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# The Stampede

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## Milligan in the Process of Re-Accreditation Under SACS

Jordan Burch, Staff Reporter

Milligan College is in the process of regaining accreditation under S.A.C.S., the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Milligan has been first accredited in 1960 and has maintained accreditation ever since.

"The reaffirmation process occurs every 10 years, with a smaller 5-year review. It was previously completed in 2012. When Emmanuel Christian Seminary was merged into Milligan in 2015 our timeline was reset, requiring reaffirmation five years later," said Carolyn Carter, Professor of Computer Science.

Professor Carter is heading the accreditation process. "I serve as Chair of the team of faculty, staff, and administrators who comprise the six committees. I see my job as the overseer and facilitator for both the project timeline and communication between all those involved in the process," said Carter. She is also assisted in the process by Brenda Bourn and Dr. Heather Hoover.

Brenda Bourn, Milligan's SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison, has been instrumental in documenting and editing

the timeline, being the initial reader of the written documents and managing the file structure of the documents and evidence submitted by each committee, according to Carter. Once this document has been drafted and reviewed, it gets sent to Hoover, Professor of English and Composition, who does the final edit. The document is then uploaded to a software package called Compliance Assist. This creates hyperlinks to each piece of evidence documenting our compliance.

Along with the direct help of Hoover and Bourn, there are other Milligan staff involved in the process. Mary Page, Assistant for Seminary Development, and Heather Vaccaro, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, are managing the logistics such as lodging, transportation, and meals for the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee members' visit in March 2020.

### What does SACS look into?

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) looks at the



SACS seeks to improve education throughout the South by means of accreditation. Photo provided by Google Images.

policies and procedures of the entire Milligan institution. They review such things as adherence to the Mission of the College, quality and staffing of academic programs, student achievement, qualifications of faculty, physical and financial resources, student services, governance, administrative organization, library resources, institutional strategic planning, and a host of other items, according to Carter.

See SACS on p. 3

## Smoky Mountain Bigfoot Conference: Sasquatch in Tennessee

Jordan Burch, Staff Reporter

The first Smoky Mountain Bigfoot conference has been scheduled for Saturday, July 27. The event is set to last from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. This conference will be hosted in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. at the Gatlinburg Convention Center and offers an opportunity for Bigfoot fans at Milligan to attend an event dedicated to the Bigfoot.

This is set to be the biggest Bigfoot Conference in the Southeast, according to gatherupevents.com. The Gatlinburg Convention Center is a large building, the main room that will host the event is 148,000 total square feet. This makes the conference center more than capable of hosting a sizeable group of people.



Smoky Mountain Bigfoot Conference will be sharing stories of investigations and sightings. Photo provided by Google Images.

The conference center is a two-hour drive from Johnson City, which allows local Milligan students to attend the event. There are students on campus who follow the "Finding Bigfoot" show on Animal Planet and are interested in the folktale of Sasquatch.

"I am a huge Bigfoot fan. I have seen every episode of Finding Bigfoot and do some freelance investigating myself. I was pleased to learn there will be a convention so close to home with one of my favorite characters from the show," said sophomore Tara Sumatra.

The main attraction of the event is an appearance by Cliff Barackman, co-host of Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot." Along with hosting the show, Barackman is also a Bigfoot field researcher. He will be telling stories about his investigations and sightings of the Sasquatch. There will also be several other speakers, each followed by a Q and A session.

There are two categories of tickets, general admission and VIP. There is a limited number of tickets, and customers are encouraged to order their tickets as soon as possible before spots run out. The general admission tickets cost \$25 a piece. This type of ticket offers admission to the main event itself from nine to five.

See BIGFOOT on p. 2

## The Life of an RA

Maggie Halloran, Staff Reporter

One late night during the 2018 fall semester, more than a dozen young men picked up senior and Resident Assistant Joshua Mangano and transported him to the creek at the front of the school. As they wrestled him into the water for his celebratory creaking, he looked around and realized that most of the individuals were his former residents who came back to support his engagement.

"I knew that those guys wanted to be there because they appreciated me and the times that I was there for them," said Mangano.

The perks of being an RA go much further than just materialistic things like a free and single room, though both can be helpful. RAs get to meet people and foster relationships that last a lifetime.

"My older brother had a really close relationship with his RA, and seeing that experience, I thought it was awesome," Mangano said. "That's why I decided to apply at the end of my sophomore year."

An RA is supposed to be present in their hall in such a way that students know they can come to him or her for mechanical things like a broken light, school issues or even life problems.

"You have an in to a lot of people's lives, and they may look to you for guidance or help, but maybe they won't which is okay too," Mangano said. "I have four really close friends that started out as my residents, and it's turned into something really special."

Though the job can be beneficial to fostering some relationships, it can

sometimes distance students from once close friends due to the responsibility they now carry.

"I haven't experienced it, but some people feel like their friends distance themselves," Mangano said. "We're never hoping to catch someone, it's just part of the job, and I respect the job enough for being a leader on the hall to do the part that isn't always fun."

Availability is one thing that every RA must make sure to have as one of the leaders in the building. Each student is required to come back from summer vacation a week early to go through training like CPR certification and a simulation called "Behind Closed Doors" where RAs learn how to handle situations in the halls that are not Milligan approved.

"Training week prepares us for the worst that could happen and helps the RAs and RDs get to know each other better," junior Hannah Bell said. "We learn about things such as roommate problems, suicide and how to work as a group ourselves. It's helpful information, but it may not click until later in the year."

Each person in their respective building is assigned to a break where they have to stay on campus for the students who remain in the dorm. Along with one break, each building's set of RAs are required to have one night a week where they are on duty, and they must patrol in groups of four on the weekends during open dorms.

The students also must conduct three or four room checks each semester, and they must help with

6 different programs.

"Res life tries to add to the campus experience, so each RA is required to help with 3 living programs like 'how to make food in your dorm room' or Webb county fair, and we have to complete 3 learning ones like a bible study or my-2words," Mangano said. "They're fun, but of course, sometimes people struggle to get them in."

Male students who are first-year RAs are typically assigned to Webb Hall while female first years can put their preference of Sutton or Hart (though they may have to be placed elsewhere). After helping for a year, students can typically put in a request to move to a different building if they so desire.

Bell said, "To anyone thinking about being an RA, be one for the relationships and community that comes with it."



Joshua Mangano (left) and fiancé Heather Van Cleve (right) are shown with their pumpkin in the photo provided by Milligan College.



## Rasheem Brown's Phenomenal Freshman Year

Ike Ndulue, Staff Reporter



Freshman Rasheem Brown is currently the NAIA national record holder in 60 meter hurdles. Photo by Ike Ndulue.

If you have been following the Track and Field Buffs for the past year, then you know the name Rasheem Brown. Brown's first year with Milligan's track team is full of accomplishments uncommon for a freshman. Recently, he came in first in the 200 meter run in 21:74 and third in the 1 x 400 relay race in 43:02 at Lenoir Rhyne University. He has already been AAC athlete of the week three times this year.

Prior to the events at Lenoir Rhyne, the Cayman Island native became only the 7th individual athlete from Milligan to be an NAIA National Champion. Breaking his own championship record, Brown finished at 7:81 to set a new national record. In an earlier statement, head coach Chris Layne said about Brown, "He had his sights set on running fast, and it was awesome to see that play out for both him and (assistant coach) B.T. Pham."

The Stampede had a chat with Brown to talk a little about himself and his journey so far with Buffnation.

**Q: When did you start your career in track?**

**A:** I started running when I was six years old. I found that as I kept running, I kept building my confidence on the track.

**Q: How did you come to know about Milligan College from the Cayman Islands?**

**A:** My coach has a great relationship with Chris Layne, so through my coach, I got to know about Milligan, and it made it easier to be a part of the program. I came here sometime in January 2018.

**Q: What's your take on the track team?**

**A:** The most important thing I like about my experience with this team is that I never used to be part of a team. I've never practiced as a team member so that is new for me. As the day goes on, we get to understand each other better and we really learn a lot from each other. Antoine Fergusson, my teammate, is also from the Caribbean, so I learn a lot from him during practice.

**Q: What do you think you will be known for after your college years?**

**A:** I would say people would recognize me as a humble person, well-mannered I would say. Really fast, because I am really good at what I do.

**Q: What can we expect from Rasheem Brown in the near future?**

**A:** I will be competing internationally for my country. I'll be heading to Peru in July and Mexico in August. I am looking forward to qualifying for the world championships in Doha and the upcoming Olympics next year.

## A National's Round-Up

Jordan Burch, Staff Reporter

### Track and Field

Milligan's Track and Field team competed at the NAIA National's meet in Brookings, South Dakota. The team had eight individual qualifiers for the meet, according to milliganbuffs.com. The team placed an impressive 16th overall. The highlights of the meet were an individual National Champion, Rasheem Brown, in the 60 meter hurdles and a second place finish by Timothy Thacker in the mile. In his championship winning effort, Brown set a national record with a time of 7.61. Thacker finished his mile at a 4:12:94, which is a personal best for him and only 1.15 seconds behind the first place finisher.

### Timothy Thacker, Sophomore

"Nationals was an amazing experience! It was my first time traveling so much for a race, as well as my first real experience with championship racing – which tends to be both more physical and tactical. Nevertheless, it went quite well! Both the prelims and the finals for the mile were very tactical races, in which I was able to "sit and kick," having a strong finish to notch second in each. When I crossed the line, I was stunned. I had the most bland look on my face for a sophomore who just finished second at nationals, but I was trying to stay composed. Inside, I was - and still am - jumping up and down like a little kid! Finally, I'm looking forward to doing it all again – except maybe a little faster next time."

### Swimming

The swim team sent 16 athletes the NAIA National Championship meet in Columbus, Georgia. The women's team placed 15th overall and the men's team place 17th. Highlights from the meet were 6th and 8th place finishes by Maggie Halloran and Sarah Farmer in the 100 meter backstroke.

### Sterling Burnett, Junior

"At Nationals I was able to go a best time in the 100 freestyle with a time of 47.3 which was .09 seconds off the school record of 47.21. I was the fastest split on the 200, 400, and 800 freestyle relays. All the male, and I think the female, relays made it to finals (top 16). The team as a whole swam well. There were a couple of records broken both by individuals and relays."

### Maggie Halloran, Sophomore

"I competed in 3 individual events and 5 relays (all of them) while I was at

nationals in Georgia. I placed 6, 8 and 9th in my individuals so I earned two more All-American accolades for the NAIA which makes me a 5 time All-American. I didn't do quite as well as I had hoped, but I was able to score some points for my team and go pretty close to my best times so overall I'm happy with it."

### Women's Basketball

The Women's basketball team made the trip Sioux City, Iowa for the NAIA National Tournament. The team was ranked No. 22 nationally going into the tournament. They lost a close fight against No. 14 University of Saint Francis. The Buffs came out with a slow start and were never able to recover, despite strong individual performances from Sarah Robinson, Emily Kiser, and Teal Davis. The final score of the game was 73-63 in favor of St. Francis.

### Coach Rich Aubrey

"Our experience at the National Tournament was very gratifying. While we lost, we played well considering our circumstances. Kaely Gose, one of our starters, was sick with a stomach bug. She did not play at all. Sarah Robinson was sick on game day. She played very well, but we were forced to limit her minutes, especially in the first half. Our effort against St. Francis was certainly no reason for us to hang our heads. The event is first class...Our players represented Milligan extremely well throughout the trip. We participated in the Special Olympics basketball clinic, we did classroom visits at a local elementary school and we spent time at Girls, Inc. interacting with the girls there. I'm very humbled to have coached this group. They will always hold a special place in my heart."

### Emily Kiser, Sophomore

"Going to Nationals with Milligan was an experience I'll never forget. Our team made it two years ago, but I hadn't come to Milligan yet, so it was a new and exciting journey for me. I think we all wanted to make history and win at least the first game, especially for our seniors, but sometimes things don't happen the way you hope. Personally, the trip made me excited, yet anxious, for my senior year of basketball. All I can hope for is a senior season as successful as this year, and I look forward to putting in the work to do my part in that. Go Buffs!"

## BIGFOOT, from front

The VIP/reserved seating tickets are already sold out, showing the level of popularity this convention holds in the area. Plans are in the works for a VIP dining experience with Barackman and possibly a hike out in the Smoky Mountains. That will have limited availability and only be available to VIP ticket holders, according to pigeonforge.com.

"I am very interested in this convention. I live in Knoxville so it will be a close drive. I guess I will need to try to reserve tickets soon before they sell out," said sophomore Cory Fancher.

For the first time ever, a Bigfoot conference is coming to East Tennessee. This Conference offers the

chance for locals to join in with the festivities and reserve a ticket for this upcoming summer. They will have to hurry though, spots are limited, and tickets are going fast.

**This story is part of a contest for our April Fools edition! The story here may or may not be true. Take to our twitter @MCStampede to tell us which two stories are fake and which two are real! The first three to correctly guess the two true stories will win a \$10 Chick-fil-a gift card.**

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Unless otherwise indicated, views expressed in the Stampede do not represent the views of Milligan College, its administrators, or the student body as a whole.

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**All letters should include first and last names, and students should include their majors.** However, you are limited to two letters to the editor per semester. Please keep letters fewer than 500 words in length. **We look forward to hearing from you!**



## Musical Set to Have Some Newbies as Cast

Maggie Halloran, Staff Reporter

Being in a musical can be tough. There are lines to learn, songs to sing, rehearsals to make. All of that on top of a normal student schedule can be stressful. Senior Jonathan Russell is taking it all in stride as he prepares for his lead role as Phoebus in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

The musical, directed by Dr. Carrie Klofach, Milligan's assistant professor of Musical Theatre is the first one put on by Milligan's musical theatre in four years. The show has more than 80 individuals between performers, the orchestra, the choir and set designers, most of which are Milligan students.

Russell, a business and pre-law double major who sings in chapel often, is in a different boat than many of the other actors because this is his first time acting.

"I was actually in the basement of Seeger practicing a song for chapel one evening, and Dr. Klofach knocked on the door," Russell said. "She said 'your voice is great, you need to try out', and that gave me the gusto to try out."

Russell worked through his nerves to try out in November with a song from *Aladdin*. Though he forgot the second verse of the song and repeated the first verse, he earned the part of Phoebus. To prepare for the following two months of work, Russell

explained that he sat down with his mom and watched the Disney version.

"The story is very culturally relevant," Russell said. "It talks about the outcast and how the church has failed him. It's cool for the political culture of today."

The crew practices four times a week for three hours each day. Practices began during the last week of January by simply running through the music for the first two weeks. The next three weeks were focused on blocking it out and running lines.

"It was hard at first to learn the lines and entrances, but now it's starting to become second nature," said Russell.

After spring break, it was time to work with props running through full acts. The final full week before the performance was spent working with the choir and the orchestra and finishing sets to bring everything together.

Before the performances, which run Wednesday through Sunday. A full dress rehearsal took place on Saturday, March 23 complete with costume fittings. Monday, the 25th and Tuesday, the 26th brought more run-throughs to get the cast and everyone else entirely prepared to perform.

"It's a moving story so I hope the audience is moved by the story, engaged with the characters and challenged to reach those who feel that



Kaori Nicole Clemmer, Larrun Maynor, Mareena Rodriguez, and Jonathan Russell are shown in the stage photo provided by Milligan College.

they are outcasts," Russell said.

Klofach, who has a slew of credentials behind her, is the director of the musical which is based on Victor Hugo's 1831 novel of the same name.

I think we're all really excited. There are always weak spots, but we're trying to hammer those and trust the director," Russell said. "This is Dr. Klofach's first musical here, but she's very good at what she does."

A few other lead cast members to watch out for are senior Derek Jeffers, freshman Kevin Odom, junior Maggie Booher and assistant professor of business administration Dr. Shannon Hogan.

Hogan was cast as Frolo the Arch-

deacon of the cathedral, and he also has never been in a musical before.

He explained that he has six kids, and one of the coolest parts of being in the play was that he got to experience it all with his wife and kids because they avidly sang the songs and helped him with his lines.

"I tried out for the play to show my children that one should never stop challenging themselves and to also meet new Milligan students and faculty," said Hogan.

The musical is free on Wednesday, March 27th to all Milligan students, faculty, and staff for preview night, but Thursday thru Sundays' admission will cost \$10.

## Humanities Celebrates its Fiftieth Birthday

AJ Trabold, Social Media

Since its founding, the Humanities program has been an integral part of Milligan College's academia. In 2019, we have the honor of celebrating the fiftieth year of the Humanities program's establishment.

Before it was fully developed, in the academic year of 1966, a few students took an early version of humanities; C. R. Wetzel joined the Milligan faculty in 1961 and was influential in bringing humanities to Milligan. Humanities finally made its public debut with the first official class in the fall semester of 1969.

Being a required course for all students, it may come as a surprise and a relief to current students at Milligan that the Humanities program used to be a 24-hour course: three one-hour class periods and two lecture periods per week. 2008 saw the switch to the 16-hour program that we know today.

Something else that may be interesting to students is that the first lectures were in the basement of Seeger Chapel. The lectures soon moved to Hyder auditorium once it was completed in 1972 and would remain there until Gregory was completed in 2008.

Dr. Tim Dillon, a current professor of history and humanities, has had 48 years of involvement with the Humanities program both as a student and as a professor. This May will mark his 36th year teaching humanities at Milligan.

"I began teaching in 1982; I was the first humanities faculty to go through the program, graduate, and come back to Milligan to teach it," Dillon said. "I first came to Milligan as a student back in the 70s, then Vice President LeRoy Lawson drew me to Milligan, and I have remained here ever since."

Dr. Lee Blackburn, an associate professor of history and humanities

and Director of Humanities, is one of the younger faces in the humanities faculty. He came to Milligan in 1996 as a student after hearing about it and Humanities via a VHS promo tape sent to him from Milligan.

"I knew I wanted to be

an English/history major in college. When I came to Milligan and sat in on a humanities class, I really loved how more discussion based it was; it was right up my alley," Blackburn said. "I went on to graduate from Milligan, went to grad school, and began teaching humanities in 2008."

Both Dillon and Blackburn have poured themselves into the Humanities program, both as students and as professors. With that, both have fond memories of their time in humanities. "I've enjoyed every year teaching humanities. There is always one person



Dr. Tim Dillon is a seasoned member of the humanities faculty with 48 years of humanities under his belt. Photo provided by Milligan College.



Dr. Lee Blackburn, a relatively newer face in Milligan's faculty, but an important one as the Director of Humanities. Photo provided by Milligan College.

in my class that comes alive, and I enjoy seeing that. I do miss lecturing in Hyder, though. The intimacy you can achieve in there rather in Gregory is something I loved," Dillon said.

"I have always loved the lectures in the Humanities program,

particularly one done by Dr. C. R. Wetzel on Greek philosophy. The fact that we get to enter into conversations that have been going on for millennia is absolutely mind-boggling for me" said Blackburn.

"The success of humanities will always be tied to if the students are willing to put in the time wholeheartedly," Dillon said. "As long as students devote time to studying humanities, the program will be forever successful, and students will take away more than they know."

"Regardless of what field you go in to, if you apply yourself in humanities you will acquire skills that you will keep with you: work ethic, critical thinking, writing skills, looking at issues in broader context," Blackburn continued, "You are a human being, faced with questions and challenged throughout your life; personal questions that the readings in humanities seem to challenge."

As the Humanities program continues to evolve, students this next academic year can expect a change in material for the classes. Due to 'Art Across Time' going out of print, professors will be turning to the internet to find any artwork for class discussion; this will allow for students to better understand specific art pieces and for professors to prompt better class discussion.

No matter what it has looked like over the years, the Humanities program will continue to be an important part of Milligan's history, and the driving force for many professors at Milligan. With the addition of a masters in humanities last year, it continues to live on as an important part of Milligan's academia.

## SACS, from front

**What Does it Mean to be Accredited?**

According to the SACSCOC Mission Statement, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. The Commission's mission is the enhancement of education quality throughout the region and the improvement of the effectiveness of institutions by ensuring that they meet standards established by the higher education community that address the needs of society and students. It serves as the common denominator of shared values and practices among the diverse institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Latin America and other international sites approved by SACSCOC that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. SACSCOC also accepts applications from other international institutions of higher education.

Accreditation by SACSCOC signifies that the institution (1) has a mission appropriate to higher education, (2) has resources, programs and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission and (3) maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives.

**Should We Be Afraid?**

Milligan is set to reaffirm accreditation. The process is well underway, and the school has no anticipation of not meeting the requirements.



## New Chapel Policy Announced

Ike Ndulue, Staff Reporter

A new Spiritual Formation policy will soon be announced and come into effect on campus. On Monday, April 1, every disruption by a cell phone or electronic device during the Tuesday or Thursday convocation/chapel will incur an additional SFP credit needed to graduate for owners of the device. Stampede first came across this information through a secret memo unsuspectingly posted on the notice board in Derthick Hall.

It has been an issue of growing concern that during the course of chapel in Seeger. Lectures and sermons are usually interrupted by ringtones and app notifications from students' phones and computers.

Sources close to this development have now confirmed the authenticity of this new policy. According to our source, "It's been in the works for quite a while, but we haven't got the technology to implement it, until now of course," refer-

ring to the new technology that would make enforcing this policy possible.

The college will be making use of cutting-edge Sound Detection Sensor technology, SDS. This newly developed technology was originally designed by the advanced scientific community as a way to interact with extraterrestrial life, it has since been used to carry out several other tasks by private organizations.

Stampede was able to gather that over spring break, the administration embarked on an aggressive installation of the SDS systems in Seeger Hall. This was followed by several secret tests after students returned from break.

SDS technology combines a unique microphone and powerful processors. It provides not only audio output but also a binary indication of sounds from electronic devices. As for how it can identify the device's user, our source was careful not to break that down but said, "Let's just say that all the secret testings after spring

break have been 100% successful."

Following the success of the trials, the school administration is now ready to fully implement the electronic device policy in chapel.

"The addition of SFP credits will be seamless and hassle-free," said a second source close to the policy, "it should take about 30 seconds from the time your cell phone interrupts in chapel to have an extra SFP added to your total."

A few students have shared their feelings about this development, Roberto Keeley Jr. a Freshman said "It helps me put a check on my cell phone addiction so I'm not bothered about it." Another student, junior Cecily Granite added, "I've always loved chapel, so when I found out I had a few more added I was excited!"

An official statement is expected soon from school administrators.

***This story is part of a contest for our April Fools edition!***

## Local Opportunities for Smashing and Axe Throwing

Henry Holben, Staff Reporter

Are you stressed, anxious or fuming with righteous anger? Do you want to vent your frustrations on a room filled with glass bottles? Do you want to throw sharp, pointy things? Whatever your stressors may be, you may be in luck.

The last year has seen the opening of new, unorthodox venues for stress relief in the Tri-Cities area. The Rage Room in Bristol is an "entertainment center" that allows customers to enter a room with a blunt instrument and smash up everything inside. Rage rooms like Bristol's give customers blunt instruments and protective gear to protect themselves as they smash and pummel their woes away. Customers can pay for more expensive items to destroy or better instruments to use during their visit. If you would prefer a more elegant, yet similarly violent recreational activity, you could consider visiting an event held by Grindin Axes. Grindin Axes is a local business that travels around the Johnson City area with a mobile axe-throwing target range. According to an article on NortheastTennessee.org, Grindin axes can be found at the JHR brewery on Tuesday nights.

Grindin Axes is a recognized member of the World Axe Throwing League (WATL). WATL has chapters on multiple continents and hosts official axe throwing tournaments. "Our vision is to prove that indoor axe throwing isn't just a unique experience; it can be a competitive sport," reads a statement on their website.

***This story is part of a contest for our April Fools edition!***

## Milligan Developing Artificial Students

Henry Holben, Staff Reporter

At March 14's SGA meeting, President Greer announced that the Milligan Board of Trustees has voted to develop "artificial students" to enroll in Milligan programs.

Greer told the SGA members that the board had developed software to perform the scholastic activities of Milligan students, and that this fall, the board will enroll prototype students in the humanities program for beta testing. Some SGA officers expressed worries about artificial students, however, plans to discuss the matter were dropped after Greer announced the Board of Trustees' planned revision to the school alcohol policy.

The Board's proposal, called BUFF v2.0, outlines a plan to simulate student performance with computers. In this plan, artificial students will be programmed into programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and given sensors to detect light, sound, touch, temperature, proximity, orientation, vibration, atmospheric pressure, infrared radiation, electric flux, radioactive isotopes and the scent of coffee.

When interviewed by a staff reporter, trustee and former IBM executive Ron Sewell said that the Board had been pleased with the project's results thus far. "Our artificial student prototypes can already outperform most students in Milligan themed activities," said Sewell.

"In a sample of ten organic and ten inorganic students, only three organics could completely recite the Alma Mater song while all ten electronic students could replay the song verbatim." According to Sewell, the idea came up after the board explored opportunities to use artificial intelligence (AI) to study the school's performance. The Board at the time was discussing ways to use machine learning to predict student performance in the classroom.

"We had an epiphany while experimenting with the simulations. At first, we thought we were just working with a new kind of analysis- and then it hit us

what we had really created here," said Sewell. "If we could use these machines to simulate student performance, we could just as easily use them to perform in the place of students." The board believes that artificial students will easily outperform their human classmates and raise the college's ratings.

When the College President was asked why he believed Buff v2.0 would make a great addition to the Milligan community Greer responded,

"The benefits would be tremendous. They won't need food. They won't need parking spaces or residence halls. Imagine the level of play we can expect from our eSports team! We'll just need adequate power and a place to recharge them periodically," Greer said. "And, they won't break any rules and won't ever complain! Seems to me like it will be a collegiate utopia."

The board's proposal raises several concerns. One obvious concern for the program is how artificial students will be able to pay tuition fees. On this issue, Sewell said, "We're not worried over whether artificial students will be able to pay off their student loans. There's no telling the kind of complex problems an artificial student with a background in the liberal arts and biblical scholarship will be capable of solving. Such students are going to make fortunes in the data mines."

The Stampede consulted Dr. Ke Bao, assistant professor of electrical engineering and an expert in AI. While Bao asserted that computers would make excellent students, he also commented on several of the challenges the project will face. "Computers can't tell context," Bao said, concerning current limitations of machine learning. Bao explained that more possibilities for AI students will come if artificial students are connected to the internet. Internet connectivity would allow BUFF v2.0 students to store and retrieve information at online address. It should be noted that the faculty have not expressed any position on whether an artificial

student could be punished for cheating on a test if ever caught accessing information it filed in an online database. Concerning the prospect that professors could soon be teaching internet-connected computer systems, Bao said, "They should be the teachers... It is very scary for an instructor."

To prepare BUFF v2.0 for the humanities program, Milligan humanities and composition professors have been asked to compile a list of written works to feed into the writing style of Buff v2.0. The process works similar to the AI that wrote Botnik studios' "Harry Potter and the Portrait of What Looked Like a Very Large Pile of Ash". However, with limited storage space on the prototypes' built-in ROM, humanities professors are in disagreement about what works should be used.

Tim Dillon shared some of his entries including, Flannery O'Connor's short stories, Dune by Frank Herbert, Anna Karenina by Fyodor Dostoevsky, Wendell Berry's essays and Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. Dillon also recommends that artificial students be familiarized with the works of Isaac Asimov.

The prospect that artificial students will be able to mimic the interpersonal skills of organic students raises a concern for some students of how they will be able to tell another human from artificial intelligence. To address this concern, the Stampede contacted Dr. Theresa Carter, Associate Professor of computer information systems.

"Basing the experiment on the question and answer game "Can Machines Think" by Turing as the research model, we can anticipate 33% of the college campus will not be able to tell the differences in the robot student from a human student. In fact, the robot student is expected to fool all of the humanities and business faculty."

***This story is part of a contest for our April Fools edition!***

## BONUS

***"Smoky Mountain Bigfoot Conference," "New Chapel Policy Announced," "Milligan Developing Artificial Students," and "Local Opportunities for Smashing and Axe Throwing" are part of a contest for our April Fools edition! The stories here may or may not be true.***

***Take to our twitter @MCStampede to tell us which two stories are fake and which two are real!***

***The first three to correctly guess the two true stories will win a \$10 Chick-fil-a gift card.***