

LuxEsto

W I N T E R 2 0 0 6

*“Alas, poor human,
I knew him well...”*

**Dan Babbitt '96
and a New Guinea
Walking Stick**



Mid-October, 2005

Dear alumni and friends of Kalamazoo College:



The photos that accompany this letter were taken six weeks ago during the LandSea orientation program in which more than 80 members of the 367-strong Class of 2009 participated. One includes a perspective from high elevation, and the second, a close-up group photo, shows Vice President Bernard Palchick and me with patrol B, the group with whom we hiked and camped for several days. The different vantage points in these photographs (high on the hill and intimately connected with the patrol) represent to some degree the different perspectives that I have adopted as I have come to know Kalamazoo College.

During my initial months at the College I have had an opportunity to talk with faculty in individual conferences, to meet with students

in the residence halls, to visit with members of the administration and staff in their places of work, and to talk with alums, trustees, and friends of Kalamazoo College at Homecoming and at various receptions throughout the region. By the time you read this letter I will have visited alumni and friends in Kalamazoo, Lansing, Detroit, and Chicago. Future visits are planned for Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Boston, and more. These conversations have been much like those I had on LandSea with students individually or in small groups.



During these first few months I also have examined Kalamazoo College from a more distant perspective, focusing on institutional history, current challenges, and the landscape of liberal arts education in the 21st

century. As part of this process, even as I begin to envision the future, I have immersed myself in the College's history, learning more about the progressive leadership of James and Lucinda Stone, about Hoben's "Fellowship in Learning" and about the birth of the *Kalamazoo Plan*. Kalamazoo College has a rich history, a long tradition of educational innovation, and a strong commitment to community. Our campus is alive with faculty, staff, and students fully engaged in their work. We are blessed with

trustees, alumni, and friends who have a strong commitment to our future. We have much to be proud of.

We have a wonderful first-year class whose members have stellar academic qualifications. They hail from 27 states, and their backgrounds are equally varied. Some identify themselves as African-American, Asian-American, Dutch, Greek, Irish, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Kuwaiti, and Latina/Latino, among others. Religious affiliations include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, and Unitarianism. Many come from large cities, and others come from small towns and villages. Most have never experienced poverty, but a few have an intimate knowledge of its impact. It is not, however, the variety within the first-year class that is important. It is the use that each student makes of the opportunity that such a variety of perspectives might afford. What a wonderful opportunity to live and learn together.

During LandSea I had many conversations with these first-year students. I asked them why they had chosen Kalamazoo College and what they hoped to gain from their undergraduate experience. Several common themes emerged from their answers. They were struck by the friendliness of the people they met (faculty, staff, other students, and in some cases alumni and friends) during their visit or visits to campus. That friendliness made them confident that they "would not be a number here." These newest matriculates want to interact closely with faculty and fellow students. They look forward to the intellectual rigor and the challenge of small classes in which students and faculty come to know each other well as they learn together.

I am sure that if you were on campus to interact with our first-year class, not only would you be proud of them, I suspect you would identify with them. Because of the experiences that await them here, at the end of every quarter these first-year students (as many of you did) will see the world a bit differently. They will encounter and consider new ideas, and the implications of those ideas may lead them to restructure their view of the world. Their experience here will be about much more than preparing to make a living. This will be a time for considering how they will construct their lives, a time for refining their understanding of the world and of those with whom they share it, a time for assessing their place in the world and for determining their responsibility for improving it. These four brief years at Kalamazoo College (as they were for many of you) will be particularly influential to the lifelong practice of constructing a life. Sound familiar? Surely you will recognize such transformations, will remember those times when,

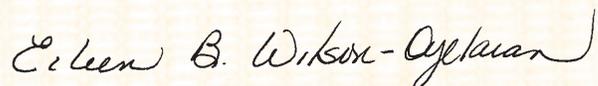
as the result of a class, a discussion with a teacher, or an exchange with friends, you began to see the world with fresh eyes.

So, in six short weeks my view of Kalamazoo College has been shaped by all of you: faculty, students, alumni, and friends. As a result, I see Kalamazoo College as a place that gets so much right. We have fine students who receive an exceptional education. Our alumni are leaders in their communities and their professions. We have a faculty with excellent credentials and staff that is hard-working and committed. As we face our challenges, and there are many, we must take the time to acknowledge what Kalamazoo College accomplishes. We must celebrate what we do well. The time has also come for us to define the essence of Kalamazoo College, to affirm who we are and what we would like to achieve in the future. The answers to these questions must emerge from our strengths rather than from comparisons to other colleges. Our aspirations should emanate from our strengths—from who we are and what we do well.

This will be a year of planning and a year of celebrating who we are! During this year we will implement a comprehensive strategic planning process designed to help us sharpen our focus, clarify our distinctiveness, and move forward with vigor and vitality. The process will be inclusive and timely, and the results of the comprehensive plan will guide our next comprehensive campaign. And we will celebrate, honoring the work of our students and faculty, opening the Upjohn Library Commons, and installing the 17th President.

You, alumni and friends, are important members of our community. With faculty, staff, and students, you share responsibility for Kalamazoo College's future. We look forward to engaging you in the months ahead. For all of us, may the remainder of the 2005-2006 academic year—my first at this exciting college—bring interesting questions, exciting answers, and, most of all, the exhilarating joys of learning.

Sincerely,



Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran, President



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

LuxEsto

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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.htm>

 the farther journey



"Creepy Crawly Career" was author Antonie Boessenkool's first impression of Dan Babbitt's job as a museum specialist at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum's Insect Zoo—sort of like what she felt when Dan showed her (perhaps a little too up close) a healthy Eastern Lubber Grasshopper (left photo). But by the end of her assignment, she had gained a new fascination with and appreciation for (if not exactly love of) insects. Insects inhabited the planet long before mankind, and because of their ability to adapt effectively to environmental changes (in part a function of their reproductive and evolutionary power) they may long survive us ("Alas, poor human ..."). At any given moment, say like right now, there are some 10 quintillion insects alive on the planet. To learn how many zeros that is, see the article on page 11.

Professional photography by Cameron Davidson and by the Smithsonian Institution

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The Kalamazoo College learning experience may help us with the unexpected and harrowing.

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Jonathan (Jothy) Rosenberg '78 has been responding to challenge since he nearly lost his life as a teenager. Today, challenge is a fuel for the furnace of his will.

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The love and loyalty of Russell Becker '44 for Kalamazoo College has endured through heartbreak and a sense of betrayal. His story illuminates the dangers of demagoguery.

Plus **Homecoming**; the first **letter to alumni from the president**; a **Trowbridge connection** across generations; in touch with **Kate Schulze '01**; the outreach of the **Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra**; some **reunion photos**; lots of **class notes**; and more ...

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LETTERS

To the Editor:

I always look forward to receiving *LuxEsto* and usually read it cover to cover. In the Summer 2005 issue I particularly enjoyed the two letters from John Parisi about his foreign study family. I too have had an ongoing relationship with my family in Erlangen. Two of the grandchildren have come to visit me. My sister's daughter came for three weeks while she was a medical student. I arranged with many friends for her to spend a day in many different hospitals, operating rooms, and offices. She saw procedures that I have never seen! She is now doing her residency in family practice, is married, and has a baby.

My Mutti is going strong at age 88. I spent a week with her in June while I attended an ophthalmology meeting in Nuernberg. Vati died three years ago. During my visit there was even a family wedding to attend. This family means alot to me, as I have very little family left here. They have always welcomed me "home" when I come to visit.

I know that John's and my stories are not unique. Several other "K" students who lived with my family have remained in contact. Marilyn Christlieb Archey remains very close to her Mutti. Because we lived a few blocks from each other in Erlangen, her Mutti was like an Aunt to me, so I always visit her too.

I don't know if students still have an opportunity to experience life in a foreign family For me it was wonderful, and I am ever-thankful for the multicultural experience I received at Kalamazoo College.

Susan Stuckey Thoms '70

To the Editor:

It was my honor and privilege to play for Joe Haklin from 1993 to 1997 as a member of the Kalamazoo College men's basketball program. His recent hiring as athletic director at Marian College, Indiana, is certainly the College's loss and Marian's gain. From 1987 to 2002 Coach Haklin led his Hornet teams to 218 wins overall and an NCAA Tournament bid in the 1995-1996 campaign. Led by this unmatched motivator and fierce competitor, Coach Haklin's teams were a worthy challenge to any MIAA opponent.

Despite his success on the court, I would argue that Coach Haklin's most important and positive contributions are to the players and students he influenced for nearly 20 years at Kalamazoo College. Joe Haklin is a man of impeccable character and integrity— invaluable characteristics to personify while leading and teaching young men in their formative years. I've discovered that what I learned from him during my time at Kalamazoo College has proved to be of equal or greater value to me than my academic work, study abroad, internship, or senior project. The qualities Coach Haklin instilled in my teammates and me remain applicable today: be accountable; be balanced; be passionate;

Kalamazoo College was fortunate to have Joe Haklin as a coach, teacher, and leader. I wish him the best of luck in the challenge that awaits him in Indiana.

Go Hornets.

Douglas Gordon '97

Trow Connection

Jane (Braithwaite) Griffiths '47 remembers the dances the faculty never knew about. "Someone would just set up a record player, and we'd dance," says the former English major, tennis player, basketball player, and member of Alpha Sigma Delta. "Because I had taken time off after high school to work, I was older than most of the students, but being accepted was never an issue. We had more in common than not. We all worked hard and truly

loved what we did. We were close and had a lot of fun."

Jane graduated with a teaching certificate in English and credits the "spirit of Kalamazoo College" for her success as a high school

teacher in Three Rivers and Clarkston, Mich.

"I remember how faculty and the students were at Kalamazoo College, and I tried to implement that special relationship into my career as a teacher. During my free planning period, for example, I would open my doors to any student that needed help, whether that meant help on class work or help with a personal problem." Jane retired in 1985 after 27 years of teaching.

Today she lives in Bonita Springs, Fla., with her youngest of three children. Her husband, Douglas Griffiths, a member of the Class of 1949 and World War II veteran, passed away in 2003.



Standing on the quad: Jane (left) at the beginning of her senior year in 1946, and her granddaughter (the author Laurel Griffiths '08) at the beginning of her sophomore year in 2005.



Pictured here with her mother, Rozetta, Jane is dressed for graduation in 1947.



The 1945-1946 girls' intramural basketball team. Jane is pictured in the front row, far right.

Jane's connection to Kalamazoo College has been renewed in a special way, for Jane Griffiths is my grandmother. I am very thankful that she passed down her love of learning to me. I am a sophomore at Kalamazoo College, pursuing an English degree like my grandmother.

Talking to my grandmother, I realized that many things have changed at Kalamazoo College since she attended. The dorms are co-ed; curfews

are gone; more buildings exist; new programs like study abroad are part of the tradition; the calendar is divided into 11-week quarters instead of 16-week semesters. But what really matters, the features that attracted me to Kalamazoo College, has remained the same. Kalamazoo College still boasts a highly rigorous academic program, a small, close student body, and a caring, nurturing faculty.

This year, I live in the same hall in Trowbridge where my grandmother resided—a new physical connection between our lives that deepens the sense of pride and intimacy we share.



In touch with... Kate Schulze '01

Kate Schulze has never shied away from “the farther journey.” As an undergrad from Palatine, Illinois, pursuing her BA degree in sociology and anthropology at Kalamazoo College, Kate journeyed to Zimbabwe for international study. As a staffer with the Red Cross in Chicago, she journeyed to Lower Manhattan to help victims of the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Now, after earning a Master’s degree in international studies, she embarks on her farthest journey yet, to medical school. Kate is the first to admit that her “path toward medical school is not linear.” But looking back, she sees clearly marked stepping stones.

Barely six weeks after graduating from “K”, Kate joined the Red Cross in Chicago as a disaster relief coordinator. Barely six weeks after that, she found herself aiding people in New York City who had lost their homes and livelihoods to the 9-11 attacks. “It was indescribably awful, yet amazing to see people pull together in so many ways.”

Working closely with staff and volunteers from other relief agencies, Kate helped people find short-term food, clothing, and shelter. Her two-month experience was at once galvanizing and frustrating. “I really saw the value of organizations like the Red Cross, and I witnessed the positive impact that individuals can have on people who are truly in need. But I had little to offer other than filling out forms and providing short-term assistance. I wanted to help people one-on-one, in a very direct way that would help them long term.”

Back in Chicago, Kate researched U.S. and international relief agencies in order to find a position that matched her desire to serve. To her dismay, most required a Master’s degree in international relations. Undaunted, she enrolled in the IR program at the University of Chicago in fall 2002, figuring she could use her new degree as a springboard to landing a job with a good organization, maybe back in Africa.

Kate also worked briefly at a health clinic in one of Chicago’s poorest, most violent neighborhoods. The doctors and nurses she encountered were passionate and dedicated despite the working conditions and low pay. “They fought for their patients,” she said, “and they really made a difference in their lives. I had no illusions about how hard their work was, but it was inspiring.”

Nor did she have the idea to become a doctor. But nurses have important tangible in-demand skills. Maybe, she thought, that was the answer. With her MA degree in hand, Kate took some pre-nursing classes at a local community college.

“After the University of Chicago, going to community college was like getting whiplash,” she said with a laugh. “But I enjoyed the science classes more than I thought I would. And I began to see that a career in health care might be the route I was looking for because people everywhere need good medical care.”



Still, there were doubts. As profound and important as the nursing profession is, would it be enough for her? A conversation with her sister, a physician completing a residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., helped her face the realization that maybe what she’d really wanted to do all along was become a physician.

“I finally had to admit to myself that I was simply scared of the long journey that would be in front of me. Nonetheless, it would be a journey worth taking.”

Kate’s journey took her to Goucher College in Baltimore, where she enrolled in a one-year, post-baccalaureate pre-medical program designed for people who lacked science pre-requisites from their undergrad days but want to go to medical school.

“It was perfect for me,” she said. “I had to take lots of hard classes, but Goucher wants to offer medical schools candidates who have strong academics, volunteer work, actual paid work, time in the lab, and real-world experiences. That was me.”

Kate was one of 30 students who completed the Goucher program in September 2004. Six applied to Brown Medical School in Providence, Rhode Island. She was one of two accepted for the four-year program.

“I’ve long had this notion that I want to help people. I know that sounds lame. But I can’t imagine doing anything else with my life. For so long I didn’t know how to put that in motion. Now I do, and it’s very exciting.”

Kalamazoo College Professor of Sociology Bob Stauffer was one of Kate’s teachers and her SIP advisor. “Kate absolutely embodies the internationalist and service themes of ‘K,’” he said. “Not only is she bright, she’s committed and enthusiastic about her new journey. She’s practically a poster child for Kalamazoo College.”

Kate is glad to represent her alma mater. She said she’s grateful for all the learning experiences she had at Kalamazoo. She’s especially glad for the friends she made here. “I’ve made good friends at my different stops. But my Kalamazoo College friends are the ones I can count on to be excited for me. When I get big ideas, like going to Africa or going to med school, they understand.”

People who are unfamiliar with Kalamazoo College often question the value of her sociology and anthropology degree to her new medical school pursuit. She quickly sets them straight.

“Learning about other people, cultures, and situations has been invaluable to me. Everywhere I’ve gone—Zimbabwe, New York City, Baltimore, University of Chicago, community college, Goucher—I was the outsider, the one crossing cultures. But because of my Kalamazoo College experience, I had the grace to realize that not only could I learn from them, but they could learn from me, and together we can offer more.”

Kate would enjoy hearing from her Kalamazoo friends. Contact her at kateschulze@hotmail.com. 

Stomps, Slaps, and Snaps: Classical Music, Kalamazoo College Style

Professor of Music Barry Ross's latest dream, the Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra, creates relationships with "musically underserved" audiences by serving food for the spirit (classical music) and for the body (pizza). In the process, Kalamazoo College students benefit from deeper immersion in music and community building.

Barry has taught at Kalamazoo College for 33 years. For 32 of those years he also served as concertmaster for the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra (KSO). And for the past 11 years he has conducted the Kalamazoo College and Community Orchestra, the 65 members of which include students and Southwest Michigan residents. Two years ago, Barry retired as KSO concertmaster (retaining his position as assistant director) and found the time to pursue a dream.

"In addition to the Kalamazoo College and Community Orchestra, I wanted to form a smaller, more flexible orchestra that could tour and play chamber orchestra literature that the larger orchestra does not have a chance to experience," says Barry. "I wanted the students of this orchestra to make music available not only to our College community but also to audiences that do not have the means to attend regular concerts."

Barry knows that live music has the power to break down barriers and create bridges between people of different ages, races, and life circumstances. "In listening to a live performance, we experience an immediate reaction to the energy and vibrancy of the music," he explains. "Often we are moved in ways that words cannot describe. I wanted our students to realize the transformative power of their musical gifts, and to experience the joy of sharing those gifts with appreciative listeners."

In order to make the dream a reality, Barry restructured the College's orchestra class. One of the class's two rehearsals focuses on the Kalamazoo College and Community Orchestra, but the other session is now entirely devoted to the new Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra. "Students are working harder and learning faster. They also are learning more music. Many of them now perform as soloists at Chamber Orchestra appearances. It's ratcheted up the artistic expectations."

The new orchestra performed its first concerts at two senior citizen residence centers, Heritage Community



Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra founder and conductor Barry Ross plays the violin.



Jakarra Nichols '06 performs a vocal solo during a concert by the Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra.

Home and the Senior Co-op, and both performances were enthusiastically received. It then cast a wider net with concerts for audiences that had rarely heard classical music before. "We played at Kalamazoo Ministry with Community, a soup kitchen and

free medical center," says Barry. "After we played our final piece, the whole audience stood up and cheered. They cheered! I've received applause before, but never cheers. When we announced that we wanted to stay and have dinner with them, they were just thrilled and overwhelmed. We made many friends that day."

Barry chose Baroque chamber orchestra music for the ensemble's repertoire. "I've been unable to delve into Baroque chamber orchestra music—the Bach *Brandenburg Concertos*, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and music of Corelli, Handel, and Telemann—with my large orchestra, but it's perfect for the Chamber Orchestra. We also play string music by more modern composers such as Barber, Tchaikovsky, and Grieg. Few groups in the community are focusing on this chamber orchestra literature, and it provides many opportunities for student solos—a great niche for Kalamazoo College students."

Perhaps the highlight of the Orchestra's young life was its concert at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home. "For those incarcerated kids, classical music can be a tough sell," says Barry. "I prepared a little talk for them about what it means to make your own music. Some of them were taking drumming, piano, or working with keyboards and computers. I explained, 'Now our music is not electronic; it doesn't go through mixing boards, coils, transistors, and wiring. The music you are going to hear is fingers and hands and expressions that these players apply directly from their hearts.' I think they got the idea that this live classical music was something different from the music they usually hear. I explained that the orchestra was



playing on musical instruments made of wood and gut and horse-hair, all organic materials. Nothing electronically altered the sounds from the moment they left our instruments. I wanted them to feel physically what it meant for our students to be creating the music they would be hearing.”

That concert featured a special guest artist. “We brought our gifted student drummer Rohan Krishnamurthy to perform,” explains Barry. “Rohan is quite exceptional in his ability to play the mridangam, the Indian two-headed drum. I had commissioned my very good friend, Elizabeth Start, daughter of the late Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Lester Start, to compose a piece of music titled ‘Echoes.’ The piece not only involved Rohan playing the mridangam and the orchestra members playing their instruments, it also called for the orchestra to make percussion sounds—tapping on the chin rest or making ‘BOING’ sounds by plucking strings. And the orchestra stopped three or four times during the piece and made rhythmic sounds with their bodies—stomps, thigh slaps, and finger snaps. The rhythm went: STOMP, SLAP, SNAP, SNAP; STOMP, SLAP, SNAP, SNAP. I taught this rhythmic figure to the audience. Then, when we performed the piece, brought them in on cue. In this way, the kids at the Juvenile Home became performing members of the Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra. And they loved it.”

And so did the Kalamazoo College students. They persuaded Barry to conduct ‘Echoes’ with the Kalamazoo College and Community Orchestra. “My wife, Jane, who is director of education for the Kalamazoo Symphony, heard a tape of that performance and thought it was fabulous,” adds Barry. “She suggested that the Kalamazoo Symphony perform ‘Echoes’ for the symphony’s Youth Concerts, which I direct. This is a series of eight concerts that the symphony performs for roughly 13,000 school children. It’s amazing to think that the world premiere of this exceptional piece occurred at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home.”

Barry considers the Juvenile Home concert, and all performances of the Chamber orchestra, significant learning experiences for each member of the Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra. “If students are able leave campus and meaningfully touch the lives of others through music, if only for a few hours each week, it reminds them that what they are learning here at Kalamazoo College has meaning and relevance to their future lives, to their families, to society in general.”

And the Kalamazoo College students do feel a gratifying sense of accomplishment. Barry knows because they tell him so. “They feel that bringing beautiful music to underserved audiences can be a truly powerful experience for performers as well as listeners; that to bring a smile to

the face of another person can be as important as getting a good grade on a test.”

The young orchestra and its work has had a profound effect on its conductor as well. “This has certainly brought a new dimension to my concept of what it means to be a teacher and a musician,” explains Barry. “I’ve learned how nourishing and nurturing great classical music can be. This orchestra has expanded my vision of how music can enlarge our notion of community.”

In just one year the orchestra has exceeded all its founder’s expectations. “The biggest surprise and delight for me is what happens after the concert. We bring in a meal, sit down together, and just share our lives, our experiences, our joys, with people in different circumstances than our own.”

Barry continues to be a restless dreamer. With a \$3,000 grant and the help of the Stryker Institute for Service-Learning, the Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra continues its activities this year. But Barry has more dreams. “I want us to become solid enough to tour throughout Michigan,” he explains. “My ideal tour would include all the great old Michigan opera houses that were built during the lumber industry years. There are opera houses in Traverse City, Cheboygan, Manistee, and Coldwater as well as other Michigan towns. These halls are in various stages of restoration and make wonderful concert venues. It would be a huge organizational effort to arrange concerts, audiences, lighting, chairs, stands, and the like at these places, but a College bus tour of these venues would certainly be fun.”

Potential concert-goers had better start practicing their thigh slaps. 



The Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra during an outreach performance.



Janet Solberg, French language and literature, and John Fink, mathematics, join Barry Ross during a performance.



The beat of the mridangam, the Indian two-headed drum, was a hit at the recent Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra concert at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home.

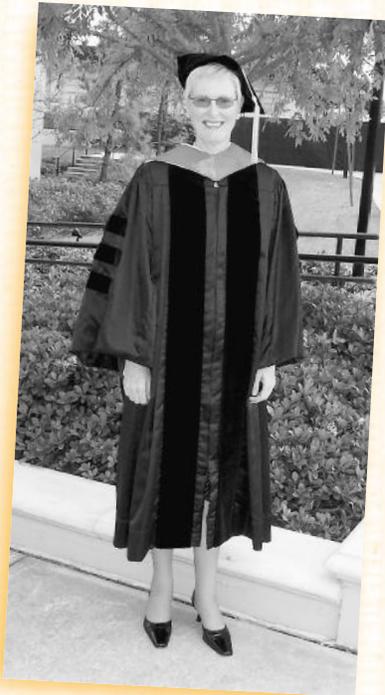


Inauguration Business: Our Own and Others'

As Kalamazoo College prepares for the inauguration of its 17th president, Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran, it might tap the stories of a score of alumni who are "old hands" at such events. Kalamazoo College is invited to many presidential inauguration ceremonies across the country, and the Alumni Association Executive Board provides the names of local alumni who volunteer to attend the events.

In recent years those volunteers (and the inauguration ceremonies they attended) have included: **Stacy (Semenczuk) Shrode '77** (Ripon College and Lawrence University); **Greg Canute '81** (Hamilton College); **Bill Weber '39** (University of Puget Sound); **Mary Cisar '74** (Gustavus Adolphus College); **Bonnie Wachter Swenby '69** (Macalaster College); **Robert Freese '75** (Duke University); **Richard Yehle '68** (Rice University); **David Thoms '70** (University of Detroit Mercy); **Sharon (Brandon) Sontheimer '70** (Gettysburg College); **Tom Hipple '65** (Washington College and Loyola College); **Harold Decker '67** (Saint Mary's College); **Michael Maslowsky '70** (Lewis & Clark College); **Joseph Stulberg '67** (Ohio Wesleyan University); **Diane (Sopp) DeLong '64** (Florida Southern College); **Charlotte (Hauch) Hall '66** (Rollins College); **William Barrett '66** (Wheaton College); **Victor Soukup '46** (Wittenberg University); **Beth (Wietelmann) Bauer '73** (Providence College); **Daniel Derringer '84** (Hollins University); **Rankin Lewis '84** (Wake Forest University); and **Lisbeth Gant-Britton '68** (Whittier College).

College presidential inaugurations are complex events. President Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran's inauguration will occur the weekend of March 10 through March 12, 2006. The weekend will feature a Friday, March 10, inaugural address by Nobel Prize Winner Wole Soyinka.



Charlotte (Hauch) Hall '66 at the inauguration of Lewis M. Duncan, president of Rollins College (Winter Park, Florida).

A native of Nigeria, Dr. Soyinka is a teacher, playwright, novelist, poet, and political activist. In the mid-1960s, during Nigeria's civil war, he was arrested without charge because of his advocacy for peace and imprisoned in solitary confinement for more than two years in a four-foot by eight-foot cell, during which time he survived as a man and as a mind by the act of surreptitious writing. Those particular writings were compiled in his 1972 book *The Man Died: The Prison Notes of Wole Soyinka*. He has written more than 20 other works and in 1986 was the first African to be honored with the Nobel Prize for Literature. In addition to his inaugural activities, Dr. Soyinka will be available to speak with students and classes.

Kalamazoo College students will feature prominently in the inauguration. They will join faculty in a Saturday-morning symposium that will showcase the various elements of the Kalamazoo College learning experience. The installation of the new president will occur that afternoon, and the entire weekend will be peppered with educational and cultural events. If you are interested in attending the inauguration, please contact Events Planner Sass Havilar at 269.337.7283 

Hannah McKinney—Kalamazoo Mayor

Kalamazoo College Professor of Economics Hannah McKinney was elected mayor of the City of Kalamazoo in November. She has served the previous eight years as Vice Mayor.

"I was thrilled and honored," McKinney said. "It was a very difficult campaign because Kalamazoo faces many hard issues."

Among McKinney's plans as mayor are the development of a comprehensive community strategy to strengthen the most vulnerable citizens and strengthen opportunity for youth; to assist the private sector in a new regional economic development strategy; to improve the City's fiscal health and increase intergovernmental cooperation with neighboring communities; and to increase opportunities for citizen participation in city government.

"We will have to try new things, but the changes necessary to address the challenges we face will not be easy," said McKinney. "Take the need for intergovernmental cooperation. The reality is that each of Kalamazoo County's 15 townships, 4 cities, and 5 villages has their own laws, traditions, political, social, and economic institutions. Cooperation has to take place on many levels and by many groups. We need to be thinking 10 to 15 years out even though we live in a society that wants results immediately. We have to learn to trust each other and to recognize the areas in which we can achieve common goals." 

Tomato Patch Kid Born to Science

Art Kudla '88 used his first notebook to carefully monitor and record data on the growth of tomato plants. He was four years old.

"He was meant to be a scientist, that was clear," says Kim, his wife. The two met in a grad school biochemistry lab at Purdue University. It was chemistry at first sight. Kim earned her degree in molecular mechanisms of human disease; Art's was in biochemistry. The couple soon married, not realizing that one of their greatest bonding experiences would be dealing with cancer. Kim was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002.

"I came to Kalamazoo College to pursue a degree in chemistry," Art says. "My science teacher in middle school in Warren, Michigan, James Edoff, an alumnus of Kalamazoo (Class of 1969), encouraged me to consider 'K'. He spoke highly of the learning experience—particularly the way students created procedures, and even equipment, as part of their scientific education."

For his career development program Art worked in breast cancer research at the Michigan Cancer Foundation in Detroit. "Kalamazoo College did a great job providing a wide range of research experience for me," Art says. "I had no idea back then how relevant it would someday be for me. And for Kim."

Kim's education also seemed geared to give her the tools with which to handle what lay ahead. After the two completed their studies at Purdue, both of the Kudlas joined a Charlottesville, Virginia, start-up company in research and development of gene regulation technology. They worked there until the company moved to Philadelphia.

"Then it was time to decide," Art says. "Follow the company or take this opportunity to start a new life. We decided on Boston." But the new life carried with it a wallop of a surprise: Kim was diagnosed with breast cancer two months after their move.

"I became one of the 1-in-8 women diagnosed with breast cancer. My scientific background had prepared me to wade through research data and clinical trial protocols, but it had not prepared me to grapple with the prevalence of this disease."

Art adds, "Witnessing my wife cope with the difficult side effects of current breast cancer therapies, I realized more fully the importance of the research I was doing as a scientist. Cancer had attacked my own family, and I was more compelled than ever to do whatever I could to make treatment an easier, more comfortable process. It was hard for me to even call what Kim endured therapy; the side effects were so frightening to witness."

As the couple readied to celebrate their 7th wedding anniversary, one that Kim also could celebrate as a cancer survivor, she spotted an ad in the *Boston Globe*. The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) was giving a performance that

night called "Concert for the Cure." The Kudlas bought tickets.

"Concert for the Cure" supports basic research that seeks to understand the causes of breast cancer as the first step in the development of less toxic, more effective treatments. Since 1997, the BSO has donated concerts organized entirely by volunteers. Nearly \$2 million has been raised. Art and Kim enjoyed the music and then contacted the director of the program to offer their help.

"We didn't realize until later that Theodora (Theo) Ross, founder and director of development for 'Concert for the Cure,' was also a Kalamazoo College alumna, Class of 1985," says Kim. "She currently teaches at the University of Michigan, but she had lived in Boston for a time, and had lost her sister to breast cancer at age 38. Being young does not make us immune to this disease."

The Kudlas became active members of the "Concert for the Cure." In the past year, Kim has organized a group called Thrive



Kim and Art Kudla find joy in son Trevor.

(www.thrivetogether.org), specifically for young women in the Boston area dealing with breast cancer. The organization provides support, services, and education to women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

Art has moved on to a new position as principal scientist of an oncology drug development group at Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, a small biopharma company in Cambridge, Mass.

"I lead a team of biologists focused on developing new therapeutics for cancer. What makes Merrimack unique is that my group of experimental biologists works very closely with a group of computational biologists. Together, the experimental and computational biologists develop and test mathematical models that are actually able to predict how a cancer cell will respond to different types of therapeutics. We then use these mathematical models to help us design and develop the best experimental medicines for specific types of cancers."



William C. Richardson to Join Kalamazoo College Faculty

William C. Richardson, PhD, who has led a \$7.2 billion charitable foundation for the past 11 years and who earlier was president of Johns Hopkins University, is now part of Kalamazoo College's faculty.

A member of the Kalamazoo College Board of Trustees since 1997, Richardson joined the College's faculty early this year after retiring as president and chief executive officer of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek.

Richardson (BA, History, Trinity College; MBA and PhD, University of Chicago) has been approved for tenure as College Professor of Public Policy and will report to the Provost.

"Basically, I want to do whatever I can to help students, faculty, and staff at Kalamazoo College," Richardson said. "I expect to assist seniors with SIPs, teach classes in appropriate courses, and serve as a resource for the College community. I will be on campus two to two-and-a-half days a week on average.

"What I hope I'm bringing to Kalamazoo College is my long experience in policy work, including higher education, philanthropy, volunteerism, government, and my primary academic interest in the health policy area," he said.

Before joining the Kellogg Foundation in 1995, Richardson was president of Johns Hopkins University and professor of health policy and management there. He also held senior administrative and faculty positions at the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Washington. He has long been active with numerous foundations, non-profit institutions, and in the corporate and public sectors, including chairing two committees of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences.

After leaving the Kellogg Foundation, Richardson will continue to serve on the boards of directors of the Bank of New York, CSX Corporation, and Exelon Corporation. He will remain an active public service participant in the Kalamazoo area, increase his involvement with the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, and remain on the Kalamazoo College board. He also is on the board of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and a board member of the W.E. Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo.

With those commitments, Richardson certainly plans to remain busy. But he also said that he was drawn to return to an academic setting.

"The years I've been at the Kellogg Foundation are the only ones since my freshman year in college that I've been off a campus," Richardson said. "I am looking forward to getting back, particularly to a superb liberal arts college, because that's what I'd experienced myself as an undergraduate. Also, when I was at Johns Hopkins, my office was on the undergraduate campus, and I invested a lot of my time and energy on undergraduate



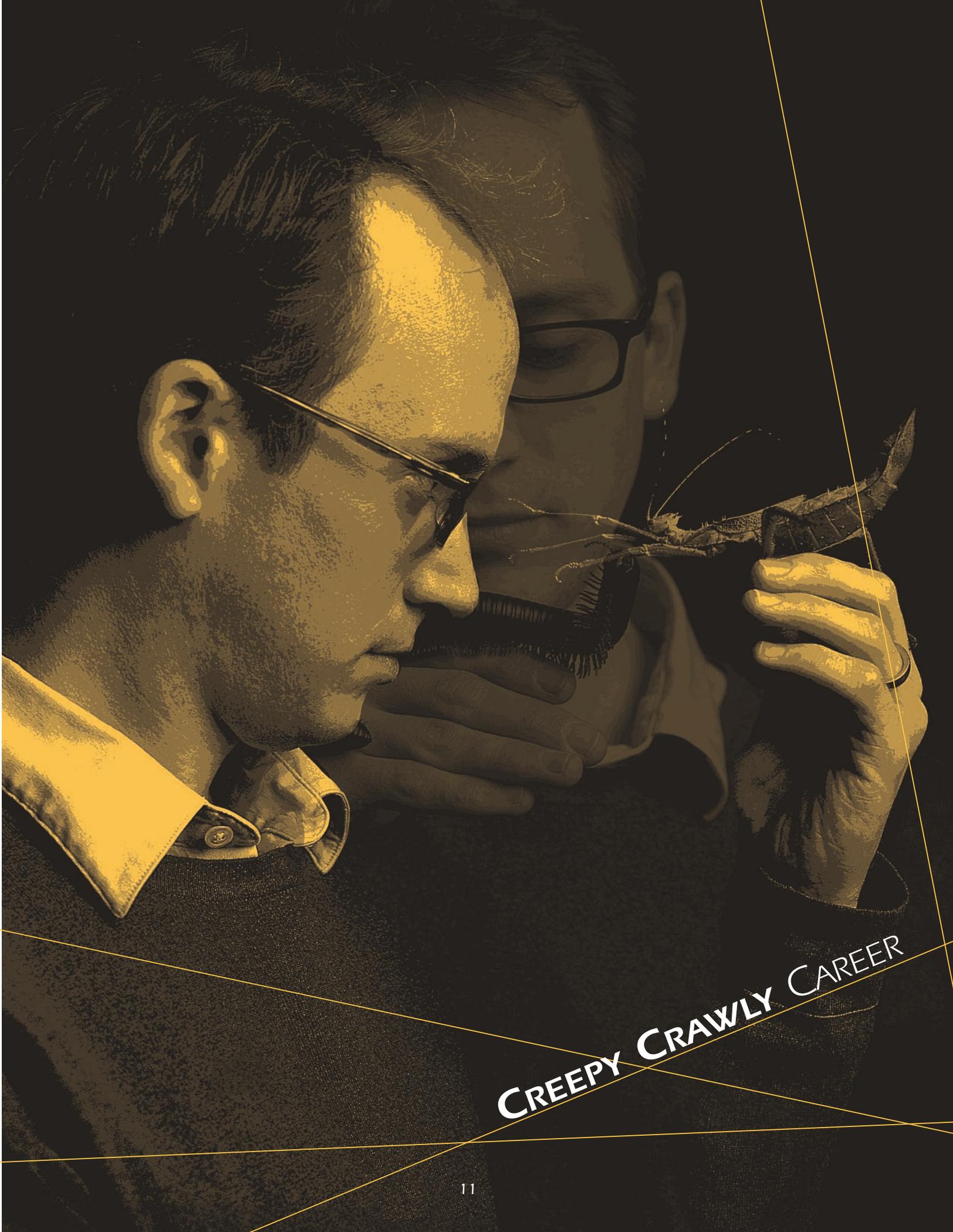
student life. So I'm very committed to undergraduate education, broadly speaking."

Richardson and his wife Nancy had a number of options about where to live after his Kellogg retirement. "Nancy and I decided that we couldn't imagine living anywhere else but here," Richardson said, referring to Kalamazoo. "I wanted my academic base to be a first-rate college, and I wanted it to be close enough to home, which is on Gull Lake, so that I could go in and be part of the community and not just someone who's visiting. I also wanted it to be *pro bono* so as not to add an economic burden to the college."

Kalamazoo College certainly fits the bill for Richardson: it's definitely a first-rate institution, is in close proximity to Gull Lake, and ties in neatly with his deeply held belief in the life-long benefits of a solid undergraduate liberal arts education.

Richardson said that the quality of students at Kalamazoo College is also a plus for accepting the professor position.

"The students I've encountered are very impressive," he said. "Not only are they bright, but they're engaged and they've got broader exposure to the world than most undergraduates at other schools. I am very much looking forward to increasing my involvement with them." 



CREEPY CRAWLY CAREER

Dan Babbitt '96 has a job that would make your skin crawl.

After all, if we spot a cockroach, most of us are more likely to reach for a can of insecticide than we are to carefully pick up the bug and study it. But not Babbitt. For him, freakishly-sized cockroaches are a source of wonder.



The cockroach that I'm holding in my hand at this moment is not your average kitchen variety, however. It's called a Hissing Cockroach, from Madagascar, and it's so big that it's almost heavy, for a bug.

Babbitt works with these insects every day. Unofficially, you might call him an "insect wrangler." Officially, he's a museum specialist at the Insect Zoo, the

only exhibit containing live specimens in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C.

Babbitt has worked with the Smithsonian Institution, which includes the Natural History Museum and the other Smithsonian museums in Washington, in one capacity or another for seven years. He actually *likes* what would cause most people to recoil—studying, feeding, holding insects, many of which are so big they look like they escaped from a science fiction B-movie. Handling three-inch cockroaches is just part of the job.

"There are more insects on the planet than any other type of animal," Babbitt says. "There's amazing diversity. There's so much that's undiscovered and so much left to learn."

Insects account for the overwhelming majority—80 percent—of the world's known species, Babbitt adds. Estimates of the total number of species of bugs on the planet range widely, from 10 million to 30 million, because scientists believe most species haven't been discovered yet.

"Some scientists here think we're at the tip of the iceberg," Babbitt says. Only one million bug species have been discovered so far.

"Most amazing of all is that at any moment, there are an estimated 10 quintillion (that's the number one with 19 zeroes behind it) bugs alive on the planet," Babbitt says. Talk about making your skin crawl.

The Smithsonian's collection has 32 million to 34 million specimens, Babbitt points out. "The wealth of information in this place is just insane."

Behind the walls of the Insect Zoo exhibit are several laboratories where staff study, feed, and breed the insects. Some of the laboratories, like the one holding the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, share a window with the exhibit, so visitors can look into the labs and the cages holding wriggling cockroaches, walking leaves, tarantulas, and other insects.

Other laboratories are squeezed into the space left over between the exhibit and the water pipes, insulation, and heating ducts of the museum. These labs seem to be literally in the walls of the museum, so the bugs should feel right at home.

In one of these spaces, roughly a narrow hall, there is a box holding a Sri Lanka "walking leaf," one of Babbitt's favorites. "They're just a great example of the power of evolution," he says.

Babbitt carefully takes the walking leaf out of the screen box and holds it in his flattened palm. At first, it looks *exactly* like a yellow birch leaf, fallen on the ground in October. Down to the veins a leaf has, and even the brown edges a leaf develops as it begins to decompose. Then I see it has front legs and a head. Now it looks like a tiny alien.

Babbitt admits that one of the things he likes about bugs is that, indeed, they do look alien, yet they can be found everywhere.

The only other place you can see such alien-looking creatures, Babbitt says, is at the bottom of the ocean. "It's so much easier to look in your backyard than go deep-sea diving in a submarine."

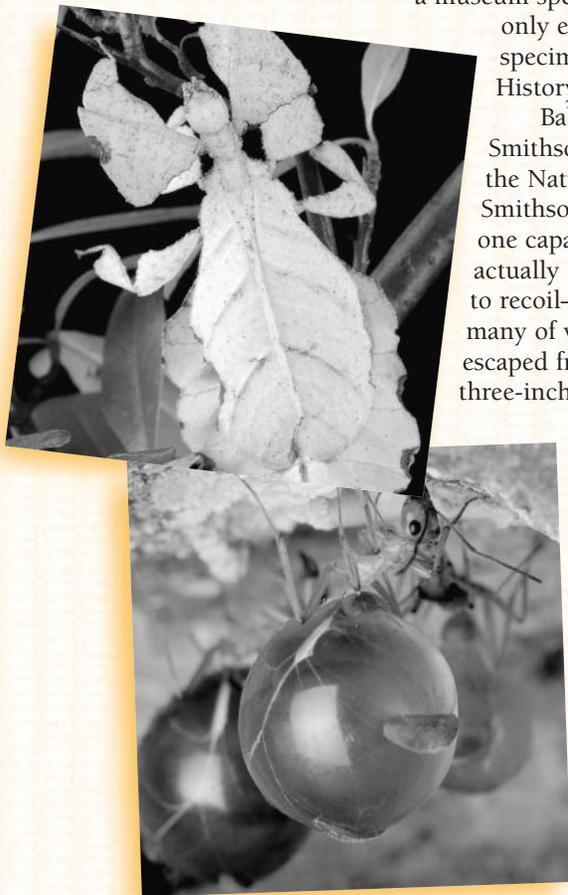
A Long Climb, Lessons from Kalamazoo College

For someone with Babbitt's fascination with the bug world, the Smithsonian is a primo place to work, but it required patience and persistence to get here.

Babbitt's interest in entomology, the study of insects, began at Kalamazoo College in an aquatic ecology class he took with Dave Evans, who taught biology courses for 37 years before officially retiring from the College last year. The course had a solid entomology base and spurred Babbitt's interest.

Babbitt studied abroad in Ecuador, where he got the chance to research tropical insects.

Ecuador, home of the Galapagos Islands, is often a top foreign study choice for



Hissing Cockroach (top)

Walking Leaf (middle)

Photo by Smithsonian Institution

Honey pot Ant (bottom)

Photo by Smithsonian Institution



Kalamazoo College biology students because of its diverse wildlife and natural resource “laboratories” for evolutionary study. Charles Darwin’s observations in the Galapagos influenced his *The Origin of Species*, perhaps the most important book in the history of biology.

Back in the United States, Babbitt continued on the entomology path with a Senior Individualized Project on microfauna instream processing of detritus, which means, for us non-science people, how bugs eat dead stuff.

While at Kalamazoo College, Babbitt met his wife, Kristie Postorino, also a member of the Class of 1996. Postorino recently left her position as a psychiatric social worker at Children’s National Medical Center to start her own practice. The couple has a son, Benjamin, who is almost two years old.

Babbitt says he was drawn to Kalamazoo College because of the *Kalamazoo Plan* and the opportunities it offered for a variety of experiences. Besides the research opportunities Babbitt enjoyed, during study abroad and

with his senior project, the liberal arts curriculum revealed the importance of other subject areas, he says. Studying Spanish, for example, serves him well in his job, as many Spanish-speaking visitors come to the museum each year.

After college, Babbitt wasn’t sure what to do next, but his interest in insects pulled him towards entomology again. He and his wife moved to Washington, D.C. without the promise of jobs. One day, Babbitt visited the Insect Zoo at the Natural History Museum. “I fell in love with it,” he says.

But the trek to a permanent position with the Insect Zoo was long and required much persistence on Babbitt’s part. He volunteered at the invertebrate exhibit and the National Zoo, also part of the Smithsonian. That volunteering led to a temporary position at the Insect Zoo. After that, he took a job managing educational programs at the National Zoo. Babbitt also worked at the Insect Zoo on Saturdays. In June of 2004, the Smithsonian finally made Babbitt a permanent part of its staff at the Natural History Museum.

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Conehead Katydid
Photo by Smithsonian Institution



Misunderstood Creatures

The Smithsonian's entomology department curates one of the largest insect collections in the world and is at the forefront of insect research. Lots of species, especially those collected in other countries, aren't found at other museums anywhere in the United States.

For that reason, the Smithsonian sometimes needs to get permission from federal authorities to display live bugs from abroad. An exotic species goes into "quarantine" when it arrives at the Smithsonian from far-flung lands. It stays there, in a climate-controlled unit, "until we know exactly what it is and that it carries no disease or parasites before putting it on display," Babbitt says.

Some of the exotic species look truly otherworldly, but even species from this country can make people uneasy. That's partly because people lack knowledge about insects, Babbitt says.

Perhaps one of the best-known "dangerous" bugs is the tarantula, and the Smithsonian has many different kinds. Babbitt pulls a plastic cylindrical container off a shelf and peers at the handful of young tarantulas inside. These are only the size of quarters, but a bigger one, called "Cleo" by the Smithsonian's staff, is more the size of a baseball. She's at least 25 years old, Babbitt says.

Tarantulas get a bad rep, Babbitt says. They're not lethal to humans, but kill other insects (and even small animals like birds). Although they're not the people-killers they're often believed to be, their way of killing and eating their prey is a little unnerving. After using its fangs to inject venom into its victim, a tarantula will regurgitate digestive juices into the victim's wound. The prey's tissues will be digested inside its own body and the tarantula will suck up the

digested tissue, "like a meat Slurpee," Babbitt says.

Although Babbitt sticks up for tarantulas, there are some bugs that make even him feel creeped out. Take the Brown Recluse spider, for example. Babbitt holds up a plastic container that's cloudy with the webbing of the small, ordinary-looking spider while he explains that the flesh around a Brown Recluse bite gets eaten away by the spider's poison. "Cleaning their cage isn't something we look forward to," he says as he puts the container back on the shelf.

In the same room as the tarantula Cleo, Babbitt carefully lifts an Atlas Beetle out of a cage. It looks more like a small toy than an insect, because of its size and its shiny black shell. It almost fills Babbitt's palm. The three prongs protruding from its head curve out, then in, giving the huge beetle its name. Atlas, a character from Greek mythology, was condemned by Zeus to hold up the heavens. He's often portrayed holding the earth on his shoulders.

In the main room of the Insect Zoo kids are pressing up against a window to gape at a cage crawling with the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. They're safe with the glass separating them from the huge insects, but should any like to get a closer look, Smithsonian volunteers give visitors the chance to hold the cute (or crusty, depending on your point of view) creatures. The volunteers wheel carts out into the main exhibit area and let visitors handle the cockroaches and the Lubber Grasshopper, a bright black and yellow grasshopper about three times bigger than what you'll find in your garden.

These two insects are chosen as emissaries to the public because they're sturdy, unlike some of the Smithsonian's more delicate specimens. Plus, they don't bite, and they're not as fast moving as other bugs, so there's less chance of a dramatic "jailbreak."

The Smithsonian's insect exhibit was the first permanent live insect exhibit in the United States when it opened in 1976, Babbitt says. Today, about one million people come through the Insect Zoo each year.

"People don't pay much attention to insects unless it's to step on them," Babbitt says. "Here, we get people to really look at them. People have a fear of insects, but they also really want to see them."

Letting visitors touch and hold the insects is key to getting them to take a closer look, Babbitt says. "We can draw them in. The insects win them over." 



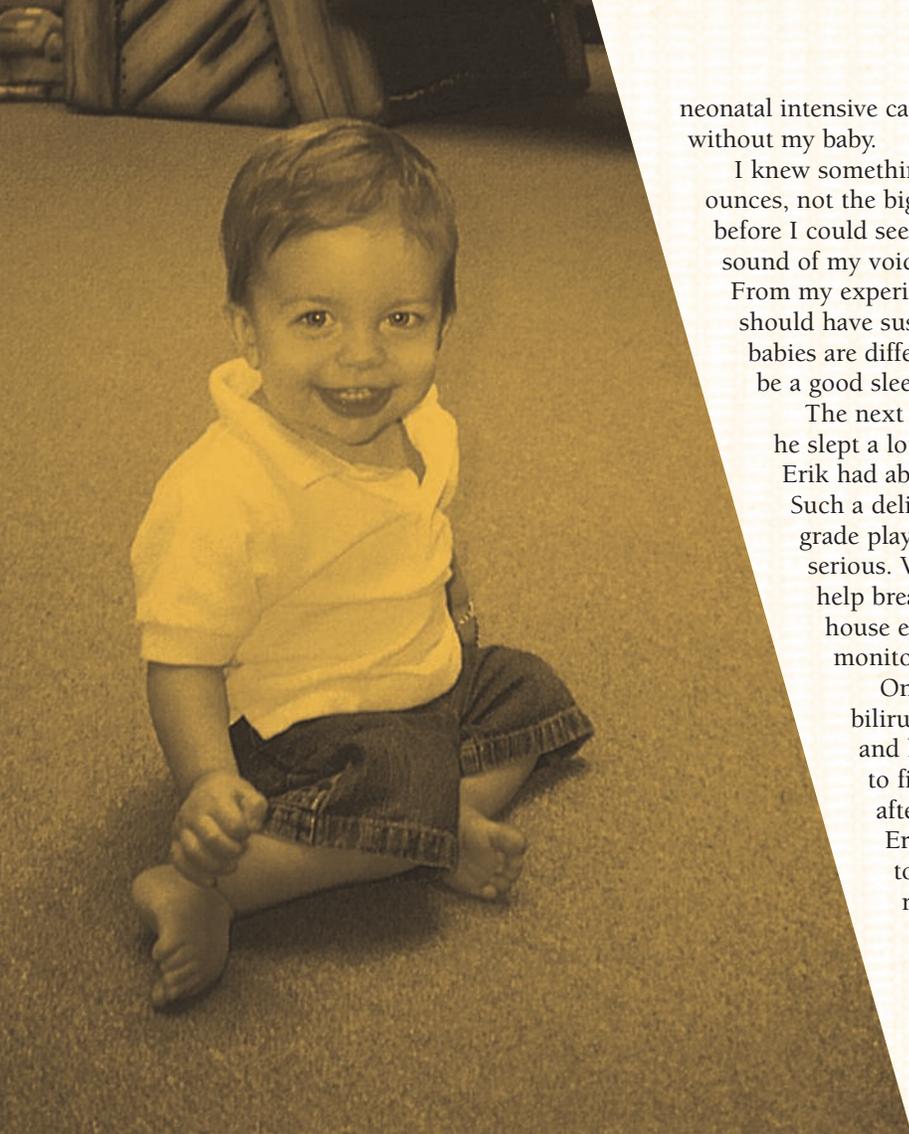
Eastern Lubber Grasshopper
Photo by Smithsonian Institution



Tarantula, maybe even Cleo
Photo by Smithsonian Institution



Giant Water Bug
Photo by Smithsonian Institution



Erik at one year, CAH under control and famous smile intact

ERIK'S SMILE

neonatal intensive care unit, and I was eventually moved to my room, without my baby.

I knew something was wrong. Erik weighed six pounds and eleven ounces, not the big baby the ultrasound predicted. Three hours passed before I could see him again. His color was better and he reacted to the sound of my voice. Our first night together he slept the entire night. From my experience with Arianna, Erik's 17-month-old big sister, I should have suspected something amiss, but I told myself that all babies are different, you can't compare them, and perhaps Erik would be a good sleeper from day one.

The next day he didn't eat very well—but some babies don't; and he slept a lot—but surely some babies do. We also learned that Erik had abnormal blood levels of a liver enzyme called bilirubin. Such a delightful, children's-bookish name—like two second-grade playground buddies, Billy and Reuben—made suddenly serious. We took home a bili-lamp to place on Erik's skin to help break-up the bilirubin in his body. A nurse came to the house every other day to prick his heel and run a blood test to monitor his bilirubin levels.

On July 4 we had to return to the hospital. Erik's bilirubin was too high; he was jaundiced and dehydrated, and he wasn't eating. The hospital admitted him. We tried to find comfort in our familiarity with jaundice. Arianna, after all, had been slightly jaundiced. Only four days old, Erik endured an IV and blindfold for almost three days to fight off the jaundice. The doctors and nurses reassured us that the problem and its treatment were not uncommon; many babies went through both.

After the three-day ordeal we took our son home a second time.

We managed to stay home two days. In the early morning of July 9 I told Mickey that I didn't like the way Erik looked, and it was at this point—probably from a feeling of fear and dread—that events seemed to proceed in slow motion. We called the pediatrician's office, and the staff counseled us to monitor Erik for half a day and then call them back. Then, within 30 minutes of that conversation, the pediatrician himself called and instructed us to return to the hospital for another blood test for Erik, after which we were to proceed immediately to his office. At the hospital no one wished to take blood from a two-week-old baby, and we waited for an hour. I thought my baby's life was slipping away.

A short while later our pediatrician explained that Erik had tested positive for a condition called Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia. He needed immediate treatment, within the next couple of hours. Our doctor told us to go to the emergency room at All Children's Hospital in St.

Petersburg. I remember re-reading the brochure the hospital provides you when you go home with your child, the one that describes the various conditions for which your baby is

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My son Erik has the most wonderful smile you'll ever see and a chronic genetic condition that nearly took his life when he was two weeks old. Living with both—the hope the smile signifies and the challenge of the genetic disorder—is, in part, a Kalamazoo College story. There are few things worse than this: shortly after you give birth, some unexpected problem with your baby's health (one that confounds immediate diagnosis) means you cannot take him to your hospital room—a simple act that, just a few short hours previous, you had taken for granted.

I did not expect to confront any problems on June 30, 2004, when my husband Mickey (an alumnus of the Class of 1997) and I went to the hospital to induce the labor and delivery of our second child, Erik. An ultrasound showed Erik to be a large baby, so an induced labor seemed a prudent course because our first pregnancy had concluded with a difficult delivery.

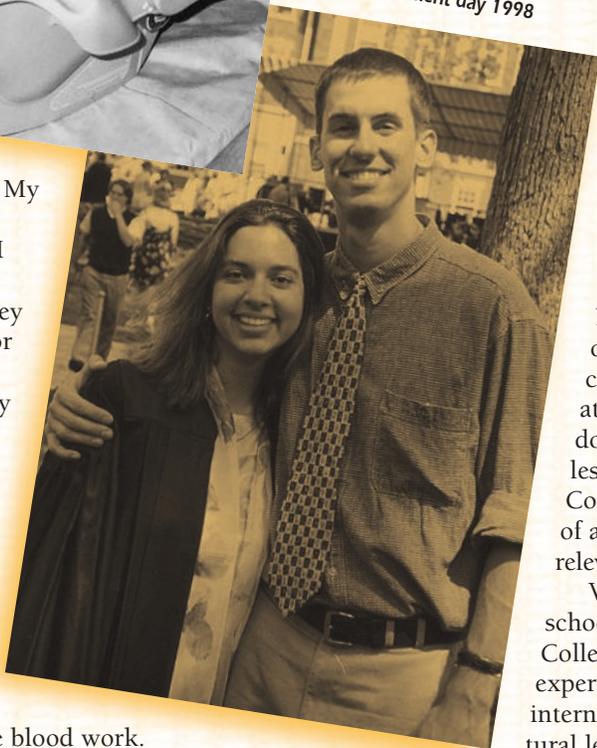
All went as planned until Erik's heart rate began to drop with each contraction. We rushed the delivery and he was born at 2:37 P.M. with the umbilical cord around his neck. After 15 minutes I was able to hold him for a minute, but then he was taken to the





Erik at one week (left)

The author, Sonja (Gerding) Matson '98, and her husband-to-be on commencement day 1998



tested. I didn't read far. My eyes fixed on the word "life-threatening," and I cried.

The ER staff felt they needed to start a line for fluids and to draw blood, stat. But my baby was so small. He had lost weight since his birth, and he was extremely dehydrated. It took six needle sticks and more than an hour to find a vein for fluids, which the nurses considered a more urgent priority than the blood work.

The needle finally penetrated a vein in the side of Erik's head. It is an image forever seared into my memory. I've never cried so much in my entire life. Who can provide a meaningful answer to the mystery of why an infant should suffer? No one wants to see his or her child in pain. But at two weeks, Erik was so helpless. And I was helpless too. I didn't know what was wrong, and Erik's life was in the hands of others.

A Road Without Monsters

About a decade earlier—when I believed that the pathways we choose (say, for example, the road to becoming a chemist) might have occasional pitfalls (usually well-marked and navigable) but never considered that travelers might be subject to confrontations with monsters—I was a chemistry major at Kalamazoo College. Chemistry was not a subject at which I excelled, which is not to say I didn't succeed at it, but only that my success took a lot of hard work, study, and help from other people. I had always loved chemistry, but even so there were times when I thought that maybe I was like the person who loves to sing but should never be a performer. And on those

occasions I sometimes had doubts (always short-lived) about being a chemist. Still, it was the only thing I enjoyed, the only subject I could envision for a career.

I completed my Senior Individualized Project at a local company (KALSEC, Inc.) working with potato chips. My SIP involved analytical method development, and it was wonderful, though it lacked the status and excitement I associated with other SIPs—those of students working on new drugs or chemicals. I was working with potato chips. But it was interesting to me, all the science that could come from a chip. And later the experience helped me get my first job.

Two weeks after graduation I went to work at Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. I was an analytical chemist in the company's food and beverage department. After three years in Cincinnati, Mickey got a job offer as a production chemist for a company in Florida. Our relocation would put us close to my mom and sister, and Kalamazoo College had taught me that I was no fan of northern winters. I was unable to find a chemistry position and took a job as a receptionist at a hair salon. Not exactly what I thought I'd be doing with my chemistry degree, but a job nonetheless, and after working for Carol Kennedy, Kalamazoo College's Fine Arts Coordinator and unofficial "master of all things," I knew I had experience that would be relevant.

Within a month I was offered a position as a high school chemistry teacher at a private school. My various College internships and, most of all, my foreign study experience impressed the school, which enrolled many international students and was committed to a multicultural learning experience. Who would have guessed that studying art history in Spain would help me get a chemistry job?

During the time I was teaching, I became pregnant with our first child, Arianna, a healthy, happy, and beautiful girl. Kalamazoo College teaches the value of preparation, so Mickey and I attended each and every birthing/baby class we could. I read many books on birthing and the first days at home. I'm sure we over-studied, but I felt prepared. And then she was born. After a rough labor, we had our beautiful little girl. I spent six months at home with Arianna and then returned to teaching. Two months later, Mickey and I found out we were pregnant again, this time with a boy.

All parents know that children change our lives in many ways. But after having Arianna, I figured that another child would be "easy"—if having kids could ever be described as such, particularly when labor pains, late nights, and teething still seem fresh memories. I knew that having two children would be a more exacting day-to-day challenge, but Arianna was a great baby. I hoped Erik might be just as good. But I wasn't worried. Mostly I prayed he wouldn't have colic. I was so naive.

Salt-Wasting CAH

In an elemental sense, the desire to learn is a subconscious tenacious hold on life, a commitment to a future when the knowledge may be applicable. In the most hopeless of wartime circumstances, soldiers have been known to want to learn about matters completely unrelated to subjects remotely germane to a delivery from their predicament. This phenomenon in part explains the beauty of the liberal arts: Spanish art history will one day be important to a chemistry major, and she will have to abide until that day. Likewise, my desire to learn all I could about Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, and teach (the apotheosis of learning) what I learned to others, is a commitment to Erik's future. A way for both of us to hold fast to life.

We saw the pediatric endocrinologist the morning after Erik was admitted to the ER. Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia is actually a range of diseases that, taken together, affect far more people than I would have guessed—one in 40 Hispanics, for example, which is my ethnic background. Despite that considerable incidence, I had never heard of CAH.

CAH adversely affects the adrenal glands (which are located atop the kidneys) and their ability to produce an enzyme called 21-hydroxylase (21-OHP). As part of the incredible dance of biochemistry that allows our bodies to function, 21-OHP converts a molecule called 17-hydroprogesterone (17-OHP) into cortisol. Cortisol directs a balanced stress response in the body (a deficiency in this response can lead to drowsiness and coma) and plays a role the body's production of energy (metabolism of sugar).

Because cortisol is essential to life, its adequate presence in the blood is closely monitored by the pituitary gland. That small pea-shaped structure at the base of the brain, whenever it detects a deficiency of cortisol, releases the hormone ACTH, which, in persons with properly functioning adrenal glands, would stimulate the tango between 21-OHP and 17-OHP that would, in turn, yield cortisol. Unable to make 21-OHP, people with CAH produce only 17-OHP, which, driven by the ACTH calling in vain for cortisol, accumulates to excess and is converted into an overabundance of androgens, the steroid hormones associated with masculine characteristics.

In the form of the disease that affects Erik, known as salt-wasting CAH, the adrenals fail to produce a second hormone called aldosterone. Aldosterone maintains the body's normal fluid, salt, and potassium levels. Aldosterone deficiency causes excessive loss of salt and water in the urine, leading to dehydration and an overabundance of potassium that can cause irregular heart rhythm and cardiac arrest.

In cases like Erik's, immediate detection is critical for saving the baby's life. But the condition is more readily diagnosed in female babies because

they tend to exhibit recognizable genital abnormalities (due to the excessive androgen levels).

Males babies show no external signs of the disorder and, like Erik, often go home undiagnosed.

The disorder is genetically transmitted. Both parents must have mutations to a group of genes located on their sixth chromosomes. It is this group of genes that carry the instructions for the production of 21-OHP. Parents are usually asymptomatic carriers of the gene mutation. Neither Mickey nor I knew that we were carriers. And the good health of our daughter gave us no reason to suspect. Today, DNA testing is available to detect carriers of the mutation, and that fact is important for any prospective parents to know, particularly in light of the high incidence of all forms of CAH.

A Hopeful Future

CAH has changed the life of each member of my family, forever, but Erik's future has the potential to be wonderful. His disorder was detected and treated before it took his life. Today and likely for the rest of his life Erik requires glucocorticoid treatment, which performs the function of his adrenal cortisol, suppressing excessive ACTH secretion by the pituitary gland and stopping his body's production of too many androgens. He also takes fludrocortisone, which assumes the function of his missing adrenal aldosterone, ensuring a proper balance of salt and potassium and thus his body's healthy hydration and proper heart rhythm.

The trick is to give the right amount (what is known as replacement doses) of the steroid medications—no more than what Erik's healthy adrenals would have produced themselves—in order to avoid the unwanted side effects associated with therapeutic doses of these powerful drugs.

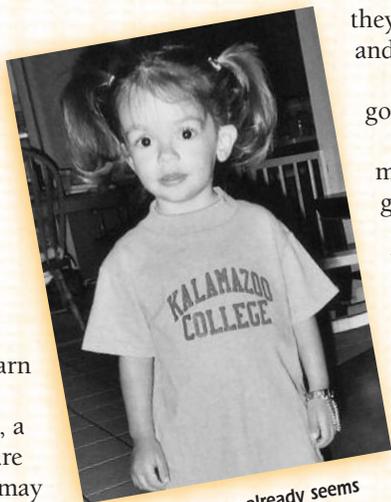
Hopefully, treatments will improve in the future. Clinical trials (the study of experimental medicines in people) for new options are underway, and scientists are also looking at gene therapy—possibly correcting the genetic mutations that prevent the adrenals from making 21-OHP.

My son's condition is a challenge in our lives, but one with which we can deal and perhaps one day overcome completely. My studies and experiences at Kalamazoo College have played and will continue to play a role in our ability to meet and triumph over the challenge that a chronic genetic disorder presents.

I plan to continue to teach people about CAH (this article is part of that effort). And I will advocate for my son and others who share his condition. Not all states test for CAH, but all should. Erik and other CAH patients have too few treatment options, and the current medicines are ill suited for children. I hope that more researchers will focus on this condition.

My efforts to learn, and teach, and advocate represent our tenacious hold on life and a commitment to Erik's future. Those efforts may be an uphill struggle, but we will always act on the hope that the future will bring advances in treatment—perhaps even a cure—for CAH. In the meantime, like most parents, I will hug my little boy often and enjoy the most wonderful smile you'll ever see. 

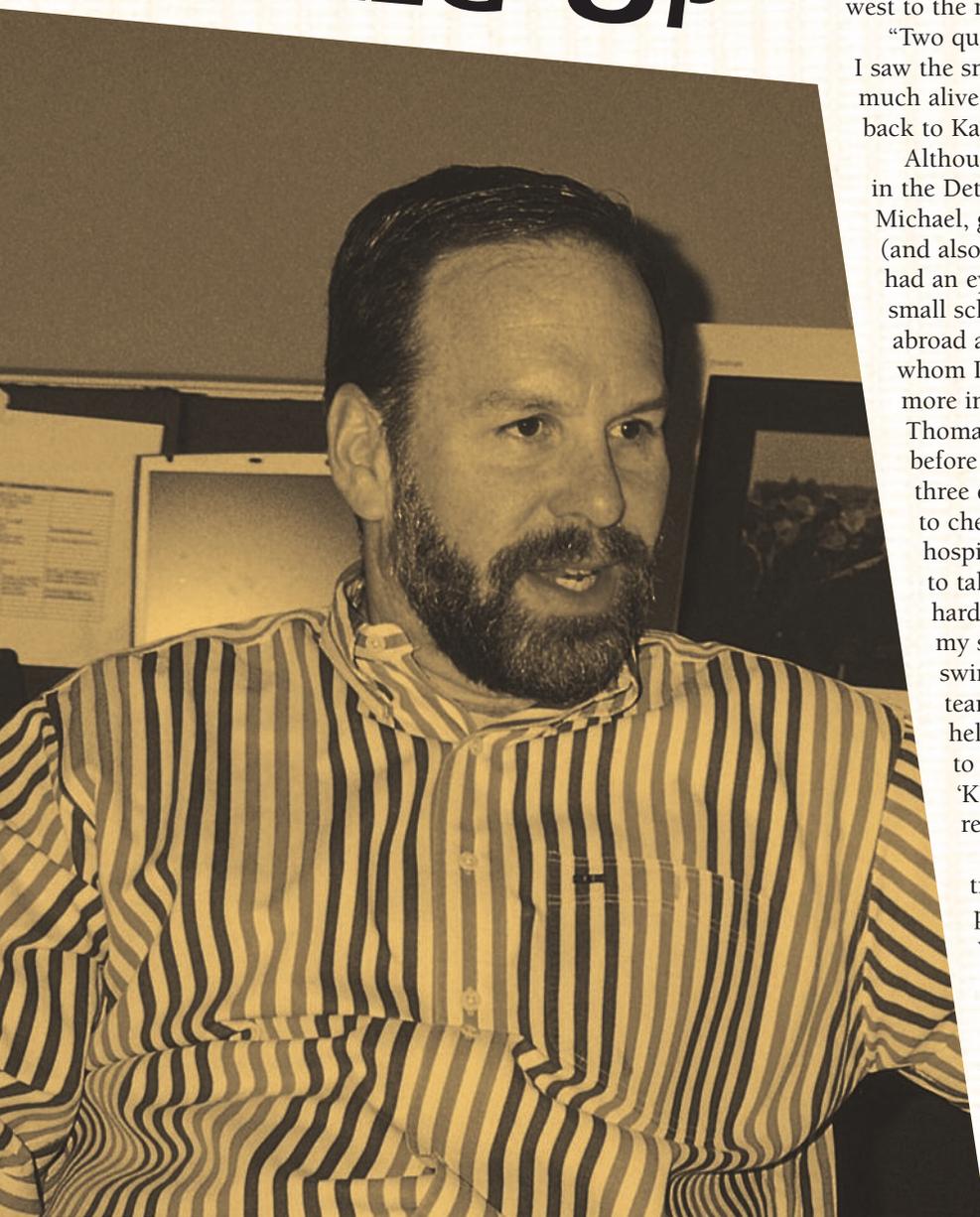
For more information on CAH or to find out how you can help, contact CARES foundation at www.caresfoundation.org



Older sister Arianna already seems Kalamazoo College bound



A LEG UP



In his sophomore year at Kalamazoo College, Jothy Rosenberg '78 was told he wouldn't live to be a junior. He had lost his right leg to osteogenic sarcoma at age 16 and the cancer was now in his left lung.

"The doctor told me no one had ever survived this kind of cancer metastasizing," Jothy recalls. It was the early 70s, and chemotherapy was a relatively new concept in cancer treatment.

Jothy submitted to an experimental treatment for ten months and surgery removed the diseased lung, but his odds remained the same in the doctor's eyes—zero.

Jothy's eyes, however, were focused on another horizon. If he had only a little time left to him, he thought, he might as well spend it skiing. All his young life he had been an athlete. In high school, he held a state record in swimming, played football, hockey, and baseball. Jothy packed up his car, left Kalamazoo College, and headed west to the mountains.

"Two quarters went by as I skied in Utah, and when I saw the snow melting, and realized I was still very much alive," Jothy smiles, "I figured it was time to go back to Kalamazoo and resume my studies."

Although he was born in California, Jothy grew up in the Detroit area, son to two physicians. His brother, Michael, graduated from Kalamazoo College in 1975 (and also went on to become a physician), so Jothy had an eye on the College early. "I liked that it was a small school with a personal touch, and study abroad attracted me," he says. "I had teachers with whom I had great relationships, but perhaps none more instrumental than Professor of Mathematics Thomas Jefferson Smith. These were the days before computers, so he actually spent two to three extra hours for each class that I missed due to chemo, sending handwritten notes to me at the hospital so that I could keep up. He allowed me to take open book tests from home, and worked hard to make it possible for me to keep up with my studies. And Bob Kent, who coached the swim team, allowed me to work out with the team even though I couldn't compete. That helped keep my self-esteem strong as well as to keep me in shape. This is what typifies the 'K' experience for me. Kalamazoo College respects students and puts students first."

Jothy did not decide on a major for a long time. Struggling to get and stay healthy, he put special value on enjoying life. "There was no real method to my madness back then," he says. "I took physics, but didn't enjoy it. I switched to history. While I was sick, I read the 13-volume set of *The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*. But then I also started taking math classes, and I had no idea what to do with math. But that didn't matter. Math was *fun*. So I finally declared my major in mathematics."



Too sick to go on study abroad his junior year, Jothy was able to go to Strasbourg during his senior year. He purchased a car in Europe, modified to his needs with a left-footed accelerator, and toured the continent, after which he arranged to bring the car back to the States. For his career development project, Jothy worked in the same hospital where he had been treated. "I met Carole [Hohl] there. She was a medical technician, and I was a computer geek in the back room," Jothy recalls. The two of them went on to graduate school at Duke (Jothy earned a PhD in computer science), then married in 1981, when Jothy was given a clean bill of health.

The Rosenbergs moved to Durham, North Carolina, where Jothy became the vice president of a non-profit microelectronics research firm. They would eventually return to Duke so that Jothy could teach computer science at his alma mater for five years, "but I felt the constraint of the academic world when I wanted to spend time building a new kind of supercomputer. I decided to take the plunge at a new start-up business of my own, and where better to build a supercomputer than in Silicon Valley. We moved to California."

The start-up was called MasPar Computers, and Jothy headed up a team of 12 as senior software developer and manager. Two more Rosenberg children joined older brother Brendan: Zachary and Joanna. After four years with MasPar, Jothy was lured away by the opportunities presented to him by Borland International, where he was hired as vice president and general manager. But Jothy was not one to stay in one place for long. By 1997 the East Coast called Jothy back once again as Borland transferred him to be general manager over a company in Boston they had just acquired.

"My children weren't very happy with me for making a move across the country," Jothy says. "It took them a while to forgive their dad. But today my son Zach is a diehard Red Sox and Patriots fan, and the family grew to love the rich culture of the Boston area. When a chance to return to California came up again years later, I passed it by."

Jothy became the CEO and chief technology officer of another start-up company, GeoTrust, focusing on problems of Internet security. "The Internet is a hot entrepreneurial area, but many consumers are not comfortable using it because they are not sure they can trust it." Jothy wrote two books, one based on his debugger work at MasPar and Borland, and one based on his expertise with Web security: *How Debuggers Work* (1996), and *Securing Web Services with WS-Security* (2004).

Although Jothy has changed jobs many times, he has remained steadfast in his connection with Kalamazoo College and his enthusiasm for physical fitness. He served as president of the 1833 Society, and he helped the College build a secure Web site.

"I've always looked for ways to give something back to Kalamazoo College," he says. "I want to do whatever I can to help the College remain strong and true to its principles, a place where more students could have the incredible kind of support I had."

Challenges continue to fuel the furnace of his will and motivation. The same year that he began his start-up company in Boston, 1997, a friend asked him to sponsor her on an AIDS fundraising bike ride from Boston to New York. "Too bad you can't do that," she said.

Say what?



Jothy dives from a ferryboat for the Alcatraz swim, and emerges triumphant

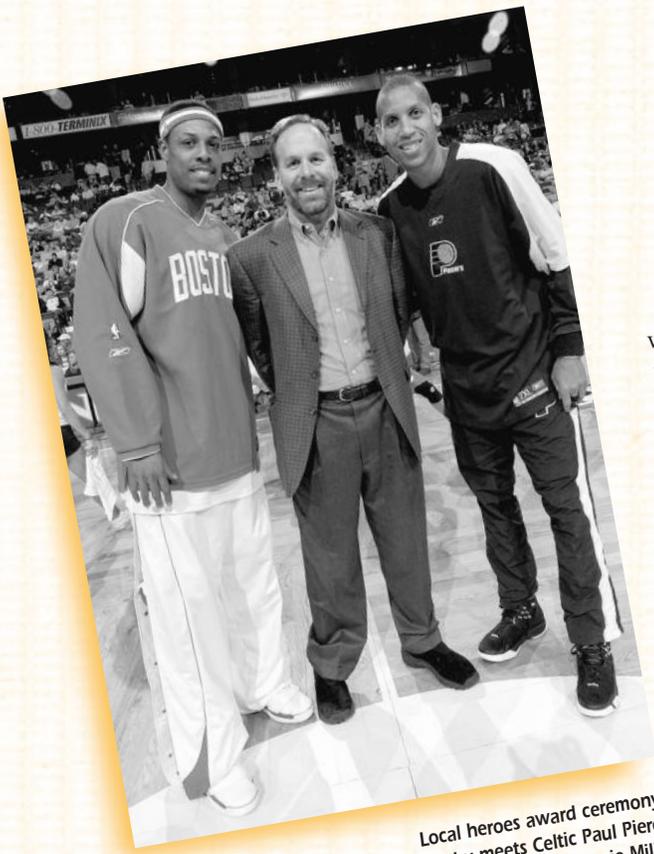


Workplace Halloween party costume challenge: Jothy won as the Borg



Pan Mass Challenge bike marathon in Boston

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Local heroes award ceremony;
Jothy meets Celtic Paul Pierce
and Pacer Reggie Miller

Jothy does not use a prosthetic leg when riding a bike because he found it to be a dead weight. He clips into the left peddle (there actually is no right peddle) and pulls up as well as pushes down. He attaches folding crutches to the back of the bike for mobility when he needs to stop and move around. Each day he rode the bike, increasing his distance, working up from a half mile to 25 miles, then longer. The next year, in 1999, Jothy rode 375 miles in the AIDS bike ride from Boston to New York, and then continued to participate in fundraising bike marathons every year thereafter.

"That first year it was really about me," he says. "I had to prove to myself that I could do it."

Since then Jothy has been on the Northeast AIDS 350-mile bike ride, the Lance Armstrong Ride for the Roses (an annual spring fundraiser for cancer survivors), and the Pan Mass Challenge bike ride for cancer research. He has also participated in the Alcatraz Swim in San Francisco, the Boston Healthcare Ride for the Homeless, the Provincetown Harbor Swim for AIDS, the Marblehead Swim to Help Abused Women and Children, and others.

"I train every day," he says. "I'm a maniac about exercise. I ride 100 miles on my bike and swim 5 miles a week to keep in shape. This, my twelfth year, I did my personal best in the Alcatraz swim at 37 minutes and two seconds, coming in with the first 100 finishers. It's a powerful and moving moment for me every year."

"Kalamazoo College respects students and puts students first."

As Jothy emerges from the water at the end of his swim, the crowd watches as someone, usually his daughter Joanna, walks into the water to meet him with a pair of crutches. "There is this dramatic transformation in the crowd as they go from questioning why this person needs crutches to seeing me come slowly out of deep water. They roar their appreciation and encouragement as they realize the reason."

The same effect keeps Jothy pumping on his marathon bike rides. "Way to go!" someone will call out, or, "You inspire me!" or, "You're my hero!"

"My family threatens to wear 'We're with Jothy' T-shirts next year to get some attention, too," he laughs. "My personal favorite is—'Great leg!'"

In 2005, Jothy raised more than \$14,000 for causes through swims and bike rides.

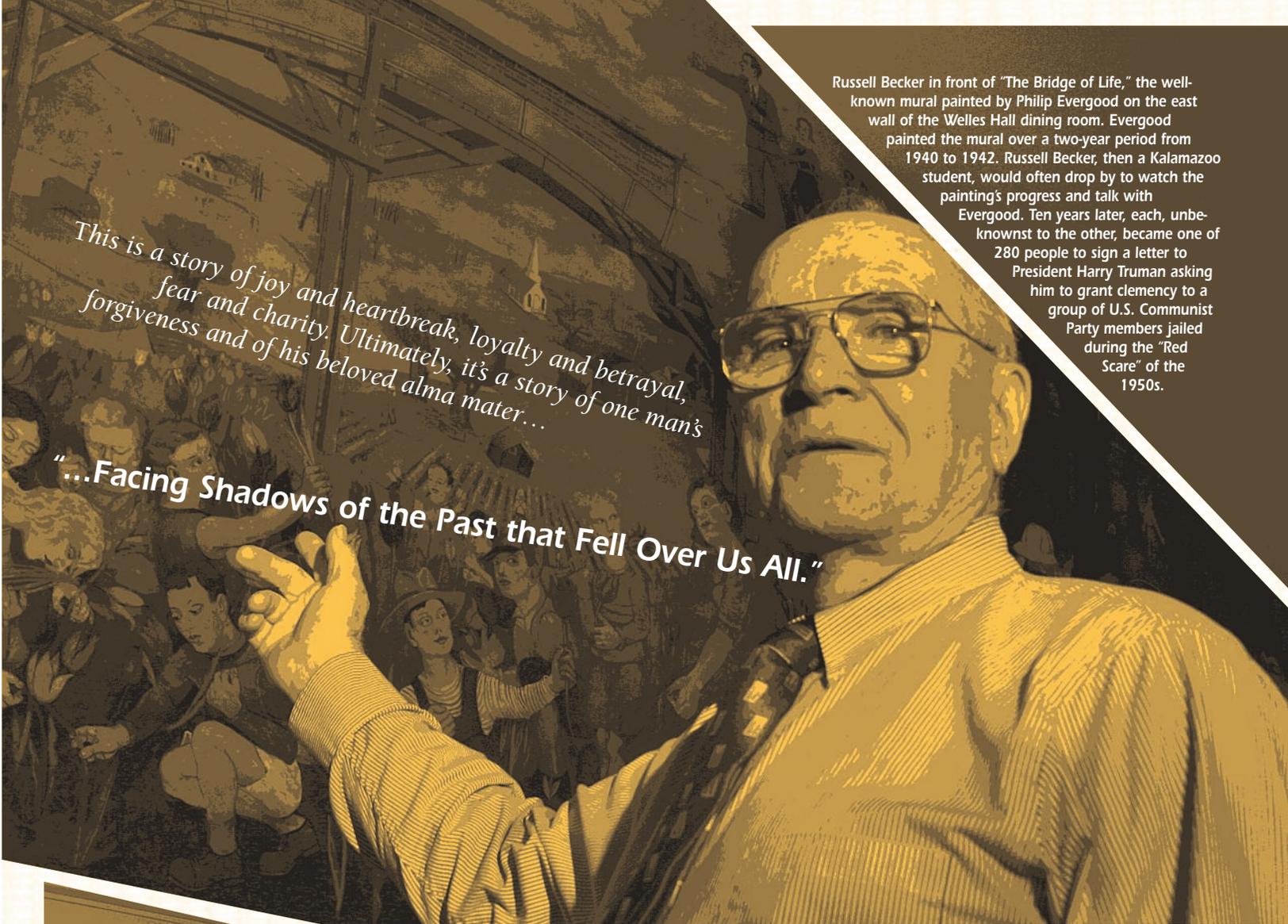
New challenges beckon. Recently, Jothy accepted a position with a Portland, Oregon, semiconductor company called Ambric while remaining an advisor with his last start-up, Service Integrity, back in Boston.

"I am being asked to tackle what I consider a grand challenge at Ambric," he says. "It's been an elusive dream for 25 years. Ambric's technology is the first example of 21st century computing that is real and practical. It's the first departure from 1950's computing approaches. I like to call it 'software at the speed of hardware'."

Not wanting to give up home base in Boston, the Rosenbergs have decided, at least for now, not to move to Oregon, so Jothy keeps an apartment in Portland. He works in Portland for two weeks, then flies home to Boston to work for one week. "I keep up with my workouts," he says. "I joined a club in Portland with a great pool, and I get in about 2,500 yards per day. I am having a bike built for me to use in Portland, and the good news is that you can ride year round if you don't mind getting wet now and then. In Boston, I have to put my bike up in November and can't use it again until April. When I am home, Carole and I continue our favorite workout together: we ride 12 miles to Walden Pond, swim across and back (about one mile total), then ride home. I don't bother with crutches on the bike for that. I just ride the bike right to the water's edge."

Another new challenge has caught Jothy's interest. For years, he has been asked to tell his story. People want to know how he has learned to deal with adversity and cope with disabilities. "I'm working on my third book. The first two were about software, but this one is my own story. I want to remove the word 'considering' from people's descriptions of my accomplishments. I never want to hear 'he's good, considering...'" 





Russell Becker in front of "The Bridge of Life," the well-known mural painted by Philip Evergood on the east wall of the Welles Hall dining room. Evergood painted the mural over a two-year period from 1940 to 1942. Russell Becker, then a Kalamazoo student, would often drop by to watch the painting's progress and talk with Evergood. Ten years later, each, unbeknownst to the other, became one of 280 people to sign a letter to President Harry Truman asking him to grant clemency to a group of U.S. Communist Party members jailed during the "Red Scare" of the 1950s.

This is a story of joy and heartbreak, loyalty and betrayal, fear and charity. Ultimately, it's a story of one man's forgiveness and of his beloved alma mater...

"...Facing Shadows of the Past that Fell Over Us All."

A Humdinger of a Time

Russell Becker '44 waited 49 years for someone at Kalamazoo College to ask him "to pony-up" to one of the College's capital campaigns. When the request finally came in 2002, it gave him a chance, he said, "to ask what the political tenor of the College is today."

Becker was curious because in 1953, at the height of the McCarthy Era communist witch-hunts, he was fired by the College following a very public inference that he was a communist sympathizer, perhaps even a communist himself.

"You'd think that a person who was an ordained Baptist minister and a graduate of the College might have been given better treatment," said Becker recently from his home in a community for retired clergy in Claremont, California. "Sadly I wasn't.

"And while I long ago chose to forgive, I never forgot."

Now, with an apology from the College in his hand—and the memorable experiences of a son and grandson who also graduated from Kalamazoo—Becker says he feels a lot better about his alma mater, "which handled its days in the McCarthy Era so lamentably."

"Russ" Becker first heard about Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1938, when the assistant minister of his church in Rochester, New York, H. Lewis Batts, left to take a ministerial post here. Part of Batts' job was to provide pastoral care to students at a small Baptist college in town.

A few years later, when a scholarship snafu caused Becker to miss out on going to the University of Rochester, he wrote to the admissions office at Kalamazoo College.

"I told them I had \$100 of my own money, \$100 from my parents and a \$100 loan from my church because I intended to pursue a career as a minister. I asked if I could somehow work off the remainder of my tuition and board if I was accepted."

The answer was yes. Becker received a \$100 stipend from the College, plus room and board that he would work off by doing odd jobs. "The cost of that first year—\$617.50—is still vivid in my mind," he said.

Becker loved his Kalamazoo College days. He reunited with his former minister's son, Lewis Batts, who was a sophomore at the College when Becker arrived. (Many Kalamazoo students and friends of the College fondly remember the late "Lew" Batts

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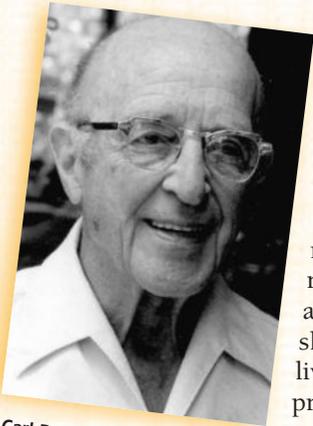


as a long-time College biology professor and environmentalist.) Becker also met “a real humdinger of a girl” named Dorothy Keifith '44, whom he married in 1945.

“My Kalamazoo experience was everything that college should be,” said Becker. “From academics to social life, it was a great place for me to come of age intellectually and spiritually.”

After earning a BA degree in psychology and religion, Becker returned to Rochester, earned a Divinity degree at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, and planned to join the U.S. Navy's chaplaincy program. But with the end of World War II, the Navy didn't need more chaplains, so in 1946 he took a job as an assistant minister at a Chicago-area church and enrolled in the PhD program at what is now known as University of Chicago Divinity School. Within a year, he was named University Baptist Pastor, and in 1949 he became Dean of Students for the University's Downtown Center.

Becker also studied and worked under noted psychologist Carl Rogers, father of the groundbreaking “client-centered”



Carl Rogers (1902-1987) was one of the founders of the humanistic psychology movement and one of the most influential psychologists in American history.

Photo by Natalie Rogers

approach to psychotherapy practiced widely today. Rogers taught that a therapist should provide empathy and unconditional positive regard for clients, rather than analyzing and directing how they should conduct their lives. His approach had a profound impact on the practice of clinical psychology and on domains outside of therapy including family life, education, conflict resolution, politics, and community health. In 2000, the American Psychological

Association named Rogers one of the most influential psychologists of the 20th century.

Roger's work deeply influenced Becker, who found it dovetailed with his own religious beliefs. His PhD dissertation became a critical analysis of Roger's client-centered therapy “with reference to its assumptions and its contributions to the Christian view of man.” Becker also contributed articles on counseling to *Pastoral Psychology* (with Rogers as co-author) and *The Pastor* magazines.

Un-American Activities

America in the late 1940s and early 50s was on the move. Returning GIs and immigrants fanned out across the country along with an expanding array of consumer goods and services. Much of this human and commercial traffic passed through Chicago, long known as an important industrial crossroads. According to Russ Becker, the University of Chicago and its divinity school were also busy crossroads for political ideas and activism, much of which leaned well to the left.

“Any good liberal cause that came along gave us cause to be active,” he said. “I participated in a number of social actions while there.” Much of this activism revolved around issues of free speech, free association, and coming to the defense of socialists and communists, said Becker. All of which flew directly in the face of

powerful political forces, such as J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI.

“Hoover was fiercely anti-communist and wanted to ferret them out wherever they existed in public or private life,” he said. “And he had powerful allies like Joe McCarthy who were only too glad to help him.”

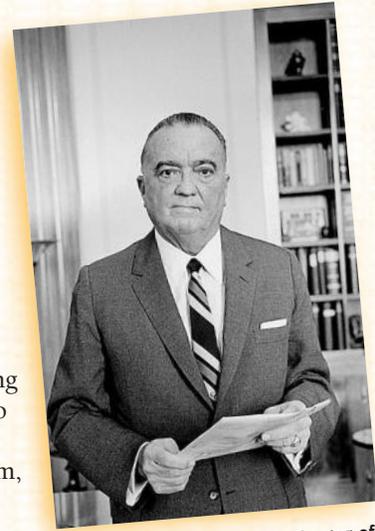
Joseph McCarthy, the Republican junior U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, solidified his growing national reputation during a 1950 speech in which he claimed communists had “infested” the State Department. To prove his point, he waved a sheet of paper which purportedly contained the traitors' names. Over the next four years, McCarthy waged a relentless crusade to identify so-called communists, often tarnishing innocent reputations solely on the basis of unfounded accusations, hearsay evidence, and innuendo.

Members of the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) also considered it their duty to purge the country of subversive influences. Although they found insufficient evidence to investigate the Ku Klux Klan, the Committee looked closely at whether communists had infiltrated the ranks of Hollywood filmmakers and New Deal programs such as the Federal Writers and Theatre Projects. By 1954 more than 320 writers, actors, directors, and technicians who supposedly were or had been members of the Communist Party were blacklisted from working. Some were jailed for refusing to testify before HUAC. All lost their court appeals.

Meanwhile, Hoover used the FBI to leak derogatory information on individuals whose loyalty he considered suspect. In 1951 this practice was institutionalized as the Responsibilities Program. Through that program the FBI disseminated derogatory political and personal information to employers and news media on American citizens. Many were school teachers and college professors.

Hoover also persuaded President Harry Truman to use the Alien Registration Act of 1940, commonly known as the Smith Act, against communist sympathizers in the United States. Originally intended to help prevent Nazis and other fascists from entering the United States, the Smith Act was amended to make it a federal crime to advocate or belong to a group that advocated the overthrow of the United States government.

It was the first statute since 1798 to make mere advocacy of ideas a federal crime, and it became the basis of highly publicized prosecutions for people linked to the Communist and Socialist Workers Parties throughout the country. In all, more than 140 American citizens were convicted. Many served up to five years in prison or went into hiding. In some cases, even their defense attorneys were jailed.



J. Edgar Hoover served as director of the FBI from 1924 until his death in 1972 and worked closely with Sen. Joseph McCarthy on the anti-communist crusade. Kalamazoo College awarded Hoover an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1937.

Photograph by Marion S. Trikosko from Library of Congress



Back to Kalamazoo

In the spring of 1952, Becker was teaching at the University of Chicago and working in Carl Rogers' campus counseling center where Dorothy Becker served as Rogers' secretary. One-year-old Jonathan rounded out their household.

Out of the blue, a request came from Kalamazoo College to become Dean of Men and part-time psychology instructor. "I thoroughly enjoyed my situation and hadn't thought about changing jobs. But with a baby, we were glad to move out of the big city, and I liked the idea of teaching at my alma mater. Plus, the pay [\$5,200 annual salary, plus \$100 moving expenses] was quite good."

The Beckers moved into a little house on Lovell Street, just west of the College, where Dorothy set out to be a stay-at-home mom and Russ set out to put his pastoral skills and knowledge of client-centered therapy to work for students.

"We were thrilled to be back in Kalamazoo," he said.

Within weeks, however, their thrill turned to despair. First, Dorothy became part of the great polio epidemic sweeping the country. She spent a week in unconscious paralysis, followed by months of agonizing physical therapy. It took a full year for her to recover,

but she retained a weakness on her left side throughout her life.

Russ Becker faced mounting tribulations on the job, as well.

Just days into the new school year, a freshman student was brutally assaulted in his dormitory room and left for dead. Though he survived the attack, he had no recollection of who carried it out. As Dean of Men, it fell to Becker to interact with suspicious police, horrified parents, jittery students, and the news media. A Kalamazoo police detective "practically lived on campus that fall collecting evidence and interviewing students," said Becker. "It was a very trying experience for everyone."

Becker ruffled police department feathers when he vigorously opposed their attempt to administer lie detector tests to all College staff in the wake of the assault. Becker's decision was subsequently backed by College officials. But he angered police again when they suggested the possibility that the assault could have had homosexual overtones. Becker refused to acknowledge whether he knew or was counseling any homosexual students. But if he had any direct knowledge of the crime, then he would tell police.

Then, one morning in late October, the campus community awoke to the news of vandalism in Stetson Chapel. According to a *Kalamazoo Gazette* article, persons unknown had "ripped all the downstairs pews loose from metal floor fasteners" and stacked them in the lobby before barricading the doors and escaping through a side window. Once again, the administration turned to the young Dean of Men to help identify the students, work with local law enforcement, and mete out punishment.

Upon closer inspection, school officials learned that the pews had been carefully unscrewed from their moorings and the so-called vandals turned out to be a large group of male College students who had been trying to get the administration's attention over a set of well-publicized grievances. The Stetson Chapel incident was the culmination of a series of escalating events that included setting off stink bombs in the administration building (including Becker's office), mail-ordering a large delivery of chicks to the President's office, and using cover of darkness to flip around hundreds of books on library shelves.

"I actually thought the library prank was fabulous, but I couldn't tell anyone that," said Becker.

Both the dormitory assault and student uprising led to extensive local news media coverage, including letters to the *Gazette* editor from students involved in the Stetson Chapel event airing their side of the story. Becker said he began to feel the heat from a nervous board of trustees.

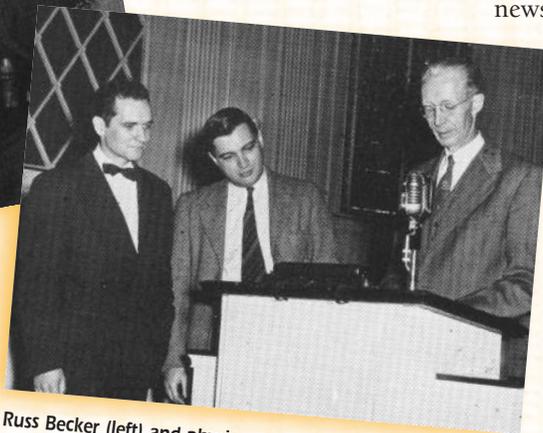
"The College was a very conservative community," he said, "still very much in the Baptist tradition, which not all students wanted. Plus, no one was used to seeing police on campus or negative stories in the newspaper."

They were certainly not prepared for what came next.

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Russell Becker in 1953 one year after his return (he graduated in 1944) to his alma mater as Dean of Men.



Russ Becker (left) and physics professor Ian Barbour (center) served on the College's Chapel Committee with religion professor Marion Dunsmore.

The Red Dean

On Tuesday, December 9, 1952, a headline in the *Kalamazoo Gazette* announced in bold letters: "Becker Among 280 Asking Amnesty for Red Leaders." A lengthy article reported that Dean Becker was one of "280 prominent persons" across the country who signed an appeal to President Truman asking him to grant amnesty to leaders of the Communist Party in the United States who had been convicted under the Smith Act.

The *Gazette* reprinted numerous passages from the letter.

"These men were convicted for agreeing to teach and advocate their political views. They were not charged with non-verbal acts of any kind designed to overthrow the government. They were not even charged with saying or writing anything designed to overthrow the government."

"While we may disagree with their political and economic philosophies...we feel that their freedom is in the best interests of our country and people."

"In the spirit of the American Declaration of Independence and its principles of liberty and equality, we respectfully urge that you grant amnesty to the imprisoned leaders...and thereby give added meaning and added strength to our country's basic charter of freedom."

In addition to Becker, the article named several other signers, including well known educators and religious leaders. Among these were philosopher Alexander Meiklejohn, historian Stringfellow Barr, Hebrew scholar and peace activist Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, and Alice Hamilton, MD, the first woman appointed to the faculty at Harvard Medical School and a pioneer in the field of occupational medicine. Barr was on faculty at University of Chicago during part of Russ Becker's time there.

Phillip Evergood also had signed the letter, noted the *Gazette*. Evergood was a resident artist at Kalamazoo College in the early 1940s and painted the mural in Welles Hall under a grant from the Carnegie Foundation.

Given the chance to comment in the article, Becker said he recognized that communists had also tried to gain amnesty for their convicted American leaders, but he was confident the letter he signed was initiated by leaders motivated by the same principle in which he believed: the right "to enjoy the hard-won freedom of expression which patriots have secured for us."

Becker Among 280 Asking Amnesty for Red Leaders

K-College Dean, Opposed to Communism, Says He Takes Stand as 'Issue of Principle.'

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Amnesty for Red Leaders

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According to the article, Becker said it was important to take stands on "enlightened principles" and he was concerned that people were frightened from taking "responsible political action."

The paper also reported that Becker allowed his name to be used in the letter only after he had assured himself that other signers were not communist sympathizers and because the Smith Act had been upheld by a split decision of the Supreme Court, with some justices expressing "strong dissent."

"The decision," Becker said in the article, "could make a black mark on the pages of American history" in how it might affect freedom of expression.

Two days after the article appeared, the *Gazette* published a letter from Becker, in which he said he was "aghast" that people had taken him for a communist sympathizer. "I stand unalterably opposed to communism," he wrote. "The constant danger of my brother in the front lines in Korea drives home for me the seriousness of the struggle we have with world communism. I hope America will never relent on that struggle, nor on the struggle to maintain the principles of freedom for which we are fighting.

"I signed [the Smith Act] letter," he wrote, "in order to express my concern for freedom of speech in America."

Looking back on the episode recently, Becker said he actually had "no recollection of signing" the letter to President Truman. "But signing protest petitions would have been a minor thing to me and my fellow students and faculty in Chicago. I just knew that the government was persecuting people for espousing their personal political beliefs. And I didn't like that.

"Nor did I like being painted as the Red Dean of Kalamazoo College."



south of Cleveland, where he had secured a position in the psychology department at The College of Wooster. After four years, he left teaching for a pastoral post in Glencoe, Illinois, where he stayed for three years.

From 1960 to 1969, he served on the faculty of Yale Divinity School. Then, he returned to the pastoral ministry, this time to become the pastor of the nondenominational Glencoe Union Church. He retired from that post in 1986. His second son, Carl, named after Becker's friend and mentor, Carl Rogers, now has that job. Since retiring, Becker has served part-time ministerial and church fundraiser roles.

From the moment the article appeared, Becker said there was "a general feeling of horror" toward him on the part of campus community. He recalled a dinner party with a local Baptist minister and College trustee at which he was made "to feel like a radical, if not a communist."

While he was not overtly shunned by faculty colleagues, most kept their distance. "A few young professors were supportive and would invite Dorothy and me over to dinner and commiserate with us. That helped a lot."

Becker said he was never approached by anyone claiming to be a communist.

"You had to realize that anti-communist hysteria was rampant. The country was fighting communists in Korea that were being supplied by the communists in Russia and China. Meanwhile, McCarthy was saying there are communists under your bed. Every politician wanted to be seen as tough on communism and nobody wanted to be on a blacklist."

Dorothy worked for many years as a church financial secretary and fundraiser. Several years ago, she fell victim to post-polio syndrome. Dorothy died in March 2005.

Russ Becker now lives at Pilgrim Place for Retired Clergy in Claremont, Calif., "in the middle of an academic and spiritual enclave," he said. For years, he never spoke about his Kalamazoo College employment or dismissal, even to his sons.

"For one thing, Wooster and Yale were dream places to be, ideal intellectual communities," he said. "More than that, however, I had too much affection for Kalamazoo College. Admittedly, most of that came during my student days, but I didn't want to bias my sons' opinions."

Both Jonathan and Carl attended Kalamazoo College. Jonathan graduated with the Class of 1973. He practices law in Lawrence, Kansas. Carl attended Kalamazoo for 15 months beginning in 1975.

"I first learned about the whole affair when I was in high school and my mom blurted out the story," said Jonathan recently. "It was at a time when we were questioning the Vietnam War. My dad encouraged us to do that, but pointed out that there can be consequences for challenging the status quo. After that, whenever McCarthyism came up in conversation or in the news, I felt a personal connection to it."

Jonathan said he came to Kalamazoo for the same reasons others did, especially the chance to study abroad. In June 2005, Jonathan's son, Mark Becker, became the third generation of his family to graduate from the College. He first learned of his grandfather's departure from Kalamazoo when he came to look at the College himself.

"My grandfather's treatment by the College didn't change my opinion of him or the College," said Mark. "He's an example of how people should stick to their morals and look past immediate repercussions. If I'm ever faced with a tough decision, I will draw from his experience. And if he and my father forgave the College, I had no reason not to."

Moving On

By February 1953 the police and newspaper reporters had left campus, and Kalamazoo College President John Scott Everton, who had hired Becker, left for a job with the Ford Foundation. But Russ Becker's personal Cold War continued. That month, the board of trustees notified him that his contract would not be renewed for the following year. He finished out the remainder of the school year while searching for another job.

Becker never received any official reason for his dismissal. He said he didn't need one. "I knew I was the victim of a desperate mindset that was sweeping the country. How anyone made the connection to me at Kalamazoo College, I don't know. But I suspect a copy of that letter made its way to the FBI and they fed it to the newspaper."

Becker said the other incidents might have contributed to his unpopularity with the board and his contract might not have been renewed because he had been appointed by the departing President Everton.

That summer of 1953, with Dorothy on the mend, Becker moved his family to Wooster, Ohio, about an hour

Charitable Feelings

In February 2002, Russ Becker received a letter from the Kalamazoo College's Advancement Office asking him to consider a contribution to the College's capital campaign. Becker let out a breath he'd been holding for nearly five decades in the form of a letter back to the College.

"I personally have been waiting 49 years for someone from the College to ask me to pony up," he wrote. "You give me, at last, a chance to inquire what the political tenor of the Board of Trustees of Kalamazoo College is today."

He then retold the story of the Smith Act letter, the *Kalamazoo Gazette* article, his termination, his sons, grandson, and more.

"He's an example of how people should stick to their morals and look past immediate repercussions."

continued on next page

It was an easy assumption, he wrote, that many people in Kalamazoo in 1953 considered him to be a communist, "given the hysteria that McCarthy had ignited across the land." Nonetheless, the termination "devastated me.

"As you might be able to tell," Becker continued, "the Board's action is one which I have never forgotten." Despite his misgivings about the College, Becker wrote that he long ago began contributing to the College's annual fund. But "having spent my years in teaching and in the pastoral ministry, I do not have the kind of resources that you should be coveting.

"I do not suppose," he continued, "that I am waiting for a subsequent board to apologize for the treatment extended to me by a predecessor board. But I do wonder whether the makeup of the current Board of Trustees is as easily frightened as the one which took the untoward action in my case.

"All in all," he concluded, "it is a credit to Christian charity that I have managed to feel favorable toward the College which handled its days in the McCarthy era so lamentably. However, charitable feelings come more easily than charitable giving."

Russ Becker's letter landed on the desk of former Kalamazoo College President Jimmy Jones.

"An incredible document," said Jones, now president of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, that really "touched a nerve" with him. "The thing about the McCarthy era that has so rattled me all these decades is the willingness of individuals to follow demagogues who prey upon hysteria," he said. "Too many Americans lost their ethical and moral compasses in that era."

A few days after Becker sent his letter to Kalamazoo College, he received one from Jones.

In what he termed "a long overdue letter of apology," Jones recalled his own grandparents "listening to Joe McCarthy make his devastatingly false accusations against so many people," and making the "patently absurd suggestion that [U.S Army General] George Marshall, of all people, had been 'soft on communism.'

"I wish you to know," wrote Jones, "that the College needs to apologize to you for the abysmal way in which this institution acted towards you in not renewing your contract for the 1952-53 academic year. That your wife contracted polio at the same time must have been a terrible blow on top of the College's humiliating treatment of you.

"I hope that [grandson] Mark's time here is some kind of recompense to you as you think of how this College can in fact shape the future for those who are our fellow learners. Rest assured that we shall not ask money from one to whom Kalamazoo College obviously owes the greater debt."

The Becker File

Russ Becker said he was grateful for Jones' letter and the closure that it helps bring to an event he has often relived, but rarely spoken about. As testament, Becker's son Jonathan and grandson Mark were not aware of the exchange of letters in 2002 between him and Jimmy Jones until they were asked to comment for this article. "And I never let those events creep into my sermons or cloud my opinion of the College," he said. "I never rode that horse."

Becker called the McCarthy era "a shameful period of American history, which finally began to get squared away when the U.S. Senate censured McCarthy in 1954." McCarthy died in 1957. Beginning that same year, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed constitutional protections regarding free speech and self-incrimination and struck down provisions of the Smith Act that made it easy for prosecutors to show a Communist Party member had criminal intent.

By the 1960s most people on Hollywood blacklists had resumed their careers. HUAC was renamed the Internal Security Committee in 1969. It was abolished six years later and its activities transferred to the House Judiciary Committee.

News media exposure of the FBI's Responsibilities Program helped to stop its activities in 1955. But not before the FBI disseminated derogatory political and personal information to news outlets and the employers of more than 800 American citizens, including more than 400 school teachers and college professors.

Russell Becker might well have been one of them. "I've never sent for my FBI file," said Becker. "But I bet one exists." With happy memories intact and an apology in hand, Becker said he's ready to let bygones be bygones. Plus, he admits, he's not eager to revisit old fears.

"Here's a little vignette on fright," he said. "In 1955, I was teaching at Wooster when a man showed up on campus from the Ford Foundation to conduct interviews with the faculty on the effect the McCarthy era had on college campuses and academia.

"When it was my turn to be interviewed, he asked whether the communist witch hunts under McCarthy had had any direct effect on me. Did I give the guy an earful? No I didn't. I was still sufficiently frightened by what had happened to me and by the spirit of the times that I didn't know what being forthright with him would mean to me, my career, and my family.

"I did not have the courage to give a straight answer."

"That's the character of witch hunts like McCarthyism," said physicist and theologian Ian Barbour. "Ultimately, they don't have wide philosophical impact, but they cause all sorts of problems for individuals."

Barbour is professor emeritus at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. He's also a world renown ethicist and winner of the 1999 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. In 1952, he was a Kalamazoo College physics professor and according to Russ Becker was one of the few people on campus who showed support to Becker and his wife Dorothy.



Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) became a single-issue politician, focusing almost exclusively on anti-communism. Censured by his Senate colleagues in 1954, McCarthy died in 1957.
Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society

Herbert Lee Stetson Society

Named after the seventh president of Kalamazoo College, the **Herbert Lee Stetson Society** recognizes those of the greater College community—alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff—who have made estate gift arrangements that will eventually benefit the College.

There are more than 180 current members of the Stetson Society. Their gifts include will and trust bequest commitments, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, and life insurance policies. These "ultimate gifts" contribute to scholarships, research, teaching, and capital improvements. Some are directed to support the annual operating costs of the College. All make a tremendous impact.

You may be interested in learning how you can include Kalamazoo College in your estate plans. Useful information is available to guide you in making the most appropriate decisions for you and your family. You may request information by returning the form (right), by contacting the advancement office at (269) 337-7247, or by sending an e-mail message to Sherie Veramay, director of gift planning, at sveramay@kzoo.edu.

I would like to learn more about becoming a member of the Stetson Society.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Send to: Sherie Veramay
Kalamazoo College
1200 Academy Street
Kalamazoo MI 49006-3295

Winter 2006

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SUDOKU PUZZLE INSTRUCTIONS

Fill in the grid so that every column, and every row, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

You solve the puzzle by using logic and reasoning.

The grid contains numbers, but nothing needs to add up to anything else.

(Solution on page 47)

MAKE A GIFT TO THE KALAMAZOO COLLEGE FUND AND "LINE UP" A MATCHING GIFT THROUGH YOUR EMPLOYER.

For more information on how you can make a Matching Gift contact the Human Resources Department at your place of employment.

or

mail **June Shockley**
Matching Gift Coordinator
Kalamazoo College Fund
1200 Academy Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

phone **269.337.7236**

fax **269.337.7262**

email **shockley@kzoo.edu**

web **<http://www.kzoo.edu/gift>**

Homecoming Rocks!

It's far more than a football game (in which, by the way, the Hornets roared back from a 13 point first-half deficit to claim a 21-13 victory)! Homecoming weekend included new events like a 5-K run; a poetry class and coffee-shop reading; discussion of the novel *Purple Hibiscus*, the same book read by this year's matriculating class of 2009; and a carnival on the Quad. The weekend also included those traditional treasures: special alumni awards; a chance to meet current faculty; the opportunity to meet with faculty emeriti; the 1833 Society Brunch; class reunion photos and dinners; and some quiet (or not so quiet) conversations with old friends. And we won the football game!



Great athletes (the 2005 inductees to the College's Athletic Hall of Fame) flank two presidents. Pictured from left are: Jeff Gorton '00, swimming; Ed Lauermann '64, football; President Wilson-Oyelaran; Alumni Association Executive Board President Robin Lake '90; Seth Denawitz '94, tennis; and Shelly Krisfalusi '92, soccer.

Winners of special alumni awards join President Wilson-Oyelaran (third from right) and Robin Lake '90, president of the Alumni Association Executive Board (second from right). Award winners are (l-r): Professor Emeritus of English Conrad Hilberry, the Weimer K. Hicks Award; Peter Tippett '75, Distinguished Achievement Award; and David Kessler '75, Distinguished Service Award.



A high-energy "On Your Mark, Get Ready";



The 5-K "Go";

and a lower-energy "Finish."





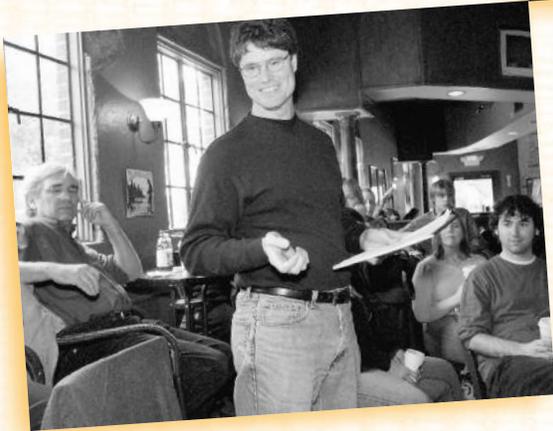
Running is a family affair



Fan support was sweet music for a second-half comeback



We'll never remember how much fun we had without a cell phone photo



Homecoming poetry reading



Meeting current faculty
Catching up with retired faculty



Class Reunions

Nine classes enjoyed reunions during Homecoming 2005. Members of three of those classes are pictured here. Photos of the other six classes will be featured in the Spring and Summer issues of *LuxEsto*.

Class of 1960 (l-r): Front row—Mary Jo (Dunkirk) Smits '61, Joanne (Lent) Hyames, Sue Kelley Henger, Judy Pavia McCabe, Joy Crothers Angel, Phyllis Watson Reed, Second row—Leighton Smith, Nancy (Vots) Smith, Ann (Wagner) Inderbitzin, Jim McCabe, Bob Miles, Third row—Jim Hyames, Fred Jackson, Allen Pixley, Rosemary Luther DeHoog, Fourth row—Rod Wilson, Ojars Smits, Regan G. Smith, Don McClure



Class of 1965 (l-r): Front row—Kay Lewis, Diana Besemer, Martha Gay, Mary A. Brown, Betsy (Mead) Pifer, Nancy Lafuente, Marion (Laetz) Huyck, Second row—Les Coleman, Tom Hipple, F. Johnette (Frick) Rodriguez, Baiba (Ozols) Kaugara, Barbara Arnold, Jim Pifer, Third row—Dan Boylan, Jan P. Hessler, G. William Lawrence, Heather Keel, Michael Nusbaum, John Ingles, Ann (Gillespie) Ingles, Fourth row—Rick Haas, Lee Summers Wild, Gary Wild, John Million, Loretta Smith Fritz, Helen Strong Foreman, Jack Foreman, Michael D. Wade



Class of 1990 (l-r): Front row—Laura Patton-Van Buskirk, Alice (Smith) Edington, Michelle Swanson-Heimbuch, Barbara Chatametkool, Second row—Dan Wort, Rob Butryn, Alisha Rohde, Denise Miller, Third row—Diana (Knickerbocker) Hoffman, Robin Lake, Brita Muller Boer, Laura Amendt, Andy Bradford, John Meehan Jr.



Camp Connects Campus and Alumni Families

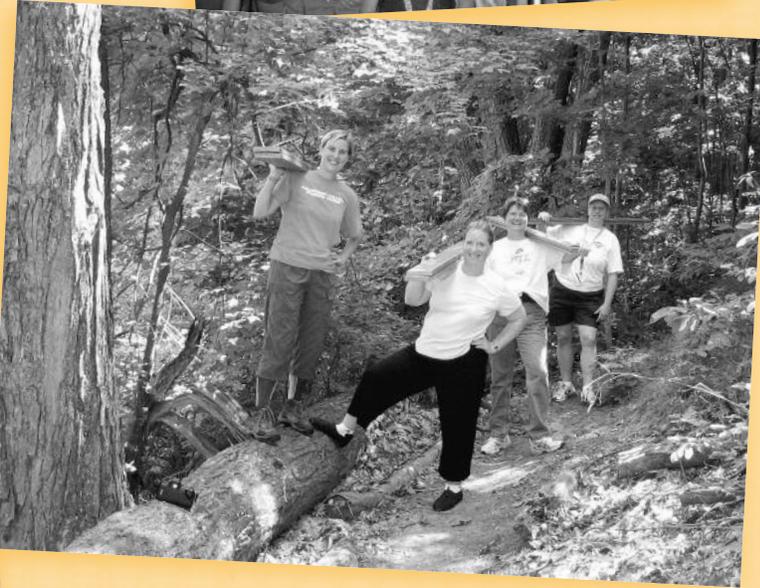
“Camp ‘K’” debuted last summer and brought together alumni and their children for a weekend on campus full of fun and learning.



Lee (Dunning) Prost '88, Julie Halstead '79, and Allison and Robbie Prost learn about the Kalamazoo College bells from Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Jeff Smith.



Amy Courter '83 secures planks on the “Camp ‘K’” alumni bridge.



The human hauling crew for a new bridge at the College’s Lillian Anderson Arboretum included (l-r): Alison Frye '94, Holly Rarick Witchey '83, Amy Courter '83, and Lisa Presley.



Margie (Andreae) Kline '86 looks over the shoulders of her three children (from left, Lydia, Eli, and Caleb) as they use forensic chemistry to solve a murder mystery.



Emma Tardiff, daughter of Jan (Koehler) Tardiff '90 and Joe Tardiff '89, proudly displays her Kalamazoo College collage, which she created in the “Camp ‘K’” art class of Erica Hischke '05.



Scavenger Hunt champs were Dana Holton Hendrix '80, her daughter Genevieve, Julie Halstead '79, and her sons Jonny and Robby Fetchko.

Provost Journeys to Palestine

Provost and Professor of Political Science Greg Mahler led a four-day workshop last August on “Civics, Government, and Citizenship.” And he traveled a long way to get to class, which was held in the Palestinian city of Ramallah in the West Bank.

The workshop was sponsored by the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA), the largest think tank in Palestinian East Jerusalem, and supported by a Ford Foundation grant. The workshop attracted 28 community leaders, including civil servants from the Palestinian Authority’s (PA) foreign ministry, municipal government workers from the city of Ramallah, graduate students, and members of non-governmental organizations, foundations, and private sector companies.

“I had worked with PASSIA in 1996, right after the Palestinian elections, on a project with members of the newly-elected assembly to draft a new constitution,” says Mahler. “There was considerable excitement after what had been the first and most democratic election in the Arab Middle East. But the euphoria waned and criticism increased during the six years that followed what turned out to be the

first-and-last Palestinian election. Much of the criticism focused on the late PA Chairman Yasir Arafat, who was accused of paying lip service only to democratic principles while working primarily to keep himself in power.”

Many feel that recent events in the Middle East, including changes in Palestinian leadership and Israeli withdrawal from settlements in Gaza and the West Bank, represent an



Greg Mahler in his workshop “Civics, Government, and Citizenship.” The workshop took place in Ramallah.

opportunity to strengthen the flame of democracy that appeared to have sputtered during the past years. Mahler wanted to be part of that hope; so when PASSIA invited him to organize and teach a workshop in his particular area of expertise, he didn’t hesitate to accept.

“People often inquire whether my decision to participate in this workshop was safe and prudent,” says Mahler. “And the inquiry is based on the bulk of political reporting from the region. But whatever the politicians do, the vast majority of Palestinians want peace and stability. They want what we have: basic freedoms, normalcy, and economic security. I accepted the invitation in order to make whatever contributions I could to those goals.”

And the workshop went very well. Most of the participants were accustomed to and expecting a lecture-style class. But Mahler “outwaited” some initial first-day passive silence, and soon the combination of topics and “students” became highly participatory. “The challenge then was to keep the energized discussions on course,” smiles Mahler. Topics included: Types of Government; Constitutional Democracy, Universal Principles and Problems; Democratic Institutions, Structures and Processes; Constitutional Political Culture in the Middle East; and Citizenship and Citizens’ Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities.

Mahler’s work in Ramallah will influence the content of the winter quarter class he teaches at Kalamazoo College: “Israel in the Middle East.”

“As the title suggests, that class has focused primarily on politics and government in Israel in the context of its Middle Eastern neighbors,” explains Mahler. “But this year I plan to include more of a Palestinian presence in the course, in large part as a result of this trip. It may be time to change the course title to ‘Israel and the Middle East.’”



Péter Érdi, Physics, was one of five finalists and then an eventual winner of the Biotechnology Industry Organization's "Pfizer Research Contract Competition." The competition promotes partnerships and accelerates business development in the life sciences in Michigan. It also develops solutions that target specific needs in pharmaceutical research and development. Péter's award was announced during the MichBio Expo, a two-day event for the Michigan life science community held in late September. Péter presented a new perspective to test and design neuropharmacological drugs based on computational models. His work will help researchers better understand diseases of the central nervous system. Péter will enter into contract negotiations with Pfizer Research and Development and receive up to \$30,000 in secured funding.

Two recent publications by **John Dugas**, Political Science, have been released. "The Colombian Nightmare: Human Rights Abuses and the Contradictory Effects of U.S. Foreign Policy" appears in *When States Kill: Latin America, the U.S. and Technologies of Terror*, Cecelia Menjivar and Nestor Rodriquez, editors, Austin, University of Texas Press, 2005. "Colombian Attitudes Toward the United States After 9/11" is part of *America: Sovereign Defender or Cowboy Nation*, Joshua Woods and Eric Shiraev, editors, Ashgate, 2005.

The University of Missouri Press will publish Professor of English **Bruce Mills'** third book, *Poe, Fuller, and the Mesmeric Arts: Transition States in the American Renaissance*. (Bruce is also the author of *Cultural Reformations: Lydia Maria Child and the Literature of Reform* and the editor of Child's *Letters from New-York*, which was originally published in 1845.) He has had his essay, "An Archaeology of Yearning," accepted for publication in the fall 2005 issue of *The Georgia Review*. The essay explores various "yearnings" in relation to his autistic son's drawings and the striking cave art near Charvet-Pont-d' Arc in France. In Cleveland last October, Bruce presented a paper at "Representing Autism: Writing, Cognition, Disability," a conference sponsored by the Society for Critical Exchange.

Steven Pollens, MD, is Kalamazoo College's referral physician. He is a member of Bronson Family Practice Downtown in Kalamazoo, and he works with the physician assistants who are on site at the College's health center. Dr. Pollens was selected as the Family Physician of the Year by the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians during the Annual Congress of Delegates meeting held in June in Traverse City.

Glass artist Dale Chihuly received an honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts from Kalamazoo College in October. "He revolutionized the world of contemporary art and design," says **Bernard Palchick**, vice president for advancement and the Jo-Ann and Robert Stewart Professor of Art. "The source and magnitude of his influence come from his genius in the field of contemporary studio glass, his inventiveness, his boldness, and hyperkinetic creativity, which inspires all who work with him." Palchick was a student of Chihuly's at the Rhode Island School of Design. Chihuly has been working with glass as an art form since the early 1960s. He earned a degree in sculpture from the University

of Wisconsin, and then went on to study in the ceramics program at the Rhode Island School of Design, where he established a renowned glass program. By 1967, Chihuly was using neon, argon, and blown-glass forms to create room-sized installations of freestanding imagery. In 1971 he co-founded the legendary Pilchuck School in Stanwood, Washington, serving as artistic director until 1989. His studios in the Seattle and Tacoma area have become a gathering place for artists and collectors. Among Chihuly's most memorable installation exhibitions are *Chihuly Over Venice*, *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem 2000*, *Chihuly in the Park: A Garden of Glass at Chicago's Garfield Park Conservatory*, *the Chihuly Bridge of Glass* in Tacoma, and *Mille Fiori* at the Tacoma Art Museum. An exhibit titled *Chihuly in Kalamazoo* showed at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts from September 25 through January 1.

The September 2005 issue of the *American Historical Association Newsletter* put **Kalamazoo College** in the "Select 25" of institutions sending the largest number of students graduating with a BA in history on to earn a history PhD. Eleven percent of recent Kalamazoo College graduates with Bachelor's degrees in history (15 of 141) earned their doctorates in the subject, a figure that tied the College for tenth place, behind schools such as Johns Hopkins, Swarthmore, and the University of Chicago, and in front of schools like Harvard, Brown, and Yale.

Alison Frye '94, assistant director for alumni relations and head women's tennis coach, left the College in October to take a position in the graduate admissions office of the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont.

One of America's leading social scientists, **Frances Fox Piven**, delivered the 2005 *William Weber Lectures in Government and Society at Kalamazoo College* last October. Her first lecture, "Disruption and Democracy: Lessons from American History," argued that elections and other formal democratic procedures, while remarkable constructions, are inevitably subverted and undermined by the inequalities of the society in which they exist. Nevertheless, the procedures become important when protest movements emerge and generate the drama and disruption through which electoral arrangements sometimes become vehicles for democracy. In the second lecture, "Whatever Happened to the American New Deal," Piven analyzed the changes in American society that combined to create the political pressures that eroded the social policy programs of the New Deal of the 1930s and the Great Society of the 1960s. She examined the political coalition between the business community and the populist right that has emerged in the past quarter of a century, and the role of racism and sexism in holding that coalition together. Piven is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate School and University Center of City University of New York.

Bernard McGinn, the Naomi Shenstone Donnelley Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago's Divinity School, delivered the 2005 *Homer J. Armstrong Lecture in Religion*. His talk was titled "Violence and Apocalypticism" and occurred in November. 

Send Us Your Stories; Tell us Your Tales

Got a favorite story or strong memory about your life as a Kalamazoo College student, one that captures the essence of your college experience? We want it.

Your story or memory might be about an event, an individual, or set of individuals. We want it.

Maybe it's about a course, or a special moment, or place. We want it.

An achievement, a program, an organization—or some combination of all of the above. We want it.

Write it one page, or write it five. *We ask only that you describe whatever it was in some detail and tell us why or how this seemed to epitomize Kalamazoo College for you.*

Professor of Sociology Bob Stauffer is studying the saga or identity of the College over time, Trustee Emerita Marlene Francis '58 is writing an overall history of the College. They want and need your recollections, which will prove invaluable for their projects. Some of the recollections are likely to be published in *LuxEsto*—and possibly Marlene's history book, due in time for the college's 175th anniversary in 2008. (If you would prefer that your response not be published, please indicate that preference.)

Please send your stories, along with your name and current occupation (or previous one, if retired), to Bob Stauffer, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. If you wish to send these as an e-mail attachment, the address is stauffer@kzoo.edu.

We have a long and proud history, but we don't remind ourselves enough about the particular individual experiences that constitute that history. Please help us do that; we look forward to hearing from you.

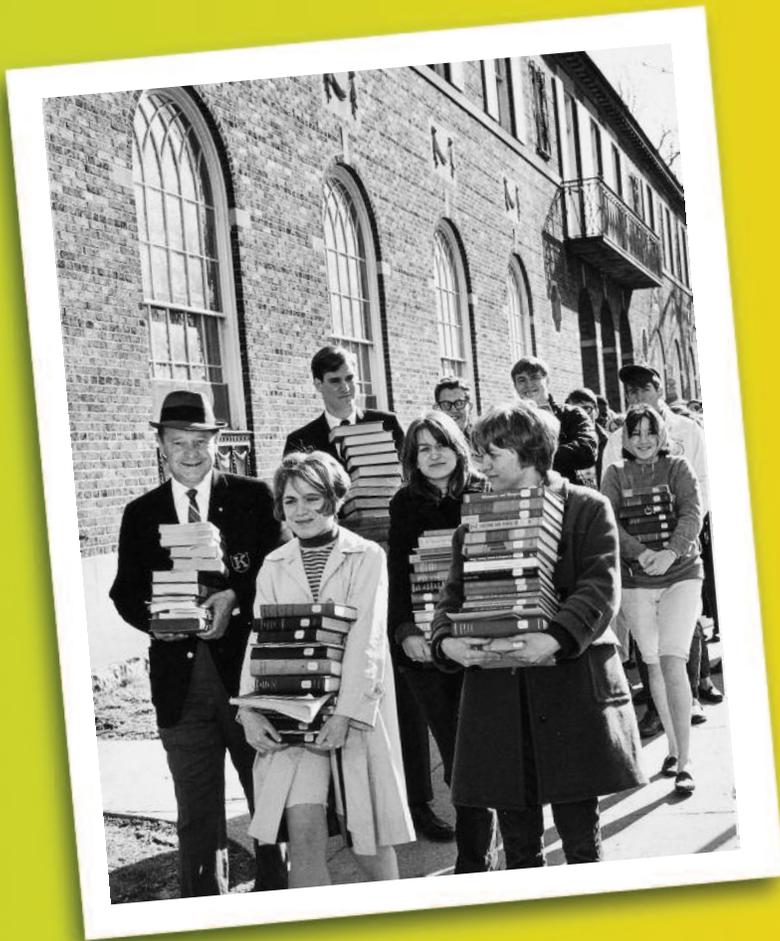


Gift Establishes Jewish Studies Program



Jeff Haus, PhD, will develop a Jewish Studies program at Kalamazoo College and teach courses in the history and religion departments. Jeff earned his doctorate in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University, and he has previously taught at the University of North Carolina, Tulane University, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of Judaism, Los Angeles. Launch of the Jewish Studies program at Kalamazoo College was made possible by a generous gift from Helen Etkin '76. Helen majored in sociology at the College and went on to earn a law degree from the University of Toledo.

“I wanted to help provide an environment that supports Jewish students learning about themselves and the world and, at the same time, promotes the world learning about Judaism,” said Helen. The establishment of the Jewish Studies position is the latest of many projects and efforts she has supported in order to make campus life more comfortable and academically enriching for Jewish students. “Everyone in the Jewish Student Organization is grateful for the gifts of Helen,” said JSO President Daniel Blustein. “It will help JSO educate the campus about Jewish history, philosophies, and traditions. President Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran agrees. “Helen’s gift allows us to promote inclusiveness on our campus in many wonderful ways,” she said. “The fruits of this gift will benefit our non-Jewish and our Jewish students.” Pictured on campus at the opening of the 2005-06 academic year (the first for the nascent program) are (l-r): Provost Gregory Mahler, Helen Etkin, President Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran, and Assistant Professor of History Jeff Haus. The College desires to make the Jewish Studies faculty line a permanent position, and anyone interested in contributing to its endowment is invited to contact Kalamazoo College Advancement at 269.337.7246. 



The Charge of the Book Brigade

In April 1967 President Weimer Hicks (left) and a brigade of book carriers helped Kalamazoo College move from its "old" library in Mandelle Hall into its new facility (Upjohn Library) across the street. Together they moved some 50,000 books. In January 2006 the expanded and renovated Upjohn Library Commons opened for students, who, unlike their predecessors two generations earlier, did not have to do a lot of heavy lifting. But like their predecessors, they now have a great new tool for learning. Upjohn Library Commons is an elegant and useful academic nerve center, designed to enable brave new intellectual journeys for today's and tomorrow's students. It will be formally dedicated on April 22. Look for stories on the history of Kalamazoo College's libraries and the dedication celebration in the Spring and Summer issues of *LuxEsto*, respectively.

Office of College Communication
1200 Academy Street
Kalamazoo Michigan 49006



the farther journey

