



www.milliganstampede.com

Response Team Evaluates First Pandemic Semester at Milligan

Michaela Lindahl, Reporter

For all students and faculty at Milligan University, the fall semester of 2020 will always be remembered as different and special. Adjusting collegiate careers to a global pandemic has been everything but easy and has required strong efforts of everyone within Milligan's community.

With the end of an unconventional semester, it is time to look back and evaluate the guidelines and policies developed to maintain the safety of Milligan's community when welcoming everyone back to campus.

On May 18, several planning teams including students, faculty and staff members were established to start the process of preparing a plan for what the new 'normal' would look like when welcoming the community back in the fall. However, planning for months ahead during a rapidly changing pandemic was, according to Garland Young, the vice president for academics & Dean, a "shot in the dark".

"We had to have a plan created for every possible scenario," said Young. "Questions such as 'How bad should we



Milligan Returns Home. Courtesy: Milligan University

plan it to be?' and 'Will the pandemic be over, or will it be worse?' made it difficult for us to determine how to develop the best possible guidelines to reach our goals."

The overall goal for this semester, according to an announcement made by President Bill Greer in April, was "to have an on-campus fall semester that provides Milligan's distinctive ed-

ucational experience while ensuring everyone's health and safety."

"We felt confident going into the semester that we had a good plan in place and that the Milligan community would come together and do the things we needed to do to give us the best chance to complete the semester successfully and in person, but had to acknowledge then and now that there

may be circumstances beyond our control that disrupt that process," said Brent Nipper, director of property & risk management.

Many adjustments were made, with everything from online options and classes taught outside, to daily Ascend screening and a limited amount of open dorm hours. To protect the

See *RESPONSE* on p. 6

5 Years Later

Avery DeWolf, Reporter

Milligan's first draft of its sexuality policy was released in 2015. Following the release, the Stampede conducted a student-body survey to assess students' views on the topic. In 2020, the Stampede revisited the survey to study possible changes.

The survey link was emailed to all current students on Nov. 11. The results of the 2020 survey are based on the responses of 122 students.

72 of those respondents have read the school's statement concerning human sexuality while the other 50 had not. Of those that read it, roughly 61 percent stated that it does not reflect their own views compared to the 28 percent that disagreed with it in 2015. Only about one third (31 percent) agree that the statement matches their views versus the 46 percent that agreed in 2015.

71 percent of students believe Milligan should treat all legally married couples, heterosexual or same-sex, equally while roughly one fifth (21 percent) disagree that all legally married couples should be treated equally.

"Everyone regardless of gender or sexuality deserves to be treated equally even if it goes against personal/religious views," said one student in the anonymous comment section. "It's not for us as humans to decide whether or not they can be treated with the human decency everyone heterosexual receives."

Others expressed that it shouldn't be an issue.

"I don't care because it's not my business," said another student.

This trend towards openness to sexual diversity continued with the responses regarding the student body's level of comfort with various interac-

tions and housing arrangements with members of the LGBTQ+ community.

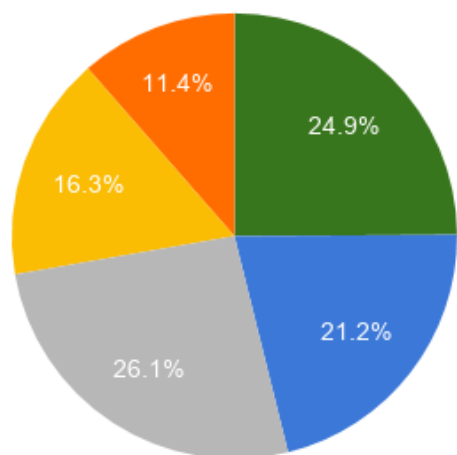
A majority of respondents in both 2020 and 2015 claimed they are acquaintances or friends with someone from the LGBTQ+ community. 90 percent and 84 percent in 2020, and 59 percent and 60 percent from 2015 respectively.

In 2020, 43 percent of students said they strongly agreed to being comfortable rooming with a member of the LGBTQ+ community while 15 percent said they strongly disagreed. Only 16 percent of students strongly agreed in 2015, with 25 percent strongly dis-

See *YEARS* on p. 3

2015

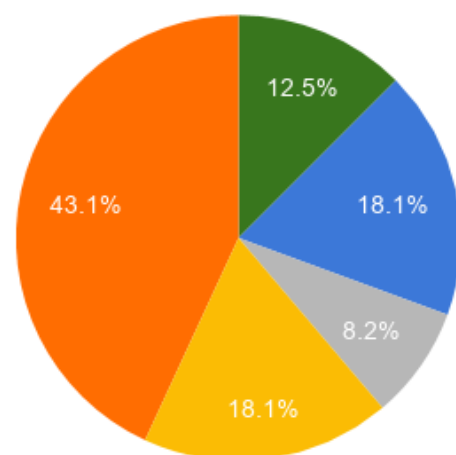
"I think the college administration's recent draft statement concerning human sexuality reflects my own views."



- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

2020

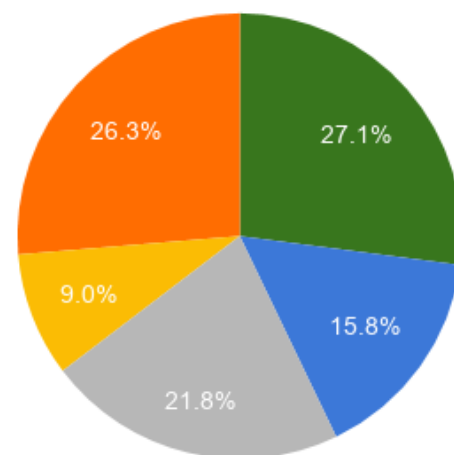
"I think the university administration's statement concerning human sexuality reflects my own views."



- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

2015

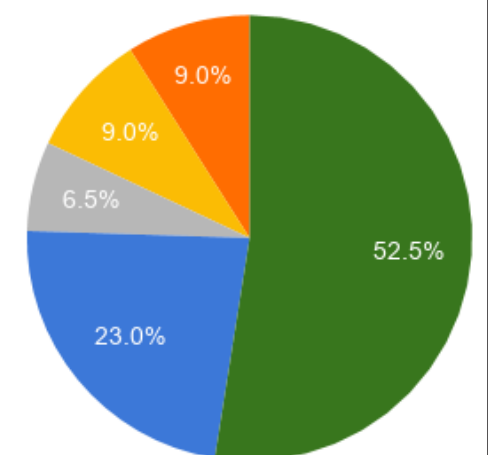
"I am comfortable with someone from the LGBT community working as a professor/staff member at Milligan."



- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

2020

"I am comfortable with someone from the LGBTQ+ community working as a professor/staff member at Milligan."



- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

StampedeTV Highlights from Fall 2020

Milligan's Latest U.S. News Ranking

Mackenzie Guy, Reporter

Milligan received a new regional ranking from U.S. News. in September.



Campus Conversation on Consumption

Annalea Hines, Reporter

Get an inside look at the Campus Conversation on the subject of alcohol consumption.



Tennessee Election Results

Adam Wall, Reporter

Adam Wall gives you the latest results of the 2020 Tennessee Election.



New Online Course Schedule for Spring

Annie Ensley, Reporter

Annie Ensley fills you in on the new online course schedule for the spring semester of 2021.



Changes to Chapel This Semester

Annalea Hines, Reporter

First year campus minister Rich Aubrey worked to ensure students still experienced chapel this fall.



Mock Presidential Election

Mackenzie Guy, Reporter

Mackenzie Guy interviews two students about Milligan's mock election and how the polls turned out.



THE STAMPEDE

Editor in Chief

Laney Butt

Managing Editor

Sarah Owens

Copy Editor

Eliana Rangel

Graphic Designer and Webmaster

Sydney Rhoton

Assistant Webmaster

Michaela Lindahl

Social Media Managers

Annalea Hines
Hannah Wyrick

Video Editor

Aaron Doolittle

Assistant Video Editor

Mandy Lorch

Reporters

David Depler
Avery DeWolf
Aaron Doolittle
Michaela Lindahl
Elijah Manship
Logan Taylor
Hannah Wyrick

StampedeTV Reporters

Annie Ensley
Mackenzie Guy
Annalea Hines
Mandy Lorch
Adam Wall

Faculty Adviser

Jim Dahlman

The Stampede is the student operated news source of Milligan University and a designated public forum. It is the mission of The Stampede to report news, provide information and serve as a forum for members of the Milligan University community and the greater Tri-Cities area.

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

Letters to the editor are strongly encouraged. We accept letters by email and surface mail. You may write to: mcstampede@my.milligan.edu or address letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Stampede, Milligan, TN 37682.

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!

Milligan Announces Revised Spring Schedule

Michaela Lindahl, Reporter

On Oct. 13, Milligan University announced its plans for the spring semester regarding the present virus COVID-19.

According to an email sent out by President Bill Greer, the winter break will be extended by two weeks which results in a delay for the start of the spring semester. Classes will begin on Jan. 25 instead of Jan. 11 as first intended. The semester will end as previously scheduled with the last day of classes being Apr. 23, and finals being wrapped up on Apr. 29. Because of the extended winter break, the students at Milligan will not be having a spring break.

The cancellation of spring break has been a hot topic among the students in the past week.

“I understand that they have to take certain precautions to maintain our physical health, but I believe that the spring semester is normally harder than the fall semester even with a break. I don’t even want to imagine how difficult it will be mentally without having some time off,” said sophomore Hope Manifold.

Like the fall semester, Milligan will continue having face-to-face classes

with the addition of hybrid formats and some courses being taught completely remotely in the spring. The spring schedule will be released on Oct. 27.

A fully online option for the spring semester became available to all students, except for international students, on Oct. 23. The online option for the spring semester has the same requirements as for the online option provided this fall.

“Just as we did for the fall, our plans for the spring semester will involve an approach that maintains a commitment to providing Milligan’s distinctive educational experience while ensuring everyone’s health and safety, while also doing all we can to mitigate

the risk and spread of COVID-19 within our campus community,” President Greer said in the announcement.

Even though the spring semester is intended to be similar to the fall semester, it does come with a significant difference for Milligan’s international students. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s guidelines that were updated at the end of August, international travelers do not have to quarantine upon arrival to the United States. Housing will also remain open for international students who do not plan on returning home over the break according to an email sent out by Heather Cramer on Oct. 23.



Milligan University announces its spring class schedule, including hybrid classes that will be taught both online and in-person when the weather permits. Photo credit: Milligan University.

YEARS, from front

agreeing. However, over one third of students (36 percent) in 2015 strongly agreed to being comfortable with LGBTQ+ students living in the same building. Today, over half (55 percent) of students are comfortable at least living in the same building.

Another variation between the two surveys was the question of students’ comfort level with someone from the LGBTQ+ community working as a professor/staff member at Milligan.

Three fourths of students are comfortable with a Milligan professor or staff member being part of the LGBTQ+ community. Although, 18 percent of students disagree.

“As a private liberal arts Christian university, Milligan has a unique ability to follow the teachings of Christ on the issue. How can we truly educate men and women to be Christ-like servant leaders if we have faculty/staff members blatantly living in direct contradiction of the Bible. As Christians, we are called to love everyone, but that doesn’t mean we openly accept and embrace all lifestyle choices,” said one student.

In 2015, 35 percent of students were not comfortable with Milligan professors or staff being a member of the LGBTQ+ community while 43 percent were.

Whether regarding students or faculty, it is clear that Milligan’s student body has become more open to sexual diversity than they were in 2015, so much so that some have called on the school to take action.

“I think Milligan should commit to either purposefully affirming its members who are LGBTQ+ or being honest about its discriminatory standing,” said Katrina Bernardi. “By saying LGBTQ+ students are welcomed but not making tangible efforts to support them, Milligan’s false neutrality makes campus unsafe for its LGBTQ+, as they are left unsure if they are actually protected or valued by the letter or spirit of the policies.”

However, students do realize that the situation does not have a set solution and requires much thought and conversation as sexuality remains a controversial topic within the church.

“Nuanced management of how to love people who disagree with Milligan’s worldview and how to enforce standards for the Milligan community without abusing power or disrespecting human dignity seems to remain a matter in need of discussion,” stated one student.

Despite the majority of the student body leaning closer to being more accepting of or open to sexual diversity, the varying viewpoints make this a delicate topic to approach. It is obvious that the conversation on sexuality is one that will continue on Milligan’s campus for years to come, and the results of the recent survey only reinforce the fluidity of the situation. The full survey results can be found on The Stampede website.

**The Stampede recognizes from critique and comments on the survey that some of the language used may now be considered out of date. Minimal changes were made from the 2015 version to ensure an accurate analysis of the changes that have occurred over the last five years.*

Students Speak on Racial Inclusion

Hannah Wyrick, Reporter

Milligan University hosted its first Campus Conversation on Sept. 21 via Zoom. The conversation was on a very pressing issue: racial inclusion.

This conversation consisted of 21 participants and was directed by campus minister, Rich Aubrey. The conversation was based upon responses from the guest speaker, Aaron Murphy and three students.

One question that was asked by Aubrey in an interview prior to the event was, “What experiences have shaped their perceptions of racial inclusion at Milligan?”

Jeremiah Dubb, a freshman at Milligan answered, “Definitely my experience with the Goah program, when I first got here and met everyone from the Goah program, the first thing I noticed was that it wasn’t just black people,” said Dubb.

“It was different races and cultures and that really allowed me to see that

this was good for this school specifically because that is what you want in a smaller school and ultimately for everyone to feel like there is a place for them.”

The Goah program is a scholarship that is entirely funded by the University and recognizes full-time undergraduate students who enhance the educational experience of all students by sharing their diverse cultural experiences.

Junior Alex Reynoso spoke on her take of racial inclusion at Milligan in an interview.

“I feel that Milligan has provided a space for racial inclusion, but they haven’t taken all the steps necessary to be racially inclusive,” said Reynoso. “However, I do believe that I’ve seen a lot of students, international students and racially diverse students take leadership roles.”

The guest speaker, Aaron Murphy, a minister and community leader from Johnson City and a graduate of Emmanuel Christian Seminary also spoke

on his experiences about racial inclusion during his time at Milligan.

“During my three years at Emmanuel I learned the culture of Zimbabwe, Kenya, Liberia and Congo,” said Murphy. “I experienced community in a way I’ve never experienced community before.”

The common theme of the conversation was how Milligan can become one community and how students, administration and faculty can learn more about culturally diverse backgrounds.

The conversation focused heavily on the murder of George Floyd and how it affected the speakers.

Sophomore Shayla Stewart spoke in an interview on the matter regarding Floyd, stating that she was very saddened and angry.

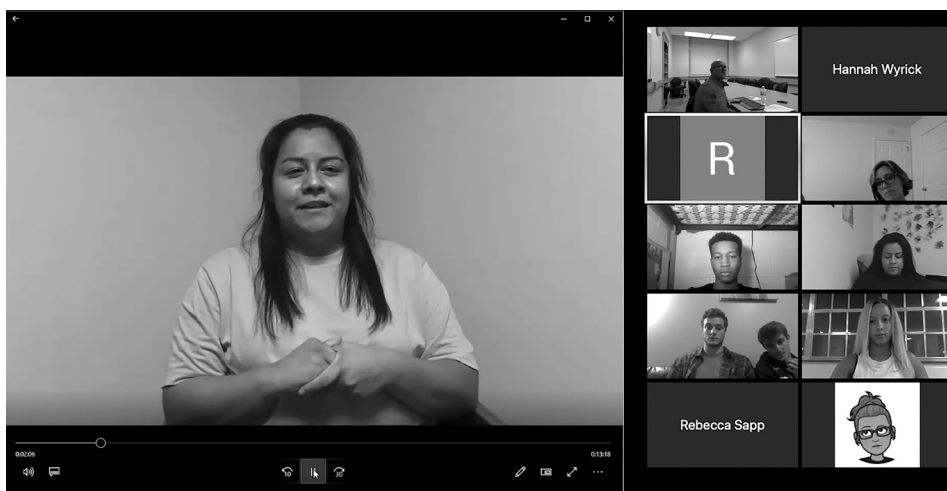
“I sat back and I took in all the information and I really heard the voices of the people that were talking because there are people out there way more eloquently spoken than I am,” said Stewart. “I found a sort of solitude in that they could get the message out there that I was thinking in my head.”

The conversation wrapped up with suggestions from the speakers for ways Milligan can become more racially inclusive.

They suggested having a day where different groups share their culture and making it a priority to address racial inclusion topics.

“We don’t really get to know people until we get to know their background and where they’re from and just being able to know them better,” Reynoso said. “We don’t just get to know them better, but it helps us know ourselves better too.”

Another campus conversation on politics was held on October 5.



Milligan University hosted its first Campus Conversation via Zoom on a very pressing issue, racial inclusion. Junior Alex Reynoso is interviewed on the topic.

Milligan Students Continue to Gain Internship Experience Despite COVID-19

Hannah Wyrick, Reporter

Milligan University student's continue to gain experience through internships this semester despite a global pandemic.

"Students gain valuable experience and develop marketable skills through an internship," said director of calling and career exploration, Beth Anderson. "Even if an internship is not directly related to their future career, the opportunity to build competencies valued and sought out by all employers will give Milligan students the competitive edge in the marketplace."

Senior Emma Kate Brown Interns with FoundersForge

Senior and business major, Emma Kate Brown has had the opportunity to work with FoundersForge of Johnson City, Tenn.

FoundersForge is a nonprofit organization of entrepreneurs who, alongside creating their own businesses, help other entrepreneurs and startups in the Appalachian highlands. Their teams work with a number of startups, but because of the pandemic their main clients have been in need of technology assistance.

FoundersForge mission statement is, "We believe in the underdog entrepreneurs and helping them on their startup journeys."

Brown manages marketing and media research, posting and creation alongside her efforts to further her ideas of starting her own business.



Senior Emma Kate Brown

"One of my first assignments has been to create a job description of what my dream job would be and a few mentors from our team will help me on my journey to achieve my goal," said Brown.

"I am really enjoying my experience at FoundersForge, especially the creativity piece," said Emma Kate. "David is a wonderful boss and is invested in me and my future which not many interns can claim."

Senior Belle Kemp Interns with Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency

Senior and social work major, Belle Kemp has had an opportunity to be a head start intern through Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency in Kingsport.

Their goal is to provide education, direction and support to individuals, families and organizations in order to strengthen and stabilize the community through collaborative efforts of agency programs and cooperative partnerships.

Kemp plans to pursue a Masters in Business Administration after she graduates this year. Her field supervisor has allowed her to work with several managers at the UETHDA headquarters, including the facilities manager, the program development and technology manager and the family engagement manager in order to gain not only social work experience but also business-related experience.

However, the coronavirus has made her internship take a non-traditional route and work mostly remotely, especially at the start of the semester.

"It was hard for me to gain hands-on experience from my dorm room," explained Kemp. "Some days, my supervisor truly did not know what tasks I could do remotely, but, due to quarantining and other unexpected circumstances, I HAD to work remotely and it was very disheartening to begin an internship like that."

Kemp finally had the chance to work in-person mid-October and throughout all of November, but still

the coronavirus remained a very prominent issue.

"Working onsite allowed me to gain experience with the kids, as well as the parents, but COVID-19 still crept up even at Children First location when one student's parent tested positive for COVID-19," said Kemp. "Social workers never know what to expect when they enter into their workplace, but COVID adds even more stress to an already stressful and unpredictable job."



Senior Belle Kemp

Internships are always a good opportunity for students to have a glimpse of a career like-job related to their field of study.

Kemp explained that this internship made it clear for her that she needs a more hands-on job upon graduation.

"I do not want to merely work a desk job every day," Kemp said. "I feel that the Lord has called me to physically go and make a difference in the lives of others while preaching His love through the way I speak and act."

Kemp is drawn to middle age teenagers, specifically and desires to work with people and actively advocate on their behalf.

"This internship was not one that allowed me to do any of that, it helped me see that I am called to ministry," Kemp explained.

Doing an internship prior to graduation can help students tremendously before they enter the "real" world and gives them valuable experiences to help them decide on a long term career.

Hart Searches for Socks

Logan Taylor, Reporter

During the Month of October, residents of Hart Hall collected socks for the poor from its local residents. The event went on from Oct. 4 to 18 and proved to be successful as 335 individual pairs of socks were collected.

Megan Wagner, resident RA for the third floor, short hall, created and hosted the event with assistance from her fellow RA's and RD. Wagner commented on why an event such as this is important.

"I think it is very important to do what we can for our community," Wagner stated. "There are many homeless people right here in Johnson City and there are small things we can do that can make a big impact."

Being modeled after a standard donation drive, this event's origins came from Wagner's home city of Cincinnati.

Other similar events occurred in the city and Wagner believed it would prove fruitful to bring it to campus and help to exercise the practice of student leadership.

The donation complied with pandemic safety protocol. Physical contact was discouraged and the procedures even extended as far to the products themselves. Wagner commented on the situation.

"We had everyone donate socks that they bought from the store," said Wagner. "They were all packaged and each person just left

their donations in a box on their hall so there was no contact."

Wagner hopes to see the event return to campus next year to become an annual tradition.



Hart Hall hosted a charitable event where its residents proved to be generous. Photo courtesy of Milligan University.

Milligan University's International Justice Mission Participates in "Freedom Fast"

Hannah Wyrick, Reporter

On the weekend of Oct. 24 Milligan University's International Justice Mission (IJM) chapter participated in the Freedom Fast.

"The mission of "Freedom Fast" is to fast for 24 hours, say 24 prayers, and give \$24. We asked participants to give what they can as we understand that \$24 can be a big ask," said sophomore Molly Dycus, chapter president. "All the proceeds went to the International Justice Mission as an entity, not Milligan's Chapter."

Currently IJM as a whole has earned \$31,599 with 437 participants and 86 teams for the mission of rescuing those trapped in human trafficking.

Milligan's chapter contributed with 20 participants and raised a total of \$251 dollars.

Dycus states, "Everyone seemed to have different experiences fasting, I personally got a little dizzy and was shaking so I ate just a little bit around 2 pm (the fast ended at 6pm)."

Dycus mentions it was definitely an insightful experience overall.

Milligan's IJM chapter has no events planned for the remainder of the semester.

"We are currently working on what we want to do next semester," Dycus said.



On the weekend of October 24th Milligan University's International Justice Mission (IJM) chapter participated in the Freedom Fast.

Christmas Cheer Returns to Bristol Motor Speedway

Logan Taylor, Reporter

With the holiday season right around the corner, a familiar tradition will be returning to East Tennessee. Bristol Motor Speedway announced that its seasonal Christmas light show will begin on Nov. 13. The event will last until Jan. 2.

This year marks the 24th season that this event has occurred. A long standing tradition for both the East Tennessee and Virginia region, the event draws many people to see the night illuminated with festive lights. More than 2 million lights will be scattered throughout the speedway.

Traditionally, the event includes a drive around the speedway and activities in the infield, "The Christmas Village".

The Christmas Village usually consisted of food booths, areas for shopping and even small rides for children. A big event of the Christmas Vil-

lage is visiting Santa Claus who sets up shop there every year. Families can visit and have their photo taken with good old St. Nick.

However, the current pandemic has not left the longstanding event untouched. COVID-19 regulations have been implemented to ensure the safety of the guests and even St. Nick will be practicing social distancing this year. Claudia Byrd, director of the Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, comments on the situation.

"Unfortunately, we don't think it is safe to have a Santa with children sitting on Santa's lap, and that is something that we will miss, but still there will be great opportunities with really fun things to see and do," said Byrd to WJHL.

The Christmas Village will still be operational, however. Aside from an absent Santa Claus, the carnival rides will also be excluded this year as well. But, other festivities will continue.



The World's Last Great Colosseum will still be hosting its annual Christmas light show powered by TVA. Photo courtesy of The Johnson City Press.

Roasting marshmallows, the arts and crafts areas and other food vendors will still be present in the village. COVID-19 regulations will be implemented such as designated areas for guests to enter and exit from. Face masks will be required to attend the village.

The ice rink that also accompanies the light show will be available this year as well. Limited numbers of guests will be enforced and reservation will need to be made online in order to attend.

Milligan's Pizza is Open and Serving the Public

Elijah Manship, Reporter

Milligan's Pizza opened on Nov. 2 and according to owner Costa Koubis, aka "Gus," business has been good.

Milligan's Pizza is a small, privately owned pizza shop located at 1436 Milligan Hwy, Johnson City, TN where the Hungry Wolf Cafe used to be.

During their first week they have already seen quite a few Milligan University students and faculty members drop by according to Koubis. The school's basketball team even stopped in for a few pizzas recently.

The restaurant has a very relaxing atmosphere. Customers are greeted by the front desk and views of the dessert cabinet and kitchen. On the cabinet sits a Milligan 150th anniversary book.

Inside there are booths and small or large tables for people to dine in at. The small tables fit four and the larger tables fit eight. The tables have a rustic wood look to them and the chairs are quite comfortable.

Koubis said that he wants to fill the back wall with Milligan posters, pictures, banners and other Milligan items to drive home the idea that they are there to serve the Milligan community.

They offer food at a fair price for college students as well. Before tax, none of their burgers, wraps or hoagies cost more than nine dollars. You can also get a 14 inch two topping pizza for \$12.

Currently, Milligan's Pizza is just offering dine in and carry out. Koubis said that he wants to make sure the restaurant is a little more well established before he moves into delivery.

Milligan's Pizza's hours are currently 11-9 Monday through Saturday. Their number is (423)-202-7696 for more questions or carry out.



The exterior of Milligan's Pizza. Photo from the restaurant's Facebook page.

ETSU Student Government Association Votes to Condemn Milligan University Over Alleged LGBTQ Discrimination

Laney Butt, Editor

The SGA senate passed legislation on Oct. 27 criticizing Milligan and calling for cutting ties between the two schools over Milligan's alleged dismissal of a professor because of their sexual orientation.

The legislation, SSR-20-006, reads: "A resolution that condemns Milligan University for its abhorrent stance toward its handling of LGBT issues and calls on the [ETSU] leadership to cut select partnerships including but not limited to athletic events and use of the University monies that are paid to Milligan."

The ETSU SGA senate had 22 out of 24 senators in attendance and voted 17-5 in favor of the proposition.

Prior to the vote, senators on both sides of the issue voiced their opinions during debate. It was moved and passed twice to extend the time for a total of 30 minutes of debate, a much longer than normal time given to one topic.

The Stampede spoke with Seth Manning the morning of the meeting. Manning is the executive vice president of ETSU's SGA and the sponsor of the legislation. Manning described the issue as a moral and legal one.

"Really, this comes down to a legal issue. ETSU is a Title VII and Title IX funded institution and so we have to protect students on the basis of sexual orientation," he said. "When we have students who are LGBT and they're having their money go to bring Milligan in to play athletics events or really any funding going to Milligan, that sets a dangerous and, in my opinion, illegal precedent. It sets ETSU up for a lawsuit."

Milligan officials question that interpretation, however.

"I am not aware of any legal or regulatory interpretation of Title IX that



East Tennessee State University SGA votes to condemn Milligan University over recent allegations of LGBTQ discrimination.

would cause ETSU to be out of compliance due to any type of relationship with Milligan," said Brent Nipper, Milligan's Title IX coordinator. "Including athletic events or contests between the two schools, given that Milligan is operating within the legal parameters of a religious corporation under the First Amendment."

Manning stated that the ETSU administration would have 14 days after the legislation passed to come to a decision on where it stands. He also said that if the vote had not been in favor of the legislation it would have been dropped from the table completely.

Joe Smith, ETSU chief of communications, told the Johnson City Press after the SGA senate vote that the resolution is nonbinding.

"As with any action involving the SGA, this resolution will go through the appropriate review processes,"

Smith said. "At this time, the Office of the President has not had time to review the final version of the resolution that was passed."

In a written statement to The Stampede, Milligan President Bill Greer said, "Milligan and ETSU have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship for decades. Both schools have always respected one another's missions and the differences that inherently exist between a public institution like ETSU and a private, faith-based institution like Milligan. It is unfortunate that these differences can quickly become polarizing in today's climate, but I remain hopeful that our schools will continue to partner in our efforts to provide this region with diverse educational choices."

Milligan's SGA did not have a comment on the situation at this time.

RESPONSE, from front

mental health of the students, extra appointments were provided by the Counseling Center and a mental health day was established during the semester to give the students a well-deserved break since fall break had to be canceled.

According to Dr. Rebecca Sapp, director of the Counseling Center, a somewhat heavier load of counseling appointments was experienced at the beginning of the semester which might be seen as a result of the uncertain and unpredictable present and future which students were adapting to.

Athletic teams have been heavily affected by new regulations and strict policies and guidelines. Games, matches and tournaments have been postponed or canceled and events have been structured differently. Gabrielle Mardis, a junior on the cross country team, was selected as the student representative for Milligan's athletes, which she said she enjoyed because the committee valued her input and influence a lot while making decisions regarding her and her teammates' athletic experience.

"Our goal isn't to eradicate COVID, it is to do the things we love while staying healthy and I think we've accomplished this," Mardis said. "In my opinion, the fall semester in athletic terms has gone very smoothly."

When evaluating the semester, Nipper and Young both agree with Mardis. Because of the hard work and commitment from faculty, staff and students, they believe the semester to have been good and successful. Even though no specific numbers were determined regarding levels of cases in the community, Young said that Milligan has had a fairly low amount of cases and kept the exposure under good control.

"I think overall we have had a good semester," said Nipper. "We understood going into the semester we would likely have positive cases and need to isolate and quarantine members of the campus community as necessary and that has proven to be true, but our goal was and is to have a meaningful on-campus experience for students while working as hard as we can to maintain good health and safety and I think we have done that pretty well."

According to Nipper and Young, the reason why Milligan has been so successful in keeping the community safe, without any major disruptions, is because of the hard work and commitment to the guidelines and policies established by the Response team.

"Everyone has cooperated with the plan," said Young. "Students have realized the gravity of the situation and stepped up to commit themselves to maintain the health of themselves and others. We have also had a very flexible staff and faculty who have, without a doubt, adjusted their work to fit all challenges."

"While many folks on campus have put in a lot of time and effort, the Milligan Health Services Office specifically has done great work and played a large part in our ability to respond and continue the semester as planned," Nipper said. "COVID has been a tremendous challenge for us all and Milligan has responded well."

Milligan University Women's Golf Wins AAC Championship

Sarah Owens, Reporter

Milligan University's women's golf team came out on top at the Appalachian Athletic Conference fall championships. The event took place on the Chateau course at the Chateau Elan Resort in Braselton, Georgia on Oct. 19-20.

The team clinched the win with a 16 stroke lead according to Milligan's athletic website.

Their success came from all six participating players placing in the top 25, with Michaela Lindahl, a sophomore, earning first place.

"I was very happy with our team's and my individual finish last weekend. I honestly did not expect my own scores to carry me all the way to a conference win," said Lindahl.

Lindahl overcame spending two and a half weeks of the season in quarantine and rebuilding her game to claim the top finish with a total score of 154.

"I always do my best and even though I wasn't in as good condition as I wished to be, I'm proud that I still managed to perform out there," said Lindahl.

On top of Lindahl's success, the remaining five women gave strong performances as well.

Alayna Perryman came in second (157), with Meryl Castle (162) close be-

hind in seventh. Emma Brown (163) was eighth while freshman Gabby Hammond (164), who competed individually, not as part of the team, came in ninth and Nellie Berguld (170) placed fifteenth.

"Every girl on [the] team has put in a lot of time and effort this semester," said Perryman. "The course we played was very challenging so to rank well felt good."

Castle also credited the team's efforts for their quality results.

"Being ranked 7th and being the AAC champions is something our team has worked really hard for and I think it's safe to say everyone is proud of the hard work we've put in to get there," Castle said.

While the team is happy with their win, Lindahl, Perryman and Castle all recognize the importance of continuing the hard work and making improvements as they hope for similar results in the spring season.

Coach Tony Wallingford pointed to the team's short game as the area to improve according to the Milligan athletic website.

Milligan women's golf will finish out their fall season with the Jekyll Island Intercollegiate in Georgia on Monday and Tuesday.

Men's golf will also travel to Georgia to round out their season with the Sea Island Intercollegiate on Monday and Tuesday after placing seventh in the AAC fall championship.



Alayna Perryman competes. Photo courtesy of the Milligan athletic website.

Milligan Alum Del Harris Named to TICUA's Hall of Fame

Michaela Lindahl, Reporter

Del Harris, a 1959 graduate of Milligan College, was selected as an inaugural member of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association's (TICUA) Hall of Fame when the organization announced the inaugural class of 2020 at the beginning of October.

Every year, TICUA honors a number of influential alumni from their 35 member institutions to highlight their contributions to the state of Tennessee. For 2020, 23 alumni alongside Harris were selected in the Hall of Fame.

"The inaugural class of the TICUA Hall of Fame features a diverse and incredibly impressive group of citizens that our institutions have helped prepare," said TICUA President Claude Pressnell in a news release. "While you will recognize many of the names, all of these alumni have made significant contributions worth learning about. We are proud to be able to give

them just a small portion of the recognition they deserve."

Harris, born in 1937, is originally from Plainfield, Indiana. He is a legendary NBA coach who spent 4 of his 37 years long basketball career as a part of the Milligan basketball team. He earned the All-Conference title 3 times as a basketball player during his collegiate career.

After his college career, Harris was head coach for the Houston Rockets, Milwaukee Bucks, and Los Angeles Lakers. As of today, he inherits the position as the vice president of the Texas Legends.

In addition to his successful basketball career, Harris has authored three books on basketball theory and is an ordained minister at a Christian Church.

Milligan's President, Dr. Bill Greer, said in a news release that, "Del Harris lives out the mission of Milligan University to honor God through servant-leadership. Whether it be coaching professional athletes on the basketball court, giving motivational lectures, or authoring books on how to be an effective

member of any team, Harris has dedicated his life to leadership through service."

This was not the first time Harris was elected into a hall of fame. Earlier in his life he was inducted into the Plainfield High School Hall of Fame, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the Milligan College Hall of Fame and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

Some of his most prestigious awards, excluding the hall of fame inductions, are the 2019 John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2020 Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award - both recognizing his accomplishments outside the basketball court.



Honoree Del Harris, Milligan alumnus



Athletic Streams Go From Free to Paid

Aaron Doolittle, Reporter

Milligan's streaming services for athletic events have gone from free to paid, while most attendees have no choice but to watch from home. Since the beginning of the semester, when the change was initiated, students and family members have expressed their frustrations through the grapevine.

One Milligan relative who preferred to remain anonymous gave me their thoughts on the matter.

"I thought it was outrageous. Milligan's been streaming soccer for free as long as I remember and I have had to decide to miss most of them because of the cost. Why can't it stay free?"

The cost change seemed to be unexpected, and the price may seem steep to some viewers.

Director of Multimedia Services and Esports Head Coach Micah Ridley explained why exactly the switch was made and what payment options there are.

"We have had an increase in demand for streamed events, which results in the increase of cost to stream the events," said Ridley. While this does not necessarily mean there have been more views per stream, it does mean more events require streaming.

Single Ticket	\$10
Sport Season Pass	\$49.95
All-Access Pass	\$99.95



Streamed games will now cost \$10 per game to accommodate for the need to stream each event.

Since the pandemic began, Milligan has taken precautions to limit the amount of visitors allowed at athletic games, and in some cases restrict them. For this reason, most of the people who wish to watch the games live have to tune in remotely. This addition of events to the streaming schedule calls for more manpower and equipment upgrades to run the streams to our audience's satisfaction, therefore raising the cost to watch.

"We currently use the streaming service PrestoSports," Ridley said. "Fans can choose from 3 different options, which are; buy a ticket per game, buy a Sport Season Pass, or buy an All-Access Pass for all Milligan Buffs Sporting Events."

With the increase in cost, Ridley added, "We are always trying to improve our streaming production, such as adding new features for the stream, updating equipment, adding commen-

tary, adding quality natural sound of the sporting event and streaming multiple events at the same time. All these improvements are making the experience better for our fans."

As a senior and part time volunteer for Milligan's Stream Team since his Freshman year, David Depler was able to speak with firsthand experience on working the athletic streams.

"I've seen a lot of new changes to our equipment setup mainly thanks to Micah. Apart from getting things like newer and higher quality tripods and view monitors, we now have new video transmitters and wireless microphones. So now we are able to use a number of field cameras wirelessly and pick up the sound of the action much better."

To purchase a ticket, Season or All-Access pass, click "Watch" next to the desired game on Milligan's stream schedule.

Coaches Speak at My2Words

David Depler, Reporter

For the third year, Milligan University's Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Apostolos clubs hosted a coaches' My 2 Words event on Monday. It was FCA President Julia Codispoti's idea to create an event that offers students a way to connect with the staff on a religious level, as well as benefiting from the wisdom that can be gained by testimonies of people older than the students.

Codispoti discussed some challenges that had to be overcome in order to make the event happen. "The biggest challenges were getting speakers and getting an audience. Everyone has added stress and jobs due to this semester being abnormal, especially the staff," said Codispoti.

Originally Skylar Barnett was scheduled to speak last spring, but COVID-19 required the event to be rescheduled. Nevertheless, Barnett was able to speak Monday following Jason Onks, the director of campus activities and head triathlon coach. According to Codispoti, "It was actually great that Skylar and Jason were paired together since they actually grew up together!"

The event was centered around the sharing of testimonies and the power of God's calling in the two men's lives.

"It was somewhat emotional but good. I don't mind being vulnerable in front of people. My 2 Words is a very authentic experience and I felt blessed to share my experiences and to get to do it along with Coach Barnett," said Onks.

Changes Due to COVID-19 Affect Athletic Seasons

Hannah Wyrick, Reporter

COVID-19 caused the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to take strict measures for upcoming athletic seasons.

The decisions made by the NAIA consisted of temperature checks before every practice, no fans at any indoor events, sanitizing frequently, delay of seasons, only conference games/matches scheduled to be played and championships pushed back.

"The COVID-19 mandates have caused changes for practice as to meeting in smaller groups, and prob-

ably more individual workouts for the fall," said head softball coach, Wes Holly. "Hopefully, we can get in some scrimmages."

Currently the NAIA has not made any significant changes for spring sports.

The unpredictability of COVID-19 has been a major factor in player morale for softball players. Holly said, "Player morale hasn't been the same as usual because of the uncertainty of how this pandemic will affect the season."

The dynamics of the volleyball team have significantly changed too.

"We are taking lots of extra measurements," said head volleyball coach, Doneva Bays. "We sanitize a lot, we wear masks during warm ups and all breaks or when we are just standing in practice, we social distance as much as possible, we do not do huddles or high fives anymore, we take temp checks and surveys every practice and we are more attentive to where we go and who we are around."

This period of COVID-19 is difficult for volleyball because the indoor nature of this sport means there will be no fans in attendance.

This golf season will look different, but head coach, Tony Wallingford, states, "Our players are excited to have an opportunity to compete this fall."

"They understand that this is not going to be 'normal' in many ways, but are certainly willing to abide by the current precautions in order to play and compete," Wallingford said.

Updates regarding COVID-19 and student-athletes can be found on the NAIA website.



Director of campus activities and head triathlon coach Jason Onks speaks at My2Words.

Onks further emphasized the impact of the event, saying, "Learning to share about one's own growth is an important element within a community. It can be scary to put yourself out there, but what you have learned, felt, and grown from, could be what someone else is just beginning to struggle with. Hearing about the struggles a person has experienced, gives them wisdom they can share."

Multiple students said they enjoyed the experience when asked. Some also mentioned that they look forward to the My 2 Words events and that they were excited to have ways to overcome the challenges presented with gathering in large numbers. FCA and Apostolos consider the event a success. They are additionally excited to share the recorded version of the event soon, look for an email containing instructions and information about upcoming events.



Basketballs used by Milligan players sit in the rack after being sanitized.

Professors and Students React to Online Classes

David Depler, Reporter

Milligan University transferred to a semi online format this semester due to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain both education and safety. This follows the trend in society of daily life and a more distanced approach to gatherings to protect the community.

Online classes have become an expectation across the country. Milligan chose to offer a mixed system, with in-person classes, online classes, and hybrid classes. The transition to this system created a few hurdles to overcome.

"It's difficult in many ways because the student body is entirely made up of digital natives but the professors are not," said first-year Digital Media professor Karahann Kiser. "The online format comes with added difficulty for professors of adapting their class to fit an online format, in many cases, but they also are not provided with adequate training to do so. Training would equip them with the techniques and skills they need to teach the course with the same excellence as they would in person."

The pandemic required a rapid change in the way that courses are taught. Unfortunately, with that urgent

transition, there are still some aspects of the increased online presence still waiting to be ironed out.

"When online courses started to gain traction a couple of decades ago, it was commonly accepted that some subjects would be well-suited to online learning but others would not," said Dr. Jeff Miller. "That recognition has been slowly slipping away. Ideas such as a fully-online degree program or an online institution come with an assumption that all types of courses can be done, and done well, online. The pandemic is putting this assumption to the test. I believe the assumption will fail that test"

Miller said "I would rather teach in-person, by a million miles."

Professors are not the only ones affected by this transition. Despite growing up in the digital era, students are faced with an immediate transition to a more online friendly way of learning.

"I find that some classes are much more translatable to an online format than others," said Milligan senior Drew Burton. "But classes like labs are next to impossible without direct in-person supervision from the instructor."

Some students have had an easier transition.

"I have an optimistic view of online classes," said junior Samir Koko. "When we first had them introduced

for all courses last spring, I'm not gonna lie, it was rough. But I think that was because it caught the professors off guard a little bit. I guess it comes down to the professors and how well

they can transition and adapt to the new style of teaching."

The University has announced that the hybrid plan will continue for the spring semester.



The recent pandemic has caused a change in the way that classes are taught. Photo credit: Milligan University

A Dual Perspective

Logan Taylor, Reporter

The year of 2020 has proven to be a time of uncertainty and change. Some of these changes have occurred on the Milligan campus to ensure the safety of faculty, staff and students. But among the student body, freshman students' perspectives of the school vastly differ from those of the seniors.

Senior Callie Daniel is a double major in Fine Arts with a Theatre Concentration and Humanities with a Faith, Arts, and Culture Concentration. After hearing about the school from Blue Ridge Christian Camp when she was 13, it quickly became her dream school. Daniel remarks when she knew the college was meant for her,

"I knew I wanted to come to Milligan because of its Christian views and I had originally planned to come for Music Education because Milligan's music program was so well known. I toured when I was a junior in high school and new immediately after stepping onto campus that this was it," said Daniel. "So I came back spring of my senior year of high school, auditioned, and started that fall."

Daniel attended Milligan for three years before experiencing the abrupt change that began in the spring semester of 2020 due to COVID-19. Now that she has returned to campus, she felt relieved at first as she said she does better in a classroom setting than online. However, this year has proved to be more challenging than ever for her.

"Coming back this semester was



Callie Daniel looks forward to graduating after battling through a rough semester.

such a relief, I knew it would be different, but I thought that as long as I was here I would be just fine," said Daniel. "As it turned out, five of my eight classes would be online, I would have to pick up a second and even a third job, on top of my commitments to choir and to the theatre. The amount of stress is immeasurable."

Daniel hopes that the spring semester will be better than the current one. She hopes for a more positive experience to help cope with onset "senioritis" and the eagerness to graduate from Milligan. Daniel also knows that if a physical graduation is not possible, there will at least be a celebration waiting for her back home.

Daniel also commented that she hopes the tracking and handling of COVID-19 cases improves from what they are to be as effective as possible. She contributes her success this semester to her close network of friends, professors, and even her boss for the

encouragement they have given her. When giving advice to those still a few years away from graduating she had this to say.

"Regardless of the world around you; however crazy, focus on the things within your control. Recognize the things that are out of your control, leave behind the problems that become out of your control, and move on," said Daniel. "There's no time and you don't have enough energy to worry about things that you cannot change."

On the other end of the spectrum, certain freshmen are experiencing a better outlook for the end of the year. Makenna Grace Oiler accounts for a much different experience.

Oiler arrived at Milligan in the spring semester of 2020 as a dual enrollment student and started as a full time student in the fall semester. She is currently working on her major in Biology. Oiler recounts about what brought her to the campus.

"The campus is beautiful, it has such a home vibe that I fell in love with," said Oiler. "Everyone always has a smile on their face and is always willing to help you."

Oiler also commented that her experiences with professors are positive and that they work well with her if she has any concerns. Her schedule, in her own words, is not too hard and she enjoys being responsible for herself.

Though she keeps a positive attitude towards the semester, she feels the changes that occurred at Milligan. The area she noted the most is the relationships that people may be missing out on due to regulations.

"I think it's sad how we can't interact normally with people without social distancing and a mask especially as a freshman because this is a chance for us to meet people," said Oiler. "Yes, we can still meet new people but it's

not the same, you can't see people's smiles as you walk by them and I think sometimes those little smiles can make someone's day."

Oiler also recently tore her ACL and remains out of play for the foreseeable future while she awaits surgery. She is also feeling the pressure of an upcoming finals week and adapting to classes that moved to an online venue.

Overall, Oiler said she is adapting to the new environment she finds herself in. She hopes to become a physician's assistant upon graduating and grow in her relationship with both new people and God. Oiler gave the Bible verse Deuteronomy 3:16 as motivation.

"Be strong! Be fearless! Don't be afraid and don't be scared by your enemies, because the Lord your God is the one who marches with you. He won't let you down, and he won't abandon you."



Makenna Oiler looks to grow in her relationship with God and adapt to a new way of life.