The Emeritus Club of Kalamazoo College is an alumni organization for members of classes that graduated 50 or more years ago. It promotes activities for older alumni and collaborates on projects with the younger associates of the College, administers the Emeritus Club Scholarship for current students, and contributes information and memorabilia to the College’s historical record.

The group also awards members with an annual Citation of Merit. Factors considered in the selection process include:

* Demonstration of affection for the College by their loyalty and involvement in the activities and programs of Kalamazoo College
* Continued financial support
* Civic, church, school and community activities which reflect credit upon the College
* Extent of alumni activities and service on behalf of Kalamazoo College

The 2015 Recipients of the Citation of Merit

Ilse Gebhard ’62 • Robert H. Poel ’62

ILSE GEBHARD ’62  Her 30-year-long career as a medicinal research chemist at The Upjohn Company led Ilse Gebhard to valuable discoveries and many awards, but it is her activities since retiring in 1995 that have made her a hero to birds and butterflies and to the people who love them.

Born in Berlin, Germany, and raised there and in Caracas, Venezuela, Gebhard heard of Kalamazoo College while working at a summer camp in Estes Park, Colorado. (That same summer job gave focus to her lifelong interest in nature.) She chose to attend K for its small size, its academic reputation, and the availability of scholarship aid.

A chemistry major, Gebhard’s favorite class at K was organic chemistry, and her favorite professor, Dr. Kurt Kaufman. As a student she belonged to the Eurodelphian Society. After graduating from K, she earned her M.S. in chemistry from UCLA, and then returned to Kalamazoo to work at The Upjohn Company.

Through her career, she worked on steroids, antibiotics, antivirals, prostaglandins, and anticancer drugs, and won the W.E. Upjohn Award and the Synthetic Chemistry Associates Award, as well as serving as treasurer of the local chapter of the American Chemical Society.

Now it’s Gebhard’s activities as an amateur naturalist that keep her busy and garner awards. She participates in citizen science projects, leads field trips, gives presentations on birds, butterflies, and native plants, and writes articles and serves as a resource person on gardening and monarch butterflies.

ROBERT H. POEL ’62  Robert H. Poel says he was a “townie” while a student at Kalamazoo College. Born and raised in Kalamazoo, Poel still lives in the city, but the intervening years have taken him across the country and around the globe, and he credits his K education with informing and enlarging all those experiences.

No one in Poel’s extended family had ever attended college, and his parents had not graduated from high school. But, when one of his Kalamazoo Christian High School teachers told them that Bob should go to college, his parents were immediately supportive. When K offered him a scholarship, the adventure that would shape his life was on.

With a double major in physics and mathematics and a part-time job at Hoekstra’s Hardware Store on Portage Street, plus living at home to save money, Poel didn’t have much opportunity for extra-curricular activities. He says that, despite what he was majoring in, it was a history class taught by Edward Moritz and German classes from Elizabeth Mayer that stand out most in his memory, as well as “struggling with Freshman English with Harold Harris.” He also remembers the mandatory chapel services; his world had been narrow up till then, he says, but the speakers and music programs in chapel introduced new ideas and intellectual challenges that he appreciated.

After graduating from K, Poel relocated just a little, earning his graduate degrees from Western Michigan University. His M.A. is in mathematics and science education, and his Ph.D. is in science...
education, with an emphasis in physics and geology.

Poel remained a townie for almost all of his 34 ½-year-long professional life, serving as a science educator in WMU's Department of Physics and the Mallinson Institute for Science Education. While there, he administered the Center for Science Education, conducted professional development workshops for teachers, and co-authored a middle school science textbook. Poel received the George G. Mallinson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Science Teachers Association, and the Outstanding Alumni Awards from both the Mallinson Institute and WMU's physics department.

Kalamazoo College broadened his willingness to explore new ideas, cultures, and experiences, says Poel. This willingness led him to a NSF summer institute for teachers at the University of California, Berkley, during the Vietnam protest movement. He also spent a year and a half in Liberia helping to train Liberian teachers to work in new science, mathematics, and technology centers that were built with funds provided by the World Bank. During the time in Liberia, an attempted coup d'état occurred on November 12, 1985, another new experience for a Michigander.

Since retiring from WMU in 2005, Poel has been active with Kalamazoo-area production gardens that donate fresh food to Loaves and Fishes and to the Ministry with Community. He continues to attend K athletic events and lectures, and he has worked on fund drives for the College.

Poel and his wife Mary Jo have two grown children, Amy Jo and Peter Wells. In addition to tending multiple gardens, Poel is enjoying reading and coin collecting and accomplishing home projects.

**EMERITUS CLUB BRUNCH**

**OPENING REMARKS**
Bill Stoeri ’78
*Past President, Alumni Association*

**WELCOME**
William J. Venema ’59
*President, Emeritus Club*

**INVOCATION**
Elizabeth Hakken Candido ’00
*College Chaplain*

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**
Elizabeth Hakken Candido ’00

**BRUNCH**

**EMERITUS CLUB ANNUAL MEETING**
William J. Venema ’59

**PRESENTATION OF CITATION OF MERIT**
Ilse Gebhard ’62
*Presented by Robert C. Kelly ’61*

Robert H. Poel ’62
*Presented by Jacqueline Buck Mallinson ’48*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**EMERITUS CLUB BOARD 2014-2015**
Bill Venema ’59, President
Al Gemrich ’60, Past President
Katherine (Machin) Howson ’62
Jane (Schaafsma) Iannelli ’58
Vince Iannelli ’58
George Macleod ’60
Constance (Forsyth) Micklin ’62
Sally (Lange) Padley ’62
Stevenson Turner ’63
Past Recipients of the Citation of Merit

The following recipients are listed alphabetically, followed by class year and the year of award.

A

Harold Brainard Allen '21 (1977) 
Harold Byron Allen '24 (1975) •
Ray T. Allen '30 (1990)
Hugh V. Anderson '43 (2007)
Helen W. Appeldoorn '29 (1981)

B

Dr. Justin Bacon H’33 (1966)
Marston S. Balch ‘23 (1975)
Robert S. Barrows, Sr. ’42 (1993)
Elinore (Hoven) Basnett ’43 (1997) #
H. Lewis Batts, Jr. ’43 (2001)
Jean (McCull) Batts ’43 (2001)
Harold D. Beadle ’25 (1980)
Russell J. Becker ’44 (2007)
Donald R. Belcher ’09, H’44 (1967)
Betty (Hoben) Brown ’33 (1987)
Earl H. Brown ’23 (1976)
Harold W. Brown ’24 (1975) •
William Buchanan ’14 (1965)

C

I. Carl Candoli ’50 (2006)
George F. Cartland ’24 (1980)
Coleman Caryl ‘14 (1971)
Ruth (Scott) Chenery ’24 (1975) #
Barbara (Goodsell) Clark ’47 (2007)
Frances O. Clark ’28 (1983) •
Orval S. Clay ’40 (1992)
Versa V. Cole ’27 (1982)
Maynard M. Conrad ’36 (1995) #
Laurence A. Cook ’30 (1990)
John N. Cooper ’35 (1988)
Helen Coover ’33 (1984) #
Richard B. Crandell '32 (1985)
Alma (Smith) Crawford '27 (1985) •
William H. Culver '42 (1994 posthumously)

D
Albert L. Deal '37 (1988)
Rosemary (Luther) DeHoog '60 (2011)
Karen (Lake) De Vos '59 (2010)
John “Jack” Dentler '48 (2014)
Lewis L. Dipple '27 (1979)
Gordon Dolbee ‘50 (2005) •
Mildred Doster ‘30 (1990) •
William C. Drier ‘40 (1992)
Marion H. Dunsmore ‘20 (1972)

E
Frances Eldridge ‘14 (1969)

F
George Ferguson ‘13 (1973)
Robert F. Finlay ‘35 (1988)
Elizabeth (Stetson) Fleugel ‘17 (1971)
James H. Fowler ‘56 (2009)
Marlene (Crandell) Francis ‘58 (2009)
Elsie (Herbold) Froeschner ‘35 (1997) •

G
Walter A. Good ‘37 (1996) •
William E. Good ‘37 (1996) •
Barbara (Goodsell) Clark ‘47 (2007)
Agnes (Grenell) Goss ‘12 (1967)
Louise L. Goss ‘48 (2001)
Leslie F. Greene ‘35 (1994)
Martha Guse ‘37 (1989)

H
Mildred (Gang) Hackney ‘28 (1988 posthumously)
Caroline (Richardson) Ham ‘48 (2005) •
Mildred (Tanis) Harris ‘18 (1979)

Lois (Stutzman) Harvey ‘29 (1993) #
Ruth (Demme) Hayes ‘37 (1996)
Don W. Hayne ‘32 (1996)
Marilyn Hinkle ‘44 (1999) +
Paul S. Hiyama ‘49 (2011)
Richard Hudson ‘18 (1973)
Winthrop S. Hudson ‘33 (1983)

J
Anna (Monteith) Johnson ‘15 (1968)
Pauline (Byrd) Johnson ‘26 (1977)
Warren C. Johnson ‘22 (1977)

K
Leland J. Kerman ‘16 (1974)
Roy G. Klepser ‘33 (1986)
Ruth A. Knoll ‘58 (2013)
Edith Kuitert ‘41 (1998)
Charles J. Kurtz 1894 (1965)

L
John P. Lambooy ‘37 (1992)
Louis Levin ‘29 (1981)

M
Jacqueline (Buck) Mallinson ‘48 (1998)
Margaret (Hootman) Marsh ‘41 (1995)
Gertrude F. McCulloch ‘16 (1970)
Marion (Poller) Meyer ‘49 (2013)
John D. Montgomery ‘41 (2001) •
Andrew F. Murch ‘29 (1987)

# Received Distinguished Service Award
• Received Distinguished Achievement Award
+ Received Weimer K. Hicks Award
Carl Norcross '23 (1974)
Peter H. Norg '27 (1983)
Louise Northam '36 (2005)

Kiyonao Okami '40 (1998)

Jane (Hunter) Parker '48 (2010)
Mary Frances (Miller) Patton '36 (1991)
Clifton W. Perry '22 (1979)
Fern Ball Persons '31 (1987)
Oscar J. Peterson '15 (1969)
Eleanor (Humphrey) Pinkham '48 (2008) +
Ernest E. Piper '14 (1969)
Jack Price '54 (2009)

Ruth (Goss) Eldridge Ralston '17 (1976)
Charles A. Randall '36 (1991)
Mabel (Benson) Ratcliffe '13 (1973)
Murray Rice '19 (1972)
Bess (Freeman) Rickman '16 (1980)
Gladys (Martin) Rowland '14 (1970)

Curtis W. Sabrosky '31 (1985)
Carl E. Schweitzer '36 (1993)
Mildred (Welsh) Shackleton '15 (1972)
Luel P. Simmons '42 (1993) #
Marian (Wilson) Simmons '42 (1993) #
Gordon V. Smith '28 (1986)
Tom '55 and Mary Lou (Schofield) '55 Smith (2010)
Russell T. Snip '40 (1992)
Marian (Hall) Starbuck '45 (2008) #
Katharine L. Swift '31 (1998)

Betty (Shaler) Thompson '41 (1999)
Louis T.E. Thompson '14 (1967)
Royena (Hornbeck) Tice '26 (1978)
Dee Tourtellotte '25 (1978)

Edward A. VanDyke '42 (1994)
Merrilyn (Cigard) Vaughn-Hoffman '58 (2014)
Charles J. Venema '33 (1994) #

Lillian (Kroegen) Walcott '11 (1971)
Charlotte (Rickman) Wiedoeft '32 (1989)
Monroe J. Wilcox '21 (1972)
George W. Williams '41 (2002)
Helen (Cary) Everett Wood '22 (1986)
William P. Woodard '18 (1968)
Donald T. Worth '40 (2004)

Mildred (Hoff) Yehle '43 (2003)

Wendell C. Zeluff '36 (1993)

# Received Distinguished Service Award
• Received Distinguished Achievement Award
+ Received Weimer K. Hicks Award