"There is clear evidence that the superior effectiveness of this de-
partment in the training of modern biologists stems almost entirely
from the influence of this remarkable and dedicated woman
teacher..." Those words were written in 1952 in a book called Ori-
gins of American Scientists. The woman those words describe is Dr.
Frances Diebold. The words take on greater significance when you
learn that the book ranked Kalamazoo College third in the nation
for the number of graduates attaining the doctoral level in a scien-
tific field. Faculty like Dr. Diebold have made Kalamazoo College an educational leader in
this nation. And "Miss Dieb," as her friends and former students lovingly address her, has touched
the lives of thousands of talented young men and women in the 44 years she taught at
Kalamazoo.

Think back. How many teachers had an impact on your life? How many teachers can you remem-
ber by name? Miss Dieb is certainly one of them. Maybe her enthusiasm encouraged you to work
harder and learn more. She may have given you the intellectual push it took to get you into medical
school. Perhaps you weren't even a science major. Maybe you were a student who just asked a ques-
tion and found that your life was changed by her answer.

That happened to attorney Victor Yannacone Jr. '56, when he was an undergraduate at Kalamazoo.
He was taking Dieb's anatomy class. When faced with a lecture on the history of anatomy, Victor ob-
jected, asking why he had to study the history of the field when all he wanted was to learn anatomy.
In a recent letter to Dieb he wrote:

"You apparently decided that this brash and arrogant young man challenging your teaching meth-
ods was worth an explanation rather than the authoritarian put-down that you certainly would have
been justified in delivering.

"You told me that unless I understood the historical basis for any science, I might accept as truth
the errors of present day scientists, because I was unaware of their origin ... you persuaded me to
stand ever ready to challenge or disregard any statement of "law" unsupported by substantial cred-
ible evidence. I have used the substance of that short lesson in my openings and summations to juries
for almost 30 years. Thank you for spending the time and sharing the concern necessary to set a stu-
dent on his first day of classes upon a path that would eventually lead to some rather profound
changes in the way law, science and society interact."

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
The message is clear: Dieb is a teacher who knew how to listen as well as how to talk. She felt every student was important. She was right. The faculty and administration of the College continuously work to ensure that Dieb's style of education is what students encounter on campus every day. Now we have an opportunity to say a special thank you to Dieb in a way that will help to perpetuate her style of education.

Today, as Kalamazoo College makes plans for an $8 million science center, we want to make sure that the building contains a significant memorial to the woman who touched, and continues to touch, the lives of students and teachers alike.

Yes, Dieb is still around, and still visiting the campus on an almost daily basis. In fact, when chemistry professor Richard Cook won the coveted Lucasse Award for outstanding teaching, he sought Dieb's advice on what he should say in his acceptance speech. Her advice was simple and to the point. No matter how strong the draw of research, consulting and publishing, we must remember that students come first. And they still do for Dieb.

Even though it has been twenty years since she retired, she still finds time to offer encouragement to young students like Art Kudla, a senior from Warren, Michigan, who attracted national attention as a Westinghouse Scholar and later as one of Time's Achievement Award winners.

Frances Diebold reflects all that is good in education. She remains concerned about the development of the total person. Many people can transfer knowledge from the textbook to the student. However, it is rare that an individual or a college is committed to helping you learn about yourself and about life beyond the classroom. Dieb is such an individual; Kalamazoo is such a college.

Dieb grew from you. And you grew from Dieb—in many ways you were her children. You probably have your own story of how she touched your life. Your support is vital to ensuring that Dieb's special quality of teaching is a living legacy for future generations of students. Reflect on what Dieb meant to you. Your generosity will fully reflect the impact she made on your life.