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Milligan's Longest-Serving Professor Retires After 44 Years of Service

Pablo Rivas, Reporter

Dr. Susan Higgins, Associate Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Education, Area Chair of Social Learning and Professor of Sociology and Missions, is retiring at the end of the 2021 spring semester. Dr. Higgins has been on the Milligan faculty and staff since 1977.

When asked about what her favorite part about teaching at Milligan was, she chuckled and answered immediately:

"Oh, always the students. The challenge of the classroom is always the most invigorating," said Dr. Higgins, "The energy and the interest that students bring, trying to find an end road with topics that are difficult to talk about that students can connect with, helping students fulfill their potential, helping students that struggle and encouraging them; I find all of these aspects very rewarding."

Her areas of expertise include aspects of translation and translation

theory, current trends in modern missions, and interrelations of language and culture. She does not have a favorite among them, because she enjoys teaching them all, no matter the course curriculum.

"The class that I enjoy teaching the most is always the one I am teaching at that moment," said Dr. Higgins, "I've just had the joy of teaching in the areas that I love. Whether we are translating the book of Mark in my beginning Greek class or we are talking about things from all over the world in my Anthropology class, when you can talk about these things with people that are interested, it's fun!"

As her time at Milligan comes to an end, Dr. Higgins reflects on what kind of impact the Milligan community has had on her.

"Milligan has formed me in many ways that I recognize and also many that I'm unaware of," said Dr. Higgins, "It's been very supportive and encouraging. It's been a place where there's a lot of shared life, and just being able

to grow, develop, and feel supported and encouraged in the kind of environment Milligan provides is a wonderful thing for any person."

Similarly, Dr. Higgins has made a lasting impact with the students that she teaches, like sophomores Matt Huff and Maddie Manear.

"Dr. Higgins is nothing short of an amazing professor. She is the perfect balance of having fun and making sure we always work hard in class," Huff said, "She always makes sure I'm having a good day as I walk into class and tells us about her day as well. She's been a bright light in this strange time of COVID-19. I've been grateful to have her as a teacher in my short time at Milligan."



Milligan's longest-serving professor, Dr. Susan Higgins, retires after 44 years of service.

Manear expressed similar words of praise.

"Dr. Higgins is a fantastic professor. She is very knowledgeable, confident, and has inspired me in so many ways," said Manear, "When we are stressed she shows wonderful compassion and when we finally understand a concept, she celebrates with us. I couldn't ask for a better professor and mentor."

See PROFESSOR on p. 8

SGA Hosts First Outdoor That Big Party

Avery DeWolf, Reporter

Students gathered for the first That Big Party (TBP) since COVID-19 caused the closure of campus last semester. The dance was held on Derthick Lawn on Friday night. The event went better than expected.

"Moving TBP to campus was something that we were hesitant about," said the Student Government Association (SGA) president, Dalton Shell.

"It appeared to work much better than expected, allowing students who were away for various sporting events the chance to come late and still participate."

SGA worked hard to make sure the event came together.

"Everyone came together and worked really hard to create a great event," said SGA senate member Annalea Hines. "TBP is one of my favorite events of the semester and I'm really glad despite COVID we were able to still have it, even if it looked a little different than years past."

The new venue was a hit. Lasting for more than three hours, students kept the dance party exciting for the entirety of the event.

"It was so exciting to see everyone together," said Senior Valentina Kenjeres. "There were some people I saw that I've never seen without a mask on, so it was such a good feeling to just be with other students and enjoy dancing."

The dancing seemed to be a hit for many students.



Students gather on the outside dance floor set up on Derthick Lawn. Photo by SGA.

"TBP was the best thing that's happened so far in 2021," said Junior Bekah Owen. "The dancing was great, but what really made it was the sense of community that I haven't felt since before COVID hit. The only thing that was missing was a bigger dance floor!"

A few of the students sported bruises and abrasions from the close quarters on the dance floor.

"I saw a bunch of people get a bit knocked around," said Owen. "But everyone took it in stride. It would have been a bit easier to dance if there was

more room because I could barely move my shoulders!"

The event marked a return to an almost pre-covid normalcy for Milligan's campus.

"I thought TBP was a major success," said Shell.

"In a year where everything has been so up in the air, students have been craving these types of events and interactions."

For seniors, it was the last all-campus event of their time at Milligan. Other students will have to wait for next year.

Blouin to Teach New Race and American Culture Class

Grace Teater, Reporter

The class Race and American Culture will be offered for the first time in the Fall of 2021, with debate team director and associate professor of English and Humanities, Dr. Michael Blouin, leading the way towards a more expanded look at the topic of race and diversity within The United States.

Although the topic of race can be found frequently in the press and amongst day-to-day conversations, Blouin assures that the new course isn't simply being offered as a means to adapt to the current American climate.

"It's more of a decision to improve and broaden the conversation," Blouin said.

The class will be offered every two years on a rotation, with the content being less focused on what people are talking about just today, and more focused on issues of race as a whole.

Students who enroll in the course can anticipate an eclectic syllabus that goes beyond just a study of literature and incorporates the following: observing works written by people on

See CLASS on p. 3

Underhyped Classes Students Should Consider: Recommendations from Seniors

Sydney Rhoton, Designer

With the release of the fall 2021 class schedule on March 22, students are once again faced with the question, "What classes should I take?"

While degree and general education requirements can be limiting, students can choose some of their classes. To help others make the most of these opportunities, Milligan seniors have recommended worthwhile, lesser-known classes that don't have as much fame--or infamy--as humanities.

1. Jesus, Paul and Women- BIBL 328

Jesus, Paul and Women explores biblical texts about women, especially Paul's letters and the Gospels, with an emphasis on context, interpretations and modern applications.

The class is three credit hours and is offered every other spring semester. It is taught by Professor of Bible Jeff Miller.

Senior social work major Cara Blanton took Jesus, Paul and Women, or "J-PAW" as it is commonly known, in the spring of 2018. She especially enjoyed diving into various New Testament verses that are sometimes used to "keep women out of the pulpit."

"I learned how to protect and honor the sacredness of the Gospel, while using God's word in a way that honors women and allows them to fulfill their calling in pastoral roles," Blanton said.

She appreciated Miller's approach to these passages. He closely examined their contexts and explained how translation from Greek to English can change the meaning of words.

Blanton thinks this course is a great option for anyone looking to broaden their understanding of faith through scripture.

"It's a great setting to consider a perspective that may be different than what you grew up believing," Blanton said.

2. Basic Photography- ART 237

Basic Photography is an introduction to photography through traditional black and white methods. Students learn composition, exposure, camera operation and darkroom developing techniques.

The class is three credit hours and is offered every semester. It is currently co-taught by adjunct faculty Michael Kaal and recent Milligan graduate Adam Trabold.

Senior graphic design major Seth Hice took Basic Photography from Will Major in the fall of 2019. In relation to his other elective courses, this is one of his favorites.

"I thought the class was going to be a simple introduction to using a camera, something most people can do nowadays, but it was much more than that," Hice said. "It allowed me to learn more about photography as an art while experiencing the interesting process of using film."

Hice learned to appreciate black and white photography in this class. He found it satisfying to complete the entire process of taking a photo, developing the film and creating prints in the darkroom on his own.

Hice recommends this class to students of all majors.

"Even if your major doesn't require Basic Photography, I think it would be beneficial for anyone in a creative field or someone who just wants to learn something fun," Hice said. "Photography doesn't have to be your career for it to be something you enjoy."

3. Plants and Society- GNSC 130

Plants and Society covers basic principles of botany and emphasizes the cultural, historical, economic and practical impact of plants on the modern world.

This course is a lab science that is four credit hours and offered every other fall semester. It is taught by Associate Professor of Biology Brian Eisenback.

Senior English major Elizabeth Williams took Plants and Society in the fall of 2020. She believes it is the most unique general science class at Milligan.

"The class will give you a much deeper appreciation for nature and introduce you to a few of the many hiking spots in this area," Williams said. "Plus, Eisenback will provide you with lots of plant related fun facts to impress your friends."

The weekly hiking labs and coinciding tree identifications earn the most praise from students. Williams said the lab portion is the highlight of the course. Her classmate, senior intercultural studies major Ellie Cachiaras, echoed this sentiment.

"This class has genuinely transformed the way I experience the natural world, especially in terms of my attentiveness to plants and trees," Cachiaras said. "I am more observant, curious and appreciative of the natural world because of it."

Plants and Society fulfills part of the general education requirement for science credit at Milligan.



Brian Eisenback explains different leaf sizes to his Plants and Society class during one of the weekly labs.

4. Race and Ethnic Relations- SOCL 314

This course is a study on racial and cultural conflicts, including prejudice, discrimination, minority groups and minority problems.

It is three credit hours and offered every other fall semester. It fulfills the ethnic studies requirement of Milligan's general education curriculum, and it is taught by Professor of Sociology and Missions Susan Higgins.

Senior social work major Hannah Brokaw took this course in the fall of 2018. She credits it as the most influential class she has taken during her time at Milligan.

"I learned to think critically about issues relating to race and ethnicity," Brokaw said. "Maybe more importantly, I learned to apply what I learned in class to my understanding and analysis of current events."

This class enables students to look at issues regarding race and ethnicity from a Christian viewpoint. Brokaw says she learned how to honor every person's experiences, especially in relation to racism.

Given the current climate around race in the United States, Brokaw thinks this class is even more worthwhile than ever before.

"Race is an important topic in our country, as we can all see after the unjust killings and protests of 2020," Brokaw said. "This class is a great opportunity to learn, discuss, and listen. Plus, Dr. Higgins is lovely!"

5. From Page to Screen: The Art of Adaptation- ENGL 374

This course examines the adaptation of literature into film. Students study books in relation to their corresponding film adaptations and propose a hypothetically adaptation of their favorite book.

Page to Screen is three credit hours and offered every other fall semester. It is taught by Associate Professor of English and Humanities Michael Blouin.

Senior English major Kaylee Mulkins took this class in the fall of 2020 and enjoyed seeing how stories are told differently through various media. She learned that a good movie adaptation does not actually follow all the rules of the novel.

Mulkins thinks this class would appeal to fans of popular culture and the entertainment industry.

"If you're the kind of person who likes to brag about how the book was better than the movie or fancy yourself an amateur film critic, then you'll probably love this class," Mulkins said.

"Any class with Dr. Blouin is worth taking," she added.

If students would like to take any of these classes but there is no room in their schedules, there is another option.

Auditing is a great opportunity for students to gain experience in a subject without completing all of the course requirements. Students do not earn academic credit by auditing a course.

Registrar Stacy Dahlman says students may audit a class with permission from their instructor, who determines the course requirements. For more information, see page 42 of the Milligan catalog.

THE STAMPEDE

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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!

Happy Birthday Brutus: SGA Celebrates 100 Years of Being the Buffaloes

Annie Ensley, Reporter



Milligan students enjoyed games and free food at Brutus' 100th Birthday Bash.

The Milligan Student Government Association hosted a birthday bash for Brutus the Buffalo on Thursday afternoon. The celebration took place on the Mary Sword Commons, and it included laser tag, a corn hole tournament, and birthday snacks!



Shayla Stewart helped hand out snacks to Milligan students at the event.

SGA shared in a post on their Instagram account, "Milligan adopted the Buffalo as our official mascot in 1921, and Brutus has been a constant facet in the lives of Milligan students ever since."

Brutus' had a big crowd to celebrate his birthday. There was a steady flow of students from the time his party began at 3:00 p.m. until it ended at 7:00. The SGA was pleased with turnout and support from the student body.

"After this event, we hope students feel mentally recharged," said Vice President, Chase McGlamery.

Milligan students will not get a spring break this year, so professors and clubs are challenged with finding ways to help encourage students to finish the semester.

"With all the COVID precautions and lack of student events in the fall, we thought that it might be fun to have this event in hopes of having a more normal semester," explained President Dalton Shell.

"I think it's important on a lot of levels that SGA hosts events like this, but most importantly its important for this semester because no one has been able to do anything and this is really the first campus wide event SGA has had all year long. We wanted to provide a safe outlet for kids to come have fun."

Students had the opportunity to enjoy the good weather and spend time with one another in a safe and socially distanced environment. SGA was diligent in upholding all COVID-19 guidelines. However, this did not stop students from having a great time with Brutus.

"For the first time in a long time, things felt normal. It felt so good to be in community with other students in such a fun atmosphere," shared sophomore Dustin Bartley.

You can keep up with all upcoming SGA events on their Twitter and Instagram accounts (@milligansga).

CLASS, from front

the Texas/Mexico border, looking at graffiti, film/television analysis, and an immersion into culturally significant music and dance.

While these elements help give a small preview to how the class will operate, Blouin says he does not intend to fully finalize the syllabus until he sees who all will be taking the class, in hopes of making it a more interactive experience for students.

"I do this to make the class really tailored to the interests of the students I know are going to be in the class, so I never completely finalize things until I have a sense of who is in the class."

While Race and American Culture is a way to fulfill an ethnic studies requirement for certain majors, it is also a way for students to open up more dialogues on the topic of race, ethnicity, diversity, and their respective roles in American culture.

Not only is this something Blouin believes is necessary as a whole, but also necessary for the betterment of the Milligan community.

"I think this is generally a good way to invite more people to the table," he said. "It is extremely important that the Milligan community have these sorts of discussions in a healthy, productive, and humane way."



Professor Blouin will teach the new Race and American Culture class in the fall of 2021.

Milligan to Introduce Interactive Media Design Major This Fall

Annie Ensley, Reporter

Milligan will introduce the Interactive Media Design (IMD) major in the fall of 2021. This new major was created to replace the current Communications major with a concentration of Digital Media, and the curriculum was developed by Professor Karahann Kiser.

The IMD major is a part of the re-designing of the Communications program at Milligan.

"The re-design process began in order to adapt to emerging technologies. In a field that changes rapidly, as digital media tends to be, degree programs must try to rethink their curriculum regularly in order to remain relevant," explained Kiser.

"We are hoping to bring a studio-like atmosphere into the classroom, with opportunities to create communicative artforms that focus on human/computer interaction."

The Interactive Media Design major is going to focus on topics such as motion graphics, interface design and augmented reality.

Kiser was hired at Milligan last year to serve as assistant professor of interactive media and design, but she was also tasked with creating the curriculum for the Interactive Media Design major.

"Developing curriculum is quite a lengthy process! I have been developing the curriculum for Interactive Media Design and also the Digital Illustration Minor for about a year now. This

was the task that Milligan essentially recruited me to do," said Kiser.

The intention for the Interactive Media Design major (IMD) is to educate students as servant leader graduates who have a balance of theory and skills in three fields of computer-based graphics: Motion Design, Web Design, and Print Design. It is aimed at creating astute visual communicators, and the program's study of multiple interactive media platforms will broaden the student's understanding of human-computer interaction.

Students will have the opportunity to study digital culture, gain real-world experience, create an online portfolio, and display works in exhibits. Graduates will be able to pursue their design careers with well-rounded digital skills

that will help them compete in an ever-evolving market.

New courses for this major include Motion Graphics, Vector Animation, Interactive Media, Digital Illustration and Experimental Media.

"I am hoping to cultivate a creative atmosphere primed for ground-breaking innovation in the creative use of emerging technologies. Students will be exposed to many aspects of design and learn about the importance of intuitive creative problem solving -which is where good design begins," said Kiser.

"In short, this is a program that will help students develop a portfolio of experience-driven communication art."

Interested students can contact Kiser at khkiser@milligan.edu.

Milligan Library Hosts the Edible Books Festival

Sarah Owens, Managing Editor

Milligan's libraries hosted the 11th annual Edible Books Festival from April 12-15. Typically, entries are on display in the library but this year it was held virtually due to COVID-19.

Photos of each entry were posted on the library's Facebook page and accompanied by captions explaining who created the piece and for what book. There were three categories to win: best overall, funniest/punniest, and most creative entry. Voters cast their votes for best overall with a thumbs up or heart emoji, the funniest/punniest with a laughing emoji, and the most creative with a "wow" emoji.

Filo Lopez won both most creative and overall favorite for his interpretation of "Dante's Inferno" that featured each level of Hell discussed in the book. Grace Jackson won funniest/punniest for her representation of "Cold Mountain" by Charles Fraizer with a bottle of Mtn. Dew in an ice bucket. They will both receive a Dunkin' gift card.



Grace Jackson's Mtn. Dew bottle in ice won funniest/punniest for representing "Cold Mountain" by Charles Fraizer.

Other entries included a box made from crackers and peanut butter representing "Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom" by Carole Boston Weatherford, a monte cristo sandwich for "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas, a collection of orange foods for "Orange is the New Black" by Piper Kerman and a half eaten cake for "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.

There were 14 entries total from current and former students, professors, librarians and even the Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society. Several of the entries were also humanities creativity projects.

To participate, students emailed a photo of their entries to library@milligan.edu by Monday. Voting took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the winners were announced on Thursday.

The Edible Books Festival will take place again next spring, so the library encourages students to be thinking about their entries for next year.



Filo Lopez won most creative and overall favorite for his edible project depicting "Dante's Inferno."

Lil Nas X's New Music Video and Shoe Collab Upset Christians

Sarah Owens, Managing Editor

Lil Nas X's recently released song, Montero (Call Me By Your Name), and the correlating music video and Satan shoes have got Christians, conservatives, historians and Milligan students talking.

The release came on March 26, and the Satan shoes are a collaboration with MSCHF, a self proclaimed conceptual art collective.

The song and video are supposed to be about the repression he and other LGBTQ+ youth experience, specifically in Christian spaces.

"I spent my entire teenage years hating myself because of the s*** y'all preached would happen to me because I was gay," said Lil Nas X in a tweet. "So I hope u are mad, stay mad, feel the same anger you teach us to have towards ourselves."

Senior worship leadership major Griffin Leonard commented on Lil Nas X's tweets and the perceived message:

"It is completely fair for him to be upset over the treatment he received. The entire job of the Church is to love first. However, there is a right way and a wrong way to react. This reaction is from a place of hatred and distaste for the Church... Moving forward in love is far more important than getting even," said Leonard. "On the other hand, this is art. Art, by definition, is for causing a reaction. If Lil Nas X had just made a song of an apathetic response, there

would be no reaction. He wanted a reaction. Every artist wants a reaction."

Lil Nas X also released a letter to his 14-year-old self on Twitter that further explains his choice to create the song and video. In it he expresses that his hope is to open doors for other queer individuals so they can live as themselves without judgement.

"The music video obviously has a lot deeper of a meaning, and I think it's something that people should read into before writing it off," said sophomore psychology major Valerie Couper. "(It's) definitely art, and I think it should be treated as such. The devil stuff is a bit much though, and I think can just be a scary thing to think about."

Many conservatives and Christians are upset by the sexual nature, references to homosexuality and use of religious imagery within the video as well as the shoe dedicated to Satan.

Greg Locke, a high-profile conservative pastor at Global Vision Bible Church, a Baptist church in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., commented on Lil Nas' recent release during a live streamed sermon on March 28, calling it a "bunch of devil-worshipping wicked nonsense."

"You think I'm going to stand for that? You've lost your mind," he continued. "You tell Lil Nas X I said so. Bunch of Satanism, bunch of wickedness, bunch of devil-ism, bunch of demonism, bunch of psychotic wickedness!"

While the commentary from conservatives and Christians has mainly focused on the satanic references and the sexual nature of the video, historical scholars are focused on a different aspect. Many commend it for its use of Greco-Roman and medieval Christian motifs and messages in both Greek and Latin, saying it has built a strong historical narrative centered on queerness within historical and religious spaces where they are often erased, according to an article in Time, an American newsmagazine.

"Watching this video, I was a little bit shocked just because of how much knowledge you need to have to un-



The Satan shoes are each individually numbered up to 666. Photo from CNN.

pack some of these elements," Roland Betancourt, a professor at University of California, Irvine and the author of Byzantine Intersectionality: Sexuality, Gender, and Race in the Middle Ages, says in the article. "It says that institutionalization of homophobia is a learned thing—and that there are other origin myths available to us that are not rooted in those ideas."

In an interview with Time, Lil Nas X explained that he wanted to use this type of iconography and symbolism to make a comparison between ancient and modern-day persecution.

"I wanted to use these things that have been around for so long to tell my own story, and the story of so many other people in the community—or people who have been outcast in general through history," he says. "It's the same thing over and over."

As for the shoes, Nike sued MSCHF, claiming that the unauthorized Satan

shoes would likely cause confusion and dilution and falsely imply any association between MSCHF and Nike. Nike did not endorse the 666 pairs of Nike Air Max 97s that were modified to feature pentagrams, ink containing a drop of human blood and a reference to Luke 10:18.

Each pair was priced at \$1,018, but MSCHF and Nike came to the agreement that any Satan shoes would be bought back at full retail price so as to remove them from circulation. According to USA Today, MSCHF was reportedly pleased with the settlement since the shoes already achieved their artistic purpose.

"I think the shoes are aggressive," said Couper, "but the truth is, if we really want this to be a 'free country' then we can't stop people from expressing themselves no matter how much we disagree."



The cover art for Montero features Lil Nas X and the devil in hell.

Letter Backing Sexuality Policy Change Gains 650+ Signatures

Laney Butt, Editor-in-Chief and Sarah Owens, Managing Editor

More than 690 people have signed an open letter to Milligan's trustees and administration calling for changes to the university's policies regarding gender identity, sexual orientation and marriage status.

As of April 19, 691 individuals had signed the letter, which was posted by MilliganForAll, a self-described "open and affirming alumni collective." The letter was published to their website on March 11 and printed in the Johnson City Press on April 11.

Many of those supporting the call for change have close ties to Milligan, including the board of directors of MilliganForAll. All eight are alumni, and three are former staff members.

"We do want to be in partnership and relationship with the institution, and it really is up to them how they do or don't respond to us," said MilliganForAll President Jessica Carter. "We remain hopeful."

President Bill Greer commented in an email to the Stampede on March 15, "Milligan's Board of Trustees and administration will be continuing to review questions related to the LGBTQ community, as we have previously stat-

ed. We remain committed to learning, growing, and deepening our understanding of how we can ensure Milligan is a welcoming community for everyone while honoring our understanding of God's Word."

When signing the letter, individuals can choose between seven labels to best describe their involvement with the university. Alumni form the largest group, with 439 signatures. Other categories include current and former faculty and staff, current students, community members, friends, family, or "not applicable."

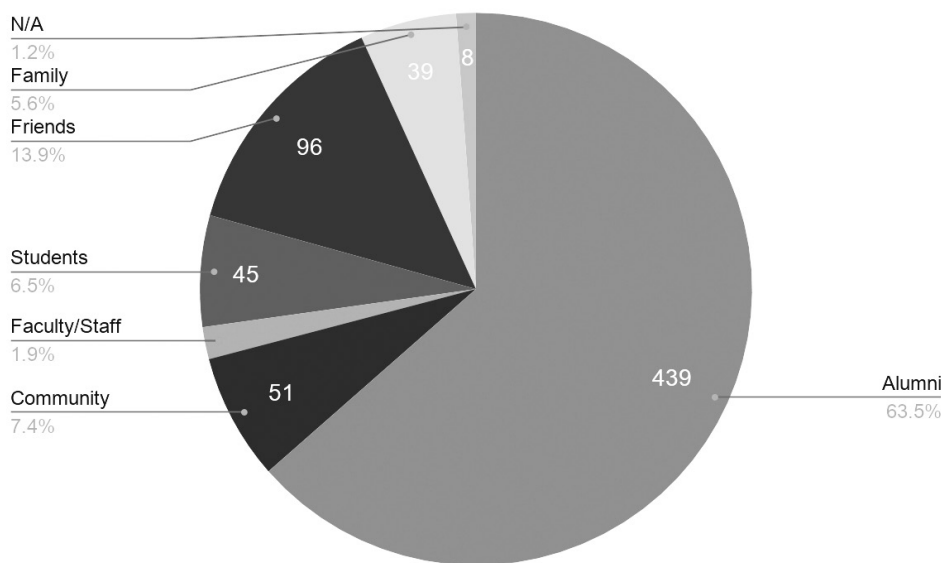
MilliganForAll's mission statement says that the group is for "anyone who

wishes to see Milligan University free from discrimination. We seek to transform MU into a place that fully embodies and expresses Christ's love. A place welcoming of all gender identities and sexual orientations."

The letter from the group is available at www.milliganforall.org, along with a list of all that have signed.

Milligan's current statement on human sexuality is available in the Student Handbook.

This story was originally published on milliganstampede.com on March 30, 2021. It has been updated to reflect current numbers on the MilliganForAll website.



Those who signed the letter belong to various groups related to Milligan University.

MILLIGAN *for* ALL
An Open and Affirming Alumni Collective



691 people signed an open letter to administration and trustees regarding LGBTQ+ issues.

Students Surprise Dr. Allen With Going Away Party

Annie Ensley, Reporter

When the students of Dr. Aaron Allen's Calculus 2 class found out that he would not be returning to teach at Milligan next semester, they decided to throw him a surprise party to show him how much they appreciate him, and how much they will miss him next year.

On Tuesday, April 20, students of Dr. Allen met at the SUB, and walked to the Calculus 2 class together to surprise their professor.

The students presented Dr. Allen with a card that read, "You are a reminder of what is good in the world."

He responded to the class, "You guys are my reminder of what is good."

Dr. Allen has been an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Milligan college for 12 years. Over the course of his career, he has taught nearly all the math courses offered at Milligan. Next semester, he will be serving as Associate Professor of Mathematics at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC.

"Dr. Allen shows up to class with enthusiasm, making it easier to pay attention," explains Junior Dustin

Bartley. "He has positively impacted my learning experience by always being willing to answer any questions that I have."

Bartley is a part of the Calculus 2 class that has rallied to celebrate Dr. Allen before he leaves.

"The idea for the party was a group effort by the Calc 2 class. He is a great guy and a good teacher. We figured he deserved to know his impact on us," said Bartley.

Over the course of the semester, the students feel as though they have

not only gotten to know Dr. Allen as a teacher, but a friend as well. Even during the complexities of the pandemic, Dr. Allen was able to form relationships with his students.

Eli Ensley is a freshman this year, and he had Dr. Allen for his first collegiate math courses.

"As a freshman, I didn't know what to expect. Dr. Allen was my first college math teacher. I'm glad I got the chance to have him. He has made the transition to college a good experience," said Ensley.

The students chipped in as a class to buy Dr. Allen a cake that reads, "Triple A Calls It a Day." According to the students, when Dr. Allen ends class early he says, "I think I'm gonna call it a day." This is one of the many things the students have come to love about their professor.

While Dr. Allen is excited to join the staff at North Carolina Wesleyan College, there are parts of Milligan's campus he will miss.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed helping my students to not only better understand mathematics, but to also appreciate the beauty of logical thinking and problem-solving," said Dr. Allen. "Moreover, the students have given me encouragement whenever I have my moments of doubt. I will deeply miss the students and the faculty when I leave here."

The students spent the class period listening to stories from Dr. Allen's time at Milligan and learning about his new job in North Carolina.



Professor Aaron Allen celebrates with his students.

Milligan Graduate Interviews Senator Regarding Kneeling for the National Anthem at ETSU

Macey Kennedy, Reporter

Milligan graduate Caleb Perhne interviewed Senator Jon Lundberg before the Tennessee Senate Education Committee meeting Feb. 24 to discuss the senator's view on the ETSU Men's Basketball Team's protest during the National Anthem. During Perhne's interview, Sen. Lundberg said that protesting during the National Anthem "isn't appropriate".

The team knelt during the National Anthem before their game on Feb. 15 which resulted in a letter signed on Feb. 22 by Tennessee's 27 Republican senators, asking state universities to prohibit protests during the National Anthem. Protestors marched in support of the team in the days leading up to the Feb. 24 committee meeting.

Perhne was assigned to report ETSU's budget hearing at the meeting, but Sen. Lundberg (Bristol) and Sen. Crowe (Johnson City) said they were going to ask ETSU President, Dr. Noland, about how he was going



Senator Lundberg addresses ETSU President, Dr. Noland, regarding the actions of ETSU Men's Basketball team.

to address the kneeling situation. "I wanted to ask Senator Lundberg what he thought about the situation and get his view of things," Perhne said, "and then some of the big things that folks were talking about that day was the constitutional issues with such a ban on campus."

ETSU faculty and student organizations have made statements supporting the team's actions as expressions protected under the First Amendment. The university's Africana Studies program issued a statement: "Some people were angry. Others were hurt. Still others were enthusiastic about the young men exercising their 1st Amendment rights."

In his interview with Sen. Lundberg, Perhne asked, "Isn't the role of the First Amendment to say that the government doesn't get to decide what is appropriate and what isn't?" Perhne said the only question that he had pre-planned going into the interview was, "is this a violation of the constitution?"

"The First Amendment is the thing that impacts what we as journalists do, and so you kind of have to know what is in there and what that says," Perhne said, "especially where Milligan is a private school, I already had experienced the line between what a public school can do as a part of the state versus what a private school can do."

Lawmakers said they would not use funding as leverage for state universities to implement the policy. The let-



Caleb Perhne graduated from Milligan in 2018 and is now a multimedia journalist for WCYB.

ter signed by Tennessee's Republican senators said, "we do not condone any form of protest that could be viewed as disrespectful to our nation or flag while they are representing our state universities." To Perhne's point, as a private institution, Milligan's relations to the state are different from that of a state-funded institution, which is bound by certain state standards.

The American Civil Liberties Union issued a statement regarding the issue: "Such policies would be unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court has long held that neither public schools nor legislators can force their definition of patriotism on students by requiring students to participate in compelled speech."

The Feb. 24 committee meeting ran out of time before the issue was

examined, but the senators discussed the issue with Dr. Noland during the meeting on March 3. Perhne said, "I'm assuming that Sen. Lundberg has probably heard from folks as much or more than I've heard from folks and I feel like that has to, in one direction or another, influence him in whatever ends up happening."

During the Senate Education Committee meeting on March 3, which coincidentally is National Anthem Day, Sen. Lundberg asked Dr. Noland if the team's protest is a representation of ETSU. He said, "putting that knee down gave the bird to our flag, sir. And I don't see a difference." Dr. Noland said, "I deeply regret the feelings of pain and animosity that have emerged throughout the region."

Students Share Their Experiences Participating in Critical Conversations

Annie Ensley, Reporter

As Milligan winds down another unpredictable semester, there are some things about campus life that remain constant, even through the challenges of attending college during a pandemic. One of those unwavering aspects of campus life is the Student Government Association's (SGA) desire to make sure the voices of students on Milligan's campus are being heard.

SGA began the Critical Conversations series this semester as a way to,

"...address concerns brought to the Milligan SGA in November of 2020 concerning the LGBTQ+ community at Milligan." SGA completed phase one and two in February and March. Due to a shortened semester and COVID-19 precautions, SGA was unable to have the concluding phase this spring.

The Senior Class President Elect, Hannah Nelson, participated in both of the initial phases. "I am encouraged by Critical Conversations, and I am hopeful that we will continue and

advance the conversations next year," explained Nelson. "I think it was a successful start for something that will grow into something even better next semester."

Current Senior Class President Cara Blanton also participated in the conversations.

"I believe the collective goal of Critical Conversations has not been openly expressed or explained in a way that our campus as a whole can understand. In other words, I feel like clear goals and action steps for a post-Critical Conversations Milligan University have not been established in a way that is needed," said Blanton. "Within my Critical Conversation group I would state that positive, productive conversation was fostered. However, it became increasingly clear to me that there are select students on this campus who do not believe that any students (whether in the LGBTQ+ community or not) were affected by certain events that took place over the past year."

Blanton is graduating this semester, so she will not be on campus to be a part of the Critical Conversations' conclusion.

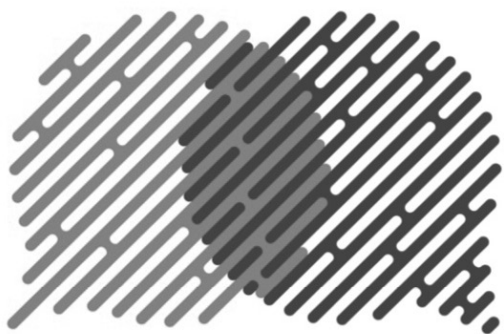


MILLIGAN
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"I am hopeful that the perseverance that students who care about this cause will encourage them to pursue the fight toward inclusivity and fostering a safer environment for LGBTQ+ students on campus." Blanton continued, "I have said this with great passion and sternness to my fellow SGA members who are not graduating: The SGA executive team truly determines the rhythm of Milligan's campus. So, I call upon the 2021-2022 SGA executive team to acknowledge the voices of students who are hurting, who fear, who feel unsafe, and to set aside religious convictions in order to address the need of a vulnerable population on their campus."

At this time, a date has not been set for phase 3 of the conversations.



**CRITICAL
CONVERSATIONS**

A series of round table discussions promoting meaningful dialogue around real world issues.

Faculty and Staff Leaving Milligan This Year

Annie Ensley, Reporter



Dr. Aaron Allen
Associate Professor of Mathematics
(Leaving)



Dr. Carrie Klofach
Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre
(Leaving)



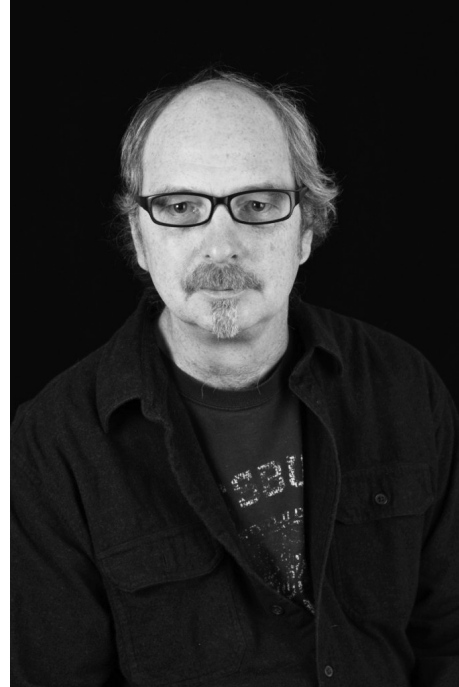
Rachel Jones
Director of Social Work Program;
Assistant Professor of Social Work
(Leaving)



Mark Fox
Vice President for Student
Development and Athletics
(Retiring)



Dr. Susan Higgins
Associate Dean of the School of Social
Sciences and Education; Professor of
Sociology and Missions; Area Chair of
Social Learning
(Retiring)



Nick Blosser
Assistant Professor of Art
(Retiring)



Ray Smith
Associate Athletics Director for
Facilities and Compliance
(Retiring)



Milton Carter
Recruiter; Community Outreach
Coordinator; Assistant Professor of
the Practice of Geography
(Retiring)



Mary Fabick
Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre
(Retiring)

Goah Students Volunteer at Good Samaritan

Sarah Owens, Managing Editor

Milligan's Goah students volunteered at Good Samaritan Ministries, an organization dedicated to fighting poverty, on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Students were meant to be helping the organization pack food boxes and sort donations according to Gwen Ellis, Milligan's director of multicultural engagement and faculty advisor for the Goah program.



Good Samaritan Ministries was founded in Johnson City on March 8, 1985.

The Goah Scholars Program recognizes students whose diverse cultural backgrounds enhance the educational experience for all students. These students regularly participate in service projects.

"Goah students are required to do community service as part of their scholarship contract," said Ellis. "Usually they work individually, but sometimes an organization will call to see if we can send a group. Our Goah President, Alexandra Reynoso organized this one."

Reynoso chose to organize this event with a familiar service site.

"I've volunteered with them in the past and their ministry does amazing work in our community," said Reynoso. "Good Samaritan has volunteer opportunities throughout the year, and I would highly encourage anyone who wants to get involved in the community to contact them about volunteering."

Goah students are not required to participate in every volunteer event, but they are highly encouraged to according to Reynoso and Ellis.

"My hope is always that they will become invested in an organization and continue in service beyond their requirement," said Ellis.

For more information on the Goah program, click [here](#). To learn more about Good Samaritan Ministries and ways you can help, visit their website.

Missed an episode of StampedeTV this semester?

All five are still available for viewing on our YouTube channel!



SGA's Senior Banquet Celebrates Class of 2021

Macey Kennedy, Reporter

Seniors celebrated their time at Milligan together one last time before graduation at the senior banquet on Friday, April 16. Gathered upstairs from Southern Craft in downtown Johnson City, SGA organized a feast of food and dessert for those who were able to join. One special highlight of the evening was a message from Curtis Booher, who spoke to this class of students at their first ever Vespers gathering at Doe River Gorge in 2017.

Booher spoke about the mission of Milligan: As a Christian liberal arts university, Milligan University seeks to honor God by educating men and women to be servant-leaders. Booher asked us if this mission is really being accomplished at the end of our four years, and what that looks like after walking across the stage and throwing the cap.

He then reached into a basket and pulled out a bib that would fasten



Curtis Booher spoke to the 2021 graduates and challenged them to put on their apron after taking off their caps and gowns.



SGA organized a stellar get-together for the seniors before heading off to That Big Party.

around a child before eating. After the bib he held up an apron. These two items represented a choice to be served or to be a servant. He emphasized the role of Jesus as a servant who spreads the Kingdom of God, as Milligan graduates are called to do as well.

Booher asked the seniors, "Who is your someone, and what is your something, that you will serve?" He urged the graduating class to put on their aprons, and focus on finding a someone and something to serve in the spirit of Jesus.

Sarah Baker, music education major and trumpet player, reflected on Booher's message to the class. "I hope for all the seniors that they will leave this mission after four years feeling complete, and ready to start the next mission," she said "We're counting down, and it's exciting but I'm also very nervous." Looking forward to graduation day, Sarah said, "I hope everyone feels really proud."

Seniors who attended the banquet were grateful for the communion at their last gathering before graduation. Kasey Moore, four-year soccer player and nursing student said, "I'm so grateful to go to a school that allows the seniors to gather one last time before graduation, to eat together, talk together, take pictures together and just see where everybody is after the last four years."

"The senior banquet is a really good way to end my four years here at Milligan. It's a celebratory and memorable occasion," said Megan Kent, four-year choir, soccer player, and first-year flag football player.

As graduation approaches for the 2021 class, moments like those shared at the senior banquet will serve as some of their final memories as Milligan students. The commencement ceremony will be held outdoors, for the first time in half a century, on May 1 at 10 a.m.

PROFESSOR, from front

As Milligan's longest-serving professor, Dr. Higgins not only has created a lasting impact on the Milligan faculty, staff, and student body, but she also has created a legacy of great significance and is a true example of the servant leader Milligan strives to cultivate.

"All any of us can do is to do our best at any one particular time, and I hope that my contribution in my time here at Milligan has been a positive and helpful one in the long run."

While serving as a Milligan faculty member, Dr. Higgins worked summers with the Toronto Institute of Linguistics, a missionary training program held at Victoria University that trained pre-field missionaries on learning languages, focusing on phonetics, sentence structures, and meaning tied to language. In 1990 and 1991, Dr. Higgins completed post-graduate work on linguistics and the New Testament while on sabbatical at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where she was an honorary fellow of the Faculty of Divinity.

She has also written numerous articles and papers, a few of which highlight topics of personal interest that include the role of women in the churches and the importance of translation and linguistics in the church and its mission.

Prior to Milligan, Dr. Higgins had completed a bachelor of arts degree from Lincoln Christian College, where she worked as research librarian and lecturer. She then went on to receive her master of arts degree and doctorate from Indiana University. She also served as a translation consultant and research associate for United Bible Studies, where she supervised translation projects of scripture in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Milligan Outdoor Spring Concert a Success

Pablo Rivas, Reporter

The Milligan Music Department held their spring joint concert outside of Derthick Hall at 6:00pm on Monday, April 19. The concert was originally scheduled for 6:00pm on Friday, April 16 but was postponed due to the anticipation of rain.

The concert was the first live performance of the school year for both the Concert Choir and the Orchestra. This event would have taken the place of two concerts that would have happened in a normal school year: one for the Concert Choir and Orchestra, and an acapella concert featuring the Women's Chorale, Heritage and Herd Mentality.

The concert was divided into five parts, with the Concert Choir first performing renditions of Ndikhokhele Bawo, Do Not Be Afraid, Give Me Jesus, and Saints Bound for Heaven. The Women's Chorale performed next with Celtic Gloria, Were You There, and Blessings. Heritage followed with performances of Great is Thy Faithfulness; Lord, Have Mercy; and Getting There. The Orchestra then performed Let There Be Peace on Earth, Danny Boy, and Celtic Roots. The finale included the Concert Choir and

Orchestra combined for a beautiful performance of Be Thou My Vision.

This event was especially important for graduating members of both groups. Senior Shawn Allen, a member of both the Concert Choir and Heritage, loved being able to perform one last time,

"This performance was really important to me," said Allen, "being my senior year, this is really the last chance I have to share my voice in the Milligan setting with my peers who I have worked with for four years, and to show that our hard work was well worth it."

Senior and Orchestra member Michael Nickens also stressed the concert's importance to the Milligan community,

"This is the first step in us getting back to normalcy, especially with music; it's been so strange the last few semesters with COVID-19, and so it's good to finally begin taking steps to get people back into seats and listening to live music again."



Friends and family members enjoy the live performances of the Milligan Choir and Orchestra.

Concert-goers were also pleased with the live performances, like senior Kevin Riley.

"It was an amazing and impressive performance, especially with limited acoustics that they had to face performing outside," Riley said.

Junior Garret Harvill was delighted to finally see more of the community back on campus.

"There's a lot of people on campus right now, and it's really great to see all the friendly faces of friends and family members that we don't get to see as much, so it was great to see the community come together to support the concert members," Harvill said.

This event concludes the Milligan Music Department concert schedule for the school year.