

# NEWS

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CONTACT: John Greenhoe (616) 337-7303  
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e-mail: greenhoe@kzoo.edu

## **Rob Townsend Wins Frances Diebold Award**

Rob Townsend, recycling and resource recovery coordinator at Kalamazoo College, has been honored as the 1996 recipient of the Frances Diebold Award. The Diebold award is unique, offering students their only opportunity to recognize a College employee for outstanding interest in student life at Kalamazoo College.

Townsend is affectionately known to students as the "Recycle Man," a nod to his tireless efforts as the College's environmental conscience.

In 1992, Townsend became the College's first recycling coordinator. Previously, he served as a groundskeeper whose primary responsibility was the maintenance of the College quadrangular (or the "Quad"), which is the center of campus activity.

Kalamazoo College's recycling program began in 1988, and until Townsend became coordinator the program was mainly student-run with assistance from current provost Richard Cook and biology professor Paul Sotherland.

The College's recycling efforts started with paper, and under Townsend's guidance recycling was expanded to include cardboard, glass, plastic and metal. Townsend's efforts continue to be expansive and unique, with recent additions including the recycling of tennis ball cans used during

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the USTA Boys' 18 & 16 Championships in August, and removing empty detergent containers from dormitory laundry rooms for recycling.

"Clearly, Rob is an exceptional individual who continually pushes 'K' to be more environmentally conscious, as well as an individual who is always looking for ways to help students in their endeavors," said College Student Commission President Kate Spangler '96 in presenting the Diebold Award to Townsend.

Townsend's work at the College isn't limited to recycling. Over the last four years, he has provided assistance to the College's unique Land/Sea orientation program, and is also helping to develop a cross country course near the College.

Two years ago Townsend started a campus donation program which benefits worthwhile causes. Near the end of each academic quarter, a barrel is placed in each dormitory and students are encouraged to contribute items they no longer need.

According to Townsend, the majority of the items collected are food and clothing, but appliances and furniture are donated as well. Among the beneficiaries of the program are the YWCA Domestic Assault program, the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes and the Salvation Army.

"Instead of putting the items they don't need in a dumpster, our students are helping out the community," Townsend said.

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