asked to solve a problem currently faced by the corporate managers.

"Other training has included discipline-specific workshops such as vegetation taxonomy for sedges, willows, and bryophytes, soil genesis and geomorphology, GIS, more GIS, communication training such as Dale Carnegie, project management, project scheduling, ecosystem restoration, revegetation, and environmental laws and regulations."

Aurora Borealis illuminates the treeless Brooks Range during a multi-day ski traverse of the entire range. (Photo courtesy of Ed Plumb)



LifeChangers



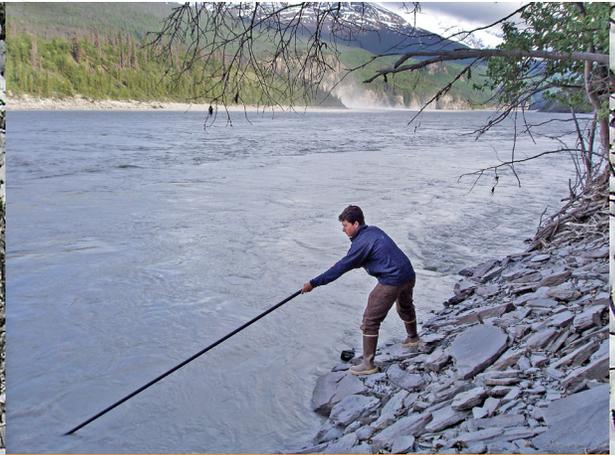
Chris and Mara made a skiing trip to Denali National Park in 2007.

Chris is now an environmental consultant for an international engineering, architecture, and environmental science firm. He manages projects to help public agencies, private developers, non-profits, and governments follow environmental laws.

“The summers involve a lot of field work, often in pristine and remote areas that require helicopter support,” Chris said. “Field conditions can be challenging with inclement weather, bears, and biting insects. I’ve been fortunate to travel extensively throughout the state and meet many different cultures in Alaska. One highlight was working with very traditional Native Alaskan villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta where Yupik is still spoken as the first language.

“For office-based work my job is pretty dynamic. It is part of a sequenced process to assess development projects for environmental impacts,” Chris said. “After collecting the baseline field data, I present this information with similar material on related natural resources using GIS maps and written reports. This material is then used to help inform the public about the possible impacts from development projects. A public involvement process follows that allows local residents, other stakeholders, public agencies, and non-profits to comment and participate in the development plan. The underlying intent of this process is to avoid and minimize impacts to the environment, and then mitigate for impacts that can’t be avoided.”

Chris added, “My passion is exploring wild places. There is a race up here called the Alaska Mountain Wilderness Classic. We simply call it The Classic. The idea is to traverse an entire Alaskan mountain range on foot, without any support, designated routes, or assistance. Often there are no



Chris dip-nets for sockeye and king salmon in the Copper River. Dip-netting is a subsistence only fishery, and a trip to the Copper River is a July tradition for Mara and Chris.

Mara skied in the Chugach Mountains about ten minutes from their house in Anchorage with the family’s dog



trails. Distances average 150 miles and take three to eight days to complete. We pack ultra light so we can travel fast, and we may sleep only three hours a night. Even though I'll eat 4,000 calories or more each day, I'll still lose over five pounds. Racers use contour maps and their judgment (not always wisely) to find their way through pristine valleys, alpine passes, ice fields, and arctic landscapes.

"The race changes locations every three years," Chris said. "I've done The Classic eight times and won it twice. I've skied across the Brooks Range, the Wrangell Mountains, and the eastern Alaska Range. In addition to The Classic, I have completed 10 other ultra-marathons by ski or winter bike. On a separate race, I rode the Iditarod trail to McGrath."

What next?

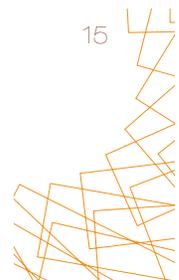
The arrival of Lucas in April has brought changes to both Chris and Mara's lives. "My immediate plan is to learn how to become a mother and enjoy my time home with our son," Mara said, "Eventually, I hope to return to work in private practice, working primarily with women and adolescent girls, on a part-time basis."

Chris plans to spend more time with family and close friends. "I'll probably leave home less often, or at least for shorter durations," he said. "We're lucky to have a great support network. We think of our friends as extended family, and they want to be a part of this person's life. Everyone wants to see the new baby."

(Top) Chris and Mara hiked the Chilkoot Trail from Skagway, Alaska, to Lake Bennett, Yukon Territory, Canada.

(Center) Chris was guest lecturer for a senior seminar course for environmental science majors at the University of Alaska. This included a lab on wetland delineation for environmental permitting.

(Bottom) Mara kayaks in Baja California.



Daniel Russell '05 and his mother Deborah Russell '76



Deborah married classmate Scott Russell in 1977



Daniel at his Commencement ceremony



I fell in love with 'K,' and couldn't see myself anywhere else..."



Learning to tie a tie in a manner that accommodates a tracheotomy tube

Twins Margaret and Daniel were born prematurely in 1982. Both had medical issues; Daniel's required a tracheotomy.

The Toil of Gracious Living

By Kaye Bennett
Large photo (left) by Keith Mumma



Some people acquire their passion for social justice gradually, learning from life's experiences that they want to devote themselves to helping others. That was the case with Deb Russell '76. Others, like Deb's son Dan Russell '05, are born into a life where seeking social justice appears to be the only logical route for them to pursue.

Deb Russell, 57, recently retired as the CEO of Community Advocates for Persons with Disabilities, one of many not-for-profit organizations she has worked with—or volunteered for or founded—in the past 35 years.

Deb says that even as a child, she could sense that some people were being excluded by fellow citizens. Born in Oklahoma and moving with her family to Kansas and then to Hinsdale, Illinois, Deb says she learned what it was like to be an outsider. "In Hinsdale," she says, "many people had lived there all their lives and some made fun of people from other places."

Add to that experience the following: an outgoing dad who felt, "It was not right for people to judge others," and a working mom who earned one of the first bachelor's degrees in nursing in the nation and who had "a sense of service." Throw in a dollop of Roman Catholicism, and a high school job as an aide in a nursing home, and the seeds were pretty much sown for Deb Russell to seek a career helping others.

She decided she wanted to attend a small liberal arts college. "I fell in love with 'K,'" she remembers, "and I could see myself there. I didn't apply anywhere else." She wanted to study aging and ultimately to work in gerontology.

As a "K" student, Deb took a class in social economics, which led her to study nursing homes in Kalamazoo. In addition to a semester at the University of Bath (United Kingdom), Deb did an urban semester program in Philadelphia, where she worked for an alliance of senior citizens. The coalition's campaign was to decrease utility rates for seniors. "This experience greatly influenced my decision to go into work to bring about systemic social change," said Deb. "I realized I was interested in helping organizations work toward more inclusiveness."

But, in addition to being interested in aging people, Deb Russell found herself attracted to one particular young person, a physics major named Scott whom she first noticed on the Quad. Oddly enough, Scott's last name was also Russell.

When it became apparent that the two Russells would be sharing not only a name, but also a life together, they chose their careers accordingly. Scott decided on engineering, telling Deb, "You do the social justice. When I retire, I'd like to get involved with community things." The two married in 1977.

After graduation, Deb earned a master's degree in public administration at Western Michigan University, with a certificate in gerontology. Her first professional job was with the Area Agency on Aging, in Kalamazoo. Scott went to work at Clarage Fan.

In 1982, their plans to start a family were in place. Deb would continue to work and carry benefits while they had their first child; Scott would leave his job to earn a second degree, in engineering, for more career flexibility.

Then life, as it is wont to do, threw a curve ball—or two—at the Russells. Curve ball number one: Not one, but two babies were on the way. Curve ball number two: The twins arrived six weeks prematurely.

Both babies had significant medical problems at birth; instead of going home, they were hospitalized in Bronson Methodist Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, in Kalamazoo.

Margaret, the younger twin by one minute, needed oxygen and tube feedings. But, according to her mother, "she progressed ahead of schedule," and she was discharged home at age four weeks.

Dan, however, was another story. He needed to be on a ventilator and, at age five weeks, he underwent a tracheotomy. In October, still failing, Dan was transferred to Children's Hospital of Michigan, in Detroit, where he was diagnosed with a congenital tracheal stenosis, a narrowing and weakness of the lower trachea, and an acquired laryngeal stenosis from repeated intubations and mechanical ventilation. His vocal cords were also paralyzed.

It wasn't till he was five months old that Dan was finally strong enough to go home. Deb and Scott had been living at the hospital's Ronald McDonald House, driving back and forth from west Michigan to Detroit and arranging for Margaret's care during those months. Scott had dropped out of school because of the demands.

But 20 years ago, going home with a critically ill infant was no picnic, not even for two smart "K" graduates. "We were one of the first families to bring a baby home with a tracheotomy and feeding tube," said Deb.

In the early 1980s, home nurses were not readily available, so Deb and Scott tried to do all the care themselves. To keep breathing, Dan



needed to be suctioned every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day; he needed to be fed by tube. “We didn’t sleep,” said Deb.

“People thought we could do it, because we were such great parents,” she said. But the Russells also had to figure out how to deal with work and school and a second baby who had lingering health problems.

Dealing with the bureaucracies and institutions put all of Deb’s education to a test. When Dan was two, their insurance case manager told Deb and Scott that she’d found a nursing home in Grand Rapids that would accept a child with a trach. But Deb was determined: “No child of mine was going to live in an institution.”

Scott went back to school, and Deb had to return to work part-time to qualify for medical benefits. They paid out-of-pocket for nurses to take care of Dan and for a sitter for Margaret.

Once Scott finished school and found a job, they ran into yet another financial dilemma: His workplace insurance had a lifetime limit of \$500,000. “Dan would run through that in two years,” said Deb.

Dan’s health continued to be fragile. From his earliest years, says Deb, he was in and out of the hospital and required multiple surgeries. Deb’s empathy for other families dealing with extreme medical conditions continued to grow. “If I have a master’s degree, and work in the social services, and understand the system, yet we can barely make it, what about the other families who love their kids and want to keep them at home?”

At that point, Deb decided to redirect her own career, creating ways to help families with overwhelming problems like their own. “Whether it’s cancer or Down syndrome or seizures,” she says, “the family stresses are the same.”

Deb became involved with county- and state-wide councils helping families deal with the stresses of having children who are seriously ill. She has written a book on the subject, *The Health Care Coverage Guide for Michigan Families of Children with Chronic Illness or Disability*. She has been instrumental in effecting policy changes to improve health care coverage and access to services for sick children.

As the twins grew, it was obvious that, despite health challenges, they were highly intelligent, motivated, and normal children. (Margaret had a congenital heart defect that closed on its own without surgery. She developed Guillain-Barre syndrome when she was 12, requiring a five-week hospitalization and a year for recovery.)

When Deb was told that Dan should go to a school for children with special needs, she was adamant that not happen. Thanks to her negotiating and creativity, Dan became the first student with significant health

problems to attend Gull Lake schools. An on-site nurse was provided and soon became available not

only to help with Dan’s needs, but for other children’s medical emergencies. Until Dan was 16, it was always necessary to have a nurse close by during the school day.

About her family’s efforts to keep Dan living at home instead of an institution, Deb says: “I can’t imagine what Daniel’s life would have been like. I saw kids in Coldwater [a state facility for people with developmental disabilities; it closed in 1992], who had been in the NICU with Daniel.”

At the end of the twins’ junior year in high school, the Russell family, its bonds forged strong by nearly two decades of trials, faced tragedy. Scott was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Both Scott and Deb stopped working in 2001 to spend time together and to pursue treatment. “Scott was positive, courageous and honest,” said Deb, “but he didn’t try to hide the seriousness.”

The family did some travelling during Scott’s illness, and Scott used his waning strength to lead a campaign to raise \$500,000 for a barrier-free addition to their tiny church, St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, in Richland, Michigan.

Having lived long enough to see the twins graduate from high school, Scott Russell died in April, 2002.

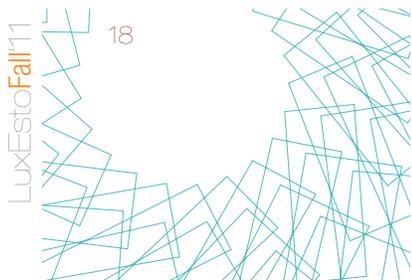
When his father was ill, Dan had decided to go to Kalamazoo College, not only because it allowed him to be just 20 minutes away from home, but because, he says, he knew his parents had received a good education there and that “K” had shaped the persons they became.

During high school, he had taken AP classes and had founded both the debate and quiz bowl teams. He was manager of the football team. He admits, however, that socially, he was somewhat “stunted,” with his life experiences so different from his peers. “I didn’t care about who was going to the dance with whom. I was ready to be doing something else.”

Kalamazoo College turned out to be the ideal “something else” for Dan. Before he started, Dan and Deb agree, “K” was extremely accommodating in meeting his medical needs. He needed enough space in his room to house his medical equipment (including a suction machine, oxygen, an ultrasonic humidifier and a pulse oximeter), and he would need a private bathroom, so he could maintain a clean field for suctioning his trach tube. He needed a car on campus so he could carry his equipment. The College arranged for it all.

Dan chose to major in biology because of his interest in medical science. The summer after his sophomore year, he served an internship at Chicago’s Children’s Hospital, where he had been a patient many times.

For his study abroad experience, Dan chose Spain. Unlike other students abroad, Dan needed to take a big suitcase full of his medical supplies and a 15-pound power converter for his suction machine and humidifier. He needed a Spanish doctor he could call at any hour for emergencies. Again, “K” helped meet all these needs, though, Dan admits, College officials did need to “remind” him to take the



responsibility for making all his arrangements. Dan said he learned an important lesson: “If you’re going to do something big, you need to plan ahead.”

After graduating, Dan interned at Community Advocates, then worked for three years at Vestaron Corporation, in the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center, where his job involved working with spider venom to develop biopesticides.

But his and his family’s stories called him to a different road. In June 2010 he quit his job at Vestaron, and he visited Liberia that September. There he met with the World Health Organization and other groups that could help him realize his dream of bringing health care to some of the world’s least served people.

“I’m interested in health care in places where needs are orders of magnitude different from here,” Dan said. For his own medical needs, Dan’s family had sought out experts in Detroit, Chicago, and Boston, but even in this country they had learned that the system “is frequently not good at helping people like me, with serious medical problems at the far end of the spectrum.”

In Liberia, Dan knew, there wasn’t anything in place to meet even the most basic health needs of many people. He wanted to learn more about those needs, with an eye toward helping solve the problems. He’s interested in helping develop a model to train medical professionals and to make the medical system work in a functional and responsive way.

In May 2011, Dan left for an extended visit to Liberia, a trip which would be challenging to most Americans, but which was more so for Dan, given his own medical needs. Once again, he ran up against institutional roadblocks.

He would need, for example, to take all the medical supplies he would require (medicines, a spare trach, suction catheters, trach filters, mouth suction kits, and more) for the entire trip, but insurance and the suppliers balked at giving him more than one month’s supply at a time. Well, Russells don’t let a refusal stop them. Dan had learned early on to ask, “What can I do? Let’s make it work.” Score another victory for access: When Dan left for Liberia, he took large bags of medical equipment, as well as a solar panel to make sure he could make everything work.

In Liberia, Dan assessed the 23 villages served by the Bolahun Health Clinic, with an eye toward maximizing health resources they currently have and starting a Liberian non-governmental organization to build their health capacity over time.

Today, the three Russells are scattered across the country. Margaret, a graduate of Northwestern University, has pursued both of her passions: medicine and theater. Having worked for three and a half years as a stage manager for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas, she’s now applying for medical school.

Dan has recently returned from his project in Africa and has

begun a graduate program in public health at St. Louis University in Missouri. He will always need a trach and, as one pulmonologist told him wryly, he “won’t be someone who’s going to be competitive running the mile.” None of this slows his enjoyment of the finer things of life, such as cooking, socializing, and good music.

And Deb Russell, having officially declared herself “retired,” is enjoying more time with her family and exploring what her next dreams will be.

Deb and Scott Russell were part of the first wave of parents who struggled against medical and societal odds to keep their seriously ill child at home. They helped prove that, with the support of a myriad of organizations, it can work, for the benefit, not only of the child and the family, but of society as a whole.

When Scott Russell was ill, says Deb, he recalled his days at Kalamazoo College and the motto over an entrance door to Trowbridge Residence Hall: “The end of learning is gracious living.” That saying was quoted at his memorial service and it continues to be one of the driving forces in the lives of his family.



Daniel with Dr. Jemmah Larbelee in Liberia



For Randy Gepp, a successful lawyer in Atlanta, there's no joy like the joy of "challenging yourself to the max," reaching deep within to find the energy—and the creativity—required for victory in the courtroom. Named a "Super Lawyer" by *Atlanta Magazine* every year since 2004, Gepp wins most of his cases by convincing judges to dismiss opposing lawsuits before they reach a jury.

And he may be just as good as a volunteer baseball coach! His "Pony League" youth baseball teams have won three Georgia state championships in recent years.

Describing his simple, no-nonsense philosophy for success in the courtroom and on the ball field, Gepp says: "If you want to win, you have to outwork and outthink your opponent. That takes a lot of effort on your part—but it's the price you pay to be successful."

Perspiration Trumps Inspiration

by Tom Nugent

It was the kind of thrilling, once-in-a-career moment that most lawyers dream of.

"Your witness, Mr. Gepp!"

Nodding thoughtfully, Randy Gepp '74 reached for the thick manila folder of information he'd been assembling on this "expert witness"—a veteran Ph.D. economist who often testified for the plaintiffs in employee lawsuits based on charges of "wrongful termination."

With the folder in hand, the lean and rangy lawyer began his cross-examination of the economist—who'd just been testifying at length about how the plaintiff was owed "millions of dollars" because of the way she'd been illegally fired.

A moment later, the former "K" College economics major was asking the witness a series of detailed questions about his assessment of the plaintiff's alleged financial injury.

While the jury looked on, the defense attorney zeroed in on several glaring contradictions that were contained in the expert's 72-page report, passages that Gepp knew amounted to little more than scientific mumbo-jumbo.

Although the Ph.D. witness was accustomed to mystifying attorneys and jurors with complicated scientific jargon and windy theorizing about arcane economic matters, he wasn't ready for Gepp's withering cross-examination.

It was soon evident that the defense lawyer had gone to enormous lengths in preparing for this moment. Again and again, Gepp pointed to weaknesses in the report and asked the Ph.D. to explain them.

Soon the befuddled "expert" was stammering and backtracking, even contradicting some of the conclusions he'd reached in his own report!

That key cross-examination several years ago in an Atlanta courtroom was an example of Gepp's approach to the practice of law.

"I remember working very hard in preparing for that case," says the 59-year-old *summa cum laude* "K" grad. (He also served as Student Commission President and led the Hornet golf team to several outstanding seasons.) "Thanks to that effort, I was able to show the judge and the jury that there were some major inconsistencies in the testimony."

Indeed. By the time Gepp's interrogation of the hapless economist had ended, the "expert" report was in shambles, and the lawsuit likely headed for the dustbin.

The crowning moment came just as Gepp was wrapping up his cross-examination, before returning to his place at the defense table.

"As soon as I had finished," the veteran defense attorney recalled during a recent interview in his office at Atlanta's Taylor English law firm, "the judge made a comment that I still remember to this day.

"While looking directly at the jury, he told all of us in the courtroom: 'Counselor, I do believe you've gotten all the juice you can out of that lemon!'"

Remembering that priceless remark, Gepp leaned back in his chair and smiled. "As soon as he said that, I knew the jig was up for the plaintiff's case," he said. "My work was basically done, at that point, so all I said was: 'Thank you, Your Honor—I'll rest!'"

Court Work—Basketball and Federal

The Detroit-born son of a highly successful General Motors marketing executive, Gepp first strolled onto the campus of "K" College back in the fall of 1970. And it wasn't long before he found himself caught up in the excitement of studying economics with

“two inspiring professors” who would eventually become influential mentors.

“I was very fortunate to study economics with Phil Thomas and Robert Brownlee,” says Gepp. “They were terrific teachers who were determined to make you think for yourself. They really pushed us, and I soon became fascinated by the complexity of economics. Later on, I even helped Brownlee prepare a paper for a seminar he was giving in Chicago.

“Professor Brownlee not only acknowledged my work in that paper—he also invited me to make the trip to Chicago with him and introduce him at the conference he was attending. I was just a junior in college, and that experience made a huge impression on me.”

A gifted athlete, Gepp says he also “enjoyed many a thrill” as a Hornet golfer. “I played golf with some outstanding players,” he recalls. “The athletic director at that time, Rolla Anderson, was determined to build a winning team, and he brought in some truly talented golfers, guys like Rich Barno and Rick and Rob Lacy. We had a very competitive team and won a lot of matches.”

Another undergraduate highlight for Gepp was his study abroad in Madrid, Spain. “I was probably the worst Spanish speaker in our group,” he says, “but I loved the challenge of learning the language. My foreign study has inspired me to travel to numerous Spanish speaking countries, and to this day I always speak Spanish whenever I can.”

After graduation, Gepp studied law at Emory University, where he says he was able to indulge his remarkable capacity for hard work to the fullest. A few years later, having passed the bar exams of Georgia, Florida, and California, he began a career specializing in employment law. In 1990, he and best friend Gary Diamond '74 became law partners.

For 34 years, Gepp has distinguished himself as a disciplined lawyer with a knack for thinking his way through even the most complex legal issues. He’s also established a better than 90 percent winning record in his cases, the vast majority of which are dismissed on motions for summary judgment, long before the issues involved ever go to an actual trial on the facts.

“Randy is enormously effective at what he does,” says Taylor English founding partner Marc Taylor. “For one thing, his trial familiarity alone makes him one of the most elite employment lawyers in the country. If you’re confronting a difficult lawsuit involving an employee, Randy is the kind of lawyer you want in your corner. He knows employment law inside out, and he’s utterly relentless in preparing and then arguing his cases.”

Says Gepp: “Success is mostly one percent inspiration—and 99 percent perspiration!”

He applies the same “out-work ’em and out-think ’em” strategy

to his baseball coaching. As a Pony League baseball manager (he’s also coached the sport at several Atlanta-area public schools) during the past 15 years, he’s helped three teams to Georgia state championships and taught dozens of players who went on to become high school baseball standouts. A frequent volunteer at local schools, Gepp also assists students interested in law careers and mentors several law students at nearby colleges and universities.

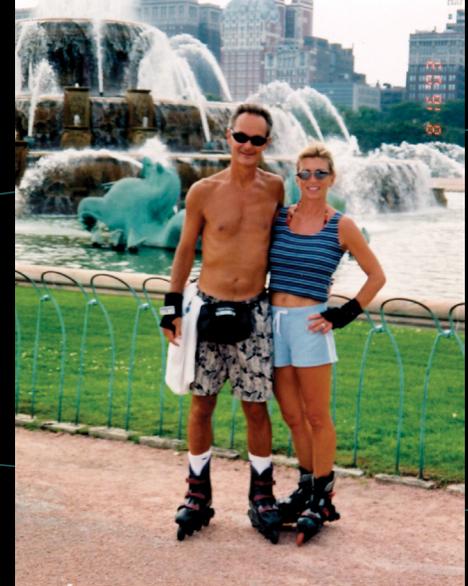
And that’s not all. Gepp continues his love of sports

competition by playing in golf and tennis tournaments. He’s won several golf tournaments, and at the age of 50 he defeated a dozen different local tennis players (several were college players 25 years younger than him) en route to nailing down a first-place trophy at a highly regarded open tournament held by the famed Druid Hills Golf Club in Atlanta.

“For me, working hard and playing hard just seem to come naturally,” says Gepp. “I still play basketball with my teenage sons against college kids and run in several races each year. In fact, my kids and I entered a 36-team, three-on-three basketball tournament this year that had two ex-NBA players participate.

“We did not win,” Gepp adds. “I was a liability, but my kids and I worked hard to be competitive. And as soon as we finished, I was off to a late-afternoon tennis match. It was a good day of fun.”

The Gepp family stays active in every season



Lessons IN VOICE

by Chris Killian



James Pollock '04 enters his favorite Greenwich Village café, drops his bag and a sports coat still wrapped in plastic from the drycleaners, and wipes a few small drops of sweat from his brow.

It's a warm, slightly humid mid-spring day in lower Manhattan, but Pollock admits the sweat's source may be just a bit of anxiety running through his veins. In a matter of minutes, he'll be in one of the most important meetings of his academic life, face-to-face with one of modern psychology's most prominent figures, a woman who just happens to be one of his advisors on his journey toward a doctorate in counseling psychology (his graduation date is slated for May 2012).

He quickly downs a small coffee, then gathers his things and makes a brisk trek down 5th Avenue, past the iconic arch of Washington Square Park and toward New York University's Pless Hall.

After a quick ride up the elevator, the fifth-floor doors open. Pollock, 29, steps out and plops down on a firm couch, making small talk with a staffer at NYU's Institute for Human Development, where Pollock is nearing completion of his PhD.

He takes the sports coat out and removes a long piece of crumpled pink paper—placed there at the drycleaners—from

each sleeve and settles into a couch, checking some e-mails on his laptop. He opens a video of a recent Lady GaGa concert he attended. In one shot, the camera captures Pollock—smiling wide—just a few arm lengths from the pop music icon and gay rights advocate.

"I'm in love with her," he says.

Then Dr. Carol Gilligan steps into the room.

Gilligan, perhaps best known for her 1982 book *In A Different Voice*, is considered by many to be a founder of feminist psychological theory. Her book was considered groundbreaking, a heavy retort to the male-centric theoretic views of human development that were published by heavyweights like Sigmund Freud and Lawrence Kohlberg.

Pollock rises from the couch, and Gilligan gives him a quick peck on the cheek.

"How are you doing, James?" she says. "Are you coming to the party tonight?"

"Yeah, if I have time," he says.

Pollock gathers his things, trailing Gilligan, as the two enter the corner office of Dr. Perry N. Halkitis, another of Pollock's advisors who also teaches at NYU with Gilligan. Dr. Arnold Grossman, another NYU psychology professor, is in the room too.

Then the office door shuts and the meeting begins.

THE DESERT ROOM

Time seems in short supply for Pollock these days. He's been

busy wrapping up his dissertation, based on research he's done with emergent young gay men, ages 18 to 21. Pollock is studying the ways substance abuse drives young gay men to engage in risky sexual behavior that might put them at risk of being infected with HIV.

He also maintains a clinical practice in the city.

There Pollock sits in a room just a few steps from his office cubicle in another NYU building on Broadway. It's got a sterile feel to it; generic furniture and a few pictures on the wall. A computer sits on a desk next to some medical testing equipment.

Pollock calls it "the desert room" because a picture of a desert landscape hangs above the computer. But the arid barrenness captured in between the frames might also be used to describe the mood that sometimes takes hold in this room.

It's here that he has had to tell many a young gay man that they have HIV. In his research, in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health, he followed 540 young men for two years, meeting with them once every six months and taking stock of their experiences with drugs and sex. All were HIV negative at the start of the study.

"I've told young men in this room that they are HIV positive," he says. "It's difficult giving that news to someone who is only 18 or 19 years old. You can't predict how someone will respond to that news, and they don't know (how they will) either."

After breaking the news, Pollock has taken some straight to the emergency room. Some simply lost their emotions. Others had suicidal or homicidal thoughts.

And for a few, there was just deafening silence.

"They know more than I did at 19 years old," said Pollock, who is gay. "They know about the HIV virus, they know about DNA and all sorts of scientific information. So why are they still putting themselves at risk? It's not logical."

Drinking and drugging, seen as activities that promote masculinity in modern society, are engaged in by some in the gay community as a way to assert their masculinity in a culture that acknowledges their being male, but, perhaps, not fully masculine, Pollock says.

That behavior can lead to decreased inhibitions and a greater propensity to engage in risky sexual behavior, behavior that can possibly lead to HIV infection. Twelve of the young men in Pollock's study have acquired the virus since the beginning of the study.

MIRROR

In many ways, Pollock sees himself in the young men in the study.

The Sterling Heights, Michigan, native came out to his family when he was 17, and he started spending nights in gay bars in Detroit shortly thereafter. His family knew about his late nights. They were supportive of him, loved him for everything he was. They were just a little confused, he says.

After moving to New York City after graduation, he spent a few summers bartending on Fire Island, known for being a gay-friendly community.

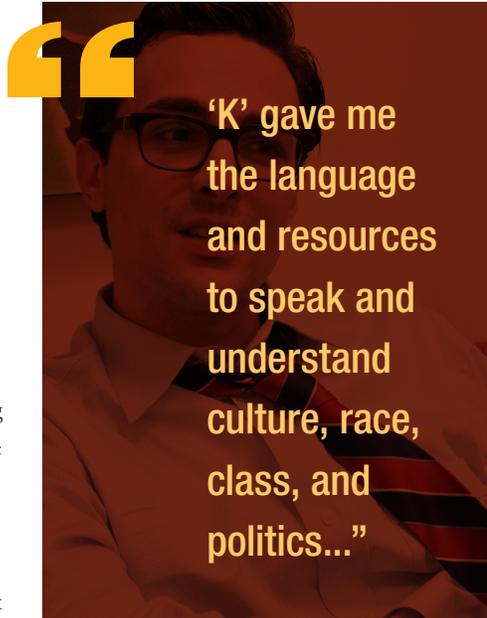
He experimented with alcohol and drugs and was on the cover of a few gay magazines, shirtless. He was a guest on the "Tyra Banks Show." He's open and honest about it all.

"I experimented with many things," Pollock says. "I'm lucky, but I was quick to cut it off. Drugs, drinking, it was part of my development, a necessary part. I'm trying to understand why I did it, but it brought me to people, it brought me to these kids."

He's since stopped drinking. It's been more than a year since his last drop.

"I'm just now becoming a big kid. It's

easier to reflect back now."



BUBBLE AND BEYOND

But before the move to the big city, Pollock made his mark on Kalamazoo College, honing his advocacy skills in a place that he still calls "The Bubble."

Pollock applied to big schools and small schools, private colleges and public universities. He applied to Kalamazoo College "because the pamphlet was pretty." When he went through the course catalog, he highlighted all the classes he wanted to take at "K." The majority were psychology courses, so that became his major.

He arrived at Kalamazoo College in 2000, the first in his family to pursue a bachelor's degree. He was young, idealistic and maybe, he says, just a bit full of himself. When he arrived on campus to start his freshman year, it was his first visit to campus.

But he thrived.

He got involved with GLBT student groups, organized events, and made his voice known. In



January 2001, he found himself driving with a group of other “K” students to Washington, D.C., to protest the inauguration of former President George W. Bush. He wore a bandana soaked in apple juice to keep out the tear gas.

Pollock the activist was beginning to grow. And “K” was the fertile ground where his growth would flourish.

“I became an advocate and a fighter there,” he says. “‘K’ was a place to question and an environment where each of us thrived on being an activist and having strong beliefs. Was I silly? Was I naïve? Maybe, but the College was very supportive of our voices. I don’t feel like my voice was ever silenced. If it was, the culture there was to be louder. If you had something to say, there was the space to do it.

“I loved ‘The Bubble.’ Your whole world is these 1,300 people. Everyone has their passion and you are kind of secluded, but then they shoot you out into the world, and you discover what it’s like to be alone.”

His junior year, he did his study abroad in Bonn, Germany. He studied, sure, but he had a lot of fun, too. Still, for all the personal growth he had been experiencing, he still wasn’t able to come out to his roommate, a Guatemalan man.

He didn’t know why he couldn’t bring himself to tell his roommate he was gay, but Pollock says he knew he had more growing to do, this time beyond the bubble.

GROWING UP

New York City is a place where people come to grow up, Pollock says. So when he moved there after graduation in 2004, that’s what began to happen for him. In this city of more than eight million, with all its noise and hustle and bustle, growth happens whether you intend it to or not.

He enrolled in the Teach for America program, getting a two-year position in the south Bronx at a school in the poorest Congressional district in the nation. Young, idealistic, and believing he could change the world, he quickly got a heavy dose of reality.

“I went in this hopeful, optimistic, clueless Midwestern kid,” Pollock says. “I soon realized how big this world is and how much work needs to be done. It was tough, hard as hell. Teaching in the Bronx was one of the toughest things I’ve ever done.

“‘K’ gave me the language and resources to speak and understand culture, race, class, and politics, and to feel like an informed person to get involved in that (Teach for America). But everything I thought I knew was challenged. A bit of my idealistic self

was lost somewhere in there.”



As required by the TFA program, Pollock received a master’s degree—for him in childhood education—in 2006 from Lehman College.

More academic work lies ahead. But the end seems nearer.

In August, Pollock began his doctoral internship at the Charleston Consortium for Clinical Psychology, Medical University of South Carolina, the National Crime Victims Unit. He interviewed for internship possibilities throughout the country and was delighted to get his first choice. His focus will be on working with substance and behavioral related health issues, often related to being a victim of a crime. “I will also be working with offenders and training in forensic psychology,” he says.

“I go for what gets me,” he adds. “I plan on ruffling some feathers while I’m there.”

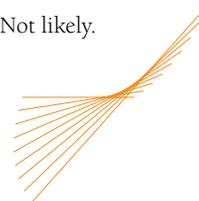
That’s not surprising. But what he says he plans to do after the internship is a bit of a shock.

“I’d like to go to an island in the middle of nowhere for awhile,” he says (jokingly?). “I’d like to chill for a time, do nothing.”

Pollock, the passionate fighter, sitting idle?

Not likely.

James Pollock (standing) with advisors Carol Gilligan and Perry N. Halkitis (left) and Arnold Grossman. Gilligan, Halkitis, and Grossman are professors of psychology at New York University.



Scientist Writer

by Tom Nugent

When Paul Schramm '04 was studying chemistry at Kalamazoo College, he decided to try and find out if local filling stations were poisoning their customers with a toxic chemical additive then contained in some types of gasoline. Armed with a pocketful of laboratory sample bottles, the intrepid young chemist began collecting suspicious-looking droplets of water from asphalt puddles at his neighborhood BP, Shell, and Exxon Stations.

Seven years later, the analytical chemist and environmental geologist is still fighting to protect public health. In his current assignment as a climate analyst for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta he studies the potential health effects of global warming.

On a brisk October afternoon back in 2003, Paul Schramm strolled toward a busy BP gas station in downtown Kalamazoo.

Dressed in a pair of faded jeans and a raggedy blue sweatshirt, the senior chemistry major hoped to draw little or no attention from the managers of the station—or from the giant oil company that owned it.

Schramm seemed an unlikely candidate for a covert intelligence operation, but he was, in fact, engaged in a kind of industrial espionage. The pockets of his jeans were stuffed with half a dozen small lab bottles that would soon be full of water samples gathered from the pavement around the BP station.

Make no mistake: If the station operators had known what the gung-ho college kid was doing that afternoon, they would not have been pleased. Schramm was looking for traces of methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MBTE)—a chemical gasoline additive with a long and ugly track record of threatening human health.

While studying analytical chemistry at “K,” Schramm had learned a great deal about the properties of MBTE, most notably that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had long regarded MBTE as “a potential human carcinogen at high doses.”

He'd also learned that several American cities (such as San Francisco) considered the presence of MBTE in their groundwater to be a major public health issue. Indeed, Schramm's own state (he'd grown up in Kalamazoo) had already banned the use of the toxic additive in gasoline.



Make no mistake: If the station operators had known what the gung-ho college kid was doing, they would not have been pleased...



“The concept of Global Warming is no longer debatable...”

help to shape his scientific career as a researcher in public health.

“When I launched the gas station research, I was taking my science out into the arena of public health for the first time,” he says. “That was really exciting and rewarding, and

But Schramm wondered if the now illegal practice might be continuing. For one thing, he’d recently come across several newspaper stories which suggested that some of the gas stations in Michigan had been slow to adapt to the new law. Intent on unloading their remaining inventories of MBTE-tainted gas, they’d reportedly been peddling the stuff to unsuspecting customers.

Were such allegations true? Time for some “field research” at local gas stations, starting with the BP station located less than a mile from campus.

Pretending he’d dropped a coin onto the asphalt, Schramm sank to one knee... and scooped about a tablespoon of water from a nearby puddle. As he twisted the cap back onto the sample bottle, he couldn’t help wondering if he’d been observed by the uniformed cashier in the window of the station—or by the two BP employees who were standing in a nearby garage door.

Thankfully, no one seemed interested in his furtive movements, and within a few minutes, he was back in the lab launching the chemical assays that would tell him if MBTE had been present in the gas station puddles. He spent many hours using a “gas chromatograph” to analyze the molecular structure of the compounds he’d collected from groundwater, eventually from three different gas stations located in Kalamazoo.

“In the end, I concluded that MBTE was not present in the surface water at the gas stations I visited,” says Schramm. “That was very good news.”

I soon realized that I wanted to use my science background as the basis for a

career in public health. One thing led to another, and I wound up working on the health effects of climate change for the federal government—which is what I do today.”

Schramm was recently named a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) at the CDC and plays an important leadership role in preparing research reports on health effects of global warming.

At “K,” Joan Esson, at that time a professor in the chemistry department, served as Schramm’s Senior Individualized Project (SIP) supervisor and a general inspiration. “She taught me something important about daring to think boldly and creatively as a scientist,” he says.

“As a teacher, Joan was very independent-minded and assertive. I remember her telling us how she went skydiving a couple of times a month... and she even invited a few of us to go along.

“I took her up on it at one point... and suddenly there I was, jumping out of an airplane at 8,000 feet. It was an amazing experience, and it taught me something important about boldness—about the willingness to take a deep breath and then push yourself to the max.”

Since leaving Kalamazoo, says Schramm, that lesson has often helped him find the courage to take on extraordinarily complex research assignments and then deliver the results on deadline.

These days, as a researcher who works on global warming, he says he often feels as if he’s “moving around in a world that’s even scarier than skydiving!

“But I also feel like I got some very good preparation for the rigors of climate research during my years at ‘K’ College, and I’m extremely grateful for that.

The MBTE project became “a watershed moment” that would ultimately



Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of some weather events...

PREP WORK FOR WARMING

During his junior year at “K” Schramm studied abroad at the American University in Cairo, where he studied Arabic and “came to love living in a city of 18 million people. After graduating from “K,” he studied environmental geology at Notre Dame (M.S., 2007). A year later, while working on a master’s degree in public health at Emory University in Atlanta, he would join “a wonderfully rewarding” research project in which he and a team of investigators studied the health effects of dietary pesticides on school children in Georgia.

“What we did was to collect urine samples from kids and then analyze them in order to assess the impact of the pesticides in their food on their health,” he says today. “That’s the kind of research I’m very passionate about, and once I saw how the children’s health was being affected, I knew I was hooked on public health research for good.”

For the past three years, Schramm has gathered data, led seminars and workshops for state and city health departments around the country, and written and edited reports on the health effects of global warming.

“The concept of global warming is no longer scientifically debatable,” he told LuxEsto during a recent interview at Atlanta’s Flying Biscuit Café, one of his favorite local hangouts. “At this point, after years of overwhelmingly convincing research, the question isn’t whether there will be major health impacts from global warming, but rather how soon those impacts will begin to affect people, and how severe they will likely be.

“The mission at the federal Global Change Research Program is to continually update our understanding of approaching climate shifts, and as a CDC public health scientist, it’s my job to help assemble the regular reports we issue on that topic. Our goal is to help prepare the country—the state and local health departments and the universities and the think tanks—with the very latest assessment data that will help them to prepare for what is coming now and in the coming years.”

According to Schramm, that horizon is not a pretty prospect.

As the author of the crucially important chapter, “Weather-Related Morbidity and Mortality,” in the federal government’s recently published global-warming report (A Human Health Perspective on Climate Change, see <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/docs/climatereport2010.pdf>), Schramm warned that the health effects will present the U.S. Public Health system with some extremely daunting challenges.

“Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of some extreme weather events,” Schramm wrote in the often quoted chapter, “including floods, droughts, and heat waves. The health impacts of these extreme weather events can be severe, and include both direct impacts such as death and mental health effects, and indirect impacts such as population displacement and waterborne disease outbreaks.

“The populations most at risk from such extreme events also are growing—particularly as a result of increased coastal development. Sea-level rise associated with climate change will amplify the threat from storm surge associated with extreme weather events in coastal areas. Other areas, such as the Southwest, are at risk for decreased agricultural productivity due to increased drought and possible compromise of potable water supplies.

“Given the increased incidence of extreme weather events and the increasing number of people at risk, research in this area is an immediate and significant need—because preparation has a significant impact on outcomes of extreme weather events.”

Schramm traces his commitment to public health actually to roots in the “outstanding liberal arts education” he received in Kalamazoo.

“I do feel that I was extremely fortunate to go to college where I did,” he says. The Heyl Scholarship he won helped make his college education affordable. “And I was lucky to study with teachers like Joan Esson, who encouraged my creativity and never let me forget that the whole point of science is to use the tools you’re given to help your community solve problems and improve the lives of its members.

“I’m a scientist, yes, but I’m also an advocate for public health. For me, speaking out about the health issues we face as a society is an essential part of the job, and that’s why I think I’ve found the perfect assignment. As a climate researcher, I’m responsible for helping to collect and analyze the research. As a writer and editor, I also get to tell the world about it.”

He pauses for a moment, and then breaks into a giant-sized grin. “How can you beat a job like that?”

“K” Foundation

Executive began building leadership skills on the tennis court, in the classroom, and in the wilderness



by Margaret DeRitter

Photographs on pages 28 and 30 by Susan Andress



If you want to see the value of a liberal arts education and personal determination, take a good look at Linda Simpson.

Simpson came to Kalamazoo College a self-described pauper and now works as an executive for an international news and business information company.

She graduated from “K” in 1986 (as Linda Topolsky) and has worked in human resources since 1989 at companies including Honda, Honeywell, and LexisNexis. Her current position is vice president of human resources for the Healthcare division of Thomson Reuters, based in Ann Arbor.

Yet she’s not one of those hard-driving executives whose success has come at the expense of family. She sets priorities for meeting the needs of her partner and their children as well as her company. “Every day I make out an index card with what I call my hot list—the things I need to accomplish as a mom, as a partner, and as a manager,” Simpson said in an interview from her Ann Arbor office.

Simpson learned to prioritize when she was a student and tennis player at “K.” “On an average day I would be on the tennis court three hours. Sometimes it was more. That forced me to get good at managing my time and prioritizing,” said Simpson, who was the No. 1 player for four years and was inducted into the College’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

Simpson credits a “K” experience with helping her find a career she loves. “I did my SIP (Senior Individualized Project) at General Motors in the organizational development department. That’s really what triggered an interest in working in human resources. I loved the idea of working for a big corporation because it’s complicated, full of challenge, and something that could keep me from getting bored.”

But big companies held another appeal too. “When I first started working, I remember thinking to myself I could be more anonymous in a bigger company. I was uncomfortable growing up in a small town because everyone knew my business.”

Simpson grew up in Harbor Springs. She was voted most likely to succeed in her graduating class of 72 students, but her personal life was difficult. Simpson’s parents divorced when she was 13, her mother moved to Kalamazoo, and Simpson lived with her father.

“He pretty much worked seven days a week. During the winters he would go sell real estate on St. Martin and the Cayman Islands. I spent three years taking care of my sister, who was three years younger.”

As a result, “I had huge trust issues. I was afraid of the intimate collegiality that working in a smaller company would require. The higher up I go (on the corporate ladder) though, it’s almost like a smaller family. I have to coach myself that it’s okay to get closer to people and not be afraid. Debbie has helped me work through a lot of my trust issues.”

Debbie Smith is Simpson’s life partner of the past six years, and their three children are Simpson’s 14-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter and Smith’s 15-year-old daughter. You don’t often hear corporate executives talking about trust issues, let alone a same-sex partner. But Simpson chooses to be open and honest.

“I was out as a lesbian in college. I always made the decision to live openly. I had a great experience at ‘K.’ ‘K’ really values people from all different backgrounds.”

That comment gains significance when you consider that Simpson attended “K” in the early to mid-1980s, an era when the push for gay rights was in its infancy, when legalized gay marriage seemed unthinkable, and long before the College’s Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership opened its doors.

SUCCESS AMERICAN-STYLE

A key part of Simpson’s professional journey has been making a shift from Japanese-run businesses to American-owned corporations.

After working for three years as an admissions counselor, residence hall director, and tennis coach at “K,” Simpson landed her first human resources job at what was then Nippondenso (now Denso), an automotive-parts supplier in Battle Creek where she developed an employee suggestion system. Five years later she moved to Columbus, Ohio, to work for another Japanese



company, Honda.

She says she was encouraged to value teamwork and a soft-spoken style at the Japanese businesses, but she has had to take a more assertive, ego-driven approach to succeed as an executive at American companies.

“I tell people I was raised by the Japanese in corporate America. I was raised to value no ego. Everything was the result of collaboration and teamwork. The Japanese value group consensus. A part of portraying the confidence of a senior executive (in American business) means demonstrating ego. Being quiet, soft-

spoken and modest isn’t a good way to be in a group of people with lots of ego.”

Simpson’s first taste of the difference in business styles came when she took a job as manager of professional development at Eaton Corporation in Cleveland in 2001.

“They say Japanese companies take a year to analyze a decision and a day to implement it, while American companies take a day to analyze a decision and a year to implement it. At the Japanese companies I learned to analyze problems really well, but they didn’t implement a lot. American companies were excited when I wanted to implement something, so I was like a kid in a candy store.”

After about a year at Eaton, Simpson was lured back to Columbus by the opportunity to be the director of human resources for Honeywell. “It was my first human-resources leadership role.”

She found this transition a less dramatic one than the move from Japanese to American companies. “I’m better at being in charge. I loved it.”

Simpson had long been a goal setter—even in her early 20s she had a five-year and a 10-year plan for her life—and one of her goals was to become a company vice president. To do that with Honeywell, she would have had to move to Arizona, and that would have meant leaving behind two of her children, whose other mother had custody of them.





As vice president of human resources at Healthcare Division of Thomson Reuters in Ann Arbor, Simpson enjoys showing other managers how to help employees lead balanced lives. Here she consults with colleagues Senta Reyes (left) and Tammy Taylor.

“I couldn’t leave my kids. I came to terms with the fact that if I wanted to move up (within Honeywell), I’d have to move to Phoenix, so I looked for jobs in Ohio instead.”

In 2004, she landed a job at LexisNexis in the Cincinnati area. “That was the first time I was a vice president,” she said. “I knew I liked to manage people and that I did it well, but to be an executive required a confidence I had to build over time. My six years with LexisNexis were a time of cutting my teeth as an executive, becoming confident as a decision-maker and developing my ability to express myself verbally in simple terms.”

“K” CONTRIBUTIONS

Simpson credits her College experiences—from academics to sports to other extracurricular activities—for giving her a ticket out of poverty and nurturing her as a future business leader.

“I was a solid tennis player, but I wouldn’t have been good enough to play at a Division I school,” she said. “Tennis taught me to set goals for myself. I would lift weights and run sprints to work toward achieving my goals. This added to the foundation of confidence that I have as a leader today.”

This sense of discipline also helped her with her studies, said Simpson, who majored in psychology. “I was by no means the strongest student. I had to study harder than a lot of students. To graduate from ‘K’ was one of the proudest things I’ve done because I really had to work at it.”

Participating for six years (as both student and staff member) in the LandSea freshman

orientation program also gave her valuable training. The three-week program includes backpacking, canoeing, and a solo experience in the wilds.

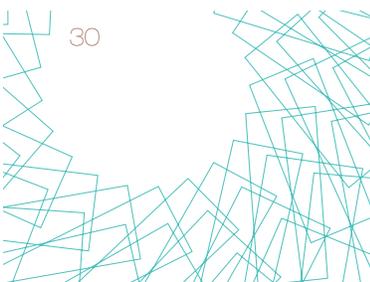
“It was one of the most meaningful things I’ve done in my entire life,” Simpson said. “It contributed to my confidence, my sense of self-reliance and teamwork. When you’re lost in a rugged Canadian wilderness, you can panic easily. You learn how to help people who are feeling really worried.”

One time Simpson was portaging a canoe with a young woman who was struggling. “You had to carry a 40-pound backpack and then carry a canoe over your head with another person. It was raining; we were on the side of a mountain, and it was miserable. I had to raise myself to a different level to help motivate her and build her up emotionally. And I had to teach her that I needed to rely on her to carry the canoe.”

On campus, several adults played key roles for Simpson: tennis coach (and Professor Emerita of Physical Education) Tish Loveless, who guided her through many new experiences in sports and travel; psychology professor Pat Ponto (now director of the College’s Counseling Center), who offered “a lot of credibility;” and head of financial aid Joellen Silberman (recently retired as vice president of enrollment).

“I came to ‘K’ as a pauper. Jo took me under her wing and helped me get loans and sometimes gave me loans herself so I could buy books.”

Simpson also lauds “K” for helping her develop her analytical ability. “‘K’ gave me a way of seeing the world as a system and a set of interconnected components. That’s kind of my sweet spot, what I offer to businesses, is the ability to see the complex and the way the



parts fit together.”

That ability has made her good at fixing problems, she said, part of what she does now at Thomson Reuters, where she began working in late 2010 after six years at the Dayton location of publisher Reed Elsevier.

“I manage a team responsible for recruiting, helping employees resolve problems, designing incentive plans, and writing performance objectives to make sure that what employees do aligns with the strategic priorities of the business. I love helping to shape the strategy of our company and really get excited about helping leaders put goals in place to help employees stay aligned with what matters to the company.”

Simpson keeps an apartment in Ann Arbor and a permanent residence in Powell, Ohio, closer to her two children, who live primarily with their other mother in Columbus. Simpson sees those children at least twice a week, and they live with her and Debbie every other weekend. Their 15-year-old lives with them all week.

“I’m a very balanced person in that I love to work but I work to live. Work to me is a means to an end. My family matters a lot to me.”

Simpson also enjoys showing other managers how to help their employees lead balanced lives. She finds that people who make time for their families and friends and for interests outside of work are better employees.

“It can be particularly tough for people who are bright. They have a lot of ego wrapped up in the job. But I always tell people it’s okay to get a ‘B’ in business. It’s not okay to get an ‘A’ if it means alienating your co-workers and your spouse.

“When you’re in school, the goal for any ambitious person is to get an ‘A.’ Especially at ‘K,’ you kind of drive for perfection. In business, that ambition and drive will serve one well. But in business, it’s not about getting an ‘A,’ it’s about producing



Simpson (right) works hard to balance her corporate and family lives. She’s pictured in Harbor Springs, Michigan, with her father Bob Topolsky, partner Debbie Smith, and the couple’s three children.

high-quality work fast and moving it on to another person to collaborate with them. So it’s not about producing perfection. It’s more important to collaborate and do something 80 percent perfect than 100 percent.”

Simpson tries to follow her own advice but sometimes struggles with the tradeoffs. It’s a big challenge “managing everything that goes on in my head and what I want to accomplish in a given day with what’s practical and reasonable to do. There are always so many more things I want to do. An overactive brain can cause you stress if you don’t manage it right. I try to simplify my life by doing these hot lists, but it’s hard sometimes.”

And despite her career success, Simpson must deal with a painful personal reality. “The irony, for all of my achievements, and I consider myself a pretty accomplished professional, is that as a mom I don’t have custody of my own kids in Ohio. Two women legally can’t have custody.”

Maybe someday her alma mater will help her yet again if

someone trained at its new Arcus Center can help bring justice to parents like her.



Simpson was inducted into the Kalamazoo College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Among other honors, she was MIAA MVP (1983, 1984, 1985); an All-MIAA First Team selection (1983, 1984, 1985); and a member of the third place team (pictured at left, with Simpson seated in the middle) at the NCAA Division III National Championships (1986).



Family Fabric

by Paul Morgan

Carrie Graveel '96, Ph.D., admits that she hadn't heard that much about Kalamazoo College when she was a three-sport star at Climax-Scotts High School and also at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

Now, the College is part of her fabric, and family.

"My husband, David Diegel, is the brother of one of my "K" basketball teammates (Mary Helen Diegel '97)," Graveel said. "And still to this day, I have close friendships with people from the basketball team. We're all over the world and it's hard to see each other, but we find a way to keep in touch."

On the other hand, Graveel has stayed close to her western Michigan roots. She's a Senior Research Scientist in the Vande Woude Lab at the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, working on breast cancer research.

"*Met* is a receptor in the cell that is involved in the progression of many types of cancer," she said. "Our research has shown that the *Met* oncogene is highly expressed in triple negative breast cancers."

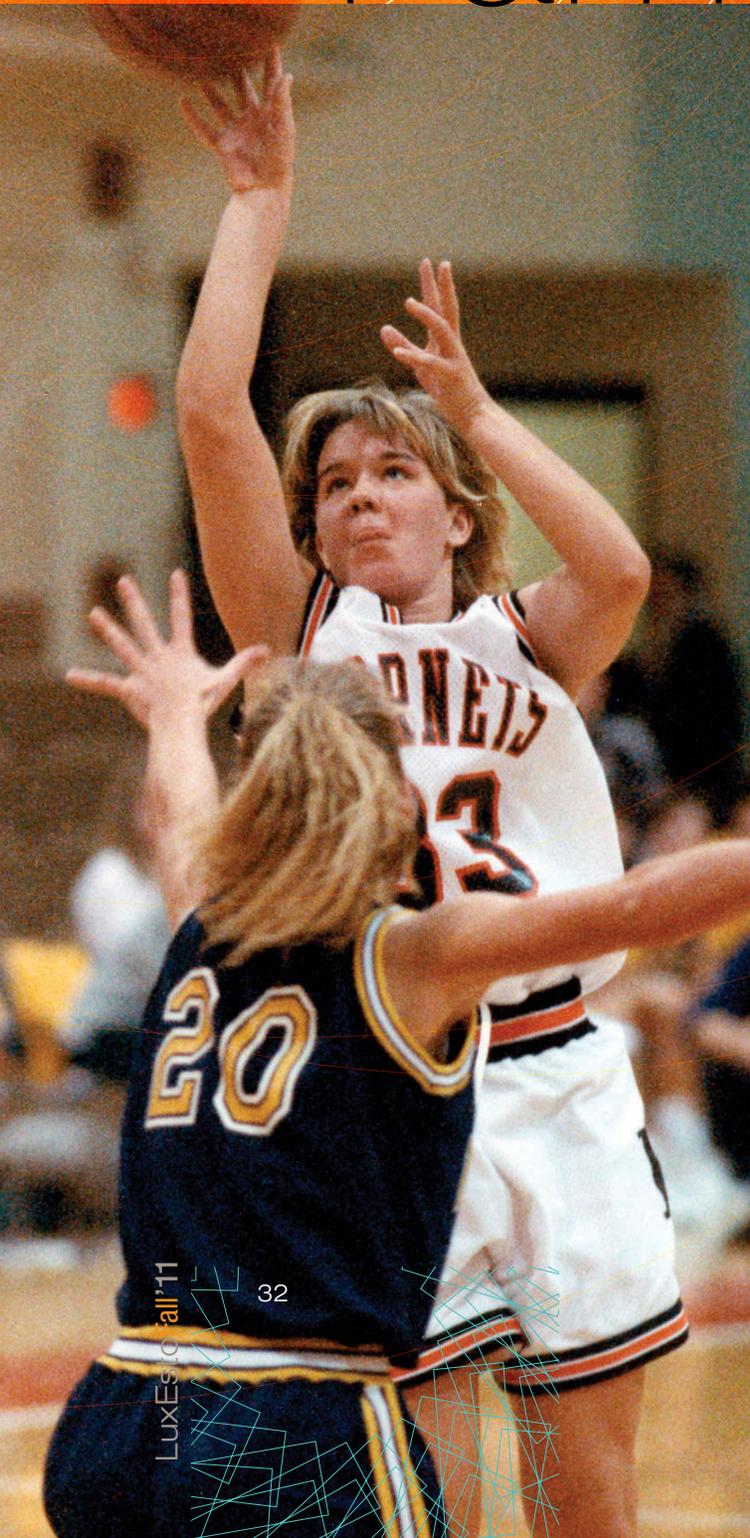
"Triple negative breast cancer is an extremely aggressive subtype of breast cancer that responds poorly to most therapies and has an overall poor prognosis. Currently, I am investigating the role of *Met* in both breast cancer progression and metastasis and determining whether *Met* may be an effective target for treatments."

Graveel had a lot to think about when she graduated from Climax-Scotts. Her goal was to be an NCAA Division I basketball player, but she liked what she saw at Kalamazoo College.

"The number of students in each class and the study abroad program were influences," she said. "The fact that I could go to any country at age 18 was a big factor."



It wasn't easy to be at such a challenging college..."





Badgers family: (l-r) David, James, Benjamin, and Carrie

“I went to Germany in 1993 and it was one of the most amazing experiences in my life.” What she learned quickly, though, was how to balance her basketball, classes, and study time. “It wasn’t easy to be at such a challenging college, but I wanted to play basketball and I didn’t want to give it up,” Graveel said.

In her four-year career, the team had some ups and downs, but she never wavered on wanting to play.

“In my sophomore year, it hit me how much I was going to be academically and athletically challenged at ‘K,’” she said. “From September through March I had basketball, but I never questioned about giving anything up.

“You just figure out how to balance everything. It was difficult, but it was awesome.”

And rewarding, not only for her, but for her family, too. She found a ready-made cheering section in her mother and father who went to all the basketball games.

“It was nice my parents could go to my games,” Graveel said. “And for me, I could run home for dinner on a Friday night and then just come back to school, rather than being so far away that I would be gone the entire weekend.”

She graduated with a degree in chemistry, even though she knew she would be going into biology.

After graduating from “K,” Graveel spent a year at the pharmaceutical company, Pharmacia and Upjohn, and also served as an assistant basketball coach at her college alma mater. She then enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997 and graduated from there in 2002 before starting her post doctorate fellowship.

She has been at the Van Andel Research Institute since 2007, but she still hasn’t given up being an athlete. When she was at Wisconsin, she decided to make a change, though.

“When I went to grad school, I only could find co-ed basketball teams and I didn’t like that,” she said. “I ended up playing hockey and really enjoyed it.

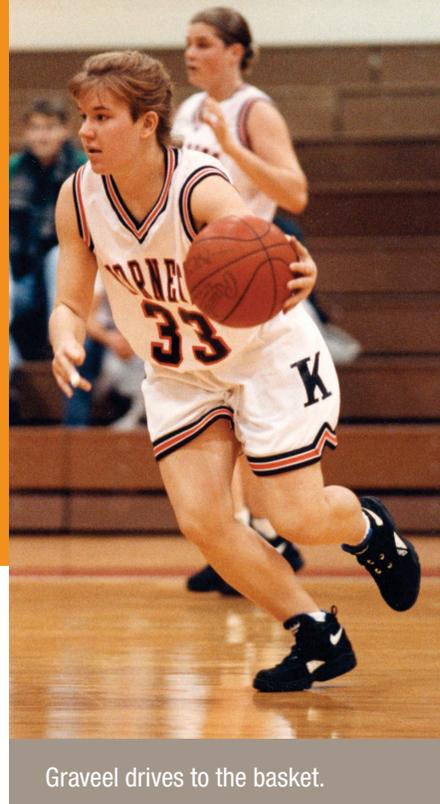
“There is more contact allowed in hockey and you’re expected to push people around.”

Graveel has been playing for the West Michigan Blizzard women’s hockey team since 2002. She also keeps busy coaching her son Ben’s soccer team. She and her husband, David Diegel, have another son, James, who is 3.

“I do miss coaching basketball, and I enjoyed it immensely,” she said. “I wasn’t that talented, but I could see the plays and tell people what to do.”

Her time at Kalamazoo College helped her prepare for juggling being a parent, wife, player, coach, and research scientist.

“It was definitely the best experience for me,” she said.



Graveel drives to the basket.



Graveel in her cancer research laboratory. She earned her B.A. in chemistry; her Ph.D. in biology

Thank You, Donors!



How about this for a definition of goal-shattering: Because of your generosity, the Kalamazoo College Fund exceeded its goal by 6.6 percent during the 2010-2011 fiscal year, raising a total of \$1,916,151! Thank you!

What a difference you have made to the *K-Plans* of current and future students.

Ajka Suljevic explains ...



...I give to the Kalamazoo College Fund because I want others to be able to have the same (if not a better) fabulous 'K' experience."



Why I Give

by Ajka Suljevic

Simply put, without the Kalamazoo College Fund (KCF), I would not have been able to attend Kalamazoo College. Many of the scholarships I received, though I did not know it at the time, came from KCF. Without attending Kalamazoo College I would not have had my study abroad experience in China, or my SIP experience in Bosnia. Most importantly, without these scholarships I would have never had the opportunity to meet the people that I did—from professors, to staff, to fellow classmates. I consider them all a part of my family.

It's only been a little over a year since I graduated from "K"—I don't have a "grown-up" job and am about to start my service in the Peace Corps—but I still give to KCF. I know that my gift, no matter the size, has the potential to make a big difference. Especially when young alumni contribute, the collective impact is enormous.

Essentially, I give to the Kalamazoo College Fund because I want others to be able to have the same (if not a better) fabulous "K" experience. Personally, I think it's important for young alumni to get involved in giving because alumni as a whole are all working together to reach a common goal, and every bit helps!

Who knows—maybe your gift can be the one that gets the Kalamazoo College Fund to its goal!

If you think you don't have a reason to give back to the Kalamazoo College Fund, just think about the friendships you have built, the times you spent relaxing on the Quad, and the times you spent exploring Kalamazoo—and I'm sure plenty of reasons will jump out at you.

Be Light,
Ajka Suljevic '10

The Kalamazoo College Fund Supports:

- Student Scholarships
- Faculty Excellence
- Immediate Needs

Make a gift online at www.kzoo.edu/giving



Legacies

Kalamazoo College is a family affair, literally—a fact most evident come Commencement. On the morning of their graduation, “Legacy Seniors” from the Class of 2011 joined their “K” alumni relatives (l-r): front row—James L. VanZandt '60, grandfather of Sasha H. VanZandt '11; Chad E. VanZandt '93, Sasha's father; Sasha H. VanZandt '11; Christine Rau '81, mother of Eva-Marie Schmidt '11; Eva-Marie Schmidt '11; Peter Roukema '79, Eva-Marie's stepfather; Andrew Bayci '07, brother of Melissa Bayci '11; Melissa Bayci '11; Marissa Trierweiler '11; Danielle Trierweiler '07, Marissa's sister; Leah Baughman '11; Andrew L. Baughman '78, Leah's uncle; second row—Dan Thomson '78, father of Julie Thomson '11; Cathie (Kroeschell) Thomson '77, Julie's mother; Ross Beattie '11; Kim Beattie '72, Ross' father; Denelle Wrightson '78, aunt of Jordan Easterday '11; Jordan Easterday '11; William Rogers '54, grandfather of Hope Elizabeth Rogers von Gunten '11; Hope Elizabeth Rogers von Gunten '11; Kristaps Butners '11; Heinrich Videnieks '67, Kristaps' godfather; back row—David Cafmeyer '81, father of Tom Cafmeyer '11; April Cafmeyer '79, Tom's mother; Tom Cafmeyer '11; Harold Hermanson '11; Hal Hermanson '76, Harold's father; Brandon Nuyen '11; Joe Nuyen '79, Brandon's father; Jennifer (Thomson) Lamberts '07, sister of Julie Thomson '11; and Julie Thomson '11.



Food Flight

In December, 2010, David Hammond '73, Abigail Berg-Hammond '04, and Carolyn Berg '72 visited Strasbourg, France, where David did foreign study. The family visited Christmas markets in France and Switzerland (David was researching an article for his “Food Detective” column in the *Chicago Sun-Times*). Abigail is living in Geneva and works for the World Economic Forum. Carolyn's birthday was celebrated in Switzerland with oysters, champagne, and foie gras. She said it was “the best birthday ever!”





A Soccer Swansong...of Sorts

Hardy Fuchs has the distinction of coaching during the last official soccer game that played on the old MacKenzie Field (renovation of which began this spring). And that final game was sweet and special—a men's alumni team versus the Hornet varsity team. The match took place April 30, on a beautiful day, and it was a close contest that the varsity eventually won, 2-1. Twenty-five alumni returned for the annual event. They included (l-r): front row--Sam Groppi '10, Andrew Kemple '04, Justin Evans '09, Matt Goldberg '07, Brett Stinar '04, David Dwaihy '02; second row--Nick Robell '10, Patrick Tetreault '02, Scott MacDonald '07, Ryan Drutchas '08, Nate Victor '07, Bryan Rekowski '10, Patrick Lannen '06, Evan Wright '07, J.J. Jansons '05, Stefano Crescentini '08, Jackson Buell '04, Nick Carlin-Voigt '04, Coach Emeritus Hardy Fuchs '68; back row--Ben Schroeder '09, Erik Bianchi '08, Joe Boss '08, and John Klein '10. Fuchs posed for a final shot after the match. Both photos are courtesy of Nancy Jansons, mother of J.J. Jansons.



Church Bells

The Reverend Doctor Kelly Brill '80 and Russell Cooper '89, along with the Embellish Handbell Ensemble, participated in the morning services at Kelly's church, Avon Lake United Church of Christ, near Cleveland, Ohio, this past spring.



Lorraine (Russell) Evenhuis '36 died April 22, 2011, at age 95. She was born in Trowbridge, Mich. She graduated from Kalamazoo College with a B.A. in history and worked for AT&T.

Jack W. Hartung '38 died June 21, 2011, at age 94. A naval officer during World War II, a business executive, and a big band musician, Hartung grew up in Kalamazoo and later moved to Greenville, S.C., where he was involved with the John Knox Presbyterian Church and enjoyed classes at Osher Lifetime Learning at Furman University.

Carlton Henry Jacob Moore '41 died May 31, 2011. He graduated from Kalamazoo College with a B.A. in biology and then attended Wayne State Medical School before serving in the Army during World War II. After leaving the military, he worked for Abbott Pharmaceuticals. Following his career at Abbott, Moore retired to Florida, where he golfed, played a number of musical instruments, and cheered for the Nebraska Cornhuskers. He belonged to a number of organizations, including the Masonic Lodge, the VFW, and the American Legion, among others.

Matthew S. Van Keuren '41 died June 14, 2011. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1944 and saw action in Japan, Korea, and the Republic of Congo during a long military career that earned him various honors, including the American Defense Medal and Korean Service Medal. When he wasn't on tour, he taught in the National Reserve Officer Training Corps in Atlanta, Honolulu, and Sacramento.

Eric L. Pratt '42 died on May 26, 2011, at age 91. He studied chemistry and played tennis at "K" before serving in the Navy aboard the destroyer, *USS Valette*, in the Pacific. He had a long career at the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo and volunteered his time and skills to many organizations, including the Red Cross, Care-A-Van, Meals on Wheels, and the People's Church. Survivors include his wife, Patricia (Miller) Pratt '47.

Marian (Wilson) Simmons '42 died May 18, 2011, in Novi, Michigan.



She was 91 years old. Marian matriculated to Kalamazoo College along with high school sweetheart Luel Simmons '42. They married in 1943. At "K," Marian was Editor-in-Chief of the *Index* and a staff member for the *Boiling Pot*. She was a member of the Student Senate, the College Singers, and Kappa Pi. She also worked in the College's communication office during her student years writing news releases for the College. She was invited to continue that work as a full-time employee after she graduated but declined the position. Marian was listed in

Who's Who of American College and University Students. Throughout her life she continued a close relationship with Kalamazoo

College, one that eventually stretched to seven decades! She spent two years working with Hayden Ambrose in the College's advancement department as the primary fundraiser for the Paul Lamont Thompson Memorial Lecture Series. She served as class agent for the Class of 1942 for 46 years. She also was a member of the Women's Council, the Stetson Society, the 1833 Society, the Alumni Executive Board, and the Emeritus Club. Marian and Luel served as co-presidents of the Emeritus Club for four years. She was honored with the Kalamazoo College Distinguished Service Award and the Kalamazoo College Emeritus Club Citation of Merit. Marian also worked tirelessly to encourage students to attend Kalamazoo College. A recent example is Aidis Tuxhari '09, who distinguished herself as a leader in the Kalamazoo College Guilds Initiative. Marian and Luel established at the College the Luel and Marian Simmons Scholarship Fund. The couple loved to travel and, in true "K" spirit, did so extensively. Survivors besides Luel include the couple's daughter Marylu (Simmons) Andrews '66.

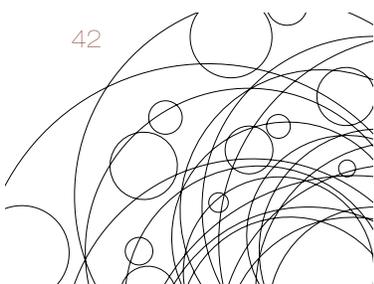
James Phillip Kerchner '43 died Thursday, April 28, 2011, in Sturgis, Mich., where he lived. He was captain of the Hornet basketball team for two years and a veteran of the United States Army, serving in World War II. He earned his "K" degree in economics and business. Kerchner co-managed the Sturgis Lumber and Supply Co., and for several years was a vocational instructor for the building trades program at Sturgis High School before owning his own contracting business.

Edward H. Lincoln '45 died April 4, 2011. He graduated from "K" with a degree in chemistry. After a teaching fellowship at the University of Illinois, assisting U.S. soldiers as they returned from active duty following World War II, he began a 35-year career at the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, working in chemistry research and product development.

Jacqueline (Bowen) Anderson '46 died April 26, 2011, in Kalamazoo. She earned her degree in psychology and was active in the Pan American Club, College Players, and the *Index*. She worked as a social worker for the State of Michigan, became an accomplished photographer, and operated an antiques business in her later years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hugh Anderson '43, a former "K" College trustee.

Nanita Lillian (Wetherbee) Lusso '46 died March 20, 2011, at age 86 in Portage, Mich. At "K" she earned her bachelor's degree in biology. She was employed by Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, where she worked in diagnostics and research bacteriology, and helped to develop the pneumococcal vaccination. Lusso was later employed by the Upjohn Company in its bacteriological department and continued as a lab technician for several Kalamazoo-area physicians until her retirement at age 75. Among her survivors are her brother L. James Wetherbee, Jr., '46 and sister-in-law Marilyn Wetherbee '46 of Northport, Mich.

Mary E. (Stover) Mallory '46 died on January 30, 2011. She was 87. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and married fellow "K" graduate, Robert Mallory '49, who survives. Mary was very active in community affairs including the Naugatuck (Conn.) Day Care Board, Naugatuck Congregational Church, and the American Association of University Women.



Robert Melvin (Bob) Chittenden '48 died on December 16, 2010. He was 87. Chittenden earned his bachelor's degree in physics and was an avid amateur radio operator. He passed his licensing requirements at age 15 and was a radio operator during World War II. He was a laboratory technologist in the clinical medical field for many years.

Peter Dyksterhouse Sr., '48 died June 19, 2011. He served in the Army during World War II and then earned a B.A. in history from "K." He later earned an M.A. from the University of Michigan. Dyksterhouse enjoyed a long career in public education as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in Kalamazoo Public Schools. He was passionate about music, serving as a soloist, choir director, organist, and guest musician for many Kalamazoo churches.

John Leslie White '48 died May 9, 2011. He earned a B.A. in chemistry and M.S. in organic chemistry from Kalamazoo College and worked as a pharmaceutical chemist for the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo. He later earned a J.D. (with honors) from the George Washington University Law School before embarking on a long career in intellectual property law. His list of achievements include co-founding the Arlington (Va.) intellectual property law firm of Millen, White, Zelano & Branigan; authoring the textbook *Chemical Patent Practice*; and serving as Chairman of the American Intellectual Property Law Association Chemical Practice Committee. During his retirement, he was a featured singer with the Humboldt Light Opera Company.

Marcia Barnes Bertsch '49 died on January 1, 2011, at age 85 at her home in Porter Hills, Michigan. She attended Kalamazoo College and graduated from the Butterworth School of Nursing in Grand Rapids and Albion College. She started her career as a maternity nurse at Butterworth in the early 1950s. She discontinued her nursing career to raise a family and then returned to maternity nursing at Blodgett Hospital until her retirement at age 77.

Kendrieth M. Rowland, Sr., '49 died on December 30, 2010. He served in both World War II and the Korean War. After World War II he graduated from Kalamazoo College with a B.A. in sociology. In 1950 he married Jean E. Smith '50, who survives. After leaving military service (1953) Rowland worked as a psychiatric social worker. Later he served as communications and training director of KVP Sutherland Paper Company in Kalamazoo. He earned an M.B.A. (1962) and D.B.A. (1965) from Indiana University and then joined the faculty at the University of Illinois as assistant professor of business administration. He was promoted to professor in 1974. During his tenure at University of Illinois he served as associate head of the Department of Business Administration, a teacher in the Executive M.B.A. Program, director of graduate studies in business administration, and director of the Master of Science Program for International Managers. He retired as an emeritus professor of business administration in 1992. He is survived by six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. One of his grandsons, Kendrieth M. Rowland, III, is a member of the Class of 2014.

Harry Lincoln Brown '50 died on December 6, 2010, at his home in Memphis, Tenn. He was 87. Brown was born in Otsego, Michigan, and was a World War II veteran of the Marine Corps and Navy. He earned his B.A. in economics and business, and he owned New South Sales, an automotive parts sales company. He enjoyed exercise and activity with his many friends at the Jewish Community Center in Memphis.

Hugh J. Kennedy, Jr., '50 died March 29, 2011, at age 84. He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy. He worked for Goodwill Industries of Muskegon County (Mich.) for 21 years, serving as president from 1978 to 1992. Under his leadership, the agency expanded its projects to include a sheltered workshop and recycling program, and expanded the variety of people served beyond those with mental or physical disabilities to include people who had never held a job or were employed below their abilities. Hugh served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was a graduate of the Divinity School at the University of Chicago.

Kenneth A. Youngs '50 died January 29, 2011, in Kalamazoo at age 82. A lifelong resident of the Kalamazoo area, and a football standout at "K," Ken worked as a chemist with the Upjohn Company for more than 30 years. He enjoyed flower gardening, raising Christmas trees on the family farm, and spending time at the family cottage on Gull Lake near Kalamazoo.

Eugene L. Childress '51 died May 10, 2011, at his home in Three Rivers, Mich. He majored in political science, was a member of the Economics Club, and served as assistant manager of the tennis team. A Korean War veteran, Childress worked for Fibre Converters, Inc., retiring as vice president in 1990. He was long involved in Rotary, Shriners, Jaycees, Three Rivers Hospital Auxiliary, Boy Scouts, his church, and many other local organizations. He was a ham radio operator for more than 40 years and a licensed pilot who taught Power Squadron classes. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth (Osborn) Childress '50.

Richard S. "Dick" Thomas '51 died February 20, 2011. He earned his bachelor's degree in history and worked for General Electric for 30 years in a variety of global assignments. He also worked for Scott Aviation, Inc. (Lancaster, NY), Panasote, Inc. (Greenwich, Conn.), and retired (1990) as international vice president of Rubbermaid. After his retirement, Thomas was the principal of Global Dynamics, Ltd. He also served as adjunct professor of international business at the University of Akron and as the interim director of Career Development with the College of Wooster. He was engaged in many civic activities.

John (Jack) L. Foster '52 died January 25, 2011. He matriculated to "K" from Grand Rapids, and graduated *magna cum laude* from the College. He attended Harvard University then served in the U.S. Army Security Agency, primarily in Germany. He returned to academia and received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. Foster taught American Literature at Roosevelt University in Chicago and was a



research associate with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. He focused on ancient Egyptian literature and published extensively in his field, including books of translations from hieroglyphs to English such as *Love Songs of the New Kingdom* and *Echoes of Egyptian Voices*. He was an active member of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Voices and the American Research Center in Egypt. He edited the latter's journal, *JARCE*, for several years. He is survived by his wife, Gloria (Wallace) Foster '53, and their three children.

Charles W. Maltby '53 died June 9, 2011. A Kalamazoo native, Maltby earned his B.A. in chemistry at "K" and Western Michigan University, all the while developing a passion for art that would lead him to the field of architecture. He worked as a draftsman for Kingscott's, a local firm, while studying architecture from home. After becoming a registered architect, he was employed at several firms and eventually retired from Diekema Hamann in 1987. He was an outdoor enthusiast who documented his hikes through Yellowstone with the same sharp eye and attention to detail that served him professionally.

Richard D. Crooks '54 died on March 8, 2011, at the age of 78. He came to "K" from Saginaw Arthur Hill High School in 1950 and graduated four years later as a music major. He earned a Masters of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1961. Early in his career, Reverend Crooks served as chaplain and teacher at the New Hampton (New Hampshire) School and as pastor of the New Hampton Community Church. He later served for many years as the pastor of Sanbornton (New Hampshire) Congregational Church. Crooks also taught English and served as music director for Winnisquam Regional High School in Tilton, New Hampshire, and later taught at Olivet (Michigan) College while holding the pastorate at Olivet Congregational Church. For the past 30 years he lived in the Rochester (N.Y.) area and was involved in many activities, including permanent music teaching positions, as well as substitute teaching in all subjects. His great loves were music, reading, and his family and friends.

Lloyd Joseph Johnson '54 died June 5, 2011. He attended Kalamazoo College where he played football. He left "K" to enlist in the Marines. He served three years and earned several military awards. Johnson was the second African-American fireman hired by the City of Kalamazoo, and the first African American to reach the rank of firefighter. He retired from the department after 25 years. Johnson was an active member of the community, involved with the Kalamazoo Public Schools, the Northside Rocket football program, and the NAACP.

Frank D. Ward '54 died on December 9, 2010. He earned his B.A. in history and a master's degree in education (Western Michigan University). He worked as a teacher for Clintondale Public Schools in Detroit and then

for the Broward County Schools in Florida. He was an avid reader and a member of St. Joseph

Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus in Kalamazoo. Ward also was an active and proud "K" Alumni Association member.

Nancy (Higdon) Baum '55 died February 28, 2011, at age 77. She earned her bachelor's degree in English and completed graduate work at the University of Michigan. Her career and devotion to dance spanned 64 years. She studied and performed in Chicago before receiving teacher training with the Ellis-Duboulay School of Ballet, Chicago; Royal Academy of Dance, London; and Western Michigan University. Higdon founded Ballet Arts in Grand Haven, Mich., in 1965. She created a dance department at Creighton University (Omaha, Nebraska) and taught at Aquinas College, Hope College, and Grand Valley State University. She developed a dance program for the Holland Area Arts Council, serving as instructor and director for 10 years. She was the dance director and instructor at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp for 22 years. In 1999 Higdon received the Dance Teacher of the Year Award from the Michigan Dance Council.

Kyle Kirkland Lausee '58 died March 14, 2011, in Huntsville, Alabama. He was 75 years old. He was employed as a maintenance supervisor by General Motors.

Janet Marie (Adducci) Parker '60 died April 26, 2011. She matriculated to "K" from Chicago and earned her degree in sociology. She was active in many co-curricular activities, including Student Senate, Drama Club, Eurodelphian Gamma, the Overley Society, Spanish Club, and College Players. She worked in physical therapy throughout most of her career and began a community theater group, participating both as an actor and a director. She was an avid tennis player and golfer, and enjoyed playing the piano, singing, and traveling.

John Dancer Mason '63 died on January 15, 2011, in Boston at age 69. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Sharon, two children, and 12 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son Matthew. John earned his B.A. in economics and business. At "K," he lettered in basketball and baseball. After earning a Ph.D. in economics (Michigan State University) he moved to Hamilton, Mass., where he began a 39-year career as a professor at Gordon College. John helped organize and then served for many years as secretary-treasurer of the Association of Christian Economists. He also served for many years on the board of the Emmanuel Gospel Center in Boston. In addition to teaching, John's research focused on finding solutions for the problems of the inner city.

Robert Whitehill Woodruff '64 died March 22, 2011, in Kalamazoo. He was 69 years old. He was a member of the undefeated Hornet football team of 1962 and was forever proud of that achievement and the team's recent induction into the College's Hall of Fame. Woodruff lived for many years in Breckenridge, Colo., where he played and coached rugby, and in Twisp, Wash.

John J. Barnhart '65 died July 4, 2011, at age 68. After graduating from "K" with a B.A. in economics, he went on to a long career as an accounting manager for General Foods, as well as W.G. Moe & Sons and Hamilton Engines in Oregon. His study abroad experience in France gave him a



lifelong passion for the country and he would return there many times. Barnhart spent the last 13 years of his life in Milwaukie, Ore.

David Owen Huntington '65 of Dearborn, Michigan, died January 25, 2011. David served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and worked for Revere Copper and Brass, and for Complex Steel and Wire, both in the Detroit area.

Richard Harvey Bradley '66 died on December 7, 2010. He earned his B.A. in mathematics at "K" and earned a M.S. in computer science from Penn State University. Bradley worked for Lucent Technologies for 30 years. He loved music, playing violin in a symphony orchestra and singing in several choirs. He is survived by his wife, three children, five grandchildren, a sister and a brother.

Elizabeth (Barnhart) Cump '67 died December 19, 2010, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, following a brief illness. "Betsy" received her B.A. degree in biology and then worked as a research assistant at the University of Chicago before raising her family in Hinsdale, Illinois, and studying ceramics. In 1998 she moved to Chapel Hill to work as a graphics professional in the marketing department of an architectural firm in Durham.

Kurt Ostling '74 died from heart failure on May 12, 2011. He was a division manager for the Labatt Brewing Company until 1999 when he purchased the Timber Ridge Golf Course in East Lansing. Ostling earned his B.A. degree in political science, and he played three years of varsity basketball for the Hornets. He pursued a lifelong passion for basketball, traveling the country to watch games. He was a philanthropist who supported the Brain Cancer Research Program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Roscommon County Community Foundation, Roscommon Animal Shelter, Cincinnati Arts Association, and Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Dale Redeker, Jr. '76 died on February 27, 2011. He lived in Longmont, Colo.

Jacalyn "Jacie" (Hart) Hadden '78 died on December 24, 2010, at age 54. She earned her B.A. in sociology. She worked for Consumers Energy for more than 20 years, most recently as vice president of state government affairs, and was recognized by her peers as a top lobbyist in the state. At the time of her death she was on staff with the Republican Michigan House of Representatives.

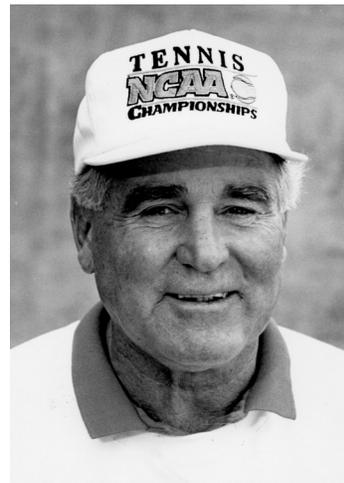
Kevin Mack, M.D. '80 died on July 14, 2011, in a shuttle bus collision with a semi-trailer. He was a passenger in the bus on its way to San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH). Mack earned his B.A. in health sciences and studied abroad in Strasbourg, France. He earned his medical degree at the University of Hawaii. Mack was an associate professor in the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF) department of psychiatry and an expert in bipolar and psychotic disorders. He worked with the World Health Organization developing problem-based learning programs for use in Africa and the South Pacific. He served as an advisory college mentor in the UCSF School of Medicine and as the director of Educational Technology in the

UCSF-Berkeley Joint Medical Program. "He was a role model for his students and an inspiration for his colleagues," said UCSF School of Medicine Dean Sam Hawgood. "He had a strong commitment to global health and medical education in resource-poor settings," said A. Sue Carlisle, associate dean of SFGH, with which UCSF is affiliated and where Mack based his work in bipolar and psychotic disorders. He is survived by his husband and two young children.

Joseph John Gallagher, II, '86 died June 6, 2011. At "K" he majored in theatre arts and volunteered as a counselor for young students. After graduation, he received a scholarship for Southern Methodist University and worked as a software quality control technician for Amazon and Microsoft. He was passionate about his work, gourmet cooking, and fine wine.

Noah Kokoszka '11 died on April 18, 2011. He graduated in 2007 from Detroit Catholic Central High School and was a member and a captain of the Hornet football team. The biology major studied abroad in Costa Rica and served as a Residence Assistant. He is survived by his parents, two brothers, and a sister, and many members of his extended family.

George Acker, professor emeritus of physical education, died on July 20, 2011. Coach Acker served as a coach and professor at Kalamazoo College



for 35 years (1958-93) and was inducted into the Kalamazoo College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. He coached men's tennis teams to seven NCAA Division III championships while winning 35 consecutive MIAA championships. His tennis teams were 537-231 overall and an incredible 209-1 in conference. He also served as head coach of the Hornet wrestling (1960-74) and cross-country (1985-88) teams, was line coach for the football team (1959-69), and served as the College's athletic trainer and director of intramurals

at different times during his career. Most of all, he loved teaching. "Nothing has given me as much pleasure as teaching the students in my theory and activities classes," said Acker in 1985, when he accepted the Florence J. Lucasse Award for Excellence in Teaching, the faculty's highest honor. Coach Acker was ahead of his time in understanding the strength of girls in sports and the importance of girls competing. He coached his four daughters throughout their high school, college, and professional careers. His civic endeavors included directing the Kalamazoo City Tennis Program and the Kalamazoo College Tennis Camp, and serving as president of the Western Michigan Tennis Association. He also served as assistant director and associate referee for the USTA Boys 16 & 18 National



Tennis Championships and was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, the Shepherd's Center, and Ministry with Community. His awards were legion and included the College's Weimer K. Hicks Award (1999) for his contributions to the entire "K" community and the USTA's Green Jacket Award for his service to the tournament. He particularly cherished the USTA Tennis Family of the Year, which he and his family received in 1973.

Nelda Balch, professor emerita of theatre arts, died on May 5, 2011. She was 95. She came to Kalamazoo College in 1954 intending to teach for one

year in the College's speech/English department. It was great fortune for "K" that she stayed 27 years and became the guiding spirit of theatre arts, both on campus and throughout the community. When she arrived at "K," theatre there was at a nadir, but not for long under her inspired leadership. She worked tirelessly to make theatre a vital element of the "K" liberal arts experience, and she helped build an international reputation for excellence in theatre for both Kalamazoo College and for



the City of Kalamazoo. Early in her tenure she produced plays—to high acclaim—in the trying conditions of the third floor of Bowen Hall, a facility, according to Professor Emeritus of German Joe Fugate, that "at best could be described as primitive or rudimentary. Today," he added, "members of the community would find it unbelievable. No air conditioning and hot as blazes in the summer. I always thought that those plays were a testament to Nelda's ingenuity." Balch was instrumental in the opening of Kalamazoo College's Dalton Theatre (1964) and the Playhouse (1977), which was the state's first thrust theatre. She founded the Kalamazoo College Festival Playhouse theatre organization and served as its managing director for 25 years. She also was director and reader for Faculty Readers (1960-92). Of this endeavor Professor Emeritus of English Conrad Hilberry said: "No one in the country could match her skill in taking fiction or biography or letters, songs, or bits of movie script and make readers' theatre of it. She was an unparalleled artist in this genre." In addition, Balch served as reader and director of Noontide Tales, assisted the U.S. State Department with visits by theatre professionals from the Middle East, helped choose plays for the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, and worked as a guest professor and director at

Berea College (Berea, Kentucky). She retired

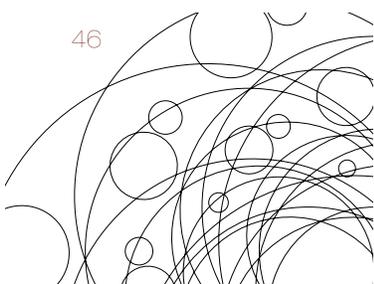
as a full professor of theatre arts in 1981, at which time the Playhouse was renamed the Nelda K. Balch Playhouse to honor her legacy at "K." She continued to teach part-time at the College for the next four years, and by 1985 she had directed and performed in more than 200 productions. In August 1981, on the occasion of her retirement from Kalamazoo College, Con Hilberry wrote and read a poem dedicated to Balch and her work.

Envoy

You have a way with actors, Nelda,
and singers, freshmen who've never held a
script, carpenters who'd build the Eiffel
Tower if you should need it. But most of all
we like the way you take the faculty –
learned, perhaps, but hardly free
of inhibitions or of shaky knees –
and by your unrelenting skill, your ease,
your warmth, your belief in miracles, your tact,
you teach us to forget ourselves and act.

(Photo, courtesy of the Kalamazoo Gazette, shows a 1979 Readers' Theatre presentation called "In the Shade of the Apple Tree." Participants include—clockwise from Nelda Balch, who is front row, at right—Jean Rainsford, Donald Flesche, Claire Myers, and Carrie Curtis.)

David Broder '88, well-known national political columnist, died March 9, 2011, at age 81 of complications from diabetes. Often called "dean of the Washington press corps," Broder won a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 1973 for his 1972 columns that mostly covered the Watergate scandal. He also developed a relationship with Kalamazoo College in the 1970s as a Woodrow Wilson fellow. Broder returned to campus several times, including the College's 1988 commencement when he received an honorary degree and served as speaker. In 1991, he gave six lectures over the spring semester to a political science class taught by Donald Flesche. His last visit to Kalamazoo was in March 2008, when he met informally with students and faculty, and delivered the inaugural Donald C. Flesche Visiting Scholar



Lectureship in Dalton Theatre, an analysis of the U.S. political scene during the run-up to the 2008 presidential elections. Broder (left) is pictured with Flesche, professor emeritus of political science, at the 2008 lecture.

Hortense Golden Canady died on October 23, 2010. She was a Kalamazoo College trustee from 1986 to 1995. At age 14 she worked in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon in the Letter Writing Office of the President of the United States. She also completed her high school diploma by correspondence from her family home in Tennessee. At the age of 16 she enrolled in Fisk University where she earned her bachelor's degree (zoology). After World War II she moved to Lansing with her family, where she became actively engaged in the political and social life of the city and beyond. Among her many accomplishments, Canady served on the board of directors of First of America (now PNC) bank, the National Board of the YWCA, and as national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She was the first African-American member of the Lansing School Board, where she helped forge a coalition of members that voted to desegregate the public schools—an act that led to her recall from office. But her accomplishment and the desegregation of the Lansing schools remained. Later in life Canady earned a master's degree from Michigan State University and served as an administrator in the financial aid office at Lansing Community College. She was the first director of the Lansing Community College Foundation and, in 2002, was elected to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Michael C. Mittelstadt, Ph.D., died on March 4, 2011. Mittelstadt taught classical studies at "K" in the early 1960s. He earned his undergraduate degree from Rockhurst College and his Ph.D. from Stanford University. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He left Kalamazoo College for a faculty position at State University of New York-Binghamton, where he taught classical studies for more than 30 years. Mittelstadt published numerous articles on classical Greek and Latin authors and aspects of their works in many international journals, and he was five times awarded fellowships from the National Endowment of the Humanities to attend and participate in seminars in his field. Mittelstadt was a classic film lover and an outdoor enthusiast.

Ned Ovid Spiess died on January 11, 2011, in Lakeland, Florida. He was 92. He attended the University of Illinois and served during World War II at Percy Jones Hospital (Battle Creek, Mich.). He continued his federal service for more than 30 years and then worked for Kalamazoo College for 10 years before retiring to Florida in 1986.

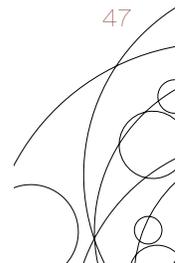
Joel Sportel died on August 1, 2011. For 36 years he served Kalamazoo College as a member of its Facilities Management unit. He was grounds and fleet manager at the time of his passing. Joel married Deia McCormick on October 12, 1985, and she and their daughter, Jori, survive. Joel loved sports and was an avid golfer and bowler. He managed and played recreational softball for many years. He attended Northpoint Church where

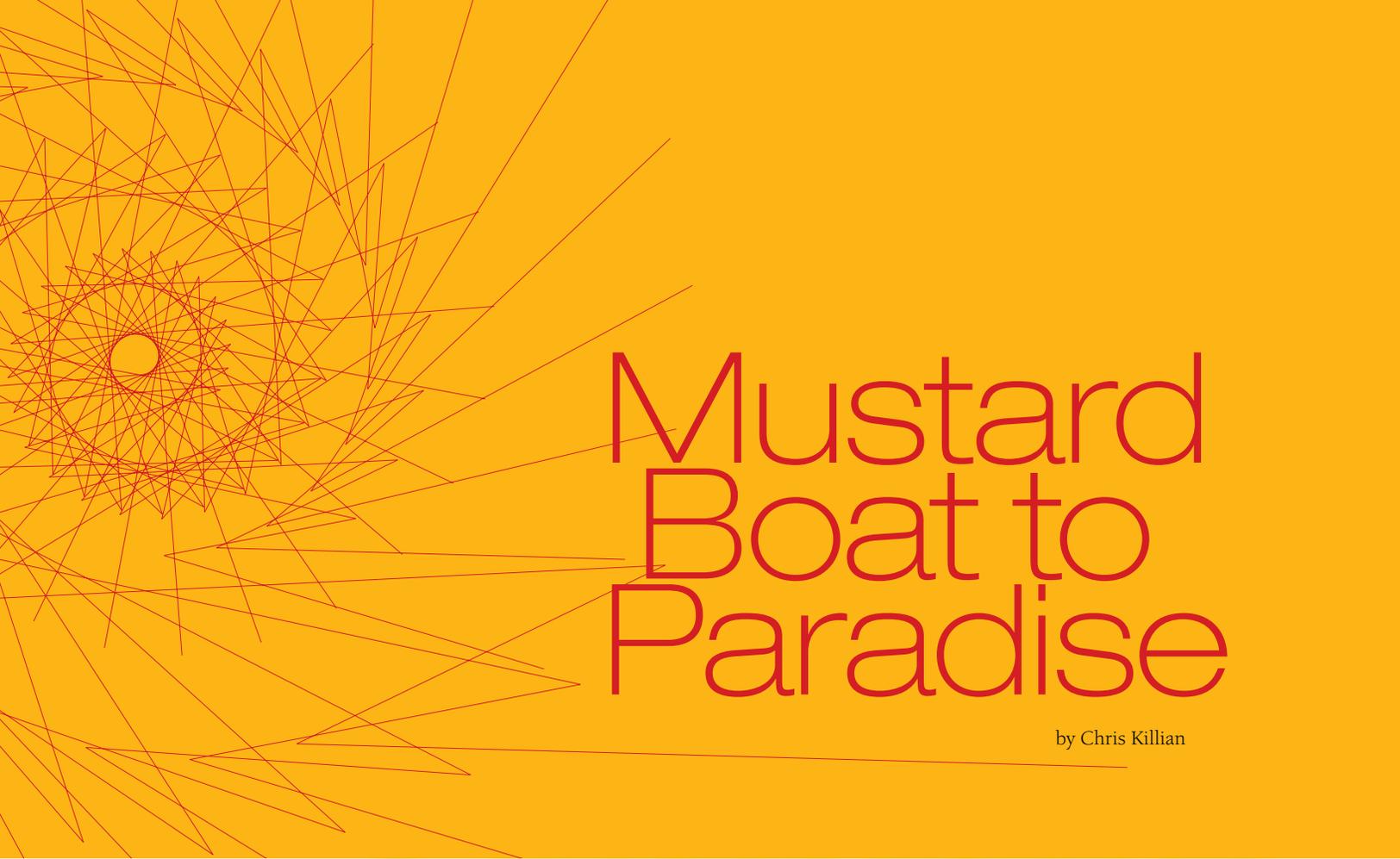
he loved to hear Jori sing with the worship band.

Gerard Thomas died on November 19, 2010, at home in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The long time friend of the College had an extraordinary commitment to the city of Kalamazoo and volunteered his time to many different organizations and causes. He was raised in Rome, New York, and studied at Phillips Academy, Andover. He studied at Harvard until he enlisted during World War II. After the war, he returned to Harvard, and he then earned his law degree at Cornell University. In 1956, he began working for the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, where he worked until his retirement in 1988. Thomas helped the city of Kalamazoo in many ways: working to desegregate area schools as the President of the Kalamazoo Board of Education, working as one of the first outside directors of the Stryker Corporation, and serving on the boards of YWCA, Planned Parenthood, St. Luke's Church Vestry, Fidelity Saving Bank, and Lakeside for Children.

Gertrude "Trudy" Van Zee died on February 6, 2011. She earned two degrees in library science from the University of Michigan. She taught school in Michigan and California and was an assistant librarian at Kalamazoo College from 1942 to 1952. She was a senior catalog librarian at Western Michigan University (1952-1978), where she retired with the title of Associate Professor Emeritus of University Libraries.

Ann Wilson died on March 22, 2011, in Bristol, England. Along with her late husband, Tony, and her son and daughter-in-law, Ann played a major role in the London Theater Program that was located first in London and later in Cambridge. The program was designed especially for "K" theater majors. Generations of students will remember Ann as a motherly and caring woman with a sharp intellect, and an integral knowledge of the Cambridge academic scene and the multifaceted London theater. She was also a talented artist and continued to draw until the time of her death. After retirement Ann lived first in Bristol, to be near her family, and then more recently she was happily installed in a retirement village in the countryside close to Bristol. Her funeral occurred April 4 in Barley, where she had lived most of her life and where she and Tony often hosted students and visitors. Ann requested that anyone who wishes to do something in her memory to please plant a tree. *[This obituary was written by Joe Fugate, Professor Emeritus of German Language and Literature and Director of Emeritus Foreign Study.]*





Mustard Boat to Paradise

by Chris Killian

The overhead, garage door-style gate to Barcade is only halfway open when mustard maven Anna Wolf '05 walks up to the watering hole in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y., peeking inside to shout to a bartender friend: “You guys open?”

It's a minute before 5 p.m., and the bartender jokes: “Yeah, you just made it.”

Sunlight pouring through a skylight rains down on Wolf as she pulls up a seat in a corner of the bar, well-known here for the more than 30 retro video games that line the walls, beckoning many a 20-something from the neighborhood on the weekends, all of whom weren't even thought of when the likes of “Galaga,” “Pengo” or “Ms. Pac Man” were dreamed-up.

Barcade is also known for its large selection of craft beers, and Wolf's imbibing is work-related as well as pleasurable. At the moment, the Howell (Mich.) native and Kalamazoo College classics major is sipping a Founder's Centennial IPA. Wolf, 27, is a self-admitted beer aficionado.

But, perhaps even more, she's a food lover, specifically of condiments.

And of all the items that seem to go well with beer, Wolf found one that suits her perfectly.

“I love beer and I love mustard,” she said. “So it seemed like the perfect combination.” And a perfect vocation, though the pathway to that passion was oblique.

After graduation from “K,” she moved to New York City to pursue a graduate degree in library information sciences. In 2007, with the master's degree in hand, she went to work, with stints at the Brooklyn Museum and Brooklyn Historical Society, before settling into a job as a corporate archivist at a large advertising agency in Manhattan.

“It was short lived and soul-sucking,” she said of the job.

After six months Wolf quit in March 2009, devoting herself fulltime to her then fledgling one-woman mustard making operation, housed in a rented kitchen space above a bar in Greenpoint, a neighborhood close to Williamsburg.

She experimented with recipes she found online that incorporated beer into the mustard. After toying around for a bit, she settled on her own recipes, ones that incorporated Sixpoint Beer, a popular Brooklyn brew and brewery. She struck a deal with Sixpoint for low-cost kegs, and got to work incorporating whole grain mustard seeds and other fresh ingredients—often pickled and

spicy, always tasty and savory.

Wolf showcased her first two mustards—Spicy Brown Ale and Jalapeno IPA—in May 2009, to much acclaim. The name she has given her business—My Friend’s Mustard—came from people telling their friends: “You need to try my friend’s [a.k.a. Wolf’s] mustard.”

Things took off quickly from there.

Her mustards—which now include a new Rye Ale variety—are sold at 40 locations around New York City. Wolf recently hooked up with a distributor, who aims to increase those locations to 60 soon, including several Whole Foods stores in the New York metro area.

She’s received write-ups on her mustards in the *New York Daily News*, *The Huffington Post*, the *Village Voice* and several other online and print publications. Her Spicy Brown creation recently won a gold medal in the Whole Grain category at the National Mustard Museum’s Worldwide Mustard Competition. Word of her mustard is spreading like wildfire.

“I could only hope that it was going to go this way,” she said. “I could feel the buzz at the beginning. I knew that it would take off, but not like this. But, thank God, this is all I do now.”

She’s up at 3 AM and is busy making mustard from 4 a.m. to 11 a.m. Demand for her products required a move to a larger space—a commercial kitchen in a warehouse in Greenpoint.

With more space and possibly a few employees, Wolf sees a future where the My Friend’s brand branches out into other condiments, like relishes, chutneys, and sauerkrauts.

“I’m thinking big,” she said. “My mustard is a religious experience.” She’d like My Friend’s to become a national brand, but until then, she’s trying to preserve the small, craft-style nature of her mustard.

“I’m trying to keep it small, but not so much so that I don’t make money,” she smiled. “I mean, I’ve got student loans to pay off.”

So Wolf will continue growing her business, one store and one restaurant at a time, until, she said, “I get bought out and I take my millions to Hawaii. Hey, a girl’s got to have a dream.”



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*We do more in four years
so students can do more in a lifetime.*

Be Light

Kibera Girls Soccer Academy students inspect one of the solar-powered lanterns they and other students assemble and sell through their school in Nairobi, Kenya. The lantern selling business was the brainchild of **Anne Baldwin '10**. Anne spent part of her study abroad experience with the Kibera students. Through the auspices of a Davis Project for Peace grant, she returned there following graduation for what she calls the most “dangerous, terrible, wonderful” experience of her young life. See the Donor Honor Roll for the story.

