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Stampede

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Milligan Professor Launches Cystic Fibrosis Research Initiative

Chemistry professor Dr. Kristen Mudrack recently began a research initiative with students to help combat cystic fibrosis.

Mudrack has a bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Gordon



College and a doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biology from Michigan State University. Before working at Milligan, she was a visiting professor at

Dr. Kristen Mudrack is helping Milligan students conduct innovative research on cystic fibrosis.

Goshen College. The focus of Mudrack's research at Milli-

gan is developing and testing new antibiotics. The antibiotics are designed to target and exterminate Pseudomonas aeruginosa, a resistive bacteria that often causes lung infections in people with cystic fibrosis.

Mudrack recently presented her research as part of Milligan's faculty lecture series. Her presentation was titled "From the Classroom to the Bench to Beyond" and discussed the work and its importance to the students that participated.

"When I was an undergraduate student, I had the opportunity to do research, and it opened a whole new world of science to me," said Mudrack in a Milligan press release. "Rather than reading a textbook or testing lab projects that hundreds of people had already tested, I was doing something new where the outcomes were unknown."

The work done in the lab here at Milligan is now part of an intercollegiate research database, with contributions from Milligan, IUPUI, Goshen College, Colorado College and others.

"The opportunity to be involved in innovative research isn't offered everywhere," said Mudrack. "I'm grateful to be able to work alongside students as

Laney Butt, Staff Reporter

they make a difference and work toward their career goals."

Last year, Milligan alumni Andi Lamb and Kellee Geren worked with Mudrack in the lab. Now, senior Hannah Rodgers and junior Madison Blanton are continuing the research with the same supervision under Mudrack.

"Our students' research not only applies to the things they are learning in the classroom to a real-world problem but what they discover affects a population of people who suffer from CF," said Mudrack. "This research has a practical application for our students who are interested in medicine and biochemical research."

Mudrack also spoke briefly about her experience with CF and the ways it has influenced her research during chapel on Thursday, Oct. 3. Her sermon in chapel was part of the series EPIC: Your Life In God's Story. She concluded her sermon by emphasizing how every person's story is important and is part of a bigger picture, even if it does not feel like it at times.

Milligan Hosts Masterclass with **Broadway** Star

Laney Butt, Staff Reporter

Broadway actress Jessica Molaskey visited Milligan on Oct. 2 and 3 to work with the Musical Theatre Department and teach a Masterclass. The event had over 20 attendees, including six students who performed for Molaskey on stage.

Molaskey has starred in 12 different Broadway musicals including "Cats," "Tommy," "Falsettos" and "Oklahoma!" She also was a member of the original cast of the musical "Songs for a New World."

The Milligan Theatre Department will be performing "Songs for a New World" this semester.

In an interview following the event, Molaskey spoke of how important mentors were to her growth as a performer.

See MASTERCLASS on p. 4

Megan Jastrab: A Record-Breaking Cyclist Annalea Hines, Staff Reporter

In Megan Jastrab's six years of competitive cycling, she has earned 29 national titles, three world titles and more than 50 medals. Jastrab is not sure exactly how many medals she has earned because she lost track after she hit 50.

A 17-year-old nursing major from Apple Valley, California, Jastrab grew up playing sports, spending time outdoors and of course, riding bikes. Jastrab was home schooled, and if she had gone to public school, she would not have been able to cycle. Most public schools consider cycling to be an extreme sport and do not offer it at the high school level. This led to Jastrab competing with a training and developmental team for five years before signing with the Rally UHC Trade pro team when she turned 17. During her first year of competitive racing, Jastrab raced with the developmental team and earned her first national title in 2014 in Madison, Wisconsin. During the cycling season, Jastrab races for both Milligan and Rally UHC. "With the trade team, there are a set number of races you have to compete in each year, but if you want to race at the collegiate level, you have to enter those races with a college team," Jastrab said. A cyclist becomes eligible to race in Worlds with a trade team when they turn 17. In Frankfurt, Germany, Jastrab earned her first world title during her first world race at the end of August. "It was the week before we started school, Jastrab said. "I flew from Germany then went back home for two days then came to Milligan. It was madness.'

One of the reasons Jastrab chose to attend Milligan is because few schools offer cycling as a collegiate sport. "I always wanted to go to a smaller Christian school," Jastrab said. "The fact that Milligan offered me a cycling scholarship is a bonus."

Jastrab chose to race for a trade team and for a collegiate team because she wanted to competitively race and still go to college. "Collegiate racing is much more relaxing," Jastrab said.

Laney Butt, a sophomore cyclist double majoring in engineering and communications, is a teammate of Jastrab's. "Although I haven't had the opportunity to race with Megan yet, I'm looking forward to it," Butt said. "She's an awesome friend."

In September, Jastrab and other



Milligan cyclists competed at the Collegiate Track National Championships in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Jastrab won first place in the women's individual pursuit. "She's brought a great energy to the team, and her results are super impressive," Butt said.

Jastrab's experience with UHC Rally has led her to feel there is much less pressure in collegiate racing. "Everyone (on Milligan's team) just had the expectation of showing up, having fun and racing some bikes," Jastrab said. "Whereas for Rally UHC you have to work so hard, and there is a lot of pressure just for one race."

The most recent race Jastrab competed in with Rally UHC was held in Yorkshire, United Kingdom. Each country is only allowed to send four riders to compete in this World Race. "I won the Nations' Cup earlier this year in Italy and in the Netherlands, so that got me an automatic selection,'

Megan Jastrab smiles in her Milligan uniform. Photo by Laney Butt.

Jastrab said. She won first place out of 95 cyclists.

Normally, Jastrab has to fly home after her races, so she does not get to do much exploring. "Before races, you aren't allowed to do anything because you have to conserve energy," Jastrab said. The rules for cyclists before races are so strict that the competitors are not allowed to take stairs or spend time on their feet.

"This time after the race, I got to have some fun," Jastrab said. During her time in the United Kingdom, she was able to watch an elite women's

race, compete in a "just for fun" online e-race, do some shopping and hang out with friends. "Because of Rally UHC I get to meet people from all over the world," Jastrab said.

The next race Jastrab will be competing in is the Collegiate Mountainbike Nationals in California over fall break with Milligan's cycling team. "This race is an hour away from where I am from, so I will also get to see my family," Jastrab said. She is looking forward to traveling to her home state and "having my family bring the dogs too."

2 | CAMPUS

Stampede

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Counseling Center Initiates Weekly Discussions

Rikki Wagner, Staff Reporter

Milligan's Counseling Center will be hosting weekly group discussions every Monday throughout the month of October. These meetings will be held in the Jeanes Community Room, and they will focus on topics concerning the basic human desire to belong. Some possible topics include relationships, sense of belonging, friendship, dating and community.

The focus group was created so students could have a safe place to talk about everyday topics and issues. For some, being in a group and hearing other people have the same or similar issues makes it easier to share. Groups also provide a unique dynamic, allowing multiple perspectives to be seen and heard.

Group discussions also help people perfect and practice skills and learn to relate and communicate with others.

"The way a person 'shows up' or relates to others is rooted in the basic human need to belong," said Dr. Christine Browning, associate professor of counseling. "The idea is that the group discussions will help identify relationships that are positive and help promote ways to enhance communication and positive relationships."



Dr. Christine Browning helps run the Monday weekly discussions.

that come up during the discussions, and that's okay," she said. "That's what we are here for, to listen and help oth-

ers with whatever they need." She also explained the importance of the topics, and why the overall theme is dealing with the desire to belong. "An individual's ability or inability to relate to others affects every area of their life," said Browning. She added that knowing how to interact with others and cope with their behavior can help in social situations and other areas of life.

Browning also said that while the initial intention is to meet once a week during October, the number of meetings and the frequency may change. She said that it all depends on the interest, purpose of the group and the topic being covered.

The Counseling Center is excited for the weekly meetings and the opportunity for students to share and interact with each other. "I think the topics of belonging, especially healthy relationships, are great," said Dr. Rebecca Sapp, director of the Counseling Center. "I hope students will participate in this discussion opportunity."

The Counseling Center also provides professional, short-term counseling for Milligan students, faculty and staff free of charge. Their goal is to ensure help for those in need and provide a safe place to talk and work through personal issues.

The Counseling Center is located in the Taylor-Phillips House and is open Monday through Friday by appointment. To schedule an appointment call (423) 461-8500 or email Counseling-Center@milligan.edu.

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Milligan Offers Trips Abroad Over Spring Break

Skylan Stephens, Staff Reporter



Front gate of the Auschwitz concentration camp that will be visited on the Poland trip. From Luce travel blog

Milligan College's faculty has planned two service-learning trips to Poland and China during the 2020 spring break. These trips will allow students and faculty to learn, serve and experience new countries and cultures. The China trip will also allow students to earn academic credits.

"The trip to China is nine days



"The best way to understand a culture is to be immersed in it. I just thought it would be interesting for students to go see China, talk to Chinese people, and experience the country

themselves," Lu said. Regarding the trip as a whole, Lu said that it may be exhausting, but students will walk away from it having learned and seen new things.

tory there is unlike anything that you will ever read in a textbook. It's a part of the trip that will not be forgotten."

Another aspect of the Poland trip is the partnership with Malone University. "My father is a professor at Malone University and has taken these service learning trips to Poland for the past decade through their partnership," Mudrack stated. An international service-learning trip like this at Milligan is made possible with Mudrack and her father's experience with these types of ventures. Applications and interviews have been processed and reviewed, and the team will be announced on Oct. 16, 2019. Nevertheless, Mudrack encourages students to look out for other events in the future. "Even if you're not going on the trip this year, we will hopefully have more opportunities like this in the future." she said. "We will also be doing some fundraisers and activities across campus to raise the money to fund this trip all semester. Prayer is also much appreciated." The two trips to China and Poland will not only be a get-away for Milligan students over spring break, but they will also be a unique experience full of learning, service and fun.

during the spring break of 2020, and it is also a class that students can register and receive three ethnic studies credits for," event coordinator and Mandarin Chinese and Sociology Instructor Hongyou Lu said.

During the nine-day excursion, students will visit three Chinese cities: Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. They plan to experience cultural icons such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Terracotta Warriors and the financial center of Shanghai.

The group will also visit a Chinese family in Beijing along with a University in Shanghai. "We are going to have reflective readings on key issues in China, such as education, family, governance and economic development," said Lu.

According to Lu, the trip's purpose is to "introduce the Chinese culture to students."

Both faculty and students will participate in this trip; however, there are still a few spots open for the spring trip. Anyone interested in going can contact Dr. Hongyou Lu.

The other trip over the break is to Poland with assistant professor of chemistry Dr. Kristen Mudrack. The week will be spent serving citizens and learning about the country.

"My father and I have established relationships with the churches we will be working with in Poland," Mudrack said. On past trips, groups have worked with students on their conversational English and preached and worshiped with the churches.

This year the learning part of the trip will focus on the history and culture of Poland.

"One major thing that we will be doing is touring the Auschwitz concentration camp," Mudrack said. "The his-

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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!

3 | CAMPUS



October 17, 2019

Students Enjoy Coffee with Cops

Annalea Hines, Staff Reporter

Milligan hosted the Elizabethton Police Department in Derthick Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 2 for National Coffee with a Cop Day. In the second-floor lobby, students were invited to enjoy coffee and donuts while getting to know those serving the community on the police force.

The Coffee with a Cop event began four years ago as a part of National Community Policing Week. CWAC Day is celebrated on the first Wednesday of October, and according to the Nation-

"close the gap between the community and the law."

Lance Peters has been serving on the Elizabethton police force for almost two years. "It is a good way to keep in contact with everyone in the community," Peters said. "It gives us an opportunity to talk to (students) and answer questions."

Although it was their first time coming to Milligan's campus for Coffee with a Cop, members of the Elizabethton Police Department have visited other colleges in the surrounding area before.

Professor of Information Systems Dr. Teresa Carter put the event together with the help of Chief Jason Shaw of the Elizabethton Police Department. The National CWAC website gave Car-



Micah Carrier talks with Elizabethton Police Officers. Photo by A.J. Trabold.

al website, the goal of the event is to ter all the emblems and supplies needed to create the posters and flyers advertising Milligan's event.

> Shaw presented the idea of hosting the event to Carter after they held a recruitment event on Milligan's campus in August. "We started planning and talking about it, and everything fell together nicely," Carter said. "It ended up being a huge success."

> Information Systems is developing a law enforcement minor along with three new concentrations and a full forensics lab opening in the spring. Carter felt it was important to make Milligan's connection with the police force stronger. "We have really made strides to build strong relationships in the last three to four months," Carter said.

> Carter explained how easy it was to work with the local police force. "The Elizabethton Police Department is here anytime we call them," Carter said. "They are just a great bunch of people, and their hearts are really where they should be; it was a privilege to honor them."

In the future, Carter hopes to open up Milligan's Coffee with a Cop event to Carter County's department and also continue to improve the event. "Even though the event was already successful, I think there is always more we can do," Carter said.

More information about National Coffee with a Cop can be found at www.coffeewithacop.com.



Citizens protest in Hong Kong. Picture by BBC

Hong Kong **Experiences Violent Protests**

Skylan Stephens, Staff Reporter

Protests in Hong Kong have resulted in violence, as a man was shot in the chest at a rally on China Day Tuesday, Oct. 1.

According to a report from The Guardian, "violent protests broke out across Hong Kong, overshadowing celebrations in Beijing" on the 70th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party rule.

"The protests began when Hong Kong's government introduced an Extradition Bill that would allow it to detain and transfer 'criminals' who are wanted in other territories that currently do not have formal extradition agreements with the city," Mandarin Chinese and sociology professor Hongyou Lu said. "This law was seen as largely unfair and unlawful as critics are concerned that the Hong Kong government will use it to detain and transfer anyone unliked by the Beijing government."

Lu went on to explain that more than a quarter of Hong Kong residents came out to protest the government's new law. "When (high school) students come out to protest, when people from across the occupation spectrum come out to protest, there is something wrong and very concerning," she said.

Though citizens continue their protests, they have made progress over the course of these disputes. The Hong Kong government indefinitely suspended the law to begin with; however, as of September, the government has "formally withdrawn" the Extradition Bill according to Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam. This may have lead to a decrease in protests, but, as evident by the acts of China day, they still have not stopped. The Hong Kong protesters are now speaking out against more than just the one law that its government tried to pass. According to Lu, citizens are asking for the release and the dropping of charges for arrested protesters, an end to referring to their protests as riots and an inquiry into the city's police force and their tactics. "Looking even further, Hong Kong protests also are concerned about the expiration date of the 'one country two systems' that was initiated in 1997, as promised for 50 years. People are concerned that after 2047, what would happen to Hong Kong?" Hongyou said. The system ensures that Hong Kong can have an independent economy and government while also being apart of the "one China." Its expiration could change the relationship significantly. With the people's requests still un-

resolved, protests continue.

Milligan Students React to Impeachment Inquiry

Marlaina Peterson, Staff Reporter

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced a formal inquiry of impeachment on President Donald Trump on Sept. 24.

"The actions of the Trump presidency revealed the dishonorable fact of the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security, and betrayal of the integrity of our elections," Pelosi said in her speech. "Therefore, today I am announcing the House of Representatives is moving forward with an official impeachment inquiry."

Mackenzie Guy, a junior political science major, says she agrees with the inquiry. "He's clearly done illegal things, even before he was in office," said Guy. "It wouldn't surprise me if he continued to do illegal things. If he has broken the law, he needs to be im-



peached."

Bryan Lay, a junior political science major, believes that there is no evidence for grounds of impeachment. He explained that the Democrats must prove that Trump has done something worthy of the charge. "If they can prove that what he did was with the intention of digging up dirt on Joe Biden for the election, then yes," he said. "But from my own readings, there is no evidence."

When questioned on the possible outcome of the inquiry, Lay said, "Though we have had presidents impeached, there is no way to predict what will happen. The Republicans would be up in arms about it."

Marcos Nuchurch, also a junior political science major, sided with Pelosi. "If the charges turn out to be true, then I agree because that would mean he has committed multiple impeachable offenses," he said. "If he hasn't,

President Trump speaking at an event. Photo by Vox.com.

then no. He shouldn't be impeached. Whether or not I like him doesn't change that fact."

Nuchurch also said that he isn't sure about the state of the government if the impeachment proceeds. "The functionality of the government will definitely be a disaster," he said. "I don't know how long it would take, if ever, to get (the government) back up and running again as it should."

Dalton Shell, a member of the Student Government Association and also a political science major, believes President Trump should not be impeached. "What I have seen during this whole debacle is nothing but partisan politics," said Shell. "We are such a polarized nation, and this whole process only hurts our political process and institutions even more."

Shell also thinks that Pelosi agreed to impeachment hearings to keep her job. "That is the truth that no one will tell you," he said. "I think that he has done a good job of keeping to his campaign promises, a refreshing idea in today's world."



Milligan Students' Works Selected for Johnson City Film Festival

Rikki Wagner, Staff Reporter

Johnson City will host an inaugural film festival on Nov. 8 and 9 in downtown Johnson City. There were 86 films submitted for the festival. Milligan senior Taylor William was among the few that were selected. Along with local filmmakers, there have been submissions from Turkey, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

The festival was created by Josh Mancuso, CEO of Mancuso Entertainment, to give local filmmakers an opportunity to showcase their work, to attract films and people to this region and to encourage independent filmmaking.

Mancuso, who is a filmmaker himself, has wanted to do a festival in Johnson City for years. "The timing had to be right, and I believe now is the time," he said.



The first Johnson City Film Festival will be held on Nov. 8 and 9.

The festival will take place throughout downtown Johnson City, with screenings being held at Willow Tree Coffeehouse, Main Street Theatre and JHR Brewing. The downtown area was showcase the area.

"We chose downtown because we believe in the revitalization happening there. We encourage festival-goers to take advantage of all that is available downtown," said Mancuso. "Also, with everything happening downtown, it makes the festival walkable."

He talked about all that went into choosing the films that were accepted. "We look at the quality of the film and if the film has a good story. We try to select a variety of films so there is something for everyone," Mancuso said. "But if it's a good film, it will make the cut."

Mancuso also talked about his expectations for the festival. He said that since this is the first film festival, he is not quite sure what to expect, but with 86 submissions, he is optimistic. "I just want people to attend the screenings and have fun," he said. "I am confident it will be a great weekend."

Williams is also hoping for a great weekend, with two of his films, "Lady Umbrella" and "Worthless Idea," making it into the festival. "I wasn't sure if I'd make it in. This is my first festival outside of Milligan, so I was a bit nervous," he said.

Williams spent over a year making "Lady Umbrella," which is a homage to all the 1940s thrillers he grew up

chosen to support local businesses and watching. "Worthless Idea" took an entire semester to create, and Williams explained that it is about "struggling with perfection in creating art and how ideas will come back to you given time." Both films premiered at Milligan's short Film Festival back in Mav 2019.

> Freshman Travis Kyker also had his film, "The Richest Man in the Wood," selected for the festival. His film was created to be stylistically and morally similar to Grimm's fairy tale, and it was written and shot back in February for a different film festival.

"I first heard about (Johnson City's) festival when I was touring Milligan as a prospective school. I remembered it a couple weeks ago, and decided to submit something," Kyker said. "I was

super excited when I heard that Richest Man was selected for the festival, and I can't wait to attend to see what it's like!"

Erin Donovan, a recent Milligan alum, also has a film in the festival. Her film, "Our Neighbors" is about what it is like to be a queer student on a Christian college campus. The film also takes a look at the culture surrounding homosexuality on a campus such as Milligan's. Her film also premiered at the Milligan short film festival.

Williams, Donovan and Kyker are excited for the opportunity to be apart of the festival. "It's an amazing feeling when your art gets noticed," said Williams. "And being in the inaugural festival for Johnson City made the occasion even more special."



Williams' film "Lady Umbrella" will be featured in the festival.

MASTERCLASS, from front

"I specifically coach ("Songs for a New World") now because I know it so, so well. There really is a science to how you break down songs; you can't sing the beginning the way you sing the end," she said. "I was lucky to land my first show, but, you know, I worked hard for it. I really did."

The Masterclass began with a brief introduction from Milligan professor Dr. Carrie Klofach and then Molaskey herself.



She found her piece, "Out of My Head," online. "I found Diamond and Kooman through the internet, and my professor suggested a specific song from their work for me to sing," she said. "I fell in love with it, I really relate to the character."

Other performers at the event included Kevin Odom, Hannah Meyers, Margret Siglin, Maggie Booher and Dustin Odom.

Students in the musical also worked

with Molaskey the day before the Masterclass. Getting to know her ahead of time made the on-stage interaction a little less nerve-racking for the evening's performers.

"It was an amazing

New Photography Instructor to Have Solo Exhibit

Marlaina Peterson, Staff Reporter

Milligan's new photography instructor, Will Major, will have his own photography exhibit in the basement of Derthick's art gallery at the Oct. 26-Nov. 14.

"It's something Will has been working on since he was in his master's program at Georgia," said photography assistant A.J. Trabold. "He is very excited to bring it to Milligan."

Trabold also explained that working with Major has been very rewarding so far. "He is helping me with my directed studies and is helping me push my ideas into new and strange areas," he said.

"This exhibition is an exploration

performance," said Major. "They show layers of who is the audience for this work, such as performing for the camera, performing for the artist, performing for the viewer in a gallery or performing in a non-space."

This exhibit has been in planning for three years now. He said he has yet to show it all in one solo show, and is excited to see all of the elements come together.

At the end of this project, a photography book publication is in the works.

He is hoping to explore new material now that he is back in Johnson City, and he is excited to see all his work come together in one place, at his alma

Broadway star Jessica Molaskey (fourth from the left) poses with the performers she taught in the Masterclass.

was of the students for singing and being willing to be critiqued. "Being an artist means being comfortable being uncomfortable," she said.

Six students then took to the stage individually to perform a piece for her, and each sang their piece two or three times with critiques in between.

Sophomore musical theatre major Mareena Rodriguez was one of the performers at the event.

experience," said Rodriguez, a stage manager for the upcoming musical. "I think my favorite part was being able to hear what someone with her expertise has to say. I'm just a second-year music student and hearing

Molaskey expressed how proud she a big-time performer from New York tell me 'Hey, you're good.' gives me a 'wow I can do this feeling'."

> The Milligan Musical Theatre Department will be performing "Songs from a New World" Oct. 24-27 in the McGlothlin-Street Theatre in the Gregory Center. Tickets are \$10 at the box office or \$10 plus additional fees online.

> Check out the latest StampedeTV broadcast to see some of the musical performances from the evening plus a full interview with Molaskey.

of independent wrestling, boxing, and mixed martial arts," said Major. "It is a series of photographs and videos made of this subject matter, which attempt to decode the spectacle of these violent contact sports."

Most of the photographs were taken at local boxing and wrestling matches in Northeast Georgia along with other sites in the southeast.

"Many of the images are site specific in nature," said Major. "The stills and the formal delegated performances in the videos delve into a range of topics that include masculinity, body studies, race, socio-economics, theatrics and what constitutes a stage, motivation, creating personas and fighting against loneliness and isolation."

"These pieces showcase the thin edge of professional and amateur mater.



Will Major. Photo from milligan.edu.