is President Jimmy Jones singing a robust rendition of “Muleskinner Blues?” Or did he just step in something squishy? None of the above. He’s helping a student organization (ENVorg) raise funds for a worthy organization (Tiller’s International) and program (the Heifer Project). June was Jimmy’s last month on campus before assuming the presidency of Trinity College (Hartford, Conn.). Kalamazoo College will miss him for many reasons, not least of which is that quality of his character that makes him willing to say to an inquiring student, “Sure, I’ll try to drive a team of oxen through an obstacle course.”

For a look back on the tenure of President James F. Jones, Jr., see page 24.
Dirt Offerings

Anne E. Haeckl, Classical Studies, received the 2003-2004 Florence J. Lucasse Fellowship for Excellence in Scholarship. The award ceremony occurred on March 11 and, in true Kalamos College liberal arts fashion, attracted attendees from across the disciplines. “Anne has a wonderful visual imagination,” said Associate Professor of Art Billie Fischer, who authored and read Anne’s citation at the award ceremony. “She has, in classicist Carl Anderson’s words, the ‘unique ability to look at archaeological ruins and almost magically visualize what a structure or piece of art looked like in situ.’”

Anne has taught at the University of Michigan, the University of Colorado, in Rome, and at Kalamos College since 1998. She has participated in 25 seasons of excavations: in Israel, at Carthage in Tunisia, in Jordan, at Berenike and elsewhere in Egypt, and, most recently, in Rome at the Villa of Maxentius, which is the site of the Kalamos College and University of Colorado Field School, a project Anne founded and co-directs.

She has published and presented many papers and contributed essays to books on Roman topics. Her paper “Brothers or Lovers?” A New Reading of the “Tondo of the Two Brothers” from Antinopolis, Egypt (Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists) won the Women’s Classical Caucus 2001 Oral Paper Award.

Anne’s scholarship involves her Kalamos College students. A footnote in the aforementioned and award-winning paper cites two students whose class papers helped to convince her of the merit of the ‘new reading.’ Anne has received two McGregor Grants, one of which resulted in a presentation at a professional conference by Crystal Fritz ‘01. Her talk, given at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS), focused on a sphinx statuette from Berenike about which she had conducted research. Crystal has since earned her Master’s in classical archaeology from Bryn Mawr College and is taking qualifying exams for a Ph.D. candidacy.

Anne’s second McGregor Grant student was Michelle Cherry, who focused her Senior Individualized Project (SIP) on terracotta figurines of camels and Roman soldiers unearthed at Berenike. Another of Anne’s students, Brett Elinder ’03, presented a paper on his SIP—“Fayum Portraits and the Social Psychology of Facial Attractiveness”—at the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America last January. And Dan Botany, a senior sociology major, presented a paper to the CAMWS last April. His subject was a critical archaeological reassessment of a Forum portrait formerly known as the “Jewish Woman.” Thus far, two SIPs have resulted from the first season of the archaeological field school at the Villa of Maxentius.

Anne’s longtime archaeological colleague Joann McDaniell (University of Michigan) evokes Anne’s skill as an archaeologist and as a teacher when she describes how Anne trained a novice in charge of an excavation square. Anne discussed the square’s stratigraphy, a discussion she calls a “strato-conference,” with the eager young man, “so eager to dig that we initially feared he might become a dog forever digging random holes wherever we didn’t want them,” said McDaniell. “But he flourished under Anne, to the point that, as Anne would say, ‘the dirt began to speak to him,’ and after a while he no longer needed Anne to help him carry on a strato-conference. He was able to stand in his square and carry on a strato-conference with himself—and the dirt. It was a beautiful thing to see and hear,” added McDaniell.

Her ability to see what the dirt has to offer and to reconstruct the objects underneath it and their context is Anne’s great gift, according to Fischer. “She turns the past into the present,” says Fischer. “And like all fine scholars, she teaches students how to accomplish what she does.”

Anne E. Haeckl with students on campus.

Family Ties Defy Distance

Unite Difference

Tan and Katheryn Rajnak understand how it feels to be in a foreign country, speaking a foreign language, knowing no one. Stan, a retired Kalamos College mathematics professor (1966-1996), and Katheryn, who was a part-time quantum physics and astronomy instructor at the College, lived and worked in France at one time.

“I can remember the sense of isolation and being a stranger in a strange land,” Stan says. “But there were people there who made us feel welcome, and that made a difference. Now, in Kalamos, we do our best to make exchange students who come to Kalamos College feel welcome here.”

More than 30 exchange students from all points of the globe have lived at the Rajnak home while studying at Kalamos College. The Rajnaks remain in touch with almost all of them.

“It’s difficult being an outsider,” Katheryn agrees. “We wanted these students visiting ‘K’ to feel that they had a family here, too. And now we feel as if we have children scattered across the globe.”

During their own frequent world travels, the Rajnaks have visited their “adopted” sons and daughters in Japan, Hungary, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Trinidad, Costa Rica, Kenya, Senegal, Mexico, France, and other places. A few of their “sons and daughters” now live permanently in the States. Several have been influenced in their career choices by the Rajnaks.

“We learn as much from these exchange students as they do from us,” Katheryn says.

“AFTER we had a student from Japan live with us, I decided to learn Japanese.”

“Occasionally, there have been cultural misunderstandings, but that is how we all learn. When we first began hosting students, we didn’t realize how close the bonds would be. After we had a fire in our house one year, our student helped us clean and repair the house, as any family member would.”

Stan adds, “We have become a very isolated society today. The breadth of knowledge through the Internet and the media today is incredible, yet we live more isolated lives than ever before. We no longer gather in the coffee room today. We tend to remain in our offices, glued to our computers, instead of interacting with people who share the world with us. When we do socialize, it tends to be only with those who are most like ourselves.”

The Rajnaks also have made an ongoing gift to Kalamos College to help fund international programs, part of their effort to make the world more a family.

by Zinta Aistars

Above: Stan shows Bamba Sene how to keep the home fires burning in an American winter.
Left: An apple a day keeps isolation away. Stan and Katheryn pick apples with a student from Japan, Ayu Suzuki, whom they hosted in their home.
cover story

A false diagnosis set the life of Mike Maslowsky on a new course. The successful “type-A” attorney entered the priesthood by way of seminary study in Rome, Italy. Today Father Mike’s work addresses the spiritual and earthly needs of his fellow human beings. He also nurtures his own spirit by exercising his inclination to make art. Father Mike designed and made the stained glass window pictured on the front cover and the piece pictured here. The design of the latter borrows from Native American sources. (Story on page 14)

features

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Precisely articulating the value of study abroad is sometimes no easy matter. In the spring, students and faculty gathered in Stetson Chapel one Friday morning to reflect upon living and learning in another country. LuxEsto shares one of these memorable reflections.

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Jessica Yorko ’00 has her arms full, literally, with job and family. Yet she had to make a little room for an award for excellence at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

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The College’s theatre arts department has played a role in the film and television achievements of many alumni and alumnae. Here are the stories of a few.

24 “Dear Prez”....
James F. Jones, Jr., 16th president of Kalamazoo College, completed an eight-year tenure at Kalamazoo College at the end of June. He reflected on those years before departing for Hartford, Conn., where he is the new president of Trinity College.

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Copper Canyon Press has been a magnet for three graduates who work words for living and for a living.

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Plus an African Studies renaissance; some notable faculty achievements of late; why a student organization’s new name, Kaleidoscope, better reflects its mission; lots and lots of class notes; and more.

Corrections
We missed the omission of the letter ‘a’ in the word ‘education’ on the front cover of the spring issue. Ouch! We misspelled Stephaine Parrish Taylor’s Christian name. J’nae Leafer is a member of the Class of 2002. And we made some mistakes in class notes on Karen Goss ’68 and Suezanne (Storch) Burrough ’68. We have reprinted the notes correctly in this issue. We apologize for these errors.

What’s Happening on Campus?
Planning a visit to Kalamazoo College? Check the Kalamazoo College news web site for the latest information about campus events. Calendar listings are regularly updated at http://www.kzoo.edu/pr/calevent/index.html

The name LuxEsto is based on the College’s official motto, Lux Esto, “be light,” or “let there be light.”

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Reflections

The Friday morning Chapel program, “Reflections on Our Footprints: Studying and Living Abroad,” featured faculty and students sharing their thoughts about the impact on their lives of foreign study. One presenter was John Dugas, associate professor of political science at the College since 1995. John’s wife, Larissa, is a visiting assistant professor in Romance languages and literature. After the event, their fellow faculty member, Gail Griffin, professor of English, wrote to LuxEsto, “John Dugas gave the most wonderful short talk in chapel, a personal saga of the scholarly AND emotional meaning of a long engagement with another country, language, and culture. Perfect LuxEsto stuff!” The editors wholeheartedly agree and are honored to reprint John’s comments.

September 1984— I am 20 years old, a junior at Louisiana State University, and I am looking for a study abroad program to go on. I discover an exchange program in Bogota, Colombia, that looks fascinating. I know nothing about Colombia. I tell my father about the program. He responds, “Well, you don’t hear much about Colombia in the news. It must be a pretty safe place.”

January 17, 1985—I arrive at the El Dorado Airport in Bogota, feeling slightly dizzy from the altitude. Bogota is located on a high mountain plateau in the Andes, 8600 feet above sea level. I know not a single person in this country of 35,000,000 people. There is no one to greet me at the airport. That is not surprising. I was supposed to have written my host family in advance to apprise them of my arrival plans, but I never quite got around to it. I call them from a pay phone. They are surprised, thinking that I wasn’t coming. They agree, however, to host me. I agree to take a taxi to their house.

January 19, 1985—I am slowly becoming acclimated to the altitude. I am also quickly learning about Colombian politics. I learn, for example, that the Colombian government has just announced that it is going to extradite Colombians to the United States to stand trial on drug trafficking charges. The Medellín drug cartel, led by Pablo Escobar, has responded that it will kill five Americans for every Colombian extradited. People take Pablo Escobar seriously—he has a reputation for carrying out his threats. The first newspaper headline that I see proclaims “Exodus of U.S. citizens from Colombia.” I have been in the country for less than 48 hours. I take a deep breath and decide to stay.

June, 1985—I have been in Colombia now for five months. And I have come to love it. There is much that is familiar to a Cajun from south Louisiana. Rice and beans. The Catholic traditions. Accordion music. Even the political corruption is not particularly shocking to someone who has grown up in Louisiana. There is, however, much that is new. Some of it is bewitching—the stark beauty of the Andean landscape; the warmth and friendliness of the ordinary Colombians that I encounter on a daily basis. Some of it is also disheartening—the almost incomprehensible gap between rich and poor; the blatant machismo; and the ever-present violence emanating from guerrillas, drug traffickers, paramilitaries, state security forces, and common delinquents.

August 6, 1985—it is 3 A.M., and I am standing with my arms and legs outstretched, pushed up against a bus, being searched by soldiers. I have been on the road for six weeks, traveling throughout the country, getting to know the different regions of Colombia and the extraordinary diversity of its people, fauna, and flora. I am now on the road back to Bogota, but we have been stopped at a roadblock. This is not the first time, but it always produces a moment of rising panic in me. It is never clear who the armed men are, especially at night. They usually force the men off the bus, put us up against the side, and body search us. The soldiers are bad, but I especially fear the guerrillas—not so much for political reasons, but because I know I’m a prime target for kidnapping. I have a half-formed plan in my head if we are stopped by the guerrillas. First, I lose the American passport. Second, I’m Canadian. Yes, Jean Dugas, from Quebec. Luckily, I’m never forced to test my plan.
July 1988—I am in graduate school, pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science, but my obsession with Colombia has not left me. I am spending the summer trying to learn all I possibly can about the various leftist movements and the on-again, off-again peace process. I am walking in downtown Bogota, having just come from a meeting with an activist in the MOIR movement. MOIR stands for the Revolutionary Independent Workers Movement. He has given me a stack of old issues of their newspaper, Tribuna Roja, the Red Tribune. The front page is emblazoned with a bright red star. As I walk I notice that the police are out in force, pulling men off the sidewalk, pushing them up against walls to search them. It’s only then I recall that the country’s major labor unions have called for a national strike today, which the government has declared illegal. This is not the day to be walking around with a stack of Tribuna Roja under your arm.

I quickly turn them over, and employ one of the tricks I’ve learned during my earlier stays in Bogota. Always look like you know what you’re doing and where you are going, and walk as if you’re late for an appointment. I walk in a determined fashion—but not too quickly—past a half dozen men being searched by the police. No one stops me; they don’t seem to notice that I am trembling.

July 4, 1991—I am celebrating the constitution today, but not that of the United States. Today, after five months of arduous work, 74 Colombian delegates have completed drafting a new national constitution, meant to broaden and deepen Colombian democracy. I have been present throughout the entire process as an observer, co-directing a project for the Universidad de los Andes. We have constructed a press archive to document the process and conducted interviews with 43 of the delegates. This work will serve as the basis of an edited volume that I publish in Colombia in 1993, as well as my Ph.D. dissertation. But I’m celebrating not for personal reasons, but because I truly believe that this is a turning point in Colombian politics. Four major guerrilla movements turned in their arms and were given seats in the Constitutional Convention. Even the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar turned himself into authorities after the constitution outlawed extradition of Colombian citizens. I am filled with the sense that a new day is dawning, filled with hope.

October 1997—It is evening, and I am in Bogota, interviewing a former student leader who was influential in promoting the 1991 Constitutional Convention. This trip has been a bittersweet one for me. Good to see many old friends. Disconcerting to see that so much of what we had hoped for six years earlier has not come to pass. Two of the major guerrilla movements refused to turn in their arms. The right-wing paramilitaries have multiplied. The state security forces continue to engage in human rights abuses. I have spent most of the day in a squatter settlement on the southern outskirts of Bogota visiting with Harold Betancourt and his family. Harold is a sweet, shy 8-year old boy. My wife and I have sponsored Harold for two years now in a program that helps to provide school supplies, clothes, and nutritious lunches. His family was thrilled to have me in their modest dwelling. They are extremely poor and, in their eyes, I am a fabulously wealthy gringo. But now, I am in the north of Bogota, in an exquisite five-star restaurant, interviewing this former student leader and future politician. I find it difficult to concentrate. The contrast between the stark poverty in the south of Bogota and the extraordinary wealth I am surrounded with at this dinner makes my head spin. I am profoundly disturbed and disoriented. The contrast that I am experiencing is one of the factors that facilitates the ongoing violence in Colombia.

October 24, 1999—I am walking hand-in-hand with my wife, Larissa, along with at least 1,000,000 Colombians in a march for life in central Bogota. The press accounts the next day say that 2 million people gathered in the Parque Simón Bolívar. All I know is that I have never seen so many people in all of my life. All marching for peace. For an end to violence by the left-wing guerrillas, by the right-wing paramilitaries, by the state security forces. We carry banners with the green ribbon for peace, which read “Apostemosle a la paz!” “Let’s take a chance on peace!” I am convinced that this is the sentiment of the vast majority of Colombians. Unfortunately, none of the armed actors respect it.

December 24, 1999—Christmas Eve. I am back in the States and have just received an e-mail with the news that my colleague Eduardo Pizarro has been shot. By a miracle, he has survived the assassination attempt. Just two weeks earlier, Larissa and I were having dinner with Eduardo and his wife in their apartment in Bogota. Eduardo is the director of the Center for International and Political Studies at the National University. He is a public intellectual, writing frequently in the major Colombian newspapers. He is also an equal opportunity critic, criticizing the violence of the left-wing guerrillas, the right-wing paramilitaries, and the state security forces. During our dinner, Eduardo had told me that he had received death threats from all of them and wanted to leave the country until things quieted down for him. He later tells me that he is unsure which of the violent actors tried to kill him that day.
October 30, 2002—I am meeting with Gustavo Gallón, the director of the Colombian Commission of Jurists, one of the most important human rights organizations in the country. Gustavo is a marked man. He is such an outspoken defender of human rights that I am certain he will not die a natural death. I admire him greatly, even while I disagree with some of his political stances. Today, he is proudly showing me the Commission’s new offices in mid-town Bogota. Gustavo has a special connection to Kalamazoo College—he holds the record for the worst Liberal Arts Colloquium (LAC) ever given on the College’s campus. I should know—I was the one who invited him to speak several years earlier, not realizing how poorly he spoke English. His message was vital, but I fear that his slow, halting delivery obscured it for our students.

February 2004—I tell Larissa that I want to go back to Colombia this summer. Her expression is pained, and there is nothing fake about it. I tell her: “The same ache that you feel when I tell you I want to go to Colombia is the ache that I feel when you tell me you don’t want me to go.” She tries to understand. I try to understand her too, for I know that she has her own country obsession. We decide that maybe this summer we will go to France.

March 3, 2004—Mario Anton ’04 e-mails me. Would I be willing to talk at a Friday Chapel about how study abroad has affected my life?! And can I keep it around four minutes in length?! My life, my profession, my passion is what it is because of my study abroad experience. I have spent over a quarter of my adult life—some five years—living in, working in, teaching in, writing in the country of my study abroad experience. It is now as much a part of me as my family or my faith. Perhaps a more intriguing question is: Why do I keep going back to this place of seemingly endless violence? My colleague, Robin Kirk, who works for Human Rights Watch, provided the answer last year in her book about Colombia titled More Terrible than Death. The title is taken from the words of a Colombian human rights worker, Josué Girardo—who once told Robin (before he was himself killed) that in Colombia what is more terrible than death is not torture, or massacres, or hunger. It is to give up hope. To give up hope is more terrible than death. Ultimately, that is what keeps me going back—I’m unwilling to give up hope for this country that I fell in love with on my junior study abroad.

Hope can be passed from teacher to student—or students, three in particular, in the case of John Dugas. Tricia Smith ’97, Sharika Crawford ’00, and Aaron Skrocki ’00 developed a strong love and hope for Colombia, in part because of their association with John Dugas.

Tricia went to Colombia in the summer between her junior and senior years at Kalamazoo College. There she worked with a human rights organization and subsequently completed her Senior Individualized Project (in Spanish, and nearly 300 pages in length) on nonviolent alternatives to conflict. She returned to Colombia after graduation to become an “accompanier” in the village of Dabeiba. An accompanier (usually foreign-born residents) walk with native Colombians whose lives have been threatened in order to possibly deter persons from acting upon the threat.

Sharika earned a Fulbright Scholarship and spent a year in San Andrés, a small Colombian island off the coast of Nicaragua. Her research focused on San Andrés natives’ use of language to assert cultural identity against the pressure of assimilation. San Andrés inhabitants share an Afro-Caribbean ancestry, speak Creole English and Spanish, and are mostly Baptists. Today Sharika is working on her Ph.D. in history at the University of Pittsburgh.

Like Sharika, Aaron earned a Fulbright and spent a post-undergraduate year in Colombia. His research focused on Christian-based communities in Bogota. Today Aaron is working on his Master’s degree in public administration at the University of Michigan. He intends to work for Catholic Relief Services in Africa and perhaps devote his career to the CRS organization.

In the introduction to his latest book Hope Dies Last, Studs Terkel quotes retired farm worker Jessie de la Cruz, “With us, there’s a saying ‘La esperanza muere última. Hope dies last.’ You can’t lose hope. If you lose hope, you lose everything.” Perhaps the greatest power, and gift, of a study abroad experience is hope (and responsibility) that grows proportionally to the newfound sense of belonging to an expanded family.
To think of African Studies as a niche would be inaccurate. Under Fiona Vernal’s leadership, the program will permeate all corners of the curriculum, and thereby take an important place in the College’s overall effort to more thoroughly internationalize its learning experience.

Not long after meeting the College’s new African Studies program director, it became clear to me that her passion will ignite a broad and authentic interest in African studies, and her efforts will help create more meaningful internationalization on campus. Her students are central in her vision for the African studies program, and in her vision that program is a vital component of a diverse curriculum and a diverse student body. With these goals, Fiona also brings to Kalamazoo College a rich educational background, which includes several experiences of living in Africa, and she hopes this background will contribute to the breadth of the cultural experiences of Kalamazoo students.

Fiona Vernal was born in Jamaica and came to the U.S. at the age of 12. She began her post-secondary education at Princeton University, her sights set on a career in medicine or engineering. But during her first year she took a class on South African history. "My first international history course," says Fiona, “and although I really enjoyed it, I thought it would be a passing interest." That nascent spark of curiosity turned out to be anything but fleeting. In fact, Fiona considers that African history class her first introduction to the world. By her sophomore year, Fiona’s "interest" became what young people all hope to discover in college—a steady flame likely to burn for a lifetime. That year she decided to shift her focus from medicine and engineering and dedicate all of her energy and commitment to history and African studies.

Fiona took full advantage of Princeton’s Mellon program, which provided opportunities to go abroad over the summer, and spent two summers in South Africa—one of which she devoted to research for her senior essay, a component of Princeton’s curriculum that was much like Kalamazoo College’s Senior Individualized Project. After earning her Bachelor’s degree from Princeton, Fiona began graduate studies at Yale University, where she focused on the history of women and slavery in South Africa. She also was curious about Christianity, specifically, "its effects on people’s consciousness and how it provided South Africans with skills to mediate the effects of colonialism."

This interest led her back to South Africa in 1996. She studied slavery’s history in that country, explored Christian mission stations and residential communities, and traced the lives of several slaves. In 1998, the excellence of her work was recognized with a Fulbright Scholarship that allowed her to continue her studies in South Africa and to deepen her relationship with the region and its people and culture.

After completing her Ph.D. at Yale, Fiona started preparing for one of the most daunting transitions made by passionate academics—the transition from student to teacher. From 1999 to 2002, she had served as a teaching assistant in various history classes at Yale, but it wasn’t until the Spring of 2003 that Fiona found herself in front of her very own
classroom at Wesleyan University. “That’s where I got my first real feel of what was expected of me as a professor.”

A farther journey that included Jamaica, Connecticut, New Jersey, and South Africa (thrice!) would seem incomplete without a sojourn in a place with a name as exotic as “Kalamazoo.”

“An advisor at Yale told me about the African studies position at Kalamazoo College,” Fiona said, “and I eventually chose this opportunity because I had a good experience at Wesleyan working with smaller groups of students. I wanted one-on-one interactions.” Fiona feels that discussion is one of the most important elements of her classroom experience and she wants students “to find their own voices and their own language when discussing Africa. I want to help them realize they have something to contribute.”

As designed by Fiona, the College’s African studies curriculum includes “Introduction to African Studies,” a class in which students receive a well-rounded history of Africa and an understanding of the current challenges the continent faces. She hopes that the introductory course will, for many students, stimulate continued interest in the subject and generate discussions outside the classroom that will promote a broad interest in Africa throughout the campus.

Fiona also teaches “History of South Africa” and “African Civilizations,” which look at pre-colonial African Societies, and she has added a new course to the curriculum called “Africans Abroad.” In this course, students study the experiences of Africans who have traveled in the Americas and in Europe and focus particularly on slavery. “The voices, the writing, and the interests of Africans are the main themes of this course,” explains Fiona. “The students will see Africans observing the rest of the world. There is no other class like it, and I’m really excited!”

Fiona’s enthusiasm for the future of the African studies program at Kalamazoo College is evident in her voice when she describes the Title Six grant secured by her predecessor, Joyce Kannan. With funding from that grant and directed by Fiona’s vision, the program is expanding its goals. Students now have the opportunity to take Swahili on campus, and the number of Africa-related programs in the curriculum will increase. “African Studies is not something isolated—something only for people who are interested in history,” says Fiona. “It’s important to learn about Africa in all disciplines, including economics, literature, political science, foreign language, and biology. The grant will help address this issue,” she adds.

Her improvements to the African studies program will help make the College more international, with regions of the world more intrinsic in every element of the curriculum. “Part of my job is to ensure that faculty and administrators take an active interest in making African studies a part of the comprehensive internationalization on campus,” says Fiona. “The goals of that effort are to make the world and international affairs more evident in the curriculum, to incorporate study abroad more fully with study on campus (and vice versa), and to enroll an internationally diverse student body.”

And how has Kalamazoo College matched her expectations thus far? “The faculty has been very welcoming, especially professors in the history department,” she says. And she’s been pleased to meet and teach so many enthusiastic students. “My interaction with the students is inspiring,” she says. So, also, has been her will and her vision for African studies and for the international ethos of our campus. LE
African Revival

by Nania Lee ’03

In the early 1960’s, when American college students were discovering Africa through textbooks and Hemingway novels, educators at Kalamazoo College envisioned a more penetrating exploration and set about to expand the College’s study abroad program to include this vital continent.

John Peterson, professor of history at the College from 1961-1968, provided the institution its first vital link in developing a site where participants could experience the life of an African college student first-hand. Peterson, considered by many to be the father of African studies at Kalamazoo College, did his graduate work at Northwestern University’s well-known and highly reputable African studies department, and completed his dissertation on Sierra Leone at that country’s Fourah Bay College. “In the 1960’s, Fourah Bay College was the oldest and most distinguished institution of higher learning in West Africa,” says Joe Fugate, professor emeritus of German and former director of the foreign study program. In conjunction with Richard T. Stavig, the foreign study program’s first director, (Fugate took his place in 1974), Peterson led the efforts to establish the College’s first African study abroad site. In the fall of 1962, the first group of students made the journey to Sierra Leone.

“To our knowledge, Kalamazoo College was the first American college to fully integrate American undergraduates into an African institution of higher learning,” says Fugate. “At that time, an interest in Africa was beginning to develop in the United States, and the only way many students could study in Africa was through Kalamazoo College, which administered one of the few full-immersion academic programs incorporated into the African institutions and open to non-Kalamazoo College students.”

Kalamazoo College’s African study abroad programs soon grew in number. The program at Fourah Bay was soon followed with the development of programs in Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Senegal, and others. The Sierra Leone program continued without interruption (no small feat!) until the political situation in the country became too volatile and the College was forced to discontinue its program there in 1992.

“In respect to African study abroad programs, Kalamazoo College was one of the pioneers,” says Fugate. “The Fourah Bay College program lasted for more than a quarter of a century; no other African study abroad program lasted that long.”

Today, students from Kalamazoo College continue to live and study in Kenya and Senegal as part of the College’s study abroad experience.

When Peterson left Kalamazoo College in 1968, William Pruitt, an African history expert (who grew up in Zaire) with a deep love of people and a hearty desire to participate in campus activities, took his place. “Bill was a jolly guy,” recalls Professor of History John Wickstrom. “He left Kalamazoo College to take a Peace Corps directorship in Zaire.”

After Pruitt’s tenure as African studies director, the College hired Sandra Greene. She and Peterson were both Kalamazoo College graduates (1974 and 1954, respectively) and both earned their advanced degrees at Northwestern University. “Sandra brought an unmatched degree of academic rigor to the program,” says Wickstrom. “She is an excellent historian.” Under her leadership, the College’s African studies program and its African study abroad sites boomed healthfully into the 1990’s. When she left Kalamazoo College in 1991, the program lost some momentum. “For the next decade or so, African studies had a series of different directors,” says Wickstrom. “Today we are looking to revitalize the program. The College has a tradition of excellence in African studies and a genuine interest in linking the experience of American students with African studies.”

With the arrival of Fiona Vernal, the program’s newest director, in 2003, the College will rebuild African studies so that students develop a more profound interest in the field. “Enrollments for African studies classes are increasing,” says Wickstrom. “Fiona is a popular professor, and the administration is committed to strengthening the program. A return to the program’s past prominence is achievable.” LE
N ational Public Radio, Motown singer Martha Reeves, and Governor Jennifer Granholm all feature prominently in the story of Kaleidoscope, Kalamazoo College’s renamed (and refocused) gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender student support group. Formerly known as the GLBSo (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Student Organization), Kaleidoscope was the brainchild of senior Phillip Kotzan. Last summer, Kotzan revised the GLBSO’s mission statement (and came up with the group’s new name) to reflect “a more cohesive, inclusive, and visible group that supports gay, lesbian, and bisexual students.” The group also brings awareness to transgender lifestyles and to issues important to both gay students and straight friends of gay students. With help from classmates and co-leaders James Pollock and Joe Tracz, Kotzan has continued the GLBSo’s efforts to eliminate homophobia on campus and create a safe space for gay students. Their approach, however, has been a bit more high profile.

Harnessing a mixture of entertainment and political activism, Kotzan, Pollock, and Tracz have succeeded in building awareness throughout the College of their vision of tolerance, acceptance, and campus unity. The new, multi-faceted face of Kaleidoscope (they currently boast 25 members) debuted last October during National Coming Out Week, setting the tone for the busy year to come. The week was peppered with the traditional campus-wide sidewalk chalkings and student/faculty panels, but the group also delivered some surprises: most notably the creation of a quilt composed of fellow students’ encouraging statements and a coming-out dinner that has since become a twice-monthly tradition.

The organization helped educate students, staff, and faculty on a number of “tough” topics, among them religion and homosexuality and gay marriage. Last January Kotzan and company mediated a highly informative discussion titled “Queerituality” that included local clergy of all denominations who fielded questions from students—straight and gay alike—on issues of spirituality and the gay lifestyle. The response was overwhelming and the Olmsted Room packed. Shortly thereafter, Kotzan and a few other Kaleidoscope members traveled to Lansing to support lobbyists in their bid to prevent the State of Michigan from passing an amendment that would ban gay marriage. This trip resulted in Kotzan’s friendship with Sean Kosofsky, director of public policy for the Triangle Foundation and one of Michigan’s foremost lobbyists for gay rights.

Kosofsky visited campus a few weeks later to host a same-sex marriage forum, which attracted local news coverage. Kaleidoscope is no stranger to publicity; in March, the group was featured on the front page of the Kalamazoo Gazette following a downtown-Kalamazoo rally protesting a proposed U.S. constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage.

Kaleidoscope’s connection to the world of politics deepened when some of its members met with Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm. In mid-November, 15 members of Kaleidoscope had been asked to help organize a black-tie fundraising gala for the Detroit chapter of the Human Rights Coalition. Jennifer Granholm was the keynote speaker. Volunteers arrived two days early to decorate, stuff goodie bags, set up tables, and handle sound equipment. The group was also invited to attend the dinner, at which Granholm thanked them for their efforts in her address to the crowd. “The governor gave a special shout out to the group and to Kalamazoo College,” says co-leader Tracz. More importantly, he says, “We really made our presence felt among a crowd largely composed of conservatives. A lot of career networking went on too,” he adds. “I wouldn’t be surprised if this event leads to future internships in Washington D.C. for Kalamazoo College students.” Another highpoint of the Motown-themed dinner was the performance of legendary singer Martha Reeves (of Martha Reeves and the Vandellas).

In the spring, Kaleidoscope encouraged the campus community to observe a day of silence to recognize voices silenced when homophobia goes unchallenged. Western Michigan University and five local high schools participated in the event, and Kaleidoscope ventured into the high schools to offer confidential counseling and moral support. “We visit these schools a lot,” says Kotzan, “in the hopes that the students there can see us as role models and begin to feel more comfortable in their sexuality as well as cope with the daily pressures of being a gay teenager.” A short segment on the day of silence was featured on National Public Radio later that week.

Though they seem to be constantly interacting with the media, the leaders of Kaleidoscope are also weary of the way in which gays and lesbians are portrayed on te-
evision and in film. Today’s recent barrage of homosexual characters on the big and little screens doesn’t always sit well with Kalamazoo College’s gay community, and Kotzan, Tracz, and Pollock engage in efforts to replace media stereotypes with accurate information. Using an “if-you-can’t-beat-‘em-join-‘em” strategy, Tracz spent most of Spring quarter filming his screenplay, “Queer Eye for the ‘K’ Guy” in which Kaleidoscope members lampooned the Fab Five from Bravo’s “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” and gave sophomore Mike Glista the makeover of a lifetime. The film, screened that same quarter, was followed by a panel discussion on the effect of the media’s unrealistic portrayal of gay lifestyles.

Beyond the glitz of gubernatorial meetings and Hollywood aspirations, Kotzan, Tracz, Pollock, and the other members of Kaleidoscope have never abandoned their ultimate focus: to help gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students navigate the college experience happily, healthily, and successfully. Says a first-year student member: "Kaleidoscope has been a wonderful experience during my first year here at Kalamazoo College. I was nervous about everyone judging me, and the organization became my support system for dealing with all aspects of life. I was thrilled to discover a well-run group with such a large membership, and to be able to share in so many exciting experiences as well as community outreach.”

“Our new name says it all," Kotzan says, "We are all of these different colors that form to make something that is unified and ultimately beautiful." LE

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**Notables**

A nationally competitive grant ($150,000) from the National Institutes of Health and an institutional overhead ($38,000) were awarded to Vivien Pybus, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology. Vivien and her Kalamazoo College research students will use the grant to investigate the cause of the vaginal syndrome bacterial vaginosis with the ultimate goal of elucidating novel, ecologically-based strategies for its control. This research continues from Vivien’s postdoctoral studies at Harvard Medical School. The human body, including the vagina, hosts a variety of bacteria, known as microflora. Bacterial vaginosis is characterized by a shift in the ecology of the vaginal tract as reflected by an altered microflora. Currently, factors which mediate this shift are not well understood. Antibiotics are available for the treatment of this syndrome, but the recurrence rate after antibiotic treatment is high. The goal of the research in Vivien’s laboratory is to investigate the role of the metabolic substances produced by vaginal bacteria in mediating the shift in vaginal tract ecology. This understanding may be incorporated into ecologically-based methods to reestablish the normal vaginal microflora as alternatives to the current use of antibiotics. She and several Kalamazoo College biology majors worked on this project over the past three years and generated the preliminary data for the grant. Their work has been recognized in several scientific forums. Vivien, Maureen Kelly ’02, and Michael Mequio ’03 (two of her former students for whom she served as a Senior Individualized Project advisor) recently published a paper on their work ("Inhibition of vaginal lactobacilli by a bacteriocin-like inhibitor produced by Enterococcus faecium 62-6: potential significance for bacterial vaginosis") in the journal Infectious Diseases in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Mequio and Kelsey Johnson ’06 won prizes in 2003 for their poster presentations at a scientific conference sponsored by the Michigan Branch of the American Society of Microbiology. Data collected by Diane DeZwaan ’05 was presented at the 2003 meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology. "It is very exciting that this important and interesting area of research will continue," says Vivien, who plans to involve many more Kalamazoo College students in this project.

In other news, Vivien received notice of her elected professional membership to the Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology. The honor involved nomination, presentation of a portfolio of her original publications in the field of infectious diseases as they relate to women’s health, letters of sponsorship from current members of the society, and demonstration of active participation in meetings sponsored by the society. Her application was accepted by members of the Society’s council and then voted on by members at large.

Jim Turner, Music, and Kalamazoo College staff accommodator Beth Burch traveled to Central Michigan University with six Kalamazoo College students and two of Jim’s private students to take part in the Michigan National Association of Teachers of Singing statewide student competition. The very impressive results follow—Katie Adams ’07, first place for freshman women; Tim Krause ’07, first place for freshmen men; Jakarra Nichols ’06, third place for sophomore women; Betsy King ’05, third place for junior women; Zach Mandrow ’04, first place for senior men; Mary Stefanac ’04, a first-place tie (with another Jim Turner student, Kristi Van Overan of Grand Rapids) for senior women; and Pam Terry, first place for advanced singers.

The Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service-Learning has been rightly lauded by the Greater Kalamazoo community. The partnership between Kalamazoo College and the Kalamazoo Public Schools was recognized by the Kalamazoo Volunteer Center’s STAR award in the college category. According to Alison Geist, director of MJUS Institute for Service-Learning, Kalamazoo College students contributed more than 10,000 hours of service to the community in 2003 through Institute programs, which include those involving the public schools. That total combines volunteer and work-study hours.

The Center for Career Development’s discovery externship program is beginning to draw the attention of advocates for experiential education. Richard Berman, who directs the CCD, wrote a grant seeking support for the discovery externship program, and the James S. Kemper Foundation (Chicago, Ill.) funded the grant for $3,000 and invited Richard to resubmit the proposal the following year, based on the Foundation board’s keen interest in the program. Richard, CCD colleague Pam Sotherland, John Lundeen ’69 (who was one of the program’s first alumni sponsors), and a student extern presented a 90-minute workshop on the College’s discovery externship program at the joint international conference of the National Society for Experiential Education and International Consortium for Experiential Learning. The title of the conference, which took place in Miami, Florida, was “Experiential Learning: Sustaining
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Global Partnerships in a Changing World." The title of the Kalamazoo College presentation is "Relationship-Centered Learning: A New Field-Based Model in Career Development." In other news, Richard was an invited guest at the Business Blends meeting of the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College. Richard has been an invited guest at two such inquiries.

**Russell Cooper**, Information Services, is a member of the handbell ensemble **Embellish** (Grand Rapids, Mich.). **Embellish** auditioned and was selected to be one of five handbell ensembles from across the United States to perform a Showcase Concert at Pinnacle 2004, a national handbell conference that occurred in Dallas. Russell also auditioned onsite and placed in an all-star group, performing in the event's final concert.

**Di Seuss**, English, published her poem "What Do You Believe in? I Believe in the Fog" in the Fall 2003 issue of *The Georgia Review*. She also had a long poem, "The Cooked Goose," accepted for publication by the prestigious *North American Review*. She served as poet-in-residence this summer for the second time at Cranbrook Writers Conference in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. She ran one of two poetry workshops at the Ludington Poetry Festival in May. Her workshop there was titled "Endangering the Safe Poem." She wrote the prefaces for two books of poetry: Gail Martin's *The Hourglass Heart* (New Issues Press), and Elaine Seaman's *Rocks in the Wheatfield*. Both authors were former students in her writing workshops. In the fall, Di will take a leave from teaching to work on an introductory creative writing textbook.

**David E. Barclay** (Margaret and Roger Scholten Professor of International Studies, History Department) has been named to the executive committee of a multiyear research project organized by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. He is the only non-German member of the committee, which will coordinate a program of research and publication on "Prussia as a Cultural State." The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences was founded in 1711.

Recently, he has traveled a great deal and presented a number of papers and lectures. He was a keynote speaker at the annual convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs in Oak Brook, Illinois, talking on "The View from Elgin, Illinois: Images and Stereotypes in German-American Relations." In Germany, he addressed the Pueckler-Gesellschaft in Berlin on "Ein amerikanischer Parkfriedhof der Pueckler-Zeit: Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts" ("An American Garden Cemetery of the Pueckler Age: Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts"). He also participated in a conference sponsored by the Stiftung Preussische Schloesser und Gaerten Berlin-Brandenburg (Foundation for Prussian Palaces and Gardens in Berlin-Brandenburg) on the bicentennial of the birth of the important architect Ludwig Persius. From Berlin Barclay continued to Weimar, where, under the aegis of the Stiftung Weimarer Klassik und Kunstsammlungen (Foundation for Weimar Classics and Art Collections), he participated in a conference on "Maria Pawlowna: Zarentochter und Grossherzogin in St. Petersburg und Weimar" ("Maria Pavlowna: Daughter of a Tsar and Grand Duchess in St. Petersburg and Weimar"). There he presented a paper on "Grossherzoglische Mutter und kaiserliche Tochter im Spannungsfeld der deutschen Politik: Maria Pavlowna, Augusta und der Weimarer Einfluss auf Preussen 1811-1890" ("Grand Ducal Mother and Imperial Daughter in the Arc of German Politics: Maria Pavlowna, Augusta, and the Influence of Weimar on Prussia, 1811-1890"). Barclay flew on to New Orleans to participate in the annual meeting of the German Studies Association; he is a member of the GSA Executive Committee and chaired a panel on "Music and the Public Sphere in Nineteenth-Century Germany." He continued to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he presented a paper on "Nostalgia for Empire: The Old Reich in the Nineteenth-Century Prussian Imagination" at the annual meeting of the Midwest German History Workshop. Barclay was the keynote speaker for "Global Awareness Day" at St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron, Michigan, where he spoke on "A New Old Europe and an Old New Europe." Finally, he presented a series of three lectures on "Europeans from Venus, Americans from Mars?" at the Fountains at Bronson Place in Kalamazoo. Barclay’s most recent book chapter, on German politics from 1830 to 1850, will soon be published in the *Oxford Short History of Modern Germany*, edited by Jonathan Sperber of the University of Missouri at Columbia.


In other news, Péter was an invited speaker at the annual symposium of the Center for Biological Modeling of Michigan State University. He gave a seminar for the department of chemistry of Western Michigan University. Péter was the co-director of the Computational Neuroscience School in Erice, Sicily, where **Bobby Rohrkemper ’04** also had a presentation. Péter was a co-organizer and co-chair of a workshop titled "Nonlinear spatio-temporal neural dynamics - Experiments and Theoretical Models" and held in July 2003 in Alicante (Spain) during the annual Computational Neuroscience Conference. He also has been nominated to be a Program Co-Chair in the IEEE International Joint Conference on Neural Networks held in Budapest this month.

Péter visited the Hokkaido University (Sapporo, Japan) by invitation of the Center of Excellence at the Mathematics Department. He gave a talk titled "Neural Networks, Brain Rhythms and Computational Neuropharmacology" and met with faculty and students.

Finally, Péter was one of the five keynote speakers of the Symposium on Intentional Dynamic Systems held at the University of Memphis. The title of his talk was "The Brain as Hermeneutic Device: Code Generation, Mood Regulation and Navigation."

Speaking of Bobby Rohrkemper (see above), he and **Alyce Brady**, Computer Science, attended the Consortium for Computing Sciences in College-Northeastern Region (CCSCNE), which was held at Union College in Schenectady, New York. The conference included workshops and lectures related to issues in computer science education.

Students and faculty associated with small colleges in the east and northeast attended. At the CCSCNE student poster session Bobby presented his SIP research as a poster titled "Autocorrelation and Fourier Analysis for Detecting Periodic Cell Potentials in a Simulated Inhibitory Neural Network." He was one of three to win a "Best Student Poster" Award.

Stuart Hecht comments: "Menta weaves an account of a summer at the La MaMa International Directors Symposium in Umbria, Italy, with a personal sojourn to meet his Italian relatives. The essay combines such topics as directing trends, intercultural experiments, and especially the challenge of renewing artistic vision and discovering artistic identity, which for Menta intertwines the legacy of family and the responsibilities of teaching."

Menta’s short play *Mushrooming* was one of eight (of more than 100 submitted) to be given a staged reading by the New Playwrights Development Workshop in New York City last August. And his article "Serban’s Shakespeare Cycle: Spiritual Journeys on Cymbeline, Taming of the Shrew, and Merchant of Venice" was published in Shakespeare Bulletin.

**James E. Lewis, Jr.** History, published his third book in October. It is titled *The Louisiana Purchase: Jefferson’s Noble Bargain?* Lewis is the author of *John Quincy Adams: Policymaker for the Union and The American Union and the Problem of Neighborhood: The United States and the Collapse of the Spanish Empire, 1783-1829*.

**Karyn Boatwright** Psychology, co-authored a paper published in *Journal of College Student Development*. The paper was titled "Leadership aspirations of women college students," and the co-authors included the late Stephanie Vibbert ’03, Caitlin Connors ’04, Ally Fox ’04, J’Nai Leafers ’01, Emily Spang ’03, Lexy Vanario ’06, and Katy Lens ’03. In other news, Karyn and others were involved in the presentation of two posters at the American Psychological Association in Honolulu, Hawaii. The posters were: "The influence of a co-educational experience on women’s leadership aspirations" and "The quest for her doctoral degree."

The first two volumes of Parfet’s *The Making of American Liberal Theology* (2001, 2003) have been lauded by more than a dozen reviewers as the "best" or "definitive" works in the field. He has completed his 11th book, *Neoconservatism and the New Pax Americana*, which will be published by Routledge in September. And he has authored six articles and four reviews, lectured at approximately 20 universities and conferences, and spoken to area religious congregations.

His recent articles include "Making Theology Metaphysical" and "Imagining Empirical Theology: Epistemological Realism and the Chicago School of Theology"—both in *The American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*—and "Axis of One: The Unipolarist Agenda" and "Occupational Hazards: The U.S. Debate Over Iraq’s Future"—both in *The Christian Century*. He has spoken at the University of California-Berkeley, Loyola University, Claremont School of Theology, Calvin College, Northwestern University, the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature, Michigan State University, and the Michigan Conference of Political Scientists. He has given keynote addresses for conferences at the Pacific School of Religion, the Center for Religion in Life, Western Michigan University, the American Theological Society, the Michigan Festival for Sacred Music, and the West Michigan Justice and Peace Coalition. In November Gary was elected vice president of the American Theological Society.

**Alan Hill**, psychologist at the counseling center, and Sharon Carney, a doctoral intern at the counseling center, presented "Identification, Assessment and Diagnosis of Learning Disabilities in High Achieving College Students" at the Learning Disabilities Association Conference in East Lansing, Michigan.

**Sarah Lindley**, Art, was selected as a finalist for the Elizabeth R. Raphael Founders Prize by the Society for Contemporary Craft in Pittsburgh. Her work was included in an exhibition with the other finalists at the Society for Contemporary Craft. The exhibition, "Transformation: Contemporary Works in Ceramics, The Elizabeth R. Raphael Founder’s Prize Exhibition Tour," was on display at the SCC in Pittsburgh before traveling to other locations.

**Leslie Tung**, Music, presented piano master classes and recitals at the Lee Hysan Concert Hall at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at the School of Music, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

**Bob Batsell**, Psychology, has had a number of research articles published recently. Batsell and Aaron Blankenship ’02 published an invited "State of the Science" article for the interdisciplinary journal *Brain & Mind*. That article was titled "Beyond Potentiation: Synergistic Conditioning in Flavor-Aversion Learning." The paper "Effects of Postconditioning Inflation on Odor + Taste Compound Conditioning"—co-authored by Batsell, Christina A. Trost ’03, Stephanie R. Cochran ’02, Blankenship, and John D. Batson of Furman University—was published in *Learning & Behavior*. Finally, Batsell’s chapter "Olfaction: Recent Advances in Learning about Odors" was published in the *Handbook of Research Methods in Experimental Psychology*.

**Alyce Brady**, Computer Science, was invited to join the Liberal Arts Computer Science (LACS) Consortium, an organization of 18 computer scientists from selective liberal arts colleges around the country “dedicated to supporting undergraduate computer science through active curriculum development and scholarly activity in the field of computer science education." [www.lacs.edu] The consortium is best known for publishing and updating its "Model Curriculum for a Liberal Arts Degree in Computer Science," which has served as a model for Kalamazoo College and many other liberal arts colleges around the country. The organization also has produced papers and given presentations on “such topics as service courses, approaches to laboratories, experiments involving a breadth-first emphasis in the first courses, and goals for the first two years of undergraduate computer science.”


Two pieces by graphic designer John Townsend, husband of Professor Jan Solberg (French), have been selected as winners in the 2003 American Graphic Design Awards competition, sponsored by the magazine *Graphic Design: USA*. One of the pieces, "What Matters to Me...And Why," was a series of posters designed for Kalamazoo College. More than 10,000 entries were submitted to the competition; about 10 percent were selected as winners. LE
In April, the College honored four members of its faculty and staff for 25 years of service. The four individuals were 1 Tom Smith, Chemistry; 2 Chris Thomas, Business Office; 3 Carolyn Newton, Biology and Provost Office; and 4 Paula Romanaux, Music. Citations for these individuals were read, respectively, by Tom Askew, Physics; Tom Ponto, Business Office; David Evans, Biology; and Gary Dorrien, Religion.

Environmental Balance

Grad’s consensus building garners honors

by Antonie Boessenkool ’99

When 24-year-old Jessica Yorko ’00 walks in the door of a coffee shop in downtown Lansing (Mich.), she has her hands full—her bag, a cup of coffee, and her 7-month-old son, Nicholas. It’s a balancing act that extends from her arms to her life. And the fine balance she has achieved allows her to excel professionally. She was the first runner-up for the 2003 Environmental Achievement Award from the Environmental Management Association in Michigan, which honored her work at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

After graduating from Kalamazoo College four years ago, Yorko took a position as an education and outreach analyst for the MDEQ, the department responsible for environmental quality in the state. Yorko’s division educates businesses and citizens about environmental regulations and pollution prevention.

In 2002, Yorko took on new responsibilities as the division’s marketing and partnership coordinator. She builds relationships with trade and sustainable business associations and environmental non-profit organizations, like the Michigan Environmental Council. "We talk to these groups about environmental issues, and they teach their members," she says. "In turn, we give them first-hand knowledge about environmental laws, and we promote their organizations.

"Most companies want to get out in front of environmental laws to avoid penalties, so they appreciate having a dialogue with us to keep abreast of new laws," Yorko says. "We also have incentive programs for businesses that go above and beyond the law."

Yanko received the recognition for her marketing initiatives promoting the 8th Annual Sustainable Business Conference & Expo that was held in October of 2002. The conference offered information on environmentally-friendly and sustainable business practices and connected businesses with vendors that offer such alternatives.

Yanko’s work helped expand the traditionally small annual conference into a statewide event and increased attendance fivefold compared to previous years. "The conference focused on gaining a competitive advantage with environmentally-conscious practices. To have so many businesses attend was very encouraging and suggests that more people are coming to value environmentally-sound sustainable business practices."

Serving as a liaison between environmental regulators and the businesses they regulate might seem a potentially contentious role, but Yorko says the opposite is true. "We are improving environmental quality on a voluntary basis," she says. "Businesses know that doing things that are good for the environment is also good for business. Increasing energy
efficiency and reducing the output of toxic waste are the types of things that will save them money." Yorko has long had an interest in the environment. In high school, she was active in environmental groups and was a proponent of recycling. Part of the reason for her early interest was her parents’ influence, she says. "My dad had a strong appreciation for nature, and my mom always stressed conservation and not being wasteful. I remember that she would drive across town to recycle our trash, because there was no curbside recycling in Tampa, Florida, where I grew up. She just thought it was the right thing to do."

At Kalamazoo College, Yorko chose to major in economics, thinking she would aim for a career in finance, perhaps investment banking. "I wanted to do more than business. I wanted to do something that was business-oriented, but with an eye towards ethics." The liberal arts education at Kalamazoo College helped her find a niche right for her.

An environmental economics class opened her eyes to possibilities. "Taking that class made me realize that there are a lot of people who integrate economic goals with environmental issues," she says. The class and a senior seminar in environmental studies prepared her in many ways for her current job, she says.

In the senior seminar, biology professor Heather Reynolds immersed her students in environmental issues, Yorko remembers. She brought in renowned speakers and had students study urban redevelopment issues. She gave her students hands-on experience by taking them on a tour of abandoned industrial sites around Kalamazoo, introducing them to people who worked for the city on environmental issues, and having them write grant proposals, which is something Yorko helps with at MDEQ.

"That class was a turning point for me and my classmates, because we saw the practical application of what we were studying and saw its job potential," Yorko says. Yorko’s commitment to the environment goes beyond her job at MDEQ. She’s a board member at the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council. Her responsibilities include working with student interns and volunteers interested in environmental work. Last spring, Yorko brought Michigan State University students and MDEQ staff together to start a volunteer water quality testing program. The program gives Mid-Michigan residents, students, and children opportunities to appreciate nature and assess environmental health in their area.

According to Yorko, Kalamazoo College influenced her to work effectively for change and gave her the preparation she needed to do just that. "Giving back to the community and improving the world around you are the guiding principles of the learning experience at Kalamazoo College."

Not that she needs another reason, but Yorko has a new one to care about the environment: her son Nicholas. "When you have a child, you want to do something to make sure he has clean water to drink and clean air to breathe," she says. "Children make you think about the future and the world that you are leaving for them."
Born in Omaha, Nebraska, he was educated in the States and the Far East, his family following his Air Force father to Japan, where Maslowsky finished high school. He returned to the States to attend Kalamazoo College, drawn to its focus on diverse global experiences. He graduated with a degree in history. His law degree came from Northwestern School of Law. He was a congressional speechwriter in Washington D.C., a law clerk of the U.S. District Court for Oregon, then a lawyer for a prestigious firm in Portland. Success was measured by the size of his client base—banks, hospitals, corporations—and in the hours he poured into his office work. He had been a man dedicated to career, recreation, and pleasure.

Maslowsky was not only stunned by this measure, he was embarrassed.

“Some questions cannot be left unasked,” Maslowsky says. “I looked at the life I was told I would soon lose, and I saw how self-centered all my achievements had been. What was there to put into an obituary? I was haunted by regrets and shame. I felt,” Maslowsky takes a slow, deep breath, “shallow.”

Maslowsky was overwhelmed with regrets for all the missed opportunities—“to be a good man, to express kindness towards others.”

And then, a second chance. News reached him of a misdiagnosis. As suddenly as it was handed down to him, the death sentence had been lifted. Maslowsky had gotten a wake-up call, and he had no intention of ignoring it. He now understood his mortality, and he began to search for meaning beyond the courtroom.

“I was raised Catholic, but religion had not played an important part in my life. I realized I had to think seriously about my spirituality. I wasn’t sure I believed in God or the Church, but it was time for me to search for answers. I won another large case with my firm’s managing partner, and I should have felt wonderful about it, and yet, I didn’t. Something was missing from my life.”

Maslowsky started to attend church services, and he also took time to volunteer in the community.

“The first time I had to help someone different than myself, however,” he says, “I couldn’t do it.” Realizing the limit of his comfort zone only increased Maslowsky’s determination to expand it. It was a time when his education and experiences at Kalamazoo College would become invaluable.

“One of the most important parts of my education at Kalamazoo College was the K-Plan. My study abroad in Germany, and career internships [working in the government in Washington D.C., and working with the disabled in New York] exposed and challenged me to examine the parameters in my own life, to look for connections with people where I may not have imagined them to be. I learned a healthy respect for our differences but also our commonalities. I realized I would have to return to what I had been taught as a young man at Kalamazoo College.”

Maslowsky quit the law firm and traveled to Rome to spend the next four years in a seminary. The respected lawyer once again became the student. “I went from being one of the youngest and brightest to, at age 35, one of the oldest and least knowledgeable,” Maslowsky smiles.

Some of Maslowsky’s biggest challenges lay ahead. He was ordained in 1987, served two years as associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Salem, Oregon, but then returned to Rome for his doctorate in theology. Back in Oregon, Portland’s
Facing page: Father Mike, “I’m still a type-A personality, and I still work too hard. But all of these things have been put into a different context. It’s not about creating my own security and dignity, but how I enhance the security and dignity of others.” 1, 2 and 3 St. Anthony’s Village - the church. 4 The daycare center, where children often interact with elderly residents of the Village. 5 Reflecting pond surrounded by gardens outside of the church.
then archbishop, William Levada, sent Maslowsky on a mission: assess the St. Anthony Parish, located in one of the poorer sections of the city. Church officials thought that this parish would have to close, and Maslowsky found a basement church with cracked walls and windows, exposed pipes, collapsing ceilings. The property was littered with garbage and discarded tires. The parishioners were few, but passionate about their faith. Impressed with the strength of their faith, Maslowsky was determined to not only keep the church open, but to make it thrive.

Although it would take over a decade, the resurgence of St. Anthony’s is nothing short of, well, miraculous. If God helps those who help themselves, Maslowsky knew how to help himself and this parish. Remaining an active member of the Oregon State Bar Association, he combined his legal and business skills with his theology skills to fund, build, and inspire. Together with his parishioners, Maslowsky tapped into his business network, sought financial support from federal tax credits and state guarantees, used his legal expertise in nonprofit housing, and on five acres built a village centered about the church. Today, the St. Anthony Village is a nonprofit, low-income housing community with assisted-living units for more than a hundred residents. It features 24 cottages for Alzheimer’s patients, a daycare center for children 4 months to 5 years of age (full to its capacity for 80 children), a series of adjacent gardens, walking paths, a reflecting pond, and, at the center of the Village, a new church.

It took $12 million to build the Village. Maslowsky modeled its design after the Italian villages where he studied. European towns were often built around a plaza, and in the plaza was a church. The community came together in the plaza, gathering all generations. At St. Anthony’s Village, where Maslowsky is fondly referred to as Father Mike, the idea is to encourage the connections between individuals as well as between generations.

“No one likes to live in isolation,” Maslowsky says. “The Village is a place that fosters relationships. Here, we focus on the commonalities between us instead of the differences, the hope that we can bring to each other, and the social integration of a community.”

Maslowsky’s desire for a sanctuary design similar to hands holding something precious resulted in two arcing walls that embrace the congregation while opening to the surroundings. At one end, the walls open to welcome parishioners into a foyer where a simple and elegant sculpture, designed by Maslowsky, centers a baptismal font, illuminated by stained glass windows showing the trinity and the 12 tongues of fire that descended on Christ’s apostles. At the opposite end of the arcing wall are the altar and another stained glass window that spills light and color across the front of the church. A bell tower rises above, with one cross that shines towards the busy street and another cross that shines across the Village.

As he strolls the winding paths, Father Mike greets everyone he passes, resting a hand on the shoulder of an elderly resident for a moment as he asks about her health, chuckling at a scampering child in the play area of the daycare center, giving direction to a young man working in the gardens, stopping to accept a cookie in the kitchen.

“When I was a student at Kalamazoo College, I used to get irritated at the idea of ‘gracious living,’” he remembers. “But it is perhaps the most important lesson that was instilled there, a lesson that came to fruition later in life. I realized life is not about living in comfort, but about rising to the level of the noble, to pursue the good and true, to become richer by the act of giving to others. Life is about the connections we make with other people. Life is about community.” LE
 LuxEsto has a movie recommendation for you. The Village, scheduled to hit theaters in August, stars William Hurt and Sigourney Weaver as late 19th-century townsfolk living in fear of the mythical creatures inhabiting the woods around their rural Pennsylvania community.

If it's anything like Sixth Sense, Signs and other movies from director M. Night Shyamalan, then The Village promises to be spooky and suspenseful. As you watch, pay close attention to scenes that don't include the big name stars—crowd scenes, vistas, and depictions of everyday village life, for example. You'll be viewing the work of the movie's second unit director and storyboard artist Brick Mason '75. By his count, The Village is the 112th movie on which he's worked.

Mason is one of several Kalamazoo College alumni making names for themselves in film and television. Others include:

- Paul Eads '73, director and Emmy-winning production designer for popular television dramas such as NYPD Blue and films including Wise Guys and Save the Last Dance;
- John Davies '75, who has written, directed, and produced scores of television shows on HBO, A&E, ESPN, Comedy Channel, ESPN, PBS and the major networks;
- Teresa Tucker-Davies '76 (John's wife), who has produced feature films including The Fugitive, A Perfect Murder, and last year's Holes, from Disney;
- Rich Hutchman '91, an actor who has appeared in many national television commercials and shows such as NYPD Blue and CSI, and who had the starring role in the Disney Channel's Phantom of the Megaplex. Rich was profiled in the fall 2003 issue of LuxEsto.
- Pam Marsden '78, producer of the animated Disney film Dinosaurs, released in 2000, and the upcoming Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas;
- Leslie Simmer '82, film editor for a respected Chicago-based documentary production house that produced The New Americans, recently broadcast on PBS; and
- Paige Simpson '77, producer for several films including Leaving Las Vegas, in which Nicolas Cage turned in his Oscar-winning performance.

Not a bad showing for a small college that until recent years offered little in the way of film and television studies.

"Fortunately, Kalamazoo has long offered something equally as valuable," said Professor of Theatre Arts Ed Menta, "Our philosophy has always been to nurture students' artistic growth, and teach them to interpret text, work within an ensemble, and use their imaginations. These are useful springboards into any career, including film and television."

In a typical year, four to eight students graduate with a degree in theatre arts from the College. A like number will earn a minor in the field. But fully ten percent of the student body will participate in at least one campus theatrical event each year, as a performer, director, set designer, stagehand, costumer, or other role. Many students fill multiple roles.
1, 2 A still image from the movie Sixth Sense, starring Bruce Willis and Haley Joel Osment, and two storyboards drawn by the film’s storyboard artist and second unit director Brick Mason ’75. Look for Mason talking about the art of storyboarding in Making “Signs,” an extra on the Signs DVD. 3 This megastar-in-waiting actress from Southfield, Michigan, was known as Selma Beitner during her two years (1990-92) at Kalamazoo College. She appeared in at least one campus play, The Little Theater of the Green Goose, before moving to New York to pursue an acting career. Since then, she’s appeared in numerous television roles and in movies, including Legally Blonde (she plays the snob who steals Reece Witherspoon’s boyfriend), Hellboy (she plays Liz Sherman, Hellboy’s brooding butt-kicking love interest), and the upcoming A Dirty Shame. Earlier this year, she married actor Ahmet Zappa, son of the late rocker Frank Zappa. But Selma (Beitner) Zappa is better known as actress Selma Blair. 4 Theatre Arts minor Christine Grodecki ’06 works with Director of Technical Theatre and Design Lanny Potts (background) while Department Chair Ed Menta looks over a set design in the Charles Tulley Design Studio. Students design sets, mix audio tracks, and fine tune other elements of theatrical productions in this quiet oasis within the Light Fine Arts Building. 5 Documentary video production students Nicole Petzold ’05 (camera), Lauren Groppi ’07 (microphone), Caleb York ’06 and Kelly Bowden ’06 conduct an on-camera interview behind Humphrey House.
Since at least the 1970’s, a small but growing number of students in a wide variety of majors have found ways to get their hands on film or television cameras.

“I had a campus job in the AV department under Lisa Godfrey, who taught me about the technical aspects of television,” said John Davies, now working in Los Angeles. “And there were always a few students filming around campus with Super 8 cameras. Claire Myers was a big influence on us. He taught us a lot about scripting and casting.”

Davies taught in the theatre arts department from 1966 to 1982. Now living in Virginia, he recalls the difficulty in meeting students’ growing interest in film and television. “No small college could afford to do much. Film equipment was too expensive and television equipment was too bulky. Going on location with it was a major hassle.”

But film and TV were at the leading edge of ’60’s radicalism and popular culture, Myers added. “It was in the air, in the water, and Kalamazoo students embraced it as eagerly as they did music and literature.”

Larry Gamble, Larry Jaquith, and Lanny Potts, have led formal and informal technical aspects of film and television. The English Department has intermittently offered classes covering film theory and criticism, even broadcast journalism. And for the past few years, the Art Department has increased student access to video technology.

Assistant Professor of English Tracy Cox-Stanton teaches an introductory writing course focusing on film history and analysis, as well as advanced courses on topics including women in film, avant garde cinema, and colonialism in cinema. Eighty to 100 students per year sign up. “Students can get a good background in film and television aesthetics now,” said Cox-Stanton. Currently, we only analyze and write about films, we don’t produce them. But we’d love to expand this into a media studies program that includes scriptwriting and production.”

Kalamazoo students can also get hands-on video production experience through documentary video production courses taught by Video Specialist Dhe ra Strauss.

“Along with digital art and photography, video is a natural extension of the art department,” Strauss said. “It also combines well with the music department because more and more students use original music in their projects. We look at and deconstruct a lot of documentary films. Plus we are very hands-on out in the field.”

Through a service learning component, her students venture into the community with camera in hand. Recent projects have included videotaped interviews of elementary school students and senior citizens. Their work has been featured on local cable access and PBS television channels. A campus film festival also showcases their talent.

Strauss, Cox-Stanton, Menta, and others also guide students through independent studies and Senior Individualized Projects centered on film or television production. Projects run the gamut from short experimental pieces using animation and music to video diaries, documentaries, and lengthy narratives. Nicole Petzold ’05, a double major in French and English, took a camcorder along on her study abroad term in France and conducted videotape interviews with survivors of a village destroyed during World War II. Her edited tape will be shown on campus and, along with a research paper, will fulfill her SIP requirement.

Although the College has invested in more video gear in recent years, students will have even better access to it come fall 2006 when the refurbished and expanded Upjohn Library opens with a new 1,000-square-foot television studio, complete with control room, sound lab, and an editing suite with multiple work stations.

“The new studio will open up video production to the entire campus community,” said Strauss. “Theatre arts department students can use it for activities such as acting and directing classes. Faculty and administration can use it for their projects. With documentaries, we have a natural connection to sociology, psychology, and other departments. The possibilities are endless.”

With the additional academic and hands-on experiences offered by the College, Kalamazoo students should be well positioned to land career internships in the film and television industry. Petzold is one of several students to work at Lawrence Productions, a Kalamazoo-area television production company. Theatre arts major Jeff Patterson ’97 worked in actress Kirstie Alley’s production company on the back lot of Universal Studios Hollywood.

Many other theatre arts students have completed internships in New York City under the auspices of the Great Lakes College Association’s New York Arts Program. Recent examples include Lauren Sprunger ’06, who served as a production assistant on Saturday Night Live, and Emily Campbell ’04 and Lisa Ludwinski ’06, who landed jobs with the locations department on the long-running NBC drama Law and Order. Those two even ended up on screen in a few episodes as extras.

“The producers liked Emily so much they hired her back the next summer, and it looks like the same thing will happen for Lisa,” said Menta. “Lauren was also offered a full time job.”

Menta also singled out Lisa Marie Bleyaert ’03, Eddie Parker ’02 and Jeff Lung ’01 as examples of recent theatre arts graduates now pursuing film and television careers. Bleyaert works in the talent department of the Conan O’Brien Show. Parker is an independent filmmaker in Portland, Oregon. Lung, who studied Chinese culture and film in China as a Fulbright Scholar, now lives in Los Angeles where he has worked as a line producer on several animated film projects and continues to polish his own screenplay.

Even without the increased technical training available to Kalamazoo students, Menta believes these students have opportunities their counterparts at bigger schools often do not. “They can write, direct, design, act, and fill any number of roles in campus stage and video productions. Plus, they can study and work in New York, London, and other great theatre cities. Most important, they learn respect for the art form, the profession, themselves, and other people—the very things we hope all students master.”

Television producer Davies agrees. “I draw heavily on the learning experiences I had inside and outside the classroom at Kalamazoo, including my theatre department experience. I tell young people the shortest route to a career in television or film doesn’t have to pass through a TV or film school. It can begin with the kind of liberal arts education you get at Kalamazoo College.”

Following are profiles of several Kalamazoo College alumni from the ‘70’s and ‘80’s who have gone on to distinguished careers in feature film and broadcast television production, as well as two younger alumni who are in the early stages of what we trust will be distinguished acting careers for the big and small screens.

First Job in the Theater
“I became an assistant set designer in New York City in 1973 for David Mitchell and in 1975 for Santo Loquasto, both award-winning stage designers who became my early mentors. I worked on more than a dozen stage shows with them. I designed my first significant play, Mo digliani by Dennis McIntyre, in 1979 at the off-Broadway Astor Place Theater.”

Big Break in TV/Film
“After I passed the United Scenic Artist’s union exam in 1979, Loquasto asked me to be art director on The Fan, a 1981 film with Lauren Bacall and James Garner. One year later I was production designer on my first film, Hit and Run. It took 18 days to film and about 18 minutes to disappear from sight.”

What is a Production Designer?
“The production designer is responsible for the overall look of a show—choosing locations, sketching and designing sets, and then working with artists and crews to make it ‘camera-ready’ on the day of shooting. But it’s as much about navigating the waters of artistic collaboration as anything. There are a lot of people to satisfy—directors, cinematographers, writers, and producers—and in the end it’s the collective vision that gives a film or television show depth, richness, and complexity.”

Screen Credits
Director for one episode of NYPD Blue and production designer for dozens of episodes of that show and others including Boston Public, Brooklyn South, Murder One, and Philly. Production designer or art director for 14 films including Arthur, Wise Guys, Frequency, and Save the Last Dance.

Upcoming Projects
Designing the pilot episode for Blind Justice, a new TV series by producer Steven Bochco.

Awards
Emmy Awards for Outstanding Art Direction for a TV Series, NYPD Blue (1992-93), Murder One (1994-95), Boston Public (2000-01), Art Directors Guild Award for Excellence in Production Design for a TV series, 1997 (Brooklyn South), and Kalamazoo College Distinguished Achievement Award (1997).

On Kalamazoo College
“My SIP really set the ball in motion for me. I did a little of everything from model making to painting sets and props. I knew that once I graduated, I had a good shot at making a living in the theatre business. One of the best life lessons I learned at Kalamazoo was the constant need to adapt to ever-changing circumstances. Change is about the only thing you can depend on in the film and television business.”

John Davies ’75
Independent Television Writer and Producer, Los Angeles


First Job in TV
“After graduation I worked in various positions at WUHQ-TV, the ABC affiliate in Battle Creek [Michigan] and eventually became the movie reviewer.”

Big Break
“I’d been in Battle Creek for about a year when I saw a show called Sneak Previews coming from WTTWPBS Chicago, featuring critics Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert reviewing and arguing about new movies. I wrote to the show’s producer and asked if I could visit a taping. I ended up getting a job at WTTW and within three years, I was producing Sneak Previews.

“Later, as an independent producer, I got a chance to produce an NBC Comic Relief special saluting Michael Jordan. It was taped in Chicago, but edited in Los Angeles. After spending time in L.A., I realized it was the place to be if I wanted to take my career to the next level. My wife, Teresa Tucker-Davies ’76, who was by then working in movies, felt the same way, and we moved to L.A. in 1991.”

Screen Credits
Writer, director and/or producer on: 80 hours of Comic Relief, with comedians such as Billy Crystal and Whoopi Goldberg; documentaries such as Lifetime’s Intimate Portraits and A&E’s Biography; and specials such as It’s Black Entertainment for Showtime, Politics & The Olympics for ESPN, The Source Hip Hop Awards for UPN, The Reun Show for NBC, and Second City Presents for Bravo.

Awards
“I’ve won local Chicago Emmys and other awards, but the biggest thrill thus far is a national Emmy nomination for a one-hour special on comic Andy Kaufman that I co-wrote and produced for NBC in 1995. My partner on that project was George Shapiro, the executive producer of Seinfeld. Going to the awards ceremony was a thrill and Barbra Streisand was nominated in our category. Two minutes after taking our seats, George leaned over and said ‘We’ve already lost. They just seated Barbra Streisand on the second row aisle.’ Sure enough, she won.”

Upcoming Projects
“I just produced a pilot and got a 13-episode order for Culture Clash, a political talk show to begin on PBS this fall. I’m in the middle of a series pilot for Court TV called Hip Hop on Trial, and a pilot for AMC called The Movie Club, a series not unlike the show I did 20 years ago with Siskel and Ebert.”

On Kalamazoo College
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Paul Eads ’73
Television and Film Production Designer, Los Angeles

K-Plan

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John Davies (right) gives the proper respect to comedian Rodney Dangerfield on the set of a television special directed by Davies.
Directed by Lasse Hallstrom, and "I've been contacted about working on a couple films including Upcoming Projects

Second Unit Director on films including Hoosiers, Moonstruck, Bull Durham, Silence of the Lambs, Sleepless in Seattle, Dead Man Walking, As Good as it Gets, You've Got Mail, Sixth Sense, A Beautiful Mind, Actor in You've Got Mail ("I spent about one second on camera as the man who let Tom Hanks into Meg Ryan's apartment building.").

Upcoming Projects

I've been contacted about working on a couple films including Casanova, directed by Lasse Hallstrom, and The Good Shepard, directed by Robert DeNiro. And M. Night Shyamalan [director of Signs, Sixth Sense] has a couple projects coming up, including a film based on the novel Life of Pi. Plus, I have my own documentary film projects, Birth Places of the Vice Presidents and The History of Concrete. But these always seem to take a back seat to projects that pay the rent.

On Kalamazoo College

I had a lot of fun working on plays at the College. And my first real career break came through Kalamazoo College and the GLCA Arts Program. I got the chance to intern in New York with working artists who loved what they were doing and getting paid for it. I felt such a strong connection to them and their work that I switched my major from pre-med to art.

K-Plan


First Job in TV/Film

“My actual first paying job was lettering the comic strip “Dixie Nixon and the Boys in the Bund” for The National Lampoon in 1973. I worked briefly as a graphic designer in 1976 at KTCA, the PBS television station in Minneapolis.”

Big Break in TV/Film

“I was scratching out a living in New York City as a freelance artist working for ad agencies when my friend Paul Eads ’73, who was working as an art director for the film So Fine, told me the director was looking for a storyboard artist. Somehow, I got the job. With help from Paul and the director of photography, I learned a lot. Within six months, I had three films under my belt. But it took me years to figure out the job.”

What’s a Storyboard Artist and Second Unit Director?

“Storyboarding is the first translation of the script into a visual format. I provide the director with simple drawings showing placement and movement of characters within each scene. Storyboards include lots of arrows showing movement and camera angles but not much detail about characters and the set. A second unit is a small group that films scenes typically not involving the principal actors. These might include street or crowd scenes, vistas, or shots involving stunt doubles and animals. Sometimes you just try to grab an atmospheric shot that might lend itself to the mood of a scene or help during editing.”

Screen Credits

Second Unit Director on films Signs and The Village. Production Illustrator or Storyboard Artist on 112 films including Hoosiers, Moonstruck, Bull Durham, Silence of the Lambs, Sleepless in Seattle, Dead Man Walking, As Good as it Gets, You've Got Mail, Sixth Sense, A Beautiful Mind, Actor in You've Got Mail ("I spent about one second on camera as the man who let Tom Hanks into Meg Ryan's apartment building.").

Upcoming Projects

“I'm currently developing Chess Men, with my husband John, based on the recording company on the South Side of Chicago that introduced the blues to middle America and the world. I'm also chasing a screenplay based on Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom, and searching for properties that will continue our company's foray into family films.”

On Kalamazoo College

"Kalamazoo’s off-campus programs allowed us to work in our fields and hone our craft. It also made us resilient. In 1979, I hitchhiked to Santa Fe to see the Santa Fe Opera Company’s production of Wedekind’s Lulu. Fellow theatre department alum Tom Morris was working the box office. He heard my voice and walked me into the sold out performance. I stayed in Santa Fe for eight years.”

Teresa Tucker-Davies ’76

Movie Producer, Santa Barbara, California

K-Plan


First Job in the Theater

"After Kalamazoo, I moved to Minneapolis where I worked as a costumer for both the Guthrie Theatre and the Minnesota Opera in Minneapolis. In 1979, I moved to Santa Fe and worked summer stock at the Santa Fe Festival Theatre—creating a fat suit for the brilliant Madeleine Kahn.”

Big Break in TV/Film

"I began film studies at the Anthropology Film Center in Santa Fe, where I met Willard Van Dyke, founder of the Department of Film at the Museum of Modern Art. He became my mentor, and we created the Santa Fe Winter Film Expo, a showcase of independent film. "I later moved to Chicago and worked as a production designer and producer for television commercials and short films until I met producer/director Andrew Davis in 1987. We've collaborated on numerous action and suspense thrillers ever since. Having searched for years for a project that would allow us to work in the arena of family films, I finally found the perfect story; Louis Sachar's award-winning novel, Holes, which we adapted and released last year."

Screen Credits


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Teresa Tucker-Davies with some of the young actors in the movie Holes.
Leslie Simmer '82
Film Editor, Chicago

**K-Plan**
Major: Theatre. Study Abroad: London. SIP: Wrote and acted in *Will There Ever Be a Morning?*, her one-woman play about actress Francis Farmer. 

**Kalamazoo College Theatre Experience:** Numerous theatre classes and plays, including *Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

**First Job in Film**
"I never worked professionally in theatre, but I'd always loved films, so in 1989 I took a film course at Columbia College. I was hooked and went on to complete coursework for a Master's degree in film. My first job in the industry was as an assistant editor to Greg Sneider, a brilliant editor who's worked on documentaries, commercials, music videos...you name it."

**Big Break**
"In 1996, Greg recommended me as an assistant editor for *Vietnam: Long Time Coming*, a documentary at Kartemquin Films in Chicago, which has produced numerous award-winning films, including *Hoop Dreams* and *Golub*. I've worked my way up to becoming one of their team of editors. I can’t imagine a better place to work."

**Screen Credits**
*Vietnam Long Time Coming*, *5 Girls*, *Refrigerator Mothers*, *Stevie*, *The New Americans*. These films have appeared in theaters, on network television, and on PBS.

"*The New Americans* is a seven-hour series that was shown over three nights on PBS this past March. We followed individuals from five countries over four years, chronicling their struggles before and after they immigrated to the United States. Editing this series was one of the most satisfying experiences of my life. The viewer response has been tremendous."

**Upcoming Projects**
"I’m working to put together a production team to film *I, Lucifer*, a novel by British writer Glen Duncan. It’s funny, literate, and very sacrilegious. And with all the attention to Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*, now might be a good time to make a dark comedy about the devil. Johnny Depp would be perfect in the lead role."

"MC5: A True Testimonial* will be released in theaters this year. It’s a film about the influential but short-lived 1960’s Detroit garage-rock band MC5. We also have a big project underway about stem cell research."

**On Kalamazoo College**
"I sought out the theatre program at Kalamazoo because I enjoyed so many aspects of what comprises theatre, such as history, psychology, literature, and working closely with a group of people on a creative project. Plus, to be honest, there was immense ego gratification, and it unquestionably deepened my self-confidence. Working with others to produce films has many similarities and requires the same kind of commitment, versatility, and thoughtfulness."
**Jeff Patterson ’97**
Actor, Los Angeles

*K-Plan*

**Acting Career**
Jeff Patterson’s first professional acting gig was with The Barn Theatre, a long-running and long-respected summer stock troupe in Augusta, Michigan, 15 miles east of Kalamazoo. While he mostly “cut the grass and painted fences,” Jeff appeared on stage in a few musicals.

Kim Zimmer, a veteran television soap opera actress, saw Jeff perform and helped him land an audition with the casting director of the CBS soap “The Guiding Light.” This led to a small recurring role on the show and a move to New York City where he also appeared in a few off-off-Broadway acting roles.

In a business where being seen is everything, Jeff was lucky enough to be spotted on stage by both a theatrical manager and an agent who introduced him to new opportunities in television and film. In the past year, he’s had leading roles in several productions, including the pilot episode of *One Too Many*, a half-hour TV comedy about five Gen-Nexters living in a small Los Angeles apartment, and *Whippersnapper*, a feature-length independent film shot in New York City.

This fall, Jeff will appear in the co-starring role of U.S. Marine Corporal Derrick Roberts in *Winning the Peace*, a Showtime Original Movie about the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the war in Iraq. Watch for this fall on both Showtime and The Sundance Channel. Jeff and his fellow actors had to attend a simulated marine boot camp to prepare for their roles.

“One great thing about acting is you get to do crazy stuff like training with the most elite division of the Marines. These guys were the real deal and by the end of boot camp they had the actors working and thinking like a true unit.”

Long term, Jeff would like to continue acting, as well as start his own production company. Currently, he’s working as an associate producer on the motion picture *Supercross: The Movie*, due in theaters this summer. He’s co-written a film script titled *Lake Effect* that is loosely based on experiences growing up in Southwest Michigan.

“So much of being an actor is about taking risks and exposing yourself for others to judge. My Kalamazoo College experiences, especially theatre, really prepared me for this. I still remember sitting in a circle on stage in Balch Theatre before every rehearsal. Ed [Menta, professor of theatre arts] would have us each share a part of our day, good or bad. In that safe, creative environment, we learned to take risks. That experience is still with me.”

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**Rocky Russo ’01**
Actor, Los Angeles

*K-Plan*

**Acting Career**
Two days after commencement ceremonies on the Kalamazoo College Quad, Rocky Russo landed a part in a Chicago-based play. During the next two years, the Kalamazoo native appeared on numerous Chicago stages in both improvisational and theatrical roles. His improv work took him to places such as Second City and Frankie J’s. Two stage plays in which he appeared, *The Cider House Rules* at the Famous Door Theatre and *Journey’s End* at the Seanachai Theatre (in which he played the leading role), claimed many of the major 2003 “Jeff” awards, the Chicago equivalent of the Tony’s.

Rocky also appeared in television commercials for George Foreman Grills, the U.S. Military, and other advertisers. In the summer of 2003, he was cast in a pilot episode for “The Roaring ’20s” television show. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Los Angeles.

“While I still haven’t booked anything here in L.A., I have an agent and a manager who get me out to auditions. It’s an adjustment to go from working a lot to having intermittent auditions, but I’ll be okay. My Kalamazoo College experience taught me both to take risks and to be patient.”

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**Jeff Patterson (left) and in *Joe Hill* on the Kalamazoo College stage.**

**Rocky Russo (left) and in *Glengarry Glen Ross* on the Kalamazoo College stage.**
Dear Prez

The future rumbles and roars outside the President’s office window. Across Academy Street bulldozers and cranes are midwives to the birthing groans of what will be the new (and much improved) Upjohn Library. But President Jones won’t see that parturition.

On July 1, 2004, Dr. James F. Jones, Jr., 16th president of Kalamazoo College, will become the 21st president at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Dear Prez, begin the student e-mails filling up his inbox. Best of luck on your farther journey, but we will miss you....

The good wishes are mixed with regrets, as students and alumni spanning eight years of a presidential tenure write their notes and cards, lean into the doorway of his office, stop him as he walks across the campus, or knock on the door of Hodge House to ask if they might—yet once more—take one of the three “first dogs” (Irish field setters) for a walk. To many students, he’s just Jimmy. Others call him “the Prez.”

President Jones stands at his office window for a moment watching the bulldozers. He recalls how his presidency here began, which was not unlike the way it is ending: with e-mails.

“The first time I walked into this office eight years ago, sat down at this desk, and turned on the computer,” he says, “I found 16 e-mails waiting for me. It was astounding. The students hadn’t even met me yet, but they had written notes addressed to ‘Dear Prez,’ that said: ‘Welcome Home.’ I knew I had come to someplace special.”

With the president’s residence, Hodge House, not yet available, Jones stayed with his dog Reva at Trowbridge Hall his first days on campus, moving into one of the rooms meant for students. His wife and family—Jan, sons Justin and Jason, daughter Jennifer—were preparing for the family’s move from Dallas, Texas, where Jones had served as dean of Southern Methodist University’s Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and vice provost of the university.

“For years, Jan had been telling me what an extraordinary value could be found in the liberal arts college. She had attended and loved a liberal arts college.” Jones smiles. “And she was right. Kalamazoo College is a truly remarkable place. And my experience began with students who saw me, well, as just another fellow learner. After eight years, that hasn’t changed.”

Jones inherited a college with tremendous potential, in need of updating and repair.

“As brilliant as the K-Plan is,” he says, “a school cannot thrive without maintenance. The residence halls needed renovation, the kitchens had not been updated in forty years. Dewing Hall was falling apart. The Light Fine Arts Building required updating. Annual fund goals were consistently unmet. But I quickly learned that I was working with one of the best groups of trustees any president could wish for.”

An important part of President Jones’ legacy has been the change in the College’s endowment, so critical to the excellence of the liberal arts learning experience. It grew from $69 million in 1996 to $133 million in 2003.

Another legacy is the campus facelift. Renovations and improvements were completed in the Dewing Hall classroom and faculty office building, the Light Fine Arts Building, the Hicks Student Center, the Humphrey House classroom and faculty office building, and the Anderson Athletic Center.
A president who will do anything for his College, President Jones becomes “Farmer Jimmy” on Earth Day, driving a team of oxen as part of a fundraiser for Tillers International and The Heifer Project, nonprofit organizations that promote sustainable development in Third World countries.
At Hodge House, Jan Jones is contemplating the work of packing and moving to Connecticut. The Jones family has made many moves, but this was a longer stay than first expected.

“When we arrived in Kalamazoo,” she says, “we had two kids in college and one still at home, so I was busy with family, even while enlarging our family to include the students of Kalamazoo College.”

Jan holds a Master’s degree in math education, and she did consulting for teacher training and curriculum development in Texas. She continued consulting during her years in Kalamazoo and became an active member of the community on and beyond the Kalamazoo College campus. She served on the boards of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, the Stulberg International String Competition, and the Kalamazoo Academy, and belonged to the Current Events Club. On campus, she took part in the planning and renovation of the Wildemuth Room and the President’s Lounge in the Hicks Center, participated in the Women’s Council, and established a program of baking and delivering birthday cakes to students.

“With children in college,” she says, “I understood the importance both to the parents and their child to have that connection on a special occasion. When I proposed the idea to the Women’s Council, they loved it. The parent chooses what kind of cake they would like delivered, and the ladies of the Council bake the cakes—about 30 to 35 cakes per academic year. Whenever possible, I have delivered the cake personally to the student. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know the students here. The proceeds from the cakes have enlarged the Women’s Council Scholarship endowment by several thousand dollars.”

Jan’s goal when coming to Kalamazoo College was to make a contribution to the College community without, as she puts it, “invading anyone’s space. I wanted to be engaged without micromanaging.” She has hosted countless dinners and receptions at Hodge House for faculty, staff, trustees, guest speakers, and various visitors to the College.

“Kalamazoo College has been a wonderful home to us,” she says. “It has always been a pleasure to work with the students. On occasion, I have had the opportunity to help a student with her SIP or to speak to a Women’s History class about college life at a women’s college like the one I attended. The people of this college community are like family to us. The relationships we have built here will endure for our lifetimes.”

To the Editor:

At the end of this past academic year, our beloved institution bid farewell to President Jones and to Craig Schmidt, senior major gift officer.* The loss of these dedicated professionals presents a challenge for the College. When President Jones came in the mid-1990’s, Kalamazoo College required some reorientation and a financial boost. I believe that Jimmy’s passion for his job and his admiration for Kalamazoo College’s legacy brought new energy to the campus and to fundraising. Craig Schmidt certainly helped with the financial improvement. Both individuals were needed, and both stayed long enough to make a profound positive impact. My family and I have been fortunate to be able to know Jimmy on occasional trips to Kalamazoo. I developed a stronger relationship with Craig as he traveled to Wisconsin over the last several years. Both individuals approached their jobs with a strong sense of commitment to the College, and both will be missed by students and alumni. Jimmy and Craig, I salute you both for your dedication to the College and wish you well at Trinity and Grinnell. Thank you both for your contributions to Kalamazoo College.

Tom Brown ’67

*Craig Schmidt accepted a major gift officer position with Grinnell College (Grinnell, Iowa). The creation of the major gift office and a strengthening of the entire College advancement operation occurred during President Jones’s tenure.
1 Ready for LandSea (from left): President Jones, Director of Admission John Carroll, and Trustee Jim Robideau ’76. 2 Jimmy and Jan Jones at Hodge House with (l-r): Atticus, Ashland, and Colleen. 3 President Jones enjoys a campfire with students at Killarney Provincial Park in Ontario.
String Holds

The Kalamazoo College men’s tennis team captured its 66th consecutive MIAA championship. The Hornets finished the conference season undefeated (5-0) and were tops in the conference tournament, winning eight of nine flight championships. The women’s tennis team finished third at the 2004 MIAA Tournament and tied for third overall in the league standings. Kalamazoo women won flight championships at six singles (Kristin Hirth), one doubles (Meaghan Clark/Kara Hoorn), and three doubles (Marci Messenger/Laura Spencer). Clark finished second at one singles, and Hoorn finished third at two singles. Pictured is Dave Atallah, a sophomore from Farmington Hills, Mich., and number five singles flight men’s tournament champion.

Maurer was head coach of the women’s swimming and diving team for 33 years and director of women’s athletics for 18 years. This past year, she served as assistant coach for the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams. She has seen a great deal of change during three and a half decades at Kalamazoo College, the most dramatic of which has occurred in women’s sports.

“The athletic opportunities available to young women prior to college are much better today. In the past, women’s athletics coaches had to start their teaching and coaching at a more basic and fundamental level. Today, the athletes come to college more advanced in their sports,” she adds.

Anyone who enjoys a 35-year tenure in an organization will experience change, says Maurer. “But some of the best aspects of the College have not changed,” she adds.

“The students remain some of the best and brightest, for example. The quality and diversity of the students have made my long stay here seem, well, short,” she adds.

“I admit that I don’t suffer fools lightly, which explains why I’ve enjoyed my career at Kalamazoo College. ‘K’ students are interesting and interested. As a result, teaching and coaching them are meaningful to both parties.”

Like most Kalamazoo College coaches, Maurer became a jack-of-all-trades, coaching not only swimming and diving, but also golf, cross-country, and tennis. She has also taught a variety of classes in the physical education field.

“Kalamazoo College practices the ‘Greek ideal’—that strong minds and strong bodies are equally important for an excellent education. That practice has made my coaching and teaching experiences all the more rewarding.”

That ideal explains why Kalamazoo College offers a better and more authentic student-athlete experience than Division-I schools.

“Our student athletes excel in two areas that they enjoy: academics and sports. Competing as a member of a team is an indispensable part of a liberal arts education.”

Retirement will not slow Maurer down. Traveling and golfing will figure prominently in her future. And, as with any true student athlete, so also will academics.

“I’m planning on re-learning German, and I can’t think of a better place to do this. I’m excited to take some time and learn from some of my colleagues.”

Under Maurer’s tutelage, the Hornets’ women’s swimming and diving
program collected five MIAA championships. Her teams posted an impressive record of 181-127. She also chaired the NCAA National Golf Committee. But these accomplishments are not the deepest source of her pride.

“I am most proud of the postgraduate achievements of my former athletes, because in those achievements I recognize the influence of Kalamazoo College and, more specifically, the role of athletics at Kalamazoo College. It is intensely gratifying to see athletes succeed here and then achieve excellence in their chosen walks of life—physicians, scientists, mothers, teachers, businesswomen, lawyers, and leaders. And any small part I may have had in those achievements is my truest source of pride over the last 35 years.”

for many people, a college education is both a beginning and an end. After the acquisition of a degree, some students consider the mission accomplished, and the task of self-education is discarded with last semester’s textbooks. This is not the case with Kristin Hirth.

Hirth, originally from East Dummerston, Vermont, found Kalamazoo College by way of her father.

“My Dad got his Master’s from Western Michigan University, and he was familiar with Kalamazoo College’s strong international program. That was a big factor in my coming here.”

The Hirth family made two campus visits before Kristin decided that the K-Plan was right for her.

She came to Kalamazoo with plans of playing MIAA soccer, and did so for her first year. After that freshman season, Hirth decided to try a change of pace and joined the Hornets’ women’s tennis team. Since then, she has been the number six singles flight champion at the MIAA tournament in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

“Tennis has had a powerful effect on my time at Kalamazoo College. Of course, I love to compete, but the value of participating goes deeper than satisfying that yearning for competition. I’ve met an amazing group of teammates, and they are great role models, both on and off the court.”

The balancing of athletics and a steady academic load can be difficult at times, but Kristin thinks that the challenge has actually helped her succeed.

“In the long run, the fact that I attempted so much proved beneficial to me. Academics and athletics provided a schedule and the discipline to keep to it. Those demands and that discipline sharpened my focus on both school and tennis. In the end, I feel my academic efforts would have suffered without athletics.”

In the summer before her senior year in high school, Hirth participated in a study abroad program in Ghana. “That’s what started me thinking about Kalamazoo College,” she says. “My international experiences prior to college sparked my interest in Kalamazoo’s study abroad program.”

In her junior year at “K”, Hirth lived and studied in Dakar, Senegal, West Africa. “We took 100 hours of Wolof, which is the most widely spoken language in Senegal. We also studied the history of Islam in a course that was intended specifically for Kalamazoo College students.”

Both classes that Hirth took at the l’Universite Cheikh Anta Diop revolved around urban sociology and its pertinence to Senegal and its residents.

During her time abroad, Hirth began to brainstorm about her Senior Individualized Project (SIP). She wanted to examine the ways in which the systems of care for developmentally disabled persons differed cross-culturally. It was not going to be an easy task.

“A lot of people told me that I should change my focus, as research and literature from the other countries would be hard to come by. But I was interested in the subject, and I didn’t want to give up on it. My brother is developmentally disabled, so my SIP became a project that combined my international and my personal interests.”

Her persistence paid off with the completion of Looking Cross-Culturally at the Care Systems of Developmentally Disabled People. Hirth concentrated on the care systems in Botswana, China, South Africa, and the United States.

“As I did my research, it was important to resist an ethnocentric point of view and to look at each country’s care system on its own merits. I’m quite proud of how the SIP turned out.”

Hirth considers the project far more than a nagging graduation requirement that could finally be checked off.

“My SIP opened up an entire new area of interest for me. The project taught me a great deal and sparked a passion I plan to pursue after graduation.”

Hirth’s thirst for learning and her desire to serve the public good will persist beyond (and because of) her undergraduate years.

“I will probably end up in graduate school eventually, but this summer I plan on working with mental health patients at a summer camp in Vermont.”
Michael Wiegers ’87 came to Port Townsend more than a decade ago, and he found a small but fiercely devoted office staff of two people at Copper Canyon Press. Today, Michael is the executive editor working with a staff that has tripled.

When he was a high school senior in St. Louis (Mo.), Michael did what he calls “the typical summer college tour. I checked out colleges throughout the Midwest. Beloit, all the Wisconsin schools, Notre Dame. And then there was Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo College won me over with its study abroad program and a curriculum geared towards independent study.”

Michael declared biology his major, studied in Spain, and interned in Philadelphia (Penn.). Nevertheless, his classes in English at Kalamazoo convinced him there was another passion awaiting him.

“I had wonderful professors who transformed me,” he says. “Gail Griffin, Conrad Hilberry, Colette Inez, Herb Bogart. They taught me how to read in a way that far transcends decoding words on a page. Gail nurtured a sense of other voices, notions of justice, and an ability to look into ways of thinking differently. From Bogart I learned the classics, how important it is to not lose our literary traditions while following the progression of poetry over the ages. Con taught that poetry is not territorial; it is for everyone. And Colette Inez showed me that—‘Wow, I can write too!’”

Books became Michael’s life. After graduation, he worked various jobs, moving to Boston, and then to Minneapolis. There, he was editor at a small publishing house called Coffee House Press. His partner, Kate Garfield ’87, worked as a bookseller and literary agent.

When Michael heard about a job opening in Port Townsend at a press he respected, he applied for the position and was hired.

Nowadays, two thousand manuscripts a year pass through his hands, awaiting judgment. “Copper Canyon Press values poetry, the relationships built by poetry, and the connections we make with our authors,” he says. “There is a devotion here to the art of the book.”

That art resonates with what Michael learned at Kalamazoo College: Life’s deepest value is found in connections.

“Poetry is language,” he says. “And language connects to the soul, creating an intense experience, not unlike devotion to the divine.”

Copper Canyon Press publishes an average of 18 books a year and maintains an active backlist of 160 titles from major, mid-career, and emerging writers. Criteria for publication include the excellence of the work and its fit within the backlist. Michael consults with his staff, listening to anyone who wishes to champion a particular poet.

“We always enjoy discovering a new author, but we also have a commitment to poets that we publish year after year,” Michael says. “Sometimes I need to give a manuscript a second chance. I’ve turned some down, only to be haunted by the poetry afterwards. We like to look beyond the traditional. Ninety-five percent of the publishing industry today is controlled by big publishers. At a small press like Copper Canyon, we can take a risk on excellence that may not become a guaranteed big seller. It’s up to the small presses to bring in new and diverse voices.”

Emily Warn ’77, long time board member for Copper Canyon Press, says: “Michael has a
genius for being an advocate for authors. He forms relationships that tie donors to authors to publishers.’

Emily is a poet as well as longtime board member. She discovered Sam Hamill (the founder of Copper Canyon Press) in his cabin in the woods, put up her tent nearby, and showed him her manuscript. “We made an instant intellectual and soul connection,” she says. “And Copper Canyon Press published my first book of poetry, The Leaf Path.”

To find Emily wandering the woods is a common occurrence. Her major at Kalamazoo College was English, but she always possessed a keen interest in botany. Her passion for words and for nature is evident in her work.

“Kalamazoo College strengthened my discipline, and provided a fundamental education that would serve me in all walks of life,” says Emily. “When I took a writing class with Conrad Hilberry, I found my calling. Until then, I was a stranger wherever I went. Con’s class changed the direction of my life.”

Emily’s calling took her into the wilderness, but always with a good book (or three) under her arm and in her backpack. She worked as a park ranger, often living as a recluse with books for company. She’s also worked on fishing boats and done time in the corporate world, working for Microsoft.

“We learned to thrive in diverse experiences at Kalamazoo College,” she says.

Emily’s more recent poetry collection, also published by Copper Canyon Press, is titled The Novice Insomniac; her two chapbooks are The Book of Esther (Jugum Press) and Highway Street (Limberlost Press). She earned her Master’s degree in creative writing from the University of Washington. She has received many honors and awards including a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University (1992), the Pushcart Prize Anthology Outstanding Writer Award, as well as various grants and poetry commissions. She recently moved to Lynchburg, Virginia, where she teaches English at Lynchburg College.

Amy Schaus Murphy is the most recent of Kalamazoo College graduates to journey to Port Townsend. Soon after graduation, Amy and husband Kevin Murphy (both are members of the Class of 1999) went west to seek their fortunes. They looked for jobs in Seattle, but when they saw the big city sprawl, they knew it was not for them. Port Townsend was just across the bay, and when Amy walked into the small white building with a green roof and shutters, holding out her resume to the executive editor, Michael Wiegers, she had no idea she was facing a fellow Kalamazoo College graduate.

“There we were, an entire country away from little Kalamazoo, and we were both from the same point of origin,” Amy laughs. “No doubt it helped get me hired. That was in the fall of 1999, and I started working as a production intern, a voluntary half-time position assisting Michael.”

At first, Amy shared an office with Michael. His daughter, Ella, had just been born, and he was taking paternity leave, showing up at the office from time to time to check on things. But Michael was so impressed with Amy’s hard work and dedication that she was soon offered the fulltime paid position of production manager.

According to Amy, a liberal arts education enables one to handle those situations. She had learned how to learn quickly and how to be innovative. Michael assures all who will listen: Amy was the most organized person at the Press. She brought order to chaos, made poetry out of dishovelment.

“As an English major,” Amy says, “I also learned how to read and how to write. Sounds basic enough, but it isn’t.”

Amy remembers classes she took with Diane Seuss, who was also her academic advisor, and with Gail Griffin. “Work shopping,” as she calls it, in Di’s class taught her to decide what is working, and what isn’t, in a piece of creative writing. She learned how to proof and to read with a critical eye for detail. In addition to these concrete skills, Amy
acquired a gut instinct to learn. "And that I consider a gift for a lifetime," she says.

Her study abroad in Senegal deepened her love of language and provided an appreciation for living without luxury.

"Translation work at Copper Canyon Press," Amy says, "reminds me of my time in Senegal. I had studied French and I wanted to go to Paris, but there wasn't a program available in that city, so I ended up going to Senegal, where I had absolutely no knowledge of Wolof, the indigenous language. I had to learn fast. Today, I sometimes find my dreams and thoughts will tangle into three languages—English, French, Wolof."

Amy also went to Senegal as a self-described radical feminist. "But I had to take a hard look at feminism as we define it here once I saw it from the viewpoint of another culture," she explains. "Senegalese women live a segregated life, but it works for them. It works in their culture. From a Westernized perspec-

tive, it could seem oppressive, but I learned to look at their lifestyle choices as choices they made within the confines of their culture. It expanded my own outlook on being a woman greatly."

At one time, Amy admits, she might have considered herself something of a wallflower, demure in her approach to life, but being a Kalamazoo College student changed that. She can walk into the unknown, face a challenge, and turn it into poetry.

Perhaps a yearning for the unknown combined with a confidence to venture there (both qualities cultivated at Kalamazoo College) brought Michael, Emily, and Amy to Copper Canyon Press. That combination, and a love for poetry. And a need for lifelong learning as basic as food, water, and oxygen. All are coins of the realm at Copper Canyon and Kalamazoo College. LE

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Tower of Babel
by Emily Warn

After days, the torrential rains stop. Clouds loiter in a tidy sky. Fallen behind, they give up and dissolve.

I find a pine with step-ladder branches. From the top rung I hear wind scattering original language. All day I listen as it lifts words, feeds them to crows, and worries leaves with messages.

To gather scattered clans, our ancestors flung their name among stars—a fleeting constellation when God hid their words in the wind's voices, limiting their pitch to whispers of leaves.

Did the starry-eyed people of Shinar climb to topple God, or simply to ask: Teach us the plenitude of living invisibly, of rushing through as water or wind. Teach us when to return, startled, to the outer limits of air.

from The Novice Insomniac, published by Copper Canyon Press, 1996
Why I Give:
Patricia Weinrick ’97

Patty Weinrick graduated seven years ago, but she’s constantly amazed by the fact that Kalamazoo College still remains a huge part of her life—even though she lives in Columbus, Ohio. “I can’t believe how many times Kalamazoo College has come up in conversation,” says Patty. “Not a week goes by that I don’t bump into someone who went to Kalamazoo or who knows someone who went there. My hairdresser even knows about Kalamazoo College!”

Kalamazoo College’s ability to leave a lasting impression on the many lives it touches is just one of the reasons why Patty gives to the Kalamazoo College Fund (KCF). “I wouldn’t be where I am today without the education and experiences that Kalamazoo College provided me. I want to help provide that same chance to other students.” Patty’s K-Plan has certainly taken her far. A math major with physics and computer science minors, she is currently a senior software engineer for America Online. Patty credits her time abroad in Bonn, Germany, as life changing, yet another reason she contributes to the KCF.

As if her “K” ties don’t already run deep enough, Patty recently married Ben Palchick, whose parents Bernard and Lisa have played significant roles in the College over the years: Bernard is the interim president of the College and Lisa is its dean of libraries and information services.

Found! The missing link

A comprehensive directory of Kalamazoo College alumni, AlumNet will help you search for old friends, plan an event in your area, or update your own information. Entirely new, easy to use and secure, this service is open only to Kalamazoo College alumni.

Log onto www.kzoo.edu/aluminfo/alunnet to register. What are you waiting for? The online community awaits you!

Save the Date!

July 23, 24, 2004
Class Agent Weekend
Kalamazoo College

August 2004
Kalamazoo Alumni Gathering
Saturday, August 14
USTA Alumni & Friends
Tennis and Lunch begin at 11:00 a.m.

September 2004
New York Alumni Gathering
Wednesday, September 8
USTA Open Tennis, Men’s / Women’s Quarterfinals 7 p.m.
Arthur Ashe Stadium, Flushing Meadows, NY
Tickets available through Alumni Office, 269.337.7283/shavilar@kzoo.edu
Rochester, NY, Alumni Gathering
Friday, September 17
269.337.7283/shavilar@kzoo.edu
Important Voices

When Kalamazoo College senior and singer Zachary Mondrow enters the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City as a candidate for Cantorship next fall, he will already have some important performance experience to his credit. On February 26, Mondrow, a baritone, sang two Hebrew selections not only for alumni, friends, and family at NYC's Jewish Museum, but also for author Evi Blaikie. Blaikie was in attendance to read from her book *Magda's Daughter: A Hidden Child's Journey Home*, which chronicles life during the Holocaust and after. Both Zachary and Evi were warmly received and discovered a thread that binds their work together: Through her writing, Blaikie gives voice and pays tribute to survivors of the Holocaust. As a cantor, Zachary too will raise his voice in admiration and celebration of Jewish law and life.

Meet your new AAEB

The Alumni Association Executive Board convened on campus on March 13 to elect new officers and discuss a number of important issues, among them the progress of the library and the Harris Online Directory. Robin Lake ’90 was named President (Bonnie Wachter Swenby ’69 will become Past President). David Easterbrook ’69 was elected Vice President, and Chris Bussett ’78 was elected Secretary. The board also elected two new alumni trustees, Kevin Howley and West Nelson, both from the class of ’81. They will each serve a three-year term. Kevin’s most recent position was Senior Vice President for U.S. Operations for Transcontinental, one of the largest printing companies in North America. He is currently retired and plays stay-at-home dad to his 5-year-old son Langston. West resides in New York City. He is a computer consultant and heads the NYC chapter of the alumni association. Following the meeting, the group treated the senior class to a little networking and a lot of pizza in the Olmsted Room.

Call for Nominations

The office of Alumni Relations and Kalamazoo College Fund is accepting nominations for the following alumni awards:

- Athletic Hall of Fame
- Distinguished Achievement
- Distinguished Service
- Weimer K. Hicks Award

To see award guidelines and to submit a nomination, visit www.kzoo.edu/aluminof/awardnomination.html

For a candidate to be considered for 2005 induction, Kalamazoo College must receive the nomination by October 8, 2004.

For more information, contact Sara Wiener ’03, (269) 337-7288 or swiener@kzoo.edu

A Scientist's Philanthropy

Class agent Don Schneider ’63 on Kalamazoo’s special mission

Don Schneider’s distinguished career as a scientist has taken him from one prestigious university to the next (Cornell and MIT among them) where he has made a number of important scientific discoveries. He is currently director of the division of molecular and cellular mechanisms in the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Don’s career exemplifies the concept of lifetime learning, a concept that is the hallmark of the Kalamazoo College experience. Below, he shares his thoughts on giving back.

What made you choose Kalamazoo College?

Kalamazoo College’s proximity to my hometown Muskegon, Mich., was definitely a part of my decision to attend. But it was the College’s small, nurturing atmosphere and its emphasis on excellence that immediately attracted me.

What sort of an impact has the K-Plan had on your life?

The experiences I had at Kalamazoo College shaped me as a person and a scientist and did much to ingrain the value of work, excellence, friendship, adventure, and teamwork. Among these experiences: James Baldwin visiting my freshman writing class inspired me to improve my writing; and a bird banding trip to the Everglades with biology professor Lewis Batts had a profound impact on expanding my curiosity.

Why do you give back?

Because Kalamazoo College has a special mission in education. It fosters an environment where people need not be pigeonholed but are instead nurtured and challenged to excel in any manner they find uniquely appropriate. Much as Ben Franklin endowed Boston Latin in perpetuity, I want others to have special experiences at Kalamazoo like the ones that served many of us so well.
We want you to know how important you are to your College’s future.

So, we want to develop substantive and lasting relationships with you (alumni and alumnae, parents and friends) in order to encourage your support of Kalamazoo College and to educate you about the importance of annual giving in sustaining the College’s tradition of excellence. The Kalamazoo College Fund (KCF) is the annual giving program that supports current operations. Its yearly cash gifts from alumni and alumnae, parents, and friends are unrestricted, and, as such, support all areas of the College.

That was then.

This is now. This fiscal year (July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005), for the first time, you will have the ability to direct your KCF gift to one of three broad categories. The change will allow donors to have a direct impact in the area of their own greatest interests. Their gifts will be unrestricted within the category they choose.

The three categories are Kalamazoo College’s greatest needs, scholarships, and faculty and teaching resources. Funds directed toward greatest needs cover exigencies that are sometimes unanticipated, such as an incoming class with high financial need, or a new roof for one of the academic buildings. This category gives Kalamazoo the flexibility to respond to unexpected opportunities and urgencies.

Funds directed toward scholarships will help cover the nearly $12 million that the College spends annually in financial support for current and incoming students. A scholarship-directed KCF gift gives the College the flexibility to provide merit-based scholarships as well as need-based financial aid packages. Approximately 98 percent of all Kalamazoo College students receive some form of financial assistance each year, so funds directed toward this scholarship category will help make “K” possible for another generation of qualified and diverse students.

Gifts designated for faculty and teaching resources help faculty members to expand and enrich their curricula, involve students in their research, and innovate in the classroom. These gifts also help pay for scientific equipment, teaching resources, and departmental support, and thereby improve learning opportunities for all students.

Your unrestricted support within whatever category you choose directly benefits Kalamazoo students. Gifts to the KCF in any of the three categories continue to count towards alumni and alumnae participation, which demonstrates to the rest of the world the degree to which Kalamazoo College alumni and alumnae invest in their alma mater. Your support is imperative for the future success of Kalamazoo College.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

*How do these categories differ from designated gifts?*

Even though the dollars are directed toward a broad category, they remain part of the unrestricted pool. This means that the College has flexibility to use the gifts in each category to its discretion based on greatest need. For example, when you give to faculty and teaching resources, your dollars may go toward research equipment or other pedagogical tools, depending on where the greatest need is each fiscal year.

*If I direct my support toward the scholarship category of the KCF, will you tell me the name of the student who receives my gift?*

No. KCF gifts are unrestricted, even when they are geared in a specific direction. That means all dollars used to support scholarships will help make up the $12 million the College spends to accommodate financial need annually. Your gift will combine with all of the other gifts directed toward scholarship, and will make up pieces of many students’ financial support. All scholarship gifts will help close the gap between tuition and the actual cost to educate each student, just as all gifts to faculty and teaching resources will be used together to meet the most immediate needs of the departments.

*If I give to a specific academic department, is that part of the KCF?*

That is considered a designated gift, which means your dollars will not be counted toward class participation, nor will it be part of the KCF. Instead, you could direct your gift toward the faculty and teaching resources category, which would allow the College the flexibility to use funds to support the department or departments that have the most immediate needs to maintain exceptional quality in the classroom.

*If I give to the Athletic Fund part of the KCF?*

Your gifts to the Athletic Fund are considered designated, which means that they will not be counted toward KCF class participation. The athletic department conducts separate solicitations and has its own annual goals.

*If I give to a named scholarship, is that part of the KCF?*

No, this would be considered a designated gift. By directing your KCF dollars toward the scholarship category, however, you will help contribute to the vast pool that supports financial needs of our students. You will also allow the College the flexibility to use your undesignated funds for merit-based scholarships or need-based financial aid, wherever the need is the greatest annually.

*Why should I give to the KCF?*

There are many reasons to support the Kalamazoo College Fund, one of the main revenue sources for the College. Your gifts help maintain the excellence of Kalamazoo College, and they matter to current and future students’ educational experiences. Because of you, “K” is able to provide its exceptional and unique learning environment.
Family Ties Defy Distance
Unite Difference

by Zinta Aistars

S tan and Katheryn Rajnak understand how it feels to be in a foreign country, speaking a foreign language, knowing no one. Stan, a retired Kalamazoo College mathematics professor (1966-1996), and Katheryn, who was a part-time quantum physics and astronomy instructor at the College, lived and worked in France at one time. “I can remember the sense of isolation and being a stranger in a strange land,” Stan says. “But there were people there who made us feel welcome, and that made a difference. Now, in Kalamazoo, we do our best to make exchange students who come to Kalamazoo College feel welcome here.”

More than 30 exchange students from all points of the globe have lived at the Rajnak home while studying at Kalamazoo College. The Rajnaks remain in touch with almost all of them. “It’s difficult being an outsider,” Katheryn agrees. “We wanted these students visiting ‘K’ to feel that they had a family here, too. And now we feel as if we have children scattered across the globe.”

During their own frequent world travels, the Rajnaks have visited their “adopted” sons and daughters in Japan, Hungary, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Trinidad, Costa Rica, Kenya, Senegal, Mexico, France, and other places. A few of their “sons and daughters” now live permanently in the States. Several have been influenced in their career choices by the Rajnaks.

“We learn as much from these exchange students as they do from us,” Katheryn says. “After we had a student from Japan live with us, I decided to learn Japanese.”

“Occasionally, there have been cultural misunderstandings, but that is how we all learn. When we first began hosting students, we didn’t realize how close the bonds would be. After we had a fire in our house one year, our student helped us clean and repair the house, as any family member would.”

The Rajnaks also have made an ongoing gift to Kalamazoo College to help fund international programs, part of their effort to make the world more a family.

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Dirt Offerings

Anne E. Haeckl, Classical Studies, received the 2003-2004 Florence J. Lucasse Fellowship for Excellence in Scholarship. The award ceremony occurred on March 11 and, in true Kalamazoo College liberal arts fashion, attracted attendees from across the disciplines. “Anne has a wonderful visual imagination,” said Associate Professor of Art Billie Fischer, who authored and read Anne’s citation at the award ceremony. “She has, in classical Carl Anderson’s words, the ‘unique ability to look at archaeological ruins and almost magically visualize what a structure or piece of art looked like in situ.’”

Anne has taught at the University of Michigan, the University of Colorado, in Rome, and at Kalamazoo College since 1998. She has participated in 25 seasons of excavations: in Israel, at Carthage in Tunisia, in Jordan, at Berenike and elsewhere in Egypt, and, most recently, in Rome at the Villa of Maxentius, which is the site of the Kalamazoo College and University of Colorado Field School, a project Anne founded and co-directs.

She has published and presented many papers and contributed essays to books on Roman topics. Her paper “Brothers or Lovers?” was awarded the 2001 Oral Paper Award at the annual meeting of the American Institute of America last January. And Dan Botany, a senior sociology major, presented a paper to the CAPWS last April. His subject was a critical archaeological reassessment of a Fayum portrait formerly known as the “Jewish Woman.” Thus far, two SIPs have resulted from the first season of the archaeological field school at the Villa of Maxentius.

Anne’s longtime archaeological colleague Joann McDaniels (University of Michigan) evokes Anne’s skill as an archaeologist and as a teacher when she describes how Anne trained a novice in charge of an excavation square. Anne discussed the square’s stratigraphy, a discussion she calls a “strato-conference,” with the eager young man, “so eager to dig that we initially feared he might become a dog, forever digging random holes wherever we didn’t want them,” said McDaniels. “But he flourished under Anne, to the point that, as Anne would say, ‘the dirt began to speak to him,’ and after a while he no longer needed Anne to help him carry on a strato-conference. He was able to stand in his square and carry on a strato-conference with himself—and the dirt. It was a beautiful thing to see and hear,” added McDaniels.

Her ability to see what the dirt has to offer and to reconstruct the objects underneath it and their context is Anne’s great gift, according to Fischer. “She turns the past into the present,” says Fischer. “And like all fine scholars, she teaches students how to accomplish what she does.”

Anne E. Haeckl

Anne E. Haeckl with students on campus.
Rollin’

Is President Jimmy Jones singing a robust rendition of “Muleskinner Blues”? Or did he just step in something squishy? None of the above. He’s helping a student organization (ENVorg) raise funds for a worthy organization (Tiller’s International) and program (the Heifer Project).

June was Jimmy’s last month on campus before assuming the presidency of Trinity College (Hartford, Conn.). Kalamazoo College will miss him for many reasons, not least of which is that quality of his character that makes him willing to say to an inquiring student, “Sure, I’ll try to drive a team of oxen through an obstacle course.”

For a look back on the tenure of President James F. Jones, Jr., see page 24.