Stretch your PERCEPTIONS:
From manga to tanka and more
OCTOBER 5-7
HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

• **Career Connections**: Alumni get back to the classroom
• **Fireworks Display**
• **All-Alumni Reception** with free hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar
• **Class Luncheon and Reunion Photos** for the classes of 1937-62 with served luncheons
• **Class Receptions and Reunion Photos** for the classes of 1967-2007
• **All-Alumni & Friends Complimentary Luncheon**
• **Home Athletic Contests**: football, volleyball and cross country
• **Reunion Dinners and Receptions**
• **Special Reunions** for 1972 School of Music grads, WJMU staffers, University Choir alums and Black Alumni Network. Celebrations for the 100th anniversaries of Delta Delta Delta and Pi Beta Phi chapters.
• **Special recognition** for the golden anniversary class of 1962
• **Alumni Awards Dinner**: Honoring selected alumni with Alumni Awards or induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame. This year’s alumni awards honorees include: Alumnus of the Year co-recipients Herbert Zuegel ’52 and Barbara Burgis Zuegel ’53, Richard Dechert ’54, Scott Flora ’78, Gregg Meisenhelter ’00, Kerry Muzzey ’92 and Bill Wright ’59. This year’s Hall of Fame inductees include: Lance Brooks ’06, Denise Fogle ’91, Suzanne Murphy Short ’00 and Lin Stoner ’73.

A FULL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE SENT IN AUGUST.

Interested in helping plan a reunion for your class or organization? Contact the alumni relations office at 1-877-JMU-ALUM (568-2586).
Dear Alumni and Friends of Millikin,

Not long after arriving at Millikin in April 2011, I had the pleasure of attending the annual Celebrations of Scholarship, a fixture on Millikin’s campus for several years now. What originated as an undergraduate research poster symposium more than 15 years ago has grown to encompass a two-day opportunity for students to “stand and deliver” on what they have learned. This event is one of our most visible aspects of the unique Millikin performance learning model of higher education. It is emblematic of the learning that happens on campus each day as performance learning provides a very rich and relevant educational experience for our students. (You can view a few photos from the event on page 6.)

Again this April, I attended as many presentations as possible and walked away significantly impressed. This high level of execution, sophisticated subject matter and engagement with faculty is certainly not seen among undergraduates at other schools. I don’t know of anywhere that does it remotely as well as we do. It is a clear-cut example of the direct correlation between the quality and uniqueness of the Millikin educational experience and our students’ ability to prepare for success and lives of meaning and value.

The confidence to succeed is instilled on this campus, as well as the abilities to think cogently, write intelligently and speak thoughtfully.

The Celebrations of Scholarship event is a visible and comprehensive demonstration of the fulfillment of James Millikin’s dream to combine theory and practice at his university. I imagine that if Mr. Millikin had been in attendance to see our students demonstrating their depth of understanding and knowledge, he’d have said, “This is precisely what I wanted to happen.” His legacy is indeed thriving as our students are stretched, challenged and empowered in preparation for life after Millikin.

To give you just one example of how that was on display at the event: Joseph Bein of Gibson City, Ill., a James Millikin Scholar (JMS) who graduated in May, created his own musical version of “The Picture of Dorian Gray” as his JMS project. He not only wrote the script and the music, he auditioned and cast 12 performers, directed and performed all the music in a staged reading of a production that simply wowed the audience. Not coincidentally, Joseph was the recipient of four separate awards at this year’s annual Honors Convocation, including the top three awards from the English department and a top award from theatre. He truly is a classic example of Millikin’s performance learning model of higher education, and you can learn more about him on page 41.

I was also impressed by the spirit of camaraderie and collaboration that the musical represented. Most assuredly, it was Joseph’s project, but without the assistance of his student cast, it would not have been possible. These students took time out of their own hectic schedules to make his project happen. It’s a spirit of collaboration that is unparalleled at other universities.

As I write this, we are expecting hundreds of students and their families on campus for summer orientation and registration, a time of happy excitement as we meet with our new freshmen for the first time. This August, these students will begin their own individual experiences in earning a Millikin degree. To them, their parents and our alumni, donors and friends, I say this: In these volatile economic times, I firmly believe that for those students who aspire to achieve, there is no better choice than Millikin to help develop the confidence to succeed in life, both professionally and personally. And in the next few years, I look forward to watching the presentations of these freshmen during a Celebrations of Scholarship event. It’s a cycle that bears repeating, year after year. *

Dr. Harold Jeffcoat, Millikin President

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EDITOR’S LETTER

Changing it up

It dawned on me the other day that I have been an editor for this magazine for nearly 18 years and sole managing editor for more than 15 of those years, yet this is my first true editor’s column.

Why write now after all these years of silence? Well, for one thing, I have some very good news to share.

Earlier this year, we welcomed a new staff member to our team, Alida Duff Sullivan, a 2006 Millikin graduate. Alida brings fresh eyes and a younger perspective to the magazine’s development. She’s also a “triple threat” in that she is trained as a photographer, graphic designer and writer.

With her able assistance as associate director of communications, along with the superb talents of associate editor Margaret Friend, we are planning a freshening of this magazine over the summer to better serve you, our readers, in telling the Millikin story. It will include a new look throughout, some new features we think you’ll enjoy and a focus on making the Millikin Quarterly experience more fun and more informative. We’ll be rolling out the new and improved Millikin Quarterly with the fall issue.

As part of this process, we welcome your help. Here are two ways you can be involved in shaping the future of this university magazine:

1. Complete a reader survey. You’ll find it online at http://bit.ly/MU-Qsurvey or take it through your smartphone by scanning the QR code below. The survey is anonymous, so feel free to let those opinions flow! If you’d like a hard copy of the survey to complete, just give me a call at 217-424-6383, and I’ll drop one in the mail to you.

2. Offer to serve on a focus group. Whether you live close to campus or on the other side of the earth from the Big Blue, you can help us in shaping the “new Q.” Focus group volunteers will help us evaluate the content and look of some of the new features we are developing. To volunteer, send me an email with your name, address and phone number to millikinquarterly@millikin.edu or call me at 217-424-6383.

I can truly say that I have enjoyed being a part of Millikin Quarterly magazine these past 18 years. It’s always a pleasure to hear from those of you who enjoy it, and I always learn something from those of you who call or email with constructive criticism to offer. I look forward to the years ahead as we take these steps to ensure that the magazine continues to reflect the quality of the Millikin educational experience through the stories we tell about our talented alumni, students and faculty.

Deb Hale Kirchner
Millikin Quarterly Editor
Director of Communications & Services

Deborah Hale Kirchner
Millikin Quarterly Editor
Director of Communications & Services
2011 graduates achieve 98 percent comprehensive success rate

Millikin’s class of 2011 achieved a 98 percent comprehensive success rate in finding jobs or continuing their degrees.

The members of the 2011 class were surveyed six months after graduating to determine their success in finding employment or entering graduate school; 80 percent replied to the survey.

The 98 percent figure includes a combination of graduates who are professionally employed (61 percent), continuing their education (23 percent) and underemployed (14 percent). Only 2 percent reported that they were unemployed six months after graduation. In addition, the professional success rate for the class of 2011 is 84 percent, which includes a combination of graduates who are professionally employed (61 percent) and continuing their education (23 percent).

Villarreal earns 2012 Hollis Prize

Aaron Villarreal, a junior percussion performance major from Decatur, won the 2012 Hollis Prize Competition held in March in Kaeuper Hall. He will be a senior this fall.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Hollis Prize. Founded in 2003 by Dr. C. Kimm Hollis ’72, the annual awards competition features performances by the top three students within the School of Music. The students compete in a recital judged by outside faculty adjudicators.

The winner of the prize receives an award of $2,000 plus the opportunity to perform a recital in Chicago. This year’s recital performance was held April 20 in the Harold Washington Library Auditorium, which is housed in the Chicago Public Library’s central library.

Villarreal has performed with Millikin’s Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, World Percussion Ensemble, OneVoice and the Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed twice in Millikin’s Pi Kappa Lambda Honors Recital and in numerous area recitals and performance classes.

This year’s Hollis Prize finalists also included soprano and senior Kelsie Corcoran, a vocal performance major from McLean, Ill., and saxophonist Adam Blakey, a junior commercial music major from Decatur.

Compared to the statistics for the class of 2010, professional employment rose 6 percent, continuing education was down 3 percent and underemployment was down 2 percent from the previous year’s results. The overall comprehensive success rate rose a percentage point from 2010 to 2011 and professional success rose by 4 percent.

Eighteen disciplines, among them biology education, finance, history and music performance: instrumental, reported a 100 percent professional success rate and 42 disciplines reported a 100 percent comprehensive success rate, including 12 out of 14 music, art and theatre disciplines within the College of Fine Arts.

Top employers of the 2011 graduates include Archer Daniels Midland Company, Memorial Medical Center and Decatur Memorial Hospital. In addition, those members of the class of 2011 who opted to earn advanced degrees experienced success in being accepted to top graduate schools such as the University of Illinois and Florida State University.

MU mathematics students sweep four out of five top spots

In April, each of four Millikin students was recognized as one of the top five presenters at the Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Mathematics Conference in Terre Haute, Ind. The conference organizers recognized the five best talks, as voted on by the conference participants, and awarded each student with Maple 16, a high-powered piece of mathematical software.

Presenting their research and recognized at the conference were:

- Lane Bloome ’13 of Raymond, Ill. – “Connections between Central Sets and Cut Sets in Zero-Divisor Graphs of Commutative Rings”
- Morgan Perkins ’12 of Gibson City, Ill. – “Predicting Retention of Marginally Admitted Students”
- Mark Woods ’12 of Carlinville, Ill. – “Good or Bad: Altering Admission Standards”

The tradition of undergraduate research within MU’s mathematics department continues to grow. In the past four years, Millikin mathematics students have authored or co-authored with a faculty member more than 40 individual pieces of research.

“From numerous presentations at conferences around the country to publications in a variety of academic journals to award-winning posters presented at national conferences, the department of mathematics has a distinguished record of guiding students in their journeys of transforming their classroom knowledge into meaningful creations that are recognized and valued in the mathematics community,” says Dr. Joe Stickles, professor of mathematics.
Take me back to Millikin town

By popular request, here are the lyrics to “Millikin Town,” the original song written and performed by Eric Burgett ’12 during his speech at the traditional May commencement ceremony (see photo at lower right, this page):

“MILLIKIN TOWN”
We came from all over the world,
to study in central Illinois
To take on in the sweet smell of soy
Winery, LSB, and a neat little place
by the name of Donnie’s
Marked the spots of our Thursday nights,
and U-dogs after, would taste just right

Pre-chorus:
You can talk to any one in our class
And we’ll say it flew by way too fast

Chorus:
Come on let’s go, and put some tracks
on a dirt road
We did our time, and now were lettin’
y’all know
We’re gonna make a name for ourselves
And never turn around, and keep pushin’ on
We’re here, and man I swear, seems like
we’re on trial, but it’s only a while, now
’Till we’re livin’ it up, while we’re headin’
on out, of Millikin town

Verse:
Safety and security,
you’ll always be a special team
You’ll give a ticket to anyone that you see,
you better believe
Late night drives on the edge of town,
get away from the city crowd
It don’t get much better than that

Pre-Chorus:
It may seem we’re at the end of the road
We’re gonna buckle on down,
and get on with the show

CHORUS

Bridge:
The home of the Big Blue,
where we paid our dues,
And we’re leavin’ our legacy,
for everyone else to see

CHORUS ●

Seniors celebrate graduation with dinner, candlelight ceremony and rooftop tour

Left: Following the annual Graduates Dinner, Taryn Veasy ’12 participates in a candlelight ceremony honoring the class of 2012. Right: Senior students explore the roof of Shilling at night, a tradition led by Jan Devore, director of alumni relations.

MBA and PACE Commencement

Left: Shauna Mays ’12 prepares to process into Kirkland Fine Arts Center for Commencement. Center: MU President Hal Jeffcoat hands PACE Commencement student speaker Matthew S. Cardinal ’12 his diploma. Right: Case M. McGee ’98/MBA ’04 presents five tips for success during his commencement address (see page 7 for his complete list).

Millikin’s 108th Commencement

Left: Melissa Nodurft ’12, senior class chair, leads the graduates in the tassel ceremony. Center: Mikel Briggs ’79, chairman of the board of trustees, and MU President Hal Jeffcoat surprise 2012 Commencement speaker Julie Roe Lach ’97 with an honorary degree. Right: Student speaker Eric G. Burgett ’12 received a standing ovation following his original performance of “Millikin Town” (see lyrics at left).
CAMPUS NEWS

Are you up to the Summer Service challenge?

Millikin challenges all alumni to participate in 10 hours of service this summer through Aug. 31. “This is a great opportunity to give back to your local community and can be done individually, with family/friends or through your employer-sponsored social responsibility days,” says Career Center Director Pam Folger.

Here’s how to participate:

• Complete 10 hours or more of service in your local community.

• Engage others in service whenever possible, including family, friends, coworkers and other Millikin alumni in your area.

• Wear a Millikin shirt while participating in service and take photos if possible.

• Email photos to career-center@millikin.edu.

• Post updates about your service on Facebook at “Millikin Serves” and “Millikin University Career Center.” Service accomplishments will be highlighted in the fall issue of Millikin Quarterly, and those who participate will be entered in a prize drawing.

Need ideas for service projects/sites? Contact the Career Center at career-center@millikin.edu or visit www.volunteermatch.org to find out about opportunities in your community.

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Environmental studies minor helps Big Blue students go green

Millikin’s environmental studies minor gives students opportunities to become advocates for a greener society. May graduate Ali Oremus added the minor when it was first offered in 2011.

“I picked up this minor because I have an extreme passion to make the environment around us a more beautiful place – for ourselves and future generations,” Oremus says. “Being able to express my passion and boost my knowledge about a topic I care so deeply about is exciting and new to me.”

Oremus says it also satisfied her hunger for adventure, especially on immersion trips with Dr. Judy Parrish, professor of biology.

“Professor Parrish really throws you into the wilderness and lets you experience just how unique and wonderful the outside world can be, whether it’s in the deep rain-forest jungles of Costa Rica or almost getting charged by a caribou in Alaskan national parks.”

Students are encouraged to complete internships, immersions and gain access to local environmental resources.

“This minor has completely let me shake up my usual routine,” says Oremus, who graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in mass media communication.

“These classes gave me a new set of skills and information that I wouldn’t have had so fine-tuned if I were simply a communication major.”

Oremus feels that students adding this minor can learn how to help preserve the planet and feel rewarded as a result.

“Take action! Change in the world begins with you,” she says. “If you have a passion for something, go out and do it.”

The coordinator, Professor Roslyn O’Conner, instructor of biology, suggests that adding this minor is a good career move for a student of any major.

“More and more companies are creating sustainability initiatives, and they require employees with the knowledge to make these initiatives happen,” she says. “Local and state governments as well as the federal government are embracing the “green” movement and implementing eco-friendly practices, so they will also need employees that know how to address the issues. We view this minor as increasing a student’s marketability in an increasingly environmentally aware world.”

Find out more about the environmental studies minor at www.millikin.edu/alumni/stayconnected/quarterly.

by Tyler Warden ’13
VELASCO NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Jesus Velasco ’09 was named MU’s Employee of the Year for the 2011-2012 academic year during a recognition ceremony held in April.

Velasco has served as coordinator of international student services in the Center for International Education since August 2009.

He received several prizes, including an extra week of paid vacation and season tickets to 2012-13 Kirkland events and department of theatre and dance productions.

THE 2011-12 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

• April – Sherri Crook
• May – Lori Kerans ’85
• August – Jesus Velasco ’09
• September – Marianne Taylor
• October – Bev Kraus
• November – Vicki Wrigley
• December – Connie Magoulias
• January – Bryan Marshall ’85
• February – Gwen Davis
• March – Mary Lynn Arnold

SUPPORT DU RISING

Nearly 120 student presentations were made during the annual Honors Convocation and Celebrations of Scholarship in April, including from left: Garrett Derman ’12 was the victor of the Haiku vs. Tanka Slam Poetry Contest for the second year in a row. Center: Matt DeCosse ’12 discusses his poster presentation with Barry Pearson, vice president for academic affairs, during the Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium. Right: Michael Valoon ’13 models his entry for an MU “Project Runway” for the theatre department.

MILLIKIN WELCOMES TWO SPEAKERS TO CAMPUS

Left: Author and education advocate, Jonathon Kozol (the 2012 Moore lecturer), signs a copy of his book for Sergio Diaz ’13. Right: The 2012 T.W. Samuels Lecture featuring James Bradley, best-selling author of “Flags of Our Fathers” and “Flyboys,” was attended by five local veterans of the historic World War II conflict at Iwo Jima. From left: Frank “Bud” Pilling of Decatur, a Millikin trustee emeritus; Harold Miller of Forsyth; Bradley; Bill Williams of Decatur; James Herring of Decatur; and Jack Allen of Decatur, a 1949 Millikin graduate and the university’s dean emeritus of admission.

Senator Durbin speaks to Millikin community

Sen. Dick Durbin visited the Millikin campus in May to discuss his opposition of a proposed student loan rate hike, which would increase the minimum interest rate on Stafford loans from 3.4 to 6.8 percent. Above: Erica Nwachukwu ’14 (center) and Jillesa Willis ’12 (right) ask Sen. Durbin how the proposed rate hike will affect their student loans.

Students and faculty celebrate scholarship

Nearly 120 student presentations were made during the annual Honors Convocation and Celebrations of Scholarship in April, including from left: Garrett Derman ’12 was the victor of the Haiku vs. Tanka Slam Poetry Contest for the second year in a row. Center: Matt DeCosse ’12 discusses his poster presentation with Barry Pearson, vice president for academic affairs, during the Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium. Right: Michael Valoon ’13 models his entry for an MU “Project Runway” for the theatre department.
“Find a good mentor.”
That was the advice given by Case McGee, vice president of human resources for North America and global compensation at agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland Co. McGee, a 1998 MU graduate who also earned his MBA at Millikin, offered these four words as one of five tips he termed vital to career success during his commencement address to the 2012 PACE/MBA graduates in May (see complete list, lower right).

Why is mentoring an important part of a successful career plan?
“It has been proven time and time again that employees are more likely to succeed when they have a mentor,” McGee told the graduates. “The right mentor can literally change your life. Mentors can provide friendship, encouragement, coaching, advocacy, inspiration and serve as a role model to show you how to achieve your hopes and dreams.”

At its best, mentoring is a mutually beneficial relationship with a mentor who is more experienced and typically older than the person being mentored.

Although face-to-face meetings make up the traditional mentoring model, technology now makes it possible to connect through email, texting or video calling, expanding the possibilities for connecting mentors and mentees. Experts can also share advice and resources via social media with a community of followers, blurring the boundaries of the traditional mentor/mentee relationship. This instant access and advice can be very helpful, but don’t overlook the value of relationships built one-on-one with a mentor, either in-person or digitally.

“It will be the start of a relationship you will cherish forever,” McGee said.

“I’ve been fortunate over my career to have found mentors along the way who saw the potential in me and pushed me beyond even my own expectations. [But mentors] don’t fall into your lap ... we often have to seek them out.”

How can a mentor help?
• Are you exploring career options and need to gather career information?
• Are you seeking experiential learning opportunities such as internships, part-time jobs or volunteer positions?
• Do you have a specific career goal in mind?
• Do you want assistance in the transition from college to the workplace?
• Are you looking to build your professional network?
• Are you a young professional considering a change in career paths or wanting to move up the corporate ladder?
• Are you seeking opportunities to advance your career but unclear about how to go about it?

All these and more can be great reasons to have a mentor.

“A true mentor keeps you in check [and] is looking out for your best interests,” McGee said. “A true mentor is someone who can offer valuable advice from experience but is not afraid to give you constructive feedback along the way.”

If you are interested in having a mentor, you should first identify the questions you need answered and what you want from this relationship.

Why should you be a mentor?
Being a mentor can be a great hands-on way to build your own leadership, communication and coaching skills. As a mentor, you have an opportunity to facilitate personal and professional growth by sharing your wisdom and things you wish you had known as a student or young professional. You can be a representative for your career field or degree/major, as well as your company or industry. Mentoring can also be a great way to gain access to an emerging talent pool of young professionals and soon-to-be professionals, as well as for learning valuable insights into a younger generation. Additionally, imagine how gratifying it would be to ignite a young person’s passion for a particular career path.

How can I become a mentor or find one?
This summer, Millikin’s Alumni Office and Career Center are launching Career Connections Network, a resource designed to connect MU students and alumni for career mentoring purposes in a secure online environment. Alumni volunteers select the types of mentor activities with which they wish to assist, such as participating in informational interviews, mock interviews, job shadowing, job leads and networking. Mentors may opt to list an email address in their profile so students can email them with questions, then the mentor can begin a dialogue and decide to meet with the student face-to-face or virtually.

Mentoring through this network provides a great way for alumni to help future graduates prepare for their careers and assist fellow alumni who may want to re-engineer their own career paths.

Pam Folger has more than 24 years experience in career and employment services, more than 14 of those years at MU.
Dr. Craig White, a former Decatur resident, has been named the new director of athletics and recreation. He joined the Millikin staff earlier this summer.

White comes to Millikin with more than 19 years of athletic administration experience. Most recently, he served as associate athletic director at the University of Georgia, a Division I school, where he had worked since 1992.

"Millikin is fortunate to find someone with Dr. White’s breadth of experience and passion for student athletes to lead the Big Blue athletics program to future success," says Millikin’s Vice President for Enrollment Rich Dunsworth. "His commitment to the NCAA Division III philosophy of finding a balance of academics with athletics and his desire to reach students through sport made him an excellent choice to be Millikin’s next director of athletics and recreation."

Since 2004, White has supervised the University of Georgia’s baseball, men’s and women’s golf, women’s soccer, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s track and field, men’s and women’s cross country, and women’s volleyball programs. In addition, he was responsible for Georgia’s strength & conditioning, sports medicine, ticket office and sport psychology departments.

While at Georgia, White also served as assistant athletic director, sports psychology consultant and academic counselor.

Prior to his time at the University of Georgia, White was the director of the Sunflower State Games in Kansas from 1989-1991. He has also worked in the athletic departments at the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri.

White was also a graduate assistant football coach at Missouri.

White earned his bachelor’s degree in athletic administration and management and a master’s degree in public administration, both from the University of Missouri. He earned a specialist in education degree in higher and adult education at Missouri and a doctorate in educational policy and administration at the University of Kansas. White was certified as a sport psychologist in 1999.

Coming to Millikin will be a homecoming of sorts for White, who attended Decatur Public Schools from fifth to 11th grade. He was a student athlete at Stephen Decatur High School before his family moved prior to his senior year in high school.

White has been active in professional organizations and community activities. He was on the NCAA Division I Softball Committee from 2007-2010, serving as its chair in 2010. White currently serves on the advisory board of the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Sports Network.

He also previously served as vice president for Little League Baseball, Oconee County, and served on the Clarke County Mentor Program Board. ●

Track and field highlights

Junior LeAnn Spesard of Paris, Ill. (top left), ended the outdoor track and field season ranked third in the nation with a shot put throw of 14.25 meters. The finish qualified for the NCAA DIII Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in May in Claremont, Calif. Unfortunately, it was not to be her weekend as she struggled to a 16th place finish on the last day of the championships. She had previously taken home the CC IW Championship in the shot put.

In March, Spesard earned All-American status at the DIII Indoor Track and Field Championships with an eighth-place finish in the shot put.

Junior Ariel Robinson of Decatur (center) and senior Brittany Sherron of Rockville, Ind. (bottom left), also competed at the national championships, with Robinson finishing in 12th place in the 200 prelims, breaking her own school record and barely missing out on qualifying for the finals. She also competed in the 400-meter prelims. Robinson previously won the CCIW Championship in both the 100-meters and the 200-meters, setting school records in both events.

Sherron made her third trip to the national championships in the discus but did not place. Her best career finish was fifth in 2010. She also won the CCIW Championship in the discus this season.

On the men’s side, junior Carleston Acres of Springfield, Ill., won the CCIW Championship in the men’s 100-meters. ●
Turf’s up — with your help

Adding artificial turf and lights to Frank M. Lindsay Field is edging closer to reality. The $1.4 million project is part of Millikin’s “Transform MU” capital campaign.

The Workman Challenge
Recently, Gary Workman ’64, a Millikin trustee, promised to match all commitments made to the turf and lights project – dollar for dollar – up to a total of $100,000.

“The Workman Challenge is a great opportunity to move the Big Blue forward on this important project,” says Craig White, new director of athletics and recreation.

“A turf surface will help attract and retain the quality of athlete that we need in our program to continue the heritage of Big Blue football and build new chapters of success.”

The turf cost alone is $1.1 million.

The Don Shroyer End Zones
Last year, members of the 1961 undefeated football team provided the backing to name the two end zones in honor of their former coach, Don Shroyer ’50.

Shroyer, a top running back for the Big Blue during his student days, was signed by the Chicago Bears. He returned to Millikin as head football coach in 1956, and was named conference Coach of the Year in 1961 after the team’s undefeated season. During his career, he also served as offensive and defensive backfield coach and also was a linebacker coach for the then St. Louis Cardinals as well as coach of an SIU team that included future NFL quarterback Jim Hart. He returned to Decatur in the early 1970s to hold various positions with Decatur Public Schools before retiring in 1995.

Own your own piece of turf
Although the end zones may be named, alumni and friends can still “own” a piece of the field by funding individual parcels of the turf in a range of $200 to $500 per square yard, gifts that are eligible for the Workman Challenge match. All donors to the project will be recognized for their role in supporting a new and improved Frank M. Lindsay Field.

To make a secure credit card gift to this project, visit www.bit.ly/MU-FB.

For more information about this project, call Dave Brandon, director of development, at 217-424-6383 or send an email to him at dbrandon@millikin.edu.
For Maude Haake, scrapbooking was a piece of cake
by Amanda Pippitt, University Archivist

The scrapbook of Maude Haake (later Joy) ’25, a home economics major from Fillmore, Ill., now housed in the university archives’ collection, illustrates how a personal hobby can create a valuable historical artifact for future generations.

Full of photographs of Haake and her friends around campus and in their Aston Hall dormitory rooms, the scrapbook is an especially rich treasure trove of what archivists call ephemera—items that were originally intended to exist only for a short time before being thrown into a trashcan. Haake, however, considered these ephemeral items to be important souvenirs of her time at Millikin. Carefully glued and pinned to her scrapbook’s pages are tickets and programs from church services, theatrical, sporting, and musical events; bridge scorecards; greeting cards; homecoming buttons and stamps; invitations to dances, parties, luncheons, and teas; course schedules; dance cards; and receipts. She also included letters from friends in their original, stamped envelopes, a lock of hair, telegrams, dried flowers, newspaper clippings, the pledge of allegiance (handwritten on a scrap of paper), and a stained, lumpy envelope simply labeled “wedding cake.”

Though her book has become unbound with age, most of the items have survived remarkably well considering the lack of archival quality scrapbooking supplies during the early 20th century. On these pages are just a few of the photos and items she preserved from the rich campus life of the 1920s.

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. Pippitt wonders how Millikin archivists of the future will be using digital artifacts to research student life in the early 21st century. She also cautions against scrapbooking cake.
Souvenirs of 1920s Millikin

Clockwise from upper right:
- Haake’s 1921-22 and 1922-32 Athletic Association cards
- A $4 receipt for the 1925 Millidek yearbook
- Haake’s freshman class schedule, dated Sept. 13, 1921
- A decorative stamp commemorating Homecoming 1923
- A handmade invitation to an Aston Hall party, the “Nightgown and Pajama Dance” held May 12, 1923
- A newspaper clipping about the “Nightgown and Pajama Dance”
- A photograph of students swimming in Lake Decatur, which was new at the time Haake was a student
- A canoe party favor
- The Aston Hall Student Council Constitution and Bylaws. Haake was a member of the Council and much of her social life revolved around Aston Hall, where she and her closest friends lived.
- A button Haake wore at football games while cheering “Alla rah!” for the blue and white
- A hatchet & cherry-themed invitation to the annual Aston Hall Washington tea and (below and to the left of the invitation) a photograph of Haake and her pals dressed in colonial attire for the event. A scrapbooked newscutting describes the ladies dancing the minuet by candlelight and dining on cherry ice and cookies shaped like hatchets
- Haake’s dance cards, with names of dance partners penciled in
- A decorative stamp commemorating the first Homecoming game at and dedication of Memorial Stadium at the University of Illinois in Champaign on October 18, 1924. The stadium was built in 1923 to honor veterans of WWI.
- Haake’s Millidek class photo from 1925
- The largest photograph (left) of Haake has been hand-tinted to give her rosy cheeks.

Aston Hall Girls at Pajama Dance

Social Hour Given to Unusual Dances—Refreshments Served at 11:00.

The crowning fête of last week at the hall was the night-gown-pajama dance Saturday night. The girls wore pajamas and nightgowns and danced from 10 until 11 o’clock. The programs were nightgowns and pajamas of paper with an artistic pencil attached. Punch and wafers were served as refreshments. The affair was rather unusual and was greatly enjoyed by those present.
A high school junior, Jess Gruca ’11 participated in four sports, was hoping to play basketball at the university level, and thought she might like to be a lawyer. But during a game the Peotone, Ill., native calls “her best game ever” with 26 points, 13 steals and 10 rebounds, her life changed drastically. Gruca took a particularly hard hit. It didn’t hurt immediately, but by the end of her next practice she had ruptured the disc between her L4 and L5 vertebrae and, she would soon learn, she had little hope of participating in sports again.

There was talk of back surgery for disc replacement or perhaps fusion. Either would mean a significant change in the young woman’s life.

“Imagine being told at 16 years old: ’No more sports. No running. No lifting weight over 20 pounds. No kids,’” Gruca remembers. She knew she didn’t want that, and neither did her mother.

“My mom called at least a dozen physical therapists,” Gruca says, “spending hours interviewing them on the phone.” One of these interviews turned up Joe Fiore ’01, then working in the Chicago area as a physical therapist and later at Millikin as a strength and conditioning coach. Gruca’s mom liked what Fiore had to say about what could be done for Jess with physical therapy. “Joe was the first person to give me hope,” Gruca says. Following her physician’s medical treatment and intense physical therapy provided by Fiore, Gruca was playing soccer by that spring.

Fiore became a mentor and role model to Gruca, and by her senior year at Peotone, she knew exactly what she wanted to do. She wanted to do what Joe did. So, like Fiore, she came to Millikin’s exercise science and sport program, which put her on the path to giving hope and recovery to others – just what Fiore had done for her.

Citing the combination of classroom time with practical “hands on” experience for her athletic training major, Gruca credits her performance learning experience at Millikin with giving her the skills to prepare the way for her career.

“It’s why those students really need up-to-date equipment,” she says. “The same modalities and machines being used to teach are the ones I use now.”

Currently a personal trainer at the Decatur YMCA, Gruca specializes in working with people with injuries. She wants to give them the same hope and guidance provided to her by Fiore. Her face lights up when discussing a woman with a back injury who could do only one lunge when they first met and can now do dozens easily. Gruca is also excited about applying to physical therapy schools in August.

“You don’t have to be in pain forever,” she says. “Understanding all the little things that can affect one injury is so important. You have to work from the inside out, and athletic training confirmed that for me.” — by Pattie Smith-Phillips ’96

Above: Jess Gruca ’11 and Joe Fiore ’01 in front of Fiore’s recently opened Accelerated Rehabilitation Center in Decatur.

Through MU’s “Transform MU” capital campaign, generations of students like Gruca and Fiore will be provided the equipment and facility they need to train to succeed in their chosen careers. Learn more about the Campaign for the Exercise Science & Sport Pavilion at www.millikin.edu/transform.
A marketing success story, Bibber-style

Jon “Rick” Bibb, associate professor of marketing in the Tabor School of Business, retired this May after a 30-year teaching career at Millikin.

In honor of his retirement, several of the Bibber’s former students came together earlier this year to create the Rick Bibb Scholarship. Spearheading the efforts to create the scholarship were Luke Bills ’03, Jani Adell Duffy ’85, Brenda Urfer Elliott ’83, Ed Moss ’92, Jon Tiede ’92 and Terry Trost ’03.

The group’s original goal was to collect $10,000 in gifts so the scholarship could reach the endowment level and exist forever at Millikin in providing scholarships to deserving students. The six made their own gifts and helped spread the word to others among Bibb’s former students through letters, emails and personal contacts. Campus support among Tabor staff and other employees was strong from the start, as well as support from friends of the Bibber, especially those at Illinois State University (ISU), where he had also taught.

Less than three months later, more than $24,000 in gifts had been raised, and the first scholarship will be awarded for the fall 2013 semester. To be qualified, a student must be a junior or senior within the Tabor School of Business with a 3.0 GPA or higher, a leader, passionate about marketing and interested in international study while at Millikin.

“Rick means so much to many of his students, as both a teacher and a friend. This is a fitting tribute to a man who has helped shape so many lives,” said Tiede, who, along with the Millikin Club of St. Louis, hosted a retirement event at his company’s office in St. Louis this spring for alumni and friends to honor Bibb.

Bibb received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in marketing from the University of Missouri - Columbia and completed doctoral coursework in marketing/applied research methodology at the University of Kentucky. In addition to Millikin, he has taught at Illinois State University, Central Missouri State University and the University of Texas - Austin.

He served as coordinator of the marketing department and chapter adviser for the Millikin Marketing Association, and also made strides to strengthen Millikin’s worldwide business presence. He helped develop Tabor’s international initiatives in Malaysia, Mexico and France, where he was instrumental in developing a dual-degree program between Millikin and the Paris Graduate School of Management. He also collaborated with a Korean distributor of Stevia, a natural sweetener, resulting in a student project that concluded the sweetener had great potential in the U.S. market.

Gifts to his scholarship are still being accepted. Visit www.bit.ly/MU-Bibb to make a gift online or call MU’s alumni and development office at 1-877-JMU-ALUM (568-2586).

Celebrating 100 years with a heritage of giving

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Illinois Eta chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Millikin University, alumnae and friends of the chapter are invited to join in establishing a scholarship for members of Pi Beta Phi at Millikin. The new scholarship will be known as the Pi Beta Phi Centennial Alumnae Scholarship.

“We envision raising $10,000 so that the scholarship will be fully endowed forever with preference given to a member of Illinois Eta in good standing and needing financial aid assistance,” said a letter sent to Pi Phi members this spring. Signing the letter and leading the effort to establish the $10,000 scholarship were Dorothy Allen Coutant ’41, Darlene Heit Harshbarger ’65, Peggy Smith Luy ’75, Melissa Pursley ’95, Tara Harvel Rozum ’84, Angel Spiccia ’03, Betty Godwin Watkins ’50 and Betty Zeaman.

“We think a scholarship designated for Pi Phis is a great way to honor the 100th anniversary at Millikin and help a deserving collegiate member,” the letter read.

The group hopes to announce successful establishment of the scholarship at this year’s Homecoming, Oct. 5-7.

To give to the effort, visit http://bit.ly/pbphc12.
One week before what would have been his 84th birthday, Millikin University received a surprise from the estate of the late Herschel W. Pritchett of Niantic, Ill.

“The executor of the estate delivered a check for $500,000!” says Dave Brandon, MU’s director of development. The 1950 graduate had shared with Brandon years before that he had named Millikin the residual beneficiary of his estate but the probate attorney had estimated that Millikin would receive an amount that was much less. Pritchett’s gift was a fitting legacy from a quiet man of integrity who liked to do good without receiving recognition, Brandon says.

“And there is another surprise – Millikin also is slated to receive somewhere in the neighborhood of $250,000 more from Pritchett’s estate,” Brandon says. Since Pritchett had not restricted the use of his estate proceeds, the university’s board of trustees approved using them in support of the exercise science and sport campaign within “Transform MU,” Millikin’s $85 million capital campaign.

“Herschel was as loyal an alumnus as you would ever meet, and he would have loved to know that his accumulated capital was being reinvested into the greater Decatur community in support of a strong program like exercise science and sport,” Brandon says.

Pritchett died Aug. 17, 2011. A native of Niantic, Ill., he majored in business administration at Millikin and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. After graduation, Pritchett completed two years at the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wis., and then entered into the family business – the State Bank of Niantic. He served 49 years at the bank, including as its president from 1980-1993. The Pritchett family had an ownership interest in the State Bank of Niantic from 1893 until 1985, when it was sold to Scott Bancshares Inc., based in Bethany, Ill.

A lifelong bachelor, Pritchett was known in his community as a kind and generous person who helped many young people appreciate the importance of saving money, Brandon says. He served several years on the Niantic-Harristown Board of Education and he and his family were such generous benefactors to Niantic that village officials named a town park and a street in honor of the Pritchets.

Pritchett regularly attended university events, including the annual Vespers concert, cultural events and stage performances in Kirkland Fine Arts Center and home games of the Big Blue football and basketball teams. He also had the distinction of being the perennial “premier donor” to the Millikin Fund, the university’s annual effort to raise funds in support of operations.

“If it was the last week of June, you could expect to receive a letter from Herschel containing his Millikin Fund gift for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on July 1,” Brandon says, adding, “Sometimes, Herschel would deliver the gift in person, and we would have a chance to catch up on the latest Millikin news, SAE news and the like.”

In recognition of Pritchett’s generous estate commitment, the university will name the physical conditioning learning center in a planned new Exercise Science and Sport Pavilion in his honor. This marquee space is scheduled to occupy most of the south wing of the new facility, to be housed in the former West Towne Square Center on the corner of Oakland and Wood streets. A total of $5.7 million is needed to acquire, renovate and equip the new facility with state-of-the-art exercise science equipment and technology.

According to Brandon, this cohesive complex with creative learning spaces will lend itself to increased performance learning opportunities by the four majors within the exercise science and sport department. Classroom instruction will be infused with technology, laboratory spaces will be designed for each major, and students will learn by doing under the auspices of a faculty member – and then “train” other Millikin students in a hands-on manner.

Brandon says, “Herschel made Millikin one of his charitable priorities both during his lifetime and beyond, and for that we are most grateful.”

Herschel W. Pritchett ’50 was a man of few words and even fewer photos. Since he never sought the spotlight, it was difficult to find even a single photo of him to publish alongside this article. Above, his senior photo from the 1950 Millidek yearbook.
It may look like a woman’s razor for shaving her legs, even down to its lavender color, but it’s actually a tool for healing.

So says Athletic Trainer Eric Streeter, who recently purchased six of the devices known as sound-assisted soft tissue mobilization tools (SASTM for short) for MU’s exercise science and sport department after receiving a grant from the Burnell and Ermell Fischer Athletic Enhancement Fund. The tools (see one in the above photo) will be used by students who are preparing for careers as athletic trainers through MU’s exercise science and sport program and also by on-staff athletic trainers to help aid in the healing of injured student-athletes. Millikin is one of only three universities in Illinois to have the tools.

“SASTM tools are an effective form of therapeutic treatment for injuries such as plantar fasciitis, patellar tendonitis, chronic muscle strain and chronic ligament injuries,” Street said in his proposal.

The SASTM purchase was made possible by a grant from an endowment fund established in memory of the late Burnell Fischer, M.D. ’39, and his late wife, Ermell Fischer, a Decatur native and supporter of the arts. The Fischers’ two sons, Dr. Burnell “Burney” Fischer and Terry Fischer, created the fund as a lasting legacy to their father, whose belief in participating in student athletics was a tradition they wish to perpetuate.

Each year, MU’s athletics department personnel can apply for funding for needed equipment or services through the Fischer Fund. A previous grant funded live streaming broadcasts of all home football and basketball games.

This year, a total of five grants were awarded. In addition to the grant for the SASTM tools, they include: iPad 2 technology for all full-time and head coaches to assist in student recruiting and assessment of games; 30 cast-iron kettlebells and a storage rack for the Ralph Allan-Dorothy McClure Fitness/Wellness Center; six high-definition camcorders for use in videotaping sports practices and competitions; and travel expenses for students and administrators from the newly created student athletic advisory council to attend the 2012 NCAA convention.

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-AL-UM (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.
It looked like a normal office building from the outside, tucked as it was in a neatly manicured commercial park in Irvine, Calif. The sunny parking lot was quiet, as was the climb to the building’s second floor. But there were also hints of fun: wall-sized photos of grinning children clothed in primary colors adorned the walls of the reception area. A scattering of small toys covered the reception desk.

A delivery person and I waited in the office area when J. Robert “Bob” Lienhop ’76 burst through the door, greeting us both at once. After signing for the delivery, Lienhop ushered me through the door and into a cacophony of visual delight. It was the headquarters of Strottman International, the company Bob serves as president of global operations, and Strottman’s business is making toys – lots and lots of toys.

Lienhop would more accurately claim that the company’s business is to help clients appeal and connect to kids and families by specializing in premium products (i.e. giveaways) and retail experiences. As he explained that day, one reason toys were everywhere was that the growing company had overrun its office space and was prepping for a move. The space we toured first was the domain of the “creatives,” as he termed the employees who develop premium campaigns and runs of children’s meal toys for clients including Wendy’s, Taco Bell and Chick-fil-A. Strottman International produces all of the children’s meal toys for Wendy’s and Taco Bell restaurants the world over. It makes the majority of Chick-fil-A’s children’s meal toys, as well.

Evidence of creativity was indeed everywhere: clusters of toys marched across shelves, whiteboards mapped ideas in concept balloons and colorful illustrations for upcoming campaigns were tacked to walls and horizontal spaces. Technological opposites for producing toy prototypes were shown in sequence: an old-fashioned drawing and construction table (with wood, nails, paper) shared space with a “printer” that molds and pops out 3-D plastic prototypes of toys for manipulation and testing. Later that afternoon, Lienhop and I discussed other aspects of the company, including Strottman’s manufacturing plants in the Far East as well as the legal, distribution and all-important product licensing aspects of the business.

One thing’s for sure: A lot of work and brainpower goes into the fun today’s kids are having.

Tom Neville ’86, managing director of TCG (formerly The Canadian Group), knows this quite well. Neville, who works and lives in Houston, relies on play for his life’s work, just like Lienhop.

TCG, headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, is a manufacturer and distributor of puzzles, games and skill activities for children and families. Branded as “TCG — The Best in Fun,” the company has been described as the fastest-growing puzzle company worldwide.

As with Strottman’s premiums, licenses are key to TCG product sales. TCG’s licenses include Fisher-Price toys (“the most trusted name in the toy business,” Neville says); television series, including “Glee,” “The Mentalist” and “Doodlebops”; teen singing sensation Justin Bieber; Bratz dolls; Zhu Zhu Pets.
Neville, a Millikin graduate in finance with a minor in psychology, has been behind much of the company’s growth in licensing and worldwide product distribution. Hired by The Canadian Group just over nine years ago, he manages and oversees the company’s marketing, product positioning and strategic licensing partnerships. With a background in sales for companies including Armstrong World Industries and Lego Toys, Neville also finds himself in the perfect position to manage the sales relationship with TCG’s largest customers. It’s an ever-evolving role, with future success to be buoyed by launching new “crazes,” securing entertainment licensing tie-ins and judiciously incorporating technology to augment the child’s experience with traditional puzzles and games. For example, a QR code on a puzzle of a popular teen entertainer, when scanned by a smartphone, might unlock a short “performance” on the smartphone screen. The puzzle itself is fun, but the technology unlocks a new experience that makes the puzzle fun in a different way.

For better or for worse, Neville and Lienhop agree, entertainment and the advertising media are here to stay in the world of play. The magic comes when a license agreement leads the child or family to choose a certain puzzle or a particular dining experience. The actual play experience with these companies’ products — toys, puzzles, games and premium items — is largely traditional, manipulative, imaginative and interactive. According to Neville, there is an incredibly strong market for traditional toys, from puzzles to board games to yo-yos. Some of the products, like puzzles and board games, have a place in the customer’s life throughout adulthood.

Neville points out that the media also influences the timeline of toy “crazes,” and a typical toy craze saturates the market for 18 months before winding down. Therefore, the successful company always looks ahead to ramp up the next big thing.

Fast timelines are mirrored at Strottman International with its children’s meal toys; a single promotion lasts just four to eight weeks. One successful Strottman product promotes a slower tempo of family interactivity, though: The company produces “Build and Grow” kits for the Lowe’s Home Improvement Store “Build and Grow” Kids’ Clinics worldwide. Offered every other Saturday at all Lowe’s retail locations, the clinics allow kids to build a simple wooden toy by hand. Parents and guardians participate, too. Many of the toys feature a bit of technology (such as sound chips or pullback motors) that enhances their play value. The provision of a toy “series” and, sometimes, licensed toy kits, keeps kids and families coming back for this free activity.

The question inevitably arises: while at Millikin, did you envision that you would be working in the world of play? And: did Millikin prepare you well for what you do today? The resounding response from both Bob Lienhop and Tom Neville: “Absolutely not!” to the first question, and “Absolutely yes!” to the second.

Lienhop prepped in college for a “life of numbers and audits.” Drawn from his home in St. Louis to Millikin by its swimming program, Lienhop majored in accounting at MU. Initially hired by Price Waterhouse as an auditor, Lienhop soon sought a new job, one that would both expose him to international business and allow him to live in California. The internal audit department of Mattel Toys delivered on both counts, and Lienhop soon found himself traveling to Paris, Frankfurt and Milan for Mattel, living in Europe for months at a time. After serving as finance director of the short-lived Mattel Elec-

tronics division, manufacturer of Atari competitor Intellivision, Lienhop joined Strottman, a marketing company founded by a former Mattel colleague 28 years ago.

Over the past six years, Strottman’s traditional marketing project work has been replaced with a new vision and direction. Seizing on the opportunity to manufacture children’s meal toys, a niche many major toy companies don’t care to pursue, Strottman has capitalized on its principals’ background in the toy industry and on their expertise in acquiring licenses and designing/executing brand partnerships.

Lienhop credits the financial background he received at Millikin for success in his role overseeing Strottman’s business structures and processes. His former swim coach, Carl Johansen, and David Marshall, professor emeritus of accounting, have been particularly influential. Johansen is credited as having been the one to “motivate this flaky swimmer from St. Louis” to believe that he could succeed in swimming, in the classroom and in life. Lienhop sees Mar-

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UP IN THE AIR:
Two MU alumni help clients get their ideas off the ground.
by Amy Fehr ’13
On the surface, Kate Cooper Schroeder ’05 of Louisville, Ky., has a normal 9-5 desk job. However, she does something unique with her eight-hour work shift: She helps people fly.

Schroeder works as a flying producer for ZFX Inc., a company headquartered in Louisville that specializes in live theatrical flying effects. Founded in 1994, ZFX works with more than 400 productions each year, ranging from Broadway musicals to concerts to corporate events.

“I love theatre and entertainment. That’s my passion,” Schroeder says. “So, if there is something I can do to help a company or theatre sprout wings, I talk with them about how we can make their vision a reality.”

Schroeder not only helps people fly – she aids clients in getting almost anything in the air. During her five years at ZFX, Schroeder has worked on a variety of projects, including the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, when ZFX was hired to create a system to raise the flags on cue during medal ceremonies. “It was broadcast live, and the whole world was watching the flags,” Schroeder says. “It was fun to be part of something so prestigious.”

Schroeder attributes much of her success at ZFX to her undergraduate education as a bachelor of fine arts (BFA) musical theatre major. “Here’s one of the great things about Millikin,” Schroeder says. “Most other BFA majors don’t get to push the ‘go’ button on the light board. I was encouraged to do things outside of my comfort zone. There was so much versatility that you won’t find in most other programs. In the real world, being versatile opens up more job opportunities. You can say, ‘Sure, I can do that!’”

So, when ZFX was searching for another producer, Schroeder knew where to look; she contacted her former classmate, Jessica May ’05. The two had known each other at school and often performed on- and off-stage together. May was a perfect fit for ZFX, Schroeder says, and joined the team as a flying producer last year.

ZFX is the only company of its kind to employ flying producers who work closely with clients to help their artistic visions take flight, Schroeder says. Currently, ZFX employs four flying producers, including the two Millikin grads. “Our job is to talk with clients about what they are looking to achieve and set them up with the appropriate equipment, time and personnel to bring that vision to life,” Schroeder says.

Although ZFX works routinely on popular stage shows such as “Peter Pan” and “Aladdin,” Schroeder and May must consider each client’s unique space and artistic vision when planning the flying effects. “The requirements of each show are incredibly different, but it makes it all the more rewarding when you can help your client pull off what they initially had in mind,” May says. For example, one of May’s favorite projects was a recent production of William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in Fargo, N.D., where Puck and the fairies flew throughout the entire show.

Schroeder and May often work on a good deal of traditional theatre, but they also tackle many out-of-the-ordinary projects, as well. ZFX’s motto is that a production’s flying capabilities are “only limited by your imagination (or ours), gravity and physics.” This flexible policy allows for a variety of unique opportunities, such as flying mannequins for UNIQLO, a Japanese fashion retail company. ZFX provided a display for their flagship store in Shanghai in 2010, and then again this past year for their new New York location.

And opportunities for ZFX, according to Schroeder, are constantly increasing. “Almost every new show being released has a flying effect,” she says, “It’s becoming more and more of a popular thing.” To soar above the competition in this burgeoning field, ZFX employs over 50 people and creates much of their equipment in-house.

They also wear Utilikilts. “We’re the type of company that thinks outside the box, and we start from scratch without any preconceived notions on everything we do … including our fashion choices,” May says.

From their quirky unofficial uniforms to their theatrical ingenuity, Schroeder and May take the profession of producer to new heights. “We like to create a spectacle, while still maintaining the magic,” Schroeder says. “The creativity and artists we have on staff at ZFX make it seem as if someone is actually flying through the air without a wire. Flying isn’t just in your dreams anymore.”

Left: Jessica May and Kate Cooper Schroeder, both ’05, at the Live Design Institute trade show and conference. Above: May and Schroeder helped actors fly in “The Cosmonaut’s Last Message.” Opposite page: Ghosts fly across the Hartford Stage during the production of “A Christmas Carol.”
In many ways, Sheri Martin ’13 of Peotone, Ill., is your typical college art student. She loves making artwork, playing video games, watching movies with friends and studying the coiling habits of woodlice. Okay, so maybe that last one isn’t your typical art student, but like many students at MU, Martin has embraced the flexibility of the Millikin curriculum and fostered a newfound love for biology while pursuing her bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design.

This spring, Martin invited us into her room to tell us about her cross-disciplinary interests, her artwork and hobbies, as well as her unique choices for pets.

Meet Sheri Martin. Donning one of her favorite website’s T-shirts, Martin can usually be seen hauling her backpack to and from the Media Arts Center lab in Staley Library or one of the Kirkland Fine Arts Center studios.

Martin is a self-proclaimed gamer. While she doesn’t get much down time, she enjoys playing Oblivion and Skyrim as much as possible. Nestled between her PlayStation consoles and monitor, she keeps wireless headphones, so she doesn’t “disturb people with zombie killing.”

Though she is studying graphic design, Martin also finds time to paint. When this photo was taken, she was restoring artwork on the door of a safe (left), as a project for Ed Walker ’85, associate professor of art.

Martin has one of the most unusual pets allowed in university housing: a praying mantis named Charles (left). She’s housed Charles for the last few months, and he has not only been a great companion, but he has served as a muse for some of Martin’s artwork. (He’s posed on her hand in the large photo.)

Studying graphic design and being a gamer, Martin is about as tech-savvy as they come. She and her brother custom-built her current computer using remnants of various computers. They christened their creation, “Frankencomp.”

Martin keeps herself organized with the wall space closest to her computer. Among the items on her wall, you’ll find a to-do list, as well as her paint brushes and a map for Rock Springs Conservation Area and Nature Center.
Showing support for her fellow art majors, Martin collects senior art exhibit cards from the class of 2012. Throughout her upcoming senior year, she’ll prepare for her bachelor of fine arts exhibit, which will focus on integrating her love for design, ceramics and biology.

Martin keeps her books and video games on the window sill near Frankencomp. Her choice of bookends includes a hand-carved, lidded pot she made in a ceramics class (left) and a coyote skull she purchased from a taxidermist friend.

In an animal behavior course with Dr. Marianne Robertson, professor of biology, Martin studied the coiling habits of woodlice (left). Once the course was complete, she couldn’t part with her subjects, so much like Charles, these tiny pets now serve as inspiration for her artwork.

Want to see more? Visit www.smartinart.net to see Sheri’s science-inspired artwork.
STRETCH YOUR PERCEPTIONS
In college, it always seems as though new doors are opening. There are new subjects to master, new worlds to explore.

A few years – or more – out of school, can you say the same? Sure, work and/or family commitments can eat into your free time, leaving you wistfully longing for a few moments of peace to ... well, probably to sleep. That urge most likely hasn’t changed much from when you were in college, pulling all-nighters, writing lengthy papers with footnotes and bibliographies and longing for a summer with no classes so you could catch up on your zzzs.

However, the difference between then and now is that then, most of you freely and eagerly accepted the flow of information and new ideas coming at you like the tidal wave pool at the local water park. Now, though, that flow of knowledge may be more like the lazy river that circles the park. Sure, there’s the occasional spurt of gentle wave bursts that wake the drifters floating sleepily on their rafts, but unfortunately for many of us, the ride through life is unmarked by the absorption of greater knowledge than the top stories in the national and local news, with a little sports and celebrity news rounding out the mix.

The brain, however, needs exercise on a regular basis – just like the body. Neuroscientists say that learning something new can not only open your vistas to new ways of thinking, it can also help prevent or at least slow down dementia and other mind-robbing diseases. During learning, actual structural changes take place in the brain as neurons connect with one another. The more we learn, the more connections we develop and the less likely we will lose our skills and abilities as we age.

So, step out of your comfort zone this summer and improve your brain health. Learn something new and make a commitment to keep learning all the days of your life. On the next few pages, learn about manga and tanka. Simulate a return to the classroom by selecting some books for your summer reading as recommended by Millikin faculty. Sit back and stretch your perceptions on how you see the world.
Dirk Tiede was told in high school that his comic book drawings would get him nowhere. Today, the 1997 Millikin graduate is a nationally recognized artist and entrepreneur in the high-demand field of graphic novels for his “Paradigm Shift” manga* series.

Tiede has been a featured artist or guest at several anime and comic conventions for more than 10 years, including the San Diego Comic Con, as well as a speaker at the American Academy of Art and other educational institutions. His website, paradigmshiftmanga.com, is littered with a loyal following of fan contributions, art and comments.
“I specifically picked the Japanese manga look because of its action feel and horror element,” Tiede says.

Creating his manga is a time-intensive process, Tiede says. “I write it, I’m the one doing the drawing, I’m putting it on the web and making sure it’s ready for print,” Tiede says, crediting Ris Fleming-Allen ’96 as his editor. In fact, he sees her role as instrumental to his process. “Sometimes I’ll send her a scene, and she’ll practically re-write it. Then it will be more like what I was hoping for than the first draft I sent her,” Tiede says. “She plays a very integral part.”

When he began the series, he was still working his day job in Chicago, and the first book took him three years to complete. Since its 1999 release, Tiede has released two other books; all three books compose part one of the series. He is currently working on the first book in part two of the series at his home in Boston, collaborating with Fleming-Allen in Chicago.

Manga is an art form for Tiede, in addition to his business and hobby. “It’s all about making sure that the radio reception between me and my little muse is as clear as possible so it can just talk and I can listen when it comes out,” he says. “I have the skills now that if it wants me to draw something, I’ll draw it.”

However, there was once a time when Tiede set aside his muse and his drawings. “It was the 1993 Chicago Comic Con. I was young, barely 18,” Tiede says, smiling. “I took my work around to the various portfolio reviews there. I don’t know if it was that they were overly harsh or I just had thin skin, but I got some rough critiques, and I took it badly.”

Tiede had previously been encouraged to attend Millikin by his uncle, Russell Tiede, MU associate professor emeritus of music. Although he had intended to set aside comics after his Comic Con experience, Tiede still had the drawings he had worked on throughout high school. James Schietinger, longtime MU professor of art, saw Tiede’s talent in them and encouraged him to study art at Millikin.

With his student portfolio review a success, Tiede was excited about the resources that Millikin offers to budding artists. “I had some portfolio reviews at other places which had gone well,” Tiede says, “but this knocked them out of the park. The fact that there was a computer art lab just fascinated me. I knew where I wanted to be.”

The skills he learned at Millikin helped him find work as a web designer after graduating, but he still wasn’t satisfied. “I had this huge skill set, and it got me a job in Chicago, but it was just a job,” Tiede says. “I thought, ‘Where’s the love?’ and that’s when I started doing comics again.”

Chicago itself sparked Tiede’s creative fire. “When I first moved there, I took the train downtown to work every day,” he says. “We came around the corner and a whole vista of skyline would open up to us. I had a story and characters in mind, but the city inspired my setting.

“It’s like there’s a movie playing in my head,” he notes. “I’m just writing down what happens in the movie, and it hasn’t stopped playing yet, so I need to honor it and keep doing it.”

*Tiede’s personal definition of manga: “While ‘manga’ is just the Japanese word for comics, many people associate the word with an art style defined by characters with big, cartoonish eyes, dynamic and often insanely exaggerated storytelling and outlandish settings and premises. What struck me when I read manga for the first time was that it felt like watching a movie. The action was so dynamic, and the ink lines in the art looked as if they were practically thrown onto the page, and the characters were just leaping out.”*
The learning doesn’t have to stop after you finish your formal education. Millikin’s popular summer reading list includes books that will broaden your perceptions and maybe even change how you think about a topic. So, pull up a comfy chair, pour yourself a glass of lemonade and get out that Kindle or paperback: We’ve got the perfect summer reads as recommended by MU faculty and staff.

“Albert Nobbs: A Novella” by George Moore

Intrigued by the movie trailers and Glenn Close’s haunting performance, I sought out the book and was not disappointed. Written in 1918, “Albert Nobbs” is the story of a waiter, a longtime and well-respected employee of an upscale hotel in Dublin. But Albert is a 48-year-old woman who has been successfully surviving in a man’s world since she was 18 and whose identity remained undiscovered until a chance meeting with another woman who also is a “perhapser.” The loneliness is palpable in this touchingly sad story that highlights issues of gender roles, judgment and the limited opportunities for women. (Recommended by Judi Crowe ’91, assistant professor of English and professional writing tutor)

“Bear Down, Bear North” by Melinda Moustakis

Winner of the 2010 Flannery O’Connor Award in Short Fiction and nominated by Jaimy Gordon as one of the National Book Foundation’s Five Under 35 fiction writers in 2011, Melinda Moustakis’ debut collection is a raucous and riveting adventure set in rural Alaska. These interconnected short stories follow a cast of memorable characters, from fishers, trappers and hunters to sled racers, drinkers and colorful storytellers. Inspired by Moustakis’ own experiences fishing with her family on the Kenai River, these beautiful stories are rooted in a sense of place and told in a stunning, haunting prose that is impossible to forget. (Juli Case, English department adjunct faculty member)

“Busy Monsters” by William Giraldi

To call this novel a screwball comedy is not inaccurate or criticism. To leave the description at that, however, would not do justice to the ambition of this book, its serious character study and lampooning of culture, genre and conventions (fictional or otherwise) of love. This novel is a romp of adventure (Bigfoot hunters, UFO enthusiasts, professional bodybuilders for example), language, and wit. (Dr. Stephen Frech, associate professor of English and English department chair)

“Chasing Aphrodite: The Hunt for Looted Antiquities at the World’s Richest Museum” by Jason Felch & Ralph Frammolino

The romance of Indiana Jones is powerful: scholarly adventurers risking life and limb for the sake of unearthing and preserving ancient artifacts. The dirty little secret of U.S. antiquity museums, however, has long been that they acquire their collections through unsavory looters and against the will of governments who claim rightful ownership over sites and objects. And the illegal, clandestine acquisition process actually hinders research by damaging the objects we hope to preserve and deliberately obscuring the origin and provenance of objects. This book of well-written reportage, focused on the famed Getty Museum, reads as part adventure story, part true-crime exposé and the age-old story of greed and hubris. (Frech)
**The Fry Chronicles**  
*by Stephen Fry*

As a longtime fan of “Blackadder” and “QI,” I was compelled to read this second installment of Stephen Fry’s autobiography after he appeared at the Royal Albert Hall while I was in London. Fry is indeed the consummate storyteller, relating the challenges of his early life, his education at Queen’s College Cambridge (where he met, worked with, and maintained lifelong friendships with Hugh Laurie and Emma Thompson, all members of the Queen’s Footlights Revue), and the twists and turns of his multifaceted professional career. Engaging, humorous and honest, at times painfully so, he talks about his friendships, sexuality, career and the human condition as he perceives it. Fry has been celebrated for his intellect and wit, and this thoughtful journey into the life of a humble, deservingly successful man is indeed a worthy summer read. *(Crowe)*

**The Land of Painted Caves**  
*by Jean M. Auel*

Thirty-two years after the debut of her runaway bestseller, “The Clan of the Cave Bear,” Jean M. Auel concludes the epic saga of Ayla, a 5-year-old orphaned Cro-Magnon girl adopted by Neanderthals. Not only does Auel eloquently reveal a compelling conclusion to the narrative of Ayla’s journeys — from her life with the Clan to her acceptance into the Zelandonii tribe and her training to become one of their spiritual leaders — but she should also be commended for anchoring the narrative of meticulous, hands-on research. Evocative description and Ayla’s heart-breaking struggle to become a strong female leader of her people will keep you turning pages to the very end. *(Dr. Carmella Braniger, associate professor of English)*

**Madame Bovary**  
*by Gustave Flaubert*

Flaubert’s novel about a young woman whose desires poison her long before she swallows arsenic is a savage indictment of bourgeois pretensions, rural stupidity and stunning self-delusion. This 1856 classic is a must read. *(Dr. Anne Matthews, associate professor of English and professional writing tutor)*

**The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane**  
*by Kate DiCamillo*

“Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a rabbit who was made almost entirely of china.” So begins Kate DiCamillo’s “The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.” Edward is not your typical animal hero, nor is his journey predictable. Like many well-written books for children, DiCamillo’s story works on multiple levels, offering a meditation on vanity, privilege, friendship, and the stars. Edward’s chance meetings and misfortunes are instructive, yet never preachy. This book is a wonderful reminder that receiving and giving love changes who we are. *(Dr. Michelle Jewett, assistant professor of English)*

**The Selected Stories of Philip K. Dick**  
*by Philip K. Dick*

This collection contains a wide range of Dick’s short fiction, from his very early stories to some of his latest. Included here are stories that have also been adapted for the screen: “Paycheck,” “Imposter,” “Adjustment Team” (The Adjustment Bureau), “The Minority Report,” and “We Can Remember It for You Wholesale” (Total Recall). Philip K. Dick’s short fiction is as relevant as it has ever been, and a comparison of these stories with their companion films reveals much about Hollywood’s take on Dick’s work. *(Dr. Mike George, associate professor of English)*

**Steve Jobs**  
*by Walter Isaacson*

Regardless of what you think of Steve Jobs, this book is fascinating. It’s a walk down memory lane for those of us who can remember the first Apple computers, complete with interesting details about the intricacies of the personal computer industry as it emerged. More than that, it’s about a man whose work changed our world. Steve Jobs was a man of contradictions, and this book explores, in detail, both the positive and negative aspects of his life and personality. *(Cindie Zelhart ’10, English department office manager)*

**The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health — and a Vision for Change**  
*by Annie Leonard*

Leonard presents the reader with a striking critique of our obsession with possessions, complete with a narrative of the production, use and disposal of the items about which we rarely ponder. Regardless of whether the reader is convinced by her overall argument, the information presented is eye-opening. Although the book’s companion web site, www.storyofstuff.org, does ask for donations, it also presents more updated information in the form of blogs and video clips, all of which augment the information presented in the book. *(George)*

The complete summer reading list is available at http://pinterest.com/staleylibrary/summer-reading-lists/.
STRETCH YOUR PERCEPTIONS

Escape the summer heat with this cooling burst of wintry features...

**The Gift of VESPERS and “Christmas in Illinois”**

While Dr. James Ballowe ’54 was scouring the state for nuggets of Christmas history for his anthology, “Christmas in Illinois,” Dr. Timothy Kovalcik ’96, associate professor of history, was sitting on a gold mine of information about one of Decatur’s most cherished traditions: Vespers.

“Jim remembered Vespers and the tradition, and contacted Millikin,” Kovalcik says. “They knew I had done the research, so they got me in touch with him and I made a short article out of it,” and “Millikin’s Gift: The Story of Vespers,” became a chapter of “Christmas in Illinois.”

Ballowe’s 220-page book is a collection of holiday traditions, history, recipes and Christmas cheer from every corner of the Prairie State.

“I was asked by the University of Illinois Press to edit the anthology. I accepted,” Ballowe says, “because the project fit well into a lifelong study of mine: the cultural history of the state of Illinois. It also gave me a chance to interact with literally hundreds of people throughout the state.”

Extensive research, not only about Illinois, but about Christmas itself, went into the anthology’s composition. According to Ballowe, “I gathered both historical and current material from Cairo to Chicago through face-to-face contact, telephone, email and public and private archives.”

Meanwhile, Kovalcik was putting together his research to release a possible book celebrating the 50th anniversary of Vespers, but “…there just wasn’t enough to do an entire volume,” he says, “and it would have cost a fortune.” When Ballowe contacted Millikin asking for information about Vespers, Kovalcik was already prepared.

“I was intrigued by Professor Kovalcik’s contribution to this anthology,” says Ballowe, “because he writes of how Millikin’s Vespers developed over the years and began its modern phase.” Vespers first began in the early 1920s and lasted 10 years until interest on campus sputtered away. The event did not return until 1959, through the efforts of the late Richard Hoffland, director of choral activities and professor emeritus of music, and his wife, Kay.

Since then, the torch has been passed to Dr. Brad Holmes, professor of music and director of choral activities. “I was in Vespers from 1993 to 1996 as a student,” says Kovalcik. “Holmes had started a few years earlier and was already a legend.” Holmes, though, does not see himself as such a big player in the history of Vespers.

“It was a seed planted by someone who had a big vision,” he says, “and I was just the beneficiary.”

While he downplays his own role, Holmes recognizes the importance of Vespers to Millikin and the surrounding community. “Vespers is Millikin’s largest event, and I think people in the Decatur community start the season with it.”

On this point, Holmes and Kovalcik agree. “Vespers is a living tradition,” Kovalcik says. “Some traditions become stale. This is something people desire to go to because it’s exciting and new. Nobody makes them go; they just go.”

“Christmas in Illinois” captures not only the spirit of Vespers, but the living traditions and stories of Christmas throughout Illinois and beyond. Thus Christmas, like Vespers, is a living and evolving tradition captured by Ballowe’s determination, Christmas spirit, and love of the Prairie State and its people. ●
A selection of tanka* from Bronze Man Books’ latest publication:

WINTER HEARTS
BY JACKSON LEWIS ’13
With illustrations by Monica Smith

full moon
thinly veiled
behind clouds-
pull this longing
from my heart

deer watching
with two friends
one of which
loves the other
silently

slinking into
a coffee shop
she looks up
and smiles at me
accidentally

*WHAT IS TANKA?
Tanka (“short poem”) is a 20th century modernization of the classic waka Japanese poetry usually characterized by its use of five, non-rhyming lines. According to tankaonline.com, the lyric poetry is “becoming one of the most popular and versatile short forms of poetry in English.”

WHAT IS BRONZE MAN BOOKS?
Bronze Man Books (BMB) is Millikin’s student-operated press. Its mission is the integration of high-quality design and meaningful content. Learn more and shop at bronzemanbooks.com

ABOUT “WINTER HEARTS”
“Winter Hearts,” a chapbook collection of tanka written by Jackson Lewis ’13, was released this spring. Themes of isolation, sexuality and repressed emotion are explored in a direct, masculine voice, hailing from literary traditions of tanka’s roots in Japanese culture.
The Barbados native, Ron “Suki” King, stares down his opponent, the young up-and-comer Lubabalo Kondlo, a poor man from South Africa who has torn through a forest of red tape just to be here. Now the only thing standing in the way of Kondlo becoming a world champion is the smug King across from him.

This is a game of precision, of great strategy and now a struggle between social classes. This is checkers.

The arena for this match is “King Me,” a documentary by Think Media Studios. In addition to following the match between the aptly named King and the underdog Kondlo, the film also explains little known facts about the game and the organizations in charge of these tournaments. The documentary premiered this March at the Cleveland International Film Festival and features Millikin’s very own U.S. checkers champion, Richard Beckwith ’91 (below).

Beckwith grew up in Decatur a mile from Millikin’s campus and started playing in local checkers tournaments in Macon County as a child. He debuted in state tournaments by age 15 and took first in the B division of the Illinois State Tournament by the time he was 16. “I started very young because my dad played. Some of the better players started taking me to state tournaments. From there I moved to Ohio and started competing nationally,” he says.

State checkers tournaments usually award the winner with a cash prize of anywhere from $500 to $1,000 and the national tournaments and world title matches offer $5,000 to $10,000 to the victor. These competitions are not about grown men huddled in a friend’s basement betting for pennies.

Beckwith is no minor contender in these events. In fact, he won this year’s U.S. national championship in February, as well as the San Remo (Italy) Open last October.

“Just about every household has a checker board,” Beckwith says. “[but] people just don’t understand the game at this kind of level.”

Beckwith is a senior scientist working in analytical chemistry with Ricerca Biosciences, where he tests trial versions of drugs for impurities.

“My time at Millikin provided the groundwork for my career,” he says. After Millikin he went on to Purdue to receive his doctorate in philosophy, and he started work with Ricerca straight out of graduate school.

But this mild-mannered scientist by day serves by night as the vice president of the World Checker and Draughts* Federation and players representative of the American Checker Federation, a position that is fairly time-consuming, he says.

*According to the International Mind Sports Association, draughts is an elimination game played between two players on a board with 100 squares. Checkers is a variant of draughts played on a 64-square board.
Are you loyal to the Big Blue in all that you do?
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This new club honors MU alumni and friends who support the university by:

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

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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).

Host an event for your 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.
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