



THE POWER of
**PERFORMANCE
LEARNING**

MILLIKIN MAGAZINE

- 2** PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

- 3** ACADEMICS AT A GLANCE

- 4** THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE LEARNING

- 10** THINGS WE LOVE

- 18** ALUMNI PROFILE
DR. CARRIE DORGAN HRUBY

- 20** ALUMNI PROFILE
PHILLIP LOPEZ

- 22** FACULTY PROFILE
DR. TRAVIS WILCOXEN

- 24** STUDENT PROFILE
SETH HANSEN
Tabor School of Business

- 26** STUDENT PROFILE
KAYLA GREEN
College of Arts & Sciences

- 28** STUDENT PROFILE
KATIE KOCAN
College of Fine Arts

- 30** STUDENT PROFILE
BAILEE BLECKER
College of Professional Studies

- 32** THE IMPACT OF GIVING

- 35** CLASS NOTES
& MEMORIALS

millikin.edu/magazine

COVER DESIGN: KRISTA FOXX
COVER IMAGE: RICHARD NDEMBE



STAY **CONNECTED** GET **INVOLVED** GIVE **BACK**

millikin.edu/alumni

Phone: 217.424.6383


alumnews@millikin.edu
millikinfund@millikin.edu

FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:


Millikin Magazine
Millikin University
1184 West Main Street
Decatur, Illinois 62522-2084

 **Facebook**
facebook.com/MillikinAlumni
facebook.com/MillikinUniversity

 **X**
x.com/MillikinU

 **Instagram**
instagram.com/MillikinAlumni
instagram.com/MillikinU

 **YouTube**
youtube.com/MillikinUniversity

 **LinkedIn**
linkedin.com/school/Millikin-University

 **TikTok**
[@MillikinU](https://tiktok.com/@MillikinU)

 **Threads**
threads.com/MillikinU



The mission of Millikin Magazine is to engage alumni, friends, parents and other constituents in the life of the University, to communicate the high quality of Millikin Performance Learning and to reflect the University's mission, vision and values.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT: DR. JAMES M. REYNOLDS

UNIVERSITY PROVOST: MARY BLACK

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: DR. SARAH KOTTICH

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT: GINA BIANCHI, CLASS OF 1993

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS (OUTGOING): MEG RICHTMAN

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS (CURRENT): JODI SILOTTI, CLASS OF 1995

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS: DR. WALLACE SOUTHERLAND III

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS: KYLEE RONEY

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: JEREMY COULTER, CLASS OF 2000

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: MATTHEW FLATEN

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER: RICHARD NDEMBE

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER: KRISTA FOXX

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS: DEB HALE KIRCHNER

It is the policy of Millikin University to afford equal opportunity for all persons without distinction or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, disability, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or age. Opinions expressed in these pages are those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the University.

Millikin Magazine is produced by Millikin University Marketing & Media Relations.

©2024 Millikin University.

Jim Reynolds

President, Millikin University

Dear Millikin Alumni and Friends:

As we continue highlighting the Strategic Initiatives in our new Strategic Plan, this issue of the Millikin Magazine focuses on our third initiative, Advancing Academic Excellence. Although third in this series, clearly this is at the heart of our purpose and mission.

As I write this note in mid-March, we are already focusing on the culmination of the academic year as we organize our Commencement ceremonies. Each year, we carefully plan the two ceremonies for May and try to create an experience for our students and their guests that is emblematic of their journey through their education at Millikin.

But, suffice it to say, the journey is much more than simply awarding them a diploma at the end of their academic curriculum. Along the way, each of our students encounters a deep sense of commitment to academic excellence that takes on many forms.

Performance Learning permeates the entire curriculum where students take the theoretical learned in the classroom and apply it to the practical. This type of kinesthetic learning provides actual practice in the discipline and helps to cement learning in a much different and elevated way.

Faculty challenge our students to create original research and artistic performance in their respective majors to highlight both the method and the joy of scholarship. Student entrepreneurs are mentored to establish self-sustaining businesses. We have developed clinical training sites for students in our healthcare professions, as well as students in the School of Education. Each year we organize the Celebrations of Scholarship, where students can present their work and have interested parties critique what they have done.



All of this, and much more, speaks to the commitment of our dedicated faculty and staff in creating a learning environment that is exceptional in quality. Advancing academic excellence in our context means to continue to create the space for our students to be in community with us all and to grow into their greatest potential, ultimately to go out into the world and serve others.

My hope as you read this edition of Millikin Magazine is that you'll gain a more complete understanding of this amazing campus and the dedicated people who serve our students.

With respect for you all,

Jim Reynolds, *President*

TOP **3** *Best Value School
in the Midwest*
by U.S. News & World Report

100%
Receive
Scholarships

50+
Academic
Programs

250+
Internship
Opportunities

100%
Tabor Business
Post-Graduate
Success

*100% of Tabor graduates
gain employment or
enter graduate school
within six months of
graduation.*

100%
Nursing & Education
Post-Graduate
Success

*100% Placement
Rate for Nursing &
Education Graduates*

99%
Post-Graduate
Success

*99% of graduates
gain employment or
enter graduate school
within six months of
graduation.*

85%
Pre-Professional
Placement Rate

*Compared to the 50%
National Average*

29+
STEM
Programs

10:1
Student to
Faculty Ratio

\$500K
Tabor Business School
Investment Portfolio
Managed by Students

38
International
Partnership
Schools

NO **1**

*in Illinois
Outside of Chicago Metropolitan Area*

**DOCTOR OF
NURSING PRACTICE**

2024 Best Graduate Schools

Named by
U.S. News & World Report

NO **1**

*in Illinois
Outside of Chicago Metropolitan Area*

MASTER'S IN NURSING

2024 Best Graduate Schools

Named by
U.S. News & World Report

THE POWER *of* PERFORMANCE LEARNING

Millikin's Signature Brand of Education Empowers Academic Excellence



This issue of Millikin Magazine marks the third dedicated to spotlighting the initiatives in the University's Strategic Plan. This issue highlights the rich and varied work done by the Big Blue community as they "Advance Academic Excellence."

An MBA student from Rwanda helps a retired police lieutenant in Macon County conduct ground-breaking domestic violence research.



A member of the Women's Triathlon team fills backpacks with food for area schoolchildren who might otherwise go hungry.



A Nursing major transfers from a local community college and uses cutting-edge simulation technology to master the skills that will improve the health of her community.



A Biology major tests birds of prey to find answers about how infectious diseases jump from animals to humans.



What do they have in common? **The power of Performance Learning.** At Millikin, academic excellence is driven by Performance Learning, Millikin's signature brand of education. But what does Performance Learning really mean? Millikin Provost Mary Black offers a succinct, and incisive, definition:

“At Millikin, Performance Learning isn't just learning by doing, but learning by doing that involves real risk and real reward – our students engage in educational experiences with stakes in the real world.”

At every level of their education, Millikin students partner with third-party stakeholders in industry, academia and government to find innovative solutions that will improve the quality of life in their communities.

This is the academic excellence that Millikin advances every day, where faculty and staff mentor students as they engage in life-changing educational experiences. It is why Millikin students graduate to become the next generation of industry leaders, problem-solvers and change-makers.

Here are a few of their stories.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESEARCH

When retired Decatur Police Lieutenant Shannon Gutierrez Seal needed assistance developing a system to analyze domestic violence statistics in Macon County, she turned to Millikin University's Tabor School of Business.

Gutierrez Seal reached out to Jaelyn Weisenborn Cantwell, Class of 2009, and Director of the MBA Program, and Cantwell saw that opportunity as the perfect Performance Learning project for the MBA Data Analytics students.

Students started by developing their skills in Data Mining, and continued in Data Visualization and Business Forecasting classes taught by Millikin Tabor School of Business faculty Jason Sexton, James Wilkerson and Brian Stenke. These collective skills were critical to the project and its goal to give a complete picture of domestic violence statistics in Macon County for 2023.

"You can think of it as a giant funnel of information. There are police calls for service from all nine police agencies in Macon County. What were their responses to domestic violence crimes? Was there a report? Was it founded or was it unfounded? Was there an arrest? Once an arrest is made, were the state's attorneys charging it or not charging? If they are not charging it, then it disappears. If they charge it, it goes on to the circuit clerk, and we follow it through the judicial process," Gutierrez Seal said.

Compiling and interpreting that data was complicated and required

gathering information from several state and local agencies.

"Each entity keeps its own data, but they don't communicate to the circuit clerks, and the codes they use between the agencies are not the same. A police report number has nothing to do with the number a circuit clerk assigns to a criminal court case," Gutierrez Seal said. "Connecting those is a real hassle. You have to put physical pieces of paper together and draw the lines. At this point, there is no software or connection IT-wise to make all of these things flow.

"This is the only study like this in Illinois and probably the nation, as far as we can tell. The state of Illinois tracks the law enforcement's involvement with domestic violence, and it stops there. It has never gone beyond that."

The students presented their findings to representatives of Dove, Inc., a local nonprofit social service organization; members of the Decatur Police Department and State's Attorney's

Office; and Tabor School of Business faculty. The presenters included Millikin students Jacob Bailey '23, Seth Hansen '21, Aidan Hart '23, Adrianna Patterson '23, Larissa Senga '23, Bryce Shumaker '23, Kevin Tavarczyk '14 and Alex Zogg '23.

They found that, from January through November 2023, Macon County accounted for 5% of all domestic violence calls in Illinois. Of those calls, 46% occurred after 4 p.m. each day, and the peak call month was June. They found that 81% of Macon County domestic violence offenders are male and 19% are female, compared nationally to 90% male offenders and 10% female.

"We got this project on our very first day of class, and we didn't realize at first how important this project would be to us and the community. We were tasked with creating a metric system along with visualizations and a lot of data, and there was a lot of hard work and some grueling nights," said Millikin Criminal Justice undergraduate Adrianna Patterson. "This experience has been so rewarding. I was expecting to do some experiments and play with some numbers, but this project is real-world stuff about a serious topic."



BIG BLUE BACKPACKS

The good work that Millikin University's Big Blue Backpacks (BBB) does is often done in the background, out of the spotlight.

The student-run organization that addresses food insecurity for Decatur Public School (DPS) students provides weekend meals for 125 total students at Decatur's Dennis Lab School, American Dreamer STEM Academy and Michael E. Baum Elementary. While the work that BBB Co-Chairs Aly Barnes and Kendall Rossignol and BBB member Kendra Culler do isn't flashy – ordering, organizing and preparing food for students – the impact is tremendous.

The group, which partners with Decatur's Good Samaritan Inn, meets on Tuesday mornings at Good Samaritan to prepare the food bags, which are distributed to youth in time for the weekend. After serving Dennis Labs and American Dreamer for several years, Michael E. Baum Elementary was recently added to the BBB program. The students receiving the bags haven't met the college students who provided them.

"We know the students are very appreciative, but we are kind of undercover, and that is how it is supposed to be," Barnes said. "It feels good to be contacted by another school that would greatly benefit from 20-25 bags. I'm happy that we have the capacity to do that and that we can provide this for the people in need."

Barnes and Rossignol, members of the Millikin Swim and Triathlon teams, typically prepare the weekly order from Decatur's ALDI grocery store,

pick it up, organize it and prepare it for an assembly line process. The BBB program, which runs during the academic year, has menus that vary slightly from week to week. The bags typically include granola bars, mac 'n' cheese, soup, canned pasta, fruit cups/ snacks and oatmeal.

"Around Halloween and Christmas, we will get candy and candy canes to add to the bags for something fun. Before summer break, we do a double order," Rossignol said. "Good Samaritan will also give us extra donations that they receive. They recently gave us 300 jars of peanut butter, so we gave everyone a jar plus 20 meals for the summer. We try to do that when there will be a long break."

With increased funding, the group has many ideas for expanding, including continuing to add other DPS schools, adding more fresh produce and perishable items and developing a system where students can pick out what they receive in their bags.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

LEARN HOW AT:

millikin.edu/big-blue-backpacks

CAMPBELL FAMILY NURSING SIMULATION CENTER

With construction completed on the Health Sciences Center and Health Sciences West, Millikin's School of Nursing moved into a new home this spring.

"The School of Nursing has three spaces. Within the Health Sciences Center's first floor is our simulation area and on the second floor, across from the School of Exercise Science and Sport, is our administration office," Millikin Interim Director of Nursing Dr. Teresa Gulley said. "Across the street, what used to be the Millikin Institute is now Health Sciences West. We have three classrooms over there, as well as office spaces and a conference room."

Four state-of-the-art simulation rooms are the centerpieces of the Campbell Family Nursing Simulation Center, thanks to a generous gift from Susan Ires Campbell, Class of 1968.

The rooms mimic a doctor's office, obstetrics/pediatrics and hospital room settings. Control rooms with two-way

mirrors allow instructors to monitor the simulation rooms and control what happens to the "patients," which are high-tech "simulator" mannequins.

"There are two big goals with simulation. One is learning some basic skills and thought processes before getting to real patients. You want to have that opportunity in a safe environment to learn and use your skills," Gulley said. "The second one is high-risk, very intense scenarios that you may not get exposed to. We call them high-risk, low-volume scenarios. Those are excellent to do in this type of environment."

Sophomore Nursing major Brittney Spalding already works in medicine as a Surgical Technologist at Carle BroMenn Medical Center in Normal. She transferred to Millikin from Richland Community College to expand her skills.

"The new space is amazing, and there is a lot of room for growth," Spalding

said. "I've loved everything about my experience here."

"We are so excited to be in a new space that highlights all of the awesome skills and lessons we're able to teach to get the best experiences for our students," Gulley said.

Millikin's School of Nursing also announced a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Leadership program that began in January 2024. The program allows registered nurses holding a Master's Degree in Nursing to achieve their goal of earning a Doctor of Nursing Practice. The DNP is a practice-focused doctorate similar in scope to practice doctorates offered in other professional disciplines.



ILLINOIS RAPTOR CENTER

Millikin University recently celebrated the 10-year anniversary of its partnership with the Illinois Raptor Center (IRC), and according to Biology Professor Travis Wilcoxen, it's a partnership that has never been more relevant.

"We live in a world where over 70 percent of all new diseases that show up in the human population come from a non-human source. And COVID-19, of course, is the quintessential example of this," Dr. Wilcoxen said. "Where people all of a sudden started really caring about zoonotic diseases and where they were coming from – to better understand how the health of the human population is intrinsically linked to the health of wild animals."

Zoonotic diseases are diseases that move from non-human animals to humans. Being able to quickly and accurately track that movement – especially in order to anticipate and fight outbreaks – is at the core of the work that Wilcoxen and his students do at the IRC.

"A lot of students working with me are going into human health careers. [Working with the IRC], they've become experts on a disease that exists in wildlife and can infect humans," Wilcoxen said. "When they go to med school, or go on to do further research, they can already talk about how that disease works, where it comes from, how it's spread and – most importantly – how to test for it.

"It's what's really powerful in teaching students this way: It has real implications for the birds, but it also has real implications for human health. And the techniques they're

learning they will use again and again, as a researcher, as a doctor."

Millikin students gain hands-on experience in every step of IRC's research, from catching birds that will be banded, tested and treated, to analyzing infectious disease samples from hundreds of birds to identify local patterns.

And the work of Wilcoxen and his students continues to expand into the community. Recently, Wilcoxen joined the Board of the Macon Mosquito Abatement District to provide research support that the District was lacking.

"The District has mosquito sampling protocols in place, but they've been struggling to access other insects that can spread disease," Wilcoxen said.

"At the Raptor Center, we not only do research related to birds of prey, we capture wild birds and sample them as well – last year we captured over 1,500 birds, including many who, for instance, carried ticks. The District had funding to collect and analyze

ticks, but didn't have the people to do it. By using samples we can provide, they'll now be able to get a better idea of the risk of infection from tick bites in Macon County."

Wilcoxen takes pride in the fact that these Performance Learning opportunities uniquely equip Millikin students to bring their skills to other communities and professions.

"Our students, entering the professional healthcare community, they don't fall into that trap that others have in the past, which is thinking that humans exist in a bubble. They understand that the whole ecosystem matters," Wilcoxen said. "Like with the COVID pandemic. If officials had been doing more surveillance of wild populations they would have realized, 'Oh, we've seen this before. It's present in these bats, and here's all we already know about this virus.'"

"Performance Learning has already given our students that mindset, those tools – it puts them ahead of the curve."

FOR MORE ON WILCOXEN'S WORK AND THE PERFORMANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCES OF HIS STUDENTS, SEE PAGE 22.



MILLIKIN AWARDED MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & IBHE GRANTS



Millikin University has been awarded a competitive five-year, \$2,213,883 U.S. Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions Program Grant for a project entitled “Delivering on the Promise of Excellence in Education.”

“These funds will allow Millikin to continue and expand our mission to deliver on the promise of excellence in education. The project is designed to support student academic success, enhance our students’ sense of belonging and engagement in a welcoming and inclusive campus environment, and strengthen Millikin’s long-term capacity to serve our students,” Millikin President Jim Reynolds said. “On behalf of the

Board of Trustees, we appreciate the support that the U.S. Department of Education continues to provide for Millikin and the Decatur community.”

The U.S. Department of Education’s Title III Strengthening Institutions Program supports institutions of higher education to expand their capacity to serve their unique student body. This program is available to institutions of higher education that serve low-income students, demonstrate the need for additional resources to serve these students more effectively, and provide a strong plan to reach their proposed objectives.

“Once again, Millikin University is fulfilling its promise to create a culture of academic achievement in an inclusive way for students so that we can prepare them for lifelong success, including leadership roles here in Decatur, across Illinois and

throughout the nation,” Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Wallace Southerland said.

Included in the grant is funding for an inaugural Director of the University’s Title III Grant/C-IDEAS. Dr. Brandon Thomas Cockburn started in this role March 1.

Millikin University was also awarded a \$5.6 million grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) through the Independent Colleges Capital Investment Grant Program.

The grant program’s goal is to provide financial assistance to private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in Illinois for the construction, repair and renovation of infrastructure on campuses to provide equitable learning experiences to students.

Most of the funds are planned to go toward the completion of the David J. and Debra C. Rathje Athletic Center. The estimated \$11.7 million, 17,675 square-foot facility will be located immediately south of Frank M. Lindsay Field and west of Griswold Physical Education Center and is expected to be completed by early 2025.





Designing Disney Immersion Program Connects Generations of Alums, Students

As visitors enter the main entrance to Walt Disney World, they pass under a large sign with the park’s slogan: “The Most Magical Place on Earth.”

How Disney and its Imagineers – the engineers and designers who create the resort’s attractions – use groundbreaking methods to keep fans returning is the subject of a Millikin University Immersion program each January. Sixteen students spend a week in class learning the techniques Imagineers use and then a second week at Disney World, connecting with Millikin alums in their professional positions at Disney.

The immersion program is led by Professor and Coordinator of Design & Production for the School of Theatre & Dance Jana Henry Funderburk, and the students are often an eclectic group, including Disney superfans and those making their first visit.

“We have both ends of the spectrum. We have people who are annual

pass holders, and their families go to Disney four or five times a year, and we have people who have never been. But even those hardcore fans will say, ‘I’ve never seen that before,’ and ‘I’ve never noticed that,’” Henry Funderburk said.

Since the Disney immersion began, more than 20 Millikin alums have gone on to work at Disney, either in full-time roles or as a part of the Disney College Program. The group



connects with those alums during an itinerary that typical visitors to the resort could never experience.

“It was a great example of the generosity that alums will do for our current students. We get to meet Imagineers and designers, have VIP seating for events and shows, as well as backstage tours,” Henry Funderburk said.

Millikin alum and Disney World’s Live Entertainment Production Manager Jamie Kern ’03 helped plan activities during the program’s first year, and now alum Samson Callear ’19 meets with the group as an Entertainment Costuming Lead in the Magic Kingdom.

“Samson talked to our students, and what’s so cool about it is that he took this class and then went down there for the College Program. We also have a student who graduated in May – Mira Burens ’23 – who is now in the College Program and working on Samson’s team,” Henry Funderburk said. “We’re seeing these generations of connections with Millikin [and Disney].”

ELYCE KNUDSEN BECOMES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER

Millikin senior All-American Elyce Knudsen became the Big Blue Women's Basketball all-time leading scorer in a game against Carroll University in the Griswold Center on Jan. 27.

Knudsen entered the game with 2,008 career points, needing 10 points to be the team's all-time leading scorer by breaking the record of 2,017 points held by Lindsay Ippel Douglass '08. Knudsen broke the record just before halftime and scored 38 points total.

"This accomplishment is everything. It's nice to look back now on the years and how I've gotten these points and the girls I've gotten to do it with," Knudsen said.

"That's what I said in the huddle, I said, 'It's for all of you guys, and it's not just me.' They motivate me, they get me the right passes, so it is all kudos to them."



The game also marked the 13th time in Knudsen's career that she scored more than 30 points in a game. Knudsen finished the season with 763 points scored, setting a new Millikin record for points in a season, and bringing her career total to 2,274 points (through 101 games).

"My coaches have always said, 'Make a mark they can't erase.' This record is something they can't erase here at the University," Knudsen said.

Knudsen Named Millikin's 2023 Lincoln Laureate

Each fall, an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is awarded the Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award and becomes a Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. In the spirit of Lincoln, student laureates are honored for their leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity

and overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Knudsen was named Millikin's 2023 Lincoln Laureate and received a monetary prize, a Lincoln medallion and a certificate of merit signed by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker.

"The Lincoln Laureate Award is quite an honor to go along with Elyce's other

well-deserved recognition, awards and honors during her time here," Dean of the Tabor School of Business RJ Podeschi '02 said. "The way she carries herself with grace and humility in the classroom and on the basketball court is inspiring to others. Elyce continues to be a model representative for Millikin. It's a joy to lift up these accomplishments of our talented students."

Kyle Hensley Wins National Championship with Record-Setting Pole Vault

When Millikin University pole vaulter Kyle Hensley prepares to clear a new height at a track meet, he wants his mind clear, and the actual jump is done in a flash.

“Most of the jump is a blur. I can’t really remember it after I get off the ground,” Hensley said. “As I run down, I count in my head, ‘7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, jump.’ After I jump, I usually don’t remember anything until I land.”

But one recent jump will stay with Hensley forever. At the 2024 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships held March 8 in Virginia Beach, Va., Hensley cleared a jump of 17-0 feet. It was a personal best jump by 11 inches, but more importantly, it was the top jump in the competition, making the first-year Big Blue student-athlete a national champion.



“I really don’t know how I did it. I think it’s been brewing at practice. It just hadn’t been able to click at a meet for me yet. With the adrenaline and all that going on, I think it all helped me,” Hensley said. “Most of the time at that level, a one- or two-inch PR [personal record] would be pretty big, so an 11-inch PR is amazing.”

Hensley’s championship was record-setting as the top pole vault jump by a first-year athlete ever at an NCAA DIII Championship. He became just the second Millikin track athlete to win a national championship, joining Carl Alexander, who won the 100 Meters in 1997-98. Hensley is the fifth individual Big Blue athlete national champion.

Millikin Joins Amazon Cloud Computing Program

Millikin University has announced its approval as a member institution of AWS Academy, an Amazon Web Services (AWS) program that provides higher education institutions with a ready-to-teach cloud computing curriculum.

Students can enroll in courses that teach in-demand cloud skills, allow them to solve business challenges

based on actual industry scenarios and help prepare them to pursue industry-recognized AWS Certifications.

The idea to bring AWS resources into the classroom began in the fall of 2020 when RJ Podeschi '02, Dean of Tabor School of Business and Associate Professor of Information Systems, co-taught a Systems Administration course with Adjunct Professor and

AWS Certified Solutions Architect Justin DeBo '18. The course prepared students for the AWS Cloud Practitioner exam, with over 80% of the class earning certification.

Joining AWS Academy will create a seamless experience for students to learn in-demand skills in courses like IT Infrastructure, Ethical Hacking and Systems Administration.

ALY ARMSTRONG AND TORI STUART NAMED 2023 LINDSAY MEDALLION AWARDEES

Millikin University graduates Aly Armstrong '21, '23 MBA, and Tori Stuart '23 each received the 2023 Lindsay Medallion, presented by Lucy Lindsay Smith '67 and Bob Smith '62.

Named in honor of the late F. Merrill Lindsay, trustee emeritus, and his late wife, Margery "Sis" Lindsay, the Lindsay Medallion has been presented annually since 1997. The late Steve Spangler '68 designed the distinctive medallions, which honor student-athletes for outstanding performances on their respective Big Blue teams, as well as others who have positively impacted Big Blue athletics.

Armstrong excelled as a Big Blue softball player, breaking four Millikin records for strikeouts in an inning, a game, a season and a career. Her career record as a player was 64-19 and a 2.19 ERA. In her final season in 2023, she finished with a 17-3 record and 150 strikeouts. Her all-star performance



helped lead her team to their first-ever win in the Super Regional to advance to the NCAA championship tournament.

Stuart achieved a major volleyball career milestone during her senior year, when she scored 1,000 career kills, finishing her Big Blue career with 1,187. While playing volleyball, she

was named to the Grinnell-Central Invitational All-Tournament Team, UWSP All-Tournament Team, Big Blue Athlete of the Week three times, CCIW Offensive Player of the Week three times, First Team All-Conference twice and received an AVCA All-Region honorable mention.

Victor Lawton II Wins 2024 Hollis Prize Competition



The top solo performers in Millikin University's School of Music gathered at Kaeuper Hall in the Perkinson Music Center on Saturday, April 6, for the annual Hollis Prize Competition, the highest award given to student musicians at Millikin.

Following a semifinal round of competition in March, three finalists – David Gartner, Colton Middleton, and Victor Lawton II – performed 20-minute sets in front of an audience that included two adjudicators who would decide the winner. After the three performances, the judges

convened and named Lawton, a senior Clarinet Performance Major from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the 2024 Hollis Prize Competition Winner.

"It's surreal to win. The last time I tried out for this was my sophomore year, so it's interesting taking that gap year and then coming back full force and being ready to win it," Lawton said. "I was nervous hearing the other competitors right before me; they are amazing. Colton's one of my best friends here, so hearing him practice all week and tearing it up on marimba, it's crazy."



School of Nursing Faculty Receive IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowships

Three faculty members from Millikin’s School of Nursing were awarded 2024 Nurse Educator Fellowships from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The fellowships were given to Assistant Professor Dr. Audra Trump, Instructor Angie Lafrenz and Instructor Kelly Slade.

“The IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship is a competitive program designed to reward nursing faculty preparing

students for a career as a registered nurse,” Millikin Interim Director of the School of Nursing Dr. Teresa Gulley said.

“Dr. Audra Trump, Angie Lafrenz and Kelly Slade are excellent nurse educators and make a significant positive impact in developing our future nurses.”

Dr. Trump plans to use the fellowship to participate in a contemporary

teaching course and faculty development program.

“Coming to Millikin as a faculty member was one of my best career decisions. I enjoy working with the Nursing students at all levels,” she said. “Having small class sizes makes it possible to learn about each student as an individual. I love being able to help the students grow into amazing nurses, nurse educators, nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists.”

Millikin Hosts 7th Annual Human Trafficking Panel Discussion

The Human Trafficking Research Lab at Millikin University and the Office of Student Affairs hosted the seventh annual panel discussion for Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January.

The panel, entitled “Survivor Voices,” featured survivors of sex and labor trafficking from around Central Illinois and discussed the challenges

and opportunities of a survivor-led movement and how the anti-trafficking movement can work to include survivor voices in the future.

“We are fortunate to be able to host survivors of human trafficking from around Central Illinois for this panel discussion at Millikin. In our seven years of panel discussions, this is the first time that we will be able to engage

directly with survivors of this crime,” Millikin Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Laura Dean said. “When we hear about crime, often we don’t get to learn about the impact of the crime from the perspective of the victim or survivor, so this is an opportunity to hear the voices of human trafficking survivors sharing their lived experiences in their own words.”

SCHOOL OF MUSIC PIANO LAB UPGRADED WITH NEW PIANOS, MURAL

Millikin's Piano Lab was recently renovated, including the addition of new Yamaha Clavinova pianos and a new mural designed and painted by Millikin alum Shannon Cook '21. The project was funded by a generous donation from Dean Messinger '73 and Pat Ray Messinger '74.

"I was a Music Education student at Millikin, and I spent many years teaching elementary general music and more years directing church choirs for children and youth," Pat Messinger said. "We hope the Piano Lab is useful for all students who use the space to learn keyboard skills. The new electronic pianos greatly upgrade the experience for students and teachers because technology continues to improve, and keyboards are no exception."

Millikin alum Shannon Cook '21 was commissioned to design and paint the Piano Lab mural. Cook, who teaches art for Decatur Public Schools, has completed

several murals for local businesses around the Decatur area, including at Door 4 Brewing Co.

"I started by sketching something on my iPad, using the same dimensions as the wall to create a low-stakes sketch to mess with. I can have many different layers and figure out what looks good composition-wise before I paint," Cook said. "The painting process took seven full days of painting. The longest I was there was 12 hours one day – from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. – and it was about 70 hours in total."



Millikin Announces International Student Partnership with

the worldgrad[®]
The Smartest Way To Study Overseas

Millikin has partnered with The WorldGrad, an award-winning academic partner that will connect Millikin with international students looking to complete Tabor School of Business degrees.

"The WorldGrad has a unique business model that allows students to study in their home country online for their first year with a U.S. university," Millikin Dean of the Tabor School of Business RJ

Podeschi said. "This is really ingenious as it allows students to improve their English skills, collaborate with other students and become acclimated to American higher education before traveling while reducing the total cost of education."

Prospective students will be offered conditional admission to Millikin and are then encouraged to apply to MU and eventually attend in person.



Carmen Aravena, International Admission Director, Retires after 20+ Years

An important component of Millikin's Strategic Plan is increasing engagement with the global community. Director of International Admission Carmen Aravena has had an immense impact on that mission. During more than 20 years at the Big Blue, Carmen has helped to build the presence of international students on campus and provided global travel opportunities to Millikin students.

"As I bid farewell to Millikin University and a career which has provided me with a strong sense of purpose and great pride, I reflect on the joy of building, promoting and enhancing our community's international education reach and impact," she said. "My charge to my Millikin colleagues is that we continue to welcome and champion international students who enrich our campus with global perspectives and unique diversity."

Carmen, who is originally from Chile, joined the Millikin faculty in the fall

of 2003 as a Professor of Spanish, and when Millikin's Center for International Education (CIE) was founded in 2007, she was asked to be part of the inaugural group of staff. She would eventually serve as its Director.

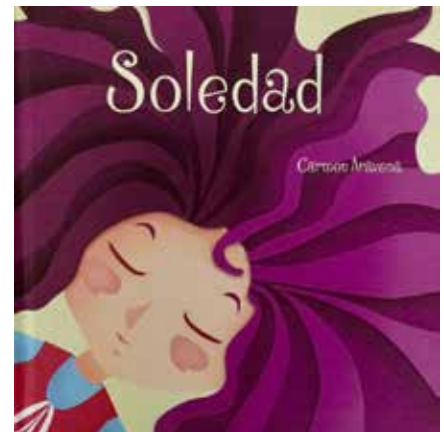
"Before the CIE, we were really doing nothing with international education. We had two or three international students, and studying abroad was just London and nothing else," Carmen said.

The construction of the University Commons and a generous donation from the Caterpillar Foundation gave the CIE a new home, and Carmen had a new position as Millikin's first Director of International Admission.

"People sometimes ask, who would want to come and study in Decatur? Our students come and are surprised by their large apartments and our big buildings because university facilities are very small in Europe. They love the total American experience," Carmen said.

With retirement, Carmen will enjoy her reduced travel schedule and the opportunity to focus on her creative

interests as a poet and soon-to-be-published children's author. Her book, titled "Soledad," features a story that has been with Carmen for many years.



"About 20 years ago, I was on a plane flying from Chile with my daughters, and I always have a piece of paper with me to write poetry because you never know when something is going to escape your brain, and you need to write it down. I started drawing about this little girl and talking about the relationship with her family, and I kept going back to that," she said.

"It follows the story of a little girl who lives on a farm and becomes friends with a little family of mice. I'm very jazzed about it because it's totally new for me."



WATCH VIDEO

Class of 1996,
Elementary Education Major

Dr. Carrie Dorgan Hruby

Superintendent of the
O'Fallon School District, O'Fallon, Ill.

Each year, Millikin University alum Dr. Carrie Hruby '96 makes it a point to return to campus in late February. Hruby is the Superintendent of O'Fallon School District and comes back for the School of Education's (SOE) annual Interview Bootcamp. Hruby and several other SOE alums conduct mock interviews with student-teachers nearing graduation to prepare them for those real-world interviews quickly approaching.

"I never miss the Bootcamp because it's so important to me. I feel it's really important to give back to the current students and my University that did so much for me," Hruby said.

"I've been so impressed with the students that Millikin is preparing. Every year, we see high-caliber students, and it's refreshing for me to come back and talk to them about their aspirations and where they are going."

Hruby's family has deep connections with Millikin as her brother and sister-in-law – Mark Dorgan '93 and Misty Lynch Dorgan '95 – are both Millikin graduates. Her niece and nephew – Harris Dorgan '25 and Sophie Dorgan '24 – are current Millikin students, majoring in History and Biology – Pre-Physician Assistant, respectively.

When Hruby was a senior Elementary Education major, she was in the same shoes as this year's group of student-teachers, and she wishes the Interview Bootcamp had been available then.

"It's such an advantage when they're going out to interview because interviewing is a skill. You have to practice feeling comfortable interviewing, and the students can get that experience," she said. "What's nice about it is that we also give them feedback. I can say, here's what you did well and what I think I would change and give them some real-life critical feedback they need."

Hruby has served as O'Fallon School District Superintendent since 2015, and previously, she was also Superintendent for Ball-Chatham School District. The road to administration leadership wasn't clear for Hruby when she began teaching a second-grade class for the Riverton School District.

LEADER OF LEADERS

“I could see myself retiring in that position, which I truly loved to do. I love teaching kids at that age, and they’re so eager to learn,” Hruby said. “As I was teaching then, I was tapped on the shoulder several times to say, ‘I think you have a lot of leadership qualities.’ I feel like those were things that I got from Millikin with the leadership opportunities here.”

As the academic and administrative leader of a school district, Hruby has to wear many hats, from setting the direction the district is taking, to inspiring the principals and leaders in the district, as well as guiding the programs through legal obstacles.

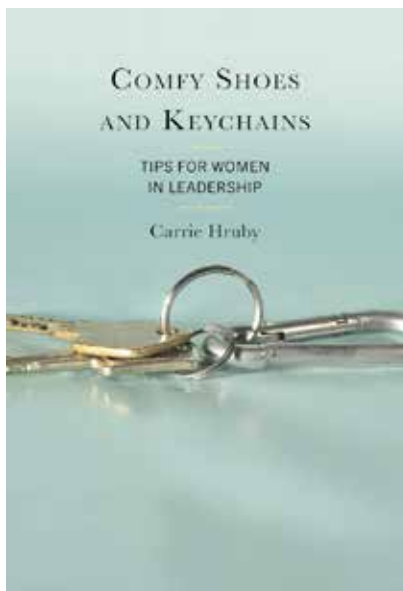
“A superintendent is the leader of leaders, so the superintendent works very closely with principals and district office staff to ensure that the school district’s vision is headed in the right direction. We have bigger conversations about balancing budgets, ensuring ... we’re getting the dollars kids need to get the materials and resources they need,” Hruby said. “It’s a very well-rounded position, and that’s what makes it exciting; every day is different.”

One of the hurdles Hruby faces is a continuing teacher shortage – it’s one of the reasons she returns for the Interview Bootcamp each year.

“It is refreshing to see that we have so many great candidates coming out of Millikin because it’s a national teaching shortage,” Hruby said. “One of the biggest challenges is making

sure that we can fill positions and fill them with quality candidates that want to stay and be loyal to a school district and see their career blossom in our school district.”

Hruby collected some of the lessons learned as superintendent in her first book, “Comfy Shoes and Key Chains: Tips for Women in Leadership,” published in 2023 by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Each chapter tells the story of a woman in leadership who faces adversity and learns to overcome it. Hruby also shares tips and lessons on confidence, self-care, communication, engagement and avoiding burnout.



“The book came about because of my experiences as a female leader. I’m in a position that is historically a male-dominated career. However, we lead school districts that are primarily female teachers,” she said. “Only about



28% of superintendents are female, and because of that, we have some challenges that our male colleagues possibly don’t have.”

In those moments when being a leader of the leaders is a challenge, Hruby can reset by remembering what brought her into education during those days at Millikin.

“On days that I’m feeling bogged down with budgets or days that are pretty tough, I can stop and go into a kindergarten classroom,” Hruby said. “That brings me back to why I am doing all this. The exciting part about superintendency is that you get to connect back to the kids and realize, this is why I’m working so hard. Spending this much time and energy in this position because it will help these students in the future.”



WATCH VIDEO



Class of 2016
Music Performance Major

Phillip Lopez

Award-Winning Opera Singer &
Millikin 2022 Young Alumnus Award
Recipient

Before Millikin University alum and award-winning opera singer Phillip Lopez '16 returned to perform at Albert Taylor Theatre in February, he was sure to pay tribute to an essential Millikin tradition.

As the story goes, ghosts haunt the University's famed main stage, built in 1903. To ensure that a performer's time in the spotlight goes off without a hitch, an offering of three pieces of candy must be made to the Albert Taylor Theatre spirits.

"I wanted to pay special tribute to that because I think people paid tribute to it while I was here. I'm back after a long time, and I'm happy to do it again. I never had any real (ghost) experiences, but some of my friends did," Lopez said. "I was thrilled to return to Albert Taylor Theatre as it was the venue for our operatic productions from 2012 to 2016. I have fond memories of long rehearsal nights and performances in four productions spanning the vocal music genre from J.S. Bach's 'Sacred and

SHARING HIS TALENTS

Secular Cantatas' to Puccini's 'Gianni Schicchi.'"

Lopez returned to the Albert Taylor Theatre, joining the Millikin Opera Theatre, on Feb. 9 for an evening of love, song and drama in a performance titled "Opera Valentine." The showcase included many opera classics selected by Lopez and was the culmination of an Artist in Residency week with students in the School of Music.

"This week has been great. I've met so many students, and a lot of them are first-year students. I like the idea that you're starting out coming into Millikin and being able to interface with alumni almost immediately into your first year," Lopez said. "I didn't have anything like that when I was a freshman, and so it does make a big difference to be able to put a face with a name and see somebody's work and the type of life they've had after they finished at Millikin."

Since graduating in 2016, Lopez has built an impressive resume of awards and memorable performances on the stage. He holds two Master's Degrees – one in Opera Performance from Wichita State University and a second in Opera from Yale University – and was honored with the 2022 Millikin Young Alumnus Award. As a bass-baritone on the stage, Lopez won the 2023-24 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Iowa District), an award designed to discover promising

young opera singers and assist in developing their careers.

Lopez brought that expertise to a masterclass he led with School of Music students, as well as individual coaching sessions on how to prepare to take the stage and giving suggestions on student performances.

Lopez, originally from Avon, Ill., came to Millikin in part to be able to further his education while continuing to enjoy a small-town campus experience.

"I was lucky I had really great educators and collaborators that I was working with in high school that expected a lot out of me, and I tried to rise to the occasion as much as I possibly could," he said.

"Then I got into Millikin, and I had two really great voice teachers – Dr. Matthew Leese and Terry Stone – who let me make my own decisions about things. They encouraged me to have my own ideas. If you have those sorts of encouraging professors for years of your college experience, those are people that you'll remember for the rest of your life."

Lopez will make his role premiere of Dr. Bartolo in Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" for Opéra Louisiane in Baton Rouge, La., in May and will join the Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Program for its summer season, where he will play roles in "The Barber of Seville" and Richard Strauss' "Salome."

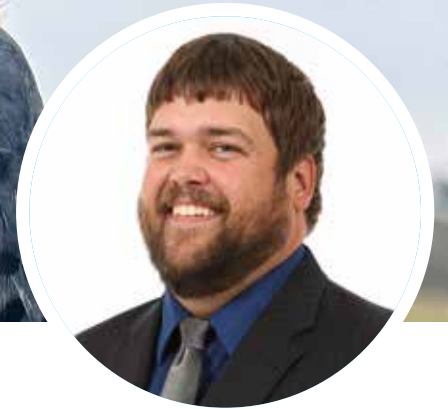


"The life of a musician is often extremely collaborative towards the end of a product, but before that, you have to spend a lot of time developing your own ideas about things by yourself," Lopez said. "Millikin taught me to believe in the work that I do in a solitary sort of experience. I spent a lot of time at Millikin just honing my craft, and I want to thank Director of the School of Music Brian Justison and Terry Stone for believing in me to do the Artist in Residency, and I just want to give back to Millikin as much as I possibly can."

Dr. Travis Wilcoxen

Professor of Biology &
Illinois Raptor Center Board
President

Millikin's 2024 Teaching
Excellence Award Recipient



Take a car ride with Millikin University Biology Professor Travis Wilcoxen, and there's a distinct possibility it might involve capturing, tagging and releasing a raptor.

No, that's not the nemesis of the visitors of Jurassic Park. A raptor is another term for birds of prey, including eagles, falcons, kestrels, hawks and owls. Wilcoxen serves as the Board President of the Illinois Raptor Center (IRC), a non-profit organization that rehabilitates injured and sick birds of prey. As part of that role, he never passes up the chance to collect more data.

Seeing a raptor positioned on a power pole, Wilcoxen will toss a trap from his vehicle that includes a live mouse (kept safe and sound in a protected roll cage) that will entice the bird to swoop down and get its talons entangled in a series of tiny rope nooses on the outside of the trap. An essential part of controlling a trapped raptor is placing

a hood over its eyes, which puts the bird in a near catatonic state. Thanks to the ingenuity and craftsmanship of IRC Program Director Jacques Nuzzo, Wilcoxen has Millikin-branded hoods to aid him in his studies.

"Once you get the hood on, their whole body, it just goes calm. They were originally invented for people to hunt with birds of prey because they want the bird to remain calm during transport," Wilcoxen said. "When their hood is on, wings are wrapped, feet are secured, we can safely go about everything else. We weigh it, take measurements, take a blood sample, put a band on it, take some pictures, and send it about its way. We try not to remove them from their location for more than 15 minutes."

Depending on the season, between 20-80 birds can be in rehabilitation at the IRC, located about four miles west of Millikin University's campus on the shores of the Sangamon River, with 300-400 birds assisted each year. The IRC also houses the Superflight, one of the few indoor bald eagle rehabilitation facilities in the world that allows eagles

to get full dynamic flight indoors. Through Wilcoxen's hard work, the IRC has partnered with Millikin students through many Performance Learning projects.

"A little over 10 years ago, we took our first samples from the IRC birds to analyze them at Millikin for a project. I had two research students who were local, and we got all the volunteers at the Raptor Center huddled in the little animal hospital, and we went over the entire protocol when a bird comes in," Wilcoxen said. "We talked about what samples do we need? How do we get them? And then what are they going to be used for?"

Initially, students in Pre-Veterinary Medicine received firsthand experiences at the IRC, but opportunities have expanded to other majors as the research projects have developed.

"The Pre-Vet students saw what a vet's life and work looks like and got some additional training. Then it grew and

BIRD IN THE HAND

opened up a whole new opportunity for all of our Pre-Med students and all other human health students who want to study infectious disease,” Wilcoxon said. “We started talking about how these raptors are patients who need to be rehabilitated and sent back to the wild.”

Recent Millikin Performance Learning research projects overseen by Wilcoxon have included a study on measuring the effects of rodent poisoning on raptors (see sidebar below), rabbit fever transmission between parasitic flies

and birds of prey, and analyzing the seasonal patterns of West Nile virus in small warblers.

Millikin students have also played an active role in the IRC’s latest expansion, which is a banding station for smaller birds.

“Last year, we opened a bird banding station, and the public outreach opportunity has been huge. In two years, we’ve had over 200 visitors that come out and learn from us, watch us and hear about the bird research,” Wilcoxon said.

“Now we’re at the point where we’re even getting Millikin students doing their work in front of the public, talking about their work. It is exciting because now we have the element that it’s not just science for the sake of science, it’s science for understanding public health.”

PERFORMANCE LEARNING

Last summer, Senior Biology major Lanie Chizmark was one of several Millikin students taking part in Performance Learning opportunities at the Illinois Raptor Center (IRC). Chizmark, a Leighty Science Scholar, investigated birds of prey that came to the center suffering from the effects of poisoning.

“My research was to find the prevalence of birds that failed blood clotting tests. We were concerned that birds were being affected by rodenticides that they were consuming through rodents they were eating,” Chizmark said. “I looked at several species, including barn owls, American kestrels, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls and eastern screech owls. We found that about 10% percent of the

birds admitted had improper clotting factors.”

Chizmark spent about 10 hours a week over the summer conducting her research, accessing blood samples from 485 birds dating back to 2016. She used the data for her capstone project, which included presenting her findings at the 2024 Celebrations of Scholarship Poster Symposium on April 26.

“This opportunity allowed me to do independent research, and I got to see all of the processes that go into creating a project and sticking with a plan,” Chizmark said. “Having the opportunity to be in a veterinarian setting and getting to do the tests that we were doing, like drawing blood samples, measuring all the data, was helpful to see.”





WATCH VIDEO

Tabor School of Business



Seth Hansen

Class of 2021,
Management Information
Systems Major
MBA Data Analytics
Certificate 2023

During Seth Hansen's time at Millikin University, Performance Learning opportunities have played a profound role in his success.

Those rewarding Performance Learning experiences – which give students a chance to test-drive their skills outside the classroom – proved influential to Hansen '21 in his academic and employment endeavors. Now as a Millikin employee in Information Technology, Hansen's graduate work in the Tabor School of Business Data Analytics Certificate program had him conducting groundbreaking

Performance Learning research with local partners that will influence future decision-making around Macon County.

Hansen came to Millikin from Springfield, Ill., to concentrate on a Management Information Systems degree and a minor in Cybersecurity. He got his first taste of the benefits of Performance Learning projects by participating in the student-run venture Millikin University Performance Consulting (MUPC) for seven semesters.

“MUPC brings in real-world clients in the Decatur community and helps them with various tech issues or the implementation of their technology. We did a lot of work creating websites for the community, doing database upgrades, and conducting software research and development for a couple of various local communities,” Hansen said.

“My favorite project involved Mari-Mann Herb Co., a local herb and spice manufacturer. We had to upgrade their database and ensure all the data was brought in seamlessly. It was great to work with local clients and customers, see your work in the community and feel like you're making an impact.”

As an undergraduate, Hansen served as a Supplemental Instruction Leader through the Student Success Center, where he provided his expertise and offered extra instruction weekly to students who were running into trouble in some of the challenging courses in the Tabor School of Business curriculum.

Hansen's coursework also opened areas of interest and gave him skills he continues to use today. “I chose Millikin because I was looking for a degree that incorporated tech and the business side of things. Management Information Systems was a good blend of those two,” he said.

“My favorite class was the Web/Mobile Application Development course. It gave me my first hands-on approach to creating and developing

CERTIFIED PERFORMANCE LEARNING

iOS applications, which I found really cool. I could create an app on my computer, then plug in my phone and see it in real-time.”

Hansen graduated in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, making it a challenging and unique time to enter the job market. After working for the national Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, where he was a member as an undergraduate, Hansen joined Millikin’s Information Technology department as a Database Analyst.

“I thought it was the perfect opportunity, and starting this role at Millikin, I immediately saw the coursework that I did as a student translate into the work I’m doing today,” Hansen said. “As a Database Analyst, I do a lot of behind-the-scenes work, updating the database and ensuring that the right codes are in place for faculty to run their finances or Admissions to receive their applications.”

Hansen returned to the classroom last year to take part in the Tabor School of Business Data Analytics Graduate certificate, which is designed for working professionals, with courses offered at night.

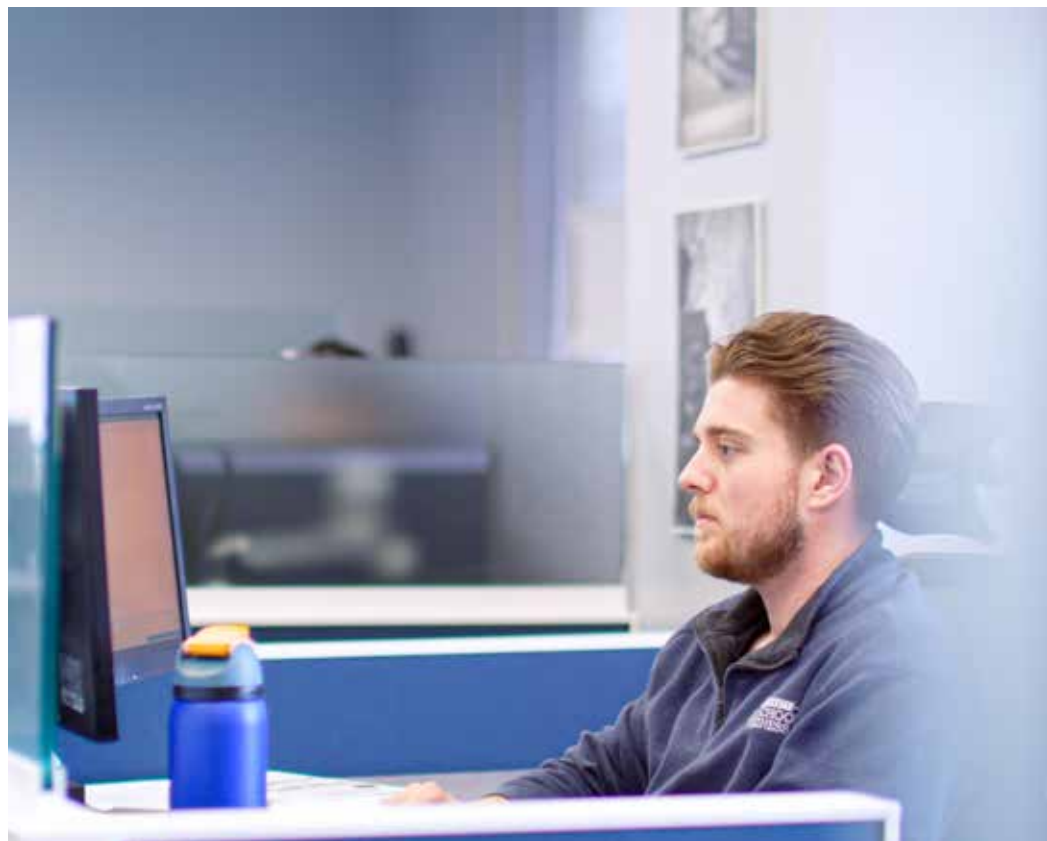
“The program gave me a lot of confidence in my role here at Millikin. It gave me a lot of useful tips and tools that I could use in my day-to-day work, especially the Data Visualization class,” Hansen said. “That class really taught me the

key topics that I need to know when creating dashboards and graphs for our faculty and staff.”

Hansen and the other members of his cohort were able to conduct first-of-its-kind Performance Learning research on domestic violence emergency calls in Macon County for Dove, Inc., a local nonprofit social service organization.

“We were working with real data about domestic violence and worked with Dove to compile statistics about how we can help the local community identify trends based around the issue,” Hansen said.

“The Performance Learning aspect was great, as I could work with real data being collected in our community. Other graduate programs I looked into don’t have this kind of opportunity to work with real data. A real-world project like this really gets you more involved with the project instead of it just being coursework. You are working in the community and making a difference.”



College of Arts & Sciences

Kayla Green

Class of 2023
Criminal Justice, Sociology &
Philosophy Triple Major



WATCH VIDEO

As Kayla Green '23 took the stage at Kirkland Fine Arts Center during the 2023 Millikin University Winter Commencement Ceremony in December, the moment was the culmination of three-and-a-half busy years.

Green delivered the student address at the ceremony before earning three College of Arts & Sciences Bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice, Sociology and Philosophy (with an emphasis in Pre-Law). While Green's academic and extracurricular schedule has been filled during her time at Millikin, her message to her fellow graduates was to enjoy this moment.

"My speech was titled 'More to Come,' and I wanted to encourage and uplift my peers and let them know that Millikin will always be there to support them. I wanted to let them know that I was proud of their accomplishment,

and we couldn't have done all this without the University and the resources here," Green said. "My message was to take a deep breath at this important moment. Everyone is always asking you about what is next, and there will always be more to come, but bask in where you are right now, enjoy this space, and embrace the transition."

Green's transition from her home in Chicago to Millikin following high school centered around the resilience of Millikin Director of Track & Field and Cross Country Andrew Craycraft. He was determined to recruit Green, a state-qualifying high jumper, and kept blowing up her phone.

"The transition from high school to college was kind of scary for me. I felt like I hadn't done enough in high school, so I was worried when applying to schools. But I had this track coach calling me daily, so I finally picked up the phone and spoke to Coach Craycraft," Green said. "He sold me on the program and the idea of family.

I spoke to some of the athletes here, and it was important to me to transition to a team that emulated a family because I was accustomed to that at my high school."

Green began her studies as a Criminal Justice major with a Sociology minor, but as she got a taste of the curriculum and found a love for her classes, she kept adding more to her plate with some help from her advisors.

"I don't think anyone has ever done the degree program the way I did it, and it was hard to navigate initially," Green said. "But my advisors ensured I would be out of here on time, and it was actually early for me. Three majors in three-and-a-half years."

Along with finding success in her studies, Green jumped into leadership positions in many extracurricular

MORE TO COME

groups on campus. She became the President of the Kappa Zeta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., as well as the President of the Social Action Club. She also became a Captain on the Track & Field team and helped new Millikin students get accustomed to campus as an EDGE Program Mentor.

Green also worked for the Macon County Sheriff's Office for several semesters as part of Millikin's Performance Learning curriculum.

"I worked as an Expungement Specialist and helped expunge things from people's criminal records and seal certain information. I get to help make many life-changing decisions," Green said. "I've made some great connections there, and it was so rewarding. I am so thankful to be able to do it and help give someone a chance to have more opportunities."

As Green prepares to enter law school in the fall, the Performance Learning experience has reinforced the importance of social justice and criminal justice reform.

"The criminal justice system has greatly affected my family. A lot of the males in my life have been incarcerated, unfortunately. I understand that once those labels are put on you, it is a lot harder to pursue a lot of different avenues," Green said. "I wanted to be the change in that and do more. I've seen my brother and nephews lose friends in their lives, so I felt that I had a responsibility to my community. It is very personal for me, and I don't want anyone else to experience that."

With graduation behind her, Green is thankful for her experience and recommends that students get the most out of their time at Millikin.

"I tell my mentees about my Millikin experience that it will be what you make it. What are you here for, and what are you going to do? A big thing for me was that I wanted to learn, but I also wanted to have fun," Green said.

"I was able to create what I wanted to do here, and I urge everyone to do the same. Millikin is willing to support and allow you to pursue different paths. They have been super supportive of my path from start to finish. I have had a great time here."



College of Fine Arts

Katie Kocan

Class of 2025
Arts Technology and Theatre
& Performance Studies
Double Major



WATCH VIDEO

As Millikin University junior Katie Kocan was figuring out the focus of what her studies were going to be, she ended up doing something completely unique.

Kocan, who is originally from Galva, Ill., decided to major in Theatre & Performance Studies, but as she came to campus and got a taste of the other program options available, her interests also pushed her toward an Arts Technology major with a concentration in Video Production & Cinema. Her double major is a unique path of study that no other student at Millikin is doing and speaks to the plethora of options open to Big Blue students.

“Millikin has been so far beyond what I thought I would get. I never dreamed of myself being where I am now,” Kocan said. “When I came in, I was originally just a Theatre & Performance Studies student because I wasn’t aware that Arts Technology was a thing until I met some people in it. Then I joined 1901 Productions and met all these people who were so passionate about filmmaking, and I wanted to go into it.”

Founded in 2020, the Millikin student-run venture 1901 Productions – which shares its name with the year of Millikin’s founding – is a video production company that provides Millikin students with Performance Learning opportunities with both creative and business elements. Students produce short and feature-length films, and membership has given Kocan a chance to gain

experience in her field of interest: casting.

“When I was a kid, I was a big reader, but I was also a big movie buff. One of my favorite things to do was read books and imagine them in my head as a movie, and I would pick the faces that I thought represented the characters,” Kocan said. “It became something that I wanted to pursue professionally because I realized that’s a job people actually do. I’ve worked on seven of the 1901 films, and except for one, I’ve cast each one. I’ve gotten a good amount of experience doing that on campus, and it’s been really fun and drives the fact that I want to keep doing it.”

This spring, Kocan is co-directing 1901’s next short film, “Slayer.” Slayer is the fourth of four short films completed by 1901 that will be edited into a feature-length anthology film that will

PAVING HER OWN PATH

eventually be given a worldwide premiere showing in Decatur.

“Our current anthology theme is horror as a genre, and we are including an element of water in each film. I am co-directing with Blake Wiebe, and we wrote it together,” Kocan said. “It’s a campy horror comedy and a satire of horror slashers. It follows six students who are locked in their dorm building, which we’re going to film on the second floor of (Millikin’s) Aston Hall.”

Along with sitting in the director’s chair, Kocan fills her calendar with a wide variety of extracurriculars. In 1901, she has done a little bit of everything, serving as sound operator, costume designer and technical director. She is also the Promotions Manager for WJMU “The Quad,” Millikin’s on-campus radio station, and serves as a photographer and videographer for Millikin dance groups Physical Graffiti and Burlesque Underground. She hones her improvisation skills on The Math Club Improv Team and is a member of several sororities and honor societies, including Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Psi Omega and Alpha Lambda Delta.

“At Millikin, I’ve learned that even if it is a challenge at the moment, it is best to always say yes because there’s so much you don’t know that you can learn until you learn it,” Kocan said. “There’s a lot of things I’ve

learned from working at WJMU that I wouldn’t have known if I hadn’t run for an exec position and I would have missed out on the entirety of this film if I hadn’t joined 1901.”

This summer, Kocan will serve in the camera department for the filming of the independent horror film, “The Baton Rouge Serial Killer: Derrick Todd Lee,” which will be filmed in Decatur and around Central Illinois.

“I will be helping mostly with operating the camera, switching out lenses and being the right hand to the person working the camera,” Kocan said.

“Millikin has so many opportunities, both through its programs and through student-led organizations, that if you come to this school and you don’t find something you love, you must be doing something wrong.”



College of Professional Studies

Bailee Blecker

Class of 2024
Elementary Education Major



Ask a child what they want to do for a career, and the answer might surprise you. It might be something impossible – like a superhero – or something more reasonable, but chances are the career a person ends up with will be different than their childhood dream.

But Millikin University senior Elementary Education major Bailee Blecker has known what she wanted to do as a career since second grade, and that hasn't wavered.

"I have wanted to be a teacher since second grade. The way my second-

grade teacher taught was so exciting, and she was so engaging," Blecker said. "I had a classroom set up in my basement with desks, projectors and workbooks. My stuffed animals were my students, so I got to teach them. I would come home from school, and my dad would have it all set up, and he would say, 'It's time to teach.' I loved doing it, and it was probably one of my favorite things to do as a kid."

Blecker, who is from Rockford, Ill., played soccer in high school and looked to combine her athletic ambitions with a school with a strong teaching reputation. That landed her at Millikin.

"I didn't want to go to a really big school and come down to Millikin to visit. I met with the Soccer Coach and the School of Education Director.

Hearing about how the program is run was awesome," she said. "You are in the [teaching] classroom immediately in your first semester, so you can figure out if you want to be a teacher or not right away. You aren't in the classroom at some schools until your junior year."

Talking with her high school teachers about Millikin's reputation as a great teaching school helped make the case even stronger.

"They said that if Millikin weren't so far away [from Rockford], they would do tours and join in on the activities at Millikin because they have such a good reputation," Blecker said. "Another teacher told me that having an Education degree at Millikin is very good and that it will work well when I go and look for jobs."

LIVING THE DREAM

Blecker's experience at Millikin has met those high expectations, and she views her four years as building a well-rounded experience rather than just four years of classes.

"My goal was to always be on the Dean's List and make relationships with my teachers to have them as resources in the future," she said.

"I think my professors care on a different level than if they were at a big school. They want to know if you are OK and want to be able to help whenever they can. You are on a more personal level with them."

On the pitch, Blecker has stood out as the Big Blue's leading goal scorer in her sophomore, junior and senior seasons, where she earned first-team All-CCIW honors twice. She has also brought her love of the sport into coaching as a coach at Mid-State Soccer in Decatur.

For Blecker's last semester before graduation, she has been student-teaching a third-grade class at Meridian Elementary School in Blue Mound. She interned in the same class during the fall semester and has looked forward to this last teaching experience before having a class of her own.

"Every time I go in, they ask me about soccer, and the kids still really love you at that age and want to be involved in

your life. I joke that it is like having 30 little friends. Going in there every day, you see how happy they are to see you. I try to give the same back, and I really love it."

This spring, Blecker will graduate with endorsements in English as a Second Language (ESL) and Special Education, further strengthening her employment prospects when she enters the teaching job market. She recommends Millikin for students who have the same passion for education that she does.

"Millikin gives you so much teaching experience already that it is hard to

choose someone from another school who has just been in the school for a semester versus four years," she said. "Having an endorsement in Special Education and ESL – which other schools don't offer – will help because they are two areas that are very needed right now.

"If your heart is in education, you are going to know, and you are going to do it for other reasons. Not for the pay or the benefits. It is because you love teaching and want to be involved with the students and help them with their future."



THE IMPACT OF GIVING



Support Students and Structure Needs

Millikin recently established two new funds to raise money for growing needs on campus. Your generosity can help students in need complete their degrees and bring renewal to one of Millikin's iconic buildings, Kirkland Fine Arts Center, now nearing 55 years old.

Emergency Tuition Assistance Fund

This annual fund is aimed at providing tuition assistance to current students who, without these funds, would not be able to complete their degrees. Students will apply for funds if and when needed based on personal circumstances. It is not uncommon for a student to step away from Millikin without a degree due to

lacking the ability to pay less than \$5,000 owed.

Campus Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund

Each building on the Millikin campus has a story to tell – from the historic figures and events they have hosted to the generations of students they have served. Gifts to the Campus Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund safeguard the purpose and utility of our historic spaces for generations to come. One of Millikin's top priorities is renewing Kirkland Fine Arts Center, now in need of restoration projects related to the stage and backstage area of the 1,903-seat Kirkland Theatre. Since its opening during the 1969-70 academic year, Kirkland has welcomed generations of patrons to enjoy productions and performances

of all types. The renewal projects will help maintain the functionality and safety of the rigging system, orchestra shell and fire curtain that are necessary for productions in the Theatre.

The premier touring performance venue in the area, Kirkland is also a facility where Millikin students engage in the Millikin trademark of education – Performance Learning. In Kirkland Auditorium, Theatre students learn to operate a rigging system and Instrumental Performance students offer seasonal Wind Ensemble concerts. Student sound technicians learn valuable technical skills, and Millikin choral students participate in a weekend of beloved Vespers holiday performances.

Donors may also choose to designate other historic campus

structures to benefit from this new fund, including Shilling Hall, once known as Liberal Arts Hall. For more information about supporting these essential campus buildings or to make a gift, visit www.millikin.edu/give or call the Alumni & Development Office at 217.424.6383.

REACH OUT

HAVE A KIRKLAND STORY TO TELL? SEND IT TO:

AlumNews@millikin.edu

Leave the Legacy of an Estate Gift

A legacy gift is a profound way to ensure that the values you hold dear continue to flourish. It's a commitment that reaches beyond the here and now, touching lives for years to come.

By including Millikin University in your estate plan, you do more than support academic excellence – you create opportunities for future students to write their success stories. It's a simple yet impactful way to make a lasting difference.

Millikin's partnership with FreeWill offers a simple and accessible way to create your estate plan, at no cost to you. It's a convenient process that allows you to plan for the future, communicate your wishes, and support the next generation of Millikin students.

Learn more today at bit.ly/LegacyMU or visit millikin.edu/types-planned-gifts.

LEARN MORE

TO LEARN ABOUT DESIGNATING YOUR GIFT OR HOW THOSE GIFTS CAN PROVIDE YOU INCOME, VISIT

millikin.edu/types-planned-gifts

Be a Volunteer and Help Empower the Next Generation of Millikin Students

At Millikin University, we believe that enriching the academic experience of our students will contribute not only to their success but to the continued success and legacy of the University.

Whether you live near campus or far away, you can be an important part of meeting this goal by becoming a Millikin volunteer. You're invited to give of your time, expertise and experience to one or more of these initiatives:

» **Share Knowledge:** Engage in workshops, seminars or panel discussions where you can share insights, industry expertise and valuable advice with our students.

» **Open Opportunities:** Offer Performance Learning opportunities by becoming a mentor in your field of expertise for an individual student or student group.

» **Show Support and Understanding:** Participate in networking events, social gatherings or campus events.

The following page contains two examples of how you can volunteer in person or remotely. For more information about these two opportunities or information about other ways to give of your talents and time to Millikin, visit millikin.edu/volunteer or email Associate Director of Alumni Engagement Kelsy Whitney '13 at kwhitney@millikin.edu. Or call the Alumni & Development Center at 217.424.6383 during regular business hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Pam Mueller serves as Millikin's Associate Director of Leadership Annual Giving. A Decatur native, she previously worked in the healthcare field both as a treating clinician and as an account executive, working with individuals and companies to meet their medical needs. Outside of Millikin, she enjoys networking within the community and currently is an Ambassador with the Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce and serves as a board member of Decatur Earthmover Credit Union.

Ways to Give

SECURELY ONLINE

Go to millikin.edu/give. This is also the easiest way to set up recurring gifts.

BY MAIL

Send a check made out to Millikin University and mail it to:

Millikin University
Alumni & Development Office
1184 W. Main St., Decatur, IL 62522

OTHER TYPES OF GIFTS

Millikin accepts gifts of stocks/securities, IRA distributions, donations through a Donor-Advised Fund and other giving methods.

To learn more, call the Millikin Alumni & Development Office at 217.424.6383 or email millikinfund@millikin.edu.

Join a Regional Club!

Regional Alumni Clubs offer a great support system for all alumni, from recent Big Blue graduates entering their new profession, those already in their chosen fields and retirees wanting to reconnect to the alma mater they love. Regional Alumni Clubs host events supported by the local alumni, the Alumni Association and Millikin's Alumni & Development Office. Networking and social events for area alumni, parents, students, incoming students and friends serve as vital communication links between the University and MU alumni and friends in various locations. Learn more at millikin.edu/regional-clubs, email alumnews@millikin.edu or call the Alumni & Development Office at 217.424.3563.

Don't see a Regional Alumni Club in your geographic areas? We would love to hear from alumni who would like to form a Regional Club in their area!

BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

Seeking area volunteers/leaders



Again this year, the St. Louis Regional Club will host a summer welcome event for incoming first-year students and their families to be greeted by alumni and friends in the area as well as Millikin staff members. Other regional clubs hosting these events are Chicago and Decatur, so watch for details if you live in those areas. Pictured above is last year's St. Louis gathering at Laumeier Sculpture Park.

CHICAGO

Rickey Copley-Spivey, Class of 2007

Julia Witty Miller, Class of 2006

Kelsey McAllister Carter, Class of 2014

Nike Smyth Whitcomb, Class of 1966

DECATUR

Stephanie Hill Price, Class of 1993

Veronica McQuire Logan, Class of 2019

Jason White, Class of 2000

INDIANAPOLIS

Miranda Lofgren, Class of 2014

Megan Smith Lofgren, Class of 2015

Sue Vaughan Nelson, Class of 1966

NASHVILLE

Seeking area volunteers/leaders

ST. LOUIS

Lisa Hokamp Mason, Class of 1993

Steve Mathias, Class of 1967

Jayma Branch Proctor, Class of 1991

Alumni Association Board Members

A.D. Carson, Ph.D., Class of 2004,
Charlottesville, Va.

Matthew Holley, Ph.D., Class of 1998,
Indianapolis, Ind. (Vice President)

Bruce W. Jeffery, Class of 2007,
West Chester, Ohio

Julane Benton Kiermas,
Class of 1992, Cary, Ill.

Levi Laws, Class of 2019, Bloomington, Ill.

Kelsy Whitney, Class of 2013, Alumni &
Development Office Liaison, Decatur, Ill.

Carrie Seymour Mail,
Class of 2007, Moline, Ill.

Lindsay Quick, Class of 2015,
Champaign, Ill. (President)

Alexis Rogers, Class of 2015,
Tuscola, Ill.

Traccye Starling-Love,
Class of 2005, Oak Park, Ill.

Eric Sorensen, Class of 1985,
Oak Park, Ill.

Alex Tueth, Class of 2016,
Bloomington, Ill.

1960

Kenneth C. Mitchell, Class of 1966, has written 19 books since retiring from the financial industry.

1980

David Wright, Class of 1988, has been promoted to Professor of English at Monmouth College, where he has taught since 2013. Recently, he was part of a group that secured a \$150,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has been published in dozens of literary magazines and anthologies and has also given readings and workshops throughout the Midwest.

1990



Marcy Blesy, Class of 1994, an Education major, had her first book published by Millikin's Bronze Man Books in 2012 after teaching for several years. Since then, she has had more than 35 books published, including The Tucson Valley Retirement Community Cozy Mystery Series,

for fans of "The Golden Girls" and "Murder, She Wrote" television shows.



Joe Siegrist, Class of 1998, is President and CEO of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, dedicated to the conservation of the purple martin. He conducts research in several regions of the United States and Brazil, tracking the birds as they migrate. His research has been featured in several publications, including a Ranger Rick magazine video to help children understand this subject. Joe is married to Erin Siegrist, also '98.

2000

Alexis Iffert, Class of 2003, has been elected as a shareholder at Robinson Bradshaw, where she focuses her transactional practice on mergers and acquisitions, employment and labor issues, healthcare law and general corporate law – representing clients in many different industries.

Tara Lynn Witt, Class of 2004, has opened her own criminal defense law firm and was

elected to serve on the Board of Education for the Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Sara Linn, Class of 2009, was honored by the New Mexico Art Education Association as High School Educator of the Year for her outstanding work as an art educator. She heads Cibola High School's Art Department in Albuquerque, N.M. Sara is married to Stephen Linn '08.

2010

Brittney Dunson-Soto, Class of 2010, is head of HR for WNDR Museum Global, overseeing three museum locations in Chicago, Boston and San Diego, as well as the company's Global Corporate team.

Kelsy Whitney, Class of 2013, returned to Millikin in 2023, initially as an Alumni Volunteer and eventually serving as the Associate Director of Alumni Engagement. In this role, Kelsy utilizes her previous organizational leadership experience and personal creativity to plan and execute Alumni Engagement programming and events for Millikin. Kelsy, a Central Illinois native, also enjoys spending time with friends and family, especially her young niece and nephew.

Aubrey Oitker Haerr, Class of 2023, a registered nurse, was married Oct. 23, 2023, to Tyler Haerr.

SHARE

TO VIEW THE COMPLETE LIST OF MILLIKIN CLASS NOTES AND MEMORIALS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM RECENT MONTHS, PLEASE VISIT THE MILLIKIN WEBSITE AT millikin.edu/magazine.

TO SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE OR OBITUARY, PLEASE EMAIL alumnews@millikin.edu or complete the form at millikin.edu/share-your-news.



Fred “Fox” Bradshaw

Class of 1947, Springfield, Ill., Oct. 16, 2023

Fred Bradshaw might never have made it out of Carmi, Ill., if not for the family friend who secretly enrolled him at Millikin, and as his family said in his obituary, “the rest is history.”

Bradshaw went on to join the Marine Corps, earn a Doctorate in Education from UCLA, be recognized as a decorated veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, and retire as a Major after 22 years of serving his country. He also became the Assistant Superintendent of Budget and Finance for the State Board of Education in Illinois; taught at the high school level, including at Auburn High School; and coached at several of the schools where he worked, earning induction into the Illinois High School Hall of Fame in 1982.

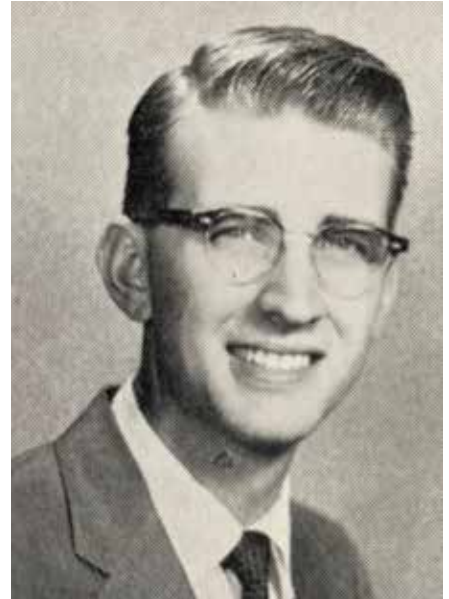
According to his family and friends, Bradshaw loved fishing, storytelling, a good beer and making “smart-ass comments.” He “impacted an untold number of lives through his coaching and teaching, hosting countless fish fries, and seemed to find a way to connect with just about everyone.”

John McClarey

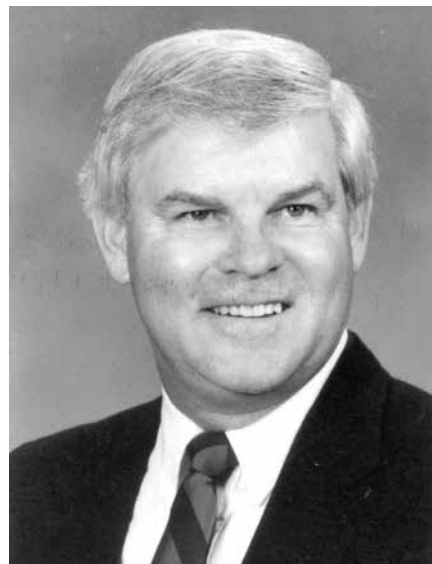
Class of 1959, Decatur, Jan. 19, 2024

Although John McClarey spent most of his life teaching history and sociology at public schools and community colleges, after retirement he forged a new and celebrated career. His legacy now includes his work as an internationally respected sculptor, especially Abraham Lincoln statues. Among his renditions of Lincoln are “A Greater Task,” a large statue that stands outside the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill. It depicts Lincoln struggling against a strong wind – symbolic of the issues Lincoln faced in leading a divided nation during the Civil War.

As his family described McClarey in his obituary, “Art became a platform to disseminate a message [John] felt should be told again and again. He believed fervently that all men truly are created equal, and he believed in the



‘better angels of our nature,’ a refrain from Abraham Lincoln’s first inaugural address that [John] often employed to illustrate that our ‘better angels’ were the key to living in a moral universe of compassion and cooperation. He never tired of explaining Lincoln’s legacy. This became his life’s work.”



Bryce Boston

Class of 1960, Chatham, Ill., Nov. 3, 2023

Bryce Boston served his alma mater loyally during his 30-year career at MU, including as a long-time Admission

Counselor and as the University’s first Women’s Softball Coach, a position he held from 1983 to 1992. As softball coach, he led his team to three conference titles and three trips to the NCAA Division III Championships, received the 1990 NCAA Division III Midwest Region Coach of the Year award, and ended his Big Blue coaching career with a 214-84 record.

In 1996, he was inducted into Millikin’s Athletic Hall of Fame, and in 2022 Millikin honored him by naming an area of the current softball stadium as the Bryce Boston Family Terrace.

In addition to his Millikin career, Boston taught and coached at Girard High School and Granite City High School and later served as Girls Basketball Coach at Glenwood High School, where he was named 1987 District Coach of the Year.

MEMORIALS



Mary Elizabeth “Liz” Frushour Hill

Director of Student Activities and RTUC (Richards Treat University Center), Class of 1948, Oct. 24, 2023

For more than 20 years, Liz Hill was a familiar face on campus. She became a full-time member of the Student Development staff at Millikin in 1969, beginning her Big Blue career as Advisor to Social Organizations. She was named Director of Student Activities in 1974, and later became director of Richards Treat University Center and Student Activities when RTUC opened in 1979.

In addition to developing and implementing policies and procedures for RTUC’s operations, she was responsible for advising students in planning Homecoming activities. She retired from Millikin in 1992.

Before joining Millikin, she worked in accounting and personnel for the

Pennsylvania, Wabash and Ann Arbor Railroad. She also was elected to and served five years on the National Grand Counsel of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Her late husband, Joseph Robert Hill, was a 1943 graduate, and both her daughters are Millikin alumni – Nancy Hill Mitchell ’72 and Dianne Hill Fischer ’75. The family requested that memorials be sent to the Bob and Liz Hill Scholarship at Millikin, which is awarded annually to students with demonstrated financial need, with strong preference for students from Decatur.

Dr. Richard Pacholski

Professor of English Emeritus, Charlotte, Fla., Oct. 14, 2023

During his more than 30 years teaching at Millikin, Pacholski was honored numerous times for his teaching excellence. Among them, he was named 1994 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer and inducted in 2003 into Millikin’s Medallion Society, a group of 100 individuals who “had the greatest impact on the institution” during its first 100 years.

Upon his retirement, the faculty resolution read in his honor by Dr. Brian Mihm, Chair of the English Department, included these words:

“Dr. Pacholski has long been known among Millikin students as a devoted, superior teacher – one who is at his desk by 7 a.m. grading papers, one who gives unlimited hours to student conferences, one who opens

his house to students to view Shakespeare with him, one who sets high standards. His courses – ranging from the Classical tradition to Shakespeare, from the literature of popular magazines to Death and Dying – have deeply affected the lives of many. Seniors have said that Dick’s Holocaust course was the most significant course they had taken at Millikin: It absolutely transformed their lives.

“We will remember Dick as teacher, scholar, consummate editor and professional. But we will remember him too for the occasional cowboy boots, the hallway quotations of Shakespeare, the phase of wearing suspenders, the stories of wearing black leather jackets in the sixties, the more recent camel hair sport coat, the image of Dick lying on his back for six weeks following eye surgery while his family read student papers to him. We will remember his

unfailing patience and steadiness, and his constant reminder that tomorrow will always be a better day.”





MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY
1184 WEST MAIN STREET
DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62522

millikin.edu

Help Millikin's 2023-24 academic year end strong —
GIVE THROUGH JUNE 30 AT



millikin.edu/give

September 27-29

HOMEcoming & FAMILY WEEKEND 2024



millikin.edu/homecoming



**SIGN UP FOR THE DIGITAL EDITION OF THE
MAGAZINE AT: MILLIKIN.EDU/MAGAZINE**

MAGAZINE@MILLIKIN.EDU 800.373.7733