“Onelaxfamily” Wristbands on Sale to Remember Seton Hill Coach

To perpetuate the memory of the late Seton Hill women's lacrosse coach Kristie Quigley and assist in her young son Gavin's scholarship fund, the Millersville women's lacrosse team is selling crimson and gold wristbands embroidered with the slogan “onelaxfamily” and initials “KQ” for $8.

Quiqley, 30, and her unborn son passed away Saturday, March 17, when the bus carrying her team to Millersville for an afternoon game ran off the road and crashed into a tree on the Pennsylvania Turnpike outside of Harrisburg. The Baltimore, Md., native was in her second season as the head coach at Seton Hill and had previously coached and played at Duquesne University. Quiqley is survived by her husband and son.

The wristbands are designed with Seton Hill's school colors and are available for anyone to purchase. The slogan of “onelaxfamily” quickly started trending on Twitter when the outpouring of support began early Saturday following the accident. It represents the close-knit community of a sport that is the fastest growing in the United States. All 12 teams in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) will wear the wristbands for the remainder of the 2013 season.

"Immediately after learning the tragic details of the events that took place Millersville Lacrosse and the University as a whole felt it was necessary to aid the Seton Hill family during this tough time," said Millersville head coach Mia Hall. "Knowing we were stuck in a helpless situation the best thing that we could do was to spread the word for prayers and support for the entire Seton Hill family. Kristie's passing hits so close to home for all of us, and my heart aches for her unborn son, Jackson, husband, and their son Gavin."

Family friend Liz Goff established a web site to raise money for Gavin's scholarship fund. Through Tuesday morning, the group site had already raised more than $23,000. The sale of the wristbands will continue to support the effort and serve as a reminder of the Seton Hill team and those involved in the accident.

"As a lacrosse community we are bound to one another and share that common bond of the game," said Hall. "In times of triumph and tragedy and everything in between we view our close-knit society as a family. As players we view our coach as a parent while we are away from home, and as a coach we view our players as one of our own. We commonly refer to our teams as a family. In this horrible time our lacrosse community needs to be closer than ever and share the message of "onelaxfamily" and support the Quigley family and Seton Hill Lacrosse."
The wristbands can be purchased at the web site: www.millersvillelacrossecamps.com/seton-hill-one laxfamily.cfm. For those not interested in purchasing wristbands but would still like to donate to Gavin’s scholarship fund, visit www.gofundme.com/2bt9g4#description.

Residence Halls Update

Ready to Roll on Construction; Two New Halls Added

Work began this week on the first phase of the residence halls project for the Millersville University campus. And, the University has announced that two existing residence halls adjacent to campus will come under the University’s purview this summer.

The initial work includes the force main, which is a pressurized main pipe that can carry water and sewage. That will be followed by work on a detention pond, then the parking lot across from Lenhardt and Burrowes. The actual construction is scheduled to begin on May 20 for the project which will eventually include eight new residence halls. The estimated 600,000-square-foot, 2,000-bed modernization initiative, located primarily on the University’s South Quad, will eventually replace each of the existing residence halls on campus. The construction project will take place in phases so that the bed count isn’t decreased substantially during the building process, which is scheduled to take approximately five years.

The first two buildings, which are scheduled to be completed by August 2014, will include 185,000 square feet, 709 beds and will be constructed in the existing parking lot at the south end of the South Quad of campus. In order to prepare for the construction, Hobbs Hall will be demolished immediately following the fall 2013 semester. Students who are assigned to Hobbs Hall during the fall 2013 semester will be reassigned to another residence hall for spring. Those students who need to be relocated will have priority in selecting a suite in the new/replacement housing facility for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Meanwhile, the University will take over the management of Shenks Hall and Reighard Hall on July 1, 2013. Shenks and Reighard halls are currently owned and operated by Student Lodging, Inc., (SLI). SLI will continue to own the buildings and the University will lease them.

“This is a stepping stone to getting our students into suite-style living,” said Dr. Aminta Breaux, vice president of student affairs. “The project demonstrates Millersville’s strong commitment to providing state-of-the-art housing for our students. We are happy to partner with Student Lodging.”
The move means that Shenks and Reighard will become part of the residence hall offerings.

“The educational and social programming that we have in our current residence halls will be mirrored in these two buildings,” said Breaux. “We want to ensure that students living in Reighard and Shenks have similar experiences to our other halls.”

Additional information on all student housing options, including Shenks and Reighard Halls, can be found by contacting the Department of Housing and Residential Programs at 717-872-3162 or www.millersville.edu/housing

Millersville Honored with Prestigious Community Service Award

Millersville has been named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, with distinction, for the third time. Millersville University was one of only five Pennsylvania universities and was the only school in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) to receive the noteworthy recognition of “with distinction” for this year.

The recipients were recently announced by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS has administered the award since 2006, after being inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Millersville has been honored every year by CNCS since the award began. The award serves to highlight the importance universities play in aiding communities and promoting student civic leadership by recognizing schools that create notable and direct impacts in their surrounding communities.

“The entire campus deserves this great honor, as we have all pulled together to make civic engagement an integral component of the Millersville experience,” said Dr. Victor DeSantis, associate provost of civic and community engagement. “I am proud that our students are making a significant difference in the region.”

A total of 690 higher education institutions were named to the President’s Honor Roll Award. Of this number, 113 institutions earned the recognition of Honor Roll with Distinction Award. Millersville was honored with the Honor Roll Award consecutively from 2006 to 2009 and in 2011; it also received the Honor Roll with Distinction Award in 2010 and 2012.

For a full list of recipients and descriptions of their service, visit www.nationalservice.gov/about/initiatives/honorroll.asp.
Spring Break in D.C. and New Jersey

Millersville University’s National Broadcasting Society (NBS) chapter and the Habitat for Humanity chapter are both participating in positive activities during spring break.

From Wednesday to Sunday this week, 20 students from the NBS Alpha Epsilon Rho Chapter are in Washington, D.C., to participate in the 2013 NBS-AERho National Convention.

While in Washington, thanks to the contacts of their advisor, Dr. Bill Dorman, the students will tour the set of the ESPN program, “Pardon the Interruption.” They hope to meet the anchors of the program, Washington Post columnists Tony Kornheiser and Michael Wilbon.

On Saturday evening Millersville University’s NBS will take part in a competition with other college students across the nation. The competition encourages and rewards students for their accomplishments in audio, video, editing, scriptwriting, web development, academic research and writing.

“We had numerous students enter the video competition, but we have only one finalist,” said Dorman. “Danielle Francisco is a finalist in the documentary category for a project she did in her advanced television production class last semester.”

Meanwhile, six students from Millersville University’s Habitat for Humanity chapter will be taking part in a trip over spring break. They will travel to Point Pleasant, New Jersey, as part of the Habit for Humanity Collegiate Challenge.

“In recent years, we traveled to another state for the week such as North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, but we felt that we are more needed in New Jersey after Superstorm Sandy than in the Midwest as originally planned,” said Habitat for Humanity secretary Katelyn Brenner.

Council of Trustees Sets Room and Board

The Millersville University Council of Trustees (COT), approved room, board and fees for the 2013-2014 school year at their regular meeting March 13.

The COT approved a $199/semester increase in total room and board charges. The current $4,617 a semester charge will increase to $4,816. In addition, the COT approved increasing fees for undergraduates by $34.50 increase per semester. The total fees per semester will be $941.25. The fees could vary slightly, depending on tuition. Tuition costs are set by the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education generally in June of each year.
March 21, 2013

“The University and the trustees were mindful of these continued difficult economic times and worked hard to keep the costs down. The increase is due to personnel costs, normal inflationary increases in operating expenses and increases in utility charges,” said Roger Bruszewski, vice president for finance and administration.

In other action, the COT approved moving $500,000 from the University’s Soar to Greatness campaign to an endowment with the Millersville University Foundation with the annual interest directed to the University’s visual and performing arts program. They also approved $5,000 in support of services to the Blue Rock Regional Fire Company and $3,000 in support of services to the Lancaster Community Safety Coalition.

The COT also approved emeritus status for Dr. Daniel Heslink, music (1983-2012) and they approved four new scholarships: the Dr. Rosario Caminero Scholarship, the Dr. Benjamin J. DelTito Jr.’77 and Anna DeBlois DelTito Scholarship, the Lois T. Morgan ’54 Student-Athlete Scholarship and the Drs. George F. and Helen A. ’64 Stine Sociology Scholarship.

**Snapper Editor Wins 2013 Communications Internship Award**

Michael Blackson, a senior English major from Philadelphia and current editor-in-chief of Millersville University’s newspaper, The Snapper, was recently named the recipient of The College and University Public Relations Association of Pennsylvania’s (CUPRAP) 2013 Communications Internship Award for Students of Color. Blackson is the first student from Millersville University to receive the CUPRAP award since its establishment 30 years ago.

According to CUPRAP’s website, “recipients are chosen from various colleges or universities in the state of Pennsylvania based on their communication skills, academic ability and exhibition of their creativity.” The winner receives a stipend of $1,500 to help with an internship or course they may be taking to gain experience, or learn more about their chosen field of study. When asked how it felt being the recipient of this year’s internship award, Blackson remarked that “it was an honor just to be nominated.”

During his time as editor-in-chief, Blackson had the rare opportunity to meet with Dr. Francine McNairy, before her retirement, and now with acting President Dr. James McCollum once a month. “I was never much of a people person and being in direct contact with someone of that stature who wanted to hear what I had to say, was motivating,” said Blackson.

Blackson credits The Snapper for preparing him for his professional post-graduate ambitions of entering the realm of investigative journalism or reporting hard news for a major news publication. Blackson was honored for receiving this award at the 2013 CUPRAP Leadership Summit.
Development Conference during an awards luncheon on March 14 at the Hershey Hotel in Hershey, Pa.

Andrew Slack Receives CCERP Distinguished Civic Leadership Award

The Civic and Community Engagement and Research Project (CCERP) presents its annual Distinguished Civic Leadership Awards on April 11. This event, which will feature Andrew Slack, co-founder and executive director of the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA), will be held at 7 p.m. in Lehr Room, Bolger Conference Center, Gordinier Hall.

In addition to being the keynote speaker for the event, Slack will also receive the CCERP Distinguished Leadership Award. The purpose of the Distinguished Leadership Award is to publicly recognize notable civic or community contributions on the part of individuals and entities that have had a positive impact locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

Slack is a social activist, writer, comedian, and executive director of HPA, a nonprofit organization that has inspired hundreds of thousands of Harry Potter fans across the world to become involved in social and human rights advocacy. Slack has been praised by J.K. Rowling in Time Magazine and on her website, featured on NPR's Morning Edition, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, Australia's Today Show and was a keynote speaker at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum.

Slack spoke last fall on campus during Career Week about how he made his childhood memory and love of reading into an enjoyable and meaningful career that can make a difference in the world.

The event on April 11 is free and open to the public.

Millersville’s Student-Athletes Receive Multiple Top Honors

After an outstanding 2012 season, the Millersville University Field Hockey team brought home multiple top honors.

The team received its fifth straight Gladiator National Collegiate Academic Team Award presented by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association sponsored by SGI (SGI/NFHCA). The Marauders were one of eight Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) programs to be honored with this award.

Eleven Marauders were also named to the Gladiator National Collegiate Academic Squad. Seniors Brittany Anderson, Kirsten Dively and Maria...
Thompson have all received the award in each of their four seasons as a Marauder. The eight other Marauders to claim the honor were Roos Bulthuis, Rachel Dickinson, Megan Donlan, Emily Litchford, Samantha Ruane, Lauren Sotzin, Abby Spanos and Katelyn Zapp.

The National Academic Squad recognizes the student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher through the first semester of the 2012-13 academic year. The National Academic Team Award recognizes institutions that have achieved a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. For the past five years, field hockey head coach Shelly Behrens has led award-winning teams.

Thompson and Bulthuis were honored with the Gladiator Division II Scholars of Distinction Award. Thompson and Bulthuis both achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.90 or higher through the first semester of the 2012-13 academic year. Thompson and Bulthuis were just two of 29 field hockey players to capture the award from Division II schools. Eighteen of the 29 Division II athletes represented PSAC schools.

Thompson was also named the 2012 PSAC Champion Scholar earlier this year for carrying a perfect GPA of 4.0 through 91 credit hours.

To view the full list of NFHCA national academic squads and teams go to www.nfhca.org/ and click on NFHCA honors and awards.

Football Coach Search Progressing Quickly

The search for Millersville University’s next head football coach is moving swiftly with a target date of April 1 set for selecting three finalists.

The search committee, chaired by faculty-athletic representative Dr. Richard Glenn, convened on March 4 to review applications for the position. As of this week the committee has received more than 60 applications. On-campus interviews for candidates are expected to begin on Monday, March 25, and continue throughout the week.

All alumni, staff and members of the community are invited to participate in an open forum for each of the candidates. The scheduled dates and times of the forums will be released on March 22.

Following the on-campus interviews, the search committee will recommend to Dr. Aminta Breaux, vice president of student affairs, a list of the three unranked finalists for hiring consideration.

The opening was posted on Feb. 21 following the resignation of Greg Colby, who accepted the defensive line coach position at the University of Illinois. Ron Rankin is currently serving as Millersville’s interim head coach.
The job posting can be viewed at millersville.edu. For more information about the Millersville University football program, visit millersvilleathletics.com.

**Spring 2013 Commencement Ceremonies**

The campus community is invited to attend Millersville University’s spring 2013 commencement ceremonies. The graduate ceremony will take place on Friday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium for students receiving a master’s degree and/or post-bachelor’s certification. The undergraduate commencement will be held on Saturday, May 18, at 10 a.m. at Biemesderfer Stadium for students receiving a baccalaureate degree.

The keynote speaker for the undergraduate commencement ceremony will be Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett. More information on the keynote speaker can be found on the commencement website.

A live broadcast will be available in the Reighard Multipurpose Room, Student Memorial Center, for small children and guests with special needs who may not feel comfortable in the bleacher seating. Tickets are not required for this site, and parking will be available adjacent to the building. The commencement ceremonies can also be viewed via webcast.

The Millersville University Alumni Association will be selling fresh roses at the entrance of Biemesderfer Stadium. Various colors will be available by the dozen or half dozen.

**Millersville University Graphic Communication Students 'Wrap Up' Packaging Competition**

Two teams of students from the Millersville University Department of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology took top honors in the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF) “Best of the Best” package design competition held in conjunction with the annual ICPF “Careers in Corrugated” teleconference that occurred on February 20. The teleconference was hosted by Michigan State University and was “attended” by 17 other colleges and universities with similar graphic communication and packaging programs. For more info about the ICPF event please visit www.icpbox.org.

The student team of Drew Kramer, Bryan Parrish, and Dan Sparkes took top honors with the team of Erin Sensenig and Nolan Myers coming in a close second. Third place went to a team...
from Clemson University. Each team receiving honors came away with a plaque and a monetary award for their efforts - along with a great experience.

The Millersville University teams developed their package solutions as part of a Graphic Communication course titled “Packaging & Specialty Printing.” In order to qualify for the "Best of the Best" competition, the two Millersville teams competed in the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters (AICC) student design competition last fall, placing first and second—but in opposite order. The Sensenig and Myers team placed first in the AICC contest—which emphasized the design aspects of the package concept. For more information about the 2012 AICC Student Design Competition results please visit: www.aiccbox.org/News/News_Display.asp?ID=1703

Prior to the "Best of the Best" competition, each team was required to create a five-minute video explaining the planned objectives, structural development, design challenges and other information related to the package. The videos counted as one segment of the judging criteria for the overall ICPF competition—which emphasized the team’s ability to present their concepts. You can view the two Millersville video submissions online. Here is the required advance video created by Sensenig & Myers in anticipation of the ICPF competition: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGz_qYf1HuQ And this is the video ‘trailer' created by Kramer, Parrish, and Sparkes: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QH2nTp4vGyk

For more information about the Millersville University Graphic Communication option, please visit www.millersville.edu/aest/degrees/aetm/graphictech.php and/or contact the Dept. of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology.

Thanks for the Daffodils

The Millersville University Business Associates (MUBA) extends a thank you to all those who supported the American Cancer Society’s final Daffodil Days, which raised $1,417 in 2013. MUBA thanks everyone who participated annually since the first Daffodil Days in 1994. From that time until 2013, $24,000 was raised.

Carnegie Mellon Professor Keynote at Women in Math and Science

The 26th Annual Glenna Hazeltine Women in Mathematics and Science Conference will take place on April 2. The keynote presenter for the 2013 conference is Dr. M. Bernardine Dias, who will present "Innovations that Cross Boundaries: Why People Matter." Dias is an associate research professor at Carnegie Mellon University. This event will be held in the Reighard Multipurpose Room at the Student Memorial Center at 9 a.m. For additional information, please call the dean's office at 717-872-3407.
Need to Know

2013 Swimming Clinics

The Millersville University Women’s Swimming Program is announcing its 2013 spring swimming clinic. The clinic offers Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Clinics, so whether you are a beginner learning to swim or a seasoned swimmer, there is something for everyone. Please visit www.millersvilleathletics.com/custompages/WSWIM%20Stats/ for dates, times and descriptions of each of the clinics offered during the spring.

Need to Know

2013 Retirement and Financial Planning Series—Sessions Added

Cracking the Nest Egg (Lunch and Learn Session)
Wednesday, March 27 from noon - 1 p.m. Ms. Jamie Cash from ING Financial Partners will discuss retirement income planning. A boxed lunch will be provided courtesy of ING Financial Partners. Location: SMC Room 118

PEBTF Retiree Health Benefits (For AFSCME Employees ONLY)
Thursday, March 28 from noon - 1p.m. Ms. Diane Allen from PEBTF will answer your questions on the PEBTF retiree health benefits. Location: SMC Room 24

Please RSVP by contacting the Office of Human Resources at extension 3017 or human.resources@millersville.edu.

3/21/2013 Activities

Here are the faculty and staff activities for March 21, 2013.
Faculty and Staff Activities

Drs. Christine Anthony and Kazi Hossain, elementary and early childhood education, were judges in the 55th annual Intelligencer Journal Spelling Bee on March 8. The pronouncer of the spelling bee was Dr. Richard Kerper, elementary and early childhood education. Thirty-three students from Lancaster County competed in the spelling bee, which took place at Conestoga Valley Middle School.


Dr. Richard Clark, earth sciences, is co-author on a paper to be presented by Dr. Deborah C. Stein-Zweers on their collaborative research in Huron, Calif., as part of the NASA DISCOVER-AQ project. Stein-Zweers graduated with a bachelor’s degree in meteorology from Millersville University in 2000 and went on to the University of Virginia, where she completed her Ph.D. She is currently a research scientist at KNMI-Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute in De Bilt, The Netherlands. KNMI is developing a lightweight sonde for measuring nitrogen dioxide using conventional weather balloons. Stein-Zweers’ paper, which will be presented at the EGU General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, will describe the results of a comparison between KNMI’s sonde and the Millersville measurements obtained on the tethered balloon using an instrument that employs a different measuring methodology.

Dr. Kazi Hossain, elementary & early childhood education, made a presentation on “Immigration: How Should We Teach?” at the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) 93rd annual conference. The conference took place in Atlanta, Georgia, from February 15-19. His presentation focused on the strategies teachers can use to teach this topic which is currently at the center of the national discourse.

James Pannafino, art and design, recently gave three presentations based on his book “Interdisciplinary Interaction Design.” The presentations were given on January 22 at Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, Lancaster, Pa., January 29 at State University of New York at New Paltz and February 5 at the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. He is also scheduled to speak April 15 at the American Institute of Graphic Arts Baltimore Chapter, Baltimore, Md., and on July 6 at the Web Conference at Penn State, State College, Pa.

Dr. John Wallace, biology, co-authored a recent publication with lead author Jenni van Ravensway and fellow coauthors M. Eric Benbow, Anastasios A. Tsonis, Steven J. Pierce, Lindsay P. Campbell, Janet A.M. Fyfe, John A. Hayman, Paul D.R. Johnson and Jiaguo Qi titled “Climate and Landscape Factors Associated with Buruli Ulcer Incidence in Victoria, Australia.”
Wallace also gave an invited talk at the University of Dayton titled “Can Arthropod Hematophagic Evolution Help Us Understand the Transmission of Buruli Ulcer, Dayton, Ohio” in January.

Congratulations to:

David Fitzgerald, information technologies, and his wife, Christine, on the birth of their son, Evan David, on February 18.

Dr. Gregory D. Paul, communication and theatre, and Libby Paul, on the birth of their daughter, Allison Bethany Paul, on February 14.

Obituary:

Cynthia Corlew Dilgard, 74, died March 5 at her home in Oakwood, Ohio. She taught at Millersville State University where she chaired the English Department and taught Shakespeare and literature.

An appreciation – Dr. Cynthia Dilgard

During the fall semester of 1985 I was a senior about to set off on my career as an environmental, health and safety professional straight out of the Millersville University’s Occupational Safety and Hygiene Management (now the Occupational Safety and Environmental Health) program. One more semester of classes, a spring 1986 internship, and off I would go to one day land right back at MU as the safety director. But that was a good 15 years into the future. Before I could get there I had to finish my last semester of classes, which included Technical Writing. My English professor was Dr. Dilgard.

After a few classes we got our first technical writing assignment. I can’t remember what it was, but I recall the result – an F. An F? I was quickly learning Dr. Dilgard set a very high standard for writing, all writing, not just technical writing, and I had come up short of her expectations, far short. And I also recall that instead of feeling defeated or frustrated, Dr. Dilgard made me feel challenged. She made me feel like I could learn to write a good technical paper and become a better writer. And she helped me learn how to do it.

The biggest challenge of all was our final technical paper assignment. I decided I wanted to do my paper on occupational carpal tunnel syndrome, an occupational injury/disease common to the bindery employees at the factory where I worked part time. Dr. Dilgard was an enthusiastic supporter of this topic and helped me fine-tune my research methods, and then the long, detailed process of turning what I had learned about carpal tunnel syndrome into my final technical report.
Not having a computer, I enlisted the aid of a good friend’s sister. She was a secretary and had access to something that was called a “word processor.” I would handwrite my paper, and she would word process it into drafts. Draft after draft after endless draft. I ran these drafts by Dr. Dilgard, who gave me suggestions on how to improve my paper, but also, and maybe more importantly, she gave me encouragement. I can honestly say I never worked harder on any assignment in my college life. And yet at the same time, I never enjoyed an assignment more or learned as much from it.

Finally my paper was in the final draft form. But I wanted it to be perfect. No typos, no grammatical errors, no spelling errors. So I asked the family of my word processing friend to read my final draft. Then read it again. Then read it a third time. Father, mother, brother and sister each read the paper multiple times to look for the mistakes one of them might have missed. They took to the challenge, and when we were done not only did I have a solid technical paper to hand into Dr. Dilgard, they had also learned more about occupational carpal tunnel syndrome than they had ever dreamed possible.

Somewhere in my many conversations with Dr. Dilgard, I picked up a casual reference she had made to playing tennis after work. I found out she was an avid tennis player, and she was suffering from what is commonly known as “tennis elbow,” an inflammation in the elbow and an irritation to the nerve caused by repetitive motion (swinging a tennis racquet). The primary cause of tennis elbow (repetitive motion) was also the primary cause of carpal tunnel syndrome (an injury to the wrist).

One last and important piece of a technical paper is the cover page presenting the paper to the instructor. On mine, dated December 13, 1985, I thanked Dr. Dilgard for her help in writing the paper and said that I hoped the information in the paper would help her better understand her Tenosynovitis (tennis elbow). It must have; I got an A on the paper and for the course.

Far more important than the grade, Dr. Dilgard taught me how to write (and research) a good, solid technical paper and in doing so, she taught me something even more important: how to write. Dr. Dilgard brought discipline to my writing but not at the expense of creativity, and I will forever be thankful to her for that.

I write a lot, both at work and for enjoyment. Often, when I am editing what I write, removing an empty “that,” rewording a sentence to shorten it or changing a sentence so the reader can better grasp the image or idea, I think of Dr. Dilgard.

I was fortunate enough to have a chance to thank her personally when I came back to MU to work in 2000. Shortly after I started work, I found out she was about to retire. I called her and invited her to lunch at the Sugar Bowl; it was my way to say “thank you.” We reminisced about my paper and the times. As always, she just radiated her love of English and writing. And she also talked about how happy she was with her students, how well they were doing in her classes. Dr. Dilgard loved what she did, and it showed. I know I am a better safety professional, a better writer and a better person, for having had her in my time here at MU.
I hope this story reminds all of us who have been fortunate enough to attend Millersville University and experience a professor like Dr. Dilgard, just how lucky we really are. And Dr. Dilgard, I edited and reviewed multiple drafts of this letter before I submitted it. I hope I got it right. ~Patrick Weidinger, Class of ’86

Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of Who Makes Millersville Special features John Halton, HVAC Manager, maintenance operations

Q: Where are you from?
A: I am from Altoona, Pa.

Q: Where were you educated? What did you study?
A: My main school was Hollidaysburg Area High School. I went to Altoona Area Vocational School for heating and air conditioning.

Q: When did you begin working at Millersville University?

Q: What are your responsibilities as the HVAC manager?
A: I feel the most important responsibility as the HVAC manager is to see that when our customers call for service on their heat or air conditioning they get the best service we can provide. I oversee a preventative maintenance program for over 3,700 pieces of equipment both here on campus and at our downtown Lancaster facility. I also coordinate with our Capitol Construction division to ensure that the HVAC systems are specified and installed correctly.

Q: For those who are unaware, could you explain what HVAC systems are?
A: HVAC stands for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. We operate and maintain all of the central heating and air conditioning systems on campus. The HVAC shop also maintains walk-in refrigerators and freezers, ice machines, window air conditioners, exhaust fans, cooling towers, building automation systems, pumps, chemical fume hoods and a wide variety of other equipment.

Q: What does a typical day consist of at the office?
A: I am out of my office a lot during the day. I am helping the team members of the HVAC shop, sitting in project meetings and getting together with contractors that work on some of our equipment. Late in the afternoon is when I finally get to take some time in my office and catch up on emails, order parts for the department and talk to customers.

Q: How many buildings are you responsible for on campus?
A: The HVAC team takes care of almost 100 buildings on campus.

Q: What do you love most about Millersville University?
A: Millersville University is a great place to work. I really love interacting with the wide diversity of customers we serve here.

Q: Which system causes the most complications on campus?
A: All the systems that HVAC teams work on can have a mind of their own. I believe the most challenging units are the big chillers for the buildings. It never fails that they break down on the hottest days, and the team is on the roofs fixing them. I always ask that our customers please be aware that, as hot as they are in their workspace, the members of our team are probably up on the roof working to get them comfortable.

Q: How do you prepare for potential storms?
A: The management teams sit down as a group. We look at what type of storm is coming and what we think might be impacted by the storm. We work hard to make sure that all students and staff will be safe. We try and anticipate possible problems and have solutions planned and ready to implement.

Q: Where did you work before Millersville?
A: I started my career in Maryland. I was a HVAC service mechanic for over 20 years, providing service for a variety of commercial and industrial customers over a wide geographical area. I moved back to Pennsylvania in September of 2000.

Q: When not working, what is your favorite thing to do?
A: My favorite thing is spending time with my family. I have a wonderful wife and daughter that are great to see after each day at work. I do volunteer work for Toys for Tots. I enjoy knowing that there will be some happy children out there at Christmas time that might not have a toy to open without this wonderful organization. I am also trying to finish remodeling my house.

Q: Do you have any hobbies? If so, what are they?
A: My hobby is model railroading. I have a big model train layout in my basement. I call it my stress relief room. I have always been a train fan.

Q: What are some of your favorite movies?
A: I am a “Stars Wars” fan. I also like action movies.

Q: Please complete this sentence. People would be surprised to know that I:
A: I did a lot of service work in federal government buildings (including the White House) before I moved back to Pennsylvania. I was very lucky to meet President Ronald Reagan.