



Celebrating his 2006 promotion to lieutenant colonel are members of Kenneth Williams' family. From left, daughters Amanda and Dana, and his wife, Karen Ann Haduck, R.N., a Pittston native who graduated from Misericordia University in 1988 with a degree in nursing. The couple met at MU while both were sophomores in the nursing program.

## DUTIES

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would transport critically injured patients there and return with patients for follow-up care, just to keep the beds on the ship open for the most seriously injured.

The relief effort took on an international flavor when teams from Mexico and Columbia arrived in mid-February.

"Even though there was a language barrier, we worked well together and successfully helped each other out," Williams said. The son of Nancy and Hank Williams, of Dallas, the lieutenant colonel has some amazing numbers to report from the 29-day deployment. The team treated more than 1,250 patients from newborn to 77 years old, performed 64 surgeries and assisted a Mexican orthopedic surgical team with 34 additional surgeries. There were a few baby deliveries along the way, including one woman who delivered in the tent while surgery was being performed.

Williams returned to Honduras on Feb. 29. He was expected to complete his tour of duty there in June and return to his home base, Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi,

Miss., to be reunited with his wife, fellow Misericordia nursing graduate Karen Ann Haduck, R.N., '88, and their daughters Amanda, 17, and Dana, 12.

He and Karen, a native of Pittston, met during their sophomore year in the Misericordia nursing program. Following graduation, Karen went into civilian nursing practice and her husband entered ROTC, serving for seven years before enrolling in the Uniformed Services Uni-

versity of the Health Sciences at anesthesiology training. Williams has served with the Air Force a total of 22 years, including deployments to Turkey, the Persian Gulf, Italy, Ohio, Illinois and Delaware. He follows in the footsteps of his father, a U.S. Air Force veteran, and older brother Richard, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard. Younger brother Raymond "Scott," a 1992 Misericordia business alumnus, also served in the U.S. Army.

## LAW

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Fox said. Tying up loose ends, Malak was authorized to research possible legal action against Pasonick Engineering for the 537 plan, a sewage enforcement plan enacted about two and half years ago by the former municipal authority.

Malak will work with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Dallas Area Municipal Authority to make sure there are no deficiencies in the plan.

In other business, the resignation of Joann Wright as planning commission secretary was accepted. Supervisors made a recommendation to the Planning Commission that Denise Rittinger, township secretary, serve as secretary.

Supervisors approved a request to apply a fee of \$1,000 for an organization to reserve use of the fields at the Jackson Township Recreational Park. Wilkes said the recreation board is already charging the fee to Back Mountain Soccer, Back Mountain Baseball and the Back Mountain Lacrosse teams.

"It pays for the general upkeep of the park," he said.

The next meeting of the Jackson Township supervisors will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7, in the municipal building.

## DISABLED

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was born in a nondescript, academic setting at Misericordia University.

In teaching the Environmental Aspects of Disabilities course for MU's occupational therapy program, Anson noticed that some of his students did not clearly understand the complicated ADA standards for signage, slopes and other applications.

"Some of the standards for accessibility are hard to grasp without actual demonstration," he explained. "In an effort to find a better way to enable the students, I came up with instruments to help them test the difficult features more easily."

His rudimentary, hand-built prototypes were developed further with the assistance of design engineers at Pride Mobility Corporation in Exeter.

The end result is a product that offers quick answers to questions of accessibility. The multifaceted

Story Stick, for example, identifies barriers to wheeled accessibility along sidewalks and hallways, while also measuring a wide range of height requirements from desktops to light switches. The kit also includes the Multi Tool, Door Force Tool, Stop Watch, Key Torque Tool, Spirit Level, Light Level Meter, Magic Slope Block, Sound Level Meter, Font Guide and Tape Measure.

"Slopes are specified by the ADA in grade ratios such as 1:12 or 1:48," Anson says, explaining how the Magic Slope Block is utilized for the complicated measurement. "People with limited math skills may find it difficult to assess slopes. The block takes the difficulty out of the process by providing a simple pass-fail test."

The standards for accessible signage, likewise, are very complex. They are described in terms of ratios based on the height of a letter. The ratios are complex enough that many signmakers cannot reliably interpret them, according to Anson. The ADA-CAT Font Guide helps determine

whether signage meets mandated requirements.

Is that fire extinguisher extended too far out from the wall? Does the height of water flow from a drinking fountain meet acceptable standards? The Multi Tool can determine that.

The Door Force Tool measures whether a door is too hard to open or close. The Key Tool assesses the ability of a person with limited hand function to turn a key in a lock. The Sound Level and Light Level meters check whether sounds and illumination are in appropriate specified ranges. The Tape Measure marks the width of hallways and doors, the height of signage and barriers, and clearances under desks and tables.

The market for the kit includes occupational and physical therapists who teach others how to assess facilities for ADA compliance. It also includes managers of public facilities ranging from schools to independent living centers to public parks and county fair grounds. Disability support groups in communities could also use it.

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