

News from



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PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR DIEBOLD BIOLOGY CENTER

On Saturday, April 25, James Morrell, chairman of Kalamazoo College's "Campaign for Kalamazoo" announced the kick-off of a \$1 million campaign to construct the Diebold Biology Center, which will be located within the new science facility at Kalamazoo College.

The announcement was made before a gathering of alumni during Kalamazoo College's Alumni Weekend, at which Dr. Diebold, professor emeritus of biology, was guest of honor.

Directed toward Dr. Diebold's former students, the "mini-campaign" is part of the College's larger \$45.8 million "Campaign for Kalamazoo," which was launched last October. Almost 20 percent of the total has been earmarked for the construction of a new science facility.

The structure will be located at the corner of West Main and Thompson Streets. Plans call for construction of the science facility to begin when funding has been secured.

Following Morrell's announcement, Kalamazoo College President David W. Breneman said, "I can think of no more appropriate way in which to recognize, and pay tribute to Dr. Diebold's contributions to teaching and scholarship than to name the biology center in her honor.

"In the course of her 44-year tenure, her influence has been phenomenal. No single individual has been more responsible for the College's national reputation in the production of future scientists than has Dr. Diebold, as the hundreds of students who have become physicians and biologists, or entered a science-related profession, will attest.

"This year marks the 20th since her retirement--yet she continues to be actively involved in the life of the College. Not a week goes by that Dr. Diebold does not come onto the campus with a concern about the College. She is the conscience of Kalamazoo College."

Battle Creek's former mayor, urologist Dr. Charles Seifert '55, who was present for the announcement, said: "Miss Diebold, as she was known to me, was well-known and well-respected by graduate schools across the country. The quality of "K" students that she recommended was exemplary; and therefore, graduate and medical schools were always very pleased to receive her recommendations and pleased to accept those students."

Dr. Diebold came to the College in 1923 and retired in 1967. During that time, the College achieved a national reputation in the production of future scientists. In the '20s "K" students who continued to become successful PhD candidates numbered approximately three-and-a-half times more than the normal expectation for liberal arts colleges.

In 1947, the widely-publicized Steelman report to the President of the United States listed Kalamazoo College as fourth in the nation in the production of successful PhD candidates per 1000 students. In October 1948, *Fortune Magazine* published a survey of science studies in American universities and colleges, and listed "K" as one of the four outstanding colleges in the nation.

In 1952, *Origins of American Scientists* (Knapp and Goodrich) ranked Kalamazoo College second in the country in the number of graduates attaining the doctoral level in a scientific field (produced per thousand baccalaureate degrees), topped only by Reed College in Oregon.

The authors gave much of the credit to Dr. Diebold, stating: "There is clear evidence that the superior effectiveness of this department in the training of modern biologists stems almost entirely from the influence of this remarkable and dedicated woman teacher. . .The department has maintained very effective morale. This is to be attributed almost entirely to the personal qualities and professional accomplishment of Miss Frances Diebold, who has come to occupy an almost revered position in the Kalamazoo Community."

In 1958, the Quota Club of Kalamazoo selected her as "Woman of the Year, and in 1959, she was accorded an honorary doctor of science degree from Ripon (WI) College.

Kalamazoo College honored Dr. Diebold in 1976 by creating the Frances Diebold Scholars Program, to support upper level students whose interest centers in biology. The students, known as Diebold Scholars, annually present the results of their research in poster presentations and lectures. This year's Diebold Symposium will be held at the College May 14-16.

Dr. Diebold was born in Madison, WI, and received her BA degree in 1921 and MA degree in 1927 from the University of Wisconsin.

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(Diebold, biology, CFK, K)