Seven new professors are coming to Kalamazoo College the fall of 2001. Erin Binney Girdler (left, with son Otto) is one. The new professors will bring exciting new perspectives to the teaching of physics, biology, economics, health sciences and the computer modeling of complex social systems.

"The world today is so interconnected, and its problems so complex," Erin says. "A college education provides a place for young adults to become self-possessed, independent, and critical thinkers, a place to be challenged by life and still be guided. To me, it's not just a place to train for a career, although it is invaluable for highlighting strengths and introducing possibilities. College is also about being exposed to people from different backgrounds, talking about hard issues, figuring out what YOU think — as opposed to what your parents think. In short, I think higher education is the key to becoming a citizen of the world. And we need more citizens who think on this scale! Kalamazoo College develops these kinds of citizens."

Erin Binney Girdler

Erin Binney Girdler on Lake Dumore in Vermont with son Otto.

(See page 13 for "New Faces")
On study abroad I witnessed different cultures as a student, as a programmer, as a demonstrator, and as a leader. The organizations and programs I have acted as an advocate for have been plentiful. More times than I can recount, challenges to conventional ways of thinking have led to continuous reassessment of my perceptions of the world and myself. It is overwhelming to reflect on all the opportunities that have been presented to me here. I have played so many different roles in my career as a Kalamazoo College student, more than I could have ever anticipated as an eighteen-year-old from Columbiaville, Michigan. Through participation in different organizations and programs I have acted as an advocate, as a programmer, as a demonstrator, and as a leader. On study abroad I witnessed different cultures as a foreigner, as a member of an amazing host family, as a tutor, and as someone immersed in a different world, experiencing first-hand rather than just visiting. In the classroom, I have acted not only as student, but also as teacher, as researcher, and as expert.

It is less than a month before I graduate. Reflecting on the many facets of my “K” experience, I realize I have yet to suffer one moment of regret for my decision four years ago to leave my small hometown and come to Kalamazoo College. I remember a conversation I had while still in high school with a woman very close to my family. She is one of the few adults I knew outside of school that had a college degree, and she had an immeasurable influence on my development. Nostalgically reflecting on her own days as a student, she talked of my coming experiences. “You will spend nights talking until dawn about things you’ve never thought about before. You will meet people with ideas and perspectives that open whole new worlds for you.” I was already eager for college, but I remember feeling all the more energized, if that was possible, by her words. In retrospect, even that excitement turned out to be an understatement. In these four years I have been to China and to Southeast Asia. I have formed relationships with people from Iceland to Indonesia. I have written grant proposals. I have learned another language. I have led students backpacking in the Canadian wilderness. I have done extensive interviewing and have presented a thesis to professors and peers. And I have stayed up until dawn, listening to others’ views and opening up my mind to whole new worlds of ideas.

The first assignment in Basic Drawing involved the simple task of sketching my hand. I was not allowed to look at the page as I drew. Concentrating only on the object, I was to follow the contours in as much detail as possible. Letting my eyes slowly run along the intricate imperfections and crevices one by one, I looked at nothing else but the closed left fist sitting gently in my lap. My right hand drew the other blindly. The purpose of the task was to examine something with a focused attention, which is contrary to the natural tendencies of vision and perception. Our eyes are trained to assess quickly, establishing a context in which to fit oneself. Such assessments were to examine something with a focused attention, which is contrary to the natural tendencies of vision and sensing my environment.

In my four years at Kalamazoo College, such eye-opening experiences have been plentiful. More times than I can recount, challenges to conventional ways of thinking have led to continuous reassessment of my perceptions of the world and myself. It is overwhelming to reflect on all the opportunities that have been presented to me here. I have played so many different roles in my career as a Kalamazoo College student, more than I could have ever anticipated as an eighteen-year-old from Columbiaville, Michigan. Through participation in different organizations and programs I have acted as an advocate, as a programmer, as a demonstrator, and as a leader. On study abroad I witnessed different cultures as a foreigner, as a member of an amazing host family, as a tutor, and as someone immersed in a different world, experiencing first-hand rather than just visiting. In the classroom, I have acted not only as student, but also as teacher, as researcher, and as expert.

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Even as I marvel over what I have been able to achieve during my college career, I realize I have taken advantage of only a portion of the opportunities offered here. As my time at Kalamazoo College comes to an end, I now realize that it is time to open my own doors, to create my own prospects, and to relinquish the supportive crutch that the College has provided for me thus far. Polishing up my Peace Corps application, I willingly, though sadly, surrender that crutch, prepared to take the next big step that will hopefully end up beneficial, as my decision to come to Kalamazoo College turned out to be.

When I completed the sketch of my hand and withdrew the pencil from the page, I allowed myself to look at the finished product. The drawing was distorted, barely recognizable as a fist. By no means did I find this discovery disheartening. Rather, I was looking at a creation of a different way of seeing. The overlapping wrinkles and warped shapes produced by my hand were noble first attempts, and as a result of the exercise, the way I see things has been permanently altered. When I leave Kalamazoo College in June with a diploma in hand, I will not be leaving with a conventional undergraduate education. To a certain extent, my education has been as unique as the wrinkled twisted fist, a product of different perspectives, of challenges to my former ideas through exposure to new.

four years and two persons

BY ROSIE ONWUNEME ’01

There was a time when I thought I would not make it through Kalamazoo College. I once believed I would not survive the first quarter of my freshman year.

Even today, in my last days of senior spring, I hear the voice of my high school physics teacher, "Rosie, I don't believe Kalamazoo College is the right school for you. It may be too difficult for you to handle." My physics teacher later apologized for his comment. In some ways, my proudest accomplishment has been proving to myself and to others that I belonged in a program as academically rigorous as Kalamazoo's. I have made it to my senior year, and I am still going strong.

As I reflect on my experience at Kalamazoo College, nothing seems to stand out more than the transformation I have experienced as an African-American woman. High school did not adequately prepare me for Kalamazoo College. I taught myself how to be a college student. This process included writing, study skills, the art of effective procrastination, and, most importantly, learning to deal with my double consciousness—the mask I wear daily.

W.E.B. DuBois describes "double consciousness" in *The Souls of Black Folk* as a masking strategy used by African Americans to live in two worlds. A person lives behind a mask among people of a culture different from her own, and she lives without the mask among her own people. I live the existence of two personas in two cultures, African-American and white.

I wear a mask in the presence of white people, and I remove the mask in the presence of African Americans. I am sure many people use double personas in various ways and on different levels. Living with and without a mask for four years has shaped me into the person I am.

Amiri Baraka's work "A Poem for HalfWhite College Students" helped me realize that "double consciousness" may characterize the lives of most black students on predominately white campuses.

The poem is about African-American college students who sometimes forget who they are (their culture, heritage, and upbringing) when they are wearing the mask. In the poem, Baraka conveys that sometimes African-American students forget "where they came from" because of their college environment. The poem compelled me to examine the reality and meaning of my two worlds. Two summers ago, my uncle, when he learned I had won a Kalamazoo College essay contest, said to me that no matter how much I say or believe that I am thoroughly black, that, in reality, I am half black and half white. He explained that once African Americans enter the world of white Americans (college and jobs), we must assume a second identity different from our own. I felt he was telling me that I must walk and talk like whites in order to be accepted and to succeed.

(continued on page 48)

Rosie in her house in Oaxaca, Mexico.
The summer 2001 issue of LuxEsto is the last before the College launches the public phase of its campaign this fall. The editors thought it fitting to share on this page, usually devoted to a letter from the editors to the readers, a variety of voices from the Kalamazoo College community. Diverse in terms of both addressees and subject matter, the letters document the value of liberal arts learning the way it is practiced at Kalamazoo College. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did. The first was written by Deidra Razzaque ’94 to Conrad Hilberry, professor emeritus of English. LuxEsto will feature Deidra’s work in an upcoming issue of the magazine.

January 1, 2001
Dear Dr. Hilberry,

I’ve been thinking of you lately. I read in LuxEsto that you have a new book out (congratulations!) and I’ve been sorting through old papers, including notes and poems from your classes. You bring so much joy, inspiration, and awareness to people. Thank you, thank you!

I am in the Peace Corps, living in rural Costa Rica. Your Mexico poems make me smile — I know all about those moments of utter confusion and bliss, and all the complex lessons that simplicity can teach.

I’m working with the National Child Welfare Office. I work directly with kids on abuse prevention, literacy, self-esteem, and the arts. For the first time in my life I live in the country — a ten-minute walk from TWO rivers! It’s beautiful. There is little access to books and no understanding of the power and joy of reading. But my neighborhood kids have started stopping by to ask if they can borrow books — a thrill, you can imagine.

Happy New Year! Much love, laughter, and joy to you. It’s my first time in Michigan in more than a year — the snow is so lovely.

Deidra Razzaque
Limón, Costa Rica

With the author’s permission, we reprint one of his Mexican poems below.

With Esperanza on the Roof
You’re right, Esperanza, the roof is yours, the concrete tubs under the cockeyed awning, the wet sheets that you knead like bread, the line where the sun pounds the clothes a second time. You’re right to wonder what I’m doing up here, asking about your toothache, your sister who married the old man, your young brother who has not been drunk now for a month. May he continue, we agree. What am I doing looking out over the valley as though I’d never seen roofs and domes before, nor the lake above the dam, its arms out like a lizard sleeping in the sun. What am I doing watching the egrets in the clump of trees. I should know them. All day and all night they keep a rhythmic pulse, like hoarse crickets or geese saying their beads. Now they row their slow white boats across the sky, their legs trailing. One uncoils its neck, feathers its great wings, swings its legs forward, hovers, and lands in the top of a pine tree. Another sweeps around past us and strokes its way to the lake. Esperanza, the roof is yours. I’m going down. Maybe it’s not remarkable how thin the air is after the rain, how brilliant the clouds are. But look. The wall around the roof is scalloped. On each peak sits a tough geranium reaching its stringy stems outward and down, handing you a crimson knot of bloom.

Conrad Hilberry

Paul and Sally Olexia received many letters from alumni and alumnae responding to the news of their retirements (LuxEsto, Spring 2001). They shared some of these with LuxEsto, and we will share two with our readers.

April 30, 2001
Dear Sally and Paul,

I read with great interest the articles in the current issue of LuxEsto on your careers and pending retirements from Kalamazoo College. I have thought of you both many times over the years and the positive influence you had over my career in the sciences and eventually healthcare.

(continued on page 4)
Thirty years after his Kalamazoo College graduation, Brad Burkhart continues to combine art and science in a dual career as sculptor and native plant landscape architect. See page 6.

New Faces and New Talent

The professors are coming, the professors are coming! Seven new professors at Kalamazoo College this fall give us a sneak peek into who they are, and what they will bring to the College.

The Mathematical Formula of Poetry

A row of red phone lights blink impatiently as John Fink, professor of mathematics, does a live talk show at a Kalamazoo radio station and cures math phobias over the airwaves.

Balanced at the Surface

Burkhart’s piece pictured above is titled Balanced at the Surface. The piece was exhibited in a 1999 national art exhibit in Tucson focused on environmental degradation. The piece also is posted on www.mythinglinks.org, a mythology website maintained by the Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara.
I have recently “retired” myself after spending 27 years in the global pharmaceutical industry. Following graduation in 1974, I went to work for The Upjohn Company doing in vitro and in vivo oncology research. I moved into clinical research internationally and spent more than three years in Brussels managing a European field monitoring organization. From there I moved back to Kalamazoo (a bit of an adjustment!) and began similar work in Asia and the Pacific Rim.

I covered nearly all of the therapeutic areas which made for a broad experience that included cardiovascular trials in the Soviet Union and reproductive medicine trials in China.

In 1990, I joined Glaxo in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina and began a program called “Medical Liaison,” a field organization of scientific professionals interacting on behalf of Glaxo with highly regarded thought leaders in academic medicine. My last three years at Glaxo Wellcome (now Glaxo SmithKline) were spent in the area of international HIV/AIDS policy and included project work on the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission in developing countries. The merger with SmithKline moved my department’s function to London (not a viable option for me at this stage of my life), hence my early "retirement" last May.

I am currently enjoying an unpaid sabbatical from corporate life and deciding what to do next. My husband is a pediatric gastroenterologist and is now an independent consultant from our home.

Finally, I was pleased to see that I had read at least one of each of your book recommendations, Into Thin Air and Tuesdays with Morrie. I just wanted to send you an note and let you know of yet another person whose life you have touched. Some of my classmates you will remember are Andi Perejda, Chris Sweeney, Laurie Weston, and Mark Evans. My last great memory of that group together was our senior biology majors’ party at your place!

Thank you for your guidance during my days at Kalamazoo College and for the excellent education in the sciences, which has served me so well over the years. I wish you much happiness and continued success in your next adventures.

With best regards,
Connie Blowers ’74,
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
May 1, 2001

Dear Sally and Paul,

I hope retirement is agreeable to you both! I have many fond memories of Kalamazoo College, and you both are certainly included in those. When I returned to campus in 1994 for my 20-year reunion, I had a chance to admire the new Dow Sciences Building. I left "K" for Washington University in St. Louis and received my Ph.D. in 1979 in cellular and developmental biology. I continued to work in the field of diabetes and atherosclerosis as I did during my SIP at The Upjohn Company.

After a postdoc at Wash. U., I moved to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (Los Angeles) and took another postdoc and eventually an assistant research professorship for several years. In 1983 I married a neurosurgery resident, and in 1985 we had our first son. We had a second son in 1988. My work schedule became unmanageable and our sons both had colic, so I "retired" and became Mom, a much more difficult job for which I was ill-prepared! We now live on the Central Coast of California in Arroyo Grande, a small ranching and viticultural community. I am now very involved with many charitable activities as well as with making prize-winning quilts! I have a published quilt pattern and am working on my first book on quiltmaking. Kind of a switch, huh?! I am encouraging my 16-year-old son to look into Kalamazoo College. He will be a junior next year. Well, best of luck to you both!

Andi Perejda ’74
Arroyo Grande, California

President Jones receives many letters from graduates, and many of these attest to the value of the Kalamazoo College learning experience.

March 21, 2001
Dear Dr. Jones,

Greetings from New York City! I hope all is well in Kalamazoo. After a lot of searching, I’ve found a great job as an analyst in the Financial Sponsors Group at J.P. Morgan Chase. The hours are long (usually 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and they don’t even allow a two-hour break for tennis practice) but the work is stimulating and I’m learning a great deal. There’s no question that my experience at Kalamazoo College has provided me with a diverse set of skills that students from larger institutions do not necessarily possess.

Ryan Shockley ’00
New York City

March 10, 2001
Dear President Jones,

Six months ago yesterday I attended the New York City alumni reception and Kiss Me Kate event. I mentioned last fall how listening to Vinnie Liff ’73 and meeting other talented graduates inspired me to quit my job and seek something more challenging. Anyway, I just wanted to let you know what happened. A month after giving my notice, I attended a magazine job fair where I met a human
resources representative from Hachette Filipacchi Magazines. This led to a four-month freelance assignment as the editor of Walls, Windows & Floors, one of the Woman's Day special interest publications. The magazine ships to the printer next month, and I hope to pursue other freelance work here.

I got the job the way few expect: through a job fair and HR department. However, I did get networking help as a result of the alumni reception, where I met Aaron Elstein '91, a reporter for the Wall Street Journal. He started sending me job postings from Dow Jones, and although I wasn't interested in working for a newspaper, our relationship turned personal, and we've been dating since October. In fact it was Aaron who turned to me this week and said, "Hey, you know what happened six months ago."

In the spirit of networking, if you know any students curious about working for magazines or moving to New York, pass along my e-mail. I'm especially fond of Kalamazoo College these days and happy to help anyone I can.

Mara Bragg '97
New York City

January 31, 2001
Dear Editor,

The recent Kalamazoo College alumni event in Sarasota brought back a childhood memory, one that made me realize my connection to my alma mater started sometime before I reached the age of 10.

I grew up on Lovell Street, the campus's south boundary, and the site of three two-story brick homes that served as living quarters for faculty and their families. Touching the backyards of these three abodes was the Kalamazoo College grove.

Except for a cleared picnic area, the grove was a virtual thicket with trees both large and small interspersed throughout. Our gang found the grove to be the ideal spot for youthful adventure. The density of the growth created a dimly lit environment that only enhanced the intrigue.

Unknown to College authorities, we cleared enough brush to have room to construct our hut in the grove. It was our pride, put together with scraps of "borrowed" materials from various sources. The hut was a true refuge, so handy to our real homes, yet seemingly remote in the midst of that thick flora.

I recall it was just the perfect spot for us to explore the world of cigarette experimentation away from parental scrutiny.

And so my visit last Sunday with the "K" College friends and fellow alums has resurrected thoughts that go well beyond my four years as a student at Kalamazoo College. It's been a fun week of reminiscing, one I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Richard H. Cain '52
North Port, Florida

February 25, 2001
Dear President Jones,

I doubt you'll remember me. We met, I think, only twice — just after your inauguration speech in chapel my freshman year, and again the night of our baccalaureate. But I've been meaning to write and thank you since graduation.

I wasn't even supposed to come to Kalamazoo, had already been accepted to the University of Michigan, and really didn't want to consider other schools. Then a friend who had applied to "K" convinced me to look at information on its programs, to drive down and visit. I walked up Academy Street, learned about study abroad, thought about class size, and, well, changed my mind.

You (faculty, staff, and administrators) meet us at a crazy, exciting, sort-of-scary time in our lives, and you have to know how to give us both guidance and independence, taking on a demanding and interesting parent/stranger/authority role. I can't imagine how much collective work it takes, and I wanted to thank you as part of that group of people, because the people you work with do such an incredible job.

Of course, there were times when I questioned whether I'd made the right college choice, like everyone. But having my degree and looking back with less than a year's perspective, I feel unbelievably lucky to have been where I was, fortunate to have been taught by my professors, to have met the friends I did, to travel, and, yes, to have struggled sometimes, but in a place where people cared. Thank you so much.

Morgan Frederick '00
Grand Rapids, Michigan

corrections

In the masthead of the Spring issue we identified Richard Casserley, the fine photographer who provided the cover picture and several others in the magazine, correctly. In the article on Rainforest and Reef, we misidentified Richard as David Casserley. We send our apology to Richard.

We made a mistake in our masthead. Sass Havilar was an Alumni Relations contributor. We identified her as Sas Hanson. Sorry, Sass.

Finally, an unidentified reader pointed out a mistake that led us to the discovery of a second. On page 32 we used the contraction "it's" rather than the adjective "its." For correct noun-pronoun agreement, the word "systems" should have read "system." We regret the errors.
KALAMAZOO COLLEGE OCCASIONALLY DEVELOPS AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE RÉSUMÉ READS LIKE IT MUST BELONG TO MORE THAN ONE PERSON.

Consider Brad Burkhart ’71. Burkhart graduated with a major in art, a minor in physics, and “took as many French classes as French majors, but never got around to declaring a major or minor in it,” he said.

“I’ve always been interested in the integration of art and science,” added Burkhart, now living in San Diego. “And I credit Kalamazoo College for helping me bring this integrative vision into focus.”

Thirty years after his Kalamazoo College graduation, Burkhart continues to combine art and science in a dual career as sculptor and native plant landscape architect. He also maintains a keen interest in Latin language cultures, although now he’s focused on Mexico and South America.

Since 1997, Burkhart has operated his own company, Burkhart Environmental Consulting, as well as BEC Gallery. The BEC stands for “Bradley Escultor del Corazón,” Spanish for “sculptor of the heart,” he explained. “The acronym does double duty for my business and gallery and is intentionally bilingual. I wanted to make a statement about the integration of
North and South American cultural viewpoints. My business combines my dual interests in art and the restoration of the natural world."

After college graduation, Burkhart trained both as a horticulturist and native plant landscape architect, before focusing on the then emerging field of habitat restoration. He designs and supervises installation and maintenance of landscapes that focus on California native plant habitat restoration. He has produced conceptual plans and landscape construction documents for more than 100 projects for California wetland and upland habitats and endangered plant species.

He supervises species selection, propagation methods, and management techniques to assure the successful re-establishment of native habitats including riparian woodlands, fresh and saltwater marshes, coastal sage scrub, grasslands and chaparral. He has also lectured, written, and taught classes at three colleges in San Diego County on habitat restoration.

One of his biggest restoration projects was the First San Diego River Improvement Project, a mile-long reconstruction of the main San Diego River channel, which had to be completely re-vegetated with native plants. Burkhart supervised installation, maintenance, and biological performance monitoring of this eight-year effort that ended in 1995.

In 1998 he became environmental manager of a six-year effort to create 6.5 acres of new riverbank woodlands on three sites as compensation for an extensive road building project in nearby Carlsbad, Calif. The new woodlands attracted the endangered Least Bell's Vireo only two years after planting.

Also in 1998, Burkhart designed a 90-acre coastal sage scrub habitat for the U.S. Navy to compensate for environmental impacts associated with the conversion of the Miramar Naval Air Station to Marine Corps uses.

Recently, his firm landed a contract to produce the engineering and habitat restoration documents for a set of 20-acre detention basins that will stop soil erosion sediments from destroying native habitats at Borderfield State Park, on the Mexican border.

Away from his habitat restoration work, Burkhart will likely be found in his art studio sculpting high-fired terra cotta clay into the bas-relief panels that he exhibits throughout Southern California. He recently exhibited his work at the Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, the largest school on the West Coast for the study of mythic and Jungian studies, and at the California Professional School for Psychology in San Diego. He's also shown his work at several Unitarian Churches and in traditional gallery spaces including his own.

(continued on page 8)

Brad Burkhart '71 stands next to a section of the First San Diego River Improvement Project he supervised. The formerly denuded riverbanks, barren hillsides and manmade islands are now covered with an assortment of native California plants that provide erosion protection, ornamental bordering, and wildlife habitat.
ticed there.”

Following graduation, Burkhart did briefly study architecture at Washington University in St. Louis and then horticulture at City College of San Francisco. He earned a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Michigan. For his master's thesis, he designed a native landscape management plan for Michigan interstate highway roadways. After moving to San Diego, he started one of the first native plant nurseries in Southern California. Then from 1988 until 1996, he led a large corporate habitat restoration and management group. The company he founded in 1997 is the only firm in San Diego that specializes in native habitat restoration design services. He considers his work in nature an art form.

“Art and nature are connected, and those connections will be essential for our long-term survival,” Burkhart said.

The act of sculpting relates directly to his belief that intuition should lead the way in our making sense of our world. He begins each piece with what he calls “intuitive drawings” using pencil and paper and then refines the images as their direction becomes clearer. “I never know what the final image will be until the end of this phase,” he said. “I then translate these intuitively created images into three-dimensional bas-relief terra cotta sculpture panels.”

The colors of these sculptural panels range from matted earth tones to burnished bronze and gold. “The coloration on the pieces comes from the amount of air that gets into the kiln during the firing process,” he explained. The more anaerobic the environment, the darker they stay. More air means more iron oxide burning off the finish, and the pieces turn lighter. You get some interesting combinations because you can’t entirely control this process.”

He said the pieces often generate strong responses in viewers as they grapple to understand the story or message the images represent. “I’ve found that other people seem to know as much or more about the stories behind my pieces as I do. I’ve had people come into my gallery from as far away as Mexico City and just walk right up to a sculpture and say ‘I recognize that story,’ then proceed to tell me a story that perfectly fits the piece but about which I knew nothing.”

Because of experiences like these, Burkhart invites others to participate with him in the naming of his art works, believing that when a group christens a work of art then the piece creates a sense of community. “I hope my panels return viewers to something once known but perhaps now only dimly remembered. I hope the images restore a meaning based on connections with one another, with our past and future. It is this culture-making experience to which my art is most committed.”

During the past year, Burkhart collaborated on a project with more than 30 poets. He’s invited each poet to pick one of his pieces and write a poem about it. He exhibits the poems with the artworks and intends to publish a book featuring both. More recently, several musicians have approached him with the idea for composing musical works that relate to his individual works of art. Burkhart loves such integration.

Friends, other artists, and complete strangers help Burkhart name his artworks. This 14-inch by 10-inch terra cotta panel is currently nameless. Burkhart invites members of the Kalamazoo College community to suggest a name for it by contacting him at b.burkhart@att.net
Burkhart considers religion, psychology and art three components of the intuitive “meaning-maker role of the artist.” “The modern era has separated these components,” he said. “But the 20th century should have ended the notion that science and rationality alone will help us survive as a species. We are moving into a period when intuition will lead and rationality will confirm the utility of what intuition discovers.”

Currently, said Burkhart, rationality tends to marginalize intuition. This is especially true in the world of art. “The very language of art changed during the last century,” he said. “We tend to evaluate art in general objective terms such as line, color, form, or composition. But art’s most important function is to bring meaning to people and culture. Finding this meaning, this language of the heart, is essential to me.”

Burkhart’s search for meaning began when he enrolled at Kalamazoo College in the late 1960s. He felt like “a cog in a wheel” at his large Ann Arbor, Michigan, high school. A liberal arts education at a small college held great appeal. So did the then nascent K-Plan. Although he’d been interested in art, he didn’t pursue it until arriving at the College. His interests in science, and physics in particular, took off at this time.

“Initially, I thought I would go on to architecture school, so art and physics became my focus. I always enjoyed art and physics at Kalamazoo because I’m interested in two major tools humans use to make sense of their world and their lives: rationality (as expressed through science) and intuition (as expressed through art).”

At Kalamazoo College, Burkhart helped establish a “free university” curriculum of courses on campus taught by students and faculty outside of normal course work. He also organized a “French Suite” in Severn Hall in which he and five other male students spoke French and studied French culture. He took numerous French language courses and attended the College’s study abroad program in Clermont-Ferrand.

A trip to Italy during this period helped galvanize Burkhart’s interest in art. “A classmate knew all the towns with Renaissance artwork. We went to Florence and while there I viewed Ghiberti’s Golden Doors for the Baptistry of Florence cathedral. These bronze bas-relief sculptures, which took the artist 48 years to complete, had a major influence on me, and my current sculpture work is directly inspired by them.”

A four-and-a-half-ton concrete play sculpture served as the centerpiece of Burkhart’s senior independent project. Constructed in three interlocking panels, the 10’ by 10’ structure featuring a series of ropes and nets was brought to campus briefly before heading to its permanent spot at an Ann Arbor children’s center.

“My Kalamazoo College experience was exactly what I believe education should be. It allowed me to be able to develop both intuitive and rational capabilities. Even more, it exposed me to other cultures and ways of seeing things. Kalamazoo College is unique and I am fortunate to have experienced the art of learning as it’s prac-
A note from my friend and classmate Andrew Terranella ’99 started me thinking about parasites. Andrew had traveled to Ghana the summer after his first year of medical school.

“Ghana is awesome,” Andrew wrote. “I have met so many people and have learned so much. The only problem is a nasty little parasite that has decided to take up permanent residence in my gut. He is wreaking havoc.”

I like to think what drove Andrew to Ghana was a species of “parasite.” Hardly benign, this “parasite” was active and wonderful, perhaps planted and certainly nurtured by Andrew’s experience at Kalamazoo College.

Andrew Terranella grew up just a few blocks from the Kalamazoo College campus. In our junior years at Kalamazoo College, Andrew and I studied abroad in Cairo, Egypt. It was an experience that included, for Andrew, a three-month tour of the Middle East.

According to Andrew, study abroad changed him and left in his blood a longing to return to Africa.

After he graduated from Kalamazoo College, Andrew moved to Charlottesville to attend the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Despite the rigor of the study schedule, Andrew’s thoughts wandered back to study abroad. He wanted to return to Africa. So, between study and tests that represented only the beginning of a demanding four-year program, Andrew began to search for summer volunteer and research opportunities in Africa.

He found the Ghana Diabetes Management Program, a joint project co-sponsored by the University of Virginia, the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company, and the Government of Ghana. The five-year-old program helped train doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to diagnose and care for diabetic patients and established clinics dedicated to diabetes management.

The incidence of diabetes is on the rise worldwide and has become a serious health care issue in Ghana. “Because there are only several hundred doctors for the entire nation’s 18 million people, many diabetic patients received no care at all before the program,” Andrew says.

Other factors complicated access to care. In Ghana, a social stigma is associated with diabetes. Some believe it is a curse, others that it is communicable. Misdiagnosis plays a role, with practitioners sometimes confusing diabetes symptoms with those of malaria. As a result, patients may not be seen and properly diagnosed until years after the first symptoms. By that time it may be too late to reverse damage to kidneys, arteries, and the eyes.

The form of the disease known as type 2, or adult-onset, diabetes has risen in Ghana due to the combination of widespread urban migration (and associated changes in diet) with Ghanaians’ hereditary predisposition for developing the disease.

The University wanted to measure the effectiveness of the diabetes management program and selected Andrew to do the job. Prior to his departure for Ghana, Andrew worked with his medical school advisor and two Ghanaian doctors to develop an evaluation system. Then it was off to Africa.

“The first few days were tough,” says Andrew. “There was no running water, I didn’t know anyone, I didn’t know the language, I didn’t like the food. And every day I had to dodge a mob of backyard chickens to reach the well for a bucket of water for my shower.”

Andrew Terranella ’99 spent the summer after his first year of medical school in Ghana evaluating the effectiveness of that country’s diabetes management program.
But from his Kalamazoo College experience, Andrew knew how to improve that situation. He taught himself some of the Ashanti language, called Twi, and sampled a wider variety of food. When he began work at the University of Ghana Medical School clinic in Accra a few days later, he made many new friends.

Andrew interviewed more than 100 patients about their assessment of the care they received, about their backgrounds, and about their self-care. “With this disease patients are responsible for much of their own care, which makes patient education critical,” says Andrew.

Andrew’s research confirmed the program had accomplished a major goal. No one Andrew interviewed considered the disease a curse by an outside agent, and most knew it was not infectious. Nevertheless, many did not fully understand the dietary basis of the disease. This finding will drive the next phase of the partnership — funding and distributing an effective patient education booklet.

Andrew saw first hand the extraordinary effect of the program. “Patients loved the clinics,” he said. “The Ghanaians have accomplished so much.” In particular, Andrew admires Albert Amoah, a physician with whom he worked at the clinic in Accra. “Dr. Amoah took a small clinic and made it a center with the capacity to help thousands of patients.” Amoah then established diabetes clinics at all the regional hospitals in southern Ghana. (continued on page 12)
Andrew also was impressed with the determination and gratitude of Divine, a medical student he worked alongside at Amoah’s clinic. Divine came from a village without running water or electricity. His family is illiterate and was only able to send one child to medical school. Divine was his family’s chosen. He came to Accra with nothing, says Andrew, but his appreciation of the opportunity his family bestowed never lapsed. “Many students I met appreciate their circumstances in a way that my friends and I in the States do not,” says Andrew.

Today, Andrew is continuing his medical education at the University of Virginia. But he is quite certain that health care in Africa will be part of his future.

“Had I never gone to Egypt,” Andrew says, “and been surrounded by friends with international interests at Kalamazoo College, I would not have spent the summer in Ghana.”

Study abroad in Egypt opened Andrew’s eyes. Ghana marked another shift in perspective. His experience at the clinics and with the doctors, nurses, medical students, and patients he met in Ghana prompted him to ponder the stereotypes held by many about Africa.

“Many Westerners hold inaccurate beliefs about health care in Ghana,” says Andrew. “We assume hospitals are dirty, medical education outdated, and health care primitive. Hospitals in Ghana may lack resources and some treatment options, but within the boundaries of such limitations, Ghanaian medical practice and health education is excellent. The determined doctors and other health care professionals I met make sure of that.”

Andrew was invited to present his research on the Ghana Diabetes Management Program at the February 2001 International Health Medical Educators Consortium in Honduras. In Ghana, the diabetes program continues toward its goal of adequate diabetes care within reach of every Ghanaian. That goal includes a professional trained in diabetes care at every local hospital.

Andrew hopes to return to Ghana and continue his work there, though he admits being torn between this option and a return to Egypt. Andrew’s “neighborhood” has grown to encompass continents. It will continue to grow as he crosses oceans to offer help, make friends, and share his enthusiasm for learning. There is, after all, a parasite in his blood.
Kalamazoo College welcomes seven new faculty members this fall. They come to Kalamazoo from all points of the country, indeed, from across the ocean, as the “crème de la crème” that will guide generations of future students throughout their Kalamazoo experience.

**On the Quad**

new faces and new talent

Danning Bloom
Assistant Professor of Physics

Danning Bloom came to Kalamazoo College for what he thought would be a one-year appointment to the physics department. But when professor Jan Tobochnik (featured in the spring issue of LuxEsto) took on the duties of editor of the American Journal of Physics, Bloom stepped in to assist.

"My first year at Kalamazoo has been fun, difficult, rewarding, and very busy," Bloom says. "I have been most impressed by the students here. I teach a physics class with more than 80 students, the largest on campus, and about a dozen or more of them ask questions with regular frequency. That's rare for a class that size. It is clear from the questions that the students are really thinking about the material and trying to understand."

Bloom was born in Boulder, Colorado, but grew up in Iowa and later lived in Minnesota. He earned his bachelor's in physics from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn., and his doctoral degree, also in physics, from Oklahoma State University.

Bloom came to Kalamazoo College when his wife had finished medical school and was told she would be doing her residency in Kalamazoo.

"We like Michigan and Kalamazoo College very much," Bloom says, "Stepping in for Jan Tobochnik so that he can put more time into editing was a wonderful opportunity to teach physics to an inspired group of students."
In July 2000, Kalamazoo College was one of only three U.S. institutions of higher education chosen to receive a prestigious Henry R. Luce Professorship grant. The highly coveted award is given annually by the Henry Luce Foundation, and competition for the award is fierce.

The winning proposal for the establishment of a Professorship in Global Technological Innovation was developed by Gregory Mahler, college provost, and six professors in physics, computer science, economics, and the math departments. The winning proposal promised to develop an interdisciplinary program that would build a bridge between the sciences and the humanities. The program envisions closer collaboration and more effective communication between scientists and social scientists in the laboratory and classroom. Blending these "two cultures" will allow individuals within each culture to work together to solve problems. Computer modeling of complex situations would be one instrument applied in this kind of problem solving.

Péter Érdi is the new Luce professor, coming to Kalamazoo College from Budapest, Hungary. A chemist by training, Péter has spent the last twenty years in a research institute for physics, working mostly on problems of brain dynamics. In addition, he teaches history and the philosophy of science.

"My main interest has been, and still is, how complexity emerges from the interaction of relatively simple elements," Péter says. "The way deterministic mechanisms interact with randomness is amazing! Sometimes, very small fluctuations imply dramatic changes in behavioral patterns. I realized that even my own life is no exception. It was quite by accident that I read the announcement of the Luce professorship at faraway Kalamazoo College in the United States. I was surfing a website on complex systems and came across the information. To narrow the gap between the two cultures of science and humanities is my long-term ambition."

Péter holds degrees in chemistry and chemical cybernetics from universities in Budapest. He has been a visiting scholar in Italy, France, Canada, Finland and has given more than 100 lectures in schools and universities across the world.

"Life in a small liberal arts college may be very different from what I know," Érdi says. "Budapest, my hometown, is a wonderful city and has a great tradition in arts and sciences. But I know that this will be an adventure for myself as well as my students. I hope that many Kalamazoo College students will visit my home within the framework of study abroad and senior individualized projects."

Erin Binney Girdler
Assistant Professor of Biology

It wasn’t until Erin Binney Girdler went to college that she realized one of her passions. "I hadn't realized that mucking about in the woods could actually be a career," Girdler says.

Girdler earned her bachelor’s in environmental science at the University of Virginia, her master’s in forestry and environmental science at Yale, and her Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton. After graduating, she volunteered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working on the first reintroduction of black-footed ferrets into the wild.

"That was an eye-opening experience that taught me that all the good science in the world was not going to save species if we didn’t account for human factors: economics, politics, institutional behavior, and individual egos," says Girdler.

Free time is spent with family, sailing, swimming, taking piano lessons and drawing.

Girdler describes her new position at Kalamazoo College as "manna from the gods."

"Kalamazoo College is the best small college in Michigan. All my interests and training fit in perfectly with the interests of the biology department and the environmental studies program. At a Kalamazoo College seminar, someone asked me the one question that I had dreaded hearing during my thesis defense, and that someone was one of your students! I was really impressed; it was a great question!"

Loretta Marie Johnson
Assistant Professor of Physics

While still in the fourth grade, after another meeting of the math-science club in which she was the only girl, Loretta Marie Johnson announced to her father: "I'm going to get a doctorate in science when I grow up!"

Johnson kept her promise and earned her doctorate (many years later) in physics and astronomy from the University of Kansas. She returned to Grinnell College in Iowa, where she had earned her bachelor’s, as assistant professor of physics in summer 2000.

A second love Johnson has pursued since 4th grade is music. She played the violin in her high school orchestra and with the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra.

"Education helps people explore who they are and what they want to do with their lives. I was able to explore both music and physics with the guidance of several wonderful mentors." Loretta says. A liberal arts approach is particularly valuable.
“Today many jobs require a broad range of skills: graphs and statistics, oral and written communication, analytic and critical and creative capabilities, all part of a liberal arts education. A small college environment also is able to encourage the development of individual initiative and moral character, personal responsibility and justice. And we are, of course, educating citizens who will need to be able to read, understand, and share their thoughts on a wide variety of civic issues.”

Diane Kiino
Assistant Professor of Health Sciences

Sally Olexia, professor of health sciences at Kalamazoo College, retired at the end of the 2001 academic year. When it came time to think about her replacement, she picked up the phone and called Diane Kiino ’74.

“After many years of research, including three years at Kalamazoo College, I had decided to retire and devote my time to family, church, and golf,” Diane Kiino says. “But then, out of the blue, Sally Olexia called. She asked if I might consider the position of professor of health sciences at Kalamazoo College. I had to think about it, but Kalamazoo College has always been a good place for me, as a student and in a research capacity. I decided it was time to give something back.”

Born and raised in Kalamazoo, Kiino earned a bachelor’s in chemistry from Kalamazoo College and a doctorate in pharmacology from Yale University. She has taught genetic engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

“My own education at Kalamazoo College and at Yale have opened many doors for me,” Kiino says. “More than once, I have heard that Kalamazoo College students are a ‘cut above’ most undergraduate students in their ability to work and think independently. I look forward to becoming a contributing part of that process.”

D. Blaine Moore
Assistant Professor of Biology

Born in Jacksonville, Moore earned his bachelor's in biology, magna cum laude, from the University of North Florida. He finished graduate training in neuroscience at the University of Florida College of Medicine, completed a post-doc at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and held a visiting professorship at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. Hired initially at Kalamazoo College through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant program, Moore is now on an ongoing tenure-track position in the biology department.

Moore has published articles in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, Society for Neuroscience Abstracts, and many other respected journals. He has taught courses in neurobiology, cell biology, and led undergraduate students in research projects, including several involving Alzheimer's Disease.

His research interests include neurodegenerative diseases, nervous system development, and molecular and cell biology.

“A liberal arts approach to higher education is the best model for college students, due to the breadth of education and experiences — like the study abroad program at Kalamazoo College — and close, one-on-one interactions with faculty in the classroom and research lab,” said Moore. “When I saw the advertisement for an assistant professorship in neuroscience at Kalamazoo, I jumped at the opportunity. The College enjoys an excellent reputation and a great biology department. After meeting with the faculty and students—who were very impressive—and learning about the Howard Hughes grant awarded to the College to set up a neurobiology teaching lab, it was clear that coming to Kalamazoo College would be first choice.”
Matias Vernengo
Assistant Professor of Economics

Matias Vernengo was born in Argentina, grew up in Brazil, but now anticipates eagerly his move to Kalamazoo where he will join forces with an old friend, Louis-Philippe Rochon, professor of economics at Kalamazoo College.

"Louis-Philippe and I met in Cambridge (United Kingdom) in 1997," Vernengo recalls, "and since then we have been collaborating on several projects. He went to Brazil when I was assistant professor at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, and then to the Center for Economic Policy Analysis in New York, where I am currently the assistant director.

Most recently, Vernengo and Rochon collaborated on organizing the Charles J. Monroe Seminar in Money and Banking at Kalamazoo College. The seminar drew internationally renowned economists from Brazil, Austria, France, Chile, Canada, and the United States.

"Higher education should allow one to develop the ability to think critically about the world," Vernengo says. "If one believes that ideas and not interests rule the world, then the ability to think independently is essential. That kind of ability is of primary focus at Kalamazoo College, and that is why I am excited to join the faculty at this exceptional college."

Three of the College’s creative writing teachers ponder a quaint and curious volume in the attic of Humphrey House with English major Caitlin Gilmet '02 (left). Members of the English department pictured are (l-r) Andy Mozina, Bruce Mills, and Kathleen Crown. Conrad Hilberry, a nationally renowned poet and professor emeritus of English, began Kalamazoo College’s creative writing program in the 1960’s. Today five professors teach creative writing courses at Kalamazoo. Diane Seuss and Crown specialize in poetry, Gail Griffin and Mills in creative nonfiction, and Mozina in fiction. Writing is a central skill for living, and creative writing improves the ability to understand and connect ideas from diverse subject areas. Creative writing at Kalamazoo combines a great deal of reading, critical thinking, and social awareness. The program holds appeal and value for all majors, providing opportunities for students of, say, computer science or biology to engage with a community of writers on a regular basis. Mozina and Crown, for example, came to writing after working in other fields and well understand the connection of creative writing with seemingly unrelated disciplines. Mozina majored in economics and went to law school before pursuing writing as a profession. Crown, who loved embryology, genetics, and organic chemistry, jumped the medical school ship when she realized she wanted to be a writer more than she wanted to be a physician.

Matias and his wife Marcia with their son Piero.
Two Kalamazoo College students will use 2001-02 Fulbright Scholarships to conduct postgraduate research on opposite sides of the planet.

Sharika Crawford ’00 will spend the year (July 15, 2001 to July 15, 2002) in San Andres, a small Colombian island off the coast of Nicaragua. In September, Jeff Lung ’01 will embark upon his third sojourn (this one a full year) in Beijing, China.

Sharika’s research project will focus on San Andres natives’ use of language to assert cultural identity against the pressure of an assimilation process known as “Colombianization.”

“The Afro-Caribbean natives of San Andres speak Creole English and Spanish and are mostly Baptists,” explains Sharika. “However, the island is Colombian territory and within the last five decades mainland Colombia has insisted that the islanders adopt Spanish exclusively as well as Colombian culture and customs.”

The work will combine Sharika’s two academic passions: anthropology and Latin American history. Sharika transferred to Kalamazoo College from James Madison College, a residential school at Michigan State University. Kalamazoo’s reputation in international studies and her desire to major in Latin American studies motivated Sharika’s transfer. However, her first-quarter experience in Marigene Arnold’s introductory anthropology course kindled a love for the subject that persists to this day.

Sharika graduated from Kalamazoo with her bachelor’s in anthropology and some impressive hands-on learning experiences. The latter include social service work in an orphanage in a small town outside San Jose, Costa Rica, and an internship with the Organization of Africans in the Americas, a non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C. The OAA internship included fieldwork in Venezuela and became the basis of her SIP on the black consciousness movement in Latin America.

Currently a graduate student at UCLA, Sharika hopes to finish her master’s degree in Latin American studies before she leaves for San Andres. After her Fulbright Fellowship, she plans to earn a Ph.D. in Latin American history, focusing on the African experience there, particularly slavery, abolition, and black identity in Cuba, Brazil, and Colombia. “I am very interested in how the institution of slavery and its ultimate abolition influence present day race relations in the Americas,” she says.

And the role of Kalamazoo College in her journey? “Excellent preparation! The attention Kalamazoo professors give students and the small class sizes better prepare us for graduate work,” says Sharika.

“Three courses at Kalamazoo College influenced my future plans,” she says. “‘People and Cultures of Latin America’ with Marigene Arnold; ‘Human Rights, Drugs, and Democracy’ with John Dugas; and a world history course by David Barclay. I also am grateful for my participation in the Black Student Organization. I helped produce A Lyric to Liberation, BSO’s Cultural Awareness Troupe project in 2000. I’m very proud of that event and other events that BSO sponsored.”

Half a hemisphere from San Andres, Jeffery Lung will use his Fulbright fellowship to continue his research on Daoist rituals in northern China. His base of operation will be Beijing. It will be Jeffery’s third trip to the country. He spent seven months in Beijing on study abroad, and then returned to the northern capital the summer after his junior year to complete his SIP. That project, a fifty-minute documentary titled Daoism Burning: Contemporary Daoist Practice in Beijing, has since had three U.S. showings, one at Kalamazoo College, one at Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio), and one at the Asian Network Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Jeffery is currently talking with potential distributors for the film.

Like Sharika, Jeffery changed course when he came to Kalamazoo College. “I had lived in Spain for a brief time in high school and enrolled at Kalamazoo fully intending to major in Spanish,” he says. And, like Sharika, extraordinary professors had a great deal to do with the tack in Jeffery’s journey. “I met Madeline Chu during orientation week and found my passion for Chinese under her tutelage,” says Jeff.

(continued on page 18)
"And I took Carol Anderson's course 'Religions in Asia' during my freshman winter quarter. She became my mentor as a religion major."

Jeffery leaves for Beijing this fall and will spend a year there. Afterwards, he intends to enroll in an as yet undetermined graduate program to earn his advanced degrees in Asian studies. He will focus on Chinese history and Chinese religions.

"Perhaps in the future I will work with and advise American businesses and the American government regarding issues pertaining to China," says Jeffery. "Our country's policies would be more effective if we better understood the history and culture of that fascinating country. Ultimately, I'd like to be the U.S. ambassador to China. And who knows, I may one day get my chance."
Kate VandenBosch ’77 thinks carefully and critically about two particular passions of hers: science and education. And she chooses words precisely to describe the outset of a continuing journey of scientific research and education from a small liberal arts college called Kalamazoo.

The most recent distinguished exploration in that journey finds VandenBosch Professor and Head of the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Minnesota. That prestigious position had remained open for several years while the University searched for just the right person, according to Professor of Biology Paul Olexia, one of VandenBosch’s teachers at Kalamazoo College.

At Olexia’s request, VandenBosch returned to Kalamazoo College last spring to deliver the keynote address at the Diebold Symposium, the rigorous scientific meeting during which senior biology majors defend their senior individualized projects. Her visit prompted some interesting insights regarding science education at a small liberal arts school.

"I would again choose to begin my post-secondary science journey at Kalamazoo College," says VandenBosch. "A small College may have fewer faculty to cover the breadth of a scientific corpus that is continually expanding," she acknowledges. "But the K-Plan provided research and other opportunities uncharacteristic of many schools its size."

According to VandenBosch, the liberal arts’ expansiveness sometimes makes the decision to narrow one’s research focus more difficult.

"But that fact is also an advantage," she adds. "For example, beginning my collegiate journey with a four-year residential liberal arts experience like Kalamazoo’s allowed me to develop my passion for vocal music, and I continue to rehearse and perform in choral groups today."

"In addition, The College helped me develop other lifelong interests, a broad world view on international and political issues, the ability to write well, and a skill for synthesizing diverse ideas within and outside my major."

After VandenBosch graduated from Kalamazoo College she earned a master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts. She completed post-doctorate work at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and the John Innes Institute in Great Britian. Prior to accepting the position at the University of Minnesota, she was a highly successful researcher and teacher on the faculty at Texas A&M.

She is an expert on and an explorer of the biochemical and genetic factors that allow the nitrogen-fixing plants known as legumes to recognize and differentiate between those beneficial microbes that inhabit their roots and carry on nitrogen fixation and those microbial inhabitants that are potentially pathogenic. Her Diebold lecture was titled "Coping with microbes: A genetic and genomic view of how plants do it."

Delivering the keynote address of the 2001 Diebold Symposium allowed alumna Kate VandenBosch ’77 an opportunity to talk with former teacher and influential mentor Paul Olexia. "Whatever else you may write in your article," said VandenBosch, "be sure to emphasize the high regard I have for the training I received from professors like Paul."
A Wired Community

BY RICHARD BERMAN

Kalamazoo College students will soon have on-line access to hundreds of alumni volunteers in the Career Network as well as to internship, SIP, and employment opportunities. Students will only be a click away from up-to-date postings that will support their career plans.

The Center for Career Development is currently "rolling out" the College's customized version of eRecruiting.com, an on-line software package for college and university users. Kalamazoo was the first Michigan college or university to contract with eRecruiting.

The web-based software offers students, alumni and employers the capacity to post and view positions, upload and retrieve candidate letters and résumés, check the status of applicants and applications, and review a central calendar of events and deadline dates. The new Alumni Mentor segment will help Kalamazoo students connect with helpful advisors from the College's hundreds of alumni volunteers across all fields and disciplines. In the past students have relied on paper files and "local control" resources. But information (alumni volunteers and internship/job postings) in these resources was often out of date, and access was limited.

With eRecruiting, access is as near as any computer with web access. Alumni can update their own records and specify the ways they can provide support and assistance to students. Students can easily search for alumni allies and specific kinds of opportunities. Employers describe their organizations and positions in their own words, choose from among various methods of receiving applications, and customize their preferred follow-up steps.

A major Summer 2001 conversion is planned for Alumni Mentor registration and postings of positions that are new or available each year. Staff and student workers will be contacting employers and alumni included in the existing databases, updating records, providing password access, and taking other steps to achieve the conversion to the eRecruiting system.

Alumni and other friends of Kalamazoo College can get involved by taking any of the following steps.
1) Mail the reply below to:
   Center for Career Development, Kalamazoo College, 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006
2) E-mail Career Development at career@kzoo.edu
3) Call us toll free at (888) 232-5966 or locally at (616) 337-7183
4) Visit our website at www.kzoo.edu/career and click on the eRecruiting icon

Our graduates are our students' greatest resource for finding their best career paths. With eRecruiting, we can take advantage of the information highway. This program can help bring the Kalamazoo College community together in a new way.

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Yes, I am interested in being an ALUMNI MENTOR in K College's new eRecruiting system. Please contact me. I am providing my current contact information below.

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Professor of Religion Wally Schmeichel and Professor of Mathematics John Fink were honored for 25 years of service to the College.

Since the beginning of Wally's teaching career at Kalamazoo College in 1974, his classes have been immensely popular with students, in part, according to his colleague Gary Dorrien, because of Wally's ability to connect what is seemingly unrelated.

"Students are riveted by Wally's rich stew of biblical criticism, historical analysis, homiletical asides, word plays, disarming cultural allusions, and pointed cultural commentary," said Gary. "He finds connections between post-exilic prophecy and last night's television commercials; he sprinkles his lectures with plot lines from potboiler Westerns; he epitomizes the Barthian ideal of speaking with the Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other."

In addition to his teaching duties, Wally gave chapel sermons, liberal arts colloquium lectures, and graduation addresses. His scholarly work included explorations of the wilderness motif in the Bible and the politics behind the crucifixion of Jesus as well as explications of the meaning of Salmon Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* and the history of the idea of freedom of speech.

During his career he created new courses on Islam, classical Judaism, and introduction to religion.

"He inspires his students and colleagues to consider the life of the mind," said Gary. "He takes seriously his calling to help students find their way in life, and as a teacher, he is one of the best."

Sharing the anniversary celebration with Wally Schmeichel is John Fink, professor of mathematics.

When John Fink talks about the science of numbers and their operations, interrelations, combinations, patterns, and abstractions, for a moment one might think he is talking about poetry. Or, perhaps, that he is on a spiritual journey. (see story on page 36)

"Mathematics is a means of encountering truth," John says. "It is a combining of the most beautiful patterns. I am awestruck by just the process of thinking about math, that power of abstraction, when suddenly it all comes together and becomes so clear. I can't imagine a more exhilarating and intimate encounter with truth than mathematics provides. It is the language of the deepest kind of experience."

But it is not mathematics alone that defines John Fink. John himself claims ownership of a balanced brain: the left side of creativity and the right side of reason have reached equilibrium. He is as much a musician as he is a mathematician. When he rises from his columns of figures, it is to seat himself at the piano.

"Mathematics and music have been linked by humanists ever since the Muses got tenure on Parnassus," said James Turner, associate professor of music. "John Fink is one person in whom the two are very well connected - so well connected that some of us probably know more of him musically than we do mathematically.

"He is fervent in relation to his faith, to his family, to good teaching and to great music. In all these things he's fervent in the original sense of being so engaged that he heats up, whether he's sermonizing, dining, studying, change ringing, or singing with you. Kalamazoo College has seen the Fink fervor in all of these areas."
Jessamyn Margoni and Elizabeth Tank received the Clare Boothe Luce Scholarship for Women in Science for 2001-02. Both sophomores will receive full tuition for their on-campus quarters in their junior and senior years. They also are eligible for a stipend to cover research for their senior individual projects.

Both young women are double majors—Jessamyn in physics and chemistry, Elizabeth in biology and German.

“Learning how and why things work was my main attraction to the sciences,” wrote Jessamyn in her personal statement, part of the scholarship application. “With chemistry I learned why my bike rusted when I left it in one too many rainstorms, why acid rain was killing lakes near our cabin, and why the river in my grandparents’ town was a deep red. Physics taught me why the drop pitch I loved to throw in softball dropped, how my uncle's airplane worked, and why the shower curtain always billowed in, not out.”

In her personal statement, Elizabeth described the excitement of immersion in a scientific field subject to rapid and constant change. “When looking at a description of ribosomes in a biology text such as *Campbell's Fourth Edition*, it seems as though there was little left to discover because so much has already been learned,” she wrote. “However, when I see that Campbell's does not show a third site for transfer RNA I realize just how rapidly knowledge is evolving. I hope to be part of these discoveries.”

After graduation from Kalamazoo College, Jessamyn plans to earn advanced degrees in physics or chemical engineering. Elizabeth would like to undertake graduate studies in Germany or Switzerland in molecular or cellular biology.
On the basketball court she’s ‘MJ.’ Off the court she’s MaryJane. On or off, her accomplishments are remarkable.

MaryJane Valade ’01 has certainly left her mark on Hornet basketball. Countless defenders have been overcome by one of Valade’s slashing moves to the basket, resulting in a gentle lay-off off the glass and through the net. She has been the primary focus of opponents’ game plans, and the cause of heartburn for a number of opposing coaches.

Valade is a competitor, prolific scorer and more. Her desire propels her among the team leaders in rebounds each season. Her most impressive statistic, however, shows the versatility of this five-foot-nine forward. Valade joined Sara Musser ’96 as the only other player in the history of the women’s basketball program to score more than 1,000 points and pull down 500 rebounds in a career. Valade scored 1,402 points and accounted for 571 rebounds.

Valade was selected first team All-MIAA three times. She was MIAA Player of the Week three times. She earned all-tournament honors five times. She was Great Lakes Region Player of the Week her freshman year, and a member of the D3hoops.com Team of the Week her senior year.

Those honors and statistics are not the most important to Valade. She’s most proud of the team’s improvement over the last three years. Kalamazoo was 9-17 in 1997-98, and improved to 18-8 in 1999-2000, setting a school record for most wins in a season. This year, Valade’s senior season, the team matched its record-breaking mark.

Valade’s versatility is also helping her make her mark off the court. A history major and art minor, Valade enjoyed a number of experiences at Kalamazoo College that will help her toward her goal of earning a master’s degree in museum studies and working as a curator.

Valade completed an internship in the collections department of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. She helped organize and document artifacts. During the summer of 2000 Valade worked at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., where she did research for the curatorial department while further developing the museum’s web site. Valade’s research helped guide decisions on exhibits and the purchase and sale of artifacts.

Valade chose Kalamazoo College because of the K-Plan’s study abroad opportunity, and she spent three months in Caen, France during the spring term of her sophomore year. She traveled most weekends and visited at least 10 different countries during her trip.

“The knowledge and experiences I gained from study abroad will help immensely in my graduate studies and future work in a museum,” she said.
After posting its first winning record since 1993, the Hornet football team has positioned itself to move up in the MIAA. An impressive number of offensive and defensive (12 each) starters return.

Sophomore Brett Foster leads a solid defensive line. Foster recorded 42 tackles last season, including eight for lost yardage and three quarterback sacks. He was selected to the All-MIAA second team and was named a USAFootball.com Freshman All-American. Joining Foster up front are Tim Prater ’03, Eric Page ’02 and Jude Vanover ’03. Prater recorded 15 tackles last year, including six for lost yardage and two-and-a-half sacks. Vanover had 11 tackles, including three for lost yardage and one sack. Page returns as a medical red-shirt senior after suffering a season-ending injury in the first game of last season.

Senior co-captain Brant Haverdink leads the linebacker corps. An All-MIAA first team selection last season, Haverdink recorded a team-best 121 tackles, including 16 for lost yardage and five and-a-half sacks. He also had three interceptions. He was selected as MIAA Defensive Player of the Week twice and was named a USAFootball.com third-team All-American. Joining Haverdink are Brad Zielaskowski ’02, Dan Derksen ’03 and Neil Laws ’04. Zielaskowski had the third-highest tackle total on the team with 67, including seven for lost yardage and one-and-a-half sacks. Laws recorded 39 tackles, including eight for lost yardage and one-and-a-half sacks. Derksen was a starter before suffering a season-ending injury.

The defensive secondary returns four starters. Brent Klein ’04 and Nate Hurst ’02 fill the safety positions. Klein made 73 tackles as a freshman last season, the second-highest total on the team. Hurst earned MIAA honorable mention honors. He made 54 tackles on the season and returned two interceptions 66 yards. Conor Lefere and Mark LaCombe started at cornerback as freshmen last season. Lefere was a second-team All-MIAA selection and a second-team USAFootball.com Freshman All-American. He made 38 tackles and intercepted four passes. LaCombe was an MIAA honorable mention selection with 35 tackles and five interceptions.

The offensive line keyed the offensive turnaround. Senior co-captain Brian Lewis anchors the line at center. Lewis is a four-year starter and earned first-team All-MIAA and honorable mention USAFootball.com All-American honors last season. Joining Lewis are four returning starters: senior Paul Casetta, senior Rickey Styes, junior Jon Rogosich, and junior Jared Otting. Junior Zach Burton returns to the tight end position.

Three starting receivers return for the 2001 season. Senior Jason Charnley had 24 catches last year for 274 yards (11.4 yds/catch) and two touchdowns. Junior T.J. Thayer caught a team-high 53 receptions for 551 yards (10.4 yds/catch) and one touchdown. He was an honorable mention USAFootball.com Sophomore All-American and an All-MIAA first team selection as a return specialist. Sophomore Andy Graham made 28 catches for 389 yards (13.9 yds/catch) and a team-high three touchdowns. Graham earned honorable mention All-MIAA and USAFootball.com Freshman All-American honors.

Senior Justin Gross and sophomore Dwight White may be the best one-two running back combination in the MIAA. Each player earned honorable mention All-MIAA honors and will continue to split time in the backfield. White carried the ball 124 times for 613 yards (4.9 avg) and scored 13 touchdowns. He led the MIAA in scoring. Gross had 122 carries for 540 yards (4.4 avg) with three touchdowns.

Quarterback Zach Ellis ’03 threw for 1,024 yards and five touchdowns last season. He was 80-for-160 for a 50.0 completion percentage. Quarterback Bryan Gnyp ’04 threw for 532 yards and four touchdowns, with a completion percentage of 54.8 (55-118).

Special teams will sparkle with Thayer and Graham. Thayer averaged 8.0 yards per punt return and 25.1 yards per kick return. Graham averaged 19.1 yards per kick return. Senior Tom Hillemeier returns to handle the punting and kicking duties. He was an All-MIAA second team and USAFootball.com honorable mention All-American last season, averaging 36.6 yards per punt. He was 9-of-12 on field goal attempts, including 6-of-6 from beyond 30 yards.

The season opens up with two non-conference games on the road. Home contests include Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Colorado College, Olivet College (homecoming) and Adrian College.

The Kalamazoo College Athletic Department will conduct a phone-a-thon this fall. Athletes who are presently playing a sport call alumni and friends who either played or have an interest in the same sport.

Fall Sports  September 10-11, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Winter and Spring Sports  October 1-2, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

Experienced. Balanced. Determined. Those three words describe the Hornet volleyball team and explain the team’s optimism for the 2001 season.

Five seniors return, including three that will be four-year letter winners. Diana Okuniewski and Erin Price are the backbone of the defense. Jodi Pung, a second-team All-MIAA selection last season, led the Hornets in kills (281).

All-MIAA setter Emily Trahan leads a strong junior class. She led the team in assists (1150) and service aces (67) in 2000 after setting the school record for assists (1397) as a freshman. Classmate Leah Hay had 267 kills from her right side position last year. Devin Williams had 216 kills as an outside hitter in her first year of collegiate competition.

Sophomore Carrie Brankiewicz saw significant playing time as a freshman while leading the team in digs (377) and recording the team’s third-highest kill total (244).

A talented freshman class will challenge the returning players for several starting positions.

Highlights on the schedule this year include the annual Hornet Invitational, a trip to Colorado Springs, Colo. for a tournament at Colorado College, and a tournament at Wheaton College (Ill.).

Two rule changes in collegiate volleyball will dramatically change the game. The scoring system is being converted to rally scoring. Every serve is worth a point, thus eliminating the side-out. Matches are still the best three-out-of-five games. The first four games will use rally scoring to 30 points. The fifth game, if necessary, will use rally scoring to 15 points.

The second rule change will allow sets to be played. If the serve hits the net and goes over, the ball is in play. In the past, if a serve touched the net in any way it resulted in a side-out to the other team. Both changes should affect the speed of the game while adding increased value to every play.

CROSS COUNTRY

Coach Andy Strickler is optimistic about the 2001 women’s cross country season. The Hornets return a strong senior class, along with a pair of proven sophomores.

Michelle Harburg ’03 was last year’s top runner. She placed 10th at the MIAA Championships, and had her best finish (5th) at the Goshen Invitational. She was selected to the All-MIAA second team, and earned All-Region honors with a 34th place finish at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional.

Fellow sophomore and All-MIAA second-team selection Gina Lutz joins Harburg. She placed 13th at the MIAA Championships last season, and finished ninth at the Goshen Invitational.

Coach Strickler considers the depth of the men’s team its most valuable asset. An experienced sophomore class and a strong senior class should help the Hornets improve in the MIAA standings.

Andy Beights ’02 is a three-year letter winner. He earned All-MIAA second team honors in 1999 after finishing 14th at the MIAA Championship. James Cekola ’02 finished 16th at the MIAA Championship in 1999, and just missed All-Region honors with a 36th place finish at the NCAA Regional Championship.

Kalamazoo College will host the NCAA Regional Championships on November 10.

GOLF PREVIEWS

Men’s Golf

The loss of three talented seniors opens a number of opportunities on the men’s golf team in 2001.

Rick Sharp returns as a senior after averaging 92.7 last season. Ben Tucker (85.3) and Adam Pringle (90.3) make up the junior class. Sophomore Matt Gardner shot 94.5 per round as a freshman. Dan Flewelling returns for his senior season after studying abroad last season.

The Hornets will play their home matches at Thornapple Creek Golf Club.

Women’s Golf

The women’s golf team expects to show continued improvement under second-year head coach Henry Williams. The team finished fifth in the MIAA last season.

Six letter-winning sophomores form the core of the team. Kristyn Buhl ’04 earned first-team All-MIAA honors last season and ranked fifth in the league with a scoring average of 87.4. Other returning players that consistently scored in the top four are Alyse Tankanow, Erica Zontek, and Bridget Nolan.

The depth of the team will be strengthened by the return of Nisse Olsen and Sara Church, two seniors who lettered as sophomores. Both studied abroad last fall.

The team will play its home matches at Milham Park Golf Course.

Please show your support for the Hornet athletic programs by contributing to the Kalamazoo College Athletic Fund. The athletic fund enhances the intercollegiate athletic experience for the entire Kalamazoo College community. Please be generous when our student-athletes call.
Women’s Soccer

Thirteen returning players and some exciting new talent will seek to reclaim the MIAA championship for Kalamazoo’s women’s soccer team.

Leading the Hornets is a trio of senior captains. Forward Lydia Raburn, last year’s MIAA most valuable player, scored 20 goals with 11 assists in MIAA play last season. Jessica Mueller, a second-team all-MIAA selection, plays midfield and expects to increase her scoring this season. Stacey Nastase, a three-time all-region and all-MIAA selection, anchors the defense.

Strengthening both the offense and defense is junior Kim Hartman. Despite playing defensive back, Hartman broke the MIAA record with 15 assists last season.

Sophomore Molly Danner returns at forward. She was the team’s third-leading scorer with eight goals and eight assists as a freshman.

Sophomore midfielder Lesley Williams and defensive stopper Jessica Geiger ’04 gained valuable playing experience last year. Goalkeeper Adrienne Beller recorded seven shutouts in matches last season.

A good recruiting class makes the Hornets stronger and deeper. Several freshmen could compete for starting positions.

Highlights of this year’s schedule include a pre-season exhibition with Western Michigan University and a season-opening trip to Macalester College and Carleton College in Minnesota. The final week of the MIAA season includes contests with Hope, Calvin and Albion.

Men’s Soccer

Defending a championship is one of the most difficult tasks in sport. That task is made a little easier when every starter from that championship team returns. Coach Hardy Fuchs knows, however, that the men’s soccer team cannot rest on its laurels in its effort to repeat as MIAA champions in 2001.

“Everyone is looking to dethrone us,” Fuchs commented. “We must work extra hard to maintain and improve our quality of play if we want to repeat as league champions.”

Leading the Hornet offense are forwards Ross Bower and Aaron Thornburg. Bower, a junior all-region and two-time all-MIAA selection, scored 12 goals with eight assists last season. Thornburg, a senior and second-team all-MIAA selection, led the MIAA in total points (28) with 11 goals and six assists in league games. He also led the Hornets in overall scoring (35) with 14 goals and seven assists.

The midfielders are led by two-time all-region and all-MIAA selection David Dwaihy. The senior scored five goals and led the team with nine assists last season. Also at midfield is senior Pat Tetreault, a first-team All-MIAA selection, junior Andrew Upward, a second-team All-MIAA selection, and sophomore Brett Stinar, an MIAA honorable mention performer.

Senior John Evans and junior Jon Hughes return as first-team All-MIAA defenders. Sophomore Andrew Kemple, an MIAA honorable mention selection, and junior John Sheehy return to strengthen a defense that allowed only seven goals in 12 league games last season.

Sophomore Nick Carlin-Voigt and junior Tony Pagorek saw equal time in goal last season. Both players will compete for the starting position.

The schedule includes a pre-season exhibition with Western Michigan University and a season-opening trip through Indiana and Ohio.
**2001 fall sports composite schedule**

**August**

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**October**

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**November**

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<td>VB at MIAA Tournament</td>
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<td>MS at NCAA First Round</td>
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<td>CC - NCAA Regionals (Kalamazoo)</td>
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* Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association contest

Home games in **bold**

Dates and times subject to change

CC - Cross Country; FB - Football; MG - Men's Golf; MS - Men's Soccer; VB - Volleyball; WG - Women's Golf; WS - Women's Soccer
Clara Berridge  
“FIGURED OUT HOW TO MAKE A BIG CITY HOME”  
during her fall 2001 internship at the  
Philadelphia Center for Urban Studies,  
and the experience was a valuable  
exercise in liberal arts learning.

“I went to Philadelphia to explore my interest in environmental psychology,” says Clara. But with only two environmental psychologists in Philadelphia, finding them, getting an interview, and securing an internship took Clara much longer than it did her fellow participants at the Philadelphia Center to secure their internships.

“The Center requires you to be your own agent for your internship and provides a large number of internship contacts developed through previous student experiences,” says Clara. None of those contacts involved environmental psychologists. For Clara that meant more phone work (at least 30 more calls) and more delay. The Center requires students to interview with at least three potential placements. Clara was still working phones when her classmates were engaged in their third interviews.

Eventually, Clara tracked down and interviewed the two environmental psychologists. One was conducting a study on the effects of various constructed environments on persons with dementia. Clara chose the second alternative — interning with Dr. Peter Hecht of the Environmental Research Group. She worked on a campus way-finding project for the Ohio State University and conducted field research on the effect of cell phone use on public space.

The work focused on only one aspect of the field, an area that required more office time and reading than suits Clara’s spirit. That realization was part of the value of her learning experience. “I recognized that I was missing the satisfaction I receive from working directly with people,” she says.

Not content with “recognition” only, Clara discovered a solution to her “something missing” that turned out to be an important part of making a large city home: widespread engagement. To expand her exploration in other areas of the field of environmental psychology, she read extensively in Hecht’s personal library. Hecht introduced her to his professional network, including contacts at the University of Michigan and the Polytechnic University of New York who were focusing on issues such as prison design and public housing. She also attended, with his...
encouragement, his Temple University class titled “Design, Culture, and Behavior.” To satisfy her desire to work with and serve other people directly, she volunteered to teach English as a second language for the United Way’s Nationalities Services Center. Her class included immigrants from Poland, Saudi Arabia, India, Japan, Turkey, Mexico, and Venezuela.

The Philadelphia Center requires Kalamazoo students to enroll in one seminar. Clara chose two and took a French class on her own, the better to make the city her home. One seminar focused on how to attend a performance and included eight non-mainstream productions. Clara enriched this experience by volunteering to usher at a fringe festival performance.

Clara’s second seminar studied the architecture of cities and was taught by Philadelphia’s director of urban design. On Thursday evenings, she attended her French seminar.

The French came in handy. Clara’s roommate, also interning through the Philadelphia Center, worked for the International Visitors Council and often secured Clara invitations to special events. At one of these events, Clara conversed in French with several West African judges. The judges’ Senegalese interpreter happened to have attended the school in Dakar where Clara intends to study abroad, and he provided a number of contacts for her next Kalamazoo College exploration.

“My quarter in Philadelphia was quintessentially Kalamazoo College,” says Clara. “My idea of success is gaining experience in a variety of areas, becoming an interesting person who can discuss and relate to others on many levels. Oddly, fear drives this notion of success to some degree. I am afraid to be someone who is too passive to set out to accomplish things that take courage.”

Clara Berridge’s Philadelphia experience — like Kalamazoo College’s practice of liberal arts — provides lessons in courage, in ways to feel at home with a lifetime of always having much to learn.
Monday, October 9, 2000

I love the Italian Market. Where else can one get five pounds of bananas for a dollar? On the first Friday of every month the art galleries and shops in Old City stay open late to display their new wares. ERG, my internship office, is right in the middle of Old City, one of the reasons I chose it. My walk to work is often the best part of my day...

Tomorrow morning at 5:00 a.m. my roommate from Loras College and I are meeting Gardner Cadwalader, a rower who participated in the 1968 Olympics, at Boat House Row for our personal tour of the rowing district. I want to get out on the water. Rowing is big in Philly.

Oh, today on my way home from work I saw a familiar face on the street. He was a Chinese man who approached me a few weeks earlier while I was doing research on cell phone usage on Market Street. He was poorly dressed and groomed, but had a huge smile and inquired whether I’d like to be his girlfriend or boyfriend. Actually, his first question was whether I was Italian. That was his third, fifth, and sixth question as well, but for some reason when I saw this man yelling and waving at me today, it made my day.

It is nice to get to know people like the pizza guys on the corner and the owners of the Pastry Studio, though perhaps I should stop eating so much and save some money. On the other hand, if I don’t stop in these places I’ll miss getting to know more people.

November 11, 2000

My Performance Seminar attended The Gathering by Will Power. This one-man show was simply fantastic, with extraordinarily diverse talent, few props, and the most energy and heart I’ve ever seen.

This morning I was the substitute “primary teacher” for my ESL class. Seventeen students from all over the world. One elderly couple is from Albania. The woman, Leonora, sits in the front and reads all the exercises aloud for everyone. Yoshiko is one of my favorite students or, rather, is the most satisfying to help. She is the least experienced speaker of the class. When she comes up to my desk privately to get help on her homework she opens up, laughing and smiling and enjoying the responsive attention.

Ben, who’s from Strasbourg, relentlessly argues that I should forget about Senegal as my prospective study abroad destination and go to “his city” instead. He says, “Ah Clara, it is the most romantic city in the world. You go, You go!” Raga always makes me smile. She is a woman from India who, on the first day of class, sneaked up to my desk past the male teacher to ask me if she could use the restroom.

I was a little concerned about how Eduardo and Evaristo, two young men from Venezuela and Mexico, would react to me as the only teacher today. Evaristo reminded me he is in control by temporarily taking his place in my chair and reading through my papers. But after that, he and his friends went out of their way to be polite while I addressed the class, so I was able to relax and have fun. I’ve found that I enjoy one-on-one interaction more than the backroom social research my primary internship requires...

November 20, 2000

My roommate Leslie secured for me an invitation to a Warwick Hotel event honoring 10 members of the judiciary from French-speaking West Africa. It was a very formal event. As soon as I got my own official IVC (International Visitors’ Council) nametag, Les grabbed my arm and dragged me through the crowd of distinguished looking guests to meet a judge from Togo who was wearing his beautiful traditional dress. She introduced me to Mr. Yaya Bawa, who had no idea what Leslie was saying, but politely smiled and nodded. So I got brave and tried to explain study abroad in French. My French was horrible and broken, but his face nevertheless expressed how delighted he was that I was trying to speak his language.

I met judges from many different countries, and when I asked them what places I should visit in Africa, each was adamant about the country that was printed on his nametag. I now have two or three cities to visit in Togo, the Congo, and Senegal, where I will have welcoming friends, including the President of the Court of Appeals of Lome. This man, though holding the most prestigious position of all the guests, was the most laid-back and sociable.

I met an interpreter who grew up in Senegal and went to the undergraduate school I will attend next fall. He was a very interesting man with degrees in German and English literature from the University of Illinois. We had a lot to talk about; I was especially interested to hear how unfilled he feels with his current job as an interpreter (I had given some thought to interpreting as a career). He writes novels about Senegal to satisfy his need for intellectual challenge. After the party, Lea and I ate a late supper. When the waitress brought out our pancakes and waffles, into the diner walked all 10 visitors from West Africa. The President of the Court of Appeals of Lome inquired about our meals. He had never heard of pancakes or waffles, so we offered him a taste. He nodded and leaned over with his mouth open, and we soon fed the President of the Court of Appeals of Lome pancakes at Little Pete’s Diner that night. I’ve never been more excited to go on study abroad.
More than 85 members of the Kalamazoo College community gathered in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia to converse with Professor Emeritus of Political Science Don Flesche. The political scientist provided a trenchant analysis of the Supreme Court role in the 2000 presidential election. And all enjoyed hearing once again the familiar "Voice of the Hornets".

In April, Gary Jones ’75 hosted some 40 alumni and alumnae at his restored Victorian home in San Diego. The guests included one prospective freshman who thoroughly enjoyed the experience. In fact, she sent her enrollment deposit the following day!

Thirty College friends met on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. It was the second time John Honell ’66 crossed the gangplank. John’s class had returned from study abroad in 1965 aboard the ship, and he had a ticket receipt for $130 to prove it. Kathleen West ’77 received her Distinguished Achievement Award and addressed the gathering about her pioneering work with expectant mothers struggling with substance abuse.

In May, 60 College constituents gathered at a reception hosted by John ’80 and Laura ’82 Foster in their Atherton (Calif.) home. President Jones talked about the College’s upcoming campaign and the importance of participation by the entire Kalamazoo College community.

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Your web site has a new feature: a secure on-line giving option. The address is www.kzoo.edu/afgiving. Select "How to Make a Gift to the Kalamazoo College Fund." Certain fields required for gift processing are noted with an asterisk. If you have any questions regarding your transaction, please use the e-mail address link found at the bottom of the page. And thank you for your support of Kalamazoo College.
2001-2002 campus events

Homecoming Weekend 2001

Friday, October 19,  Enlightenment Leadership: Kalamazoo College in the 21st Century launch celebration, Light Fine Arts, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 20, Homecoming Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, halftime of the football game
Class Reunions: 1956 (45th); 1961 (40th); 1966 (35th); 1971 (30th); 1976 (25th); 1981 (20th); 1986 (15th); 1991 (10th); 1996 (5th).

Emeritus Club Board Election Results

President, Marian Hall Starbuck ’45
Vice President, Hugh V. Anderson ’43
Secretary, Donald Worth ’40

Board Members:
Jacqueline Buck Mallinson ’48
James L. Stewart, Jr. ’50
L. James Wetherbee, Jr. ’46
Marilyn S. Wetherbee ’46

Luel and Marion Simmons with remain on the board as Co-Past Presidents

Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB) Nominations

Your voice helps create interesting programs for alumni and alumnae and assures a strong alumnae/i voice in College affairs. The nominating committee of AAEB seeks your recommendations of active, committed alumni to stand for election to the Alumni Executive Board. AAEB will select a president, vice-president, secretary and four at-large members from a slate of nominees. At-large members serve a four-year term. In addition, two nominees will be recommended to the Board of Trustees to serve three-year terms as alumni trustees.

The nominating committee seeks candidates who are diverse in terms of age, gender, race, regional representation, and skills. Candidates should have demonstrated an interest in the College through active participation in class reunions, regional activities, new student recruitment, career development network, or fund raising.

To nominate someone for a position on the Alumni Association Executive Board, please submit the following information no later than September 1, 2001 to the Office of Alumni Relations, 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. You can send the information by e-mail to ssylvest@kzoo.edu, or call 616.337.7285: name; class year; city and state of residence; occupation (if known); college volunteer activities; reason(s) for nomination; nominator’s name, class year, phone number, and best time to call.

Alumni Association Executive Board 2000-02:

West Nelson ’81, President; Bonnie Wachter Sweenby ’69, Vice-President; Samantha Whitney-Ulane ’87, Secretary; William Barrett ’66, Alumni Trustee; Amy Courter ’83, Alumni Trustee; Dan Frank ’72, Alumni Trustee; Amy Hale ’66, Alumni Trustee; Shaheen Rushd ’77, Alumni Trustee; Chris Bussert ’78; Kiran Cunningham ’83; David Easterbrook ’69; Robin Lake ’90; John Parisi ’71; Bill Weiner ’69; and Julie Wyrwa ’84.

The Class of 1946 celebrated its 55th reunion (l-r): first row — Monroe S. Price, Mary Esther Mallory, Charles Large, Lola Large, Bruce H Mason, Chuck Carman, second row — Robert Mallory, Nanita Wetherbee Lusso, Jim Wetherbee, Marilyn Sharp Wetherbee, and Frances Carman. For an 8 x10 copy of the photo contact John Gilroy Photography at 616.349.6805. For more on Commencement week-end and Emeriti class reunions, see page 45.
Many alumni and alumnae have requested that LuxEsto provide a yearly opportunity to see the College's bookstore merchandise. We shall do this every summer issue. Our thanks to bookstore manager Deb Roberts, who served as the photographer.

David Easterbrook ’69 (left) sports a crewneck sweatshirt (light grey) by Gear (Item # K-1). Prices are $28.50 for S-XL and $29.95 for XXL. Bonnie Wachter-Swenby '69 wears a rust crewneck sweatshirt by Gear (Item # K-2, S-XL $37.50, XXL $38.50). West Nelson ’81 wears the grey alumni light-weight sweatshirt by Cotton Exchange (Item # K-3, S-XL $16.95, XXL $18.95).

Theresa Betts ’04 wears a grey long-sleeve “ZO O” tee shirt by Cotton Exchange (K-7, S-XL $13.95, XXL $14.95)

Ashleigh Braggs ’01 wears a light grey hooded sweatshirt by Cotton Exchange (K-4, S-XL $39.95, XXL $40.95, 3XL $41.95)

Steve Sylvester ’69 and Bonnie Wachter-Swenby share a laugh in Dewing Commons. Steve wears a charcoal embroidered crew by Oarsman (K-5, S-XL $37.95, XXL $38.95) and Bonnie sports the orange Kalamazoo College crew by Cotton Exchange (K-6, S-XL $24.95, XXL $25.95).

Pete Schmidt ’72 wearing the salmon colored golf shirt by Gear. (K-8, M-XL $39.95 and XXL $40.95)

Sam Dyer and Ashleigh Braggs, classmates in the Class of 2001, show the front and back of The-World-Is-Our-Campus tee shirt by U-Trau (K-9, S-XL $12.95, XXL $13.95)
Jennifer (Clarke) Philipps ’79 in a black hooded fleece sweatshirt by Holloway (K-15). Alternate color is grey (S-XL $39.95).

Jennifer Drake ’91 wears the black golf jacket by Holloway (K-10, M-XL $45.95, XXL $47.95). Hugh Edwards ’86 wears a grey golf shirt by Gear (K-11). Alternate colors for the golf shirt include white or black (M-XL $39.95, XXL $40.95).

Jennifer (Clarke) Philipps ’79 and Pete Schmidt ’72 are dressed, respectively, in the basic orange tee shirt by Cotton Exchange (K-12 short sleeve-S-XL $11.95 and XXL $12.95; K-13 long sleeve-S-XL $16.95 and XXL $17.95) and the alumni long sleeve tee shirt (K-14) by Jansport (S-XL $18.95, XXL $19.95). Pete is wearing the grey Jansport. Other colors include rust or charcoal.

Owen Edwards, son of Jennifer Drake and Hugh Edwards and, who knows, maybe one day a member of the Class of 2020, models the baby hornet sweatshirt by College Kids (K-16, 6m, 12m, 18m $14.95). The sweatshirt is also available as a onesy (K-17, sizes 6m, 12m, 18m, and 2T $12.95). In the lower photo, Owen gets ready for lunch with his pull over bib (K-18 size 18m $4.95).

Sam Dyer ’01 in the blue hooded sweatshirt by Jansport (K-19). Colors include green, charcoal, red, and rust (S-XL $39.95).
Baseball hats by Legacy. Est. 1833 (K-20, orange, $13.50) Kalamazoo College Vintage Hat (K-21, black, $13.95) ZOO Hat (K-22, white or black, $12.95)

The Kalamazoo College golf umbrella (K-23), white and orange, 63 inches, $17.95.

License plate (K-24), $7.95. License plate frames (K-25), $6.95

License plates (K-24), $7.95. License plate frames (K-25), $6.95

Fleece blanket (K-30), 50 inches by 60 inches, orange or black, $26.95. Picture frames: Collage silver or gold (K-31), $11.95; 4x6 silver or gold (K-32), $15.95.

Foam football (K-26), $7.95. Foam basketball (K-27), $4.25. Pennant (K-28, 9 inches by 24 inches) $7.00. Pom Pom (K-29), $1.00.

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The left side of the brain controls sequential thinking, as well as the logical and verbal aspects of human thought processes. The right side is intuitive and creative and focuses on relationships between parts and wholes. In John Fink, the right and left sides seem to be a perfect integration of harmonious balance. He makes mathematical formula sound like poetry. He is a math professor who is an accomplished musician. And John's three choices of books illustrate his varied interests.

The Visual Display of Quantitative Information
By Edward Tufte
“The eye is such a great organ for integrating disparate data into meaningful pattern. In this book, beautifully bound with exquisite attention to detail, Tufte has given us a wonderful collection of examples that illustrate this integration. One of my favorites is a graphical representation of the dwindling strength of Napoleon’s army in 1812 during the march on Moscow and the retreat back to France.”

The Poisonwood Bible
By Barbara Kingsolver
“Barbara Kingsolver has a gift for writing about the variety of ways that different cultures find to represent their deepest truths. Set in what was then called the Belgian Congo, The Poisonwood Bible traces the very different lives of the wife and three daughters of a conservative Christian missionary. Taken together, their stories give a sometimes horrifying but always fascinating account of cultural forces at work in the emergence of the country now called Zaire. Some of our alumni might remember former faculty member and friend Bill Pruitt, who was very closely connected to this part of the world. I often found myself thinking of Bill as I read this gripping tale.”

The Deptford Trilogy
By Robertson Davies
“The celebrated Canadian author Robertson Davies might be one of the best storytellers I know. Of the more than thirty books that he wrote, The Deptford Trilogy is among my favorites. This wide-ranging tale is told through the eyes of its central character, Dunstan Ramsay. From his boyhood in a small Canadian village to his retirement from his position as Senior History Master and Assistant Head of a prestigious boys’ school in Toronto, we are introduced to dozens of odd events and intriguing characters that make the book a delight.”

Headphones on, John Fink leans into the live microphone and speaks in the soft, soothing voice of a therapist.

“Math is a way of bringing order into the world,” he says to the caller. “A form of poetry, of patterns that banish chaos.”

The board lights up with more callers. John Fink is a guest on the morning talk show, “Marcie & Co.,” at WKMI 1360 AM, a popular station broadcasting to Kalamazoo and surrounding areas. John has been invited to speak on the live show as a result of his selection by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America to receive its tenth annual Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

A math professor for 25 years at Kalamazoo College, John Fink has now been honored as the best math professor in the state of Michigan.

“But Professor Fink,” the caller says in an almost pleading voice, “I loved math once. Loved it! But now it’s as if I have developed a phobia! I see a column of numbers and I freeze.”

John listens, makes soothing sounds. “Don’t let that discourage you,” he says. “You can begin to see math in a new way if you look at it as something that requires — yes, requires — a long series of mistakes before you reach the solution. The mistakes are an essential part of the learning process. Math is never neat.”

The phone lights blink, a row of impatient red lights signaling more callers, more math phobia confessions. The hour passes too quickly for WKMI listeners. Marci and Joe can only shrug: Who would have thought a radio show on mathematics would have been so popular? It seems John Fink, math professor extraordinaire, has done something extraordinary.

John Fink’s excellence as a professor was recognized in 1999 with the Frances Diebold Award. He has been the recipient of Fulbright, Woodrow Wilson, Claborne, MacArthur, Kellogg and Joyce Fellowships, as well as a National Science Foundation Grant for the Calculus Reform Project. John is one of the founding members of The Calculus Connection, a group of mathematics educators from Kalamazoo area high schools and colleges. He tutors junior high school students showing promise in mathematics and has developed materials for the ATYP (Academically Talented Youth Program) based on synthetic geometry. Since the late 1980s he has trained teams of outstanding high school students to compete in the annual American Regions Math League Competition. John’s teaching emphasizes problem solving, critical thinking skills, communication, and mathematical connections.
“I can’t say I was always good at math,” John says. “It was more gradual than that. Maybe by 8th or 9th grade, I felt something begin to click. By the time I entered college — the University of Iowa — math had fired my imagination. My advisor was a mathematician, Frank Kosier, and was perhaps the best professor I have ever had. He made math an exhilarating experience.”

Having left the radio broadcasting studios and returned to his office, John Fink settles back comfortably in his chair and gazes with obvious pleasure at the view from his window. Across from his office in Olds-Upton, across Academy Street, is the ongoing project of the Light Fine Arts building renovation.

“Part of my attraction to Kalamazoo College,” he says, “was that I could simply cross the street from mathematics to music. John is an excellent pianist (in training since the third grade), and he sings tenor like a “finch” say his colleagues, playing on the Germanic meaning of his name, in the College choir. John also plays the harpsichord, sometimes crossing the street to the Light Fine Arts Building to take a musical break from numbers and mathematical formulas.

Music provides an interlude from John’s crusade for mathematics. He earned a doctoral degree in mathematics from the University of Michigan, and he is dedicated to passing on his knowledge and expertise to the young math scholars of tomorrow. He stresses the importance of recruiting young people to math and science early in their lives, and he involves himself with promising young students to encourage them to pursue long-term careers in mathematics and science.

“As a nation, we face a bleak future if we don’t recruit students into these fields,” John says. “The number of doctorate degrees granted in mathematics has dropped drastically over the years, and if we don’t turn this trend around, we will be looking at a critical shortage of adequately trained mathematicians. Bad mathematics means bad science,” he adds, “and bad science means bad technology. I worry about the future.”

To do his part, and more, John feeds his passion for math through his junior and high school volunteer activities.

“I try to teach my students to look at mathematics beyond the formulas, to present math as a set of experiences that have consequences.” The formulas are there only to summarize these experiences. I enjoy teaching these young people, coaching them for competitions.”

John smiles when he thinks of former students that have contacted him long after graduation. “Ten years later,” he says, “perhaps I hear from a former student who is now a faculty member in another university, a computer scientist at MIT, or a mathematician who understands the poetry of a mathematical formula. Then I know my work here has meaning, and I have had success in sending students out on a farther mathematical journey.”
If Louise (Barrows) Northam (left), Glenn Allen, and Dorothy Simpson Palmer seem to greatly enjoy one another’s company, it may be because they have been classmates from kindergarten (Western Normal School) through college (Kalamazoo College Class of 1936). Commencement 2001’s Emeriti Breakfast reunited the three friends.

A hypothetical prize for the most family and friends attending Commencement after the farthest journey may well have gone to graduating senior Kim Henderson. Her family (and a friend from Houston, Texas) journeyed 17 hours from Oxford, Mississippi, to watch Kim receive her degree. Pictured on the stage of Balch Theatre are (l-r): front row-Ulysses Henderson, Kim's dad; Kim; Brianna Blake, Kim's niece; Bonnie Henderson, Kim's mom; Alice Asanaenyi, Kim's friend from Houston; back row-Patrick Henderson, Kim's brother; Anthony Blake, Kim's brother-in-law; Daphne Blake, Kim's sister; and Monica Lester, Patrick's girlfriend.

Commencement 2001 held special significance for Eugene Childress '51 and Elizabeth (Osborn) Childress '50. Gene enjoyed his 50th class reunion (Elizabeth had celebrated hers during Commencement 2000), and both he and Elizabeth celebrated, a few days in advance, their 50th wedding anniversary. "I graduated on Monday, June 11, 1951," said Gene. "And we were married five days later in Stetson Chapel with our reception in Hoben Hall (see inset). Elizabeth, known in her College days as "Ozzie," was a native of Niagara Falls, New York. Gene came to Kalamazoo College from LaGrange, Illinois. They met on a blind date on October 9, 1949, set up by Brad Allen '51, who later served as best man in their wedding. "Ozzie" was the College's May Queen in 1950.
The College awarded honorary degrees to three distinguished scholars and humanitarians (l-r): W. Maxwell Cowan, Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer (retired), Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Robert L. Payton, Professor Emeritus of Philanthropic Studies, Indiana University; and Otha Gilyard, Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio. In their acceptance remarks, each man cited the importance of liberal arts education—as a foundation for a life of service and giving, for an appreciation of the degree of complexity of every situation, for the habit of empirical evaluation, and for an attitude of generosity and good will toward others.

Kalamazoo graduate Noah D. Dillard embraces his girlfriend, Elizabeth Tank ’02 after the ceremony. Noah, who graduated with a degree in biology, will be working as a research assistant at Notre Dame University next year.

Four graduates received Emeritus Club Citation of Merit awards. John D. Montgomery ’41 (left) is pictured with President James F. Jones, Jr. H. Lewis Batts ’43 and Louise L. Goss ’48 received awards but were unable to attend the Emeritus Club annual meeting. Jean McColl Batts ’43 received an award posthumously.

And I was offended that my uncle told me this. I knew that the blood that flowed through my body was African-American. My personality had not changed in any way, I thought.

But when school started last fall, I came to realize what my uncle was talking about. One day, sitting in my Contemporary Poetry class, I noticed that I was torn between the two worlds of Baraka's poem. When I walk around campus I present myself in the ways of my white classmates in order to be accepted — or tolerated — by some classmates and professors. Sometimes, when the mask slips, some of my white classmates are reluctant to work with me and exhibit condescending attitudes toward my work and towards me.

And when I return home to be with family and friends, I do not return as the person that I was when I first left home. I seem "half-white" to some of my siblings and friends, and they call me that. They have noticed that I have changed. And this change and their seeming disapproval of it hurt. I never asked to be the person that I presently am, but my family and friends don't understand this. They don't understand that Kalamazoo College has changed me tremendously, in ways of which I may yet be unaware. My family doesn't seem to understand that just being in their presence gives me comfort and continuously reminds me of who I am. And I won't forget. I no longer speak Ebonics, and I miss it because I believe it to be an essential part of being black.

There was never a point in my life that I actually felt white until I entered Kalamazoo College. Being white is not a bad thing, but at one point in time, it was something alien to me and something not like me. Now, it is a part of me. I have lived within and without the mask for four years, not only to be accepted by my peers and family, but to survive and succeed at Kalamazoo College.

My four years at Kalamazoo College have been marked by accomplishments, achievements, and opportunities. And my four years at "K" have taught me to value and appreciate the half of me that is black and to embrace the other half of me that is white. Each part of me is valuable and unique.
On study abroad I witnessed different cultures as a student, as a programmer, as a demonstrator, and as a leader. Columbus, Michigan. Through participation in different programs and organizations I have acted as an advocate, as a programmer, as a demonstrator, and as a leader. On study abroad I witnessed different cultures as a foreigner, as a member of an amazing host family, as a tutor, and as someone immersed in a different world, experiencing first-hand rather than just visiting. In the classroom, I have acted not only as student, but also as teacher, as researcher, and as expert.

It is less than a month before I graduate. Reflecting on the many facets of my "K" experience, I realize I have yet to suffer one moment of regret for my decision four years ago to leave my small hometown and come to Kalamazoo College.

I remember a conversation I had while still in high school with a woman very close to my family. She is one of the few adults I knew outside of school that had a college degree, and she had an immeasurable influence on my development. Nostalgically reflecting on her own days as a student, she talked of her coming experiences. "You will spend nights talking until dawn about things you've never thought about before. You will meet people with ideas and perspectives that open whole new worlds for you." I was already eager for college, but I remember feeling all the more energized, if that was possible, by her words. In retrospect, even that excitement turned out to be an understatement. In these four years I have been to China and to Southeast Asia. I have formed relationships with people from Iceland to Indonesia. I have written grant proposals. I have learned another language. I have led students backpacking in the Canadian wilderness. I have done extensive interviewing and have presented a thesis to professors and peers. And I have stayed up until dawn, listening to other's views and opening up my mind to whole new worlds of ideas.

December 23rd, 2000, was the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. Wen Chao and Lilia Chen. Wen Chao Chen is professor emeritus of political science, but he served in many other positions during his 36 years at Kalamazoo College, including head librarian, fellow of the College, director of the L. Lee Stryker Center, and acting president on two different occasions.

When Chen thought about the couple's golden anniversary, he considered, then eliminated, the usual gifts: jewelry, a Caribbean cruise, a lavish fur. Instead, he chose a most unique and lasting gift: an art scholarship to Kalamazoo College in his wife's name.

Kalamazoo College already has an endowed chair in political science in Wen Chao Chen's name. The $10,000 gift honoring Lilia Chen will generate an annual $500 scholarship given to art students.

Lilia first became "mesmerized," as she puts it, by the beauty of pottery when she encountered examples during her visits to the annual spring art fair at Bronson Park in downtown Kalamazoo. She signed up for pottery classes at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and has participated in those classes for 20 years.

"Oh, the struggle! I was so frustrated when I began," Lilia says. "My hands just couldn't seem to get it right. The pots would be crooked or pieces would break off. But you must never give up when you are trying to learn something new. It requires persistence and determination and love - just like a marriage."

The Chen's came to the United States in 1947, thinking they would return to their homeland of China after a year, maybe two. But China was swept under by communism, and the Chens soon realized there was no going back. They quickly developed a new life in their new home. Lilia Chen taught as a substitute teacher for more than 20 years. In 1936, Wen Chao Chen came to Kalamazoo College as a professor of political science. Chen helped institute the K-Plan, now a trademark of the College, combining academics with off-campus experiences.

"When we were young," Lilia Chen remembers, "we worked hard to build our future. We raised two sons, and we knew we had to work hard for financial soundness. It is a blessing that today we can give something back to Kalamazoo College."
Seven new professors are coming to Kalamazoo College the fall of 2001. Erin Binney Girdler (left, with son Otto) is one. The new professors will bring exciting new perspectives to the teaching of physics, biology, economics, health sciences and the computer modeling of complex social systems.

"The world today is so interconnected, and its problems so complex," Erin says. "A college education provides a place for young adults to become self-possessed, independent, and critical thinkers, a place to be challenged by life and still be guided. To me, it’s not just a place to train for a career, although it is invaluable for highlighting strengths and introducing possibilities. College is also about being exposed to people from different backgrounds, talking about hard issues, figuring out what YOU think — as opposed to what your parents think. In short, I think higher education is the key to becoming a citizen of the world. And we need more citizens who think on this scale! Kalamazoo College develops these kinds of citizens."

Erin Binney Girdler on Lake Dumore in Vermont with son Otto.

(See page 13 for "New Faces")