INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
What theatre students learn

DECEMBER 2011

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Our annual report to you
Millikin Quarterly
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COVER: Perkinson Music Center
INSIDE BACK COVER: Shilling Hall
Our 2010-11 Annual Report
The Millikin Mission:
To Deliver on the
Promise of Education

At Millikin, we prepare students for:

● Professional success;
● Democratic citizenship in a global environment;
● A personal life of meaning and value.

Our Values

At Millikin University, we value:

● Commitment to the discovery of knowledge
● Civil debate
● Passion and enthusiasm
● Dignity and respect for individuals
● A diverse and inclusive community
● Integrity and responsibility
● Advancement of the greater good
Introduction

A year at Millikin stretches from July 1 before the academic year begins to June 30 of the following year after the spring graduates have received their diplomas.

The Millikin year that began July 1, 2010, and ended July 30, 2011, was historic in its significance for the future of this university. In this, our annual report to alumni and friends, we address several highlights of that singularly remarkable year.

In featuring just a few highlights from this transformational year, we take a cue from the mission statement and address how Millikin and the campus community exemplified the three core areas of our mission throughout the 2010-11 fiscal year. In addition, we’ll discuss our role as a recognized national model for higher education by delivering on the promise of education through Millikin’s unique performance learning techniques.
Professional Success

- Millikin’s university studies program received national recognition at the Association of American Colleges and Universities annual conference on best practices in general education.
- The university’s English writing major was cited as one of only two models for undergraduate writing majors in College Composition and Communication, a national journal.
- Millikin launched a new 31-month nurse anesthesia program in partnership with Decatur Memorial Hospital. Graduates earn a master’s degree in nursing (MSN) and are prepared to take the national certification exam to become certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). The new program is the only nurse anesthesia program in Central Illinois and the fourth track within Millikin’s MSN program, joining nurse educator, clinical nurse leader and master’s entry into nursing practice pre-licensure (MENP).
- Tabor School of Business students, under the guidance of Dr. Tatiana Isakovski, assistant professor of finance, began managing $100,000 of the university’s endowment, posting a gain of nearly 25 percent by the end of June 2011. Newspapers across the country printed articles about this example of our students exhibiting MU’s unique method of education through performance learning.
- In fall 2010, U.S. News and World Report, Princeton Review and Forbes magazines recognized Millikin as one of “America’s Best Colleges.” The Princeton review also named Millikin one of its “Best in the Midwest.” This national recognition for delivering on the promise of education continues a decade-long pattern.
- Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish honor society, and the Society of Physics Students (SPS), the physics honorary, were both honored as top U.S. chapters by their national organizations. It was the second year in a row the SPS group had been honored with the national top chapter award.
SPS frequently holds public observation nights in Requarth Observatory as part of its outreach efforts. In addition, MU's student chapter of the American Chemical Society received the Green Chemistry Chapter Award from the national organization, the seventh time in nine years MU has received the honor.

- Pipe Dreams, our experimental theatre program, became a solely student-run operation as part of the planned continued expansion of our arts-in-entrepreneurship program.
- Last March, the University Choir, under the direction of Dr. Brad Holmes, performed by invitation to critical acclaim at the international American Choral Director's Association Conference. Two months later, the choir embarked on an international performance tour to Ireland, Scotland and England.
- Michael Luxner, music director and conductor of the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra, was named Illinois Conductor of the Year.
- The volleyball, softball and men's golf teams achieved CCIW championships, with the volleyball team posting a school record 22 straight wins en route to a 7-0 CCIW regular season championship. Patrick Etherton, then men's golf coach, was named CCIW Coach of the Year, and Deb Kiick was named CCIW Coach of the Year for both softball and volleyball.
- The School of Education received full national accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the education profession's mechanism to help establish high quality teacher preparation.
- The Center for Entrepreneurship received a $440,000 grant from the Coleman Foundation, an extension of previous grants received from the Foundation in 2004 and 2007. The Colemen Foundation has been instrumental in the success of the entrepreneurship program at Millikin, providing funding since 1998.
Statistical Highlights of 2010-11

These statistics apply to the Millikin year from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011. Financial data is based on the year’s audited financial statement.

SUCCESS RATE
The percentage of Millikin graduates who found jobs or entered graduate school within six months of graduation compared to the decreasing number of job openings in the U.S.

ENDOWMENT
The fund that helps support operating costs, scholarships and other university expenses.

FINANCIAL AID
The percentage of Millikin students who rely on some type of financial aid in order to attend the university.

DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS
The growing number of multicultural students in the freshmen class each fall for the last five years.

CLOSING THE GAP
How giving helps close the gap between what students can pay and the actual cost of their education.

SOURCES OF REVENUE
Where Millikin gets the funding needed to operate.

EXPENSES
The breakdown of Millikin’s expenses for 2010-11.
Millikin University Honor Roll of Donors July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011

Statistical Highlights of 2010-11

These statistics apply to the Millikin year from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011. Financial data is based on the year’s audited financial statement.

### Scholarships
- $26,864
- 35%

### Academic Support and instruction
- $17,953
- 24%

### Administrative support
- $8,395
- 11%

### Operation and maintenance of plant
- $5,531
- 7%

### Student services and residence life
- $11,138
- 15%

### Interest on debt and depreciation
- $6,058
- 8%

### Total tuition cost per student
- $23,845
- 30%

### Average student tuition and fees payment
- 2010: $12,616
- 2011: $13,576

### Funds provided by gifts, endowment, other sources
- 2010: $9,453
- 2011: $13,849

### Total tuition cost per student
- 2010: $22,069
- 2011: $27,425

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SOURCES OF REVENUE

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*Millikin University Honor Roll of Donors July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011*
Democratic Citizenship in a Global Environment

- Millikin enhanced its international study opportunities for students and faculty while also attracting new numbers of international students to the Millikin campus with the opening of the new English as a Second Language Center.
- For the fourth consecutive year, Millikin students won the Model Illinois Government moot court competition for the state of Illinois.
- Two students from Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Bobby Gregory ’11 and David Anderson ’11, received “Top Teke” awards. The national fraternity conferred the honor on only six out of 250,000 undergraduate TKEs in the U.S. and Canada. It was the first time in the national fraternity’s history that two students from the same chapter were honored. The previous year, Sam Osborne ’10, had received the “Top Teke” award.
- Tabor students successfully presented their market analysis to executives of Academia Barilla, an international center dedicated to the development and promotion of Italian gastronomic culture headquartered in Parma, Italy. The Millikin team proposed three main strategies for growth which Academia Barilla termed “innovative solutions” and “valuable insight.”
- Dr. David Jervis, associate professor of political science, was awarded his second Fulbright teaching fellowship. He is spending 2011 teaching international relations and American foreign policy at Marie Curie-Sklodowska University in Poland.
- Dr. Paris Barnes, assistant professor of chemistry, spent seven months in Taiwan at Tunghai University to conduct research in nanoscience and to build opportunities for Millikin students to collaborate on research and courses at Tunghai University.

Lives of Meaning and Value

- The university was nationally recognized by The President’s Honor Roll for Service as Millikin students contributed more than 146,000 hours of community service during the academic year. The students’ service ranges from doing after-school tutoring for at-risk children to assisting at a local soup kitchen to hosting a dance for older adults at an assisted living facility and much, much more.
- Mary Garrison, associate professor of social work, was named 2011 East Central District Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. (Shortly after the 2011-12 year began, Garrison was named Social Worker of the Year for the state of Illinois, recognizing her work to address homelessness and poverty.)
- The campus community again generously donated thousands of pounds of canned goods and other food items to radio station WSOY’s annual food drive, which collected more than 600,000 pounds of food.
- Student Dylan Howser of Geneva, Ill., is one of only 47 students selected from applicants worldwide to participate in the 2011 Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at the University of Pittsburgh. The Academy brings together the top student leaders from around the world to celebrate their accomplishments and to give them the opportunity to work with highly experienced mentors and leaders on further leadership development.

Expanding Horizons

- We welcomed Dr. Harold Jeffcoat, formerly of Texas Wesleyan, as Millikin’s 14th president on April 1 following the retirement of Doug Zemke ’66 in December 2010 after seven years as president.
- In March 2011, we announced an $11.5 million commitment from Doug Oberhelman ’75 and his wife, Diane, and Caterpillar Inc. to our “Transform MU” capital campaign, elevating total commitments to this $85 million campaign to $48.6 million by June 30. Faculty, staff and administration contributed over $300,000 to the campaign. The campaign was launched in May 2010 and concludes in 2015.
- As Millikin’s previous strategic plan came to a successful conclusion, the campus community began developing a new strategic plan to guide the university over the next several years, focused on the same mission-driven, market-smart philosophy as the last plan.
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The MBA program doubled in size. Through the addition of WebEx technology, several students participate in class remotely in real-time, regardless of where they are in the world.

PACE, MU’s Professional Adult Comprehensive Education program, added a new management degree in an accelerated format. This allows working adults the opportunity to complete a management degree through evening classes in as little as 18 months, depending on percentage of previous college study. Other PACE majors include accounting, early childhood education, elementary education, nursing (RN to BSN) and organizational leadership.

Millikin and the Decatur School District study the benefits that could be achieved by turning Dennis Elementary into a lab school for Millikin students. The school is located only a few blocks from campus in the historic west end of Decatur. If the concept is approved, it could be implemented as early as fall 2012.

Conclusion

The 2010-11 academic year was truly one of pivotal change for the university, marked by significant achievements in several areas and vital steps forward in others. The long-established quality of our university continues to enjoy increased awareness nationally as the unique attributes of Millikin’s performance learning concept become increasingly known throughout the U.S. as a model for delivering on the promise of higher education. Over and over, our alumni tell us they were better prepared for graduate school and professional careers as a result of their Millikin education. We can think of no higher testimonial than that.
Stephanie Gates

**Hometown:** Arlington Heights, Ill.

**Major:** Chemistry and biology double major

**Graduation date:** May 2012

**What’s next after Millikin?**
I am attending graduate school to obtain a Ph.D. in chemistry, then finding a job either in the chemical industry or a more academic-based research career.

**What is your favorite memory from studying abroad?**
I went to Taiwan for six weeks to do research in a chemistry lab at Tunghai University. My favorite memory was meeting all of the great people, especially those in my research lab, and getting to know them. I learned a lot from my labmates, and it was a great experience to do chemistry in a different country and out of my comfort zone.

**What are some of your responsibilities as the Decatur Science Investigations Coordinator, and what have you taken from the position?**
As the DSI Coordinator, I was in charge of creating new science shows and stations, getting volunteers and supplies, performing and explaining, and making sure everything went smoothly at each event. This position has allowed me to learn a lot about teaching young children about science, and how to inspire enthusiasm for science.

**What impact do you hope to have on the world with your research of celiac disease?**
My ultimate goal of doing research in celiac disease would be to create a drug that could reduce or eliminate any negative side effects that someone with celiac disease has when they eat food containing gluten (symptoms range from mild abdominal pain to anemia, malnutrition and many other severe issues). This would allow those people to worry less about maintaining a gluten-free diet, and to live a normal lifestyle.

**Student activities:**
- Scholarship chair for Panhellenic Council
- Vice president of education for Alpha Chi Omega
- First year experience mentor
- Peer educator
- President of the American Chemical Society

**Honors and awards:**
- Scovill Prize recipient
- High dean’s list
- Presidential scholar
- Leighty Science Scholar
- James Millikin Scholar

**Quote:**
"I have had the pleasure of knowing Stephanie in her roles as a student in the classroom, a member and a leader of an organization, and a JMS research advisee," says George Bennett, professor of chemistry. "In each role she has demonstrated a wonderful combination of intelligence, creativity, confidence and work ethic. Although I will miss her contributions when her Millikin career is over, I will not forget her, and I look forward to following both her personal and professional progress."
Ashley Hillertz

**Hometown:** Bourbonnais, Ill.

**Major:** Nursing

**Graduation date:** May 2012

**What’s next after Millikin?**

I plan on working in either the OB or ER unit at a hospital. I want to see what area I want to specialize in before I go back to get my master’s in nursing for either nursing management or nurse practitioner.

**What did you learn from the Taiwanese nursing interns you mentored during their 2010 stay at Millikin?**

Having the Taiwanese nursing students at Millikin taught me a lot about communication skills. They spoke very limited English, so I quickly learned some important Chinese words and caught on to their communication techniques. I also learned how much we take for granted here in the United States. Each time we went to the hospital, they were amazed by the respect the nurses received. I came to appreciate the field of study I am in very quickly.

**You have created a manual comparing the way Chinese and Western cultures treat nursing. What was your greatest challenge with this project, and how will it be put to use?**

The greatest challenge was getting all individuals scattered worldwide to put the book together. Dr. Florence Folami, assistant professor of nursing, and I connected the leaders from Millikin, St. Mary’s hospital, and the students from China Medical University in Taiwan to develop a manual that hopefully can be looked upon as a guide for students traveling abroad as well as a guide to Chinese medicine.

**What motivated you to be active in Greek Life at Millikin?**

Greek Life here at Millikin is absolutely wonderful! I went through recruitment my freshman year to become more involved on campus. I feel that I have grown so much as a person and leader while being a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Student activities:**

- Vice president and past vice president of fraternity relations for Alpha Chi Omega sorority
- Vice president and past college buddy coordinator of Best Buddies
- Member of NSNA and ATD nursing organizations

**Honors and awards:**

- Scovill Prize recipient
- Alpha Lambda Delta scholastic honor society
- Sigma Theta Tau nursing fraternity
- Dean’s list

**Community Service:**

- Homeward Bound animal shelter
- Dove women’s shelter
- First United Methodist Church

**Quote:**

“I had the pleasure and honor of coordinating the 2010 international nursing immersion among China Medical University, Taiwan and Millikin University with Ashley Hillertz,” says Florence Folami, assistant professor of nursing. “She was very dedicated and worked well with students from a different culture. She proved to be a take-charge person who is able to successfully develop plans and implement them. Ashley demonstrated leadership ability by working diligently with these students. Her relationship with these students created a lifelong experience for them, many of whom have taken time to share their comments with me regarding her pleasant and encouraging attitude and intellectual integrity.”

Millikin University Honor Roll of Donors July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011
Jackson Lewis

Hometown: Plano, Texas

Major: Creative writing with a theatre minor

Graduation date: May 2013

What’s next after Millikin?
I hope to edit and write for The Record, the quarterly magazine published by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation, while writing plays and acting on the side.

What has your experience with Millikin Quarterly been like?
This is my first semester working with the Quarterly. I have learned so much about writing features, profiles and news spots. I have also come to appreciate the great effect this university has on the lives of its students. I have interviewed several alumni about their accomplishments since graduating, and they all tell me they would not be where they are today if it had not been for Millikin.

What other writing opportunities have you had at Millikin?

Last year, I co-wrote Millikin’s first live episodic series, “Cheated,” with fellow students Kaylie Honkala and Ryan Kragie. I have also had some of my tanka, a form of short Japanese poetry, published in the journal, Atlas Poetica, in a collaborative collection with fellow student Joseph Bein; Dr. Carmella Brani-ger, associate professor of English; and Dr. Randy Brooks, professor of English. My tanka have also been featured in Collage, Millikin’s student-run literary journal. Finally, Bronze Man Books is publishing a chapbook of poetry I have written, “Winter Hearts.”

What have you taken from your time with Sigma Alpha Epsilon?
I had no intention of joining a fraternity, but I’m very grateful I did. I have made great friends, and it has afforded me many opportunities. SAE has taught me that there is nothing one cannot accomplish with the support and guidance of true friends, and what you gain from an organization or university all depends on what you give, so give your best and you will similarly profit.

Student activities:
• Intern for Millikin Quarterly magazine; duties include preparing student profiles for this report
• New member educator and past secretary for Sigma Alpha Epsilon
• Managing editor for Collage Literary Journal

Honors and awards:
• New Member Scholar award from Sigma Alpha Epsilon
• Order of Omega, Greek honors society
• Sigma Tau Delta, English honors society
• Dean’s list
• Attended 2010 Allerton Articulation Conference and 76th Annual John O. Moseley Leadership School

Community service:
• Head Start children’s tutoring program
• Children’s Miracle Network volunteer

Quote:
“Jackson is the kind of student some teachers wait a lifetime to meet,” says Dr. Carmella Branger, director of university studies and associate professor of English. “Not only am I lucky to have had Jackson in class, but we’ve also published collaborative poetry sequences together and co-presented at professional conferences. Students like Jackson inspire and motivate faculty to perform at their best. Dutiful, sharp, responsible, creative, respectful and sincere, Jackson authentically performs his role as a Millikin student — ‘THRIVE.’”
Kyle McAllister-Grum

Hometown: Wauconda, Ill.

Major: Philosophy and sociology with a political science minor

Graduation date: May 2012

What's next after Millikin?
I hope to attend either University of Chicago or University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana to complete a law degree.

Explain your experiences traveling overseas while attending Millikin.
I visited my father in St. Thomas last winter break. During the trip, he gave me a tour of the island’s poverty. I took pictures of beautiful graffiti that sat next to neighborhoods that looked like the historical images of Hoovervilles. While the trip did little to immediately change their living conditions, it did reaffirm a personal motivation to progress the idea of minimum living conditions. Understanding poverty doesn’t have to start and end in the classroom with Dr. Larry Troy, professor of sociology. There are areas all across the United States that should be personally witnessed to understand what poverty looks like.

How has Millikin’s award-winning Moot Court, which participates with the Model Illinois Government simulation, helped you grow as a student and a person?
Moot Court forced me to slow down and think about every spoken word and written text. I would occasionally skip a word or skim a phrase and assume I knew what an author wrote. However, Moot Court shows you the importance of the tiniest word. Legislators generally are very specific and put great meaning when they use conjunctions like ‘and’ or ‘or.’ Further, Moot Court has helped me to quickly see my family and friends’ issues in conflicts. Now that I force myself to listen, a lot less arguing occurs.

What is most rewarding about serving on Student Senate?
Student Senate is fundamental to ensure that the student body has a good experience at Millikin. Issues of security, food and funds can be discussed by the students in an open forum that allows for comfortable understanding. Having a part in creating the best atmosphere for hundreds of students rewards me with personal satisfaction.

Student activities:
• Moot Court
• Student Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences
• Sitting on the Council on Students and Academic Standards

Honors and awards:
• Scovill Prize recipient
• Dean’s list

Quote:
“I have absolutely loved working with Kyle,” says Dr. Larry Troy, a professor of sociology. “He is one of those rare students who combines a passion for the search for truth with a strong value orientation toward social justice. Majoring in both sociology and philosophy, he focuses his analytical talents on problems that plague those who face discrimination and inequality. He is a true expression of Millikin’s mission to pursue professional success and a life of meaning and value, while taking seriously his responsibilities for democratic citizenship.”
Autumn Morgan

Hometown: Crete, Ill.

Major: Psychology with minors in communication and dance

Graduation date: May 2012

What's next after Millikin?
After I graduate from Millikin, I will enter into either a graduate or doctorate program in consumer psychology.

What have you learned about leadership as president of Alpha Kappa Alpha?
As president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., I am learning how much I don’t know about leadership. Being a senior in college, I have held many leadership roles and I feel that I know a lot about leadership and how to be an effective leader, but what I am coming to find is that some things have to be learned through experience. Being president of a sorority is a new experience for me, and I can honestly say that I am learning new things daily. I feel that the role of president is preparing me to successfully enter the professional realm.

What is most rewarding about being a mentor for the StartSMART program?
The most rewarding part of being a StartSMART mentor is watching your mentee transition into their sophomore year of college. The reason this is so rewarding is because as a mentor, you remember your mentees as freshmen, their struggles and their fears. Having the opportunity to see them mature and develop is so rewarding. Thinking about my mentees truly brings a smile to my face.

Student activities:
- Millikin Sapphires dancer
- President of Physical Graffiti
- StartSMART Mentor
- Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
- Vice President and Treasurer of the Multicultural Student Council
- Charter Member and President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Honors and awards:
- Long-Vanderburg Caterpillar Scholar
- Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges
- Dean’s list
- Parent association achievement award

Community service:
Volunteer for Cheateux Elementary dance team
“Dinner Downtown” service project
Emerging Young Leaders Mentoring Program

Quote:
“Autumn Morgan embodies the heart and soul of the Long-Vanderburg Caterpillar Scholars Program,” says Dr. Anne Matthews, associate professor of English. “She is a delight to have in class; she is smart and funny, and she speaks her mind, which always takes class discussion in a new direction. Autumn is also highly ethical; she has a keen sense of what is right, and she lives her values as a student, as a member of the Millikin community and as a global citizen. I can’t wait to see what she does when she gets out into the ‘real world!’”
Alyssa Morrison

Hometown: Macomb, Ill.

Major: Double major in vocal performance and music business

Graduation date: May 2012

What's next after Millikin?
Shortly after graduation, I will move to northern California, probably take a little time off, and then audition for grad schools in the bay area. I want to perform. Oh, and I'm getting married in June!

What have your experiences abroad been like?
In 2009, I took an immersion course, traveling to Holland, Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. It certainly made for an interesting itinerary abroad: art museums, concentration camps and nightly jazz gigs. In 2010, I was fortunate enough to spend the summer in Italy in the Marche region, where I took language, movement and voice classes and performed opera scenes on the weekends.

What has been your favorite experience so far working with Millikin’s Opera Theatre?
My favorite opera experience at Millikin was the spring 2011 production of Mozart’s “Cosi fan tutte.” Thanks to wonderful professors and leaders, I was able to form a wonderfully intimate relationship with the music and characters. Plus, it was a blast.

What is most rewarding about being a tutor for ear training and music theory?
The simple answer is helping students succeed, but the reward actually lies much deeper. It’s a hunger and excitement for learning that I’m trying to stir up in my students. I feel especially compelled to get students excited about music theory and ear training because they are subjects that many students tend to dread. When these subjects become manageable and start to make sense, a student can appreciate his own musicianship in a new and very important way.

Student activities:
• EDGE mentor
• Music theory tutor
• MUCC
• Secretary for Alpha Lambda Delta honor society

Honors and awards:
• Scovill Prize recipient
• James Millikin Scholar
• High dean’s list
• Phi Kappa Phi member
• Pi Kappa Lambda Outstanding Music Theory and Music History Award

Community service:
• Homework Hangout tutor
• Salvation Army volunteer
• Orphan Aid Africa fundraiser

Quote:
“Ali has a rare combination of both intellectual rigor and emotional responsiveness to music,” says Terry Stone, lecturer of music. “Her enthusiasm, preparation and performance in concert and on stage are among the finest I have experienced at Millikin. I look forward to every rehearsal and lesson with Ali. I know she will be well prepared, bring her own insight into each assignment and yet remain open to criticism. Her passionate commitment to music brings out the best in everyone fortunate enough to work with her.”
Kyle Nicholson

Hometown: Decatur, Ill.

Major: Finance with a music minor

Graduation date: May 2013

What’s next after Millikin?
I could either play trumpet in a jazz combo on celebrity cruises or work in investment banking as a financial analyst. I could also work for a couple of years to become a chartered financial advisor and get some experience in the job market. Or I might continue working in the microfinance/nonprofit sector.

What are some of your experiences studying abroad?
I went on a two-week immersion to the Dominican Republic where students conducted a feasibility study to see if we could implement the Millikin Microfinance Fund there. The fund gives loans out to entrepreneurs, specifically women in poverty, to start small businesses to help them have a sustainable revenue source. We used research from the study to enter the Business Creation Challenge and compete for monetary awards. Now it’s an official organization on campus.

What are your future plans for the Millikin Microfinance Fund?
This winter, we are going back to the Dominican Republic to further develop contacts in the immersion. We aim to implement the concept at the end of the academic year, so we will be establishing the relationships necessary to begin our micro-lending operations.

What is most rewarding about playing in the Millikin Jazz Band?
It’s great to be a part of this strong music program, to learn from the professors and play with great musicians. I’ve been to the music festival at Elmhurst with the jazz band and the combo. It’s a big trip each year and our combo receives outstanding recognition.

Student activities:
- Fund manager of the Millikin Microfinance Fund
- Co-principal of the trumpet section of the Millikin Wind Ensemble
- Member of the Millikin Jazz Band
- Member of the Advanced Jazz Combo
- Member of Collegiate DECA
- Member of the Tabor student advisory board

Honors and awards:
- Scovill Prize recipient
- Second place winner at the Business Creation Challenge
- High dean’s list
- Tabor School of Business leadership award

Community service:
- iSmart Girls discovery camp volunteer

Quote:
“I’ve worked with Kyle as a professor and advisor in the Millikin Microfinance Fund,” says Dr. Mark Munoz, associate professor of international business. “Kyle is hardworking, dedicated and passionate about helping others. Aside from being highly intelligent and articulate, he has an innate ability to pioneer projects and rally people towards a goal or mission. These combined attributes put Kyle in a position to make a meaningful contribution in our world.”
**Student profile**

**Kelsey Nihiser**

**Hometown:** Decatur, Ill.  
**Major:** Marketing  
**Graduation date:** May 2012

**What’s next after Millikin?**  
After Millikin, I will pursue a career in marketing research.

**What was your role in developing Collegiate DECA?**  
My sophomore year, I was on the original team that founded Collegiate DECA. That year, as its vice president of administration, I helped lay the foundations for the organization. My junior year, I continued to lead in DECA as president-elect. This year, I am the president and, along with my wonderful team, am continuing to work at developing the organization.

**Why is Collegiate DECA important to you and Millikin?**  
Collegiate DECA has helped me grow, both personally and professionally. I know that I’ve had opportunities in DECA that I wouldn’t have had otherwise. I’ve met people and made friendships in DECA that I will have for a lifetime. DECA is important to Millikin because it provides opportunities for students to lead and to take what they’re learning in the classroom and apply it in real situations. It’s a place for people of all majors to develop professional skills. DECA is also important in terms of networking. Students connect to other students, students connect to faculty outside of the classroom, and students connect to local business leaders.

**What was your favorite experience abroad?**  
This past summer, I had the opportunity to travel to Italy with the international business consulting class. In the semester leading up to the trip, the class developed a market research report for a multi-national, multimillion dollar food company, Academia Barilla. We then went to Italy to present our findings to management at the company. One of my favorite memories of Italy was spending the afternoon at a mountaintop restaurant. After driving up winding, narrow roads, we had a wonderful home-cooked meal and spent the rest of the time enjoying gorgeous views, folk dancing and bocce ball. It felt authentically Italian.

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**Student activities:**  
- President of Collegiate DECA  
- Marketing director of the Millikin Microfinance Fund

**Honors and awards:**  
- Scovill Prize recipient  
- JoAnn Trow Award for Outstanding Sophomore Honors Student  
- Rising Student Leader of the Year award  
- Lincoln Academy Student Laureate award

**Community service:**  
- Congregation Council Member for the First Lutheran Church  
- Mentor for the iSmart Girls program

**Quote:**  
“Kelsey is a leader,” says Rick Bibb, associate professor of marketing. “She is very bright and works hard, but additionally she is inclusive and makes those around her better. She was one of the students who worked on a semester project for Academia Barilla and traveled to Parma, Italy, to present the group findings to management. They did a great job, and Kelsey was important to the project’s success.”
Danielle Osmond

Hometown: Mahomet, Ill.

Major: Elementary education and Spanish

Graduation date: May 2012

What’s next after Millikin?
I plan to travel and teach English abroad for at least a year.

What do you think is the most important step to achieving academic success?
I believe it is important to remind yourself why you are passionate about your major and find what works for you. Everyone has a different manner in which they can best absorb knowledge; I believe it is important to take time to personally discover how you learn best and apply it to your studies.

What new perspectives did you take home after studying at the University of Murcia in Spain?
I have developed a greater respect and understanding of a variety of different languages and cultures as well as a new respect for those in our country whose first language is not English. One thing which amazed me was that the students who had begun learning a second language at a young age did not consider learning an additional language a challenge. Additionally, the Europeans I encountered did not worry about daily deadlines and the little things nearly as much as the Americans I know. Instead, they devoted much of their time to enjoying the beauty of life, nature, art, music, etc. From this, I gained a new perspective on the importance of taking time to relax and enjoy life.

Do you think it would benefit young adults in the United States to learn a second language? Why?
Learning a second language has many benefits and is particularly important in the United States with the growing number of immigrants arriving from non-English speaking countries. Learning a second language helps individuals to be marketable, to more effectively communicate with those who speak another language and leads to a better understanding of one’s native language.

Student activities:
• Writing Center tutor
• President of Sigma Delta Pi Hispanic honors society
• Member of the Illinois Education Association
• Member of Pi Beta Phi

Honors and awards:
• Scovill Prize recipient
• Presidential Scholar
• James Millikin Scholar
• High dean’s list

Community service:
• iSmart Girls Discovery Camp volunteer
• Homework Hangout tutor

Quote:
“Dani and I met originally through our shared passion for educational travel,” says Dr. Christie Magoulas, assistant professor of education. “After visiting her in Murcia, Spain, I knew Dani was a confident and comfortable traveler and an intelligent and resourceful student. In class and in internships, she displays dispositions important for a future teacher — reflection, careful work and thought, flexibility and deep understanding of standard-based instruction in a field-based program. I am happy to be assisting her as she completes her JMS project — she has worked tenaciously to create a book of lesson plans for Spanish instruction at the preschool level.”

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Kari Ringgenberg

Hometown: Springdale, Ark.

Major: Vocal performance

Graduation date: May 2012

What's next after Millikin?
I plan to attend grad school in vocal performance to gain further education, training and performance opportunities.

What have your experiences abroad been like?
The summer after my sophomore year, I attended the New Brunswick Early Music Festival in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada. It was a month-long program with various classes, ensembles and a production of Purcell’s “The Fairy Queen.” Also, this past May, I went to Ireland, Scotland and England with the University Choir. We toured the countries singing in some of the oldest and most beautiful cathedrals, including St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin.

What is your favorite memory from the Atlantic Music Festival Summer Program?
My favorite memory from the Atlantic Music Festival is working with the wonderful faculty. I especially loved vocal coaching with Dr. Arlene Shrut from The Julliard School of Music and The Manhattan School of Music. She brought a new perspective and had a wonderful way of tweaking elements that brought the piece to life.

You worked with alumnus and international opera star Alan Held ’81 when he came to campus in 2010. What did you take from your time working with him?
Working with Alan Held was a wonderful opportunity. He helped me develop the character of my aria to fully portray a wide range of emotions. Also, getting constructive and positive feedback from such a prominent performer in the opera world was a blessing.

Student activities:
• President of University Choir
• Executive board of Sigma Alpha Iota
• Leader of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
• Director’s assistant for Tudor Voices

Honors and awards:
• Scovill Prize recipient
• Presser scholar
• Outstanding freshman and sophomore for Pi Kappa Lambda

Community service:
• Food server for Dinner Downtown
• Good Samaritan Inn volunteer
• Pregnancy Center volunteer
• United Way Day of Service volunteer

Quote:
“Working with Kari Ringgenberg has been a pleasure and a joy since she walked into the Perkinson Music Center four years ago,” says Cynthia Oeck, lecturer of music. “She is one of those students you delight in because she walks into your studio with an insatiable desire to learn every week. As a result, Kari has grown tremendously as a vocalist, musician and leader within the Millikin community as a whole. She represents, in many ways, what Millikin is all about: excellence not only in your chosen career path but engagement in your community and an awareness of the world as a whole.”
Yasmine Scott

Hometown: Chicago, Ill.

Major: Communication with a history minor

Graduation date: December 2011

What’s next after Millikin?
I hope to begin a graduate program in public history or begin work in the Chicago area.

What led you to be active in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and what has it taught you?
I wanted to leave behind a strong legacy of leadership and service. During my junior year, my best friend Tiara Britton ’11 encouraged me to seek more information about the organization, and once I did, I was astounded by the wealth of talent, knowledge and devotion that these women possess. I feel I have gained 13 sisters on this campus, as well as a connection to hundreds of thousands of great women across the world. This organization has taught me three of the best lessons I feel anyone can learn in life: Dare to be different, the best leaders are those that have mastered service in their community and the world, and true sisterhood is a bond that can never be broken.

Why do you think Student Senate is important to Millikin?
It gives the students a chance to take a more active role and allows their unified voice to be heard in a professional manner. Having participated in Student Senate for two-and-a-half years, I have a great respect and strong appreciation for those who are elected to serve. Their jobs are not easy and fun all the time, but the passion and dedication that it takes to serve even just for a semester can make a true leader out of anyone, and that is very valuable.

Student activities:
• Hope Academy mentor
• Library researcher
• Student Senate Vice President of Administration
• President of Italian Club
• Start Smart mentor
• Edge Program mentor
• Historian for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Honors and awards:
• Service Learning Scholar
• Long-Vanderburg Caterpillar Scholar
• Long-Vanderburg Caterpillar Scholar residential mentor
• Junior student leader of the year

Community service:
• Decatur community street cleanings
• Nike Reuse-a-Shoe project
• Music theory tutor
• Good Samaritan Inn volunteer
• Operation Angel Tree volunteer

Quote:
“Yasmine is simply a delight in the classroom,” says Dan Monroe, assistant professor of history. “She regularly offers pertinent questions and comments that spur discussion of the course material. The depth of her intellectual curiosity is reflected in her desire for independent study under my direction. Her final research papers from these endeavors displayed a strong command of the relevant literature and excellent critical thinking.”
Rozielle Smith

Hometown: Tucson, Ariz.

Program: Master's Entry Nursing Program (MENP)*

Graduation date: December 2013

What's next after Millikin?
I think the most exciting thing about Millikin is all the doors it opens for you, but I'm looking into pediatric nursing on the west side of the country, probably Colorado. I just know I want to do pediatrics.

What led you to pursue a master's degree in nursing?
I just had a lot of personal experiences on the other side, and I really saw the magnitude of effect the nurses had. They do things that doctors can't. I guess I'd like to say that nurses saved my life and I'd like to do that for some little girl, too. When you get into graduate school, they're always asking what your experience in the field is, and mine is more from the patient's side. Something I'd really like to do for the future is art therapy in pediatrics.

What interests you about art therapy?
Art and crafts have always been my therapeutic release, so in high school I took a stained glass summer school course for fun, which turned into a job offer. After over five years of working at the shop, I progressed from novice to intern to apprentice, and finally to "official" stained glass artist where I was designing and constructing the panels by myself.

Why did Millikin appeal to you in your search for your master's degree?
I majored in biology at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. Millikin was appealing because it had a fabulous reputation. I knew I would get a higher quality education here than I would anywhere else. And it was appealing that it was an accelerated master's program.

Student activities:
- Varsity Women's Soccer
- Alpha Phi Omega Pledge Educator
- Alpha Phi Omega Treasurer

Honors and awards:
- Section 47 2010 Leader of the Year

Quote:
"I have had the pleasure of working with Rozie as a nursing student since she began the Master's Entry into Nursing Practice in July 2011. She is a highly motivated, enthusiastic student who is outstanding in theory as well as the clinical practice component of the nursing course," says Dr. Mary Jane Linton, associate professor of nursing. "Because of her kind, compassionate, positive approach to patients, they frequently request that she return again as their nurse. Rozie's motivation and positive attitude remind us of why we are called to nursing education. I look forward to each time I work with her in the classroom or clinical practice, as each one-on-one interaction with her is rewarding. I am certain that she will be exemplary as a professional nurse upon graduation from the Millikin School of Nursing."

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*Millikin's MENP allows non-nursing college graduates the opportunity to complete an accelerated master's degree in nursing.
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Millikin has offered me great opportunities, from professional relationships to performance learning and great memories. Looking back on my Millikin experience, I think the smaller class size (student to faculty ratio of 11.6:1 in fall 2010) gives students the opportunity to have personal relationships with the highly qualified professors. Giving to the Millikin Fund definitely directly impacts all students at Millikin. Please consider giving back by supporting the Millikin Fund this year. Your gift helps ensure that students are getting the highest quality of higher education.

Meg Starasinich ’12
Communication major

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