FAMILY MATTERS

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I speak for our entire Millikin community that we are very happy to have you here. Millikin is a great university and has been doing our good work of delivering on the promise of education to prepare students for professional success, democratic citizenship in a global environment, and lives of meaning and value for over 113 years.

But, as good as we are, we are better now that your student is here. Each student brings unique gifts and talents, experiences and dreams to the Millikin mix. Millikin represents not just an education for your student, but an experience for your whole family.

As I meet parents at art shows, theatre events, Orientation and Registration Days, First Week, and athletic events of all kinds, I see in your eyes great pride, enormous hopes, and a little worry and trepidation. I know those fears and worries for I have felt them myself when our three kids went off to college.

But I urge you to trust the work that you have already done. You have raised a remarkable young person, and your “kid” is now a Millikin student, a grown-up, an adult with a lot of room to grow, but reaching higher and higher. At Millikin we will treat your son and daughter as a responsible adult, even as we help them in every way we can to grow into that role, one we all struggle to play in the world we live.

This is a great leap for parents, whether this is your first student in college or your last. It is a time of great joy, but it is not an easy time. Here are some words of advice:

Keep in touch but give your student some room. Follow your student’s success and challenges, but help them rise to the occasion to work through the struggles with the help of everyone at Millikin.

Urge your student to take advantage of all that Millikin has to offer. Sometimes that means taking an hour off studying to attend a lecture from an astronaut, a political leader, an artist or musician.

Help your student recognize that Millikin is different from high school. For one thing it is not as structured. Students spend less time in class and more time learning outside the classroom in activities and sports.

Listen to signs of pressure and fatigue. For many students this is the first prolonged period outside of parental influence on bedtime and meals. Help your student see that they need to get sleep and eat well in order to perform well.

Help your student keep perspective. In the first week of class you are probably going to get a call saying, “Mom, Dad, everyone in my classes is smarter than I am! Everyone here is more talented than I!” Now you know and I know that that is not true. Invite your student to have confidence and talk to a faculty member or advisor if they continue to feel the need.

Recognize that almost all Millikin students use our Student Success Center or other help at times. To do so is the mark of a smart student and one committed to performing at his or her best.

Now some advice for students. First read back over the last five points I gave your parents. These are for you too. Success at Millikin is, like the name of this newsletter, a family matter. But here are some words of advice especially for you:

Keep your family involved in your life at Millikin. In this day of cell phones and texting, tweeting and Facebook, I know you students are so much more connected to your families than the weekly letter home or the occasional expensive phone call in my day. (I know this makes me sound like a fossil, doesn’t it?) But keeping in touch means telling your parents what you are excited about, what is going well. For many of you, your parents have not had a college experience and all of your parents have not had your Millikin University experience, even if they are alumni. Share what is happening, for your parents want to know. They want to be with you on this amazing journey.

Be awake to all your teachers, including your classmates, teammates, residence hall mates, everyone on campus in all walks of life. Your success at Millikin will be greater the more open you are to learning from everyone you encounter here. I know it is hard sometimes to greet someone or to talk to someone after class, but I know that some of the people who have been my friends for forty years are my classmates from my university days, friends I would never have gotten to know if I didn’t reach out to them or if they hadn’t reached out to me.

At the same time, keep some time for yourself. You can spend every waking moment being in constant interaction. Save some time for reflection and quiet thought to nurture your own spirit.

Believe in Millikin. Trust the University you have
chosen. Millikin is filled with men and women who have one singular purpose in mind: your education. You may disagree with some; you may not even like some. But there is not a person here who is not dedicated to your performance learning, and who stands ready to help you. You can learn a lot from everyone.

Enjoy! And enjoy the work. Years from now you will remember the laughter and the fun, but you will also remember how good it felt to finish that project you worked so hard on, to win that game, to perform at a level you have never thought possible. You will find joy in the hard work you do at Millikin, and your success will be determined by how much you are engaged in your work, inside and outside the classroom, in performance learning of all kinds.

Finally, to both parents and students, a word about the special character of Millikin University. You will hear again and again that performance learning is at the heart of what we do at Millikin. This means that in every way possible, inside and outside the classroom, we take our students seriously as active participants in their learning and that at Millikin students learn by doing, by performing. This is most obvious perhaps in the arts as students learn music and demonstrate that learning in performance, as actors show they know the play by performing it, as artists perform their art by making art, not just talking about making something.

But performance learning also animates all aspects of life at Millikin from athletics to our student government and all our classes. In writing classes, students not only write, but they share their work, at times not only publishing their poems and stories, but acting as the publishers themselves, editing, managing, and conducting a student business in Bronze Man Books or other entrepreneurial enterprises.

At Millikin, students do not just study science, sociology, or history. They perform science in the research labs and present their work at national conferences, they perform sociology and make a difference in the lives of others in what they discover, and they perform history by studying artifacts and texts and contributing articles about their work to learned and popular journals. In every way possible, performance learning is active learning.

Thus students leave Millikin not only knowing a lot but having done a lot, having to show by their performance learning that they can engage the real world in original and mature ways. This is why over 99% of our students are in graduate school or professional school or working in their chosen field a year after graduation.

You will hear more about performance learning as Millikin University becomes better known as the national leader in this important way of thinking about and doing education. This academic year, we will be exploring performance learning in many events and discussions on campus. We hope that you and your student will both be a part of this ongoing discovery.

Again, let me welcome you and thank you for your trust in Millikin University. You have chosen wisely and, parents, you have not lost a child, you have gained a University. As Millikin University becomes the dear alma mater to your student, I hope you will find in Millikin a home as well, a place where you will learn about and celebrate the achievements of all our students. We welcome your questions, ideas, hopes, and dreams as we all work every day to ensure that Millikin University will be a great experience in performance learning for your son or daughter, for your family and for generations to come.

Sincerely yours in Millikin,

GO BIG BLUE!

Patrick E. White
President
Move in day is one of my favorite days on campus. There is something really exciting about starting fresh with new students, and watching their doors open to the endless possibilities that college offers. I can’t wait for August, and to be here to welcome your family to Millikin, officially.

The best way that Millikin welcomes its new students is through the First Week program. First Week is an entire week devoted to new students before the start of classes, before upper-class students return to campus, and before they start to miss home too much. We spend many hours working and collaborating with all departments on campus to give your student the best foot forward in being a successful Millikin student. First Week is a good balance of academic material and transition programming. Students begin one of the their college courses (first-year seminar) during First Week, giving them time to adjust to the college classroom. First Week also offers a multitude of educational session and fun social programming that helps make Millikin a “home away from home”. One thing is for sure, your students won’t be bored during First Week - in fact they will be highly scheduled. Be prepared for your student to be a bit tired, but ensure them that the First Week program is helping them transition in the best way possible.

One of the first people your student will meet is their First-Year Experience Mentor (FYEM). These dedicated student leaders are here to help your student throughout their first year on campus. They will guide them through every event during First Week, and will also be a peer mentor in their University Seminar course throughout the fall semester.

On the next page is an abbreviated First Week schedule. You will also receive a First Week brochure at Orientation and Registration with the full schedule for your convenience. You should send the full schedule back to Millikin with your student when they move in, as it will help them navigate the week.

I will see you on move-in day, and look forward to having your student join the Millikin family!

Best,

Molly Berry
Director, Office of Inclusion and Student Engagement

We Can’t Wait To Welcome You To Millikin!
Tuesday, August 19:

9am – 2pm  - Move-In for Residential Students
4pm – 6pm  - Residence Hall Floor Meetings & Commuter Student Meeting
5pm – 6:30pm  - Dinner with your floor
7pm  - Meet your FYEM
8pm  - Welcome Assembly
9pm  - Peter Boie – Magician

Thursday, August 21:

10am  - Responsibility of Risk – Women
10am  - Men’s Summit
Noon  - Lunch
1:30pm  - Responsibility of Risk – Men
1:30pm  - Women’s Summit
3:30pm  - Alcohol Education Break Out Session
5:30pm  - Dinner
7:30pm  - Meet the class of 2018
8:30pm  - Late Night Event sponsored by Multicultural Greek Council and Multicultural Student Council

Wednesday, August 20:

7am  - (Optional) Calculus Readiness Test
8am  - (Optional) General Math placement test
10am  - Welcome to College – Academic Identity, Academic Integrity, and Financial responsibility
Noon  - Lunch
12pm – 4pm  - Meet with your IN140 classes
4pm  - Meet your academic advisors/reception
6pm-8pm  - Dinner/Free time
8pm  - DAKABOOM

Friday, August 22:

9am -1pm  - Day of Action Part 1 (Service to the Community)
11:30am  - Lunch
1:30pm – 4pm  - Ethical Reasoning
5pm – 8pm  - Dinner/Free Time
9pm  - First Week Frenzy Block Party

Saturday, August 23:

9am – 1:30pm  - Day of Action Part 2 (Service to the Community)
11am  - Brunch
2pm  - Transitioning to College Life
3pm  - Meet the Career Center
6pm  - Dinner
8pm  - Understanding your Community
9pm  - The Millikin Experience
9:30pm  - Welcome Home events in your residence halls

Sunday, August 24:

10am  - Non-Denominational Worship Service (optional)
11am  - Brunch on campus
11am – 5pm  - Music Auditions
1pm  - Dance Placements
4:30pm  - Evaluations of First Week
5:00pm  - Campus-wide BBQ on the Quad
7:30pm  - Opening Convocation
Welcome to Millikin University from the Office of Residence Life!

We are extremely excited for your student to be a resident here on campus. As the Fall semester draws near, here are a few reminders for your incoming Millikin student.

1. Living on campus is a critical component to the Millikin experience.

Students who live on campus are more engaged, do better academically, and have a stronger affinity to the institution. Millikin has a three year live on campus requirement that is proven to provide students with what they need to be successful!

2. Talk to his/her roommate before coming to campus.

Did you know that most college freshmen have never shared a room before? Having a roommate in college comes with many joys, and sometimes a few trials. Remember that an open and honest communication plan is the best way to build positive relationships with your student’s roommate and the easiest method to avoid arguments. Also, don’t forget that your student’s Resident Assistant (RA), First Year Experience Mentor (FYEM), or a Professional Staff Member in Residence Life are great resources to assist you.

3. Talk about your expectations regarding actions and behavior on campus.

As a resident, we have high expectations for our students. These expectations are set forth in our Student Handbook (millikin.edu/handbook). During Orientation & Registration, you will also receive a copy of the Everything You Need to Know Booklet from our office. Over the summer months, we recommend sitting down with your student and reading through this information together.

4. Remember that there is 24-hour support system on campus in the residence halls.

The RAs and the Residence Life Professional Staff are always ready and willing to help you navigate all the ups and downs of your student’s Millkin experience. You can contact the Office of Residence Life at 217-362-6410, via email at orl@millikin.edu, and visit us in our location in Dolson Hall, next to the bookstore!

5. Move-In Day is August 19!

We are excited to see the Class of 2018. The Office of Residence Life will assist your student in checking into his/her residence hall room. Check-in occurs at his/her assigned residence hall. Don’t forget to leave appliances with open coils at home, also no microwaves, and no pets (except fish).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Residence Life at 217.362.6410 or orl@millikin.edu.

Be. Community.

Paul J. Lidy
Director of Residence Life

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Campus Dining at Millikin University

The new academic year can be both exciting and stressful. We try to make our dining venues a place to unwind with friends, as a meeting place to work on a project together, or to relax alone. Whatever the case may be, we are here to support you during your time at Millikin University.

You can use your meals from your Meal Plans at Wornick Dining Room or as a meal exchange at the Big Blue Bistro in the evenings after Wornick Dining Room has closed. Flex Dollars can be used at any on-campus dining location such as, the Big Blue Bistro, Einsteins Bros Bagels, C3-Express located in ADM-Scovill Hall, and even Wornick Dining Room. Flex can also be used at certain on-campus Vending Machines and the Subway and Domino’s located near The Woods Apartment Complex.

Want to track your daily food diary when coming to campus? We’ve got you covered! Check out the MyFitnessPal app for your smartphone or computer. Not only is it good for tracking calories on things prepared at home or certain restaurants around town, but it also has the calories for the majority of our on-campus items as well.

We do assist many students with various dietary restrictions and have helped students follow vegetarian, gluten free, lactose free and many other diets. Please feel free to reach out to me so we can set up a time to meet and discuss how we can help you when you come to campus in August.

Curious about what is on the menu at Wornick Dining Room? You can download a free app for your smartphone. Just do a search for “CampusDish” from the application store. Once you have downloaded it, just set it up for Millkin University. When available, you will also be able to see the nutritional information for the menu items. Our menu is also available to be seen at our website located at millikin.edu/dining.

Dining on campus is fun and exciting and allows you to create great memories! Please reach out to me if I can be of any assistance. The best way to contact me is cclabaugh@millikin.edu.

Corey Clabaugh
Food Service Director
Alyssa Visvardis just completed her sophomore year as a dual-sport athlete at Millikin University. A Communication major, Alyssa is a member of the Big Blue volleyball and softball programs.

Sports have been a huge part of my life growing up and without them I don’t know how my life would be today. Being an athlete in high school made me realize that I needed to continue doing what I loved for another four years. When I decided to come to Millikin, I was lucky enough to have the option to continue playing not only one, but two sports, and that is exactly what I do today.

When you think of a college athlete, a lot of things come to mind. Every little kid dreams of getting a scholarship at an amazing school, getting to play a sport they love in front of large crowds, have their names mentioned all over the website, and one day make it to the big NCAA tournament. Being a college athlete is something you can’t describe to others until you experience it.

Transitioning from high school to college is one of the most difficult things a kid can do. It truly is a hard thing to pack up your entire room at home, leave friends and family, and move into a confined dorm room for an entire school year. What is even harder, is doing all of those things and on top of it, becoming a college athlete too.

August of freshman year at Millikin started my first season of college volleyball. I didn’t know what to expect, but I knew how much excitement I had. Being a fall sport athlete was a bit of a challenge because I had to move into school two weeks earlier than any other freshman just to start practicing with my team. Although many would say they would hate to come to school any earlier than they need to, I wouldn’t have changed a thing. Those first two weeks I became friends with the girls that are my best friends today. Being on a sport has given me friendships that will last a lifetime because I survived sweat and tears during long hours of practice with girls who were feeling the exact same way that I was feeling. We were just freshmen straight out of high school experiencing college life for the first time, but we went through everything together and were helping each other out every step of the way.

Once classes began, it was almost as if us fall athletes had a “one-up” on every other student because we got to know the campus, experience residence hall life, and meet people way before anyone else did. I had the help of my teammates and coaches to start my college life on the right foot. Without my team, I wouldn’t have been so calm during those first few weeks of classes. Once games began, it was a shock to me that I actually had to miss classes in order to travel to games. That is when I truly learned how to manage my time wisely, communicate with my professors, and spend lots of hours studying. Being a student athlete has taught me a lot about dealing with many things at once, and how to cope with stress. When I was ever having a rough day, I always knew that my parents were a phone call away, and that my teammates were behind me supporting me 100 percent.

Even though one semester of college and a fall sport was under my belt, I still was looking forward to yet another sport in the spring. Although every athlete experiences many of the same things, there are differences between a fall and spring sport athlete. For spring sports, you have the entire fall to get acquainted with college life, your classes, meeting your team and other students, and you begin to condition and practice to get ready for the spring. It is almost as if you get an entire semester to just prepare and get accustomed to being a freshman in college. Once Christmas break is over, we immediately start long hours of conditioning and pre-season training. It was nice to already know all the girls on my team, be comfortable with classmates, and be used to dealing with life as a college athlete. I was prepared for anything because I had already had a semester behind me. All I had left to do was continue my studies, and focus on doing what I loved to do out on the field.

Not many people can say they are two-sport athlete in high school and a very small majority can say they are a two-sport athlete in college. I am fortunate enough to fall under both of those categories. Although being a student athlete in college may have its ups and its downs, I wouldn’t have it any other way. It has taught me the meaning of friendship, time management skills, how to be an adult, and overall how to survive in the real world. I don’t know what life would be like to be a student who doesn’t have to worry about studying for a hard test after coming back from an away game that was three hours away. Even though that may seem awful, to me it just makes perfect sense. Before I decided to continue to play sports in college, I said to myself, “Why not play sports for just four more years, that’s all you have left.” It was the best decision of my life to continue to play. I will never forget the memories I have made so far during my time here at Millikin, and I know that before I graduate I will have thousands more. I know that wherever my future may lead me, being a student athlete in college has paved the way for nothing less than a successful life.
The Center is the “center” of many Millikin University activities. Your student will become acquainted with Kirkland during First Week at Millikin as many of the introductory events take place in this auditorium. There are many opportunities for your student to be a part of Kirkland Fine Arts Center, as a patron and audience member (students get one free ticket to most events), or as an employee. Kirkland Fine Arts Center generally hires over 100 students each semester. Both situations offer great potential for further growth and learning opportunities. Let me tell you more about the Center.

Kirkland Fine Arts Center is the foremost not-for-profit fine arts presenting organization in Macon County (est. pop. 115,000) and surrounding communities. In past seasons over 700 professional performances have been staged at Kirkland that offers a wide variety of live entertainment. Broadway touring companies such as A Chorus Line, Evita, CATS, Show Boat, and RENT have been presented at this venue. The Center has hosted critically acclaimed artists ranging from Maria Callas in Master Class, to Arlo Guthrie and Itzhak Perlman. World renowned musicians such as Duke Ellington, Doc Watson, Ella Fitzgerald, Asleep at the Wheel, the Neville Brothers, and Pete Fountain have performed on Kirkland’s stage. Internationally acclaimed dance companies such as Bale Folclorico de Mexico, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Diavlo Dance have graced Kirkland’s stage, along with beloved celebrities including Vincent Price, Bill Cosby and Lily Tomlin among others. Artists of international stature such as the St. Petersburg Orchestra, Vienna Choir Boys, and London City Opera have also performed at the Center. Speeches by distinguished guests like White House correspondent Helen Thomas, Ralph Nader, environmentalist Robert Kennedy and Colin L. Powell have been presented.

Kirkland is the setting for not only a distinctive series of professional arts and entertainment, but is home for the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra and numerous Millikin University College of Fine Arts productions and student concerts, convocations, and graduations. There are three art galleries in addition to rehearsal, studio, and classroom spaces located in the Center. Perkinson Art Gallery, the largest of the galleries, during the past 44 years has hosted exhibits by hundreds of visual artists. These artists include Betty Saar, Lynne Cohen and the Wells Fargo Show which included works by Andy Warhol. In FY-14, over 46,000 patrons have visited the Center to partake in performances, exhibits, lectures, master classes and community rental events, with nearly 8,000 of those patrons specifically attending Kirkland Series events.

The Millikin Performing Arts Series, which began in 1952 in recognition of the University’s 50th anniversary, established Millikin as a cultural center of Central Illinois. Beginning then, four or five touring artists were presented each season at various campus and community locations until 1970 when the 1,903 seat Kirkland Fine Arts center was opened. Millikin President Paul L. McKay set the standard for the new center when he said, “Kirkland Fine Arts Center will stand on our campus as an enduring symbol of man’s search for truth, beauty and those intangible values that are the threads in the fabric of a nation’s culture.” Named in honor of Mr. And Mrs. E.T. Kirkland, the Center has, throughout its history, been the setting for copious performing and visual arts offerings, as well as rehearsals and thousands of classes, workshops, and festivals.

The Center’s Mission statement reads as follows:

Kirkland Fine Arts Center’s mission is to be an educational and cultural resource that advances the quality, reputation, and distinctiveness of Millikin University. Guided by a policy of fiscal responsibility, Kirkland sponsors exhibits and performances of student, faculty, and professional artists and other programs that enrich the campus and the region.

Your Millikin student has the opportunity to receive ONE FREE ticket to all Kirkland Fine Arts Center series events, School of Music events, and the Department of Theatre and Dance (with a few exceptions). This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy live performing arts and become engaged in the Millikin community.

The 2014-2015 Kirkland Fine Arts Center Season includes the following events:

American English
Friday, September 5, 2014 at 7:30 PM
Continue the 50 year anniversary celebration of the Beatle’s American Invasion

American English—simply the best Beatles tribute story of our time. At the inception of the band, they were voted “number one” for three consecutive years by thousands of Beatle fans as winners of sound-a-like contests at Beatlefest®. American English’s demand here and abroad, coupled with their spectacular fan base, has made them one of the most sought after shows in theatres worldwide. Come celebrate with the band that is recognized by Sam Leach, the original Beatle’s promoter who has said:

Sam Leach, the original promoter of the Beatles, founder of Merseybeat movement and author of “The Birth of Beatles” says...

“Lightning has struck twice, first with the Beatles and now again with American English.”
The Hit Men
Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 7:30 PM

You loved Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Tommy James and the Shondells. Carly Simon. Cat Stevens. Elton John. Jim Croce. Come see The Hit Men, an amazing look back through rock and roll history featuring former members of these mega-star acts performing your favorite songs -- from “Oh What a Night”, “Who Loves You”, “Sherry” and many other Four Seasons hits to “Peace Train”, “Crocodile Rock”, “Leroy Brown” and “Mony Mony”. You’ll know every word in every song in this night of mega hits – a night of mega-hits by the artists you heard on the original records, listened to on the radio, watched on TV and saw in concert. And The Hit Men will regale you with lots of great stories about what it was like on the road and in recording sessions with Frankie, Tommy, Carly, Cat, Jim and Elton. Relive the glory days of rock and roll with The Hit Men. You’ll leave the theatre saying “Oh, What a Night!”

John O’Conor
Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 4:00 PM

The Irish pianist John O’Conor has been gathering wonderful reviews for his masterly playing for over forty years. Having studied in his native Dublin, in Vienna with Dieter Weber and being tutored by the legendary Wilhelm Kempff his unanimous 1st Prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna in 1973 opened the door to a career that has brought him all around the world.

His recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas led CD Review to say that he “by now should be recognized as the world’s premier Beethoven interpreter” and his recent recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Concertos with the London Symphony Orchestra and Andreas Delfs have also been greeted with acclaim.

The reputation of the company is solidly rooted in a commitment to the highest of production values and an attention to artistic details that is unparalleled in the art form. World renowned impresario Danny Chang and choreographer Angela Chang combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

For his services to music he has been decorated “Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French Government, awarded the “Ehrenkreuz fur Wissenschaft und Kunst” by the Austrian Government and the “Order of the Rising Sun” by the Japanese Government and has received many other awards.

Homecoming Show
Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 8:00 PM

Don’t miss what Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has described as, “a one-off, a true original… a director’s dream.”

Since her Broadway debut as Ariel in the Little Mermaid, Millikin alum, Sierra Boggess (’04) has become one of the most sought after young artists in the New York and London theatre markets. Referred to by Tony Award winning Producer/Director, Harold Prince as “One of the most talented and intelligent artists in the musical theatre today,” Sierra dazzles audiences all over the world with her unique brand of charm, humor and virtuosity.

This season, Sierra returns to the Kirkland Fine Arts Center stage directly from her engagement as Christine Dae in Broadway’s The Phantom of the Opera for one-night only performance sure to delight patrons young and old. Based on her critically acclaimed cabaret appearance at New York City’s 54 Below, this eclectic mix of theatre and pop songs has been adapted especially for the Kirkland audience, bringing Sierra back to her theatrical roots and to the people who recognized a star in the making.

Golden Dragon Acrobats
Saturday, November 1, 2014 at 7:30 PM

Family fun for everyone! An Art Form Beyond Compare...

The Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time honored tradition that began more than twenty-five centuries ago. The Golden Dragons are recognized throughout the United States and abroad as the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring company of today.

The reputation of the company is solidly rooted in a commitment to the highest of production values and an attention to artistic details that is unparalleled in the art form. World renowned impresario Danny Chang and choreographer Angela Chang combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

Holiday Jazz
Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 7:30 PM

They’re back...bringing an upbeat holiday fusion!

The Millikin University Faculty Jazz Sextet returns once again to get you in the Holiday spirit with their jazzy swing on Holiday classics. Upbeat
and soothing favorites are sure to make everyone in the family tap their toes and sing along. Celebrate the sounds of the season during our Seventh Annual Holiday concert with Millikin University’s own School of Music faculty: Dave Burdick, Brian Justison, Chris Nolte, Perry Rask, and Steve Widenhofer. Once again, the sextet will be joined on stage by guest vocalists and Millikin University alumni Angel Spiccia Slykas and John Musick.

**Bob Eubanks Not So Newly Wed Game**  
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 7:30 PM  
*A great way to celebrate Valentine’s Day!*

The Bob Eubanks Not So Newlywed Game Show is an evening of laughter, fun, and prizes. Eubanks, one of show businesses most successful entrepreneur’s tells backstage stories about some of America’s most popular celebrities. He also shows hilarious video clips of some of your favorite game shows. But that’s only part of the fun; someone then has the chance to win $100,000. It’s called the Not So Newlywed Game, because it doesn’t matter how long you have been together. Eight lucky couples are chosen at random from the audience to play the Not So Newlywed Game. The questions are funny, the couples are funny, and they play for great grand prizes. It’s an evening of games, prizes, and laughter that you will never forget.

**Step Afrika**  
Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 7:30 PM  
“electrifying talents” - *The Washington Post*

Discover the world of stepping with Step Afrika! Like a tap dance without shoes, or a band without instruments, stepping is percussive dance that uses kicks, stomp’s, claps and chants—all linked to African and modern dance traditions. As the first professional company devoted to stepping, DC’s world–renowned Step Afrika! brings high-energy performance to the stage: a feast for both the eyes and ears. The Rhythms of Ireland-Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:30 PM Direct from Ireland—“Masters of their domain, fantastic rhythms, this is as good as it gets!”

Experience an electric evening of traditional Irish dance, music and song enhanced by stunning costumes, fantastic lighting, superb set production and a spectacular multimedia display that takes you on a journey through Ireland.

The Rhythms of Ireland is the sound and spirit of the Emerald Isle; it’s an exhilarating mix of expertly performed traditional rhythms, songs and dance that has been seen by over two million people worldwide, amassing an unsurpassed reputation for its stunningly executed performances.

**Kurt Elling**  
Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 7:30 PM  
*Arguably the greatest jazz singer of his generation*

Jazz Police

GRAMMY® winner Kurt Elling is among the world’s foremost jazz vocalists. He has won every DownBeat Critics Poll for the last fourteen years and has been named “Male Singer of the Year” by the Jazz Journalists Association eight times in that same span. Every one of Elling’s ten albums has been nominated for a GRAMMY. Elling’s rich baritone spans four octaves and features both astonishing technical mastery and emotional depth. His repertoire includes original compositions and modern interpretations of standards, all of which are springboards for inspired improvisation, scatting, spoken word, and poetry.

**Intergalactic Nemesis**  
Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 7:30 PM  
*For the kid in everyone!*

Three actors voice the dozens of characters, a Foley artist creates all the sound effects, and a pianist plays a cinematic score, while more than 1,250 individual full-color hi-res comic book panels tell a hilarious sci-fi adventure story visually from an enormous movie screen. And it’s all done live in front of your eyes.

The Intergalactic Nemesis has been featured on NPR, PBS, Conan O’Brien, the Wall Street Journal, and dozens of other outlets. The New York Post called its limited run on Broadway “Great fun! [A] happily retro multimedia extravaganza”, the Cleveland Examiner calls “pure theater magic,” and The Austinist recommends as “totally nuts and a ton of fun... Do not miss it.” But don’t just leave it to the experts. See it for yourself.

You don’t need to have seen Target Earth to fall in love with this show. The story here stands alone. So, if you’ve got an inner twelve-year-old (or an actual one living in your house) The Intergalactic Nemesis - Robot Planet Rising is one show you don’t want to miss.

I hope that Kirkland Fine Arts Center will become an important part of your child’s Millikin University experience. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at jtraughber@millikin.edu or (217) 424 3925.

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Jan Traughber  
Director, Kirkland Fine Arts Center
UCB - Student-Run Programming for Millikin

UCB. To some people, those three letters mean nothing. However, to students of Millikin’s campus, these three letters signify fun events, programs, and things to do. University Center Board (UCB) is a student programming board on Millikin’s campus. We put on around 15 events a semester that are almost always FREE for students. Our number one priority is to make sure that the student body is enjoying their time at Millikin, and that there are fun events for everyone to enjoy! We attempt to have a variety of events throughout the semester in hopes that we can garner a different group or demographic of students at each one.

Our events have included things like bingo, movies on the quad, ice skating, craft nights, bowling, songwriting contests, pancake breakfasts, and a whole lot more. We also have a handful of larger events including Millapalooza, Siblings Weekend, Fall Family Weekend, Homecoming, and our annual Big Event in which we bring in a music artist to perform at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center (past acts have included 3OH!3, All Time Low, Sara Bareilles, and One Republic). As a programming board, we are a group of diverse students - we come from all sorts of different backgrounds, majors, and geographical locations. This diversity within our group is essential in our planning events that will appeal to everyone on campus.

Aside from attending our events, we encourage all students interested to join our all-board at any time. We love to get new members who have a fresh, enthusiastic outlook on what sort of programs to do, and it is a great leadership opportunity for students! Whether students join our organization, or simply attend one of our many events, we hope to touch each and every Millikin student in one way or another. Look for our UCB events during First Week in August, and every student will have a gift from UCB waiting for them on Move-In day!

Can’t wait to welcome you into The Big Blue Family!

Lindsay Quick
UCB President and Marketing Chair

Student Senate Welcomes New Students!

Welcome to Millikin! My name is Jared Rixstine and I am the President of Student Senate here on campus. On behalf of all the students, we are so glad you chose to come live, work, and play with us here at Millikin! I remember well when I first came to campus – wondering if I would find my niche, hoping I made the right choice, and wanting to make a difference wherever I landed. Within weeks of beginning the Milli-Chapter of my life, I knew I had made the right choice: nowhere else could I experience change, study what I love, and meet incredible people within a few short weeks. Most of my experience here on campus is due in no small part to Student Senate. The mission of our organization is, in short, to advocate for all – to be the voice for all students on anything and everything. We have students approach us with both concerns and innovative ideas and we work tirelessly to act upon both.

Whether you are new to student government, an experienced leader, a public speaker, or completely terrified of speaking in front of others, you can be involved in Student Senate! Each of the four classes, each college, and various aspects of student life have a senator elected by the constituency. If that isn’t your gig, ask to be put on a committee! We do exciting work with international students, academic advising, dining services, and a host of other fun things! The bottom line is this – no matter who you are, you will find a place in Senate to make Millikin an even better place to live, work, and play! Whether you’re involved in Senate or another group, the benefits are enormous! Students who are engaged on campus typically adjust to campus life very quickly and successfully. Furthermore, being in student government and other organizations is a phenomenal resume booster and allows you to be a rain-maker, make a difference, and make Millikin YOUR university.

I look forward to meeting you and seeing you engage on campus to make Millikin yours!

Go Big Blue!

Jared Rixstine
President, Student Senate
Many students have a part-time job while in college, while some choose not to work. There are some things to keep in mind when making the decision about whether or not to have a part-time job while in college.

**Part-time jobs:**

» Are a great way to build basic work-readiness skills, especially if your student has not previously had a job. They also help students to further develop skills that employers seek in college graduates, such as communication, leadership and technical skills... and many more.

» Help students to explore career interests. Working in an academic or student development office can often ignite a student’s passion for that field of work.

» Allow students to gain valuable experience that will give them a significant leg up when it comes to getting a job upon graduation.

» Do have many benefits, yet it is important to remember that school comes first. We recommend that students work no more than 10-15 hours per week, and fewer if they have a demanding academic schedule or numerous commitments in addition to classes. Have a discussion with your student regarding your expectations and whether or not working on campus is in his/her best interest.

Additionally, student athletes who choose to work should apply for jobs during the fall semester to get a foot in the door, and ask for a deferred start date or reduced hours when their sport is in season.

**BIG BLUE JOBS** is our online system for campus jobs and part-time jobs in the community. In addition to using the system to search for part-time positions, it is important that students continue to check back on BIG BLUE JOBS as the system also houses internship opportunities and full-time jobs for graduates. The Career Connections Alumni Mentoring Network, career-related informational articles and podcasts, and an online portfolio feature are additional resources available through the system. See below to learn more about how students can access **BIG BLUE JOBS** and apply for campus jobs.

**Documentation Requirements**

As with any job, there is paperwork required by law. Students must provide documentation to establish employment eligibility and must complete paperwork prior to starting the job. See list below of acceptable documentation.

ONE FROM THIS LIST: ONE FROM THIS LIST:

» Driver’s License or ID Card
» School ID with a photo
» Voter Registration Card

&

ONE FROM THIS LIST:

» U.S. Social Security Card
» Copy of Birth Certificate
» U.S. Citizen ID Card

OR

Bring a current passport

Listings for both on-campus and community jobs will be available at [www.collegecentral.com/millikin](http://www.collegecentral.com/millikin) no later than August 1. Check back regularly for additional postings.

For more information, stop by the Career Center, Shilling 103, or call 217.424.6294.
Top Ten Things to Consider from Counseling Services

1. Wow! Graduation from High School is just over and it’s already time to think about college. Whether your student is moving to campus or commuting, it is an adjustment for the whole family. Here are some things to think about.

   Don’t feel ignored if your student seems to want to spend every waking minute with their friends. Attempts to spend an endless summer with friends are a natural response to eventually leaving them.

   If your student expresses fears of “not making it” in college, let her/him know that just about everyone feels this way. Share that you are confident in their ability to both make it and enjoy it. Remind them of some of their past challenges and successes.

   Your student may be unsure about their major. If so, let them know that about 70% of all college students change his or her major at least once.

   What are your student’s expectations of their grades? What are your expectations? Most students do not earn the same grade average in college that they had in High School, especially their Freshman year. When a student’s grades are not the same, usually their biggest worry is what their parents will think and say. Have some good discussions about grades before they come to campus.

   Have some talks about homesickness. Share that the vast majority of students feel homesick for a while. It is a normal part of transitioning to college. Tell them they will get through it and remind them that they can get support from Resident Assistants, First Year Experience Mentors, and Counselors.

2. How is your student with handling money? This summer is a good time to practice developing a budget and managing finances.

3. What are your expectations about part-time jobs? Some students, in an effort to help the family financially, will work too many hours which negatively impacts their health and grades. Make sure you are in agreement with a maximum number of work hours per week.

4. If your student will be a commuting to Millikin University, work with them as if they are moving to campus. Give them the space to own their college experience.

5. Think about and plan how you will use the time and energy you formerly devoted to parenting your student. You might be able to take a class or start that hobby you have been putting off.

6. If you are struggling with this transition, seek the support of friends and family that have been through this before. This can be an exciting stage of life for you, too.

Kevin Graham
Director, Counseling Services

Check Out Multicultural Student Council!

Multicultural Student Council (MSC) is a governing board and advocate for the underrepresented and identity based students and organizations here at Millikin University. MSC strives to promote programs, build organization awareness and membership, and encourage leadership on campus. MSC assists the various organizations in helping their membership grow, developing leadership qualities amongst members and exec board, and putting on programs that promote the cultures that are represented amongst the organizations. Through support, advocacy, and financial resources, the aforementioned assistance is made possible. MSC seeks to provide a stronger presence on Millikin Campus and in the Decatur community.

As the governing body, MSC works to ensure inclusion, cooperation, support, and leadership opportunities amongst the underrepresented and identity based organizations and on campus at Millikin University. As a council, MSC pushes its organizations to higher learning by challenging and changing the perception of inclusiveness. MSC seeks to defy the common misconception that all underrepresented students have the same needs. Each organization focus different areas of need so that students does not feel that there isn’t an organization to fulfill their needs. MSC wants students to feel that they have a voice and knows their rights and responsibilities as students.

Multicultural Student Council focuses on achieving the right results, the right way, the MSC Way. The MSC Way is who we are as a council and what we are here to do. The MSC Way is what we want to be in the future and what we will do to achieve that aim. It expresses our values, what we focus on, and what is important to us. The MSC Way creates a common understanding for all organizations and those who interact with them. The MSC Way is the heart of our council and purpose. We know that our purpose is noble, our work is essential, and there is true meaning and satisfaction in serving needs for identity based and underrepresented students.

Regardless of your interest, MSC has an organization for you. If you do not see an organization that suits you, we can help you establish a platform to advocate.

We encourage you to join us for the MSC Wake Up Call during the first week of classes. The Wake Up Call is a great way to connect with a student mentor to use as a resource to help you adjust to college life.

MSC welcomes you to the MU Family! We can’t wait to see you during First Week!
The Millikin University fraternity/sorority community strives to uphold the core values of its member organizations, enhance the student experience, and positively impact the campus and local communities. MU Greeks are not just about talking the talk, we demonstrate our values each and every day.

Who are we?
Millikin Greeks have continued to set high standards for undergraduate students since the establishment of our first national Greek letter organization in 1909. Today, we make up 27% of the undergraduate student population, the single largest group of students on campus.

We are currently home to 11 nationally recognized Greek letter organizations, which are overseen by three governing bodies; Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, and the Panhellenic Council.

What do we do?
Members of Fraternity & Sorority Life have a purpose that begins in the heart of each individual member and extends across the nation through common values. Millikin Greeks share six core values that drive the overall community forward leading to positive impacts throughout campus and abroad.

OUR VALUES:

Brotherhood/Sisterhood
Transitioning to college life can be tough, a Greek letter organization helps with the adjustment by offering a circle of friendship and trust amongst a group of people with shared values. Fraternity & Sorority Life provides a strong support system that extends beyond the collegiate experience. With a nationwide network of over 9 million Greeks, you are sure to find a brother or sister wherever your Millikin education lands you!

Diversity & Inclusion
With over a quarter of Millikin students belonging to this group of talented and highly accomplished students, you are bound to be exposed to individuals from various walks of life teaching the value of differences.

Leadership
Have you ever wanted an all expense paid trip to a leadership conference? Have you ever thought about being initiated into an organization on a cruise ship? Our Greeks have been afforded these opportunities and more! Joining a fraternity or sorority provides great opportunities for leadership development ranging from holding an executive board position for a chapter/council or coordinating Greek Week for the entire community. It gets much better: National organizations host annual conferences throughout the country to educate members about the business operations of the organization, networking opportunities, and a good time with brothers/sisters. Students who wear Greek letters hold over 76% of the executive board positions for the 80 student organizations at Millikin University in addition to holding 37% of the Resident Assistant positions in our seven residence halls.

Personal Growth & Development
“Not four years, but for life.” A great summation of the impact joining a Greek organization can have on the individual self. Each member of our fraternities and sororities are empowered to reach their full potential. A common message amongst our Greek members is that their respective organizations aid them in becoming the best version of themselves they could possibly be. Individuals are challenged to broaden their horizons by taking advantage of the various opportunities afforded to them as Greek leaders. This experience extends beyond your college experience, when you make this lifetime commitment; you have accepted the challenge to grow.
Scholarship
MU Greeks have consistently attained a higher grade point average than unaffiliated students. Don’t believe us? Visit the Office of Inclusion & Student Engagement website to see for yourself. With over 1/3 of Long-Vanderburg Scholars belonging to a Greek organization and 34% of our Greek members attaining the Dean’s List and High Dean’s List, it’s no wonder why graduation rates are 20% higher for affiliated students in comparison to unaffiliated students.

Service
“The servant-leader is servant first...” Our Greeks are serving their communities at a local and national level by providing over 500 hours to worthwhile causes and donating over $10,000 for philanthropic efforts ranging from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Children’s Miracle Network, breast cancer awareness, to domestic violence awareness... just to name a few.

“No matter the letter, we’re in it together.”
As a new member of the Big Blue Family, you’ll have your opportunity to GO GREEK at the start of the spring 2015 semester after successfully attaining 12 Millikin credit hours and a minimum grade point average of 2.3*. In the meantime, we encourage you to friend us on our social media pages, get involved, and attend upcoming FSL events during the fall semester.

*Minimum grade point average requirements vary for each organization. Please visit the Office of Inclusion & Student Engagement webpage for more information.

FSL Trivia
Think you know MU Greeks? If so, friend us for trivia questions from this Family Matters issue. Submit the correct answers for your chance to win one of three prizes:

VISA Gift Card
Millikin Gear Bundle
College Ready Bundle

Winners will be recognized during First Week.
Our Values

» Brotherhood/Sisterhood
» Diversity & Inclusion
» Leadership
» Personal Growth & Development
» Service
» Scholarship
We have a variety of activities and services available that will prepare students for college level research and help quell any library anxiety they may be feeling.

During the first month of the school year, a librarian will be visiting every freshman seminar class to introduce students to basic library facts (like when we’re open and the tools available) and hand out a tour assignment. The primary goal of the tour is to get each first-year student into the library building and have them start understanding where various resources are located. Past tour themes have included library miniature golf and a time-travel mystery tour.

Over the course of the first year, students will receive information literacy instruction directly from a librarian a minimum of four times. Our library faculty will work closely with faculty members teaching University Seminar and Critical Writing, Reading, and Research (CWRR) I & II to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive overview of library services, as well as hands-on experience working with library resources. Our information literacy instruction focuses on identifying the differences between scholarly, peer-reviewed periodicals and their popular counterparts, finding and working with scholarly literature, and the ethics of information use.

Students can access many of our resources online. We subscribe to over 70 subscription databases in subjects ranging from Art History to Physics. Some multi-disciplinary favorites that are especially useful for your first-year student are Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, and Issues and Controversies. If your student confides in you that they are struggling with research, please consider referring them to one of these databases.

Another place you can always suggest to your son or daughter, whether they are struggling with research or not, is the library’s Research Assistance Desk. We offer one-on-one help to students daily. Students can:

- Visit the Research Assistance Desk in person – we’re located on the first floor of Staley Library
- Chat with the librarian via the library website
- Text the librarian at 217/615-2777
- Call the librarian at 217/424-5065
- E-mail us at RefDesk@millikin.edu

If your student is work-study eligible and looking for a campus job, please stop by our table during Orientation & Registration and say hello! They’ll also need to complete the application form (visit the Big Blue Jobs section of the Career Center’s website).

Finally, we encourage you to stay connected to Staley Library throughout the year. You can find us on a variety of social media sites!

/staleylibrary

/@staleylibrary

/staleylibrary
I want to open up by saying welcome to all of our students and their families that make up the class of 2018! As a new academic year approaches you and your student are both experiencing a combination of excitement and apprehension. On the surface your student is probably only showing their excitement, however they are probably more apprehensive than they have let on so far! Rest assured that our department works very closely with Student Development to ease the transition of your students into their new environment.

I wanted to take a moment and introduce some conversations you should consider having with your student before they come to campus. I also wanted to highlight some of the features and services our department offers. For our returning students and parents this article will primarily serve as a gentle reminder, I would encourage you to review some of these topics with your students just to make sure.

I realize that getting a 17-19 year old to actually have a conversation without the use of a texting device is a challenge. I would use that your advantage and send them a few preparatory texts, tweets, and facebook posts so they reluctantly engage you in conversation to avoid further social media embarrassment! For example, you could send them a link to our website, millikin.edu/publicsafety or our twitter feed @millikinpolice.

A great primer question is to ask them what the #1 cause of injury and death is on a college campus. They are going to assume you want to jump right into the alcohol discussion and will probably answer that. They may be surprised to learn that the #1 cause is actually fire. This starter topic will allow you to have a non-confrontational discussion about fire safety. You can now discuss how Millikin University has recognized this hazard and has systems, procedures, rules, and plans in place to protect students. In the residence halls this is simplified by the existence of fire sprinklers, alarm monitoring, floor meetings, and evacuation drills.

Highlight the importance of these features and then lead the discussion into off campus events that may not have the same protections in place. They should be cognizant of the need to find or know of a second way out of any place they are, before an emergency occurs. Now that you have successfully gotten your student to talk about safety issues, you can lead it towards staying completely aware of their surroundings and personal safety.

Situational awareness is the key to nearly all of my campus safety presentations. For our students, I highlight that awareness and vigilance will eliminate 98% of the potential issues they may face from a personal safety standpoint. I typically stress that one of the keys to staying aware is keeping a clear head and not over indulging in chemical based compounds that impact their awareness level.

Please note that I am a realist and do not pretend that because the majority of our students are under 21 and certain substances are illegal to use and possess they do not impact awareness in our community. We are very upfront with our students that Millikin University is not immune from outside societal issues like drug and alcohol abuse.

All students participate in alcohol and drug awareness programming during First Week, this programming is augmented throughout the year by various events. I would encourage you to have
multiple conversations with your student regarding the hazards posed by alcohol and drug abuse, even if you have already covered this ground previously. If you suspect your student is struggling with alcohol and/or drug use already, please reach out to Student Development now so they can help your student succeed at Millikin University.

Our department is very involved with welcoming new and returning students to campus. Student Development engages us to meet with students in floor meetings, organization meetings, and with our new students at various First Week activities to highlight the services our department offers. For starters we are the only 24/7 department on campus, all of our students should have our number 217.464.8888 programmed into their cellular phone for safety or significant after hours concerns.

We provide constant monitoring of all campus alarm systems, access control, and act as the after-hours contact point for the university. We also maintain our campus emergency notification system, Send Word Now, which all students are encouraged to sign up for via their MyMillikin account. We are also the department responsible for vehicle parking registration.

We provide a Safe Rides/Safe Walks program which ensures students can safely move about our campus from dusk to dawn by providing a ride or walking escort to any campus owned or controlled property in our core west end area. This program is staffed by student drivers and our security staff. We also conduct monthly life safety checks of our building safety systems which include smoke/fire detection, fire suppression, and public access AED’s. Our uniformed security officers provide 24/7 patrol service to the campus both on foot and in a mobile unit.

These security patrols are augmented by our campus police officers who patrol during peak evening and overnight hours. Created by the University Board of Trustees in 2013 under the Illinois Private College Campus Police Act (110 ILCS/1020), our police department primarily serves all university owned and controlled properties. As outlined by the Act, Millikin University Police Officers have full peace officer authority and arrest powers. In addition to this official authority, university police officers have the additional ability to address issues via the student conduct process when appropriate.

In partnership with Decatur Police we have established a defined patrol area around our core west end campus properties to allow us to efficiently serve our campus properties and supplement Decatur Police patrols in the area. We also conduct training with Decatur Police to improve our ability to respond to a campus crisis quickly and efficiently.

Our department’s mission is to provide a safe and secure educational environment for our campus community. If you have any questions regarding the Public Safety department and our services, do not hesitate to contact us.

Chris Ballard
Director of Public Safety
THRIVE in LV!

We are excited to welcome our new and existing Long-Vanderburg Scholars back to campus! The Long-Vanderburg Scholars Program was founded in honor of the first two African-American graduates of Millikin University, Fred Long and Marianne Vanderburg. This scholars program provides a rich and diverse educational experience for under-represented students and those students passionate about social justice issues. Students live and learn together in specialized communities and engage in meaningful scholarship, leadership, and service activities.

As First Week comes to a close the LV classes begin, and the students will start their journey within their individual cohorts, but also have the opportunity to meet other new faces within the Long-Vanderburg Scholars Program. Get ready to hear all about the great experiences at Millikin and within the LV Program!

Encourage your Scholar to:

Embrace new relationships! Our LV students really thrive their first year at MU as they all live in the same Living-Learning Community located in Hessler Hall. Inspire your student to maintain the network they have established during Leadership Academy and utilize the close knit environment they reside in. Talk to them about the benefits of living in a scholarly environment of those with common interests and goals, but also help them recognize the value of being impacted by different perspectives.

Own their decision to become part of the Long-Vanderburg Scholars Program. LV is more than a Scholarship - It’s an experience! Being a thriving Scholar is:

- Attending study tables & utilizing one another as a resource within each cohort to maintain high evidence of achievement
- Participating in cultural awareness programs on campus and service in our community that have been identified by the LV Program
- Demonstrating Leadership by working with the Coordinator of the LV program to identify personal goals, contributions, experiences and achievements

Join an organization on campus to put their skills to the test and develop an additional sense of belonging. Long-Vanderburg Scholars start their organizational involvement journey early because aside of being academically excellent, they arrive with pride in their own character and integrity.

Recognize that college is a commitment to finding a personal life of meaning and value and they should keep a thirst for setting priorities, managing commitments, avoiding procrastination, and creating space for academic focus as well as personal down time.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, Long-Vanderburg Scholars served over 500 economically disadvantaged people in the Decatur community at Good Samaritan Inn and played a vital role in food preparation for their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.
The Long-Vanderburg Scholarship Program afforded powerful global experiences to 5 Junior LVs. Within the cohort, four scholars participated in an immersion to Chile and South Africa. One LV Scholar is currently completing her study abroad experience in Spain and will return to Millikin in the Fall.

Several Long-Vanderburg Scholars were recognized for exhibiting high academic performance, leadership, and a commitment to success in the Long-Vanderburg Scholars Program. This recognition took place at our annual Student Leadership Awards Ceremony.

Long-Vanderburg Scholars showcased their academic achievements and connections to the LV Program in the Annual Celebrations of Scholarship in the form of presentations and monologues. We would like to acknowledge and celebrate those Long-Vanderburg Scholars that are moving to the next stepping stone in their academic and professional journeys. Please join us in congratulating our graduates: Kiernan Steiner, Shakira Milton, Syed Salik, and Demetruis Spidle!

After commencement this spring, I will be traveling to the Baltic seas with the University Choir from Millikin University. Once I return, I will be applying for vocal music education positions around the Midwest. I am very excited for this new chapter in my life!

After graduation I will be moving to Melbourne, Australia for graduate school. While I am there I will be studying Epidemiology at the University of Melbourne. Epidemiology is the study of diseases. Epidemiologists work to find the cause of diseases and try to stop them from spreading. I will move there the first week of July.

After graduating from Millikin University in May 2014, I plan on attending medical school in Chicago, Illinois. I am excited for what the future has to offer and I am looking forward to beginning my journey toward higher education.

At Millikin Demi has had the opportunity to be apart and work closely with four mainstage productions including; A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Egeus), Orpheus in the Underworld (Mercury), Machinal (Spiritual Singer), and Legally Blonde (Sundeep Padamadan/Ensemble). During his sophomore year, he was able to co-write with another student a cabaret about real life, timeless adolescent issues using only some of the best 80's themed tunes. Driven by music, Demetruis has seized every opportunity that comes his way. As of today, he has written a total of 312 songs on piano over his time here at Millikin. He will be starting off his professional career by working in Springfield, MO at Tent Theatre performing in the play You Can’t Take it With You as Donald. After, he plans to hopefully set sail on a cruise ship for the next year until ultimately setting up a permanent residence in the Chicagoland area. “I am most proud of Millikin instilling in me the skills of how to be a better human who cares about being informed of the world around me.”


For more information contact: lv@millikin.edu
As your student prepares to engage or continue with his or her Big Blue experience, we would like to emphasize the importance of participating in valuable career building opportunities. Encourage your student to make plans to attend the key events described below.

The Career Center encourages all students to take ownership of their career success, and this should start day one and continue throughout the college experience. This means that students should take an active role in making the most of their Millikin experience both in and outside of the classroom. More experiences, whether they be—participating in undergraduate research, working on campus, engaging in internships, or serving in a leadership role for a student organization (to name a few)—mean more opportunities to learn and grow both personally and professionally. Encourage your student to seek out experiences that will provide him/her opportunities to build experience and try things that can provide information to help them develop, clarify, and confirm educational and career goals.

Connect with the Career Center if you have any questions regarding the events listed above and to learn more about how our office partners with students to help them reach their career goals. Additionally, if your organization has internship or job opportunities we can help promote to the Millikin community let us know. Call us at 217.424.6294 or email our office at career-center@millikin.edu or visit our office in Shilling Hall 103 when you are next on campus.

Also, stay connected with the Career Center via social media:

 FACEBOOK: /MU.CareerCenter
 TWITTER: @CareerCenter_MU
A PARENT’S GUIDE TO STUDY ABROAD
Center for International Education

Should my student study abroad? After all, studying abroad has never been a more accessible or popular opportunity as it is now; however, even with numerous locations available for international education, many students and families find studying abroad a very difficult decision and process.

Students and their parents often bring valid concerns to the table including, but not limited to, finances, academic and career plans, delayed graduation, and safety. Through various partnerships and collaborations, Millikin University’s Center for International Education (CIE) strives to make studying abroad as affordable and as easy as possible. We completely understand that committing to education abroad represents an enormous investment in time, effort, and patience for the family, but we deliver on the promise that an international education is life changing in so many ways.

One of our main goals at the CIE is to prepare students for productive engagement in the 21st century global society. We strongly believe that for students to be successful they need to be engaged with the world, and that the value of a significant international experience can prove crucial to a student’s career and future understanding of themselves and our world. We attempt to place students with international education opportunities (in both semester-long, and two-to-three week international immersion courses) that provide a deep understanding of what it means to be a democratic citizen in a global environment. It’s our responsibility to make students and their families not only comfortable with the idea of studying abroad, but also to be advocates of the personal growth, academic enrichment, and the professional edge all gained from an international education experience. With your help, we are hoping to reach many more students and encourage them to consider studying abroad as part of their undergraduate career.

Benefits of Studying Abroad

Personal Development: Students who study abroad return with a new perspective on their role in the world. They not only gain confidence by knowing that they can navigate an unfamiliar place, but they also will make lifelong friends from around the world.

Academic Enhancement: Millikin University takes great pride in performance learning. There is nothing more fantastic than firsthand experiences complementing what is learned in the classroom. Studying abroad will give the opportunity to visit historical sites, witness international business practices, and to be fully engaged in a foreign language.

Professional Advantage: Studying abroad allows your student to demonstrate his/her ability to interact across cultures and to effectively thrive out of their comfort zone. To be successful — personally, intellectually, and professionally — students must become a “global citizen,” skilled at interacting in and between multiple cultures and capable of analyzing issues on a global level.

Millikin University Study Abroad Facts

1. Studying abroad will ignite your student’s education by leading to new academic interests, and instilling a new dedication to academic success.

2. MU offers study abroad programs that will fit into any major or minor, and that WON’T delay graduation.

3. MU Study Abroad Programs function in many ways just like an on-campus semester: grades and credits for the courses students take will appear on their transcripts. (But while students’ credits and grades work just like they do on campus, their off-campus experience will be anything but typical.)

4. MU students can study abroad for a full semester beginning their junior year; however, freshman through seniors can participate in our international immersion courses lasting a few weeks during the winter or summer terms.

5. The costs of an MU study abroad program are similar to what students would pay for an on-campus semester. In almost all cases, students pay standard MU tuition. Students would then not pay MU room and board, but would pay the room and board at their international host institution.

6. MU has agreements with over twenty institutions worldwide!
7. Study abroad increases self-confidence, enhances cultural tolerance and understanding, and facilitates lifelong friendships in the pursuit of becoming a global citizen.

**What You Should Know**

Will it delay my student’s graduation?

Most all of Millikin Students who study abroad will graduate on time. Coming to the Center for International Education office to start planning early is key! This will help ensure that your student’s study abroad coursework is relevant to their degree program that it will fully transfer back to Millikin.

How Much Will It Cost?

Cost will always depend on the type of program, its location, and the duration your son or daughter chooses to stay abroad. Millikin University does offer International Fellowships. The International Fellowship Program provides endowed funds for students with financial need to study abroad during their sophomore, junior, or senior year. Each spring and fall, students will be informed that they may submit a proposal outlining their intent to travel, the desired location, and course of study. Each academic year, the Long-Vanderburg (LV) Scholars Program offers five, $5,000 travel grants to deserving Junior LV Scholars. Eligible candidates will have maintained academic excellence while in the LV Program, maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA for all enrolled terms. Students may also apply for study abroad scholarships, such as the Gilman Scholarship, the Pell Grant, and for various scholarships through Diversity Abroad.

Requirements

Eligible study abroad students:

- Must not be on academic or disciplinary probation
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Must be a junior or senior, for a semester abroad
- Must be in good financial standing with the University

Safety and Security

At MU, we have a very careful and considered approach to student’s safety abroad that includes monitoring the security situation in the countries where our students study. In addition, we discuss issues of personal safety with students throughout the study abroad preparation process. We also ask that all of our students register their travel with the U.S. Embassy in their host country. Doing this will provide students with real-time updates to any security issues that may pose a threat your student’s well-being. Please know that Millikin will not send a student to a country that is currently on the U.S. Department of State’s Travel Warning List.

**Staying Involved**

» Talk with your student about his or her study abroad goals
» Convey the importance of a global education
» Encourage your student to come and speak with us at the Center for International Education (CIE)
» Keep in touch with the CIE if you have any questions or concerns

**STUDYING ABROAD WILL CHANGE YOUR STUDENT’S LIFE**

According to nearly 4,000 study abroad alumni*:

- 96% Indicated that studying abroad increased their self-confidence
- 94% Stated that the experience influences their interactions with people from different cultures
- 95% Stated that it has had a lasting impact on their view of the world
- 90% Said that studying abroad influenced them to seek out a greater diversity of friends
- 87% Claimed that studying abroad influenced subsequent education experiences
- 76% Reported that they acquired skill sets that influenced their career path

*Findings from the IES Abroad Alumni 50-year Longitudinal Study.
Types of Programs Available Through Millikin University

Millikin is affiliated with many universities all over the world. Millikin approved programs will allow for all credits to transfer and are approved by the Center for International Education. Students can choose among several ways to study abroad and we guide students through the following options:

**Millikin University Programs**

- **London, England:** Millikin’s very own London Program runs each fall semester.

**Semester-long Exchange Programs**

- **Argentina:** Universidad Nacional de Lanus, Buenos Aires
- **Chile:** Universidad del Pacifico and Universidad Finis Terrae, Santiago
- **Dominican Republic:** Instituto Cultural Dominico – Americano, Santo Domingo
- **France:** Ecole Superiure de Gestion et Commerce International (ESGCI), Paris; CEFAM (School of Business and International Management), Lyon.
- **Italy:** The University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano
- **Mexico:** Escuela Bancaria Y Commerical (EBC), Mexico City
- **Taiwan:** Tunghai University, Taichung
- **Spain:** Universidad de Lleida, Lleida; Universidad de Murcia, Murcia

**Affiliated Programs**

The following programs offer Millikin University student discounts:

- **Italy:** John Cabot University, Rome
- **Austria, Geneva, Netherlands, Thailand:** Webster University International Campuses

**Faculty-Led Programs**

Each winter and summer term Millikin professors from disciplines across campus organize international short-term immersion courses. The following destinations are commonly used for international immersions:

- **Chile**
- **China**
- **Dominican Republic**
- **France**
- **Germany**
- **Ireland**
- **Italy**
- **Portugal**
- **South Africa**
- **Spain**
- **Taiwan**

Choosing a study abroad program is a vital component of the Millikin experience. Students are urged to take advantage of the study abroad programs at a Millikin affiliated institution. For more information please contact the Center for International Education, CIE@millikin.edu, 217.424.3758, or on the web: millikin.edu/cie

START TALKING ABOUT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS FOR SPRING 2015 WITH YOUR STUDENT TODAY. THE DEADLINE FOR STUDYING ABROAD DURING THE SPRING 2015 SEMESTER IS OCTOBER 1ST, 2014.
HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Going to high school is mandatory and usually free.

Your time is structured by others, and you need permission to participate in co-curricular activities.

You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.

Each day you proceed from one class directly to another, spending 6 hours each day—30 hours a week—in class.

Most of your classes are arranged for you. You are not responsible for knowing what it takes to graduate.

Guiding principle: You are told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line.

MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT

Going to a university is voluntary and expensive, so making good choices are crucial to your success.

You manage your own time, and decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities.

You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have never faced before.

You often have hours between classes; class times by day, some classes are in the evening, and you spend 12 to 16 hours each week in class.

You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your advisor. Schedules look lighter than they really are.

Graduation requirements are complex, differ by major and college, and annual bulletin. You are expected to know the requirements that apply to you.

Guiding principle: You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don’t do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some don’t.

Classes generally have approximately 35 students.

You may study outside class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation.

You seldom need to read anything more than once, and sometimes listening in class is enough.

You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.

Guiding principle: You are told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.

MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY CLASSES

The academic year is divided into two semesters of approximately 15 weeks, plus an additional week of final exams.

Millikin class size averages 23 students, some classes have as few as five students! Attendance is very important and faculty will know if you are not there.

You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour of scheduled class. You need to complete all homework whether it is graded or not.

You need to read text material prior to class and review class notes regularly.

You are assigned substantial amounts of reading that will be tested, but often won’t be directly addressed in class.

Guiding principle: It’s up to you to do the work to understand the material; unless you ask questions or request help you are presumed to understand the material.

TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL

Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.

Makeup tests are often available.

Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.

Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.

Guiding principle: Mastery is seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form it was presented, or to solve the kinds of problems you were shown how to solve.

TESTS IN MILLIKIN CLASSES

Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material. You, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test. A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester.

Makeup tests are always at the discretion of the professor, and advance notice or absence verification is required when you make a request.

Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.

Professors sometimes offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.

Guiding principle: Mastery is seen as the ability to apply what you’ve learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.
Student Success Tips
for a Smooth Transition from High School to Millikin!

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Teachers check your completed homework.
Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.
Teachers are often available for conversation before, during, or after class.
Teachers have been trained in teaching methods to assist in imparting knowledge to students.
Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.
Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.
Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.
Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.

Guiding principle: High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills.

MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

Professors may not check all homework, but will assume you can solve similar problems on tests.
Professors expect you to follow syllabus due dates, and are not likely to accept incomplete or late work.
Professors are open and helpful, but expect you to initiate contact when you need assistance or have questions.
Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research.
Professors expect you to get notes and any other class information you missed when you were absent.
Professors may not follow the textbook, and are likely to expand on the text, discuss research on the topic you are studying, as well as expect you to relate the class lecture to the your readings.
Teaching styles vary: lecture, discussion, group projects, student presentations. You must identify key points in your notes. Professors may write on the board to amplify or summarize key points. Good notes are a must.
Professors expect you to critically think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics, as well as critique and apply the material to new problems.
Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus; the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
Professors’ policies on attendance vary, but they know your attendance patterns and take that into account determining course grades.

Guiding principle: College is a learning environment where you take responsibility for reflecting and applying what you learn.

GRADERS IN HIGH SCHOOL

Grades are given for most assigned work.
Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low.
You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.
Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.
Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade.

Guiding principle: Effort counts. Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."

GRADERS AT MILLIKIN

Not all work is graded.
The syllabus is the key to the grading scale and provides the value or weight of class assignments.
Graduation requires a 2.0 GPA. Some majors require a higher G.P.A. for graduation.
Academic alerts are an early intervention system intended to identify an area of class performance, that left unattended, will damage your grade. They are sincere offers to help you get back on track by providing free academic support resources.
Extra credit options are rare -- most professors reject the idea that more or different work is beneficial, when you can’t finish the work that is assigned.

Guiding principle: Results count. "Good-faith effort" is important in the professor’s willingness to help you achieve good results, but it won’t substitute for results in the grading process.

Adapted from Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX at http://smu.edu/alec/transition.asp