Contact the Guilds Director, Joan Hawxhurst, at 269-337-7384 or joan.hawxhurst@kzoo.edu.

Anyone with a connection to Kalamazoo College is invited to join a Guild.

You can create a member account and join the online discussions of the charter Guilds at http://guilds.kzoo.edu.

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**FALL 2008 GUILD EVENTS**

**October 6-7**
The Sustainability Guild hosted Sarna Saltzman ’96, executive director of SEEDS, an environmental design non-profit in Traverse City. Sarna’s visit included guest lectures in Environmental Studies and Anthropology classes, a “Passion to Profession” event with the Center for Career Development, interviews with seniors on their SIPs, and meals with the Sustainability Living-Learning House and other student groups.

**October 14**
The Justice & Peace Guild cohosted, with the Religion Department and the Fetzer Institute, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, noted South African psychologist and author of *A Human Being Died that Night*. Pumla’s visit included lunch with students, dinner with faculty and community partners, and the annual Thompson Lecture on “Reconciliation and Forgiveness: A Call to Hope and Healing the Past.”

**October 21**
The Health Guild hosted Dr. Stephen DeHorn ’00, emergency room physician at Detroit Medical Center, and his colleagues, for a discussion of professional paths in medicine.

**November 12**
The Value of LEED Certification: A Panel Discussion. Co-sponsored by the Business and Sustainability Guilds and the Business Living-Learning House, this panel will include representatives from firms involved in the Hicks Center LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification process, as well as members of the campus community involved in LEED.

For additional information about these and other upcoming events, please visit http://guilds.kzoo.edu or call the Guilds office at (269) 337-7384.
A group of 120 students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered expectantly in Dewing Commons for the Fall 2008 Guilds Summit. “Think big, start small,” advised Joan Hawxhurst, Director of the Guilds. “Work together” was another clear theme of the day.

On this Summit the Guilds initiative partnered with Student Development, which was hosting its own leadership retreat the same day, to bring both groups together. Some 60 leaders of student organizations joined an equal number of current and prospective Guild members to fill Dewing 103 for the opening plenary, which began with a welcome by new Provost Mickey McDonald.

After a fast-paced team-building activity involving the hands-free moving of balloons through the auditorium, two College alumni—Alana Shaw ’04 and Blake McDonald ’08—introduced the keynote speaker: Jim Heath ’78, Vice President and General Manager at Stryker Instruments and a former Hornet football and baseball coach. Shaw and McDonald have launched careers at Stryker. Heath spoke about his experiences of teamwork and the importance of building strong teams. He drew connections between the work of the Guilds and the value of teamwork and stressed the importance of the latter as an essential skill.

“The Guilds connect people,” he said, “and that’s what we do at Stryker too.” Once a team—whether a division at Stryker or a Guild at Kalamazoo College—develops the collaborative spirit, it’s time to “spread that culture to the rest of the group.”

Heath referred to Belasco and Stayer’s Flight of the Buffalo, a 1993 management guide based on the idea of “leading a journey.” He encouraged Guild members to trust and rely upon one another, like a flock of geese in a “V” formation, where leadership rotates and everyone’s success depends upon the contribution of each individual.

Afterward, Guild members participated in one of four break-out sessions in which each Guild, led by a faculty or staff facilitator, developed ideas to promote teamwork through this year’s Guild activities. The four charter Guilds also confirmed leadership liaisons for the year and announced on-campus meeting dates. Continuing the theme of team-building, each Guild explored possibilities of collaboration with organizations and departments on campus. The Summit closed with a screening of a new 8-minute movie about the Guilds’ first year.

Students, faculty, and alumni are anxious to begin working on their new ideas for the Guilds. To find out more about the Summit, or to join a Guild, visit http://guilds.kzoo.edu.
My first fall at Kalamazoo College is off to a roaring start! After a summer of website upgrades, video editing, and visits with alumni in Traverse City and Washington, DC, we’ve turned our focus to welcoming the campus community with opportunities for Guild involvement. At an information session for incoming first-year students during orientation week, we premiered the new 8-minute Guilds movie, crafted by Jes Kramer ’11 with footage from last spring’s Guild events. At an ice-cream social for first-year students, we distributed Guilds fliers and signed up new student members. Guilds were on the agenda at the senior and sophomore welcome events and were the topic of a Friday Jama in early October. The Fall Guilds Summit, with its emphasis on team-building and collaboration, set the stage for a year of finding synergy and combining efforts at the local, national, and global levels.

We continue to seek ways to foster alumni leadership in each of the four charter Guilds. The Guilds can only reach their full potential with the active involvement of experienced and passionate professionals. We invite all College alumni and friends to consider taking at least one of these steps toward greater involvement:

• Enroll online and become a member of one of the four charter Guilds (Sustainability, Business, Justice and Peace, and Health);
• Share professional experience, information, and networks related to your Guild’s interdisciplinary theme through the Guilds website and in person;
• Attend a Guild meeting or event on campus;
• Convene a regional gathering of Guild members in your area;
• Seek an executive board position or other leadership opportunity in your Guild;
• Invite friends and colleagues who are alumni to join the Guild that would best benefit from their particular professional expertise.

As we headed to press with this issue of GUILDNews, we received word that our proposal for a panel discussion about the path-breaking Guilds initiative has been accepted for the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ 2009 Annual Meeting, “Ready or Not: Global Challenges, College Learning, and America’s Promise.” The meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, January 21-24, 2009, and our panelists will include current students, faculty, and alumni Guild members. The AAC&U’s acceptance of this proposal is another indicator of the growing interest in the Guilds at Kalamazoo College. Thanks to all who are and will be part of the Guilds initiative!
FOSTERING CONNECTIONS: BUSINESS, LIBERAL ARTS, AND THE WORLD
by Aidis Tuxhari '09

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 2-4, 2009

The Business Guild is gearing up for its first on-campus conference in spring 2009. This three-day conference, funded through a grant from the Kemper Foundation, will demonstrate the connection between liberal arts studies and global business practices. It will feature plenary speakers, workshops led by Kalamazoo College alumni and other experts, and a panel discussion with alumni, students, and faculty.

Possible conference topics include but are not limited to: cultural differences in international business today, international banking and finance, international marketing, and global energy business alternatives.

The conference planning committee has also chosen a popular non-fiction book, The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy, by Dr. Pietra Rivoli of Georgetown University, as a common reading for this conference. Registered conference participants will have the opportunity to meet the author and discuss the book with her on the final day of the conference.

The conference will be integrated directly into course offerings and therefore make a strong connection between the project and the curriculum. Alumni will have the opportunity to participate remotely through videoconferencing technology.

Conference planning is still in progress, and will be posted soon on the Business Guild page from the Guilds website [http://guilds.kzoo.edu]. If you would like more information or to pre-register for the conference, please contact Aidis Tuxhari, student coordinator of the Business Guild, at k05at03@kzoo.edu.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aidis Tuxhari is the Business Guild Student Coordinator for the 2008-2009 academic year. She is a senior, majoring in Economics and Business and French. Aidis was born and raised in Albania and moved with her family to the United States about eight years ago. She refers to Novi, Mich., as her hometown.

Last year Aidis studied abroad at École de Commerce, a private business school in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Last summer she interned at Erickson Retirement Communities corporate headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, and worked in their marketing research department. Her past work experience, interest in the Guilds, and passion for business qualified Aidis for this new Guild position, funded for one year by the Kemper Foundation.

Aidis’ major task will be to coordinate and assist with the Spring 2009 conference. She will also organize and assist other Business Guild activities throughout the school year and will be responsible for maintaining the Guild’s budget and contact data. Aidis is thrilled to be working toward activities that connect students and faculty with alumni throughout the globe.

Aidis Tuxhari '09 has been hired as the student coordinator of the Business Guild’s spring conference, “Liberal Arts: Informing Today’s Global Business Practices,” funded by the Kemper Foundation.
At Kalamazoo College you often tend to know people from your own class exclusively because of the staggered schedule of students studying off campus (most do study away at least one of their four years). On a campus as small as Kalamazoo’s, this phenomenon can be frustrating, and it poses difficulties in maintaining student organizations.

For example, a student arrives at Kalamazoo College with hopes for joining a club focused on an interest of hers—say, business. Let’s say she discovers there existed such a club recently, but it fell apart. Undaunted, she decides to start her own club with a mission and goals that will keep it alive forever. And she does so, and the revitalized club grows and hosts numerous successful events. By her senior year she feels her organization is thriving and will long endure. But suppose the next year, following her graduation, fewer students are interested and her carefully laid leadership succession plans are interrupted by key students’ study abroad. Membership tapers. At her five-year reunion she learns the business club has dissipated into an anemic ghost of its former self. Even though current students express interest in the topic, there is no club to help transform that interest into useful knowledge and experience. How do we keep these organizations thriving, she wonders.

During my senior year at Kalamazoo College, I began taking much of the initiative I should have taken my freshman year on subjects of interest to me, particularly business and sustainability, but I realized it was definitely too late for me to start anything significant before I left campus. I then began focusing on what I was going to do after college for my career and if there was anyway to keep it related to my interests. As I talked with my career counselor, professors, and alumni, and read online and in career guides, the one piece of advice I got from everyone was “Networking is key.” Well, alright, I found the key, but how do I use it?

I heard about the Guilds initiative through a fellow student. The idea of getting alumni involved on campus ignited the
figurative light bulb above my head. How better to network with people than to attend events that will spark conversations and discussions about intriguing topics? And what if we could continue these conversations well past the event? What if we could have a strong community of people passionate about the same topics? What if the discussions spread further than the students on campus to include professionals in the field?

What better way to accomplish all of this than through the Kalamazoo College Guilds: “A passionate, engaged community built on shared interests, collaborative practices, and lifelong personal and professional connections to Kalamazoo College.”

Developing and keeping relationships within a community such as Kalamazoo College that constantly changes, and whose members are all over the world, can be quite difficult. That’s why the Guilds website is such a vital piece to this great new foundation. When you go to an event on campus, you meet all sorts of people that share your interests for Sustainability, Justice and Peace, Health, or Business, and now the website allows you to stay connected.

Joining the Guilds continues discussions, and the website is a place where you can further explore topics and ideas or generate new projects. The posts that you may have missed since the last time you logged in can be found on each Guild’s individual site. You can keep up to date with the Guilds through calendars that post upcoming events. Signing up for the Guilds automatically signs you up for an occasional electronic newsletter and the quarterly GUILDNews.

One of the advantages of the Internet is the speed of connecting people through long distances. If you would like to contribute to campus, but are unable to come to campus, or if you would like to include alumni in other parts of the world, the Guilds are beginning to host webinars and chats, thus opening the door to everyone with access to the Internet. Although the main benefit of the Guilds is to establish human interaction and a more personal feel, the networking required to make that happen is best facilitated by technology.

Before he left Kalamazoo for a cross-country adventure, Josh Curry ’08 spent the summer of 2008 expanding, testing and upgrading the features of the Guilds website.
R
egina Stevens-Truss graduated from Rutgers University in 1983 and began to teach biochemistry after she received her Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry from the University of Toledo in 1993.

Before she arrived at Kalamazoo College, Stevens-Truss served as a postdoc researcher and lecturer at the University of Michigan. Stevens-Truss came to “K” in January 2000 upon the recommendation of her Ph.D. advisor, a “K” alum.

A biochemist, Stevens-Truss is passionate about young people, and that passion is evident in her activism on campus and within the local community.

At the Guilds Summit in January, Stevens-Truss raised eyebrows by joining the Justice and Peace Guild rather than the Health Guild. “Because I’m a science professor, everybody would think my passion would be health,” said Stevens-Truss. “But that alone is not what drives me.” As a minority woman in the science field, Stevens-Truss believes that education is the great equalizer and that all children deserve to receive the same opportunities in life. She has made a personal commitment to community service through teaching service-learning classes, leading Girl Scouts, and advising the “K” chapter of Sisters in Science, an organization that engages young women in experiential education. “There are a lot of things outside of my job that I do, especially with young people, trying to get them involved in science,” said Stevens-Truss. “Justice and Peace just seemed like a natural fit for what drives me internally.”

Before attending the first Guilds Summit, recalls Stevens-Truss, “I was unsure about what it was and how it was to work. The Summit was exhilarating, informative, and charging. I am pumped about the possibilities for our students and our community, and about my having found a rack for the hat of my passion.”

Associate Professor of Chemistry Regina Stevens-Truss (center) shares her enthusiasm for the Guilds initiative with other members of the Justice & Peace Guild: Jeanne Hess (left) and Olga Bonfiglio (right).
RECENT EVENTS

Health Guild members Sal LoGrasso '11 (far left) and Ken Wood (far right) enjoy K-Fest with Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell (center left) and Associate Dean of Students Karen Joshua-Wathel (center right) on September 23.

Sustainability Guild member Leeor Schweitzer '11 (left) and Business Guild member Evan Bontrager '11 (center) spread the word about the Guilds at an orientation ice-cream social.

First-year students enjoy the opportunity to learn about the Guilds during orientation activities.

The Summit audience responds to Jim Heath's photo history of his own time at 'K'.

Sustainability Guild member Leeor Schweitzer '11 (left) and Business Guild member Evan Bontrager '11 (center) spread the word about the Guilds at an orientation ice-cream social.