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Tayli, Danielle and McKenzi

Saluting the Working Women of Norton County

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SALUTING

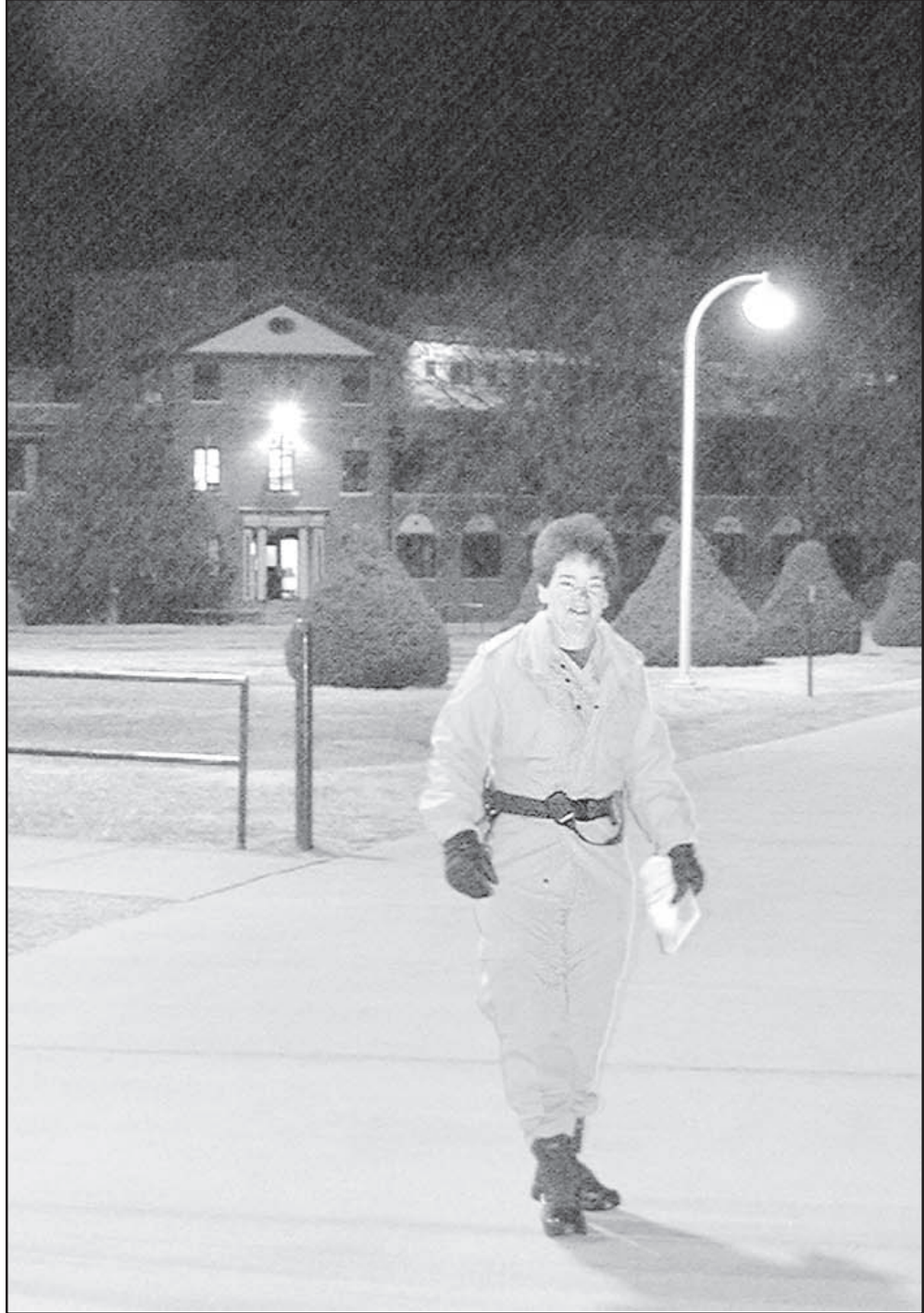
the Working Women of Norton County



Pictured Back Row from Left, Deanna Nelson, Lisa Kinderknecht, Renee Bruinekool, Linda Long, Lisa Millan, Chris Welch, Jenny Voogesang, Teresa Fritz, Rhonda Obermiller, Alice Nelsen, Linda Fuller; Second Row: Marsha Fowler, Moua Saetern, Jeanne Ray, Angie Feldt, Ranelle Hays, Amy Vacura, Brenda Sanders; Front Row: Cristy Harding, Janet Walter, Robin Sproul.

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Security is a top priority for

By VERONICA MONIER

Captain Karen Dow has grown with her job over the years.

Capt. Dow, a Corrections Specialist III, has been working at the Norton Correctional Facility since 1988. She started at the bottom as a corrections officer I and worked her way up to sergeant, then lieutenant and on to captain.

At the moment, she works the midnight to 8 a.m. shift and during that time, supervises the entire facility. With that comes supervising everyone on the grounds — staff, inmates and anyone else on the grounds — and maintaining the security of the facility.

“I don’t just work one building,” she said. “I interact with the entire facility. I enjoy the work and responsibility.”

Capt. Dow didn’t know she was going to be a corrections officer. In fact, when she was in college, she was studying in the psychology and sociology fields.

“In 1985, I worked for the state hospital,” she said. “I thought at the time it would give me

more of a social worker’s input, and I planned on going back to school and finishing my degree.

“I really wanted to be a teacher and a coach.” When the state hospital closed, she said she transferred to the Norton Correctional Facility.

“Things have kind of gone full circle for me,” she said. “Now, I teach classes and staff at the facility and as a supervisor, I coach my staff. It’s a different version, but I have a team to coach.”

Capt. Dow said one of her favorite things to do is teaching the staff under her.

“We teach them a lot of things,” she said. “Especially new staff. There is training, what their job duties are, and other things like what kind of attitude you want to develop. Out there, you always want to be firm, fair and consistent.”

“I try to pass on some of the things I’ve learned by experience over the years, like how to deal with the inmates.”

The worst part of her job, she said, is at times it can be stressful. But, she said, she is always seeking a challenge.