Just Hanging Out  
By Joyce Sprague

A few years ago, I found a tiny form asleep in a small potted plant on my desk in Weidensall Hall. I was thrilled to discover that it was a small brown bat and dismayed to have to call Facilities Services to remove her (I can’t call something that cute an “it”). I’ve received a few more campus visits since that day, most recently when I looked up and saw one hanging, asleep, from a light fixture above my desk. As before, I didn’t want to see her leave. As you can probably guess, I didn’t call for her removal because I was afraid of her; in fact, it was just the opposite.

When I was growing up in the 1960s, one of my favorite afternoon television shows was Dark Shadows. I felt sorry for Jonathan Frid’s character, Barnabas Collins, a vampire who wanted nothing more than to be normal again, and I quickly became comfortable with the sight of his bat friends flying across my television screen. My fondness for the tiny creatures led me to watch the night sky in my small hometown in North Carolina, searching for the shadowy forms as they swerved and dived for their evening meal. You can guess how pleased I was when we moved to Pennsylvania in 1982 and discovered that one of them had made a home above our back porch door; unfortunately, I soon tired of sweeping guano (bat droppings) off my porch, and it was with mixed feelings that I forced her to move to another location. I must admit that it puzzles me that not everyone feels the same way about bats. I offer the following examples.

I recently heard that several people in the Provost’s Office were seen running into their offices—slamming their doors securely behind them—leaving one hapless employee alone with the small flying mammal. Surprisingly, a few weeks later, a visitor to the same office was seen diving under a desk when the creature made a return visit. There’s also the person in the President’s Office who arrived early one morning only to realize that she was not alone in the office and rushed to lock herself inside the kitchen. After making an SOS phone call to her husband, she discovered that the tiny creature had disappeared; that is, until it reappeared several hours later inside a nearby conference room. Yet another co-worker told me that a few years ago, during her first week of employment, she hid inside a Glatfelter Hall copy room to escape one of Barnabas’ friends and found herself joined a few minutes later by a male faculty member who had the same idea (so much for chivalry!).

Although I’ve learned that Facilities Services staff answer “bat removal” requests from buildings across campus, Musselman Library employees are so accustomed to bat visitations that they have their own “bat net,” which I’m told is similar to a butterfly net. When one Library employee came to work one Sunday morning a few years ago, she was horrified to discover a dead bat on the floor near the circulation desk. When a co-worker tried to put the bat in a box to dispose of it, they soon realized that the bat was very much alive!

In keeping with the somewhat airy nature of this article, I’ve been giving serious thought to why we have so many on-campus bat sightings. I think the answer is clear. We are already the best place to work in Pennsylvania so given the current state of the economy, what better place for bats to live than right here on campus? We have a great food plan (an abundance of insects swarm the night sky); we have the best sleeping quarters in town (our belfry is second to none); and we offer various educational opportunities (where do you think bats learn to use radar?—from our very own Physics Dept., of course!).

Not everyone appreciates it when one of the little darlings gets behind in her studies and has to pull an “all-dayer” or doesn’t make it back to the belfry before the sun comes up, but it is my hope that you will join me in embracing our bat population, looking upon them as just another constituency of our campus community. A first step might be to start “hanging out” with them. I’m sure Barnabas would have wanted it that way.

The Pillars staff would like to thank PNC Bank for donating the funds to print this month’s newsletter in color.
Getting to Know . . . Pat Crowell
Which dept./office do you work in? The Provost’s Office

What do you like best about working for Gettysburg College? I really enjoy working in an educational environment where I am always learning. I also feel fortunate to work in such a caring & pleasant environment with such a great group of people! After all, we are ranked 5th as one of the Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania!!

What super-power would you most like to have? The ability to bring peace to the world!

Is there anything people might not know about you that you would like to share? When I was a teenager, I was a pretty decent skateboarder! (And yes, they did have skateboards back then!)

If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be and why would you want to live there? I would love to live in an area where it is always warm, preferably near the water. I am a summer person. I’ve never liked winter!!

If given complete freedom to start afresh, and time and money were no object, what profession would you choose and why? I think I would have liked to have been a professional dancer (perhaps on Broadway??). I don’t know if I would have been any good at it, but I think it would have been fun.

What is your pet peeve? People who don’t take responsibility for their actions.

Who has had the most influence in your life? My parents. They instilled in me the values that I try to live by. They were wonderful role models. Also, my husband, Clark. He helps me to not take things too seriously and brings a lot of joy to my life! And I can’t neglect to mention my friend, Barb Herman, who teaches by example what it means to be a selfless and compassionate individual.

Getting to Know . . . Tom Ahlers
Which dept./office do you work in? Department Of Public Safety

What do you like best about working for Gettysburg College? DPS is never the same job twice. Every day is different with new challenges. I have learned a lot over 20 plus years.

What is your pet peeve? People who park in fire lanes instead of a parking space and people who have enough energy to shop for hours on end but do not have 30 seconds or enough energy to put the shopping cart away therefore leaving it in the middle of the parking lot only to drift off and hit an innocent person’s vehicle.

What is your most powerful self-attribute and why? I am slow to anger and easy to get along with.

Who has had the most influence in your life? Our creator!

What is your motto in life? To thank every Veteran I come in contact with for their service to our country which keeps our country free.

What is one of your favorite quotes? “You like your freedom, Thank a Veteran”
Support Staff Council 2010-11  By Linda Miller

It is with pleasure that I introduce the Support Staff Council for 2010-2011. At a recent retreat, we assumed our positions on the Council and the committees we would chair. Support Staff should contact a committee chair if they wish to be a committee member. We need fresh faces every year, so please consider serving on a committee.

Co-Chairs of Training & Development Committee
ANDREA SWITZER
Sociology & Anthropology  aswitzer@gettysburg.edu
JIM BAER
Facilities Services  jbaer@gettysburg.edu
- Organizes monthly brown bag lunches for the campus community.

Co-Chairs of Employee Relations Committee
AMY ELLICOTT
The Dive  aelicot@gettysburg.edu
BRIAN HERRELL
Facilities Services  bherrell@gettysburg.edu
- Organizes Support Staff Picnic held in June.
- Assists HR with organization of President’s Reception for Support Staff by suggesting menus, creating/sending invitations, scheduling entertainment, coordinating honorees and retirees, purchasing service awards, etc.

Don’t forget to send a Pillar to someone whom you think deserves a special “thank you” for a job well done (faculty, administrator, support staff). It only takes a few minutes to recognize and reward someone who has made a contribution “above-and-beyond the call of duty” and demonstrated the spirit that makes Gettysburg College a great place to work!
http://www.gettysburg.edu/staff/support_staffcouncil/

Janet’s Post  By President Riggs

The Pillars program is designed to recognize those in the Gettysburg College community who go above and beyond the call of duty, who go out of their way and often beyond their job requirements to provide assistance to those in need. Support Staff Council initiated the Pillars program in May 2008, and since then over 820 Pillars have been awarded to more than 350 members of the College’s support staff, faculty, and administration. Those who have earned 6 Pillars receive a pin and a lanyard, and thereafter receive additional pins for each set of 6 Pillars earned.

On October 6 I had the pleasure of hosting a lunch for about 30 members of the Gettysburg College community who have been frequent recipients of Pillars. These are people who truly are Pillars of our community. Their attitude and work ethic exemplify what we mean when we talk here about Doing Great Work. Whether or not you are a frequent pillar earner, I thank all of you who give a little extra each day, who go beyond what’s required, to make Gettysburg great.
IT PAYS TO TALK TO CO-WORKERS

Banking with PNC can be even more rewarding with PNC’s WorkPlace Banking Refer a Co-Worker referral program.

WorkPlace Banking customers, who refer fellow Gettysburg College co-workers, can earn up to 250,000 PNC points a year (which, if redeemed for a cash credit, is like getting an extra $500 to spend on whatever you want!)

And it’s easy to do: simply talk to co-workers about the benefits of signing up for PNC’s WorkPlace Banking program and provide them with a referral coupon with your name filled-in. If they open a Checking account with qualifying direct deposit, they’ll receive $75 and you’ll receive 50,000 PNC points.∗

You can learn more about PNC’s WorkPlace Banking Refer a Co-Worker program, and print as many referral coupons as you need, online at pnc.com/referacoworker. If you’re not already enrolled in PNC points, you can do so online, in a branch or by calling 1-800-762-5684.

So current PNC WorkPlace Banking customers, talk it up! By helping your co-workers enjoy the benefits of WorkPlace Banking and $75, you can benefit too. If you haven’t joined PNC’s WorkPlace Banking program, now’s a great time to learn more about it.

To speak with a local WorkPlace Banking representative, contact Carolyn Wagaman at 717-334-8972 or carolyn.wagaman@pnc.com.

∗Must be enrolled in PNC points. Talk to your WorkPlace Banking representative for offer details. Visit pnc.com/points for program Terms and Conditions. PNC Bank reserves the right to change or terminate the PNC points program.

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New Support Staff Employees for Year

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bigham, Jason</td>
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<td>Wilhelm, Andrew</td>
<td>Dining/Food Prep</td>
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The President’s Reception for Support Staff will be held on Saturday, January 15, at the Majestic. We hope to see everyone there.