

Six Honored at 2016 Honors & Awards Ceremony

MILLERSVILLE, Pa., September 29, 2016- Each year, Millersville University's Alumni Association sponsors four awards to honor outstanding members of the community. Recipients of these awards have distinguished themselves professionally, served the community, reached admirable personal achievements and practiced philanthropy.

The 2016 alumni award winners were recognized on Sept. 24 at the Honors & Awards Ceremony. The following awards were presented at the ceremony:

Distinguished Alumni Award

This award was established in 1971 to recognize graduates of Millersville University who have brought honor to the individual, the University or the Alumni Association through their distinctions.

The 2016 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award is Lt. Col. Paul MacNamara '84. After holding various positions of leadership during his 20-year military career, MacNamara helped to restore his college fraternity, the Millersville chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma, and now serves as an advisor. He is also active in the Gold Star Teen Adventure, an adventure program for children of fallen Special Operations service members, and is a partner and CEO of the start-up investment firm Strategic Investment Partners LLC.

Young Alumni Achievement Award

This award was created in 2012 to honor recent Millersville University graduates who have reached notable accomplishments in their professions within five to 20 years of graduation.

The 2016 recipients of the Young Alumni Achievement Award are Dr. Thomas Bernhardt '96, Dr. Kristin Albright Waters '05 and Greg Pizzoli '05.

Bernhardt is one of the world's leading microbiologists, who assumed a tenured professor position at Harvard Medical School where he carries out nationally funded research to develop solutions to antibiotic resistance.

Waters leads not only as the associate director of operations for undergraduate admissions for the University of Maryland in Baltimore County, but also as a member of several collegiate boards, a speaker at events for professionals and a featured author in College & University Journal.

Pizzoli is a popular children's author and illustrator whose work has been featured in The New York Times, Communications Arts and 3X3 Magazine.

Honorary Alumnus/na Award

This award, created in 1993, is presented to individuals who provide continuous service of time, talent or wealth to Millersville University, despite not actually graduating from the University.

The 2016 recipient of the Honorary Alumnus Award is Dr. Dennis Denenberg. He initiated the “Hooray for Heroes” program while teaching at MU, which he took on a national tour after retiring. His own hero, his late sister who was a MU alumna, inspired him to set up the Diana Denenberg Durand Spirit Garden and Statue, the Diana’s Dreamers: Determined to Defeat Breast Cancer endowment and the annual Breast-a-Ville event.

Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

This award recognizes volunteers who devote a significant amount of time and effort to serving the Millersville University Alumni Association or the University as a whole.

The 2016 recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award is Robert “Bob” Lehr ’57. Lehr hand-carved the Marauder statue located in the athletic recruiting room in Jefferson Hall. After nearly one year of work, he whittled a 1,200-pound block of basswood down to 550 pounds. Lehr also served on the engagement committee of the MU Alumni Association, attends Homecoming festivities and stays involved on campus.

To nominate deserving Millersville University alumni for these awards, go to <http://www.millersville.edu/alumni/awards/index.php>.