

LuxEsto

FALL 2013

The Motor of the Campus

Senior SIP Celebrates
an Unsung Engine of
the College



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

It is my privilege to invite you to participate in the Campaign for Kalamazoo College (please read the article on page 24). The public phase of the campaign (our final push to raise the remainder of our \$125 million goal) will occur these next two years. There is a role for all alumni, parents, and other friends of K in the success of this campaign.

Its funding priorities are rooted in the College's strategic plan and classify into three fundamental categories. The first category is the long term financial foundation of the Kalamazoo College learning experience, otherwise known as the endowment. Earnings from the endowment are invested into its continued growth and also support critical elements of our experiential learning, including study abroad, service learning, and leadership development. The campaign seeks to endow more faculty positions and faculty development opportunities, and this function is critical to attracting and retaining the very best professors in the world. Furthermore, our endowment supports student scholarships that make a K education more accessible to talented students regardless of economic circumstances. The Campaign for Kalamazoo College seeks to raise \$62 million for the endowment, and, to date, some \$42 million of that total has been committed.

The second broad category includes the infrastructure improvements vital both to educational excellence and our viability in the very competitive higher education marketplace. We have seen the benefits in student learning and enrollment from the upgrades of the Hicks Student Center and the Athletic Field Complex. We look forward to the completion next May of the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership. And we have made headway on the funds required to build a fitness and wellness center and replace our aging natatorium. The Campaign for Kalamazoo College calls for \$35 million for infrastructure improvements, and of that total we have raised more than \$25 million.

The third broad category includes funds that directly and immediately support current programs. In this campaign these programs include social justice learning and application; support for faculty research and curricular innovations; the Guilds of Kalamazoo College, which has become an important career and learning network for students and alumni; and the Posse Program, which brings to K students from Los Angeles with extraordinary academic and leadership potential. The campaign goal for this category is nearly \$18 million, of which we have raised more than \$17 million.

The campaign goals for our annual funds (the Kalamazoo College Fund and the Kalamazoo College Athletic Fund) are, together, nearly \$11.5 million, and we have raised more than \$7 million. During the campaign and after, support for the KCF and KCAF is critical to the student learning experience. In all, more than \$84 million of our \$125 million goal has been received or committed.

The difference a K education makes—in our students' lives and in the lives affected by our students and alumni—is evident in the stories in this issue of *LuxEsto*. Those stories stretch from campus to Ghana, and to the Middle East, and to Mongolia. The stories cross generations and show that, at K, a liberal arts education defines a “scholar's charter of service to humankind.” Those are the words of Allan Hoben. They are old words and words of force. They express the granite-like tradition of the Kalamazoo College learning experience. So even though those words may be old, they are what this new campaign is all about. Please join us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eileen B. Wilson-Oyalaran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eileen" being the most prominent.

Eileen B. Wilson-Oyalaran, President

Fall 2013 Volume 75, No. 1

LuxEsto is based on the College's official motto, *Lux esto*, "be light"

Editor

Jim VanSweden '73

Creative Director

Lisa Darling

Sports Information Director

Steve Wideen

Publications Assistants

Debbie Ball

Vinay Sharma

Writers

Zinta Aistars

Larry Banta '73

Kaye Bennett

Erin Mazzoni '02

Randall Schau

Photography

Daedal Derks '12

Sam Doyle '13

(including front cover)

Tony Dugal

Ann Fege '73

Stephen Mohnhey '76

Keith Mumma

Jurek Wajdowicz

Design

Lynnette Gollnick

Printer

Holland Litho

Direct correspondence to:

The Editor

LuxEsto

Kalamazoo College

1200 Academy Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49006

269.337.7291

jvsweden@kzoo.edu

Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Kalamazoo College or the editors. *LuxEsto* is published in the spring and fall by Kalamazoo College, 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006 USA.

© Fall 2013



Ink: Vegetable oil based. Van Son Vs3 Series Ink exceeds regulations for containing at least 20% vegetable oil, most average between 25-50% vegetable oil.

Paper: OPUS 30-30% PCW, gloss cover, dull text. FSC, Green-e, and SFI

Features

7 ExtendedFamilies

Kalamazoo College graduated its first Posse group in 2013. One member of that group, Jason Nosrati, relied on multiple extended families, including Posse, for an extraordinary four years on campus and in Israel.

13 FarGig

Matt Priest '97 and Elizabeth Lindau '97 take their indie band, Canasta, on the road. Way on the road...to Mongolia!

29 BinaryStrip

SIP sculpture does double duty for Daedal Derks '12.

34 TeachingWithTestimony

Small town high school English teacher Corey Harbaugh '91 has travelled the world to develop Holocaust education units useful in any classroom.

40 TheHistoryWeCarry

Professor of English Bruce Mills used College visits by James Baldwin to develop an oral history seminar on civil rights in the city of Kalamazoo.

45 OutdoorsLetter

Turns out the Kalamazoo Outing Club (featured in the fall 2012 *LuxEsto*) has a 40-year old predecessor that wrote to propose connecting—no doubt somewhere outdoors.

Plus, The **Campaign for Kalamazoo College** public phase kick-off; an example of the **special friendships** that develop in four years and last a lifetime; the **prestigious music award** earned by Associate Professor of Music **Andrew Koehler**; the way baseball player **Phil Earls '13** gives back to his hometown of Hartford, Michigan; the reunion of **Stephen Mohnhey '76** and **Case Kuehn '74** on behalf of technology for Ghana; some **letters**; a lot of **class notes**; and more.

Corrections

In the Spring 2013 issue of *LuxEsto*, we misspelled the names of Michael Soenen '92, Ann Oswald Benett '80, Lyn Maurer, and Antonie Boessenkool '99. We incorrectly reported the job title of Stephanie Teasley '81. Teasley is a research professor in the School of Information at the University of Michigan. In the Fall 2012 Donor Honor Roll, Tom Brown's class year was incorrectly reported. He is a proud member of the Class of 1967. We apologize for these errors, and thank our readers for calling them to our attention.

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>

Invisible Made Visible



Sam Doyle '13 decided that his Senior Individualized Project in photography would celebrate his co-workers (and friends, like Tomas Orta, pictured above) that compose the "Motor of the Campus," see page 18.

Letters

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed “Kaleidoscopic Origins” (*LuxEsto*, Spring 2013) about Jason Muller and others.

I believe I may have been the first student to do gay organizing on campus, but our meetings were clandestine and underground. The College did not officially recognize us, but the student community informally recognized we were there.

Like Jason, I too was blessed with support from my family, though it was not immediate. My mother was my only living parent at the time, and she was raised in a very rigid, conservative manner. Her first reaction to my homosexuality was of disgust and horror. Over a period of years, however, she did come around. She then counseled me to feel okay about who and what I am, but to avoid becoming a professional “gay libber.” By that she meant that being gay is only part of what makes up the total person.

At K I was allowed to do an alternative SIP, a major part of which was conducting student opinion polling on campus. I actually found surprisingly little animosity among the student body. The general response indicated that homosexuality was simply not an issue of concern with most respondents.

What I came away with was an affirmation of K being an intellectually honest and open environment, one that in fairly short order would indeed officially recognize a gay student group.

I thank Jason for spearheading that first officially recognized campus gay student organization. I also am very pleased with the later development of the gay student organization broadening its perspective, moving beyond letters such as “LGBT” and adopting the name “Kaleidoscope” instead. I credit this largely to the aforementioned environment of intellectual honesty at K.

Ken Bowers '71

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you concerning the appearance of Angela Davis on campus [during “Prize Weekend” for the Kalamazoo College Global Prize for Collaborative Social Justice Leadership].

I was somewhat surprised that someone who obviously believes in revolutionary violence would be welcomed and even honored at K. I am well aware that she bought the shotgun that killed a sitting judge during a crime that was committed in California on behalf of the Soledad Brothers more than 40 years ago. In reference to her past, during her recent campus visit she said she had done some insane things when she was young and might not have done them if she had known more. But she added that she was glad she had not known more because sometimes it is important to be bold and take risks.

I was active in the civil rights movement when I was a student at K in the '60s. I worked in the South during the summer of 1964 (with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference) and the spring of 1966 (with the Mississippi Council on Human Relations). I was aware that the Communists in the movement (and Angela Davis was an outspoken Communist around this time) were trying to provoke violence from the police during demonstrations. As someone who helped organize demonstrations, I did not agree with this position. From classes and discussions with several professors at Kalamazoo College, including Drs. Donald Flesche, Raymond Hightower, and Elizabeth Mayer, I believed the idea that change could be made in a constitutional and ultimately consensual society without violence. In fact, Dr. Flesche taught that the glorification of violence to achieve political ends is a Pandora's Box. I strongly hope that thinking continues to be the standard at Kalamazoo College.

Dan McKeon '68

Dear Editor:

I am writing to thank all the alumni who have made themselves available to connect with students and young alumni on LinkedIn. As a recent graduate just starting a career, I am grateful for everyone's willingness to answer my questions and share their experiences.

This summer, the LinkedIn profile of Hannah Malyn '07 popped up on my "People in your Network" feed and her job title, Development Coordinator at CUE Art Foundation, caught my attention. On a whim, I wrote her a note asking about her professional development. She responded and told me about her progress from internships to a full time development position, her choice to get a master's degree, and the process of her job search in New York. Her answers allayed my fears and gave me ideas for ways to develop my skills for a similar line of work.

Hannah told me that she spends much of her time developing grants. So I got in touch with Director of Faculty Grants and Institutional Research Anne Dueweke '84. She loaned me a book on grant writing and encouraged me to get in touch with Rachel Udow '08, the grant writer at Migrant Health Promotion.

Rachel responded to my LinkedIn e-mail within 24 hours and was very open to answering my questions about grant writing and invited me to stay in touch.

These are just a few of my stories about how K alumni share their time, expertise, and connections with young alumni and students. I don't know how frequently alumni are contacted by students seeking advice, but I do know that those I have contacted have been remarkably responsive and generous with their time and expertise.

While I cannot pay these alumni back for their kindness, I will do my best to pay it forward as my career and connections develop into a professional network and field of expertise.

Eeva Sharp '13

Dear Editor:

I spent nearly three decades as a federal agent protecting this great country and its citizens from dangerous and violent criminals.

Consequently I was stunned and saddened to learn that my *alma mater*, founded on Baptist Christian principles, would honor Angela Davis, a former FBI Top Ten Fugitive and an avowed Communist.

While Davis was ultimately acquitted of capital murder charges stemming from a botched kidnapping from a courtroom in which three innocent people were shot and killed, it was proven that just prior to the killings that Davis had purchased the guns that were used (including a sawed off shotgun). She had also written numerous letters to one of the murderers while he was in prison awaiting trial. Her initial defense attorney was the General Counsel for the Communist Party USA, and Davis later ran twice for the Vice President of the United States on the Communist Party ticket.

In trying to figure out how this aberration could occur, I discovered that the College's Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership (ACSJL) was the major force behind selecting Davis as a judge for its first "Global Prize for Collaborative Social Justice Leadership." The ACSJL has been funded, in large part, by an endowment from the Arcus Foundation. According to the Arcus Foundation website, "Arcus works to advance LGBT equality." To me, it has become obvious that since Arcus Foundation made a multi-million dollar donation to the College, the College has made a conscious effort to trade its 180-year Christian legacy for a better bottom line. It turns out Angela Davis isn't the problem, she's just a symptom.

College administrators and board members should read 1 Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

It appears Kalamazoo College has lost its moral compass.

Mike Boyle '65

Never A Bad Ending



writerZinta Aistars

Violin or piano?

The five-year-old boy pondered his mother's question. He wasn't sure he wanted to learn to play either. His mother, however, wasn't asking. He chose the violin.

To Andrew Koehler's mother, music was a universal discipline, not just a cultural one. His parents had come to Philadelphia, where he was born, as Ukrainian refugees. Their son today is a world-traveled adult, fluent in Ukrainian and German, and he understands that different parts of the world encounter music in different ways. In some parts of the globe, the operatic tradition is valued; in others, the symphonic tradition. In some countries, music is part of the national identity. In others, it's entertainment. It yet others, it is a matter of survival under the weight of oppression.

- Andrew Koehler (blue striped shirt) at the 9th Grzegorz Fitelberg International Competition for Conductors.
- Mementos from the competition.
- Andrew Koehler honored with a First Distinction.



But as a child, Koehler thought about none of that. He ground out the violin lessons and wasn't sure this music thing was for him.

Then came that moment.

"One of the purest joys comes when your fingers begin to move habitually," Koehler says. "And you cross a certain threshold. It is a very liberating moment."

Lessons no longer feel like lessons. Music enters the soul. Koehler crossed that threshold and has never looked back.

The five-year-old violinist has grown into an accomplished conductor, internationally recognized, garnering national and international prizes and acclaim. Koehler is associate professor of music at Kalamazoo College and music director of the Kalamazoo Philharmonia.

He holds a concurrent post as music director of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra and is the cover conductor of the West Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

Koehler is active as a guest conductor at home and throughout the world. In recent seasons, he has appeared with the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Orchestra; the Lyatoshynsky Chamber Orchestra in Kyiv, Ukraine; the Ruse Philharmonic in Bulgaria; the St. Cloud Symphony in Minnesota; the Festival South Chamber Orchestra in Mississippi; and, with only a weekend's notice, the American Opera Group Orchestra in Chicago. 2013 marked his debut at the Penderecki Center in Poland.

Always eager to work with young musicians, he has also led the Vermont All-State Youth Orchestra and was previously music director of the Chamber Orchestra of the University of

Chicago as well as the Akademisches Sinfonie-Orchester of Vienna, Austria.

Recently, Koehler was honored at the 9th Grzegorz Fitelberg International Competition for Conductors, one of the more prestigious international competitions for conductors of all nationalities born after 1976.

The competition, held in Katowice, Poland, every five years, took place in three stages during November of 2012. A selection committee, consisting of eminent Polish and international conductors and musicians, chose 50 participants from an initial pool of approximately 180 applicants. These 50 were invited to the first round of competition; from that group, 12 semifinalists were chosen for a second round; from that, six finalists.

“I was the only American in the final round,” says Koehler. “We were judged on technical skill, our interpretative decisions, and our ability to work with the orchestra. It was a great honor.”

Koehler was awarded First Distinction, or fourth place, in the competition, with a monetary award of 10,000 Euros. The Krzysztof Penderecki European Music Centre also invited Koehler to perform.

In addition, the Karol Szymanowski State General School of Music in Katowice granted the “Young Baton Master” award jointly to Koehler and Russian semifinalist Stanslav Kochanowski.

Since taking his position at Kalamazoo College in 2006, Koehler says he has taken more risks in his music career.

“Kalamazoo College encourages such risks,” he says. “In our students and in our faculty.”

The greatest rewards of such musical risks, he says, have come to him in forms other than the international awards (much as he appreciates those).

“The chairman of the State General School of Music’s

Youth Jury was the grandson of Henryk Gorecki, among Poland’s most famous composers,” says Koehler. “Gorecki’s grandmother attended the competition and heard me conduct. She wrote me a letter of gratitude and sent me the pen that her husband, the composer, used in his work.”

Koehler also received a gift of a framed needlepoint, featuring a hand holding a baton, given to him by the former concertmaster of the competition’s resident orchestra.

The spring season of the Kalamazoo Philharmonia included two concert programs. “American Gothic” was performed in March and featured the Symphonic Sketch No. 1, “Jubilee,” by George Whitefield Chadwick; the Samuel Barber Violin Concerto with Minghuan Xu, soloist; the George Walker Lyric for Strings; and the Walter Piston Symphony No. 2.

“Of Gods and Men” was held in June, with Professor of Music Jim Turner, director, and the Bach Festival Chorus of Kalamazoo joining Koehler in the Luigi Cherubini Requiem in C Minor and the Maurice Ravel Suite from Daphnis and Chloe.

“I choose what we will perform for one or both of two reasons,” says Koehler. “I get newly obsessed with a piece and just have it in my head, or I have known a piece a long time and am waiting for the right time to perform it.”

He chooses a central piece for the program, he says, and then fits other pieces around it, or, as Koehler describes it, “curates” the program.

It is, perhaps, something Koehler’s mother understood a long time ago, encouraging her young son to pick up a musical instrument. Music takes time to enter the blood of a person, the life stream of a culture, the melody of a universal song. Even when a young boy doesn’t grow up to be an internationally awarded conductor, “playing music always enriches us,” Koehler now declares. “Learning music—it can never end badly.” ■

Extended Families



writerZinta Aistars



Wherever he goes, Jason Nosrati '13 isn't alone. And this sense of connection was cultivated early, as a Posse scholar. Posse scholars are high school students who belong to groups that are often overlooked by traditional college recruitment processes. Nosrati, who comes from an Iranian background, was one of 10 members of the first group of Posse scholars to come to Kalamazoo College from Los Angeles.

He'd been chosen from an applicant pool of some 1,300, and the Posse scholarship "was my chance to give back to my parents for their sacrifices." Posse scholars excel academically and are selected, in part, on the basis of extraordinary leadership potential.

Kalamazoo College has been a Posse partner institution since 2009. K has greeted some 50 Posse scholars over the past four years.

"I'll admit, Kalamazoo College was fifth on my personal ranking

- Scientific work at K took Jason Nosrati (center, in suit and tie) to various research meetings
- Study abroad took Nosrati to Israel, pictured here near Sde-Boker in the desert south of Beer Sheeva.

list of Posse schools I wanted to attend,” Nosrati says. “I hadn’t heard of it, and I hardly even knew anything about the Midwest. I just knew it was a very long way from L.A.”

It wasn’t long before the freshman student felt the excitement of new adventure. “I was excited about the pre-med program, and I had signed up for LandSea. After spending a few days on the K campus, I was ecstatic to be here.”

It was during LandSea that Nosrati began to sense that his Posse group was with him even when it wasn’t. He recalls: “Equipped with a headlamp, whistle, and boots without socks, I navigated through the woods looking for my way back to camp from the prescribed ‘restroom.’ I stopped and searched the trees, but I could not find my group. It started to rain. I blew my emergency whistle. I was too far into the forest. I was a city boy from Los Angeles, separated from my group with no outdoor skills to rely on other than my own common sense. I contemplated every scenario I could face and how to react. After a few hours, I knew that I was not going to find my way back to camp. Wet and tired, I headed for the peak, where I curled up on a rock and slept, waiting to continue the search in daylight.”

The next day, Nosrati was found and rejoined his group. Skills he had been taught by his Posse—not wilderness skills, but how to think things through logically and how to focus—had helped him.

LandSea was only the beginning of his memorable journey and ongoing learning experience. Sometimes the best learning, however, comes from making mistakes.

“It’s embarrassing to admit, but in my freshman year I was suspended from K for one quarter for a residential life policy infraction,” Nosrati says. “Fortunately, I reached out for the support of my Posse network. I went back to L.A. and kept myself busy so that I would not have trouble returning to campus once the suspension was over, and I volunteered at the Posse office. The Posse Foundation staff in L.A. connected me to a chemistry professor at University of Southern California.”

The professor, who had once been a Posse scholar himself,





• In the lab (in Israel) doing biochemistry on Huntington's disease.

tutored Nosrati, and Nosrati was able to return to Kalamazoo College and test out of the chemistry course he had dropped.

“I had had time to think and grow up,” Nosrati says. “I came back to K wisser, and I was ready this time to take K by storm.”

Nosrati developed a close relationship with Amelia Katanski, associate professor of English, and advisor to the first Posse group that arrived in the fall of 2009. “I can talk to her about anything,” Nosrati says.

The admiration is mutual. Says Katanski: “I value Jason’s energy and enthusiasm for everything he undertakes. He has maintained ambitious goals for his future—not simply completing his rigorous biology and pre-medical school courses, but changing the health care system on campus to be more responsive to patient needs—and he has worked hard to develop the knowledge and skills he will need to move forward toward his goals.”

Nosrati became involved with the Young Persian Society on campus, eventually taking over the presidency of the group—but not before he studied abroad. His chosen destination was Israel.

“I am a practicing Sephardic Jew,” Nosrati explains, “and religion is a huge part of my identity. Going to Israel felt like a calling, because, although both of my parents come from Iran, my dad has about 100 family members in Israel.” Nosrati wanted to connect with his roots in religion and in family but also test his dreams for a career in medicine.

“I am fluent in Farsi and Hebrew, proficient in Spanish,” he says. “While on study abroad, I had a chance to explore Judaism, and I was blown away. I redefined myself and my religion.”

Going to Israel felt like going home, another home, and Nosrati’s network of support groups soon included extended family. He lived with family members every weekend,

rotating among relatives and houses. “My aunt and my uncle became my mom and dad figures in Israel. My uncle is a cardiologist, and I was able to shadow him at work, expanding my own interests.”

Nosrati’s study abroad experience included working as a first responder on an ambulance. This was his big chance to test his dreams: was he cut out to be a physician? How would he respond in an emergency? Would he be able to connect to patients in a way that would make a difference in their lives—and his?

“On our very first call, it was 2 a.m. and a girl had attempted suicide. She’d jumped out of a second-story window,” he says. “The ambulance driver and I rushed up to her—she was unconscious. And I just stood there. I blanked out. My job was to treat her, but I just stood there.”

The ambulance driver tapped him on the shoulder, and Nosrati woke from his blank state and went into action. He ran for a backboard, he fastened a strap across the girl’s head



• Nosrati at the Western Wall in Jerusalem

to keep the board in place, and when the girl had been safely taken away, Nosrati reflected on his experience.

“Freezing up like that would never happen again,” he says. “Our second call was for an accident with a bus. The front of the bus was covered with blood. A woman had been hurt, and she was still conscious. I was able to talk to her and help her, and I felt proud that I could help her. I could be empathetic without getting overly emotional and still do my job. I knew then that this was what I wanted to do and what I could do.”

Nosrati faced emergency situations not just when working in the ambulance. With unrest ongoing in the country, the sky sometimes filled with military aircraft. “I heard rockets going off and bombers flying over,” Nosrati says. “For a three-week period, there were maybe as many as ten rockets per day, and people would run to bomb shelters. Our dorm building had its own bomb shelter, so we were always safe. Some people would count the explosions, and others would have their cell phones up to the windows, taking photos. I went to Sde-Boker, out of the way of the attacks, but I was able to go back again two weeks later.”

Nosrati talks about praying at the Western Wall and the intensity of his religious experience. He found that Israel was different than what he had expected. “Much less conservative than you might expect,” he says. “Our Jewish community in L.A. is more conservative. I found Israel to be more liberal-minded, more like Kalamazoo, actually. Jewish holidays were more intense. No one drives on the holidays, just bikes, and the freeways are empty of cars.”

Nosrati was eager to return to the laboratory to continue his studies and complete his Senior Individualized Project. “At Ben Gurion University Department of Life Sciences I conducted three months of full-time research on the effects of protein misfolding on late-onset neurological disorders. I received funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to complete the project. I had the opportunity to gain experience in western

blotting, toxicity quantification, antibody staining, and confocal microscopy.”

Back on the Kalamazoo College campus in his senior year, Nosrati appreciated his academic support system. Professor of Chemistry Laura Furge was an important part of his support and learning experience in and outside the classroom.

“Dr. Furge was easy-going and approachable, always asking me about my non-academic life,” Nosrati says. “My level of comfort with her reinforced my love for biochemistry and pushed me to thrive academically.”

“She taught me the value of connecting with people in professional settings on a more personal level. I have sought to develop a similar relationship with the students that I tutor. With a little personal conversation at each lesson, people are more comfortable admitting they might not have understood a lesson. I’ve realized that this is something I can use in my medical career to develop effective doctor-patient relationships.”

Winter break in Nosrati’s senior year was his first opportunity to return to L.A. in two years. Crossing the country felt like crossing years. “I had come full circle. I’d been so eager to leave, a kid wanting to taste freedom. Now, I came home and realized how much I valued home and my parents and all they’d done for me. I wrote my mom a letter of thanks that she still keeps on top of her cabinet.”

Nosrati takes a deep breath, considering all the support that has brought him to the threshold of applying to medical school: his parents, the Posse Foundation, his mentors and professors at Kalamazoo College, his classmates, his colleagues on the ambulances in Israel, the researchers in the laboratory—a long list, an extensive network. And Kalamazoo College is an important nexus in that network, part of Jason Nosrati’s posse for life. ■



ЛЕНИН

Знакбаст

ULAANBAATAR RU

Playing Canasta at Forty Below



writerKaye Bennett

It was raining and 47 degrees on the Saturday afternoon of Homecoming 2012, when Canasta performed an outdoor concert on the Quad. But hey! Those are not inclement conditions at all for the band, which includes Matt Priest '97 and Elizabeth Lindau '97. After performing in Mongolia in February 2012, with temperatures that reached 40 below, it must have felt practically tropical.

Canasta was formed in 2002, when five Kalamazoo College alums living in the Chicago area came together to make music they called “orchestral pop.” The original band members were Priest, Lindau, Megan O’Connor ’97, Colin Sheaff ’97, and Jon Cunningham ’00; they were joined by guitarist Jeff Leverenz. Today, Priest, a native of Mount Prospect, Ill., who majored in theatre, and Lindau, a chemistry and art/art history double major

- (Facing page): Canasta under the statue of Lenin, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Matt Priest is pictured on the far right. Elizabeth Lindau is third from right.
- (Above): Band members perform on the Quad, Homecoming 2012

from Crown Point, Ind., are the only original band members and the only K grads still in the band, though O'Connor did re-up on piano and keyboard for the Mongolian trip. But Canasta, in those ten years, has achieved a rare milestone in the indie music business: It has survived.

The highlight of Canasta's tenth-anniversary year was its tour of Mongolia, part of the Arts Envoy Program of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Lindau said she was intrigued when she heard about the program, which sends U.S. performers abroad to showcase American art forms. Though the program usually focuses on more traditional genres, such as jazz, country, or blue grass, she said, "I thought, why not a band like ours?" Canasta's contemporary sound, she felt, would appeal to younger audiences in Mongolia.

Lindau had a contact at the U.S. State Department, who put her in touch with the Mongolian Embassy. A trip to Mongolia sounded great to Lindau. "I love to travel. I'll go anywhere."

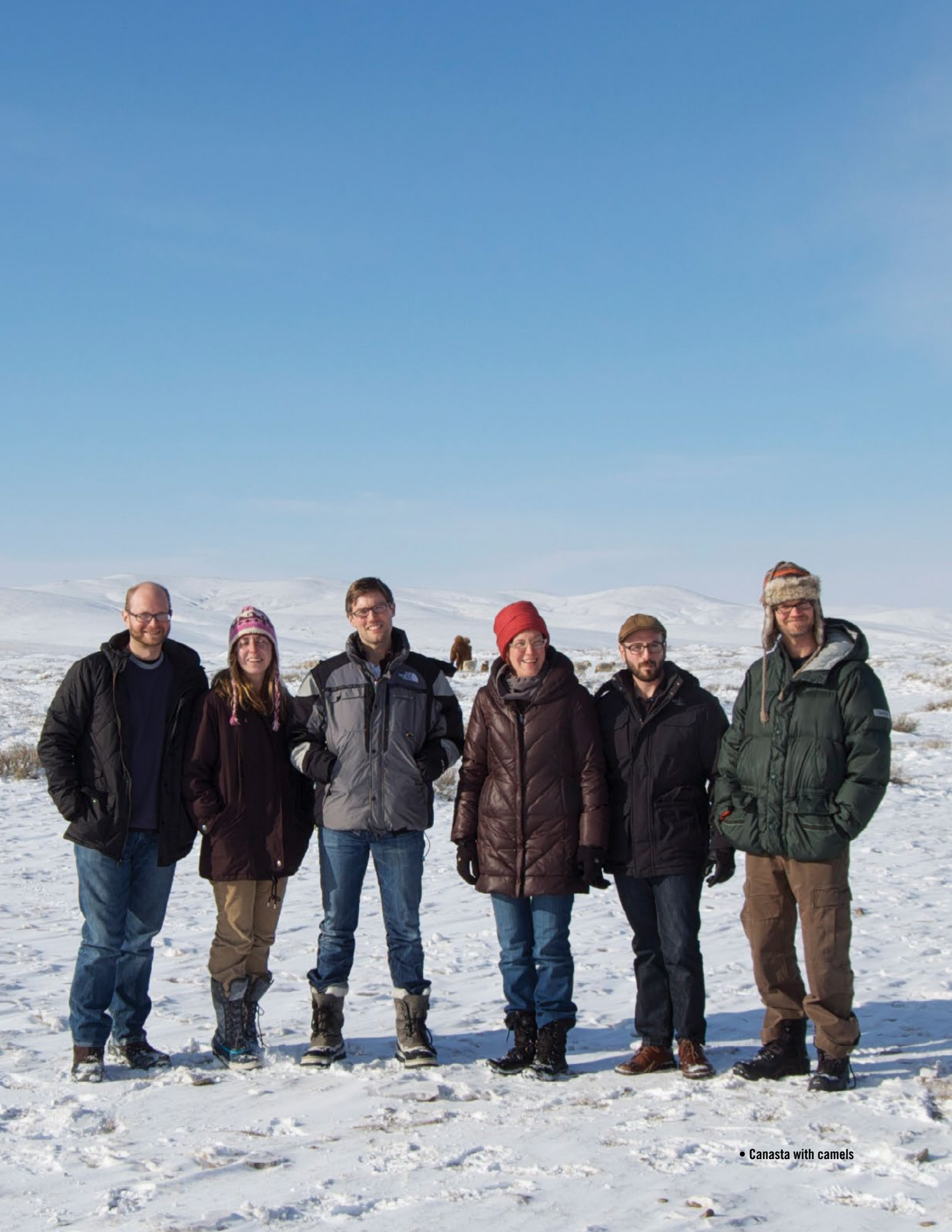
Priest was a little more hesitant about the destination. He'd traveled a lot in college and with the band, he said, but he'd never been anywhere close to Central Asia. "Mongolia was not on my check list. I had to look it up."

But looking up Mongolia and experiencing Mongolia, especially in the dead of winter, Canasta was to learn, are two very different things.

With temperatures plunging to 20 or 30 or even 40 below, air you could see (thanks to coal pollution), chancy electrical capacity, language barriers, and the challenge of transporting some instruments and borrowing others in-country, nothing was easy. "Anything we take for granted on an American tour," Priest said, "was more challenging there."

The U.S. State Department lined up drivers and translators and, as much as possible, instruments, but the nature of Canasta's music created some unique obstacles.





Canasta is instrument- and technology-intense, including bass, violin, trombone, guitar, drums, keyboard and piano. It is not an easy group to transport. The plan was to bring some instruments and line up some of the big, bulky ones, like the drum set, locally. This did not go well.

“Our poor drummer had a meltdown,” Lindau said. The drums provided in each location (Canasta played six concerts in four cities on the 10-day tour) got progressively worse as the week went on. It was in the town that provided “a children’s drum kit with holes in it” where the Canasta drummer went over the edge, Priest and Lindau said.

“We have a particular sound that we work hard to recreate,” said Priest. “We pay attention to the smallest details in each composition.” That level of detail was simply not going to happen in Mongolia.

Then something happened. Canasta realized that their audiences were not coming to the shows with any expectations as to how the band ought to sound. “We got our heads around that,” said Priest, “and we were OK.”

Audiences ranged from 50 or so to maybe 300 people, and most of the concerts were held in schools. “The kids,” said Priest, “get it. They were more excited. The adults looked at us quizzically.” Older Mongolians, the Americans found out, didn’t have much experience with rock music, but the kids were ready for the Canasta sound. “We even have some Mongolian followers on Facebook now,” said Lindau.

Priest and Lindau said they and fellow band members had some revelations during their Mongolian tour.

Canasta has traveled widely in the U.S., but it took a trip to Mongolia, Priest said, to make the band members

“realize what we take for granted every day. Some of the things we thought were necessary we learned we could get along without.” He said it was humbling to hear the amazing music that local Mongolian musicians could make with very little gear.

They came away in awe of the Mongolian people. Their resilience and resourcefulness surprised the Chicago musicians. “They’re very content with their lives,” said Priest. “So while it makes you appreciate certain aspects of U.S. life more, you also realize what’s extraneous.”

One difference: In Mongolia, the Americans met state-sponsored professional musicians. Canasta band members, on the other hand, all have day jobs: Priest handles the billing for a speech therapy clinic and a condo management company, while Lindau is a project manager for United Healthcare. Priest said that many of his friends in the U.S. “dabble,” viewing their music as a hobby, but in Mongolia, musicians had dedicated



• Canasta banner in Ulaanbaatar

their lives to their art.

Ask about their Mongolia gig, and the first thing Priest and Lindau mention is the temperature. Lindau spent time in Antarctica in 1999-2000, working at a research station, but she found Mongolia to be colder than Antarctica, way colder, she said.

Priest said he'd never been much of an outdoorsman. Packing for Mongolia, he didn't even own the right clothes. So he quickly gained an appreciation for the *del*, the traditional Mongolian style of dress. "It looks like a big ornamental, puffy bathrobe with a sash," Priest said. "Your hands barely peek out of the sleeves." In the *del*, he discovered, "the cold becomes not a factor."

Canasta's vocalists were especially sensitive to the climate, altitude, and air quality challenges. Because of the effect of burning coal and tires, "You can almost taste the air," said

Priest, who found it much harder to sing there.

After their Asian adventure, Canasta decided to stay home for awhile. They spent most of the remainder of 2012 concentrating on writing their next record (the group has already produced one EP and two full-length albums).

As the only two remaining K alums in Canasta, Priest and Lindau reflect on the effect their *alma mater* has had on their music. Kalamazoo College, Priest said, was "an easy place to get something going. If there was something you felt like doing, it was easy to do it." So, 10 years ago, when a group of alums with that same K mentality (but with no songwriting experience) felt like starting a band, they decided, "Let's try and see if it works." And Canasta does work—all the way from Chicago to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and a lot of places in between. You can sample Canasta's sound at canastamusic.com. ■



• Van travel on the steppe

Invisible Made Visible



writer Zinta Aistars photographer Sam Doyle '13



There, yet not there. It was only when Sam Doyle '13 returned from his study abroad at Goldsmith's University in London, and when he took a summer job working for Facilities Management at Kalamazoo College, that his eyes opened to what was around him. And who was around him. And what the people of Fac Man, as the department is fondly referred to by the K community, did for the campus each and every day, school year after school year.

"I call the photo series 'The Motor of Campus,'" Doyle says about his Senior Individualized Project. Fac Man, he says, is a community of service workers on the Kalamazoo College campus "that makes the College operate—custodial and grounds crews, operations and recycling. They are invisible to most of us—until something goes wrong."

• (Cover photo): Kendra Leep and Jerry Vincent

• (Top left): Jeff Sherman

• (Top Right): Mark Merchant, Stephanie Brooks, LaToya Nabors, Tina Heydenburk

• (Facing page): Dylan Seuss-Brakeman '09



Doyle is an anthropology and sociology major, but his passion is photography. He grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan, and his father is a professional photographer, so capturing the world around him in photographic images came naturally to the younger Doyle. While his major focused on learning about people, photography became Doyle's tool to connect with people.

On this day, however, Doyle is nearly invisible. He is an employee of Fac Man. He sits in a dimly lit corner of the REP (Resource Exchange Program) Room in the basement of DeWaters Hall, at the end of a path that leads through stacks of equipment, cleaning tools, rakes, bicycles in various stages of repair, odd ends of furniture. Steel shelves hold boxes, labeled, unlabeled. Unlit Christmas lights hang from the corner of one shelf.

"Sometimes we call this the Bat Cave," Doyle grins. "It's a place where we store recycled items from the campus. You can find most anything here."

What Doyle found, he translated into his photographic images. "I've worked at Fac Man since my freshman year," he says. "But when I came back from London, I started to see things in a new light. There are multiple themes going on here, and I wanted to photograph them."

The themes Doyle saw and photographed show the dynamics of the Fac Man community. Because it is very much a community, he says. "Even a family. These people really care about each other. And they are really interested in what goes on at this College, what is happening in the lives of the students."

The interest, Doyle says, isn't always reciprocated, and that was what caught his attention and his camera lens. He wanted to make the people of Fac Man visible. Doyle grouped his photo series on five themes: gender, community, deception in the workplace, job satisfaction, and established hierarchy.

"My experiences working in the summer for Fac Man, conducting several formal and informal interviews with these employees, led me to believe that the most important issue to address was the social hierarchy that exists within the College.





• Dawn Kilbourn,
Kim Russell,
Donna Zanardi,
Pam Anderson

More so than specific instances, the institution as a whole, being one of higher education, produces an environment that creates an embedded hierarchy in which professors are placed in highest importance and Fac Man employees are for the most part invisible. I wanted to create a series of photographs that brings light to the fascinating and complex work that Facilities Management employees produce, but also shows the amazing and unique group of individuals that make the College operate.”

With the permission and blessing of his Fac Man boss, Rob Townsend, Doyle spent much of his senior fall quarter photographing his co-workers. He completed 25 portraits, some with a single individual and others with multiple people, as well as one group photo of the entire Fac Man team. Doyle took thousands of photos from which he then chose the best ones. He refers to the style of photography as “environmental photography,” since the setting was often as important a part of the portrait as the person.

“I asked people where they were most comfortable, how they see themselves,” says Doyle. After he did his first portrait, and printed and posted it in the main area of the Fac Man offices, “everyone got excited and wanted their photo taken. The women tended to be more playful in their photos; the men mostly took it very seriously.

“It was an enlightening experience to observe the variety

of skills necessary to perform the jobs, as well as the sheer scale of operations to keep the College running. From their stories I began to understand the ways in which they perceive their roles on campus. Many have worked at the College for years, some more than 20. They have seen Kalamazoo College presidents come and go. They have witnessed—and for some, participated in—the construction of buildings that exist on campus today. While their often-underappreciated work can be backbreaking and tiresome, many still enjoy their jobs.”

Doyle exhibited his work at the Fine Arts Building art gallery, lining up the photos to tell a story. “My mission for this gallery show was to create a space in which interactions and dialogue would occur between all members of the Kalamazoo College community.”

The photo exhibit was not Doyle’s first venture into professional-level photography. Since high school, he has



• Tomas Orta and Sue Worden

photographed weddings, family and friends, and posted his work on a website, samdoylephotography.com. But it was his work on “The Motor of Campus” project that confirmed the thought in his mind that professional photography could be a career goal.

“I’d been photographing for a long time, but working on this project taught me how to interact with people and create photos that became as much theirs as mine.”

It was that need for personal interaction that brought Doyle to Kalamazoo College, after all. Budget constraints had forced the school district where he attended high school to consolidate two schools. “I ended up in a huge high school,” he recalls. “So when it was time to choose a college, I wanted someplace small. You know, where I could feel that I am visible.”



• Amanda Geer '12 and Demetrius Brooks

Artist Reflection

writer Sam Doyle '13

The origins of photographing Facilities Management employees began in the spring of 2012. My interest in sociology and photography propelled me to create a body of work that would incorporate both areas of study. In creating these photographs, it was important to me to have the employees be as much of a part of the project as possible. When I began creating the groupings for each photograph, I talked with several Facilities Management employees to find out the connections and friendships that existed, choosing groupings that created a comfortable social atmosphere when photographing. Each photography session started with a conversation, asking the subjects about their ideas on what they wanted in the photograph. This was accompanied by questions of where they worked and spaces that were relevant to them. After each photograph was taken, I posted the picture at the clock-out area where it would be visible. The purpose of this was to allow the subjects to approve of the image that was created and to allow the rest of the department to see their fellow employees' images. The style of the images, being environmental portraits, was to show both the individuality of the employees and to connect them with the tools they use. One of the most fascinating parts of Facilities Management to me is all of the machinery that is used in order to accomplish work. I believe there is an attachment with these items, as they are used by the employees everyday and become a symbol of the work they produce.

Hopefully this body of work will stimulate a new respect, recognition, and appreciation not only for Facilities Management employees, but for all who work day after day at the College and are rarely noticed.

Campaign Enters PublicPhase



writerKaye Bennett

Frequently, a gift transforms the giver as much as it does the recipient.

That's what Ronda Stryker, co-chair of the Campaign for Kalamazoo College, discovered. "A long time ago," she says, "[then K President] Jimmy Jones came to me and asked if I would consider doing something to support service learning." Service learning was not at the top of her list. "But I went along, and I am so proud that I did." Since its inception in 2001, the Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Center for Civic Engagement (named for Stryker's grandmother) has engaged more than 5,500 students in partnerships with community residents and organizations. "It's an incredible program," says Stryker, "and service learning is woven into the school in a million ways." Students benefit from the opportunity to develop their own ideas and to become leaders, and

• (Left to right): Ronda Stryker, Jon Stryker '82, Donald Parfet, Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran

they often write her letters about their experiences. “What I’ve gotten out of this,” she says, “is huge. I feel more a part of the school than I ever have before.”

Stryker has been on K’s board for 25 years, and co-chairing a comprehensive campaign, she says, “was one of the only things I hadn’t yet done.” She agreed to serve as a co-chair because, “K has gotten even stronger since [President Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran] has been here. I wanted to be part of this history.”

Campaign honorary chair Jon Stryker ’82, Ronda’s brother, made a similar discovery. One of his many gifts to his *alma mater* made K the first Michigan school to partner with the Posse Foundation. Posse enables high school students with extraordinary potential who come from underrepresented groups to enroll in top undergraduate colleges. Seeing K’s first 10 Posse graduates and their parents—and their tears—at K’s 2013 commencement, says Jon Stryker, was very moving. “It’s not often you can give a gift that changes a life.”

Jon Stryker approaches this campaign as a board member, alumnus, and life-long Kalamazoo resident. He knows from personal experience how a K education can change a student’s life. A biology major, Stryker’s study abroad experience was in Colombia, and his Senior Individualized Project (SIP) was based on work he did in Costa Rica. His overseas experiences while at K, he says, “really changed me.” Asked in 1998 to join K’s board, Jon Stryker saw it as “a cool way to be able to help the school.” In addition to funding the Posse program, Stryker, via the Arcus Foundation, which he founded in 2000, has been instrumental in enlarging the endowment of the study abroad program and in creating the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership.

Ronda and Jon Stryker, along with trustee and former board chair Don Parfet, head up the Campaign Leadership Committee in charge of the Campaign for Kalamazoo College, a five-year-long effort to raise \$125 million that will focus on the continued excellence of Kalamazoo College. Of the total, nearly 50 per cent will be earmarked for endowment, 28 percent for capital projects, and the balance (including the Kalamazoo College Fund and the Kalamazoo College Athletic Fund) for current use and programs. Other members of the committee are trustees Eugene V.N. Bissell ’76, Charlotte Hall ’66, Si Johnson ’78, Hans P. Morefield ’92, William C. Richardson, and Amy E. Upjohn, as well as ex-officio members Wilson-Oyelaran, Vice President for Advancement Al DeSimone, and Executive Director of Development Teresa Newmarch.

Between March 2010 and June 2013, the campaign’s “quiet phase” was in place, with committee members developing policies, approving funding priorities, helping secure financial commitments, and planning the public announcement. During that three-year period, the campaign raised more than \$84 million, about two-thirds of its goal. To date, contributions to the campaign have funded six endowed professorships; student scholarships, both endowed and immediate; the Posse program; the Guilds of Kalamazoo College; the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership; and campus enhancements, including renovations to the Weimar K. Hicks Student Center, the Athletic Field Complex, the building to house the social justice leadership center, and half of the funding for a fitness and wellness center and a new natatorium.

The public phase of the campaign began in July 2013 and runs through June 2015. During that time, committee members will continue to work with staff to solicit funds and serve as advocates for the campaign.

Jon Stryker sees success of the Campaign for Kalamazoo

College as critical. Compared with other colleges in the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA), he says, “We’re lagging by a large degree in endowment.” (In 2012, K’s \$169 million endowment was a fraction of endowments at fellow GLCA member schools such as Oberlin College [\$675 million] and Denison University [\$658 million]). Stryker added that much of K’s infrastructure is old and “needs constant reinvigoration.” This campaign has a realistic and achievable goal, he believes. “We’re not asking for anything extravagant.” Success of the campaign, he says, will provide the College with “the tools needed to be a fully functioning, high-level leadership organization.”

Comprehensive campaigns are about raising money, of course, but they have other goals, too. Parfet sees the campaign as a chance to reconnect, reminding alumni, parents, and other friends of the value of a Kalamazoo College education. “They like to give back, to stay connected, and to offer financial support,” Parfet says. Formal campaigns like this one give the College a chance to share the exciting accomplishments of its faculty and students.

As a 34-year member of K’s board of trustees, Parfet is aware of the critical need to raise the resources to enable the College to fulfill its mission. One of the most important goals of the campaign, he says, is to attain the resources to attract and retain an outstanding faculty. “The heart of the K experience,” he says, “is the relationship between faculty and students.”

Most K alumni, says Parfet, are very aware that their own education was made possible by the support of people who came before them. In order to continue the K traditions in perpetuity, therefore, today’s alums will be asked to invest in tomorrow. “It’s the notion of giving back,” Parfet says.

Wilson-Oyelaran, K’s President since 2005, agrees. “Very few students attend K without the support and investment of someone else,” she says. This campaign is “a chance to ensure that the next generation of students has the same opportunity.” Wilson-Oyelaran credits Kalamazoo College’s “incredible staff and faculty” with helping the College, even in a challenging economic environment, “accomplish amazing things with limited resources.” It’s important, she believes, to continue the magic that is Kalamazoo College by providing the resources to attract talented students, recruit and retain exceptional faculty, and “freshen up some of our facilities.”

Parfet also stresses the economic value of the K experience. “Campaigns like this one,” he says, “allow us to be one of the best values of higher education.”

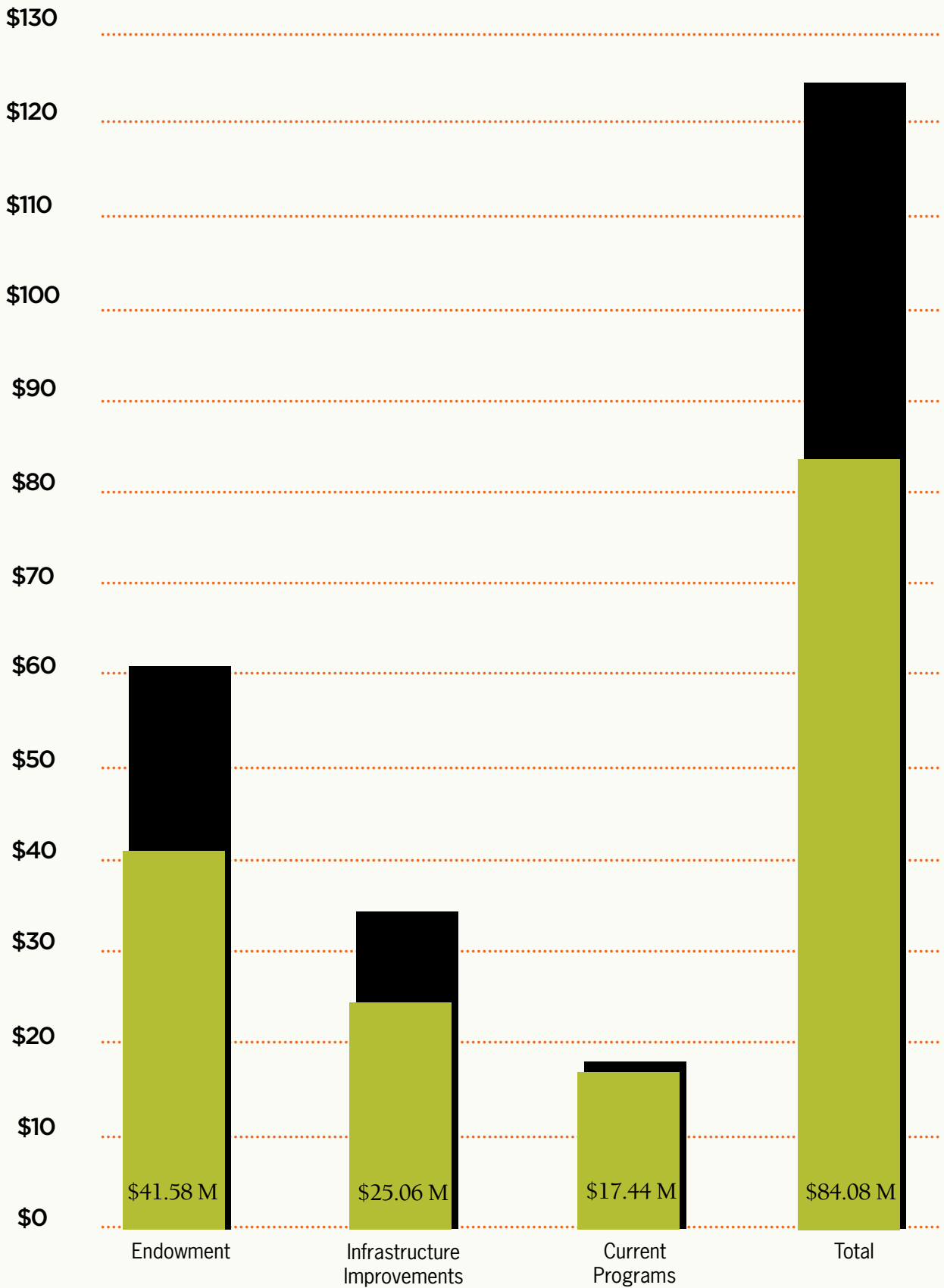
Success of the Campaign for Kalamazoo College, Wilson-Oyelaran says, “will enable the *K-Plan* to evolve,” allowing service learning, undergraduate research, and study abroad programs to expand, and “providing new opportunities for students to think about a more humane and just world and about sustainability and leadership.”

“So much of the trouble in the world today is based on a lack of understanding of different cultures and different beliefs,” says Parfet. The *K-Plan* and the entire K philosophy, he believes, help students bridge those divides.

For Kalamazoo College to continue to play its vital role in the world, campaign committee members agree that it’s important to get involved. “There’s a role for everyone to play,” says Wilson-Oyelaran. “This campaign is about excellence.” When you give a gift, says Ronda Stryker, you may not know its full impact for years. But becoming part of the Campaign for Kalamazoo College today can make an enormous change in students, and that, in turn, can change you, as it is changing the world.

The Campaign for Kalamazoo College

Status Entering Public Phase (September 2013)



Making a Difference—Right Now and Into the Future!

The Campaign for Kalamazoo College is at work right now! It's already making a difference. Capital projects like the Hicks Student Center and the Kalamazoo Athletic Field Complex help attract prospective students and do much more than that—they are community spaces that enrich the educational experience for individual students and build connections between students and members of the community. Those benefits will be equally true for the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership. With construction underway and a completion date expected in May 2014, the ACSJL building will be a gathering place for students and social justice leaders throughout the world, enriching academics and practice in social justice learning, which touches every discipline in the liberal arts.

The Campaign for Kalamazoo College is at work right now! Thus far, the campaign has funded six endowed professorships—in political science, sociology and anthropology, economics and business, religion, theatre arts, and a department to be determined. Five of those professorships have been named—John Dugas (political science), Adriana Garriga-López (anthropology and sociology), Ahmed Hussen (economics and business), Taylor Petrey (religion), and Ed Menta (theatre arts). These inspiring teachers are touching the lives of students today.

As efficacious as the campaign is right now, it will do much more to make a difference to the future of the College and the futures of the students who choose K for their undergraduate education. The campaign will endow an additional four professorships. It will also endow opportunities for faculty to study curricular innovations and develop pedagogical expertise.

The Campaign will raise \$13 million to endow student

scholarships, ensuring that the K learning experience is accessible to talented students throughout the world. It will also endow undergraduate research opportunities for students. The money raised in this campaign will endow the experiences that power the educational efficacy of the *K-Plan*, including new academic opportunities and new chances to apply that learning in practice through programs offered by the Center for Civic Engagement, the Center for Career and Professional Development, the Center for International Programs, and the Guilds of Kalamazoo College.

The campaign also will raise more than \$15 million to endow leadership opportunities in social justice and environmental stewardship. And it will provide the funding to build a fitness and wellness center and a new (long overdue) natatorium. These latter two projects—as is the case with all capital projects funded by this campaign—will serve as spaces that gather and enrich the learning of the entire community of Kalamazoo College.

The campaign is making a difference right now; and it will make a difference to the future of the K learning experience. That learning experience, in turn, makes a difference in the lives of K students and alumni, and those lives make a difference in the lives they touch. It's an exciting ripple effect that starts—that has started!—with the force of this campaign. Every alumni and friend of the College can share this excitement. Everyone can play a role in the success of this campaign. Find your part; contact Teresa Newmarch (Teresa.Newmarch@kzoo.edu or 269.337.7327) for more information on what you can do for the Campaign for Kalamazoo College. ■

Daedal's Binary Strip Takes Wing



writer Zinta Aistars



Daedalian Derks '12 leaned over the black and white squares of metal in his garage. He made them out of long strips of roof flashing in order to create his wind-animated sculpture, “Binary Strip”—one hundred feet of steel cable and hundreds of aluminum panels that took wing as an entry in ArtPrize 2012, the largest art competition in the world in its fourth year in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Daedalian is known as Daedal to his friends, a name very similar to the mythical sculptor Daedalus.

Is sculpture Daedal's destiny? Perhaps. Time will tell if his dream to make a living as a sculptor will continue to soar.

“Binary Strip” certainly enjoyed a lofty perch at ArtPrize. Daedal installed the piece from the top of the Grand Rapids Public Museum down to a stand of white birches along the banks of the Grand River. He enlisted the help of his father, Jim Derks, to test

• Daedal Derks (left) and his father, Jim, install “Binary Strip” atop the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

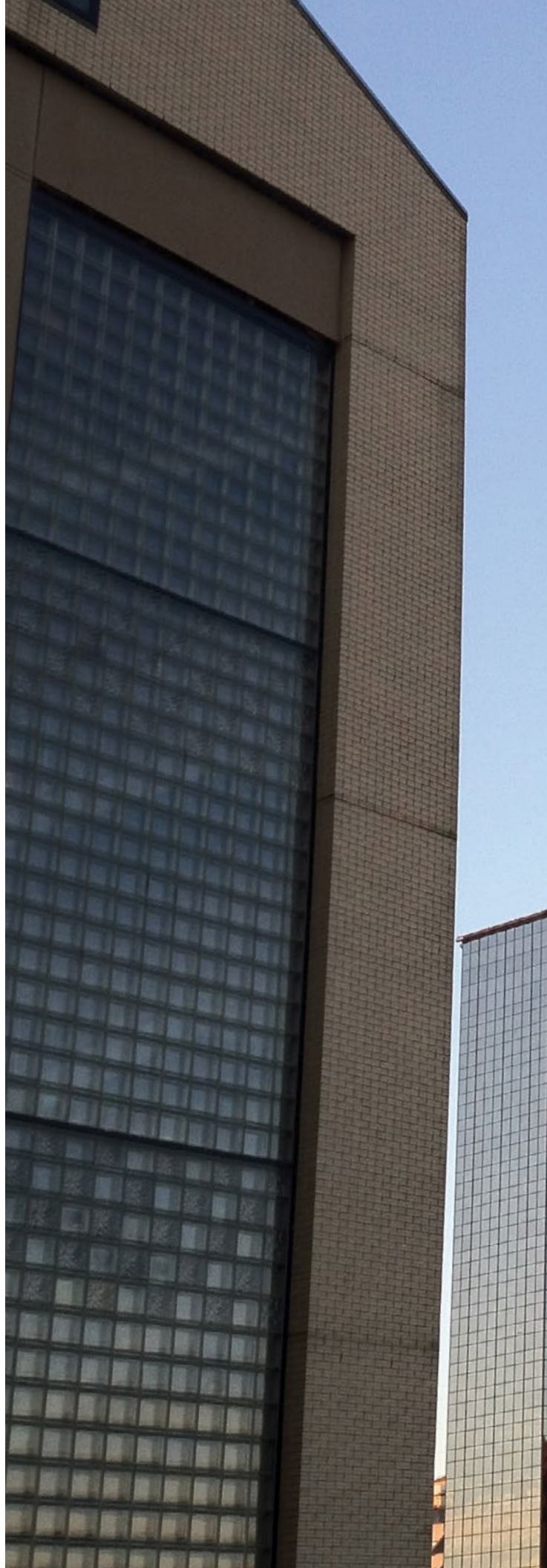
his metal wings.

Daedal explained his artwork: “The binary numeral system uses two symbols, 0 and 1, to represent numeric values. Because of its simplicity, the binary language is the base system for most computers today. ‘Binary Strip’ is inspired by my desire to create connections between technology and the environment and, in fact, to make them inseparable.

“Without wind, the binary strip is a blank sheet, unmoving and monochromatic. The wind brings it to life—the lightweight aluminum panels rapidly spinning and switching from black to white while the piece as a whole moves like a living, breathing creature. My goal is to inspire curiosity and provoke thought. I hope that it will strike everyone differently and reference diverse ideas—from fantasy to biology to technology—for each individual viewer.”

Daedal majored in art with a minor in classical civilizations. He had a background in mathematics and science, and instead of these varied areas of interest each going in their own direction, Daedal found ways to pull them all together. “Binary Strip” was his masterpiece of combining math, science, and art into one piece of installation sculpture.

“My sculpture explores the themes of geometry and aesthetic appeal,” he said. “I create pieces with kinetic elements, and my sculptures employ the natural environment to foster a sense of discovery in those who come across them. I do not wish to make a critique on society or culture with my art, and I am not attempting to make a statement regarding some abstract philosophy. My sculptures are intended to be aesthetically pleasing and enticing, and I hope that they inspire wonder and curiosity in those who see them.”





Daedal spent a week of eight-hour days putting the sculpture together. He spent 10 weeks putting together his Senior Individualized Project about the sculpture. “And a lot of daydreaming time,” he grinned. After all, art can’t exist without a dream first—of taking wing.

Daydreaming, impracticality, flying into the sun, these could all be construed as flighty things. Daedal knew this. Making a living as a sculptor is a dream at best, a risk at worst, but he’s willing to try. That’s something Kalamazoo College taught him, he said.

And one post-undergraduate year of living as an artist, that was his gift to himself, working on “Binary Strip” and exhibiting his work in ArtPrize. Later, he will take a more practical route, but without abandoning his dreams. Daedal plans to apply to graduate school. “MIT would be great,” he said, “a master’s in art, culture, and technology. But if I can ever make a living as a sculptor, I’d like that. I want to always have ideas that push me to achieve.”

Prior to Art Prize, “Binary Strip” was installed at K. In fact, Kalamazoo College offered Daedal sites for many of his sculptures, including the Quad, residence hall lawns, and outside and inside the Fine Arts building (see back cover). “Binary Strip” was first exhibited at the Lillian Anderson Arboretum. Derks walked the woods of the Arboretum, looking to the tree tops for the perfect place for installation.

He explained: “Elevated high above the viewer’s head, the gentle fluttering and occasional, wild spinning of the aluminum panels hopefully inspires a moment of wonder. For a brief instant, your brain is flooded with questions. What is it? How did it get here?”

Several months after its display in the Arboretum, it was time to enter the big exhibition in Grand Rapids. From September 19 to October 7, 2012, “Binary Strip” stretched across the sky, and thousands of viewers passed beneath, craning to see. An artist statement was posted by each artist’s work, and a number was assigned to each piece of art so that people could vote online



for their favorite pieces. Top prize would pull in a cool quarter million dollars, but competition was fierce.

Daedal's work warranted a positive review in the *Grand Rapids Press*, written by Joseph Becherer (September 22, 2012):

"...The ascending form feels like the tail on a very large kite. The simplicity of its form, color and composition works well against the open sky and points to the simplicity of the binary number system. Certainly, those who enjoy the technical and precise aspects of work and life will enjoy this piece, but likely so will those who appreciate a bit of whimsy and fantasy."

After the crowds dispersed and the exhibition closed down, Daedal and his father returned to Grand Rapids to pluck the "Binary Strip" out of the sky. After climbing trees to unleash the cables at riverside, they ascended the Grand Rapids Public Museum to release the sculpture from its moorings there. Wind whipping about them, father and son leaned out over the edge of building until the "Binary Strip" dangled, then fluttered to the crowd-flattened grass far, far below.

No grand prizes. No piles of cash. No purchasers of his art work, not yet. But Daedal was beaming, as was his proud dad, and the young sculptor was still, and again, dreaming of new wings.

"I had a great ArtPrize experience. For me it was much more about the exposure than actually winning anything. At least 2,000 of my business cards were taken from the stand below my piece, so I'm hoping that something will come from one of those interested people who grabbed them. Having the opportunity to install a large piece like the 'Binary Strip' in a big metropolitan area was huge for me, and for any artist, so I fully expect to participate again in the future."

Onward and upward, to grad school and still watching the sky—for that place where Daedal can hang his next sculpture.



Teaching With Testimony



writerZinta Aistars

Corey Harbaugh '91 was on a plane to Madrid, Spain, on his way to study abroad. He expected study abroad to change his life, like it does for so many other Kalamazoo College students, but for him, life was changed before the plane even landed.

He found a book. Someone had left it in the seat pocket of the plane. With time to pass, he opened the cover of Elie Wiesel's *Night* and started to read. It was the autobiography of a Jewish teen who had survived the Nazi concentration camps of Auschwitz and Buchenwald during the Holocaust.

Harbaugh was an English major, and he loved a good story. This one nearly overwhelmed him.

“When you experience a story,” Harbaugh says, “you take in some of the DNA of the person telling the story, and it becomes

• **Corey Harbaugh's work as an educator takes him all over the world. Above he is pictured (third from left) at EARTH University in Costa Rica, where he worked with students on writing and storytelling.**



• Harbaugh at the approach to the Western Wall, Jerusalem

a part of your own DNA.”

Since that day on the plane, Harbaugh has committed his life to bearing witness to the most profound stories, then using them to teach others, most often his students at Gobles (Mich.) High School, where he has been a teacher and administrator since 1995.

“By the time the plane landed, I had finished reading the book,” he says. “I left it on the seat for the next person to read; this isn’t the kind of story you keep to yourself. I learned about the value of a story during my K education, and I have been pursuing the answers to big questions in stories ever since. My faculty advisor, Gail Griffin, would have said this was my ‘calling.’”

In 2009, Harbaugh pursued big questions as a participant in the Memorial Library Summer Seminar on Holocaust Education. Part of a two-person team of educators, Harbaugh became immersed in a 60-hour seminar focused on reading, writing about, and teaching the Holocaust, creating a Holocaust Education teaching unit to bring back to his students. He became a satellite leader on the Michigan Summer Seminar in Holocaust Education, meeting in Kalamazoo and the Detroit area with teachers from throughout Michigan, learning how to teach the Holocaust to their students.

Two years later, Harbaugh was a Master Teacher of the USC Shoah Foundation, the Institute for Visual History and Education. Training included digging through an

archive of 52,000 Holocaust survivor testimonies. He emerged with a curriculum he had created on IWitness, a digital Holocaust curriculum available to teachers everywhere.

And then—the journey to Auschwitz and to Jerusalem.

“That’s what comes next,” Harbaugh says. “After you hear the stories, you are compelled to action. What do we do next, after we bear witness?”

And the trip to Poland and Israel influenced him as a teacher and an educational leader. He attributes this, too, to his education at Kalamazoo College.

“I learned at K that education goes beyond what one learns in the classroom,” he says. “K taught me to ask the hard questions. The questions of the Holocaust can’t be answered—or understood—yet we must continue down this path of trying to understand.”

He and 24 companion teachers from across the United States traveled to Poland and Jerusalem to explore the difficult questions embodied in the death camps. Harbaugh dealt with his arising emotions with poetry.

*... Here everything is sinister.
Everything touches death
And dark memory:
Those tracks
That train
Carries the silent shadow
Of a scream. That brick wall
I saw it in a grainy picture once
Used to be black
And white ...*



• Harbaugh (center) and fellow educators during a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to Jewish victims of the Holocaust.



• Harbaugh at one of the few remaining original walls of the Warsaw Ghetto.

“I had to document my encounter with these stories. The experience was so powerful, so I turned it into poetry to share.” Harbaugh has long liked the idea of sharing words, and in college he began to leave little pieces of paper with his poetry here and there, for others to find.

In Tel Aviv, on the second leg of the group’s journey, Harbaugh met Ron Huldai, the city’s mayor. “We had a 45-minute audience with him, and he invited us to ask him any question. When we asked him about Israel and Palestine, he said that all people want peace. Governments may be motivated by greed and a lust for power, but people everywhere just want peace.”

Harbaugh brought all of these experiences and impressions home to his classroom in Gobles. In a nine-week class, he invited his students to walk the same journey he shared. “It’s a hard journey,” he nods. “Teaching trauma brings kids to their own dark moments. You can depersonalize facts and statistics, but you can’t depersonalize someone’s story. I keep my students safe, but I also make them uncomfortable. That’s where the learning is.”

The learning becomes about his students, Harbaugh says, not his own objectives. He becomes perhaps more of a tour guide than a teacher, allowing the students to learn by shaping their own stories.

And then, Harbaugh invites them to tell their stories.

Social justice, Harbaugh says, belongs in every class, in every curriculum. That, too, he says, he learned at Kalamazoo College. No matter the topic, everything in life comes down to social justice—privilege or lack of it, breaking the cycle or letting it churn on in endless, repeated human tragedy.

“When the students graduate and they are ready to leave high school and go out into the world, I want them to think: How will I change the world?”

Corey Harbaugh’s Story Tellers

“Corey Harbaugh is the rare educator who teaches from the heart as well as the head. He brings a vision of a better world to his work. He is an articulate spokesperson for how Holocaust studies have the potential to awaken a sense of social justice in students, and he is tireless in his efforts to create curriculum, especially using digital and new media formats, that brings the lessons of the Holocaust into the 21st century. Having worked with hundreds of teachers across the country, I don’t know anyone I admire more or feel more privileged to know than Corey Harbaugh.”

Sondra Perl, Professor of English, Lehman College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and Director, Holocaust Educators Network

“Mr. Harbaugh’s class at Gobles High opened my eyes. He brought Irving Ross, a Holocaust survivor, to speak to us. You can read about the Holocaust, but to hear the story from a survivor, I’ll never forget it. It’s important for kids to be engaged with the impact of the Holocaust on the world. It made me really think about social justice, and that kind of thinking is reinforced here at K.

“It was Mr. Harbaugh that told me about Kalamazoo College. He encouraged me to visit and learn more about K. I’m glad I made the decision to come here to continue my education.”

Richard (Gray) Vreeland '15

The History We Carry



writerRandall Schau

If reading about an important historical event is good, hearing about it from those who lived it is even better. And as long as you're listening, you might as well record it for posterity.

So concluded Professor of English Bruce Mills when he created his senior seminar, "Building the Archive: James Baldwin and his Legacy."

There is a connection between Kalamazoo College and Baldwin, an African-American writer and social critic, and it goes back 53 years. It was in November of 1960, on the cusp of the civil rights movement, that James Baldwin accepted an invitation to come to the College. During the visit he gave a talk in Stetson Chapel on the subject of minority rights. That speech was later included in a series of essays in his book *Nobody Knows My Name*.

• James Baldwin (left) speaks to K students during a campus visit in 1960.

That was one of a number of books by Baldwin (1924-87) that students read for Mills's seminar. But the more compelling aspect of the class was interviewing Kalamazoo area blacks who had been active during the civil rights movement. Of course, step one in that process was to identify and locate people who were willing to talk about their experiences. Fortunately, Mills knew Donna Odom.

Odom, herself a K graduate (Class of 1967), is the founder and current executive director of the Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society. Through her own research she came up with a list of about 20 possible subjects to interview. One of Mills's students, Elaine Ezekiel '13, then worked the telephones in an attempt to locate and contact them. Some, unfortunately, had passed away; others declined to be interviewed.

Ezekiel, an English major and news editor of *Index*, served as project coordinator. While most of her work related to the interviews, she greatly enjoyed Baldwin's writings. "I really like his wit and humor and his perspective as both a black man and a gay man."

Ezekiel was sympathetic to the people who received phone calls from the K students. "From the subject's point of view," she recalls, "our calls were coming out of the blue. I was just some white girl they didn't know wanting to ask them questions. But sometimes if the person didn't want to be involved, they'd at least suggest someone else for us to contact. But Donna was the key—she knows everyone!"

Eventually, four persons were found who were willing to tell their stories on camera: Phyllis Seabolt, one of the first black secondary school teachers in the Kalamazoo school district; James Washington Sr., among the first black Kalamazoo police officers; Charles Warfield, an activist in the '60s; and Caldin Street, one of the few blacks who attended Kalamazoo's Loy Norrix High School in the early '60s.

Odom then made her second contribution to the seminar—training the students how to conduct the actual interviews. "The first step," she explained, "is to do pre-interview research;

find out all you can about the person. Then, when the interview actually takes place, help the person feel at ease."

The latter task wasn't always easy, in part because the subjects were being asked about events that brought back painful memories. Seabolt, for example, recalled with dismay the day she discovered that a white teacher had secretly told Seabolt's students they shouldn't trust her.

Street spoke of being taunted day after day by a white boy. She ignored him as long as she could, then, in desperation, threw down her books and told the boy to either fight her or leave her alone. He backed down, but Street's situation remained stressful enough that her parents allowed her to move in with a relative in Detroit for her senior year.

Washington, as a police officer, remembers having problems not only with white citizens but black ones, too. "They were suspicious of me. They thought I might be a turncoat. I had to walk a tightrope. But when you're a policeman, you're not white or black, you're blue."

About the questions to be asked, Odom had this advice: keep them short. More importantly, listen carefully to the answers; a comment might lead to a follow-up question that could elicit an even more revealing response.

Interestingly, the fact that all of the K students involved were white might sometimes have led to better questions, Odom reflected afterwards. "I think there were times when the subject talked about something that had been said to them or had happened to them, that to another black person would not have seemed noteworthy. But a white person, especially a young white person, might be more surprised by the recollection and might respond by saying, 'Really? That actually happened? Tell me more!'"

All four subjects were interviewed twice, each time for an hour, in the recording studio at K's library. Using that recording, the interviews were then transcribed by the K students.

At the end of the semester the students gave a presentation, playing parts of their interviews and explaining what they'd learned from the experience. Several indicated that hearing the subjects tell their stories had really opened their eyes. What the students had to say proved to be very satisfying to Odom.

"Donna seemed so happy with what we'd done," Ezekiel remembers, "Then she said, 'Now go interview your grandparents!'"

Odom's own life experiences would have made for an interesting interview. After graduating from a nearly all-black high school in Chicago, she had a difficult college decision: attend a historically all-black college or a nearly all-white college in the comparatively small city of Kalamazoo? While going to K worked out, it certainly represented a culture shock. "In college, as part of my foreign study, I lived in France, but the move to Kalamazoo was, for me, a much bigger adjustment."

After working in the education field in Chicago, Odom returned to Kalamazoo in 1993 (a year after Mills began his career at K). She then worked for the Kalamazoo Valley Museum until 2010; during that time she helped establish the Heritage Society. The involvement with the Baldwin seminar was part of the Society's "Engaging the Wisdom" project and its Racial Healing Initiative, funded by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

The interviews, both the recordings and the transcripts, will be preserved in the College's archives as well as at the Heritage Society. For generations to come they will provide insights into what life was like for Kalamazoo blacks in the '60s.

But they may do more. The hope is that they will help people understand themselves and their current environment. As James Baldwin wrote, "The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it. History is literally present in all that we do. It is to history that we owe our frames of reference, our identities, our aspirations."



• Donna Odom '67 and Bruce Mills



A gift through the Kalamazoo College Fund

provides vital support for the Kalamazoo College student experience. Annual Kalamazoo College Fund contributions from alumni, parents, and friends are put to use immediately and make a lasting difference in the lives of current students.

Gifts may be made online at www.kzoo.edu/giving or through the envelope you will find in this publication.

REMEMBER! This year's Donor Honor Roll will be online. You can view it in mid-December at kzoo.edu/DonorHonorRoll. The document acknowledges the individuals and organizations that made gifts to Kalamazoo College in Fiscal Year 2012-13 (July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013), including designated gifts and gifts to the Kalamazoo College Fund and the Kalamazoo College Athletic Fund. The Donor Honor Roll also cites persons who lent their time and expertise in various ways during Fiscal Year 2012-13.

THANK YOU! Your philanthropy supports the excellence of a K education.

Finding the Outdoors ...and Each Other



Turns out “Out” got some history wrong. That article, LuxEsto’s (September 2012) shout-out to the (supposedly first) Kalamazoo Outing Club led to the discovery of a forebear started some 40 years previous—same name even. That resulted in some delightful sharing of memories among the founders and early members of the first KOC, and the following letter they wrote to members of the current KOC.

Dear KOC Members (new)...from KOC Members (umm, somewhat older):

Drawn to Kalamazoo College by the *K-Plan* we came in 1969 from all parts of the country, ranging from the Midwest to both coasts. The *K-Plan* promised study and travel in places we never imagined we could visit. At that time K had no LandSea program, and foreign study was less than a dozen centers in Germany, France, Spain, and Africa.

- The first KOC still travels together. Pictured above are “quatermasters” Anne Fege and Jim Phelan.
- Engineers Al Hauck (left) and Larry Banta make the best bear bag suspension system ever.

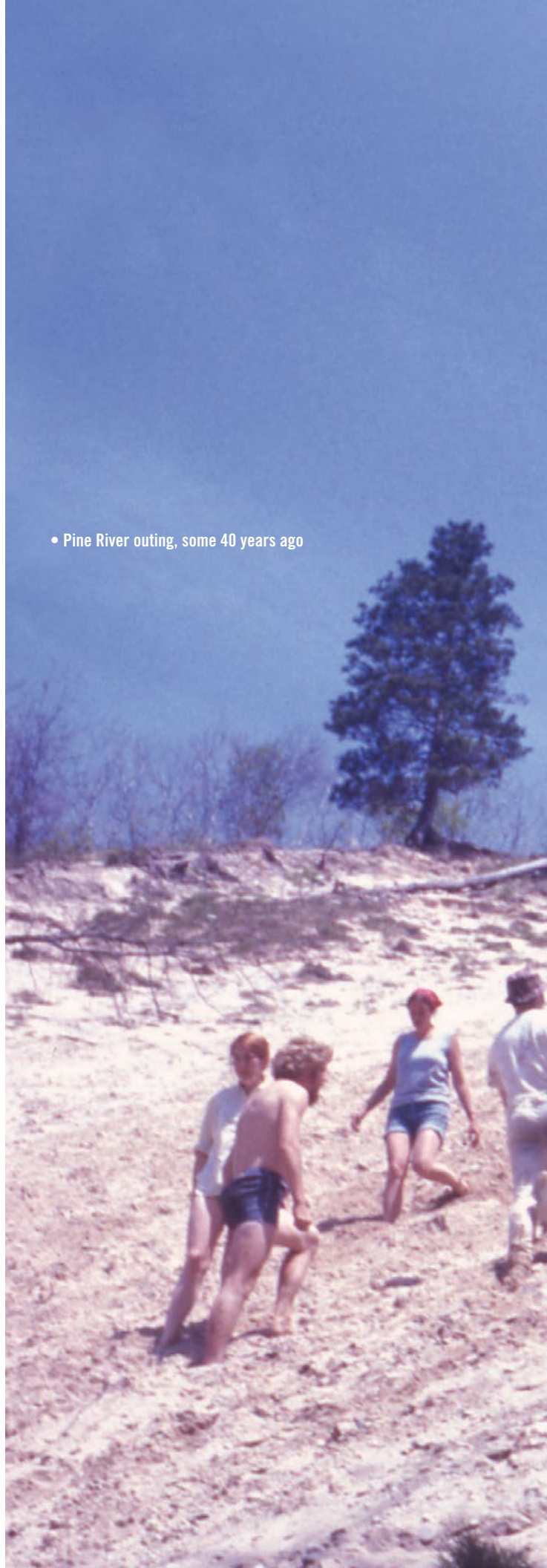
Many of us who had grown up camping, hiking, canoeing, climbing, and otherwise enjoying the outdoors longed for a way to get back to nature with our new friends in the beautiful setting of Michigan, a place a lot of us were experiencing for the first time. Few of us had camping gear beyond perhaps an empty backpack, a cotton flannel sleeping bag, and a pair of hiking boots. The idea of combining resources with some support from the College led to the formation of what we called the Kalamazoo Outing Club in 1970. Structurally, it was pretty similar to what was created some several generations later. Biology professor Paul Olexia agreed to be our sponsor, and we were given food from the dining hall for our trips and the use of a station wagon for our travels. We also received some money to buy group cooking gear. Dues were 50 cents per quarter.

Our first Outing Club adventures were canoe trips on Michigan rivers, each spring and summer quarter. Our favorite was the Pine River, since it had a few actual rapids and afforded a two-day trip, but we also canoed the Manistee and the Pere Marquette rivers. We rented canoes for five to six dollars per day, a fee that sometimes included shuttle service. The canoes were usually well-dented Grumman aluminum models weighing about 70 pounds. One time we shuttled canoes on a Model-A Ford Jim [Phelan '73] had restored. That was quite the sight—two of us in the open rumble seat just under the canoes and two more hanging out the windows—a sight unlikely seen again on the highways of the northern lower peninsula.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of our KOC (as it may well be with yours) is the relationships that formed and deepened. Couples quickly learned who could work together in a canoe and who could not. Some of those who could are still together today, and even a few who couldn't (like Anne Skjaerlund Fege '73 and Dave Fege '73). Many of us who shared these adventures remain close friends.

Kayaks were a new thing. Always looking for an adventure,

• Pine River outing, some 40 years ago





a few of us braved the transition from canoe to kayak. Jim [Chase '73] was on the swim team, and recalled kayakers arriving in the natatorium pool after practice to learn to Eskimo roll. There were contests for the most consecutive rolls, of course. The record was always “something and a half.” A scientist from the Upjohn Company befriended us and loaned us kayaks, and then helped two of us make fiberglass models of our own in the basement of Severn Hall—which stank up the entire building!

We “first” KOC alumni had a great time e-mailing each other when the story of the “new” KOC students came out. We began to recall our shared stories. One of those was rappelling down the Chapel Tower! (Okay, okay, we admit that qualifies as urban legend.)

Though it is true that some of our members were guilty of breaking into the Chapel Tower, the occasion was only for a late night “elephant cheer.” No ropes were used, and no animals were injured during filming. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Steve Crow greeted the miscreant group back on the Quad, and we understand the tower has been locked ever since.

We did teach rappelling down an embarrassingly short wall behind Trowbridge. And there is at least one midnight rappel from the third floor of Severn Hall that John [Deupree '73] and Al [Hauck '73] will admit to. And although no photos exist to prove the adventure, faces of the students who lived on the floors below will always be ingrained!

The first Earth Day was held in the spring of 1970, our freshman year, and environmental issues were brought to the forefront of society. Many of us sought out environmentally-oriented jobs for our sophomore-spring Career Service quarter, teaching in outdoor education camps, or working on environmental legislation or in volunteer organizations.

The following fall came the big adventure: foreign study

scattered us across the planet, usually to urban environments. When we returned to K we discovered that most of us had found ways to mix at least a little bicycling in the countryside or hiking in the Black Forest with tours of art museums and breweries. New friendships had been born, and the KOC gained new members. Those friendships have endured the travails of time and distance.

A core group of the first KOC has organized camping and canoeing reunions, including one in northern Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area in 2005. There was something very “K-esque” in the way Jim Phelan (senior engineer at John Deere), Al Hauck (chair of construction management at Cal Poly), and Larry Banta '73 (engineering professor at West Virginia) created what was likely the world’s most sophisticated bear bag suspension system.

Many of us were inspired to “teach our children well” (from



•Rest stop on the Pine

the Graham Nash song released in 1970 by Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young) and have found ways to live and work in rural settings or in professions that connect us and others with the out-of-doors. For us, as it is for you, that connection is central to who we are and a thread that binds us to one another for life.

Some of us live in places you might like to visit. Larry has a 50-acre “farm” in West Virginia that he offers as a base camp for caving, camping, and white-water rafting expeditions in “almost heaven.” We are scattered from coast to coast, and are so old that we now might have the time, resources, and contacts that could be useful for your trip planning. Feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Larry, John, Allan, Anne, Kathy, Jim,
Charmine, Jan, and Mike*

Larry Banta (Professor of Mechanical Engineering, West Virginia University, Larry.Banta@gmail.com)

John Deupree (Executive Director, American International Recruitment Council, jdeupree@gmail.com)

Allan Hauck (Department Head and Professor, Construction Management Department, California Polytechnic State University, ahauck@calpoly.edu)

Anne Skjaerlund Fege (Chair, San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative; Owner, Business and Ecology Consulting, afege@aol.com)

Kathy (Smith) Phelan (Assistant Librarian, Pleasant Valley School, Bettendorf, Iowa, phelan@netexpress.net)

Jim Phelan (Staff Engineer, John Deere Moline Technology Center, phelan@netexpress.net)

Charmine (Messenger) Rone (Energy Healer & NuSkin Distributor; Mathematics and Science Tutor; Retired Educator, charmine.rone@comcast.net)

Jan (Blair) Stewart (First Grade teacher, Fargo (North Dakota) Public Schools)

Mike Stewart (Professor, Mechanical Engineering, North Dakota State University, Fargo)



•The first KOC paddles on. Some of its members are pictured on a canoe trip in 2005 (l-r): Larry Banta, Anne Fege, Jim Phelan, John Deupree, and Al Hauck.

Special SIP



writer Randall Schau

Some K students struggle trying to decide

what to do for their Senior Individualized Project (SIP). For Phillip Earls '13, the decision was easier—he just merged his passion for sports with his life-long empathy for those who live with special needs. The result? The “Hartford Hoopers Basketball League for Physically and Mentally Challenged Children and Young Adults.”

Phil grew up in the small town of Hartford, about 30 miles west of Kalamazoo. Standing 6'7" he excelled in a number of sports. His only sibling, younger sister Jessica, wasn't always so fortunate. Although she was 'high functioning' and graduated with a GPA over 3.0, Jessica struggled with epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and periodic seizures.

“There were times when both my mom and dad were gone and

- The Hartford Hoopers: the SIP of Phil Earls '13.

- Phil (facing page) coaches a member of the Hoopers.



Jessica would have a seizure. I'd just have to deal with it," Phil remembers.

Phil also saw how an accident could lead to a disability. "My dad had always been real healthy, but when I was a sophomore in high school he fell down some steps. After a couple of weeks they decided he'd broken a hip, which put him in the hospital." Unfortunately, once he was there he contracted a methicillin-resistant—or MRSA infection, a virulent and very dangerous condition caused by a bacterium that is resistant to antibiotics.

The infection led to a three-month hospital stay followed by nearly a year of being housebound. Even now Phil's father will occasionally need a walking cane.

"There were times when I played baseball in high school," Phil recalls, "and I'd see my dad sitting next to his van with an IV running into his arm."

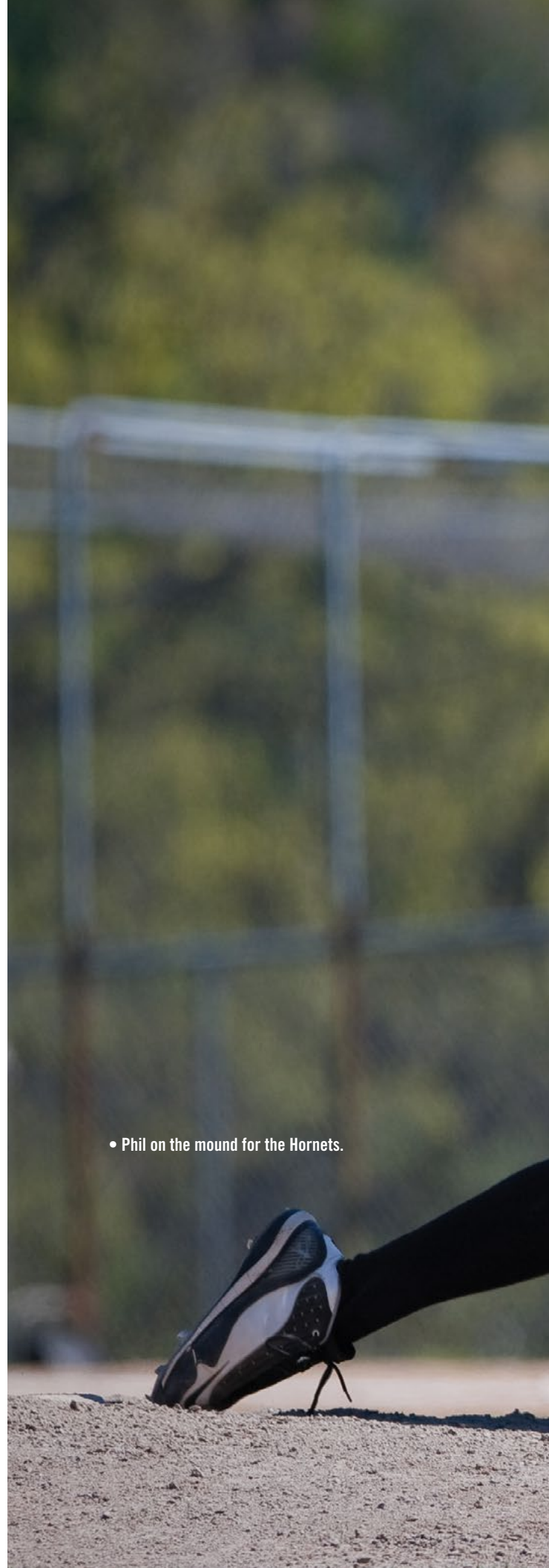
Whether a disability is long- or short-term, Phil knew, even before deciding on his SIP, that those with special needs love sports. "When Jessica was younger I volunteered for several years to help with her softball team. It was in the Miracle League in Coloma. My mom was her coach."

That experience caused Phil to realize "that sports can bring people together and give them an opportunity to be both physically active and social."

Phil's SIP-associated basketball league took place on four consecutive Saturdays in February and March. "I wanted to give them a chance to at least practice some drills and, if they were able to do it, to play some games."

On the first Saturday Phil had no idea how many people would actually attend. "I was thinking it might only be four or five, but 15 showed up, some with their parents. I was a little overwhelmed at first."

The players were as young as 6 and as old as 26, with disabilities ranging from Down Syndrome to a young girl confined to a wheelchair as a result of a serious automobile accident. What they all had in common, though, was a desire to get on the court and play some hoops.



• Phil on the mound for the Hornets.



Because of the wide range of disabilities, the group was divided into those who could actually compete and those who were ‘instructional.’ Each of the 15 was paired with a volunteer “buddy,” whose job was to help the players with the drills and to cheer them on.

Getting volunteers proved to be no problem. “I recruited some of my old high school friends as well as some of the guys on the K baseball team. Almost everyone who showed up to help the first week came back to help for all the other sessions, too. They enjoyed being part of it.”

By the time the last session was over, Phil had seen a great deal of development in his players; not so much with basketball skills but in the much more important areas of social skills and self-confidence.

“On the first day a lot of them just kind of went off by themselves and shot baskets,” he recalls. “But by the fourth week they’d gotten to know each other and were actively interacting with each other. Seeing how they’d grown and how happy they were was really satisfying. It made me feel like I was on top of the world.”

Clearly the participant who was most special to Phil was his sister. “She’d been coming to my games to watch me for years, but now it was her turn to play and for me to watch. It was a cool role reversal.”

The 15 players left the program with more than memories: each received a basketball, a “Hartford Hoopers” medal, a T-shirt, a wristband, and a framed photograph of the group.

Those items cost money, and that led to another component of Phil’s SIP—fundraising. “Most of the money came from local businesses in Hartford that I approached, or people I knew, but I had to chip in a little myself, too.”

In the weeks since, Phil has had occasion to run into some of his former players. “They come up to me and give me a hug. It makes me feel like I really accomplished something important to them.”

Although Hartford isn’t far from Kalamazoo, Phil admits he wasn’t very familiar with K until one of its basketball coaches attended one of his high school games. “When he told me that I was good enough to play basketball at K that got me interested. Then I found out about K’s academic excellence and that made me even more interested.”

But Phil had also been accepted at the University of Michigan, so his decision was difficult. The clincher? Being told he could also play baseball at K. “Being able to play both basketball and baseball in college sounded great. I couldn’t turn that down.”

Phil played both sports as a freshman, but by the end of the



• Phil with his sister, Jessica

year he realized doing so might have fallen in the category of “be-careful-what- you-wish-for.”

“Playing basketball and baseball, going to classes and doing all the homework... it got to be overwhelming. It was really rough towards the end of the basketball season, when it overlapped with baseball. I’d go from one practice to the next without a break in between. By the time I’d get home, I’d about pass out I was so exhausted.”

There was also the issue of time management. “I didn’t have a lot of homework in high school because I could get most of it done while I was at school. But that sure wasn’t the case once I got to K!”

The demands of his schedule forced him to make a difficult decision as his sophomore year approached. After some soul searching and a series of long talks with his

parents, Phil decided to give up basketball. “Coach Passage took it well. He understood how hard it was to do two sports.”

Wearing number 31 (“Like Greg Maddux”), Phil has been a starting pitcher and part of the regular rotation since his sophomore year. Of course, with the designated hitter in place, that means he doesn’t get to bat. “I don’t really mind,” he says. “Although there have been times I see a pitcher that I really would like to hit against!”

Phil graduated in June and hopes to put his degree in psychology and his passion for sports to use by starting a personal training business in the Hartford area.

“A good trainer, working one-on-one work with an athlete, can make quite difference,” he says. Thanks to his SIP, Phil knows that is true even when the athlete has special needs.



• Phil with other members of the Hartford Hoopers.

Creating Community to a Power of 5



writerKaye Bennett



A white two-story house on Locust Street

in Kalamazoo's Vine neighborhood was, for the 2012-13 school year, home to five senior students, young women who were leaders both on and off campus. Even more importantly, this hard-to-heat, hard-to-cool house, circa 1930, with doors that opened backwards, a view of Stetson Chapel from one of the bedrooms, and a big, welcoming front porch, was the heart of a friendship which, the new grads are confident, will continue for the rest of their lives.

Shoshana Schultz, Elaine Ezekiel, Emily Townsend, Phoebe Solomon, and Kathleen (Kat) Barrett, all members of the Class of 2013, shared the house...and much more. They shared their various passions, their talents, and their classroom and campus and community experiences with each other. The result at

- Porch time—outdoors (left photo) and indoors (right photo, l-r): Emily Townsend, Shoshana Schultz, Kat Barrett, Elaine Ezekiel, and Phoebe Solomon.
- (Facing page): Phoebe Solomon welds a prop for a stage set.



graduation was five young women not only prepared to venture out into their own chosen pathways, but also rounded by what they had learned from each other.

Each housemate is exceptional:

- **Shoshana Schultz**, 22, is from Ann Arbor. After high school, she wasn't sure she wanted to go to college at all, but she decided on K because of the wide variety of experiences that it promised. Schultz majored in history, studied abroad in Varanasi, India (with housemate Barrett) and interned at a food education center in San Francisco and with the organic food truck and café started by Bridgett Blough '08. Schultz worked all four years in the Office of College Communication and was deeply involved in food-related organizations and projects. She is passionate about food and the lessons it can teach about race, economics, history, culture, biology, and politics. Following graduation, Schultz returned to Ann Arbor to work for a small magazine and seek a food-related job.
- **Phoebe Solomon**, 22, came to K from Los Angeles. A scholarship from the Posse Foundation lured her to Michigan, plus, she says, "I wanted to see snow." Solomon came to K convinced she wanted to be a surgeon, but soon shifted gears and decided that welding and theatre were more her calling. She became a philosophy major and theatre arts minor, studied abroad in Madrid, and interned at the STAPLES Center Foundation in Los Angeles and the Mason Street Warehouse in Saugatuck (Mich.). In addition to serving on the Student Commission, Solomon was heavily involved in theatre. Her interests, she says, include, "building theatre, welding [a skill she learned from K's Director of Technical Theater and Design Jon Reeves], being fierce, tying knots, cooking, biking, reading, and laughing." After graduation she headed to Little Rock, where she is a production assistant at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre.
- **Elaine Ezekiel**, 23, chose K because it was close to her home town of Ann Arbor, and it also offered a liberal arts education.





• Graduation day (l-r): Schultz, Solomon, Ezekiel, and Townsend

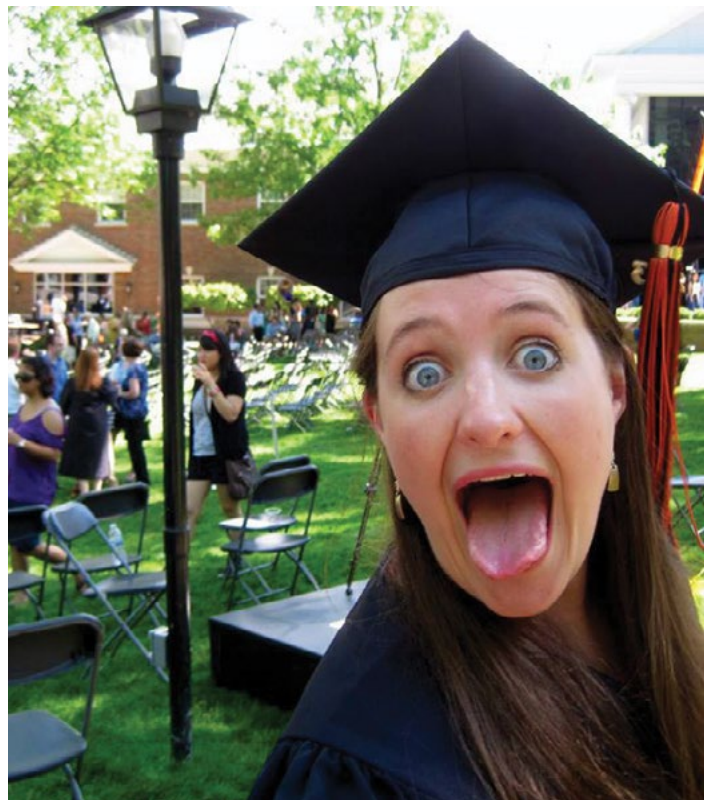
K also provided Ezekiel an honors scholarship and allowed her to defer for a year while she taught English in Costa Rica. Back in Michigan, Ezekiel majored in English with a writing emphasis; she studied in Thailand and did internships and externships with Migrant Health Promotion in Texas, Pacifica Radio in New York City, and Michigan Radio in Ann Arbor. She worked on the *Index*, and she enjoyed running and arts and crafts. After graduation, she began work at an Ypsilanti-based not-for-profit organization that helps migrant workers access healthcare.

- **Emily Townsend**, 21, hails from Lansing and graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy. She was drawn to K by its offer of the Enlightened Leadership Award for Creative Writing; in addition, she says, “I knew from friends that Kalamazoo was a bikeable city.” An English major, Townsend studied in Kenya and did internships at Western Michigan University’s public radio station, WMUK, and at New York Arts for Radio Journalism. She was editor of the *Index*, and says she also enjoyed poetry, the accordion, reading the *New Yorker*, and nannying for Assistant Professor of Art and Art History Christine Hahn. Her post-K plans started with an internship at an NPR station outside Traverse City.
- **Kat Barrett**, 22, is from Shelby, Michigan, and says that coming to K, for her, was a “really wonderful accident. I came on one college visit, loved the campus, the friendly students, the small class sizes, the opportunity to study abroad, and decided this was it.” Barrett majored in theatre arts, focusing in management and production. She studied in Varanasi, India, and interned at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater and the Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative in Kalamazoo. Barrett was active throughout her K years

not only in theatre productions, but also with the Frelon Dance Company (where she was a dancer, choreographer, and director), with the First-Year Experience program, and with the *a cappella* group, Premium Orange. Following her June graduation, she began summer stock theater work for Mason Street Warehouse; after that, she plans to move to Philadelphia for a production apprenticeship with InterAct Theatre Company.

Although each of the housemates is unique, they acknowledge the many traits they share. Townsend says they’re all smart, happy, and hardworking. Solomon describes them as “incredibly curious and skeptical,” while Ezekiel says, “Everyone likes to laugh—at ourselves and at each other.” Schultz says, “We all value independence to a high level. We’re independent together.” And, they stress, “We all like NPR.”

The friends are deeply involved in their own interests at school, but when they return to the house, to the “safe space,” as Townsend calls it, each shares her experiences with her



• Kat Barrett after commencement

housemates. Ezekiel credits this sharing with expanding everyone's horizons. As Schultz put it to her housemates, sitting on the porch one sunny Saturday afternoon a month before graduation, "You all help me understand my own thoughts by putting them into words."

Schultz describes the group as an "intellectually stimulating group of women."

"It's easy to find friends who are guys," says Ezekiel, "but this is the first time I've had such a good group of women who understand me." At one point, the women reminisce, a male student was lined up to move into an empty room in the house. But when the residents discussed it, they decided it was important that all the housemates be female.

What is it about Kalamazoo College that fosters deep friendships such as these? Barrett feels it's a function of the College's small size, which, she says, leads to many shared experiences, and of its philosophy. K. Barrett says, "allows

students to create communities together. Working with other students creates bonds, and friendship and trust are based on putting projects together."

The housemates looked out for each other, caring for someone when she got sick, and, if they lived close by, sharing their families when vacation breaks were too short for some to travel to their own homes. They helped each other get through hard times.

These new grads are sure that they'll remain, in their words, "friends forever." The writers in the group plan to use letters to maintain those ties, while the broadcasters will make a lot of phone calls. They all hope to travel together and to schedule shared adventures.

"This is just the beginning of our story," Ezekiel is convinced. "In ten years, we really will have influenced each other."

Given its return on investment, a Kalamazoo College education is one of the best bargains around, but these five new alums found a way to quintuple that return. ■



• Shoshana Schultz with a lot of green beans

Keep Connected!

Note from Erin Mazzoni '07, Alumni Association Executive Board

“We do more in four years so students can do more in a lifetime.” That’s the College’s brand statement, and we’re part of the proof.

Our more-in-four stories start when we’re students and influence our lives forever. As alumni, we embody our *alma mater*’s mission of excellence. We received an outstanding education and fostered long-lasting relationships with our peers, professors, and other alumni. There are so many fun and rewarding ways that we can continue to connect with the College. Here are just a few:

- Update your information in the Alumni Directory and catch up with your class agents to learn about ways to stay in touch with classmates. Check out local K events near you, including SWARM and Hornet Happy Hour. (Visit www.kzoo.edu/alumni)
- Serve as a volunteer. Opportunities include class agent, a reunion committee member, Hornet Happy Hour host,

and more. (Please contact Kim Aldrich at kim.aldrich@kzoo.edu or 269.337.7300)

- Help identify and recruit prospective students or join the Alumni Admission Volunteers. (Please contact Hillary Teague at hillary.teague@kzoo.edu or 269.337.7166)
- Mentor a student through the Guilds or offer an externship or internship. Join the conversation on LinkedIn and become a contact in your field for students and other alumni. (Please contact Joan Hawxhurst at joan.hawxhurst@kzoo.edu or 269.337.7183)
- Make a charitable contribution to Kalamazoo College—no amount is too big or too small! Contributions made today help fund the education of current students, just as they did during our four years. (Please contact Laurel Palmer at laurel.palmer@kzoo.edu or 269.337.7236)

Thank you for supporting Kalamazoo College! We hope that you find your connection with K as rewarding as we do!



Class of 1948 Enjoys its 65th Reunion Seven members of the Class of 1948 gathered on campus in June. They had the opportunity to attend commencement of the Class of 2013, 65 years after their own special day. Pictured are (l-r): front row—Jacqueline Buck Mallinson, Jean (Klein) Dentler, Maxine (Bailey) Bearss, Jane (Hunter) Parker, Jean (Armintrout) Koopsen; back row—Jack Dentler, Wendell Bearss, and Davis Parker. All are members of the Class of 1948 with the exception of Davis Parker.



Fifty-five for '58 They set foot on campus about the same time as did beloved President Weimar K. Hicks. Fifty-five years after graduating, members of the Class of 1958 reunited on campus. Pictured are (l-r): front row—Ruth Knoll, Margaret (Brown) Shuler, Sue (Wisom) Coates, Marcia (Johnston) Morrison, Marlene Crandell Francis, Wilma (Barber) Dzioba, Ruth (Sollitt) Williamson; second row—Don Shuler, Dolores (Koudel) Koettgen, Jean (Hilton) Courtney, Merrilyn Vaughn-Hoffman, Sally Hunter, Jane (Schaafsma) Iannelli; back row—Herman DeHoog, Robert Steward, Warn Courtney, and Vince Iannelli.



Binding Ties On the day of commencement graduating seniors gather with family members who are alumni of Kalamazoo College or who may one day become so. The resulting photo depicts a family connection amplified by a second family—K. Pictured are (l-r): front row—Margaret Rush (grandmother of Chandler Smith '13), Caleb Kline '13, Margie Kline '86, Alexander Rigney '13, Barbara Rigney '82, James Todd '92, Heather Todd, Madison Todd, Forrest Todd '13, Isabella Kupe, Michael Minkus '13, Daniel Minkus '82 ; second row—Michael Hicks '13, B. Thomas Smith '55, John Kline '86, Kelly Rigney '82, Tim To, Nicholas To '13, Josephine Csete '83, Laura Kupe, Carla Kupe-Arion '02, Johanna Kupe '13, Kapalzwa Kupe, Anne-Marie Kupe, Mason Arion '02, Layla Marie Arion; third row—Randy Hicks '80, David Smith, Nancy Smith, Chandler Smith '13, Jane Kiel '84, Catherine Adams-Gravley '83, Ryan Gravley, Alexandra Gravley '13, Dyan Hampton-Aytch '74, Alfreda Hampton '74, Matthew Vanderhoef '13, William Vanderhoef '81, Thomas Giancarlo '79, Cathy O'Grady-Giancarlo '80, Christian Giancarlo '13; back row—Grace Kiel, Tristan Kiel '13, Tracy Kiel '83, Adam Gravley '84, and Alexandre Olech '13.

InMemory

her fellowship there.

Luel Simmons Jr. '42 died on February 1, 2013. He was a faithful and enthusiastic friend and supporter of Kalamazoo College for more than 70 years. He met his wife, the late Marian Wilson Simmons '42, when they co-edited their high school yearbook at Kalamazoo Central High School.



At K, Luel was a member of the Scholars Group, editor of *The Boiling Pot*, president of the College Singers, and a member of Sigma Rho Sigma. He earned his B.A. in economics and business and graduated from Harvard Business School. Throughout their lives, he and Marian maintained an active involvement with Kalamazoo College, serving on the Alumni Executive Board and spending 12 years on the Emeritus Club Board, four of them as co-presidents. They jointly received the College's Distinguished Service Award and the Emeritus Club Citation of Merit. Luel was a member of the Stetson Society and the 1833 Society. He also wrote a book on the life of Henry Overley, the first head of the College's music department and a renowned composer. Luel and Marian established a scholarship fund which bears their names. Luel served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After the war he spent his career in the steel business in Kalamazoo and Detroit. For 28 years he was with Production Steel Company (later Whittaker Steel), where he was vice president. He later joined the German company Thyssen Steel and subsequently founded and served as president of Elsimco, Inc., a firm involved in international trade. Luel and Marian were among 13 founding families of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, where he served five terms as Senior Warden, was a member of the building committee, and served as the first choir director. The family later returned to Christ Church Cranbook, and Luel served as treasurer and Senior Warden (twice). Luel and Marian raised three children and took them to 47 of the contiguous states. Later trips

took the couple to some 80 countries and a circumnavigation of the globe. In 2004 Luel and Marian moved to Fox Run Retirement Community in Novi, Mich. There Luel worked on two committees: the Committee for the Center for Continuous Learning and the Philanthropy Committee.

Ardith (Quigley) Charleston Reed '48 died at home with her family around her on December 21, 2012. She was 85. She earned her B.A. in music and enjoyed a long and accomplished career as a music teacher. An accomplished pianist, Ardith loved music, literature, children, and nature. She spent her life sharing these loves with others. She moved to the Chicago area in 1977 to continue her teaching career at the Music Institute of Chicago, from which she retired in 1987. She continued to teach privately until 2011.

Gordon Dolbee '50 died on May 7, 2013. He matriculated to K from Battle Creek (Michigan) Central High School and earned his B.A. in economics. During his undergraduate years he played on the Hornet men's tennis team. He also participated in intramural sports and was a member of the International Relations Club, the Sherwoods, and the Men's Union. He served as president of Men's Union. On August 23, 1950, he married Jean Louise Shivel and spent his next 63 years happily married. He was employed until his retirement by the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo in its personnel and international divisions. He was active in many community organizations. He served as a trustee for Kalamazoo College from 1984-2002 and remained an active supporter of the College's sports program. He was honored with K's Distinguished Alumni Award and Trustee Emeritus status. He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club for more than 30 years and held numerous leadership roles at the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo.

Donald H. Dayton '55 died on June 29, 2013. He earned his B.A. at Kalamazoo College in English. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany between the Korean and Vietnam Wars. After returning home, he met and married Carol Wall. Together, they raised three sons. Dayton taught English in the Kalamazoo

Public School System and subsequently served as the media specialist in the Gull Lake Public School System before retiring in 1990. He loved music, travel, classic movies, literature, history, and theater, participating in the Musical Messengers, Bach Festival Chorale, the Civic Players, the Kalamazoo Singers, the Kalamazoo Crusaders, the Second Reformed Church Choir, and the German-American Club of Kalamazoo.

Jesse Dungy III '59 died on January 28, 2013, in Iowa City, Iowa, from complications of cancer. He matriculated to Kalamazoo College from Springfield, Illinois (Springfield High School) and earned his B.A. in history. He was involved in numerous co-curricular campus activities, including Sigma Rho Sigma, WJMD, the *Index*, and intercollegiate sports (football, track, cross-country, and basketball). He later earned a master's degree (education) from the University of Michigan (1972). After serving in the United States Army Signal Corp (1959-61), he began his career as an educator. Dungy was a public school teacher in Detroit, a graduate student recruiter for the University of Michigan, and an associate vice president for planning and development at Bowie State University. In 1974 he was the recipient of the prestigious Rockefeller Administrative Internship to the President of Kalamazoo College. He retired from the Gary, Indiana, Community School Cooperative in 2012, where he taught high school social studies and history. Dungy was an avid tennis player and skier. He served as a U.S. Open tennis judge for 20 years and skied many of the major ski areas of Europe and North America. He served on the board of trustees for Kalamazoo College from 1992 to 1998, and he was a longtime member of the Concerned Black Men, Inc., Washington, D.C.

James Mack Rigterink '61 died December 12, 2012. He was 73. In addition to his degree (biology) from K, he earned degrees from Western Michigan University, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida Southern College. He moved to Florida in 1968 and was a professor at Polk State College for 35 years. Rigterink was an enthusiastic fan of the Detroit Tigers and was often seen at Lakeland spring training practices.

Philip O. Presley '63 died December 28, 2012, in Manchester, New Hampshire, at age 71. He attended Johns Hopkins University after earning a degree in mathematics at K. During his career he worked as an actuary for the Texas Department of Insurance, the New Hampshire Department of Insurance, and the American Mutual Life Insurance Company. Presley enjoyed travel and was also an avid rock collector and reader.

Bruce Litte '66, Ph.D., died on January 20, 2013. He earned his bachelor's degree in English and studied abroad in Bonn, Germany. He earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in English from the University of Kansas (Lawrence). He enjoyed a long career as a professor of English and literature.

Nancy Tierney Yeager '66 died on February 4, 2013, after a long and valiant battle against breast cancer. The daughter of an Episcopalian minister in Laramie, Wyoming, Nancy arrived on K's campus in the fall of 1963. She did her study abroad in Sierra Leone and decided to major in English. One of her most influential professors was Dr. Larry Barrett, of whom she said "[He] challenged us to the max, and I remember writing a paper on *Moby Dick* and the significance of the number three, and how exciting it was to be exploring all these ideas and images from Herman Melville." She married David Yeager '64 in 1966. During their 46-year marriage, they wandered the country (eventually settling in Atlanta) and raised two children. In Atlanta, Nancy started employment at the Emory University Hospital and began a long and varied career (most recently as a computer informatics manager) with Emory Healthcare. Known for her joyous spirit and love of nature, Nancy also loved making hand-crafted dolls and jewelry and designing custom-tailored knitwear.

Rudolf J. Fallner '70, a native of Freiburg, Germany, died September 3, 2012, in the Bavarian town of Ettal where he had lived since 2004. He had battled cancer for almost a year. Fallner came to K as an exchange student from Bonn, Germany, in fall 1966. He loved K, making friends among students and faculty alike, and stayed on to earn a master's degree in sociology from Western Michigan University. In the early 1970s, Fallner taught history and sociology on United States military bases in Germany, Italy, Spain, and Turkey through a program administered by the University of Maryland. In 1974 he moved to the Washington, D.C., area and completed his doctorate in sociology at the University of Maryland. He joined the Inter-American Development Bank's social evaluation department, eventually becoming the department's director. His work took him several times a year to Central and South America. Fallner pursued a lifelong passion for the Catholic Church and, in particular, Pope Pius XII, creating an association to preserve the pope's memory and writing extensively about Pius and his works. He also maintained close ties to Holy Cross Cistercian Monastery in Berryville, Va. He chose to retire to Ettal, a small monastery town in southern Bavaria, where he continued his

charitable work as a member of the board of the monastery foundation.

Barry R. Smith '70 died suddenly on March 5, 2013. He matriculated to K from Detroit, and majored in economics and business. He played football for the College and did his study abroad in Muenster, Germany. Following graduation from K and the University of Michigan Law School, Barry practiced law in Chicago, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo. He remained a proud football Hornet and long continued to attend K football games and to take great pride in wearing his favorite K gear. Smith loved everything about airplanes. He rebuilt and flew World War II trainers, flew Warbirds and the Ford Trimotor at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, and served on the Air Zoo board for 14 years. His family was his greatest love. He and fellow graduate Elizabeth Sloan '73 were married in 1974. Liz survives along with their two daughters, Kirby and Meg.



Sheila Wang (second from left) surrounded by her children (l-r): Paul, John, and May Lin.

Sheila Wang '78 passed away peacefully on March 12, 2013, surrounded by her family. She was initially diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002 and was in and out of treatment from that time. She earned her B.A. at Kalamazoo College in chemistry. She also played junior varsity and varsity volleyball and tennis during her Hornet years. She had a distinguished professional career. She earned her Ph.D. (psychology) from Western Michigan University and worked for a Veterans Administration hospital in Connecticut. She then took a position at the National Institutes of Health (Baltimore) before accepting the position of research director of the Integrative Medicine Unit at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She lived her life in a remarkable way. Anyone who knew Sheila was inspired by her warmth, generosity, kindness, and love for others. Her smile and laughter were unique and contagious. She was an amazing mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, and friend. She had an intense passion

for sports and the outdoors. Each of her three children—Paul, May Lin, and John—played volleyball in college, much due to her influence. There is no doubt that Sheila will be missed by all, but her beautiful spirit lives on through her family and friends. (Obituary written by May Lin Kessinich)

Professor Emeritus of English **Harold Harris** died on July 1, 2013. He was 89 years old. Harris was born December 15, 1924, in Paterson, N.J., the youngest of five sons, to Pauline and David Harris. He served in the Army during World War II, stationed in India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and then attended Rutgers University on the G.I. Bill. He met and married his wife of 64 years, Phyllis, in 1949. After Harris earned his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1954, he and Phyllis moved to Kalamazoo, where he joined the faculty of the English department of Kalamazoo College. He taught at K until his retirement in 1990. Harris had an enduring impact on the lives of many students, and he remained in touch with quite a few of them. In addition to teaching, which he loved, Harris was a leader in the educational community. He created and directed Scholar's Day and the Great Lakes Colleges Award Competition for New Young Writers, both of which exist today. A distinguished scholar, Harris taught in France and Turkey and read critical articles at French, Swiss, German, and British institutions during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1979, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant to study Slavic literature in Seattle, Washington. He published much scholarly work, including studies of the writers James Joyce, George Orwell, and Fyodor Dostoyevsky. He co-founded the Michigan Association of Scholars, the mission of which was to maintain demanding academic standards in higher education; he served on its board for many years. Harris was active in the local community, as well as the broader academic community. He served on the executive committee of the successful campaign to elect Paul Todd to Congress and, during the Vietnam War, chaired the Kalamazoo County Concerned Democrats. After he retired, Harris resumed writing plays. Over a period of several years, he wrote ten plays, one of which was given a public reading locally.

Connections to Ghana



writer Zinta Aistars



In Ghana he's *Kwesi*, the southern Ghanaian name for a boy born on Sunday. Although sometimes when children see Stephen Mohny '76 walk by, they shout "*Kwesi obruni*." That, Mohny smiles, means "white guy born on Sunday," a name affectionately applied to every white man after the introduction of Christianity. In Ghana, in the villages of Wli and Hotopo, Mohny is a recognized man.

And a welcome sight. He brings with him the gift of a gateway. Mohny is the co-founder (with Donald Yao Molato) of Tech4Ghana, a nonprofit organization that builds computer centers and libraries in Ghana, promoting rural development and education.

Mohny, however, is not in Ghana on the day I meet him. He is in Public School 3, in the historic Bedford Village neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, New York. He is walking the

- Stephen Mohny '76 (right) during his K days, on a hike with friend Susan McQuaid.
- Stephen, third from right, with classmates at the residence of his mentor John Spencer (far left).

hallways, and as he passes, teachers greet him, children grin at him, and through the open door of a classroom in session, a group of children brush their fingers beneath their chins in an open-fingered wave at him.

“That’s the Spanky-and-the-Gang wave from *Little Rascals*,” Mohney whispers. He stands in the classroom door for a moment and brushes his fingers under his chin back at the smiling children.

“I’ve been teaching here for 27 years,” Mohney says. “At this point, I teach children of parents who were my students, and it’s the parents who give me that Spanky wave. They remember!”

“P.S. 3 is the oldest school in continuing operation in New York City,” he adds, pointing to one of many displays he has created around the school. One display showcases the school’s history, dating back to 1721. The school became a New York City public school in 1891, and integration began in the early 1900s. “By 1947, the graduating class was all black,” Mohney says, “and the community experienced the flight of the whites, and many of the brownstones you see around us were cut up into small apartments. In recent years, the community is experiencing ‘gentrification.’”

Today, the school educates 634 children, kindergarten to fifth grade. The principal, Kristina Beecher, in her fifteenth year leading the school, was once a student at P.S. 3. When Mohney walks into her office, her smile widens.

“I don’t know what I would do without him,” Beecher smiles, and the admiration is mutual. The two banter a bit, but quickly move into discussion of the school’s current problems. The population is dropping, and there’s uncomfortable talk going around about closing P.S. 3 and replacing it with a charter school.

“Last year we were told to eliminate the arts,” Mohney’s forehead pulls into hard lines. “Arts have long been a draw to this school. And we had to cut music. Our school sign states it takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a child to raise up a village. Charter schools get more money, but that doesn’t make them better schools. We don’t get rid of our children when they





misbehave, but we get the kids when the Charters kick them out. Why would you not fix every school for every child?"

From the principal's office, Mohney continues his walk up and down the hallways, where children move by him in orderly lines, some holding hands.

"Education has just gotten harder over the years," Mohney says. "We're up against a lot. There's a lack of parenting skills, kids are learning to solve problems with violence—" He stops. "I'm on my soapbox again, aren't I? I guess that dates back to my years at K. Ah, those radical '70s, when I was an anti-war conscientious objector with long hair. Art teachers aren't superfluous! They teach literacy with their art. They teach children how to express themselves."

Mohney's cheeks flush again, but his smile never wanes, at least not for long. He shows off the classroom at P.S. 3 where a visual arts teacher has snuck in elements of social studies to teach from his own travels to Morocco and Turkey. In the cafeteria, a science teacher has incorporated art into teaching about nutrition—the walls are lined with paintings and collages of colorful vegetable people. The school blossoms with color and the rebellion of art sustained.

Then, down another hallway, a long section of the wall is draped with the vibrant, patterned fabric of Africa. It is a student-created cloth similar to "kente," woven by the Ewe and the Asante people of Ghana. Part of the fabric is in the cool colors of blues and purples, used by the Ewe people. The kente of the Asante blazes in oranges, reds and gold.

Mohney stops. It's a crossroads of sorts, where one home touches on another home. Staff and faculty at P.S. 3 know well about his work in Ghana. More than a few are donors to Tech4Ghana, and a couple have traveled there with him during summers. Passion like his is contagious. Picking a corner room where all is quiet, he settles in to talk about his other home.

The story starts on August 13, 2009, with the opening of a computer center in Wli, Ghana. Actually, it starts long before

that. Mohney was a kid, sizing up colleges. West Africa was on his mind, and he was looking for a college that could send him there. He had spent a couple years in Kenya when his parents taught school in that country.

"Kalamazoo College was my first choice, but it was too expensive," Mohney says. "When I didn't respond to the acceptance letter, I got a call. I didn't know about the financial aid available, and when I was offered aid, I did accept.

"When I first arrived at K, I thought I would major in sociology and anthropology. Then I took two African history classes from Dr. William (Bill) Pruitt, who I came to consider my mentor. And I soon made the decision to take as many classes as I could from [Professor of Religion] John Spencer. I was intellectually challenged and disciplined in his courses. I ended up as a religion major, not because I was that interested in religion, but because I was interested in learning all that I could from Dr. Spencer."

Connections with fellow students were as memorable as those with professors, and one in particular would become



• Mohney and Case Kuehn '74 "see" each other for the first time in 40 years.

very important.

Though his memory is a bit foggy on the precise timing, Mohney crossed paths with Case Kuehn '74 through mutual friends during his freshman year. "I'm not sure when I met Casey," Mohney ponders, "maybe before my study abroad experience in Ghana, when I was in the College Singers, and, as a music major, he directed us." Even before their respective graduations, the two lost touch. And with one living in New York and the other in Seattle, chances of a reunion seemed unlikely.

Then, not long ago, Kuehn found himself musing about finding a good cause to support. Paging through old College yearbooks, browsing through the pages of LinkedIn.com to check on old friends, Kuehn came across Mohney—and wondered what he was up to all these many years later.

The friends reconnected online. One thing led to another, and, after 40 years, Ghana would become their virtual meeting point.

As Mohney sits in a room at P.S. 3 in New York, Kuehn

pulls up a chair to his desk in Seattle, and both boot up their laptops. With the help of Skype, images pop up on their laptops. This will be the first time they've seen each other in four decades.

"So that's what you look like!" Kuehn gives a whoop.

Mohney laughs. "That's me."

Last time they saw each other, Kuehn grins, his hair was shoulder length and curly and his chin bearded, but Mohney's long blond locks dangled somewhere near his elbows.

Today, Kuehn is CFO of Loud Technologies, one of the world's largest professional audio and music products companies.

"Stephen and I have complementary skill sets," Kuehn says over Skype. "When I was feeling that I needed to do something beyond my sphere, and I tracked him down on LinkedIn and read about Tech4Ghana, I thought I might be able to help."

Kuehn had his own African connection, having spent time in Zambia as member of a music group. "The fact that Tech4Ghana was so grassroots appealed to me. After I contacted Stephen we began e-mailing daily. Tech4Ghana struck me as something



• Outside view of the Tech4Ghana building in Wli.

tangible that I could be involved in, and I knew my contacts, my experience, and the legal services to which I have access could all be beneficial.”

Mohney adds: “I jumped at the opportunity to work with Casey. Aside from my own funds, his was one of just a few donations I received, and now we have submitted the paperwork to become a 501(c)3 corporation. That will make all donations tax-deductible.

“When I travel to Ghana, I usually take along six or seven laptops,” Mohney says, “but with the funding that Casey is helping us obtain, our goal is to bring 35 to 40 laptops along each trip.”

Stories about Tech4Ghana and the library it opened in the village of Wli enrich the two friends’ conversations. Kuehn looks forward to a future trip to Ghana to see the library and computer center for himself.

“Another issue we are working to address is gender equity,” says Mohney. “The computer center draws boys and adult males, and some of them stay for hours, practicing and learning. Children come in to look at the donated books or to play games on the computers while learning computer skills. But the girls want to learn, too.”

Girls in Ghana, Mohney says, have far more responsibilities at home, and education is not seen as a priority for females. Mohney has observed teen mothers, babies on their back, walking by the computer center slowly, looking in. He and Kuehn are brainstorming about ways to increase access for girls and women, perhaps even bringing laptops to their homes.

This desire to increase computer and library access for both genders is shared by other Tech4Ghana team members. Kofi Anaman, a Ghanaian-American who lives in New York, and his wife, Susan Ewurasi Anaman, a teacher at P.S. 3, and their daughter, Adjoa, are deeply involved with the organization.

“If we want to prosper economically and socially,”

Anaman says, “we can’t leave the girls and women behind.”

Anaman and Mohney met in Ghana 25 years ago. Anaman had just completed junior college, and was doing his obligatory year of national service. “Stephen was in Ghana to film videos to educate children,” says Anaman, “and a year later I was able to come to the United States to help him with the videos.”

Children in New York, Anaman says, need to see how children in Ghana live. In Ghana’s urban areas children experience skyscrapers and modern amenities—but life in rural Ghana is quite different. Education, he says, can make an immeasurable difference in these areas.

The library that Tech4Ghana is building in Hotopo will honor Anaman’s father, who lacked college education himself but held firmly to its importance for his own children.

Tech4Ghana’s co-founder and co-director in Ghana is Donald Yao Molato, who serves as the organization’s eyes and ears and hands on site, keeping the computer center and library running smoothly, and designing and supervising the expansion of the educational campus.



• A young boy in Wli discovers the power of a computer.

Last summer Tech4Ghana hosted its first Kalamazoo College intern, Gift Mutare '14, an international student from Zimbabwe. Mohney glows with satisfaction at how the puzzle pieces have been falling into place.

“I want to do more and replicate the work to the next community, and then the next,” says Mohney, “until we’ve truly bridged the digital divide and offered opportunities for many more people and addressed the gender bias in Ghana.

“When Casey showed up and then committed himself to help, I knew I was in good company and that, together, we could do this.”

One day some 40 years ago Mohney sat in a Kalamazoo College classroom, taking notes and listening closely to his professor and mentor, Dr. Pruitt. On that particular day his professor had invited a guest speaker to class, Kofi Awoonor, a poet and professor (SUNY Stony Brook) and years later Ghana’s ambassador to the United Nations. Mohney was mesmerized. At the end of the class they met,

and Awoonor pointed a finger at Mohney—fresh from study abroad in Ghana, brimming with his unforgettable experiences. “Now,” Awoonor said. “What are you going to do for Ghana?”

Two postscripts—one joyful, the other tragic. In September Teach4Ghana USA received approval from the IRS as a public charity under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Alumni and friends interested in making a tax-deductible donation to Tech4Ghana USA can contribute via Paypal at http://www.tech4ghana.com/contact_us, or send checks to: Tech4Ghana USA, Inc. • 180 DeKalb Avenue, #5 • Brooklyn, NY 11205.

The College mourns the death of Kofi Awoonor, poet, teacher, former ambassador, and former guest professor at Kalamazoo College. He was shot and killed on September 21 during the terrorist attack on the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya.



• The village of Wli.

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

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

Office of College Communication
1200 Academy Street • Kalamazoo, MI 49006 • USA

Sculptor Engineer



photographer Daedal Derks '12

Some sculptures of Daedal Derks '12

are compact enough to augment the beauty of the Light Fine Arts Building lobby. But the scale of some of his other pieces requires installation on tall city buildings. For the story of this K-inspired young artist-engineer, see page 29.