



Alumni Spotlight

Larry Zook '83
January 2020



"Landis Communities' guiding values are Joy, Compassion, Integrity, Stewardship and Community. It is interesting to see the overlap between our values, many of which are shared with Millersville University." Larry Zook would be the one to recognize similarities between Landis Communities and the 'Ville, having built an impressive career with them since graduating in 1983.

Larry was the fourth of the five Zook siblings to choose Millersville. It all started with his eldest sister who received a SICO Foundation scholarship and recognized the value of a debt-free education. When it came time for Larry to make his college choice, he was driven by his goal to live and work in Lancaster County. The supportive and enthusiastic faculty made for a win-win.

As a business administration major in the early 80s, Larry was ahead of his time when it came to selecting his major. "I was very interested in information management and the use of computers to support decision making and enhance communication."

At the time, Millersville didn't have an academic major that combined business and information systems, so Larry did some research and worked with his professors to select business and computer science courses to create a curriculum that mirrored other management information systems programs.

Outside of his coursework, Larry worked as a reporter for the Snapper and served on student senate, which gave him the opportunity to regularly interact with campus leaders, including Dr. Caputo and Dr. Reighard, then President of Millersville and the Vice President of Student Affairs, respectively. "The relationships with school leaders and faculty were lasting connections that remain strong through the years since graduation. Their accessibility, encouragement, and support for student activities was very motivating."

Larry's innovation towards his degree paid off, as his entry into Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities—which founded Landis Homes—began as Director of Computer Services. He was later named Director of Administrative Services and eventually Vice President of Resources at Landis Homes Retirement Community before becoming President/CEO of Landis Homes in 2007 and Landis Communities in 2011.



L to R: Lois Ann (Zook) Mast, J. Lemar Mast, Genie (Wills) Zook, Duane Zook, Betty (Brubaker) Zook (seated), Ron Zook, Judy (Garber) Zook, Larry Zook, Dawn (Root) Zook, Bob Zook, Ethel (Yoder) Zook

"My time at MU cultivated a love of learning and nurtured a passion for serving our greater community. Attending a local university and continuing to work in the community has created meaningful synergies." Even in his current role at President/CEO, Larry is aware of other Millersville alumni in leadership roles within the organization and of current students engaging in internships and research projects at Landis Homes.

"What has been really special is that we welcomed both Dr. Reighard and his wife, Jackie, and Dr. Caputo and his wife, Linda, to the resident community at Landis Homes."

Larry refers to his time at the 'Ville as the beginning of a lifelong journey enriched by a love for learning and a desire to serve others. He and his wife, Dawn Root Zook '82, have a son, Benjamin, and are members of the East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church.

To learn more about Landis Communities, click [here](#).



Landis Homes residents & former educators

Dr. Gary Reighard, Millersville University

Charles Longenecker, Lancaster Mennonite High School

Seated: Betty Zook, kindergarten

Lois Witmer, grade school