who is your favorite band or artist?

I can't say that I have one favorite artist, but Sufjan Stevens and Andrew Bird are pretty up there.

What is your favorite song?

I really love "Passenger seat" by Death Cab for Cutie. The whole aesthetic of the song makes me feel calm. I imagine leaning back in the passenger seat of a car while someone drives me safely down a highway late at night.

What is your favorite album?

One of my favorite albums is "The Moon & Antarctica" by Modest Mouse. It has this wonderful air of desperation and excitement that happen simultaneously.

What is the last song to get stuck in your head?

Nat King Cole's version of "Unforgettable." It really was unforgettable!

What is the first music you remember listening to?

My mom really loves to clean and listen to Vivaldi, so it's either that or something from Barney.

How do you find new music?

Friends; festival line-ups; websites like prettymuchamazing.com, Pitchfork.com, and NPRMusic.com; the "related artists" option on Spotify.com and Youtube.com; and different music blogs.

When was your first concert?

Who did you see?

I saw Death Cab for Cutie and Hot Hot Heat my freshman year of high school.

When was your most recent concert?

Who did you see?

My last concert was at Millikin when Kids These Days and Young Buffalo came to the Oakwood Street Festival in September.

Ty Warden '13 is a senior double major in Communication and English. He was a writing intern for the Alumni and Development Office earlier this year.
IN THIS ISSUE

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Learn how incorporating functional foods such as fresh fruit and veggies, wild fish and nuts could lead to a healthier lifestyle.

10 Looking Back
Although the activities and customs may have changed dramatically through the years, Homecoming remains a beloved tradition.

20 Cover Story
Brooks across the pond: A 2006 alum’s journey to the 2012 Summer Olympics came down to one last throw in Eugene, Ore.

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ON THE COVER: Lance Brooks ’06 stands in his parents’ equipment shed in New Berlin, Ill. Throughout high school, Brooks practiced his discus technique by standing at the edge of this shed and throwing into his backyard. For more about Brooks’ journey to the 2012 Olympic Games, see page 20.
Dear alumni and friends,

The power of education enables individuals to transcend and transform themselves. It is the catalyst that helps a person make a life, not just a living. It’s the enabling characteristic of how anyone makes life changes.

Education is not an end in itself. It releases the potential. Time and time again, alumni have told me, “I don’t know where I would have been if not for Millikin.” They also tell me that the value of their Millikin education increases as time passes, and they draw more and more from the lessons they learned as students. They express gratitude for the enormous changes that happened in them from their freshman to senior years. During that time, their professors led them to either refine or confirm their own personal values. They learned to approach topics with a mature and reflective thoughtfulness that still serves them long after graduation.

That’s not to say an individual can’t succeed without a college education. Each of us can cite examples of those who achieved outstanding professional and personal success despite a lack of formal education. However, it’s apparent that we all need the catalyst of some type of education to transform ourselves. Think of how you were empowered by what you learned from your parents, teachers and/or ministers. Then think about the great values that we espouse at Millikin:

- 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

These values have also been the hallmarks of American culture since the colonial days. They are embedded in our Constitution, instilling a foundation of tradition behind what we do at Millikin to deliver on the promise of education.

The environment found at this university feeds this transformational process, and Millikin’s unique educational model of performance learning is the engine that drives the transformation. At our university, the true value of James Millikin’s concept of combining theory and practice plays out in performance learning. Performance learning empowers students to tackle the big questions of life as well as the practical applications of their chosen professions. And that, in and of itself, is transforming.

President Jeffcoat and Zoe Creighton, Dennis Elementary School student, get their hands dirty at a planting event for The Learning Garden. Zoe is the daughter of Hal and Beth Mason Creighton ’01, adjunct faculty member in the School of Music. The garden, planted in late summer with fall-harvest crops, is just one of the Dennis-Millikin partnerships focused on furthering efforts to pilot a lab-school relationship between the two entities based on project-based learning. Plans are for Dennis to continue to be a neighborhood school, enrolling students who live within its boundaries. Millikin students from various disciplines, including education, will work with the Dennis staff to implement other projects that keep students and their families engaged in learning. See page 5 for more details.
Hello, Goodbye
AND SOMETHING IN-BETWEEN

SAY HELLO TO THE NEW QUARTERLY.
In my last column, I said we’d be transforming this magazine with a new design and some new features, to be rolled out in this issue. Quarterly was overdue for a change. The magazine debuted in 1985 and underwent design and content changes in the 1990s. Since then, it has remained largely unchanged.

So, what do you think? Let us know. Send an email to millikinquarterly@millikin.edu or call us toll free at 1-877-JMU-ALUM. Feel free to suggest story ideas or even new features. This is a work in progress, and I’m sure we’ll be adjusting as we go along. Stay tuned.

GOODBYE
In early September, Dave Brandon was named interim vice president of alumni and development at Millikin, after serving the university as director of development since 1997. Dave brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his appointment heading the alumni and development office.

His new role was precipitated by the resignation of former vice president of alumni and development Peg Smith Luy ’75, who accepted a position as executive vice president for advancement at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Peg has loved this university and its people since her student days, and I know that will never change, despite the physical distance now between her and her beloved Big Blue. Her joy at hearing of a success by a student or an alumnus was only equaled by her great delight in helping others discover the joy of giving to this university so that future generations of students could thrive here, too.

During her 16-year tenure as VP, she and her staff raised more than $182 million in donations to Millikin through two capital campaigns that have endowed numerous scholarships for deserving students; transformed the west side of campus, and much more than I have space to list here. We have about $30 million yet to raise to complete the funding needed to create a new student center and homes for the theatre & dance and exercise science & sport departments – all vital needs. I know Peg will be cheering loudly in Michigan the day we raise that final dollar, and it’s my hope that our alumni and friends will choose to recognize her legacy at Millikin by designating gifts to this university campaign in her honor.

We’ve all heard the expression about people who leave “footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.” Peg Luy is one of those people. The thing is, I think she must wear size 14 boots because of the size and depth of the imprint she left on, not just my heart, but the hearts of so many MU alumni, friends and employees.

SOMETHING IN-BETWEEN
Goodbye to an old policy and hello to a new one: As we were working on the Quarterly transformation this summer, a heated discussion sprang up on the Millikin Alumni Facebook page concerning a long-standing class notes policy of listing the wedding announcements of same-sex unions in the general class notes section of the magazine and not under Marriages. Although as editor, I was given heat for what many perceived as a long-overdue change, I was proud of our alumni for not hesitating to speak up about an area where they felt transformation was needed. It speaks well of the quality of a Millikin education and directly to the heart of our mission. To those who participated in the discussion, I thank you for your comments, and I hope you’ll continue to stay engaged with this magazine and Millikin University. Although as editor, I was given heat for what many perceived as a long-overdue change, I was proud of our alumni for not hesitating to speak up about an area where they felt transformation was needed. It speaks well of the quality of a Millikin education and directly to the heart of our mission. To those who participated in the discussion, I thank you for your comments, and I hope you’ll continue to stay engaged with this magazine and Millikin University. As a result of your votes, the policy has been changed; the revised section of class notes has been renamed Weddings and will include both types of unions.

As I said last issue, I do love hearing from our alumni and friends, even when they offer constructive criticism instead of compliments, and the above discussion was an example of that. Our staff’s goal is to produce the best university magazine possible, one that truly reflects the unique quality of the Millikin performance-learning experience and the resulting aspirations and successes of our students and alumni. Have a story to tell or a letter to share? Let me know at millikinquarterly@millikin.edu.
ARE YOU LOYAL BLUE?

Are you loyal to the Big Blue in all that you do? Then join the Loyal Blue Club!

This new club honors MU alumni and friends who support the university by:

- Making a gift
- Keeping in touch with information updates
- Staying involved through events, activities and volunteerism

Staying connected to Millikin in all three ways qualifies you for automatic membership in the Loyal Blue Club. Club members receive a variety of benefits, including recognition in Millikin Quarterly magazine, special members-only events and premiums, and recognition at each Homecoming.

To qualify for the Loyal Blue Club, you must complete one item from each category during each fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

Learn more at www.millikin.edu/alumni/loyalblue or call the Millikin alumni & development office toll free at 1-877-JMU-ALUM (568-2586).

READY TO GET STARTED ON YOUR LOYAL BLUE MEMBERSHIP?

Host an event for Millikin friends in your area! We’ll send you a free Millikin Party Pack to get the party started. It will give you all the tools you need to host a great Millikin-themed party that shows your Big Blue spirit. Here’s how it works:

- Email your request for a Millikin Party Pack to alumnews@millikin.edu at least one month in advance. (Requests are subject to approval by the Alumni Office staff.) Please include the name and shipping address for the Party Pack. Once approved, we will send the party pack at least 1-2 weeks prior to the event.

- At the time of your request, tell us the date, location, time, participant numbers and purpose of the event. If you are hosting an event for Millikin in your town, we will assist with advertising your event to local Millikin alumni.

- Once the event has occurred, please send us a photo of the event and list of participants (and any updated contact information) electronically at alumnews@millikin.edu or by mail, using the envelope included in the Millikin Party Pack.
MU Welcomes
THREE NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

**PAT BORDERS** ’82 of Roanoke, Va., completed his bachelor’s degree from Millikin while working in his family’s businesses in concrete, trucking and heavy/highway construction. During that time, his involvement with state and national associations in concrete and construction led to his involvement with both national and international organizations manufacturing products for the industry.

In late 1982, Borders joined a U.S. chemical division of Martin Marietta, working through positions of director of marketing and market development. Over the next few years, he rose to become the vice president of specialty products for Texas Industries; and later served as vice president of marketing for the Swiss chemical firm Sika.

In 1997, he became head of marketing for the Titan America business of Athens-based Titan Cement S.A., a heavy mining and materials producer of portland cement products. During the past 15 years, he has served as president for each of Titan’s three business units, working to develop conventional and proprietary market and technology opportunities in the U.S., Canada, Europe and the Far East.

**DEBRA BREEDING JOHNSTON** ’89 of Decatur completed her bachelor’s degree from Millikin and is a certified public accountant. She has served as corporate treasurer and then chief financial officer for Johnston Super Markets Inc., a company based in Shelbyville, Ill., which owned and operated supermarkets throughout Central Illinois and later Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Johnston currently serves as secretary-treasurer and as a member of the board of directors of Green Valley Manufacturing Inc. in Mt. Zion, Ill. The firm manufactures quick tool change equipment for stamping and injection molding presses in multiple industries and has presences in the U.S., Mexico, Malaysia and other markets.

She also serves as board secretary for International Control Services of Decatur, a contract manufacturer of electronic circuit control boards for multiple firms, both domestic and international.

Johnston currently serves as a member of the Decatur Memorial Hospital Foundation board of directors and is a member of the DMH Auxiliary and Grace United Methodist Church.

**DOUG HEIN** ’87 is president of Lincoln Diagnostics, which designs and produces allergy skin-testing systems that are sold throughout the U.S. and in more than 40 countries.

Hein began his career in information technologies and manufacturing at Sola Electric, a subsidiary of General Signal Corp. He subsequently held positions at Underwriters Laboratories and Quill Corporation, prior to returning to Decatur in 1997 to join the company founded by his father, who was also a Millikin trustee. In the field of allergy diagnostics, Hein holds multiple patents in the U.S. and Canada.

Born in Decatur, Hein earned his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Millikin. During his college career, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega, the Millikin Marketing Association and worked as an assistant in the computer science lab.

Hein is involved in coaching youth football and is an active supporter of various community organizations. He is an involved member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and also a volunteer for its school, where he is a member of the school board and previously served as its president.

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In late August, dozens of Millikin students, faculty and staff members joined community volunteers to help create The Learning Garden, part of the thriving Dennis-Millikin Lab School Project.

The growing plants, designed for a fall harvest, were reflective of the growing relationship between Millikin and Dennis Elementary School, which is located slightly west from the campus property where the garden was established. Representatives of the university and the school are working together toward the goal of partnering to make Dennis a lab school for the university, with MU students already getting regular hands-on experience working with the Dennis students.

Matt Andrews ’99 is current principal at Dennis and also attended there as a child.

“We will consider you teachers,” Andrews was quoted in the Decatur Herald & Review as telling a group of Millikin sophomore education majors who recently toured his school. “This is where you take the theory you are learning and put it into practice.”

Just like The Learning Garden, the Dennis-Millikin Lab School project is growing the seeds that lead to a well-rounded educational experience.

MU Once Again Earns Top Marks

The world outside the “Milli-bubble” continues to recognize Millikin as a great institution of higher learning. In addition to last month’s selection by Forbes magazine as one of America’s Best Colleges 2012, recent accolades include:

MU is listed as one of the Midwest’s best colleges in The Princeton Review’s 2013 college selection guide. The guide also recommends Millikin as one of the “Best in the Midwest” on PrincetonReview.com.

U.S. News & World Report’s 2013 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” ranked Millikin as the No. 8 Regional College in the Midwest. Millikin was also included in a list of select schools from across the country designated as “A-Plus Schools for B Students.”

Millikin has been named a 2013 Military Friendly School. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools doing the most to welcome America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

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Campus News

Brandon Named Interim VP

David Brandon has been named interim vice president for alumni and development following the August resignation of Peg Smith Luy ’75.

Brandon joined Millikin as director of development in 1997. He previously had a successful career as a broadcast journalist with a local television station.

“He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his interim appointment,” said Dr. Harold Jeffcoat, Millikin’s president.

Luy resigned to accept a position with Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Mich. A national search for the position is expected to be conducted next year.

Tabor Seeks New Dean

A search for a new dean for the Tabor School of Business is underway, following the July resignation of Dr. James Dahl to serve as associate dean of undergraduate affairs at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Jim Watson, associate professor emeritus of economics, was named interim dean until a replacement dean can be named. Qualified alumni are encouraged to apply for the dean position at www.millikin.edu/human-resources/Pages/default.aspx.
Softball, Tennis Find New Coaches

Amber Dohlman is new head softball coach after serving as an assistant softball coach at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Dohlman takes over a successful softball program that boasts three straight 20-plus win seasons under coach Debbie Kiick. Kiick will now focus on the MU volleyball program and assist with softball. Dohlman will reciprocate as assistant volleyball coach.

Dustin Forman is the new head women’s tennis coach and coordinator of student programs.

Forman was assistant tennis coach at Broward College in Davie, Fla., and tennis coach at American Heritage School in Plantation, Fla. He also was a community relations assistant with the Miami Dolphins during the 2008-09 season.

Golfer Plays in U.S. Amateur Tournament

In August, the Big Blue’s Wes Hillen ’13 played in the U.S. Amateur Championship at Cherry Hills Country Club in Denver, Colo.

Hillen qualified for the U.S. Amateur golf tournament after finishing in a tie for second place at a qualifying tournament in St. Louis. In that tournament, he shot a two-round total of one over par 143, finishing three shots behind Kansas State golfer Kyle Weldon.

Two Record-holding Athletes Honored for Outstanding Performance

Spring graduates Kelsy England ’12 (right), formerly of Highland, Ill., and Brittany Sherron ’12 (left), formerly of Rockville, Ind., received the Lindsay Medallion award at a football game in late September.

The Lindsay Medallion, named in honor of the late F. Merrill Lindsay, trustee emeritus, and his late wife, “Sis” Lindsay, has been presented annually since 1997 to honor the Big Blue’s top student-athletes for outstanding performances on their respective teams.

Kelsy England dug, spiked and aced her way into the record books for the Big Blue volleyball team, distinguishing herself athletically and academically. England holds the Millikin career record for kills and both first and second place records for kills in a season. She also is third in the record book for career digs and tied for fourth in career service aces.

During her four years competing for the Big Blue, England received several honors, including being named to the 2010 CoSIDA/ESPN Academic All-District Second Team. She was named to the CCIW All-Conference First Team and the AVCA All-Region Team three times during her Millikin career and was twice named to the AVCA All-American Second Team. She was also named to the CCIW Academic All-Conference Team all four years.

“During the past two seasons, Kelsy has been the unstoppable spotlighted player that led Millikin volleyball to first- and second-place finishes in the CCIW,” says Debbie Kiick, head women’s volleyball coach. “A four-year letter-winner, strong student and campus leader, Kelsy has all of the qualities the Lindsay Medallion represents.”

England majored in nursing while at Millikin. She recently moved to Springfield, Ill., and is a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Memorial Medical Center. She plans to return to school to become a nurse practitioner.

A stand-out member of the Big Blue track and field team, Brittany Sherron excelled in throwing events during her career. A school record-holder in the discus with a throw of 46.46 meters, Sherron is also in the record books as number two all-time in the weight throw and the indoor shot put.

A three-time qualifier for the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Sherron earned All-America status with a fifth-place finish in discus in 2010.

During her senior year, Sherron was CCIW champion in both the weight throw and the discus. She was also named to the All-Conference Team in indoor and outdoor shot put. As a freshman, she was named to the All-Conference Team in discus, shot put and weight throw. During her sophomore year, Sherron was the CCIW discus champion and named All-Conference in indoor shot put. In 2011, she earned All-Conference status in discus, hammer and weight throw.

Sherron was named to the CCIW Academic All-Conference Team during all four years with the Big Blue, and as a sophomore, she was named to the USTRCCA Division III All-Academic Track Team.

“Brittany is an exceptional athlete and student both on the field and in the classroom,” says Dirk Doehring ’02, head coach of track & field and cross country. “She has been an excellent example of what a Millikin student-athlete should be.”

Sherron majored in biology and was a Leighty Science Scholar. She is a medical student at Indiana University School of Medicine.
The home of Millikin’s first president, Albert Reynolds Taylor, has come full circle and is now the home of MU’s current president, Dr. Hal Jeffcoat and his wife, Marie. In 1918, Taylor and his wife, Minerva, had moved into their newly constructed home on Fairview Avenue, never realizing that nearly 100 years later, it would house another university president.

Following Albert Taylor’s death in 1929, Minerva moved to Kansas with their two daughters, and the house was purchased by the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. It served as their chapter house from 1930 to 1935.

The house was then briefly leased and also owned by Al and Iola VanZetti. Eventually, it was purchased in 1951 by Royce and Mickey Huss, parents of Dr. Stephen Huss, a current member of Millikin’s board of trustees, and his two sisters, Lynette and Martha. The Huss family occupied the house from 1951 to 2001. (Coincidentally, Mickey’s father was Rufus Bruner, a carpenter who helped build the house in 1918.)

According to Dr. Huss, houses lined Fairview Avenue at that time, and he and his sisters knew every family. The house next door on the north was the Pi Beta Phi sorority house, so there was always a ready source of babysitters, too. To the south lived Eva Davis Casey, class of 1910, who often invited the children over to visit. Several MU professors also lived on the street, including Bonnie Blackburn, namesake of Blackburn Hall, who lived in a house where the Alpha Chi Omega sorority house is now located.

Following the death of Royce Huss, Millikin purchased the house and named it Huss House in honor of the family. The university used it as a guest house until 2011, when the Jeffcoats came to campus. The couple made it their home following his appointment as president, citing their desire to be involved in university activities.

“It’s great to have that access to campus,” President Jeffcoat said at the time. “I think it’s important that a president take a highly visible part in the life of the institution.”

Stephen Huss is pleased with this new life for his former childhood home. “My sisters and I are deeply honored that Millikin has preserved this house and named it the Huss House,” he says.

Information obtained from a history written by Trustee Stephen Huss, husband of Carol Hopkins Huss ’70 and son of the late Royce Huss ’37. Compiled by Todd Rudat, former university archivist.

President Albert Taylor
FUNCTIONAL FOODS

SN'T IT ABOUT time you invested in you?
As individuals, we invest so much time and passion into our families and professions, yet we often neglect our bodies and take our health for granted until it catches up with us. The time to invest in your health is now.

Approximately 70 percent of all deaths in the United States are related to lifestyle, and 90 percent of these individuals die prematurely. Achieving good health does not mean you have to give up all the foods you love or that you have to run a marathon to enjoy the health benefits of leading an active lifestyle. Even a series of small steps can make a big difference, and I hope that you will be able to use some of the following suggestions to help you lead a longer, healthier life.

Have you heard of functional foods? Functional foods provide health benefits beyond the basic nutrition obtained from carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. Functional foods include plant phytochemicals (antioxidants and nutraceuticals) and animal zoochemicals. Examples of phytochemicals include flavanols, lutein, lycopene, proanthocyanidins and soy. Zoochemicals include Omega 3 fatty acids. While these words are a mouthful, it is easy to assess whether you’re consuming them by answering a few simple questions.

| Invest in you | by Tina Cloney Ph.D., M.S.P.H., R.D., C.S.S.D., L.D.N., C.D.E. |

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1. **How Colorful is My Plate?**

While some colorful foods are rich in healthy carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, their hue is a hint that they may offer additional health benefits. For example:

**Red**
Lycopene may help prevent prostate cancer. Examples include cherries, cranberries, raspberries, red cabbage, strawberries, tomatoes and watermelon.

**Yellow/orange**
Carotenoids may reduce risk of heart disease. Examples include apricots, cantaloupe, corn, carrots, lemons, mangos, oranges and pineapple.

**Green**
Sulforaphane may help prevent cancer. Examples include artichokes, avocados, collards, cucumbers, green grapes, kiwi, dark green lettuce and spinach.

**Blue/purple**
Anthocyanins may help lower blood pressure, boost memory and reduce risk of heart disease. Examples include blackberries, blueberries, eggplant, plums, purple cabbage, purple grapes and raisins.

**White/brown**
Allicin may help lower cholesterol and risk of heart disease. Examples include bananas, cauliflower, garlic, jicama, onions, pears, potatoes and turnips.

2. **Do I Consume a Diet Rich in Wild Fish and Nuts?**

Wild fish feed on Omega 3-rich algae and plankton on the ocean floor. Consuming wild fish provides a rich source of Omega 3s and selenium, another antioxidant. Try baking or grilling, and seasoning with lemon, spices and herbs. Deep frying cancels the benefits of the Omega 3s and selenium. In some studies, diets rich in wild fish and nuts have been found to significantly lower risk of heart disease and recurrent heart attack.

**Bottom Line**

1. **Choose a more colorful plate.** Try to consume fruit with all your meals. Fresh fruit is best for dietary fiber. Add two vegetables to your lunch and dinner. Boiling your vegetables can leach out precious nutrients. Fruits and vegetables are low in calories and fat, can promote a feeling of fullness and can offset unwanted calories from chips, fries and mayonnaise-based salads. Try using I Can’t Believe It’s Not Butter or Parkay butter spray instead of margarine or butter to omit some of the unhealthier types of fat and sodium, yet keep the flavor.

2. **Choose wild fish.** Try consuming wild fish three days a week or nine ounces a week – but don’t fry it. Salmon, herring, trout, tuna and sardines are great sources of Omega 3s. Beware of bottom dwellers such as shark, mackerel and albacore canned tuna due to potentially higher mercury levels.

3. **Eat more nuts.** Nuts such as peanuts, cashews and almonds are a great source of monounsaturated fat and can help you lower your total cholesterol and bad cholesterol (LDL cholesterol). Walnuts are one of the best types of polyunsaturated fat and have been shown in some studies to lower the risk of recurring heart attack when consumed in conjunction with wild fish.

Why not make it your goal to add each of these three options one at a time as a goal each week to start leading a healthier lifestyle? Once you accomplish this goal and it becomes a part of your routine, set another goal. Before you know it, you will be leading a much healthier lifestyle!

---

**Dr. Tina Cloney** is a health and nutrition professor in the College of Professional Studies, division of exercise science and sport. She is a registered dietitian, certified diabetes educator and board certified specialist in sports dietetics. Her passion is communicating the role of nutrition in sport performance and nutrition and exercise in disease prevention and management.
FASHION TIMELINE: A Glimpse of Big Blue Royalty Through the Years

1932
FUR OPTIONAL: Charlene Levinson Cooperman ’35 was MU’s first homecoming queen. As befitting her queenly status, Charlene wore fur.

1947
SAY IT WITH FLOWERS: Patsy Shumate Lumm ’48 was crowned with flowers by Eber Spence, then president of the Alumni Association.

1959
HER HEART WAS FULL AND SO WAS HER SKIRT: Carole Brooks Schroeder ’60 wore fashionable long gloves at her coronation ceremony.

1966
PRETTY IN PLAID: Meg Andelman Keller ’67 chose plaid attire for her convertible ride past the marching band at the football game.

1972
IT WAS THE ’70s: Frances Hoeltgen Harrington ’73 clearly reflects the laid-back ’70s with her long hair and peasant style of dress.

BRINGING IT HOME
[ How homecoming has changed ] by Amanda Pippitt

WHICH U.S. COLLEGE or university had the first homecoming celebration? This is a hotly debated topic, with Baylor (1909), Indiana University (1910), and the University of Illinois (1910) all making claims to early celebrations of fall homecomings. The first event at Millikin to be called a “homecoming” was held not in the fall, but in the spring May 12-13, 1911, in conjunction with Founder’s Day. Although there was no big football game, Millikin did play Lincoln College in a tennis match, faced Rose Polytechnic Institute in a track meet and battled Bradley Polytechnic Institute in a baseball game. The glee club and band entertained Millikinites on Saturday evening, and a circus set up its canopy on Millikin’s field. Ticket proceeds from the track meet, baseball game and circus helped raise funds for a new gymnasium and pool.

Plans to change to a fall homecoming came soon after. In 1911, alumnus Ben Wand wrote the Decaturian to suggest that current plans to move homecoming to the Thanksgiving football game were not ideal for alumni or current students, who preferred to spend the holiday at home with their families. “What we need at Millikin to foster college spirit and to promote intimate relationship between those who have gone and the active student body,” he wrote, “is a fixed date for a homecoming to be decided by the ruling student organization ... after the same plan as is used at the University of Illinois ... [which is] earlier in the fall when chances for good weather are better.”

Later letters to the newspaper from students and alumni agreed that early fall would be a preferred time, and Millikin held its first fall homecoming Nov. 12-13, 1915. The inaugural homecoming football game featured Millikin vs. Illinois Wesleyan, a well-established rivalry that was sure to attract alumni to the festivities for, as the October 1915 Decaturian said, what alumnus wouldn’t “travel for miles” to see Millikin “beat Wesleyan, get Wesleyan’s goat, hang it on Wesleyan and otherwise clean up on our revered friends from Bloomington?” While Millikin was...
looking back

1976
MU HISTORY: The Big Blue’s first African-American queen, Jennifer Friday and the first king, Mark Kuhnke, both ’77, in their ’70s garb.

1985
THE TROPHY LOOKS GOOD ON YOU: Angie Sparks Lawrence ’85 and Kent Dixon ’86, accessorized with flowers and a trophy.

1993
TUX AND SCEPTER – CHECK. LET’S DANCE: Dave Stuckey and Angie Snellenberger Quinn, both ’94, set a formal tone as MU royalty.

2008
THE SASHES SAY IT ALL: In recent years, sashes have designated homecoming royalty, including Jaclyn Weisenborn and Alex Berry, both ’09.

2011
CASUAL ATTIRE: King Eric Burbgett and his queen Kaitlin Brassil, both ’12, wear polos to the homecoming halftime ceremony at the football game.

not able to make good on their boasts, all enjoyed the parade through town, class luncheons, senior play, decorations, chapel exercises and a bonfire.

The freshman-sophomore scrap tradition became part of homecoming in 1917. This series of athletic contests between the freshman and sophomore classes featured various events over the years, including a tug of war, football game, pole race, archery contest, obstacle course, hockey game and basketball game. The scrap tradition took a hiatus for several years during World War II, but returned for the 1948 homecoming festivities and lasted until 1966.

Millikin’s first homecoming dance was held at Decatur’s Hotel Orlando in 1921, where attendees were allowed the privilege of staying until 11:30 p.m. Another tradition commonly associated with homecoming celebrations nationwide, the homecoming queen, began in 1932 with the crowning of Charlene Levinson, then a sophomore member of Zeta Tau Alpha. The queen contest (there was no homecoming king until 1976) was sponsored by Millikin’s Women’s Athletic Association (W.A.A.), and Levinson rode their float in the homecoming parade.

Some of these early homecoming traditions have fallen by the wayside over the years, and others have come and gone, but some have stayed the course. Every homecoming brings together old friends, fond memories and a celebration of school spirit. What Millikin homecoming tradition do you remember fondly? Let us know at millikin-quarterly@millikin.edu.

Amanda Pippitt is Millikin’s access services coordinator, archivist and research instruction librarian. She has worked at the university since 2004. She earned her master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and also holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in anthropology.
TRANSFORM YOUR RESUME, GET MORE INTERVIEWS

by Pam Folger

In today’s fiercely competitive job market, you need to step up your game to be considered for a job interview, and the best way is through a standout resume. With numerous applicants for limited openings, your resume must rise above the others. Even if you network your way to an interview for an unadvertised job position, you still must submit an excellent resume for consideration. Your resume is the foundation of your job search and well worth an investment of your time and energy.

These basic principles will help you create a resume that will capture attention:

1. Your resume needs a great format and excellent content. No employer will read your resume if your format is not well-organized and appealing, no matter how impressive the content may be. On the other hand, if you have a great format, but less-than-stellar content, you still won’t get an interview. Employers are looking for accomplishments and skills that make you uniquely qualified for the position. The person reviewing your resume will likely scan it for only 15-20 seconds, so make it count.

2. Proofread for typos! Employers will toss out resumes with spelling, grammatical and/or diction errors, so avoid this costly mistake by proofreading.

3. Always target your resume to the job you seek. Highlight and match your skills and experiences to the specific job qualifications. Show the employer you are well-qualified for the position.

4. In your resume’s heading, contact information should include a phone number with an area code and an email address. Make sure to have a professional voice message and a professional email address such as joe.jobseeker@gmail.com. Do not use your current work email address. Potential employers may think that you are willing to conduct your job search on work time, plus your current employer may also be monitoring employee email.

5. Separate your heading from the content of your resume with a line. This draws attention to the area directly under your heading. This is the most important real estate on your resume; use it wisely to present important information that will entice the employer to keep reading and bring you in for an interview.

6. Do you need an objective? Generally, an objective is not needed unless you are unsure whether there is a job opening or if you know a particular employer wants to see it on your resume. If you list one, keep it concise, such as: To obtain a graphic design position at Jump Company.

7. Know your degree! You’d be surprised how many people don’t know if they earned a bachelor of arts, bachelor of science or some other degree. Employers typically verify this information, and it could make or break your chance of getting an interview.

8. List your major correctly, without modifying it. Resist the temptation to list a concentration as your major because you think
it might be more appealing to an employer. For instance, you may have majored in communication with a concentration in public relations, but listing your major as public relations is misrepresenting your academic credentials. This may hinder your ability to be hired. Here’s the correct way to list a degree and major:

**Bachelor of Arts in Communication**
Concentration in Public Relations
Millikin University, Decatur, IL

9 Include your college grade point average (GPA) only if it is 3.0 or higher or if there is a GPA requirement you must meet for the position you seek. Include this information in your education section, listed in this style: GPA 3.2/4.0.

10 Generally, recent college graduates list their education section immediately after the heading and the objective (if one is used). If you are not a recent graduate, you should list your education at the bottom of your resume. This format may vary depending on the specific job industry, so make sure to find out the expectations for resumes in your field.

11 If you have substantial career experience, create a section highlighting accomplishments most relevant to the job you seek. Call this section “Summary of Qualifications,” “Professional Summary” or something similar. This section should include powerful statements about you in a bullet-point format to maximize chances it will be read. Quantify when possible, using the actual numeral so it stands out to the reader. As an example: “Over 5 years of leadership and management experience, having supervised as many as 7 employees at one time.”

12 The next section should be “Career-Related Experience” or “Professional Experience.” List job titles first in bold, with dates of employment next to this (month/year to month/year). Below this, list the name of the company/organization followed by the location (city/state). Finally, include approximately five bullet points highlighting your job accomplishments specific to the position, quantifying where appropriate. Avoid the tendency to present a laundry list of your job duties. Positions should be listed in reverse chronological order, with the most recent experience first, unless you have past experience that is more relevant to the job you are seeking. In that case, the most relevant should come first so it is near the top of your resume and more likely to pique the reader’s interest. Experience does not just mean employment; volunteer and other unpaid experiences may be relevant to your candidacy for a job and may be included in this section.

13 Other sections you might consider adding include “Additional Experience,” “Community Involvement,” “Presentations,” “Publications,” “Professional Affiliations” or “Honors & Awards.” Use a format similar to other sections of your resume. Be concise and use bold text where relevant. Leadership positions in professional organizations should be in bold.

14 Do not include irrelevant personal information, photos or personal pronouns. In particular, personal pronouns take up too much space and your name is already at the top of the page.

15 Create a page for your references using the same font and heading as your resume. Ask individuals for their permission before using them as references, and inform them about the position you are seeking so they can do their best to relate your skills and abilities to the requirements of the job. Provide your references with a copy of your resume, as well.

Follow these tips and it is likely that your resume will end up in the “to interview” pile.

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**TOP FIVE RESUME BLUNDERs:**

1. Candidate attached a letter from her mother.
2. Candidate used pale blue paper with teddy bears around the border.
3. Candidate included the fact that her sister once won a strawberry eating contest.
4. Candidate explained that he works well nude.
5. Candidate explained an arrest by stating, “We stole a pig, but it was a really small pig.”

Source: “Hiring Managers Share Top 12 Wackiest Resume Blunders in New CareerBuilder.com Survey” by Jennifer Grasz

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Pam Folger is director of Millikin’s Career Center. She has more than 24 years of experience in career and employment services, with more than 14 of those years at Millikin University.

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Millikin’s Career Center has launched Optimal Resume, a web-based program that allows alumni and current students to create resumes, cover letters and portfolios through an online platform. The new program also includes an interviewing feature that allows job-seekers to practice their skills answering commonly asked interview questions.

To learn more or to sign up, visit www.millikin.edu/career.
HEN KATE DAWSON ’96 and her husband, Jed Cohen, learned on New Year’s Eve 2010 that they were expecting their first child, they also expected a year of changes. But the New York couple (pictured above with their 13-month-old son, Zeke, and dog, Sophie) could not have anticipated the many changes that year would bring to their lives or the opportunity they would have to bring about change in the lives of others. Their journey into this unexpected future began with Dawson’s reminiscences about her past.

As 2011 began, Dawson found her thoughts turning to the women in her life who were role models for motherhood: her own mother, grandmothers, aunt and sister. With those thoughts came memories of her beloved cousin, Jill, a young mother who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2006.

“As I began to focus more on becoming a mother, I started to think about how awful it must have been for Jill, knowing she would have to leave her children,” Dawson remembers. “She was an amazing mother, and I wanted to do something to honor her, to bring families together and hopefully raise some money to fight breast cancer.”

As a veteran performer and lifelong music lover, Dawson dreamed of creating a music CD, with proceeds from sales going to fund breast cancer charities.

“I knew it had to be something involving music because that’s where my heart and soul are,” Dawson says. “Growing up, I was always singing around the house. And everyone knew that there were always show tunes playing at the Dawsons’.”

So she hit upon the idea of a CD of lullabies featuring Broadway performers and composers. “That seemed like the perfect vehicle to memorialize Jill and contribute to the world,” she says.

It was also perfect timing, Dawson had completed performances of her one-woman
off-Broadway show (which she also wrote and produced) and, while awaiting the birth of her son, found herself ready to take on another creative opportunity.

“While at Millikin, I realized that I found more fulfillment and joy in creating things,” says Dawson. “I love performing – and I will always perform, but playing roles that have been played hundreds of times isn’t as interesting to me. What I want is to create and send things out into the world that matter.”

When she first began contacting performer and composer friends to enlist their support for the project, Dawson wondered if anyone would be interested in participating.

“I had no sense of whether this was something the world wanted,” Dawson says. “I didn’t want to make a CD of cheesy lullabies – I really wanted a collection of songs that were comforting and calming for children, but that were also interesting for adults, so that it could be something families could and would share.”

One of the friends she contacted was respected dramaturg and educator Jodi Glucksman.

“We went out to dinner with our husbands and discussed it,” Dawson says. “Jodi was very supportive and loved the idea of the profits from the sales going to breast cancer charities.”

Glucksman’s enthusiasm for the project (she eventually signed on as co-producer and sponsor) is understandable. She lost her grandmother to breast cancer, her mother and mother-in-law are both survivors of the disease, and her sister-in-law is a breast cancer surgeon.

As veterans of New York’s theatrical community, Dawson and Glucksman compared notes and contacted friends and acquaintances to gauge interest in the project. As they began hearing back from composers, musicians and performers, they realized that almost all of them had some experience with breast cancer.

“Unfortunately, this disease is so much a part of all of our lives now, it seems there’s hardly anyone who hasn’t been touched by it,” Dawson says.

Perhaps as a result of this shared experience with breast cancer, the level of interest in the project was beyond anything Dawson could have predicted.

Soon, what began as a small album of lullabies transformed into an ambitious package including two CDs with 26 original songs; an accompanying illustrated book featuring 17 album songs; and an e-book. The project was also chronicled in a short film, “Over The Moon,” by Peabody & Emmy award-winning documentarian Barbara Rick and Out of The Blue Films Inc.

“We wound up with more songs than we could record,” Dawson says. “Great songs just kept coming, and suddenly, we had more than 35 lullabies. We picked the 26 that we felt made the most cohesive collection, but I hope those other wonderful songs that we couldn’t use will someday be heard by the world.”

When they decided to publish the accompanying children’s book of illustrated lyrics, Glucksman contacted her friend, book designer Barbara Aronica-Buck. Renowned theatrical designers and children’s book illustrators signed on for the project, and Broadway and movie legend Julie Andrews and her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton, wrote the book’s forward.

“If I had no sense of whether this was something the world wanted,” says Dawson. “I love performing – and I will always perform, but playing roles that have been played hundreds of times isn’t as interesting to me. What I want is to create and send things out into the world that matter.”

And in the end, love is what this project is all about. Dawson sees “Over The Moon” as an opportunity to celebrate and enhance the love between parent and child.

“The forward Julie Andrews and her daughter wrote for the book captures the essence of what these songs are about — the connection between parent and child,” Dawson says. “When I sing to [our baby son] Zeke, he may not understand my words, but he understands my love. We share something more profound than words can express. Just to be holding him and looking into his eyes … it’s amazing.”

Margaret Friend is the associate editor of Millikin Quarterly magazine. She has contributed to Quarterly as a writer since 2004 and joined the alumni and development team in 2010 as class notes editor for Quarterly. She and her husband, Bill Friend ’79, have one son and a 3-year-old granddaughter. She’s found there’s truth in the saying, “Grandchildren fill a space in your heart that you never knew was empty.”
ZOOMING IN
[ A look into the office of Dr. James Rauff ]

If you have been a student at Millikin in the last 24 years, the focus of this edition of “Zooming In” might be a familiar sight. Dr. James Rauff, a professor of mathematics who has also taught courses in anthropology, archaeology and linguistics, has spent almost a quarter of a century transforming lives in the classroom and collecting both aesthetic and academic resources to fill his Shilling Hall office. Let’s take a look.

ARTWORK: If you were visiting Rauff’s office and noticed the east wall, you might think you were in the art department instead of the mathematics wing. His walls and shelves are filled with student artwork from the past two decades, including some mathematically-themed artwork, like the blue Möbius strip sculpture (left). He also has a collection of photographs and sculptures from his travels with family and friends across the globe.

ABACUS: What mathematics professor’s office would be complete without an abacus? Abaci date back to 2700-2300 B.C. Mesopotamia, and functioned as arithmetic calculating tools before the written numeral system was in place.

BOOKS: There is no shortage of reading material in Rauff’s office. As could be expected, there are titles such as “Basic Arithmetic” and “Number Theory,” but his library also contains titles such as, “The Egyptian Book of the Dead” and “Prehistoric Rock Art.” Look closely, and you might see a copy of “Math Matters,” a textbook written by Rauff in 1995.

GANESHA: Rauff embraces multicultural spirituality by displaying iconography from around the world. Some of these figures include guardian representations from Sarawak, a Native American dreamcatcher and a wooden carving of the Hindu elephant-deity Ganesha (left). Ganesha is often associated with success, wealth, wisdom and education, and he is known as the “Remover of Obstacles.”

AWARDS: Rauff has received numerous accolades, including the Alpha Lambda Delta Outstanding Teacher Award (1990), the James Millikin Scholars’ Educator of the Year Award (2003), and the Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award (2010). He also served as the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer at Honors Convocation (1999) and gave the Fall Convocation address (2011).
DUSTBOT: From holiday-caroling penguins to the desk-cleaning Dustbot (left), Rauff displays several items that showcase his quirky sense of humor. The Dustbot, a 1980s toy version of the Roomba vacuum, was a present from his son. This functional toy has served as a handy tool for keeping his desk free of crumbs and as a great conversation starter for students and faculty alike.

STAR TREK POSTER: Rauff is a self-proclaimed “Trekkie,” and he proudly displays a poster entitled, “All I need to know about life, I learned from Star Trek.” This poster was a staple in his office even before he came to the Big Blue and was the first decoration he displayed in his Millikin office. Our favorite tip: “When going out into the Universe, remember: ‘Boldly go where no man has gone before!’”

WANT A Closer Look?  
If you have suggestions for a great zooming in location, we would love to hear from you! Email us at millikin-quarterly@millikin.edu.
IN RECENT MONTHS, Millikin lost two individuals who had been inducted into the Millikin Medallion Society for their lasting impact on the university: Associate Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering Denny Benner and Millikin supporter Lauri Pilling, wife of trustee emeritus Frank “Bud” Pilling. The Millikin Medallion Society Award was conferred during the university’s centennial celebration held from 2001 to 2003 and recognized those individuals who had the greatest impact on Millikin in the university’s first 100 years.

Denny Benner, who had taught at the university from 1963 to 1991, died July 19. In addition to teaching, Benner was faculty adviser during the first years of WJMU-FM, the student radio station, and also represented Millikin and the Society of Professional Engineers as state and regional coordinator for MATHCOUNTS, a nationwide competitive program for seventh- and eighth-grade students. He also initiated and supervised a student-tutor system during his 28 years at the university.

After his death, the family suggested that memorials be given to the Denny Benner Scholarship at Millikin.

Lauri Pilling died July 9. She and her husband have been long-time and generous supporters of the university, including annual gifts to the Millikin Fund. They also funded the construction of Pilling Chapel, Millikin’s first free-standing interfaith chapel, built in the heart of campus in 1997. They also included an endowment to ensure the chapel’s future viability. Most recently, the Pillings have been supporters to the proposed new university center, a priority of the “Transform MU” capital campaign.

The couple also created the Bud and Lauri Pilling Scholarship Fund in 1992, supported renovations of Shilling Hall in the 1980s and are members of the university’s Investors Society. The couple also received the 2002 James Millikin Award. The award is given annually to non-alumni friends of the university who have demonstrated exemplary financial support of Millikin. They were also recognized with a 2011 “Do Something Great” award presented to outstanding philanthropists by the Decatur and Macon County Community Foundation.
OWN YOUR OWN PIECE OF BIG BLUE TURF!

SUPPORT ARTIFICIAL TURF FOR THE FOOTBALL FIELD

Big Blue players and coaches are committed to getting back on top of the CCIW. A turf surface will help attract and retain quality student athletes to continue the heritage of Big Blue football and build new chapters of success.

The new field will also provide a durable venue for other athletic teams as well as intramurals. Lighting will enable Millikin to fully leverage the functionality of a turf field into the nighttime hours.

THE WORKMAN CHALLENGE

Gary L. Workman ’64, a current Millikin trustee, has committed $150,000 to this cause and is challenging others to meet the goal. Gary’s commitment will match all donations – dollar for dollar – up to $150,000. It’s a great opportunity to move the Big Blue forward on this important project!

Alumni and friends can “own” a piece of the field by funding individual parcels of the turf for $200 to $500 per square yard. The above illustration outlines available areas to support.

This project is critical to the future success and growth of our football program. Let’s get this project moving into the end zone.

To make an online gift to the project, visit http://bit.ly/MU-FB or use your smart phone to access the QR code at lower right. You may make an outright gift or even set up recurring credit card gifts to fund your commitment one monthly payment at a time. Learn more by contacting the alumni and development office at 217-424-6383.
Lance Brooks ’06 of Denver missed qualifying for the 2008 Olympics discus throw by only 26 inches. Four years later, in June of this year, he erased that memory and sealed his spot on the 2012 U.S. Summer Olympic team by heaving a personal-best throw that was nearly six feet farther than his closest competitor at the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore.

The suspense of “would he or wouldn’t he” make the Olympics came down to Brooks’ sixth and final throw of the day. After fouling on the previous two throws and needing to match or exceed the Olympic “A” standard distance of 65 meters (213 feet, 3 inches) in order to clinch his spot on the U.S. team, Brooks threw his discus 65.15 meters (213 feet, 9 inches), notched his right to be an Olympian and further confirmed his ranking as the No. 1 discus thrower in the U.S. With that same throw, he also beat his previous career-best throw of 64.92 meters (213 feet), set at a competition just a few months earlier.

“That’s definitely not how I’d like to do it. It’s a little stressful, a little nerve-wracking,” Brooks told the Denver Post afterward. “But I’ve always seemed to throw well at the end of the meet.”
The former Eagle Scout had long ago set a lifetime goal of competing in the Olympics. Although his first and ongoing love was basketball, beginning with playing YMCA ball in fourth grade, Brooks competed in track starting in junior high. Initially coached by his father and uncle because no track team existed, he went on to win a state title in the discus during his senior year at New Berlin (Ill.) High School. He also earned varsity letters all four years in both basketball and baseball.

When Brooks set foot on the Millikin campus in fall 2002, he fully intended to focus on basketball with the hope of playing professionally after college. However, with some persuasion from then track coach Don Luy, Brooks ultimately competed in the discus all four years, setting several school records. His throw of 57.85 meters in May 2006 still stands as first in the Big Blue record book, outstripping the second-place finisher by more than nine meters. Brooks placed fourth in the nation in the discus throw that year and was recognized as an NCAA Division III All-American for his efforts.

Following graduation from Millikin with a bachelor’s degree in environmental science, Brooks briefly trained at the University of Arizona before moving to Denver to enter graduate school in limnology (inland waters ecology) at the University of Colorado. All the while, he worked part time to support himself while fitting in training during his spare time. A job in a bar brought him to the attention of throwing coach Steve DeAutremont, who had qualified for the 1976 Olympics in the hammer throw. DeAutremont could see that Brooks was frittering away a very viable shot at becoming a top professional athlete in the discus event, and he had a stern wake-up call for Brooks: Make your training your top priority if you want to work with me.
At that time, Brooks had worked up to seven part-time jobs at once to support himself, including high school coach, model, bartender, bouncer and construction worker. On the advice of DeAutremont, he cut back on employment to focus more intently on the skills he needed to successfully complete his quest to be an Olympian.

“I relied on a lot of my natural ability, my athleticism, to throw,” Brooks told the Denver Post. “It got me to a certain level, but when Steve and I started working together and we started doing the [weight] lifting part, I realized your talent can take you to a certain level, but if you want to be world class and elite, you have to do the right lifts and train like one.”

DeAutremont probably wasn’t the first to realize the obvious: The New Berlin native was born to throw the discus. Unlike most humans, whose outstretched arms give them a wingspan as wide as they are tall, Brooks’ wingspan tops his 6-foot-6-inch height by a good six inches. That wingspan is anchored by a solid-as-granite foundation, with Brooks’ perennially large feet ensconced in their size 17 Nike shoes (“My footprint barely fit on the birth certificate when I was born!” he says.). For a sport where strong arms and strong legs are vital, that gives him a distinct edge, as well as the fact that the 270-pound athlete can leap from a standing position to a platform 57 inches above the ground. (Hard to believe? Watch the video: www.lancebrooksolympics.com/media.php)

“Just take a picture of him and put somebody standing next to him, you get a pretty good idea,” DeAutremont told the Post. “Then I take a look at those size 17 feet, and I just grin every day.”

After Brooks dedicated himself to full-time training with DeAutremont, the results started to show, with Brooks finishing fourth at the 2009 U.S. Track and Field Championships. In 2010, he tossed the fourth-best throw in the 2009 U.S. Track and Field Championships. In

Brooks successfully balanced his discus training while often pouring concrete for up to 12 hours a day, Brooks was surprised to find himself on the receiving end of a shout-out from President Obama for his hardscrabble journey to get to the Olympics. The president took special note of how Brooks successfully balanced his discus training while often pouring concrete for up to 12 hours a day as a construction worker.

More accolades came during Millikin’s homecoming in October, when Brooks was inducted into the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame, along with Lin Stoner ’73, Denise Fogle ’91 and Suzanne Murphy Short ’00.

It wasn’t his first trip back to campus after graduation. Brooks has returned to MU four times to lead a throwing clinic for area youth and help provide the type of professional coaching he wishes he’d received as a youngster. “I enjoy teaching kids,” he says. “I didn’t have anything like this when I was growing up.”

Competitors in the discus event traditionally peak in their 30s, and Brooks will be only 32 when the 2016 Summer Olympics are held in Rio de Janeiro. He plans to be ready.

The transformation from naturally gifted, semi-serious discus thrower to professional world-class athlete was done. Brooks had achieved his childhood dream to be an Olympian. The next step was the Summer Olympics in London in August, an experience he calls “amazing” despite the fact his rhythm was off on competition day, and he finished in 21st place, four meters short of his personal-best throw. “I felt good and ready to throw, just mistimed a few technique points during the competition,” he said.

The amazing experience continued for the 28-year-old Olympian even after the games were over, highlighted by a place of honor in New Berlin’s homecoming parade and a visit to the White House. Single out from more than 400 USA Olympic team members in attendance that day, Brooks was surprised to find himself on the receiving end of a shout-out from President Obama for his hardscrabble journey to get to the Olympics. The president took special note of how Brooks successfully balanced his discus training while often pouring concrete for up to 12 hours a day as a construction worker.

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Deb Hale Kirchner is editor of Millikin Quarterly magazine and director of communications and services for the alumni and development office. She has never competed in a discus event, but she finished second in the pole vault while in sixth grade and still has the ribbon somewhere.

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**Brooks by the Numbers**

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<td>17</td>
<td>57”</td>
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**2012**

MILLIKIN QUARTERLY

FALL 2012
INCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Jordan Trump ’10 has considered himself a runner. From running his first six-miler with his dad driving the van next to him, to completing his first marathon before graduating high school, running has saturated his life. Throughout his running, Trump has struggled with one element: shoes. With size 12 feet that he claims are “abnormally wide,” he has never been able to find what most runners call “the perfect pair.”

After a successful cross country and track career at Millikin, Trump decided to change his running to embrace a growing trend that experts are saying lowers injury rates and improves technique. Instead of struggling to find shoes that fit, he decided to forgo shoes completely, transforming into a barefoot runner.

While the popularity of barefoot running grows, the opinions of doctors and running experts remain split, with some believing in the natural abilities of the foot, and others promoting the comfort and technology of shoes (see sidebar, next page).

Jordan Trump ’10 and Kendall Robison ’13 get warmed up for their daily barefoot run by sprinting around Frank M. Lindsay Field.
BAREFOOT RUNNING

Pros & Cons

PRO: Barefoot running is less expensive because shoes and socks are unnecessary.

CON: Minimalist shoes can be nearly as expensive as conventional running shoes.

PRO: The midfoot strike promoted by barefoot running helps to improve pace and speed.

CON: When transitioning, athletes are not able to run as many miles, possibly causing a loss in conditioning.

PRO: A runner’s feet and legs feel lighter during barefoot runs as opposed to running in shoes.

CON: Before calluses are developed on feet, debris and rough or hot surfaces may cause discomfort and pain.

THE GREAT

Glass Debate

A common apprehension expressed by doctors, running experts and even novice runners concerning the barefoot trend is the possibility of stepping on broken glass. While the feet of barefoot runners are trained to adjust to rough surfaces, the senses of the runner are also trained. When running barefoot, runners become conditioned to see everything on the trail in front of them and then react to what they see. Once a runner is more experienced, shards of glass become easy to identify and avoid.

BAREFOOT RUNNING Q&A WITH JORDAN TRUMP ’10

What first prompted you to try barefoot running?
I always had bad form, and I thought that learning to run with better form might be better on my body and allow me to run farther and faster. After a few months of training, I realized I was right. Going from shoes that weigh 14-18 oz. each to no shoes really saves energy. Also, my form is more efficient so I can run farther before my legs get tired or start to hurt. I could not imagine going back to them. Once you get used to running without cushioning and all the high-tech material in conventional running shoes, you realize it’s just dead weight strapped to your feet. Plus, I’m always ready to go for a run. I don’t have to worry about where my running shoes are anymore!

How do you deal with cold and wet conditions during winter months?
Since I’m relatively new to barefoot running, last winter I played it safe and ran almost exclusively in my minimalist shoes. A barefoot runner’s primary form of feedback are the nerves in the foot, and once your feet are numb you really have no idea when they are nearing their limits. I will likely try barefoot running this winter, but it will take time to build up to my usual mileage in cold and snowy conditions.

What would you recommend to people considering barefoot running?
Stay patient when transitioning, pay attention to your form and try to run as relaxed as possible. Definitely seek advice from others who have done it before. For many, the transition can take up to a year; it just depends on how hard you work at it.

It has been more than a year since Trump’s transformation to barefoot running, and his results have given him every reason to keep going sans shoes. He has achieved personal records in every race distance from a 5K to a marathon, even qualifying for the Boston Marathon, where he will compete in April 2013.

In one year, he improved his time at the Illinois Marathon from 3:41 to 2:50. He won a local 5K, Penguin in the Park, with a two-minute margin while barefoot and competing against more than 600 other runners. Along his journey, he hasn’t felt the need to take a day off from running in more than a year.

His success is as easy to see as his bare feet racing along the running path winding through Decatur’s Fairview Park, and while his family and friends may still think he’s crazy, they can’t argue with his results.

Above: After more than a year of barefoot running, Trump’s feet have hardened with calluses, which decrease his sensitivity to rough surfaces. Note: The red discoloration is a result of the pigment on the track.

FAMOUS BAREFOOT RUNNERS: 1 Fred Flintstone 2 Frodo Baggins 3 Johnny Appleseed 4 Bigfoot 5 Shoeless Joe Jackson
BELIEVE, SWEAT, INSPIRE
[ A 2007 alum aims to inform and transform]

EDITOR’S NOTE: “Believe, sweat and inspire” is the motto of Operation Flat Belly, a free healthy living and fitness program led by Valencia King ’07 of Chicago. Through a blog, Facebook and Twitter posts, King seeks to educate and motivate individuals into making permanent lifestyle transformations that can lead to better health and a better quality of life. We recently checked in with King to see how the program has been received.

What motivated you to start Operation Flat Belly? I started Operation Flat Belly as a way to keep myself motivated and hold myself accountable for securing a healthy lifestyle, eating right and working out. I’ve been trying to lose weight since college. I figured starting a blog and letting people in on my journey would give me support and make me work hard to stick with it. I had no idea that it would turn into such a huge support network and educational group.

What has been the response to your blog and Facebook page? Right now, Operation Flat Belly runs primarily through my blog at www.operationflatbelly.com. The project also has Facebook (www.facebook.com/operationflatbelly) and Twitter pages (www.twitter.com/operationfb). Among the three sites, I have almost 900 followers. It has led many of my family and friends to start their own weight-loss journeys. I’ve also met many people with the same goals, and it is a great way to inspire and get inspiration for myself.

Have you had any major setbacks during your journey? How have you overcome them? I have setbacks all the time, and I view them as part of the experience. My goal is a lifestyle change, and it is very easy to fall back into habits such as stress eating or becoming “too busy” to exercise. I always share setbacks with my followers to let them know that this is a normal part of trying to lose weight and change your life. The key is not to beat yourself up and be sure to get back on track.

What gets you motivated to do a difficult workout? I love a challenge. Hard workouts make me feel like I can do anything. I love the high that I get after pushing myself to my limit. I have a vision map posted on my wall and motivational statements on my refrigerator. I write my goals down to remind myself why I do what I do, and I read them at least once a week. My followers keep me motivated, too. I try to lead by example as best I can.

What have you learned during this journey? I’ve learned that exercising and eating healthy is about more than just how you look. When you are working toward maintaining a healthy lifestyle, you live longer. I am able to run around with my 5-year-old daughter for longer periods of time than even she can handle. I’m reducing my risk of certain illnesses. My mood is better. My sleeping is better. I am enjoying life more.

What tips can you give readers who want to start becoming healthier? The biggest tip is to GET STARTED! I used to be the “I’ll start on Sunday” lady. It’s so easy to make excuses or put it off. But each day a person delays is just another day added to the time it takes to get where you want to be. Start by making small changes today, and be patient with yourself. Take it week by week and one pound at a time. My favorite quote is “Progress, not perfection.”

Valencia King ’07 of Chicago is a social worker at Metropolitan Family Services. She is also studying with ACE (The American Council on Exercise) to become a group fitness instructor.

SAMPLES OF DAILY Inspiration

JAN 11 “Trying so hard to get out of bed and work out right now...Let’s get it ladies. Early morning cardio!!!! If it was easy everybody would do it. : - )”

JAN 12 “Rise and shine! It’s workout time!!! Make sure u get a workout in today ladies. Burn some calories...”

MAY 21 “1650 crunches last week...seeing any results? I think so!!!”

JUNE 19 “I overslept and missed my morning work-out!!! Ahhhhhhh!”

JULY 19 “A couple things contribute to me not wanting to get out of bed and work out this morning: 1. The dark, rainy weather 2. The very unhealthy dinner I had last night. But...both are excuses. And I choose results...so It’s GO TIME : - )”

AUG 21 “You all know I believe in sharing my struggles just as much as I share my successes. As my stress increases, I’m continuing to struggle with my eating and exercising but I will have a plan by morning to get back on track...stay tuned...”

SEPT 6 “2013, I want to be in a place of just ‘maintaining’ my weight and staying fit. I’ve been trying to lose for years. It’s time to do what I need to get there and move on with learning maintenance skills.”

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ABOVE: 1 A high school photo of Larkins and Nip at the Pony of the America’s Southeast Regional competition. 2 Larkins stands in front of the Oakland Street mural, near campus. Larkins was among the Decatur community members who assisted “propaganda” artist Ron English create the mural. 3 Larkins and Big Boi of the hip-hop duo Outkast after an interview. 4 Larkins prepares his camera for an interview at ROOF, the rooftop lounge of the Wit [sic] Hotel in Chicago.
TAKING THE REINS
[ One alum’s journey from horse shows to hip-hop ]

Growing up in the Midwest, Lee Larkins ‘08 never expected to work with some of the most well-known rap and hip-hop artists of his generation. Throughout high school, he spent most of his extracurricular time showing horses in the summer, playing ice hockey in the winter and advocating for the skateboarders of Decatur. He also enjoyed taking photographs and splicing together short video projects on a set of VCRs, but he had little interest in a career in the entertainment industry.

In 2004, Larkins came to Millikin to pursue a degree in commercial art and design. He had his ups and downs as an art major. After turning in an unsatisfactory assignment, one professor said “Lee, if you were my employee, I would fire you.” It was exactly the type of honest encouragement he needed, Larkins says. As a result, he began to take his studies more seriously and kindle his interest in videography while filming his friends skateboarding throughout Central Illinois. This interest would transform into the passion that led Larkins to pursue a career in video production and eventually start his own freelance photo and video business.

Larkins spent the months following his 2008 graduation filming skateboarding events. He used these experiences to network with skateboarders, entrepreneurs and filmmakers throughout the Chicago community. Through one of these connections, Larkins was offered an internship with a senior producer at Chewd Marketing and Promotions’ new start-up production company, Mid C Media, which specializes in music-industry advertising. Although it was a detour from his previous videography experience, Larkins could not pass up the opportunity to work on more high-profile projects.

During his internship, Larkins directed, filmed and assisted with several video assignments, including interviews with musical artists, recap sizzle reels for events, music videos, concert tours and behind-the-scenes features for music labels such as Interscope/Universal, Def Jam and Atlantic. These video projects allowed Larkins to work directly with more than 60 rap and hip-hop artists, including Snoop Dogg, Ludacris, Ke$ha, 50 Cent and Big Boi of Outkast.

Although meeting celebrities and going to concerts might sound like a dream job to some, Larkins says working in the entertainment industry “takes a lot of hard work to get to the fun part.” Over the years, he has learned to work with his fair share of last-minute scene changes, celebrity demands and nearly impossible deadlines. “You not only have to learn to keep a level head but also know how to handle unexpected changes,” Larkins warns. “Everyone wants it done yesterday. So sometimes you have to put in extra time, stay up all night and ‘make it work,’ as they say.” Larkins “makes it work” by following some good advice. “One of the best pieces of wisdom I’ve picked up is ‘if you want to go far, you have to learn to be at your strongest, while everyone around you is at their weakest.’”

Despite the challenges, Larkins considers filming for the entertainment industry his new passion. In 2010, he founded Shark Fins Productions*, where he continues to work with well-known clients throughout the Midwest, while expanding his reach to the West Coast and even into the international markets of Jamaica and the United Kingdom.

“I love it, because when I work with my own company, I don’t have to go through other people,” Larkins says, “I can just take the reins.”

While he may not take the reins showing horses anymore, Larkins stays true to his past and still finds time to film and support the skateboarding scene. Most recently, he filmed the invitation-only Chicago All-City Skate Competition and participated as a guest speaker at the Illinois Center for Broadcasting alongside one of his idols, pro-skateboarder Greg Lutzka. Larkins is thankful for the opportunities that pursuing video production has afforded him: “I’m always doing something new and exciting,” he says, “I couldn’t be more blessed.”

Larkins gained the nickname “Shark Fins” while documenting the tour of rappers The Cool Kids and The Clipse in 2009. One of the tour DJs noticed Larkins “gliding through the crowd, holding [his video] camera up like a shark fin,” and from that point on, he was known as Shark Fins.

* WHY Shark Fins?

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Both Ty Warden ’13 and Alida Duff Sullivan ’06 interviewed Larkins and contributed to this feature article. Warden was a writing intern for the alumni and development office earlier this year, and Sullivan is the associate director of communications.
A LIFETIME OF HEALING
[A ’62 alum’s legacy continues to inspire] by Kendall Robison ’13

IN THE 50 years since her graduation, Loretta Liptak Volker ’62 has thought of only one thing she wishes she had known as a Millikin student.

“I didn’t realize how much life was ahead of me and how differently life can turn out from how you plan it while you’re in school,” Volker says. “Life is like a tree with branches growing out in ways that you don’t expect. When you cut off a branch, it becomes thicker and more noticeable, so even though the branch is gone, it still leaves an imprint on your life and is a part of the journey.”

The Princeton, Ill., resident has made quite a journey since earning her R.N. from Silver Cross Hospital School of Nursing in 1959. “My teachers thought I had talents for teaching, and told me I should pursue those talents at Millikin,” Volker recalls.

In fact, Millikin would become the site of two major milestones in her life. During a campus visit shortly after she enrolled, her then-boyfriend, Dick Volker, proposed to her under a tree near Aston Hall. They have been married 53 years, and like their marriage, that special tree still thrives. The second milestone occurred when their first child was born shortly before graduation.

“By the time I was ready to graduate in June 1962, our first son had arrived,” she says. “We have pictures of him at graduation with my mortarboard on his head.”

Volker served as campus nurse while she earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and education. “It was a busy time at Millikin, serving as housemother, campus nurse and planning my wedding,” she says.

Volker attended Millikin one full school year, followed by summer school and a final fall semester in 1961. “Since I needed only three credit hours to complete my degree requirements, I was allowed to fulfill them with a correspondence course so I could accept full-time employment as a staff nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Dwight, Ill.,” she explains.

Her professional interests branched out beyond physical healing when she treated veterans suffering from the effects of World War II. “I realized that you could heal a person physically, but that person could still be in a lot of pain,” she says.

This realization prompted her to return to school and in 1983, Volker earned a master’s degree from Bradley University in counselor education. Through her private counseling service, she offers individual and family counseling, as well as developmental and organizational psychology.

Her compassion for healing has led Volker to propose and develop a variety of programs and services. For example, she was instrumental in expanding a program for assisting premature infants born at Peoria’s OSF St. Francis Medical Center from the initial one-county service area to a program that encompasses 28 counties. She also helped design a course to update the skills of older nurses during a nursing shortage and developed another course to teach nursing in disaster situations. This coursework led to the creation of the first state disaster nursing plans which now serve as the template for the National Emergency Management plans required of local emergency response departments since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

As she neared retirement age in 2002, Volker was elected to the Bureau County Board in Princeton, where she still serves as a member. Her extensive nursing experience and interest in human welfare have led her to become an advocate in many health and human service issues.

“I’m not really retired … only selective … I stay busy with many issues of community and family,” Volker says.

For example, she recently initiated a local Parish Nursing Program to help provide a link between her church’s faith community and area health resources. She also completed training to become a certified legal nurse consultant, assisting attorneys in medical malpractice and workers’ compensation cases.

In recognition of her professional accomplishments and contributions, Volker was chosen as one of 25 Women in Leadership by WEEK-TV in Peoria in 2008. And earlier this year, the Catholic Church Women of the Peoria Diocese selected her as Volunteer of the Year for her home church, St. Louis Parish, in Princeton.

Although she has enjoyed a rich and varied professional life, Volker says that the most important parts of her life are her family and her “roots.” With three children and several grandchildren, she keeps busy traveling to their activities, sometimes driving 100 miles to attend games or recitals. The philosophy of flexibility and service that led her to such diverse professional experiences also guides her family focus. “Wherever and whenever I am needed at home, I fill that spot,” she says. Just like the metaphor of a branching tree she used to describe life’s journey, Volker’s life continues to branch out in many directions.

Kendall Robison ’13 is a student intern for the alumni and development office. She is an English major with a technical writing emphasis.

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Photo submitted by Volker.
Hello, Alumni!

The Alumni Association board of directors is a group of 18 alumni serving three-year terms with a mission to establish and enhance the bonds between alumni and Millikin. Four current students also serve on the board, providing valuable insight into student activities. Working closely with the alumni and development office, the board members strive to engage current alumni and help students transition to alumni status.

Monthly meetings help keep members informed, with guest speakers discussing topics ranging from the current capital campaign to ongoing university initiatives such as the Dennis-Millikin Lab School Project. Faculty members and administrators also meet with the board to share their visions for the university and discuss how alumni can play a part. These interactions help the board develop events and programs that keep our alumni informed and involved.

Board members volunteer at several campus events throughout the year, including:

• Working a fundraising food booth at Fall Family Weekend
• Registering/greeting alumni at homecoming
• Baking and serving cookies for the annual Holiday Cookie Party

The board also hosts several events throughout the year, each designed to encourage alumni to return to campus and continue their involvement with Millikin. Last year’s events included a chili lunch at Lock Stock & Barrel before a basketball game; a dessert reception prior to the Holiday Jazz Concert; and a reception prior to the university’s production of “Putnam County Spelling Bee.”

In addition, board members are charged with the task of nominating a group of outstanding alumni for the annual Alumni Awards presented at Homecoming each year.

Our board appreciates the dedication and support of Director of Alumni Relations Jan Devore and her staff, whose involvement and guidance are instrumental in the success of our activities. We invite alumni to contact any board member to share ideas or suggestions for future events. Find us on the “Alumni & Friends” section of Millikin’s website; just click on the “Get Involved” tab.

Bob Swartz, Vice President
Alumni Board of Directors

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**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BENEFITS EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013:**

- Free admission to regular season home games for men’s and women’s basketball, football and volleyball
- 10% discount on select MU Fine Arts events in person or by phone (217-424-6318)
- 10% discount on private voice/instrument lessons for alumni and immediate family at through the Preparatory Department
- 10% discount on food/beverages at Big Blue Bistro on campus in lower RTUC
- 10% discount on annual membership fees to the Decatur Indoor Sports Center (DISC) at Millikin
- Free use of Macintosh Pool in Griswold Physical Education Center during open swim when lifeguards are present
- 10% discount on food at Lock Stock & Barrel restaurant near campus on nights of home athletic contests
- Check-out privileges at Staley Library
- Free use of MU computer labs on a time-limited, need basis
- Tuition-free auditing of classes on a space-available basis
- Job search assistance in the Career Center
- Order/pay for official transcripts through MU Online (www.millikin.edu/registrar), $5 each. Also available by mail through Registrar
- Complimentary subscription to Millikin Quarterly alumni magazine
- Free access to online resources through myMILLIKIN, including the online alumni directory
- Complimentary alumni email account. Email the alumni office at alumnews@millikin.edu or call 1-877-568-2586 to get your alumni benefits card today. Visit www.millikin.edu/alumni/getinvolved/alumniassociation for more details and restrictions.

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Jarred Leeper ’14
Lainey Poor ’13
Christy Swanberg ’13
EDITOR’S NOTE: Shawn Lent ’00 of Chicago received a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture in Egypt at the Academy of Arts’ High Institute of Ballet in Cairo during the 2012-13 academic year. She will lead the project, “Artist as Catalyst,” teaching dance classes and lecturing on community arts theory and the role of arts in civil society and education. The following synopsis of her personal blog gives insight into the dramatic events that unfolded in Cairo in early September in response to a controversial film.

ROUND 7 P.M. ON Sept. 11, I was home watching CNN when they reported there were thousands of protesters around the U.S. Embassy Cairo, which is just up the street from my apartment. I headed there, after promising myself and my friends that I would leave as soon as I felt any vibe of things being unsafe.

I walked into the heart of a massive anti-American protest and the storming of an embassy. The men were chanting, screaming. Some were perched on the embassy entranceway chiseling away the U.S. seal and lettering, replacing them with Bin Laden and the United States of Muslim, to the applause of the crowd below. To my knowledge, I was the only American woman in that section at that time. People were quite calm and nice to me, oddly.

Many Egyptian women in full abaya and niqab were in the back of the crowd. I went up to one of the young women and asked her to translate her sign. As I thanked her and left to walk deeper into the heart of the male crowd, she said, “They will eat you alive.”

The wall of the embassy was spray painted with obscenities and political slogans. The U.S. flag inside the embassy walls had been replaced with a black flag similar to that of Al Qaeda’s. Flags were burning in the crowd, but in general, the atmosphere was calm. It was surreal how gracious and welcoming the Egyptian people can be, even to an American at an anti-American event.

As I watched a few Salafi men destroy the entranceway, I walked, stunned, right up to the front. I asked a young man why such actions were necessary in reaction to a wack’s home-made film. What did the U.S. diplomats in Cairo have to do with it? He couldn’t really explain but was kind. He kept saying I didn’t know anything of Islam or Arab culture. When I proved him wrong, his respect was evident, and we engaged in a conversation about religious understanding and tolerance right in the center of this poignant day.

I felt very safe. But after another chat or two, I decided it best to leave before things got out of hand and walked home alone as a beautiful breeze blew along the Nile.

The next morning, a similar storming happened in nearby Benghazi resulting in the death of four individuals, including U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. May they rest in a loving peace.

I woke up to the following messages from my Egyptian friends, “I am so sorry. But many of Egyptian people are ignorant. They don’t know why and where they are going. Just following the wave. I wanted you to know that not all Muslims think this way.”

Interesting times, my friends.

Choosing hope.

It’s the next day. I sit on my couch and watch the live streaming from Washington, D.C., as four patriot bodies are welcomed home. Secretary Clinton steps up to the microphone and speaks right to my heart. In a way, she is my boss. As a Fulbright Scholar with an Egyptian work permit and residency visa, I am here with the U.S. State Department and the Binational (Egyptian/American) Commission.

Secretary Clinton says that civilians representing America abroad are “a force of peace, progress and dignity.” I keep saying those words to myself after her speech. Then President Obama speaks of the four men we lost, followed by the national anthem.

And out of respect for this whole worldly situation, alone in my apartment and in my yoga gear, I stand, watching the world.

Shawn Lent ’00 is an arts integration program specialist at Columbia College Chicago. To read her blog in its entirety, visit shawnlent.com.
Your gift helps ensure a quality education for Millikin students by updating facilities and technology, bringing top faculty to campus, establishing scholarships and more. And Millikin is a good investment: the university spends less than 13 cents in fundraising costs for each dollar raised, well under the national average of 25 cents. At Millikin, more of your charitable dollar goes directly to where it is needed most – to benefit the students. Recurring gifts through a credit card even allow you to make your donation over time.

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3. Or give online at www.millikin.edu/alumni/give

Millikin’s fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Gifts postmarked by June 30, but received after July 1 are credited toward the previous year’s fund.

Please complete and mail to: Millikin Fund, Millikin University, 1184 West Main Street, Decatur, Illinois 62522, or call us toll free at 1-877-JMU-ALUM (568-2586).
Who is your favorite band or artist?
My favorite current band is the Killers, but U2 has been at the top of my list since I was a student.

What is your favorite song?
“Because I Knew You” from the musical “Wicked” is an amazing song. Whenever it comes on my iPod, I stop what I’m doing and just listen. When I was a student, my favorite was “Tempted” by Squeeze, and it’s still one of my favorites.

What is your favorite album?
Currently, I’ve been listening to “El Camino” by The Black Keys. As a student, it was Ian Hunter’s “You’re Never Alone with a Schizophrenic.” This album has a special place in my heart. Last month, I got to meet Ian Hunter and have him autograph my copy of the album!

What is the last song to get stuck in your head?
“Casey Jones” by The Grateful Dead

What is the first music you remember listening to?
My mom really loves to clean and listen to Vivaldi, so it’s either that or something from Barney.

How do you find new music?
My son, the radio, Pandora, AllMusic.com and coworkers.

When was your first concert?
Who did you see?
1976 at the Nelson Center in Springfield – A lame hard rock band called Angel (I was a big fan at the time).

When was your most recent concert?
Who did you see?

Jerry Johnson ’82 is the executive director of the Decatur Area Arts Council. He is active in local theater and was formerly a lead singer for The Still and Soul Purpose.

Who is your favorite band or artist?
I can’t say that I have one favorite artist, but Sufjan Stevens and Andrew Bird are pretty up there.

What is your favorite song?
I really love “Passenger Seat” by Death Cab for Cutie. The whole aesthetic of the song makes me feel calm. I imagine leaning back in the passenger seat of a car while someone drives me safely down a highway late at night.

What is your favorite album?
One of my favorite albums is “The Moon & Antarctica” by Modest Mouse. It has this wonderful air of desperation and excitement that happen simultaneously.

What is the last song to get stuck in your head?
Nat King Cole’s version of “Unforgettable.” It really was unforgettable!

What is the first music you remember listening to?
My mom really loves to clean and listen to Vivaldi, so it’s either that or something from Barney.

How do you find new music?
Friends; festival line-ups; websites like prettymuchamazing.com, pitchfork.com, and nprmusic.com; the “related artists” option on Spotify.com and YouTube.com; and different music blogs.

When was your first concert?
Who did you see?
I saw Death Cab for Cutie and Hot Hot Heat my freshman year of high school.

When was your most recent concert?
Who did you see?
My last concert was at Millikin when Kids These Days and Young Buffalo came to the Oakwood Street Festival in September.

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HAVE AN IDEA FOR THEN AND NOW? Send an email to millikinquarterly@millikin.edu.