Open for BUSINESS: Alumni thrive as entrepreneurs
Delta Delta Delta House
The Delta Epsilon chapter of Delta Delta Delta will celebrate 100 years of sisterhood on the Millikin campus this spring. Established May 25, 1912, the sorority began as Chi Sigma Phi in 1906. The sorority moved into the house on Park Place (pictured above) in 1941. Today, the chapter has 80 members, with 42 sisters living in the house.

Did you know...?

Tri Delta’s notable alumnae include Millikin’s own Jodi Marzorati Benson ’83, star of Disney’s animated “The Little Mermaid,” national broadcaster Katie Couric and Cathy Guisewite, the cartoonist who created the comic strip “Cathy.”

The Millikin Tri-Delta members hold several events each academic year to raise funding in support of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the sorority’s main philanthropy, including D-HOP (an all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage event), a letter drive, and the Cure-nival, a carnival-type event.

Millikin Tri-Delta alumnae are invited to attend the sorority’s Centennial Celebration held during Homecoming weekend on Oct. 6. The celebration will be held at the Decatur Conference Center near campus. For more information, visit www.deltaepsilon100.blogspot.com.
Dear Alumni and Friends of Millikin,

Recently, I was proud to make an announcement that was the result of many long hours of study, analysis and planning:

**MILLIKIN WILL NOT INCREASE TUITION OR HOUSING PRICES FOR THE 2012-13 ACADEMIC YEAR.**

This is a departure from the past several years, when price adjustments for both tuition and housing totaled an average increase of about 4 percent per year. Each increase was a reflection of the true rising costs of providing a Millikin education. Those costs are still rising annually, but at Millikin, our leadership team felt that this institution at this time is in a position to hold the line on pricing – at least for the upcoming year. Board costs, an area under the purview of our contracted food provider, must rise slightly this fall due to the increasing cost of food products, but we are committed to no increase in the price of tuition or housing through June 30, 2013.

In no way was this an easy decision, but it was most definitely the right decision for this upcoming academic year. To achieve it, we had to think creatively in determining how to hold down costs without sacrificing the quality of a Millikin education. This isn’t something new to us – on a daily basis we discipline ourselves to make proactive decisions about spending in order to be a lean and fiscally responsible institution.

You can read more about the particulars of this decision on the next page, but for now I want to discuss the factors behind it.

As I mentioned in a previous column for this magazine, there is an ongoing national dialogue about the value of a college education vs. the significant financial investment needed to obtain a degree. It’s a topic we take seriously at this university, recognizing that a Millikin education is well worth the price, but also understanding that our students and their families are struggling in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago. We must recognize the serious financial challenges facing today’s students and their families and take the necessary steps to make the high-quality Millikin educational experience as accessible as possible to all students who aspire to achieve.

Our decision to keep tuition and housing prices flat reflects a legitimate effort to respond to those challenges. Today, 99 percent of our students receive some type of financial aid to attend Millikin. One out of every five households in this country is receiving some form of governmental assistance to meet basic needs. Americans now owe more on student loans than on credit cards, with the average student loan debt for graduating seniors nationwide topping $25,000. Total outstanding U.S. student loans will exceed $1 trillion for the first time this year.

Despite these dour statistics and the current depressed job market, a study conducted by the Brookings Institution last year concluded that a college degree is still the best long-term investment, with on average a better rate of return than that of stocks, bonds, housing or even gold. Hopefully, any young graduates who may be struggling to find jobs in their fields and pay off student loans will take some measure of comfort from these words. Better days are coming, thanks to your Millikin education.

Our ongoing success rates make this reassurance resonate. On average, more than 95 percent of our graduates from the last 10 years found a job or entered graduate school within six months of graduation – despite these times of economic uncertainty.

Those success rates highlight why we must stay true to our mission by providing a relevant and affordable experience that prepares our students well for professional success, democratic citizenship in a global environment and personal lives of meaning and value. That’s a given. It’s who we are, and it’s what we do. And my recent announcement about holding firm on pricing is just the next step toward making a Millikin education even more accessible to our students and their families.

●

Dr. Harold Jeffcoat
Millikin President
Millikin holds line on pricing

Millikin will not increase tuition or housing prices for the 2012-2013 academic year. Tuition prices will remain flat for all traditional and evening programs, both undergraduate and graduate.

Citing “intentional cost containment” as the reason for the pricing decision, Millikin President Dr. Harold Jeffcoat noted this as the first step in the university’s move toward a sustained pricing effort.

“We are doing whatever we can to stop the trend of yearly tuition increases in higher education and to help families better afford a private education,” Jeffcoat says. “While we can’t make any promises about the long-term future, we intend to continue holding down prices for as long as possible.”

The decision to hold a flat tuition rate is the result of a Millikin study of more than 100 institutions that reduced tuition pricing by more than 10 percent in recent years. Although such drastic tuition cuts often draw media attention, Jeffcoat noted that none of those 100 schools were able to sustain their pricing reductions.

“Many, in fact, have tuition rates even higher today than before the cuts were made,” he said. “That’s not what we’re doing at Millikin. We wanted a sincere systemic change, not a marketing ploy.”

“Higher education must take deliberate and educated steps to contain costs for its students,” Jeffcoat says. “Millikin’s ambition – as we follow in the footsteps of our founder – is to be a private institution for the public good.”

Annual tuition for Millikin’s full-time undergraduate program is $27,852. Average annual housing rate is $5,852. Tuition for Millikin’s PACE evening undergraduate program is $417 per credit hour. Graduate program prices vary by program. Ninety-nine percent of Millikin students receive financial aid totaling more than $36 million, including Millikin scholarships, Illinois MAP money, federal PELL grants and other sources.

Student entrepreneurship recognized

Several Millikin students were recognized for their work and received awards at the 12th annual Self Employment in the Arts (SEA) Conference held in Lisle, Ill., in February.

Junior studio art major Alexa Snyder of Springfield, Ill., received the best in show award and a $300 prize in the juried art competition. Senior Jess Black of Springfield, Ill., a studio art major, also received a juror’s award and a $100 prize, and Anna Niebrugge of Effingham, Ill., also a senior and studio art major, was selected to present her work at the SEA Conference.

In addition, junior Peter Bushnell of Elmhurst, Ill., an entrepreneurship major, junior Amanda Sagan of Geneva, Ill., a graphic design major, and senior Favian Lobo of Decatur, an art major, were awarded second place and a $500 prize in the SEA business plan competition for their T-shirt and design business. The students began their business, Stencil-Vania Shirt Co., in fall 2011 as part of Millikin’s “The Art of Entrepreneurship” course.

According to its website, the SEA conference provides educational resources to help aspiring artists gain the entrepreneurial knowledge and skills needed to establish and maintain careers as independent artists. More than 500 students from dozens of colleges attended to learn about the business skills, market knowledge, networking and resources needed to succeed as a professional artist.

Visit www.selfemploymentinthearts.com for more information.

Left: “Mask,” an oil painting by Alexa Snyder, is part of the body of work named best in show at the SEA Conference.
Promotions and tenure

The board of trustees recently announced the following faculty promotions and tenure decisions, which go into effect July 1, 2012.

Tenure was awarded to the following individuals:
- **Dr. Paris Barnes**, who was also promoted to associate professor of chemistry
- **Professor Jana Funderburk**, who was also promoted to associate professor of theatre and dance
- **Dr. Tim Kovalek ‘96**, who was also promoted to associate professor of history
- **Dr. Eun-Joo Lee**, who was also promoted to associate professor of mathematics
- **Dr. Dan Monroe**, who was also promoted to associate professor of history
- **Dr. Casey Watson**, who was also promoted to associate professor of physics

In addition, the following faculty members were promoted:
- **Professor Brian Justison** to professor of music
- **Dr. Mary Jane Linton ’75** to professor of nursing
- **Dr. Robert Money** to professor of philosophy
- **Dr. Sheryl Samuelson** to professor of nursing

In addition, **Dr. Monroe** was granted a sabbatical for the 2012 fall semester, and **Dr. Michael Brown**, associate professor of accounting, and **Dr. James Rauff**, professor of mathematics, will be on sabbatical for the 2013 spring semester.

Teapot exhibit steams up Perkinson Gallery

*The Perkinson Gallery hosted an invitational teapot exhibition Jan. 30-March 9, featuring artwork from around the country. Millikin student artists included Molly Harris ’12, Nekoda Hoke ’12, Charlie Huth ’13, Jennifer Kibbat ’13, Regina Maj ’12, Mars McDaniel ’12, Kari Thornton ’12 and Meghan Walsh ’12.*

Broadway stage manager shares expertise

Scott Rollison ’96, most recently stage manager for Broadway’s “The Addams Family,” offered a workshop for theatre students on campus in January. His other Broadway stage management credits include “Jersey Boys,” “Little Women,” “Into the Woods” with Vanessa Williams, “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,” “Waiting in the Wings” with Lauren Bacall, “Annie Get Your Gun” with Bernadette Peters and Reba McEntire, and “Rent.”

Students repeat success in moot court

For the fifth consecutive year, Millikin students won the moot court competition held annually as part of Model Illinois Government.

Eighteen Millikin students participated in the competition, with 14 students participating as attorneys and four students participating as justices. Of the seven MU attorney teams entered in the competition, five made the quarterfinal round, three made the semifinal round and one made the final round.

The team of Justin Ladendorf ’12 of Decatur and Joshua Rose ’15 of Saint Jacob, Ill., defeated a team from Eastern Illinois University to win the final round.

Two Millikin students were recognized with individual awards. Cate Harriman ’12 of Evergreen, Colo., was recognized as most outstanding attorney, the second time she has won this award. In addition, Kevin Stocks ’13 of Bloomington, Ill., was recognized as runner-up for most outstanding attorney.
Big Blue Family Ties

Winter 2011 graduates celebrate with their alumni relatives at Commencement.

Track team smashes several school records, sends two to championships

Juniors Ariel Robinson of Decatur and LeAnn Spesard of Paris, Ill., competed at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships held in early March.

Spesard earned All-American status with an eighth-place finish in the shot put with a throw of 13.62 meters. Robinson finished in ninth place in the 60 meters with a time of 7.796, narrowly missing qualifying for the finals by .002 second.

Their season marks had placed them in the top 15 in the nation in their events and put them solidly in the DIII Championships field. Robinson’s qualifying time of 7.76 seconds was the 10th fastest in the nation in DIII. Spesard’s best mark of the year, 13.90 meters, was the fifth best DIII toss during the season.

Previously, both women’s and men’s track teams turned in strong performances at the CCIW Indoor Track and Field Championships held in February in Naperville, Ill. The Big Blue earned four individual championships, set seven new Millikin records and saw several athletes earn All-Conference honors by finishing in the top eight in their events.

Robinson earned the CCIW championship in the 60 meters, breaking her own school record. She also broke her own record in the 200 meters, finishing second with a time of 25.69 seconds. Robinson also earned All-Conference honors in the long jump with an eighth-place finish jump of 4.94 meters. On Feb. 4, she won the 400 meters with a new Big Blue school record time of 59.20.

Senior Brittany Sherron of Rockville, Ind., was the CCIW champion in the women’s weight throw, with the Big Blue sweeping the top three medalist spots and taking four of the top-five finishes.

Spesard won the CCIW championship in the shot put, breaking her own Big Blue record with a throw of 13.61 meters.

In the men’s competition, senior Carleston Acres of Springfield, Ill., was the CCIW champion in the 60 meters.

Freshman Sendin Bajric of Arnold, Mo., was third in the 1000 meters in a school record time of 2:39.49.

Freshman Kindra Emberton of Decatur earned All-CCIW honors in the following four events and each time bettered her own Big Blue record in that event: the 5000 meters (18:15.71); 3000 meters (10:36.47); 800 meters (2:20.19); and the mile run (5:13.22). Emberton had also previously set a Big Blue school record in the 1000 meters with a time of 3:08.34.

In a February meet featuring several NCAA Division I schools, senior Kirsten Daykin of Taylorville, Ill., was third in the 600 meters in a school record time of 1:39.10.

At the Last Chance Meet in early March, the Big Blue distance medley team of Robinson, Daykin, Emberton and freshman Liz Wrobel of Tinley Park, Ill., set a Big Blue record time of 12:37.20.
There’s no fool like an April fool
by Amanda Pippitt, University Archivist

The April Fool edition of the student newspaper is part of a long-standing tradition at Millikin. The first known example of a Decaturian April Fool’s headline was published on March 29, 1928, with “John Doe Murdered: Meets Tragic Death At Hand Of Richard Roe.” Since then, over 30 Decaturians have included at least some April Fool content.

“University Files Damage Suit; Asks $500,000 from Wabash R.R.,” blazed the Decaturian’s main headline in 1950. This article, dated March 31, reported on a lawsuit brought by Millikin against the Wabash Railroad for damages from “uncontrolled whistle blowing by the Wabash trains near the university.”

Not only was the noise causing Mrs. Maxwell’s English students to earn “unusually low grades...(due to) nervous tension and emotional instability,” home economics students were experiencing “fallen cakes, curdled milk, and a long list of burns and scalds occasioned by the unexpected sound(s).”

Registrar and psychology professor Mr. Kerns, whose office was near the epicenter of the “noisy bedlam,” was apparently driven to the edge of sanity and jammed a small waste basket over his head to block the noise. He then became stuck and tripped out an open window. Thankfully, he was eventually freed with a can opener.

Further examination showed that the Millikin campus was rife with curious incidents that week including “FBI Men Stop Com- mie Rioting In Taylor Hall” and “Williams Leads Seance Behind Closed Doors.” Finally, the readers’ eyes were drawn to a small notice on the lower part of the page, which clues them in on the cause of this strange nexus of events. April Fool!

Sometimes the content was marked with a special visual cue. Red ink was used to print several issues, but in 1970, it was printed in green and the masthead read Soy Bean Corn. At times, the masthead was upside down, articles were printed in all directions, or headlines for the April Fool content were upside down. Some special names for the edition have included the Pago-Pagan Old P.U., the Millikin Tribune, the Millikin Spectator & Voyeur, the Sukaturian, the Dorkaturian, the Depravaturian and the deprav.

Fodder for April Fool fun has remained fairly constant through the years. Perhaps the most common butt of these jokes has been the University faculty, including stories that had Professor Bonnie Blackburn arrested behind a local pool hall for running a cock fighting ring, Professor A. T. Mills being taken away to prison, Dr. Leslie Munneke leading a coup to seize the University presidency and a 1931 headline reading “Whoopee Party Staged by Faculty: Socially Elite, Intellectually Boresome Gathering Becomes Riot.”

Other common themes have included the cafeteria food, with the headline “Slater Serves Raw Fish; K-Rations To Students” in 1966, University programming with “Chippendales rock Krapland” in 1998, and other aspects of campus life such as a “Three Acre Beer Hall Donated by Ed Lindsay” or the “New Dorm to be Constructed During Summer: 500 Rooms with Private Baths To Feature New Building; Suggest Personal Maids,” in 1936. Sports also took part when a headline read, “Swimmers sucked down drain,” in 1998.

So each April 1, beware being made an April Fool … and don’t worry about the zombie invasions and 110-pound cock-roaches, the nuclear shield will protect us!

Amanda Pippitt is Millikin’s access services coordinator, and 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.

Below: The 1950 April Fool Decaturian. Browse older Decs online at www.millikin.edu/staley/archives/collections
Caterpillar Foundation makes $1 million payment

As a part of the Caterpillar Foundation’s previously announced investment in Millikin University, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012, marked another momentous occasion as the Caterpillar Foundation made its second payment of $1 million to Millikin University. This investment is part of the Caterpillar Foundation’s $7 million grant made in 2011. Presented by Caterpillar Decatur’s General Manager Walt Hupe, this investment will help to create a new Center for International Education on the university’s campus.

One year ago, Caterpillar Inc. Chairman and CEO, Doug Oberhelman, a 1975 Millikin graduate, announced an investment of up to $11.5 million toward the capital campaign. This investment is the largest show of support in Millikin’s history.

The investment, made both by the Caterpillar Foundation and personally by Doug Oberhelman and his wife, Diane, will support creation of a new university center that will house the Oberhelman Leadership Development Center, help renovate Millikin’s oldest residence hall to create a Center for International Education and double the number of students supported by the university’s Long-Vanderburg Scholars Program for minority students.

The $1 million donation recently received by Millikin will give Aston Hall, the university’s oldest residence hall, new life as a Center for International Education. The Caterpillar Foundation has committed a total of $3 million to help renovate and develop the new center, which will provide housing for international students and serve as a home for multicultural affairs staff, international programs, study abroad and global awareness.

“We are extremely grateful for this continued on page 30

Hubbard joins alumni and development office

Stacey Hubbard, formerly the university’s dean of admission and financial aid, is Millikin’s new associate director for major gifts. She has worked in higher education since 1991 and at Millikin since 2004. Hubbard launched Millikin’s first comprehensive Student Service Center and has also held various positions within the student financial aid industry.

In her new role, Hubbard is responsible for stewardship of Millikin’s donor-funded scholarships and also works with the university’s planned giving program. She looks forward to drawing from her admission and financial aid experience to share with scholarship donors how their support directly impacts students.

She and her husband, Steve Hubbard ’94, live in Forsyth, Ill., with their two daughters.

PPG donates $10,000 to girls program

The PPG Industries Foundation has donated $10,000 to Millikin on behalf of PPG Industries’ Mt. Zion glass manufacturing facility to support the iSmartgirls Discovery Day Camp.

Thanks to PPG’s support, the technology-based camp, operated by Millikin’s Center for Entrepreneurship, held two full-day sessions earlier this year. Ninety girls, double last year’s number, attended iSmartgirls Reflective Day at Rock Springs Environmental Center as a wrap-up of the earlier sessions.

The iSmartgirls program offers Decatur-area girls in sixth through eighth grade the opportunity to learn about innovations in science, math, art and real-world technology through intensive hands-on learning experiences, with Millikin students acting as mentors. The day included three labs – iDesigner, where girls work with geometric patterning and tessellation for artistic design; iChemist, where students create their own skin care products; and iEngineer, where students explore solutions for bettering their world – and a creative “upcycling” project, transforming recyclables into objects of value.

“We also introduced a sustainability-focused project for girls who attended our 2012 sessions to reinforce the science and technology that underlie recycling and related real-world issues,” says Sharon T. Alpi, Coleman Foundation professor in MU’s Center for Entrepreneurship.

“PPG is strongly committed to supporting the communities where its employees work and live, especially through educational programs focusing on science, technology and math,” says John Gauthier, plant manager for the Mt. Zion glass manufacturing facility. “We are proud to continue our decades-long relationship with Millikin University by helping to enrich this unique program for girls. Some of our female employees are hoping to serve as mentors or speakers for future camp sessions, which will offer an exciting opportunity to grow this relationship further.”

Give the gift

The moment you share a gift to Millikin with your family and friends.

Globally, we are reaching out to students.

Contact us toll free at 1-877-JMU-AL-

PPG donates $10,000 to girls program
Give the gift that lasts forever

The gift that lasts forever isn’t diamonds; it’s a scholarship. Scholarships are the perfect way to honor or remember someone who has had an impact on your life, or a way to ensure your or your family’s legacy.

Scholarships may be named in honor or in memory of the donor, a friend or loved one, a favorite professor or another individual of your choosing. You can start a scholarship fund at any time with a gift of any size, and add to it at your convenience.

Once the fund reaches $10,000 through accumulated earnings and contributions, the scholarship becomes endowed and can begin to support deserving Millikin students through annual awards. Gifts to your scholarship fund may be made at any time through a variety of methods, including outright gifts, retirement funds, charitable remainder trusts, insurance policies or bequests.

The process need not be complicated. For more information, call our office toll free at 1-877-JMU-ALUM (locally, dial 424-6383), and ask for Peg Smith Luy ’75, vice president for alumni and development; Anne-Marie Proske Berk ’88, director of major gifts; or Dave Brandon, director of development.

What’s next after Millikin?

I will be attending the Pennsylvania State University in the fall in their master’s program for college student affairs, with an assistantship in the office of fraternity and sorority life. I plan to work with college students for the rest of my career. I want to have a better understanding of how society’s idea of masculinity affects college males and the decisions college males make based off of that idea.

What leadership skills have you developed in Interfraternity Council and Student Senate?

With my experience in Student Senate, I developed and polished the skills necessary to work with faculty and administration in a professional and productive manner. The Interfraternity Council taught me how to work with a diverse group of men who have similar goals but different methods of achieving those goals. Throughout both experiences, I developed the self-confidence necessary to be an effective leader in any organization I join.

Explain what the Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement is and how you intend to use the skills you learned there.

The Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement is a conference at the University of Pittsburgh. The Academy is made up of the top 50 applicants from around the world and can include undergraduate students and graduate students in their first two years of graduate school. It is a celebration of the achievements of all the participants. Professionals from all walks of life attended as mentors for the students and helped us throughout the entire conference. I plan on using the skills I developed there to better help the students I come into contact with during my career in student affairs.

Why is leadership important?

Leadership allows individuals to live their own lives. Leadership is merely the act of living a value-congruent life and giving back to your community. Living a value-congruent life means that you let your personal values guide your decisions and strive to live a just life.

Dylan Howser

Hometown: Geneva, Ill.

Major/minor: Philosophy with a minor in gender studies

Graduation date: May 2012

Student activities:
President of Student Senate
President of Interfraternity Council
New Member Educator of Delta Sigma Phi

Honors and awards:
Dean’s list
Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges
Delta Sigma Phi Leadership Institute graduate

Community service:
Homeward Bound pet shelter
American Red Cross local chapter
Millikin community service projects

What his professor says:
“Dylan is hard-working, dependable, engaged and engaging,” says Robert Money, associate professor of philosophy. “His academic achievements, his extracurricular accomplishments and activities, and his engaging personality and excellent character make him an ideal student.”
Since she was small, Heather Van Matre Champion ‘09 of La Place, Ill., has loved to read, often getting into trouble during class because she would ignore her homework and read instead. She can’t remember a time when she wasn’t engaged in a book.

“My parents really encouraged this, and I have many memories of them reading to me,” she says.

As a result, Champion dreamed of writing a children’s book, but it was just a dream until she took a children’s literacy class with Assistant Professor Christie Ferguson Magoulias ’96. The course challenged her to use her early literacy experiences and turn them into a children’s story. Considering the assignment good practice toward her dream, Champion worked hard but had no expectations of being published.

“My classmates encouraged me and informed me about Bronze Man Books,” she says. “I took it over to them, and the rest is history. It was really an affirmation of something I had prayed and hoped for.”

Champion originally pursued a graphic arts degree at Millikin, but while at the university, she discovered her true passion was teaching. She switched her major to early childhood education and spent an additional two years at Richland Community College in Decatur before ultimately finishing her Millikin degree. She is currently a second-grade teacher at Argenta-Oreana Elementary School in Oreana, Ill., and mother to Clover, 4.

As an educator, Champion constantly sees the struggle that some children go through when learning how to read, thus “Monsters Don’t Read” was born.

Why use a monster to tell the story? “My father always read me the book, ‘The Monster at the End of this Book,’ with Grover from Sesame Street,” she explains. “This is a really fond memory for me, so I chose to include this by making the main character a monster.”

And her experience as a mother heavily contributed to the style of the children’s book.

“Clove and I love to read together, and I find the easiest and most enjoyable books for us to read are those that carry a rhythmic tone,” she says. “I really wanted to incorporate this into the story.”

Champion also thinks that predictability is an important feature in children’s books because it makes it easier for students to successfully read and build their fluency.

“One of the most fantastic things is to see the pieces finally fit as the student becomes a competent reader,” she says. “It is just great to see them make it through the work and gain the excitement of reading. I wanted to depict this struggle in a story and encourage students to enjoy reading.” • by Kate Eagler ’11
Dr. Travis Stimeling

Title: Assistant Professor of Music  
Faculty member since: 2007  
Education: Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.M. in Music History, West Virginia University; B.A., West Virginia Wesleyan College

Dr. Travis Stimeling holds up his thumb and forefinger and pinches about an inch of air. “This is the range of my knowledge ... the rest of the room is everything else.” The assistant professor of music says that the most important aspect of learning is being receptive and willing to have an open mind to new possibilities. No one should be content with just the knowledge they already have, he says.

“It is really easy to have that mindset coming out of college. I know I did,” he remembers.

Because of this, he works to show students that they can find new avenues beyond what’s taught in the classroom. But it’s not as easy as it sounds.

“You have to convey excitement and interest to someone else to get them excited and interested,” he says.

This excitement and interest was a prominent part of Stimeling’s education. Throughout his life, passionate teachers have served as inspiration to him, he explains.

“Teachers have the power to open new pathways and doors for the students they inspire,” he says. “Because of this, I knew I needed to teach.”

Stimeling loves teaching at Millikin, where he says the small school atmosphere allows him to get to know students individually. Although he teaches courses in music history and ethnomusicology*, he was also drawn to Millikin by the level of integration in the music program compared to many larger schools.

“At Millikin, I can break down barriers and teach the whole musician,” he says.

Stimeling recently wrote his first book, “Cosmic Cowboys and New Hicks: The Counter-Cultural Sounds of Austin’s Progressive Country Music Scene,” which he explains was an outgrowth of his doctoral dissertation and his West Virginian roots.

A lifelong country music fan, his dissertation explored the progressive country music scene in Texas. Here, he found it fascinating how they established and articulated their own identities while maintaining a collective identity as a scene. After finishing his dissertation, he felt as if it could be tightened and expanded into a book.

The book has been very well received. Dr. Gary Hartman, director of the Center for Texas Music History at Texas State University, says it’s “the most engaging and informative examination of progressive country music to date ... This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the rich, complex, and colorful history of American music.”

However, Stimeling’s focus on country music didn’t end there. While writing his book, he realized that there weren’t many resources on country music, so he has committed himself to writing an anthology of source readings in country music history from 1922 to the present. While on a sabbatical leave in 2010, Stimeling transcribed articles into chapters and wrote critical introductions and annotations. He hopes to finish the project within the next year and publish it soon thereafter. To reach this goal, he says he writes each day.

“Just like you’d practice an instrument, you need to practice writing,” he says. “I try to write at least 200 words a day.”

Aside from his book, Stimeling recently received praise for an international “Critical Voices Project” that he brought to Millikin. The overall project started in spring 2011, and the students in Millikin’s “Music and the Environment” course were invited to participate in the fall of the same year. In this program, students are engaged in serious musicological reading, covering challenging subject matter ranging from acoustics to birdsongs.

After each student writes a critique of a book of their choice, it is peer reviewed by students in the course. From eight student submissions, the top five student works were sent to the University of Guelph for further review and feedback from students there. All five of the works sent to Guelph were published in early January.

Stimeling and Critical Voices Project founder Kimberly Francis are working on a research project on the pedagogy of peer review that will be presented at a June conference.

In addition to teaching and writing books, Stimeling is still an active musician. He continues to sing and play guitar with grad school buddy Matt Meacham in Southern Illinois and the St. Louis area. Along with Meacham, Stimeling occasionally performs locally with Dave Burdick [associate professor of music] and Andy Heise [Tabor School of Business program coordinator] in the band, “Los Gringos Del Corn.”

Through his accomplishments as a writer, teacher and musician, he shows the rewards of being a lifelong learner. As he continually explores the world of music through his external projects, he inspires his students to learn outside of school and never to be afraid of jumping into knowledge headfirst. ● by Ty Warden ’13

*The study of the relationship between music and culture.
ALUMNI BUSINESSES THRIVE
Many Millikin alumni answer to a boss they know very well: themselves.

Of all MU alumni who have reported their employer status to the alumni office, a large group list themselves as self-employed business owners (see page 2).

Some Millikin alumni own companies with numerous employees while others run what the U.S. Census Bureau calls nonemployer businesses, companies without paid employees and sometimes based out of a private home. Despite a national decline in the total number of small businesses, Millikin boasts a growing number of emerging businesses among its alumni base, including one owned by Zane Peterson ’11 and his father, who together opened the University Dogs shop near campus last year (see page 21).

According to the Small Business Administration, there were 27.5 million total U.S. businesses in 2009; all but about 18,000 employed less than 500 employees, and a majority, 21.4 million, had no employees but the owner.

continued next page
Even though pickled peppers aren’t in their inventory, Bette Brickner Trimble (at right in both photos) and Kim McLaughlin Holinbeck (at left), both ‘89, could show Peter Piper a thing or two.

As the chief operating officer and marketing manager (respectively) for Gramp’s Gourmet Foods, they oversee production and marketing of 12 varieties of pickles, six types of pickled beets and other gourmet goodies. Their products are available in small grocery chains and specialty shops in Wisconsin and Illinois. Before they became pickle princesses, they were roommates at Millikin—randomly selected to live in room 313 of Walker Hall.

“We didn’t know each other before we met at Millikin,” says Holinbeck.

The pair remained fast friends through all four years at MU and stayed in touch after graduation. Beginning with their five-year reunion, they also made a commitment to reconnect in person at
Do your own business dreams need a little help?

Do you dream about owning your own business? Or do you already own a business but could use some ideas to help ensure its success? Millikin can help.

Request free SCORE counseling

Own a business now? SCORE Chapter No. 296, housed on the Millikin campus, provides free and confidential business counseling tailored to meet the needs of your small business. The chapter is part of SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business,” a national nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of the nation’s small businesses.

SCORE volunteers are real-world professionals with time-tested knowledge; experts in such areas as accounting, finance, marketing, management and business plan preparation. They also have assisted many clients in obtaining business loans.

Whether you are just starting a business or expanding an established business, SCORE counselors can help you succeed. There is no charge for counseling, no matter how many sessions are needed. You’ll be matched up with a SCORE counselor who best suits your needs. For more information, contact score@millikin.edu, call 217-424-6296 or fill out the form found here: http://bit.ly/FPMSpu.

Sign up for First Step FastTrac

Want to start your own business? Presented by SCORE and Millikin’s Center for Entrepreneurship, First Step FastTrac is a 12-week course on business ownership that can help you realize that dream. It’s specifically designed for start-up and new businesses, an educational program created by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs. During the course, you will work with certified instructors and experienced business people to develop:

- A network of business start up and growth resources
- A completed feasibility plan
- Ways to turn your business idea into a profitable business
- Market research, competitor analysis and product versus service distinction
- A cash flow statement and profitability formulas
- Confidence in a plan to go now or go later into your business

The next 12-week course will be offered one night a week from 5:30-9 p.m. beginning Aug. 30. Cost is $250 per person, which includes materials, speakers, business coaches and a light dinner. To learn more or sign up for the fall session, call Millikin at 217-424-6296.

Millikin’s Homecoming every year, never dreaming they’d someday work together.

Then, in 2005, Trimble’s parents started Gramp’s Gourmet Foods. Although she had a successful career as a mental health counselor, Trimble enjoyed occasionally helping out with the family business. But when she and her husband, Andrew, moved to Madison, Wis., in 2007, Trimble realized that the family business could use Holinbeck’s marketing and computer expertise. So in 2010, Holinbeck joined Gramp’s as marketing manager.

“Thanks to rising demand for their gourmet goodies, the company moved production of its tasty treats to a larger facility in Scales Mound, Ill., near Galena last June. “Gramp’s started in a 7 x 12 kitchen at my parent’s house, and it’s great to see how the business has grown,” says Trimble. “Our new facility is 2500 square feet.” So things are looking up for these pickle purveyors, personally and professionally. “When Bette moved to Wisconsin, I was devastated,” Holinbeck says. “But now we talk almost every day and work together often. And it all started at Millikin.”

by Margaret Friend

To learn more about Gramp’s Gourmet Foods, visit www.grampsgourmetfoods.com.

Spring 2012 Millikin Quarterly
Mari-Mann Herb Co. Inc.
President: Mike King ’81
1405 Mari Mann Lane
Decatur, IL 62521
217-429-1555
www.marimann.com

Mari-Mann’s herb farm, listed as a tourist attraction, is recognized as an Official Illinois Herb Garden by the Illinois Herb Association. Their health food store, open daily, offers the “highest quality, lowest cost on alternatives that work” and fresh organic produce, which varies by season. Mari-Mann also features a Tea Room Restaurant and a greenhouse, which are both open seasonally.

Alumni discount: Preferred Member Discount - 10 percent off suggested retail.

Button Up
Co-Owners:
Pam Miller ’10 and Emily Anderson ’11
www.buttonupco.com

Button Up is a button-making company that helps you advertise and market your cause, passion, company or business on buttons. Button Up also hosts “Button-Making Parties,” supplying the craft materials and a safe/fun environment for groups to create buttons expressing personal creativity and flair into messages to wear. The business also carries a line of Button Up Originals, which are buttons that have been handmade for retail.

Alumni discount: Free shipping

Mary Kay Cosmetics
Independent Senior Sales Director:
Amy Johnson Kemp ’99
Bourbonnais, Ill.
815-545-2376
amykemp@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/amykemp

Kemp provides skin care and color cosmetics, along with personalized consultations and advice to her customers. In addition, she leads a sales force of almost 300 consultants, training and coaching them as they build their own businesses. She recently picked up her fourth pink Cadillac for her sales achievements.

Alumni discount: Yes.

Midwest Motor Sports
Owners: John and DeeDee Dorn Roth, both ’91
1 Fun St.
Hartford, IL 62048
618-251-3902
www.midwestmotorsports.com

Midwest Motor Sports is a multi-line motorcycle, ATV and watercraft dealership located 15 minutes from downtown St. Louis. Their facility features a 20,000-square foot showroom, large storage warehouse and a test tank large enough for any personal watercraft. Midwest Motor Sports’ product lines include ATVs (Yamaha, Suzuki and Polaris), motorcycles (Yamaha and Suzuki), scooters (Yamaha and Suzuki) and personal watercraft (Sea-Doo).

Alumni discount: Yes.

On these two pages is a random selection of alumni-owned businesses out of all those submitted through an online form on Millikin’s website.


Books by Carolyn
Owner:
Carolyn Findlay Davis ’62
www.carolynfindlaydavisbooks.com

Davis is an author of children’s books with seven books published. Her latest book, “Winston’s Wonderful World,” was written to encourage adoption of homeless animals, and the proceeds go to the Bartholomew County Animal Shelter in Indiana. Her books are written for children ages 2-9 and have been illustrated by people around the world, including her granddaughter, Kimberly Freeman.

Mary Kay Cosmetics
Independent Senior Sales Director:
Amy Johnson Kemp ’99
Bourbonnais, Ill.
815-545-2376
amykemp@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/amykemp

Kemp provides skin care and color cosmetics, along with personalized consultations and advice to her customers. In addition, she leads a sales force of almost 300 consultants, training and coaching them as they build their own businesses. She recently picked up her fourth pink Cadillac for her sales achievements.

Alumni discount: Free shipping

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Independent Senior Sales Director:
Amy Johnson Kemp ’99
Bourbonnais, Ill.
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Alumni discount: Free shipping
Precision Biomarker Resources Inc.  
Founder and Chief Scientific Officer:  
**Eric Bremer ’75**  
820 Davis St., Suite 216  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-866-0406  
www.precisionbiomarker.com

Precision Biomarker Resources was founded by pioneering genomics scientists from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Program in Children’s Memorial Research Center (CMRC) in Chicago. It was there that Dr. Eric G. Bremer was among the first to use gene expression analysis for molecular profiling of pediatric cancer. As genomics has grown to encompass many new technologies and platforms, Precision Biomarker has grown, too, offering a full range of analysis techniques and strategic support to help patients get the most out of these techniques.

Red’s Pub & Grill  
Owner: **Jennifer Highland ’03**  
N6318 State Highway 42  
Algoma, WI 54201  
920-487-5431  
www.redspubandgrill.com

Red’s Pub & Grill offers casual dining and a fun atmosphere with a beautiful view of Lake Michigan.

Summitt Enterprises  
Co-owners: **Robert Zukas ’69 and his wife, Nancy**  
12255 Space Drive  
Florissant, MO 63033  
314-741-2474  
www.firstusasynthetics.com

Summitt Enterprises markets AMSOIL synthetic lubricants, the First USA American Petroleum Institute (API) rated 100 percent synthetics in the United States and Canada since 1972. The lubricants are designed for use in both foreign and domestic vehicles, motorcycles, racing vehicles, marine engines, and lawn and garden equipment.

Tour Group Planners  
Owner: **Joe Luka ’88**  
363 S. Main St., Suite 175  
Decatur, IL 62523  
217-422-5002  
Tourgroupplanners.com

Tour Group Planners is a travel agency specializing in group trips anywhere in the world, including cruises, train trips, land adventures and mission projects. The agency also plans individual trips such as cruises, trips to Disney or all-inclusive vacations. Currently, another popular request is planning destination weddings.

TourTech  
Owner: **Allen Cook ’96**  
3451 Massey Pond Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-261-1120  
www.tourtech.com

TourTech provides internet, phone and networking systems to concert tours and special events such as Bon Jovi and Lollapalooza.

Other alumni who work at TourTech:  
**Steve Herd ’97**

Vitek Design  
Owner: **Howie Vitek ’99**  
504 Tamarack Drive  
Bartlett, IL 60103  
630.372.7900  
www.vitekdesign.com

Vitek Design is a graphic design and marketing communications firm located just outside Chicago. The firm creates logo design and print collateral and offers website development for companies and nonprofit organizations of all sizes.

Alumni discount: Discounts available to MU alumni upon request.
CAMPUSTOWN

Through the years, the campustown area on and around Oakland Avenue has been a hub for various types of businesses appealing to the Millikin community and local residents. Recently, the area has seen the emergence of several new businesses while older businesses have taken on new life, thanks in large part to the leadership of Gregg Meisenhelter ’00, a local businessman (see related article, page 22). Meisenhelter owns several plots of land in the area and has worked to develop an assortment of shops and restaurants that are drawing steady traffic to the area. On these pages, we highlight a few of the new and the tried and true, while remembering a few of the establishments that came before them. Remember some other hangouts in the area? Let us know at millikinquarterly@millikin.edu.

Wondering about the rest of these? Come check them out!

A. The Winery
B. Garcia's Pizza in a Pan
C. Roffler of Decatur
D. Blue Eggs and Ham
E. Donnie’s Homespun Pizza
F. Capital Comics & Games
G. Lana's Cakewalk
H. Spin City Cycles
I. Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre/The SPEC
J. Tuscany Steak and Pasta House
K. University Dogs
L. The Hub
M. Domino’s Pizza
N. Subway
O. Jimmy Johns
P. Entler's Flowers
Q. Mosaic Cafe
R. Ralph's West End Market
S. Lock Stock & Barrel
T. Main Street Hair Salon
U. University Service BP

THE WINERY (1933)
Established the day after prohibition ended, The Winery is known for its great burgers. A recent facelift perked up the interior a bit but left its famous moody vibe.

DONNIE'S HOMESPUN PIZZA (2009)
Since 2009, Donnie's has been offering pizzas and more in a setting showcasing artists and musicians. Alumni may remember the area as once home to Ed's and The Locker Room.

CAPITAL COMICS & GAMES (2003)
This business recently moved a half block north to a spot next to Donnie's. Its new location was formerly home to Eichenauer Services Inc., owned by the late Bill Eichenauer '51.
LANA’S CAKEWALK (2010)
Lana’s Cakewalk, an old-fashioned bakery, offers a cure for the sweet tooth. On its site once sat the Wagon Wheel and the Pom Pom Cafe.

SPIN CITY CYCLES (2002)
Spin City Cycles, which boasts everything for the bicycle enthusiast, recently moved from Oakland Avenue to a larger facility behind Lana’s to make way for Ralph’s West End.

PIPE DREAMS STUDIO THEATRE (2005)
MU’s Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre and The SPEC student gathering space occupy a portion of what was once the site of The Blue Mill restaurant, known “for steaks you’ll remember.”

UNIVERSITY DOGS (2011)
Co-owned by Zane Peterson ’11 and his father, University Dogs brings a taste of Chicago to Decatur. It was formerly home to Capital Comics & Games and years ago a gas station.

RALPH’S WEST END MARKET (2011)
Ralph’s West End Market offers fresh produce and meat, as well as organic foods and other grocery items. Its name pays homage to the former Ralph’s Pub, which once stood on the site.

LOCK STOCK & BARREL (1977)
Known for its soup, salad bar and sandwiches, LSB also hosts a variety of MU and other musical acts on its new stage, which was created by hollowing out a storeroom.
King of Campustown

Although he doesn’t work with bricks and mortar on a daily basis, Gregg Meisenhelter ‘00 of Decatur is most certainly a builder. It’s just that, in his case, he’s doing what he can to build up and create a successful business community in the campustown area near Millikin as well as in other pockets throughout Decatur.

It was a path that started when he was only 14.

“My dad took me to the local small town bank to get the dollars so I could buy a blue ’66 Mustang,” he says. “That was the first time I met my banker. I’ve worked with that bank ever since.”

That boost of faith by his loan officer led to Meisenhelter taking out other loans a few years later. This time, he was a Millikin art major, and he wanted a loan to buy a house near the university to live in while he attended school. He became the proud owner of a home that “at one time or another, almost every soccer player on the team lived in,” says the former player.

He says he didn’t start out to be an entrepreneur.

“I just get a kick out of buying things and making them better,” he says. “In fact, I still don’t know what I want to do with my life.”

A few years later came graduation and the next day he was working full time for his brother in the family garbage hauling service. It wasn’t long before Meisenhelter, by now in the business of regularly investing and selling real estate, bought half of his parents’ garbage business and started United Waste, which he still owns today with his mother.

Eventually, he turned his attention to retail establishments and purchased a large section of real estate on Oakland Avenue then owned by Eichenauer Services Inc. Since taking it over, he’s leased storefronts in that block to two restaurants, a comics shop and a bakery. While doing some exterior painting on the property one day, he was approached by Jim Gresham, who along with his wife Kathy Farleigh Gresham ’70, owned the iconic restaurant and bar Lock Stock & Barrel (LSB) directly across the street.

Gresham was thinking of retiring and liked the thought of Meisenhelter as the owner of the business he’d started in 1977.

For Meisenhelter, it was the closing of a loop. While attending Millikin with his future wife, Dana Descaro ’01, his future mother-in-law, was a waitress at LSB. Her husband had laid the building’s bricks and even carved his last name on one. Meisenhelter had joked: “I want to own this place.”

And now he does, in addition to sharing ownership of the almost 80-year-old Winery around the corner to the northeast with his brother and one of the LSB managers. Recently, he turned his focus to downtown Decatur, picking up ownership of Katz, another restaurant and bar, in late 2011.

It’s been a big leap for someone who admits he had no hands-on restaurant or food experience until purchasing LSB. He’s grateful that Gresham has stayed on part-time to offer his expertise after the purchase, and rues that he doesn’t have time to be the “guy out front greeting people every day like I would like to and should be doing.”

“I see how it works now,” he says. “But my phone is always ringing and people tell me I’m always in a hurry, always running.”

Despite a schedule that rarely gives him a full night’s sleep, Meisenhelter makes a point to give back to Millikin by sharing his business observations with students, speaking to classes once or twice a semester.

“I have asked Gregg to be a part of my classes because he is so entrepreneurial; he is almost a classic textbook example of the entrepreneurial attitude,” says Professor Dennis Schwieger of the Tabor School of Business. “I find him inspirational for this topic. He comes across as very believable, partly because of his age, and partly because of his ‘straight-from-the-shoulder’ presentation. He is not pretentious – he is very real, and that goes well with my students.”

Meisenhelter’s realism extends to being pragmatic about the needs of MU’s campustown to draw local residents, too.

“I’m very glad that Millikin is a neighbor, and a very good one at that,” he says, “but these places can’t survive on MU alone.”

It’s a lesson he’s planning to teach his twin boys, 8, and his daughter, 4, as he thinks about how to encourage them to be their own bosses, too.

“I’m thinking a snow cone business in campustown for them would be a good start once they’re old enough,” he says. “And I feel it would teach them business skills that will help them further down the road.

“Plus, I like snow cones,” he adds with a grin.
Whether the subject is city-wide disasters, the history of San Francisco or the finer points of basketball, Roger Lotchin ’57 is as reliable as an encyclopedia.

His most recent publication, “Narratives of the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906,” a collection of written accounts from the disaster that still scars the bay today, was released in December 2011.

Lotchin teaches history at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and has been studying the urban history of San Francisco since his graduate school years at the University of Chicago. His study began with the California Gold Rush.

He was originally advised to research Los Angeles, but “San Francisco looked more exciting,” Lotchin says. “During the Gold Rush, it was an explosive, dynamic out-of-control place,” so he dove into the study and found a historical gold mine of his own.

He cultivated his knowledge of San Francisco while writing a large collection of books on the subject, including “The Bad City in the Good War,” which highlights the accomplishments of San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles during World War II, despite the common misconception that the city was solely a land of danger and corruption.

Although experienced in the urban dynamic of the City by the Bay, Lotchin did not write specifically about the disaster in San Francisco until Charles Morris’ “The San Francisco Calamity by Earthquake and Fire” was released, for which Lotchin wrote the introduction.

Taking notice of his work, publisher R.R. Donnelley asked Lotchin to edit a 2011 addition to their Lakeside Classics collection, “Narratives of the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906.”

Lotchin gladly accepted. “All I had to do was validate it,” he says, “and I couldn’t think of any one of them that I would have thrown out. For example, the first narrative was a painter. He’s crucial, because he was one of the last people to see San Francisco whole before it burned down.”

According to Lotchin, the disaster was largely due to poor planning. “From a planning standpoint, I think almost all of the great American cities shouldn’t have been put where they are,” he says.

Despite San Francisco’s inopportune location, there was little chance that its inhabitants would leave, even after the earthquake and fire. Beneath all the destruction were their lives and infrastructure, not to mention the importance of having a place to call home. “At that time, San Francisco was well-loved,” Lotchin says. “There was a tremendous emotional attachment to the place.”

Lotchin is similarly attached to his alma mater. He attended Millikin as a physical education and history major, and continued his study of history in graduate school in Chicago.

In addition, the 6’ 5½” Lotchin was an all-star player on Millikin’s basketball team and was inducted into the Big Blue’s Athletic Hall of Fame. He averaged 23.3 rebounds per game his junior year, graduated as the school’s second leading scorer, and was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Hall of Fame in 1997, an honor he shares with his coach from his undergraduate years, Ralph Allan ’37. More recently, Lotchin was honored at a home game in February, receiving a framed jersey bearing his name and number from Men’s Basketball Coach Matt Nadelhoffer (see above photo).

His pride in his success is dwarfed by his ever-present pride for his teammates, whether they were running in the frigid cold as punishment for a loss or banding together in the last seconds of a game to clinch a victory.

Lotchin attributes much of his professional success to the influence of specific Millikin faculty during his undergraduate years. “I was very much influenced by Daniel Gage, the late professor of history and political science, who influenced any number of students,” Lotchin says, “and his partner in crime was the late Willis Walker ’52,” both of whom Lotchin says pushed him towards his “ultimate destiny” and career.

He recalls seeking the guidance of the late Glen Smith, dean of the School of Business and Industrial Management, when

continued on page 30
near the end” of the race, the bug kept biting; he was determined to make 26.2 miles in less than 3 hours, 30 minutes so he could qualify for the 2012 Boston Marathon.

He prepared for the qualification run by pushing himself through two full marathons two weekends in a row. “This was unorthodox,” Marshall says, “but it was another ‘what’s next?’ challenge I set for myself.”

He took it slow and finished the pair of races in just under four hours each. Afterwards, he felt he was well on his way to qualifying for the Boston Marathon.

His coach convinced him to run a marathon in Madison, Wis., two weeks before entering his run in Carmel, Ind., the race that could qualify him for Boston. But Marshall was too fatigued from Madison to beat the required time in Carmel and came up short.

He had one last chance to finish within the 3 hour, 30 minute mark in the Fox Valley Marathon in St. Charles, Ill., marking his eighth marathon in less than three years.

“I had a great deal of trepidation the night before,” Marshall says, “and even said to Beth that if she was looking for me at the finish line it could be within a window of 30 minutes.”

Beth watched the next day as he crossed the finish line at the 3 hours, 16 minutes, 56 seconds mark, making him eligible to run in Boston on April 16.

“I think I have really set a nice balance for myself,” Marshall says. “I hope I am setting an example for my boys. I want them to set goals and try to achieve them.”

His current goal is “to run a marathon a month.” If he completes the Boston marathon in less than 3 hours, 10 minutes, he will qualify for a run in New York. Meanwhile, Marshall prepares to run in Chicago later this year as he continues to push himself, exploring what’s next. ● by Jackson Lewis ’13
a student at Millikin,” he says. “Those professors work you 24/7, and that’s such a great training ground for the real world … it’s really paid off for me.”

Machota also credits Millikin professors with helping him become a stronger, more versatile performer, which in turn aided him in his transition from the stage to his new career.

“I cannot rave enough about the faculty at Millikin,” he says. “From [faculty members] Lynn Snyder to Barry Pearson, Laura Ledford and David Golden — they’re amazing. I also appreciate Darlene Harshbarger and Gary Shull, who taught dance. I was not a gifted dancer! We all know our strengths, but they really helped me work on my weaknesses. Their emphasis on being a well-rounded performer was such a huge help to me.”

In an effort to “pay it forward,” Machota has returned to campus as a guest artist, speaking with students and faculty about careers in musical theatre.

“Musical theatre is a competitive landscape, and Millikin provides a healthy way to prepare for the real world,” he says. “There’s constantly something to audition for — lots of productions are going on all the time and you’re encouraged to perform from your first year. When you graduate, you’re so prepared for all the auditions and competition required to get a job.”

In recognition of his loyalty to Millikin and in celebration of his successful career, he was named Young Alumnus of the Year in 2003.

“My most treasured award is the Young Alumnus Award I received from Millikin,” Machota says. “To have that recognition from a place I so cherish means so much to me.”

by Margaret Friend

Agent of Change

This 1993 alum has twice been named one of Broadway’s 50 Most Powerful People.

After earning his master’s degree at the prestigious Boston Conservatory of Music in 1995, Joe Machota ’93 began a successful career in musical theatre (see sidebar). Yet after 10 years of starring in Vegas productions, national touring company musicals and Broadway hits, Machota turned away from the spotlight to begin a new career as a talent agent.

“Understanding the business side of musical theatre is how I continued to work,” Machota explains. “I’ve always felt that my real strengths are my networking and people skills.”

So, while singing and dancing his way through “Mamma Mia” on Broadway each night, Machota interned at a friend’s talent agency during the day. Even though his day job paid only $100 a week, Machota says after his second week interning, “I knew this was what I wanted.”

Although his friend offered to hire him full-time, he decided to pursue a job with Creative Artists Agency (CAA), a prominent talent agency representing entertainment and sports figures.

“They were planning to expand their New York office and wanted to hire someone with knowledge of theatre,” Machota says. “I applied online and was hired six weeks later.”

Starting in their lowest-paid position as a floater, Machota was told there would be no opportunity for him to go through CAA’s training program to become an agent, meaning he would have no chance to work with the agency’s clients. But within a year, he earned his way into the training program and after just eight months as a trainee, he was working as an agent. In 2010 and again in 2011, he was included in the list of Broadway’s 50 Most Powerful People on BroadwaySpotted (a social networking site devoted to theatre), and was also named to Out magazine’s 2010 “Out 100” list of influential LGBT members.

Now, Machota excels at helping clients win the type of plum roles he once sought. Working in CAA’s talent department, he strives to create the perfect partnership, mating performers currently under agency contract with theatre projects looking for just the right person to fill a role.

“But he’s also on the lookout for fresh faces to bring on board. “Part of my job is keeping an eye out for talented people who would be a good fit for our agency,” he says.

What made Machota such a good fit as a talent agent? He firmly believes the education and experience he gained at Millikin are the keys to his success.

“In some ways, I’ve never worked as hard as I did while I was
Nov. 4-16, 2012
Join Millikin alumni and friends for a tour of
SPAIN’S COSTA DEL SOL & THE PORTUGUESE RIVIERA

To watch a video about the trip, including photos and itinerary details, visit http://bit.ly/SpainWithMU.

Trip itinerary includes these stops:
- Spain: Madrid, Cordoba, Costa del Sol, Mijas Pueblo, Granada, Alhambra, Cadiz and Seville
- Portugal: Cascais, Lisbon, Sintra, Estoril, Obidos, Fatima

$3,489 total cost includes:
- Intercontinental flights to and from Chicago O’Hare Airport (other gateways also available)
- Hotel double occupancy
- 5 dinners, 11 breakfasts
- Designated sightseeing attraction fees
- Taxes and transfers

$250 deposit due May 4

For more info or to express interest, visit http://bit.ly/SpainWithMU or send an email to Jan Devore, director of alumni relations, at jdevore@millikin.edu. Or call Jan toll-free at 1-877-JMU-ALUM (568-2586).
Roy Riley ’07 of Champaign, Ill., has completed the Ironman Triathlon World Championship, inspiring his students at the Gerber School of Cunningham Children’s Home in Urbana, Ill., to reach for their dreams.

Seeking to compete in the Wisconsin Ironman, Riley wrote an optional application essay about his students’ embodiment of the Ironman motto, “anything is possible.”

The triathlon officials were so impressed with his essay and story that he was placed in the World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, last October instead of Wisconsin.

“As a triathlete, the Ironman World Championship is a lifetime goal, so to say I was shocked is a complete understatement,” Riley says. “Good luck like this rarely happens to me and I was hit with the best luck any triathlete can have.”

The Kona triathlon consisted of a 2.4-mile swim in the ocean and a 112-mile bike ride, topped with a 26.2-mile marathon run; a daunting challenge for someone who has never competed in an Ironman triathlon before.

Riley set a goal just to finish, but he completed the race with an overall time of 11 hours, 47 minutes and 46 seconds, finishing 1,290th out of 1,855 competitors from around the world.

During the race, Riley wore a white visor signed by each of his students to share his experience with them.

“I am the first person any of these students have known personally who has been on national television. I thought it might boost their self-esteem if they were able to see their signatures on TV. Anything to give my students a little more hope is all I can ask for,” Riley says.

The Gerber School where Riley teaches is a residential facility for children and other residents who have mental, emotional or behavioral issues, or are born into a home that either cannot or will not support them.

Riley admits that, coming from a loving family, he has no firsthand experience with many of the hardships his students have seen, but he still wanted to show them that any challenge can be overcome.

“I wanted my students to know that I also look up to them everyday,” he says. “I will never be able to experience what they have. My family has always been my support, and I wanted my students to know they can help support as well. All of the encouragement they showed leading up to the race meant the world to me.”

Riley taught his students what the Ironman challenge was and what it takes to complete the race.

“I want my students to understand that even if something is hard you take one more step,” he says. “Our students are forced to reach further than most for higher education, so just guiding them to fill out one more application or correct one more mistake may give them a better chance at success.”

It was Riley’s hope that his students would feel “pride” when they saw him cross the finish line. He hoped they would also feel that they had accomplished something as well.

“Never giving up is my theme this year with my students,” Riley says. “I was never going to quit that race. If I had to stop running in the marathon portion, I walked. If I could not walk anymore, I would have crawled until I finished. That is what I wanted my students to understand.”

Riley’s dedication to his students created a stir that thrust the unassuming teacher into the spotlight. NBC named Riley their feature athlete for the world championship, sending a camera crew to his parents’ home in Decatur and to the Gerber School in Urbana to film and interview him for a news feature that aired in December of last year.

Life in the spotlight was a challenge of its own.

“I have never been nervous in my life,” Riley says, “so this was something new. I quickly became ‘the face of Cunningham’ due to the buzz around campus.”

But as exciting as the cameras were, they weren’t his motivation for completing the Ironman Triathlon World Championship. He did it for his students.

Their struggles motivated Riley to write the essay that placed him in the World Championship. They helped make his dream come true, and he hopes his success will inspire them to reach for dreams of their own. ● by Jackson Lewis ’13
Happy Spring! As I write this note to you, the magnolia trees in front of Shilling Hall are starting to bloom, and the Millikin campus is on spring break.

Students will return in a few days to the remaining activities of the spring semester, including the 10th annual Hollis Prize competition, two nationally known lecturers, the theatre and dance department’s production of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” Honors Convocation, the Day of Scholarship, spring athletic events and many, many more. These activities in and out of the classroom ensure we continue to deliver on the promise of education every day at Millikin University.

Part of that promise involves the ongoing support of our university’s alumni and friends to guarantee that our students have the necessary facilities, scholarships, opportunities to study internationally and a whole myriad of other experiences to ensure their chances for professional success, democratic citizenship in a global environment, and a personal life of meaning and value.

Regarding that support, I have to say that our alumni and friends are simply amazing. Thanks to your continued generosity, our current $85 million capital campaign, Transform MU, has raised nearly $53 million in less than two years! Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have helped us reach the $50 million milestone a full nine months ahead of schedule. Your strong commitment to date clearly demonstrates the focus of this campaign: Giving Back, Moving Forward.

There is, of course, much yet to be done. Through this campaign, we will provide a new home for our internationally known theatre and dance program. We will give an academic home to exercise science and sport, one of our fastest growing programs, while also creating a new university center for the entire campus community. Football turf and lights at Frank M. Lindsay Field and enhancements to our soccer complex round out our facilities improvements. Meanwhile, we are also working to increase the number of scholarships available to deserving students and to provide faculty development funds for our outstanding faculty.

In the months ahead, I invite you to think about your own involvement in Transform MU. To achieve our dreams, and indeed to continue to offer the kind of Millikin education that builds the foundation for tomorrow’s leaders, we need your support. Please email me at pluy@millikin.edu or call me at 217-424-6330 to talk about how your giving back helps Millikin keep moving forward.

Our campaign theme captures the hallmark of a Millikin education – that through their experiences at our university, our students are truly transformed. For those who aspire to achieve, Millikin builds the confidence to succeed for a lifetime. Through our unique and outstanding performance learning model of education, our students and alumni thrive.

My heartfelt thanks to all who continue to support Millikin. Please join us as we continue to Transform MU! •
Did you know...?

The Millikin Tri-Delta members hold several events each academic year to raise funding in support of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the sorority’s main philanthropy, including D-HOP (an all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage event), a letter drive, and the Cure-nival, a carnival-type event.

Tri Delta’s notable alumnae include Millikin’s own Jodi Marzorati Benson ’83, star of Disney’s animated “The Little Mermaid,” national broadcaster Katie Couric and Cathy Guisewite, the cartoonist who created the comic strip “Cathy.”

Delta Delta Delta House

The Delta Epsilon chapter of Delta Delta Delta will celebrate 100 years of sisterhood on the Millikin campus this spring. Established May 25, 1912, the sorority began as Chi Sigma Phi in 1906. The sorority moved into the house on Park Place (pictured above) in 1941. Today, the chapter has 80 members, with 41 sisters living in the house.

Millikin Tri-Delta alumnae are invited to attend the sorority’s Centennial Celebration held during Homecoming weekend on Oct. 6. The celebration will be held at the Decatur Conference Center near campus. For more information, visit www.deltaepsilon100.blogspot.com.
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Open for BUSINESS:
Alumni thrive as entrepreneurs