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Faith, Arts, & Culture
2025-2026 Calendar of Events



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*All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.
All schedules and events are subject to change.*



The Magness Lectureship on Jesus in the Arts: Dr. Terence Gadsden

September 16

Convocation Lecture | 11 a.m.

Hip-Hop Worship Concert | 7 p.m.

Mary B. Martin Auditorium,

Seeger Memorial Chapel

The Jesus in the Arts Lectureship focuses on the person, teachings, and ministry of Jesus as reflected on and interpreted through the arts. This year's guest artist is 2003 Milligan graduate, Dr. Terence Gadsden, who currently serves as campus pastor and athletic chaplain at North Park University in Chicago, IL. A native of New Jersey, Gadsden has devoted his adult life to communicating the Gospel and developing the faith of young people as a pastor, educator, coach, mentor, and hip-hop DJ artist. One of his deepest passions is to help people see in new ways how the Spirit of Jesus is at work in and through different cultures, including the culture of hip-hop.



"Once Upon a Time" Homecoming Concert

October 25 | 3:45 p.m.

Mary B. Martin Auditorium,

Seeger Memorial Chapel

Join the Milligan music department for a journey of fairy tales and other fantastic stories as told through the power of music. This short, family-friendly concert will feature each of the Milligan instrumental and vocal ensembles performing music inspired by a wide array of stories from traditional tales to modern movie adaptations. Highlighting selections from *Don Quixote*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and many more, this free concert is sure to be a highlight of Homecoming for everyone.



"Baroque, Blues, and Broadway" Milligan Orchestra Concert

November 1 | 7:30 p.m.

Mary B. Martin Auditorium,

Seeger Memorial Chapel

The Milligan Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Kellie Brown, will celebrate the rich diversity of

the orchestral repertoire with works in the blues and Broadway genres alongside beloved Baroque masterpieces. This concert will include stage music from *Fiddler on the Roof* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and Baroque works such as Albinoni's "Concerto in G," Biber's "Battalia," and Purcell's "Overture to King Arthur." One of the highlights of the evening will be showcasing the talent of Milligan music faculty members including organ professor Rebecca McClain performing Handel's "Organ Concerto in A," and voice faculty members, Dr. Noah DeLong and Professor Alena Carhart, singing music by Leonard Bernstein: "Make Our Garden Grow" from *Candide* and "One Hand, One Heart" from *West Side Story*.



Candlelight Christmas Evening with Milligan Women's Chorale

November 9 | 5:30-10 p.m.

Biltmore Estate, Asheville, North Carolina

The Biltmore Estate continues a treasured Christmas tradition, welcoming the Milligan Women's Chorale as featured performers for one night only. Enjoy traditional holiday songs and carols sung in the beautiful Winter Garden before touring the grand Biltmore House that will be festively decorated for the season.

Tickets: biltmore.com or 800.411.3812



Christmas Concert

December 6 & 7 | 7:30 p.m.

Mary B. Martin Auditorium,
Seeger Memorial Chapel

The glorious sounds and sights of the season will be a great start to your Christmas festivities as the Milligan Music Department presents its annual Christmas concert. The performance will feature choirs, orchestra, and the organ in the beautifully decorated chapel. The evening will also include a carol sing-along and will conclude with a moving candle-lighting and singing of "Silent Night." For more information, visit milligan.edu/christmas.

Tickets: \$5 + service fee | On Sale 11.1.25
All seats are reserved | milligan.tix.com



Youthful Inspirations

Milligan Orchestra performs with the
Johnson City Symphony Orchestra

February 21 | 7:30 p.m.

Mary B. Martin Auditorium, Seeger
Memorial Chapel

The Johnson City Symphony returns to Milligan for their first concert of 2026. The Milligan Orchestra will join them to perform George Bizet's *L'Arlésienne Suites*.

Tickets: \$40 + taxes/fees | On Sale 8.12.25

Free for Milligan students with ID | jcsymphony.com



"Shelter in a Time of Storm" Concert Choir and Heritage Tour Home Concert

March 22 | 3:30 p.m.

Mary B. Martin Auditorium, Seeger
Memorial Chapel

The Milligan Concert Choir and Heritage return from their spring break tour to present a performance for our local community. This program will feature songs that call to mind the loving care and protection that God offers when we experience the storms and trials of life. This afternoon of uplifting music will include both a cappella songs as well as pieces accompanied by talented Milligan instrumentalists.



"At the Threshold" Milligan Orchestra Concert

April 18 | 7:30 p.m.

Mary B. Martin Auditorium, Seeger
Memorial Chapel

The Milligan Orchestra and their director, Dr. Kellie Brown, will celebrate how composers have depicted the many types of thresholds in our lives: birth or death, comings or goings, and real or ethereal places. This concert will feature a broad range of pieces including film music from *Coco* and *Alice in Wonderland* along with selections from the Broadway musicals *Annie* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. The concert's finale will feature a performance of John Rutter's beloved "Requiem" by a joint choir made up of the Milligan Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Noah DeLong, David Crockett High School Choir, under the direction of Kelly Davenport, and Elizabethton High School Choir, under the direction of Ben Davenport.

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SEASON TICKETS

On sale October 1, 2025

Save 15% when you purchase tickets for
Freaky Friday and *A Doll's House* together online.



Freaky Friday

Book by Bridget Carpenter

Music by Tom Kitt

Lyrics by Brian Yorkey

Based on the novel *Freaky Friday* by Mary Rodgers and
the Disney films

Directed by Alena Carhart

October 23–25 | 7:30 p.m.

October 26 | 2:30 p.m.

McGlothlin-Street Theatre, Gregory Center

When an overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again before mom's big wedding. Milligan Musical Theatre is thrilled to present *Freaky Friday*, a new musical based on the celebrated novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films. This show is a hilarious, contemporary update on an American classic in which a mother and daughter really see what it is to be a family and experience each other's lives first-hand, if only for a day. "Delightfully spunky" with "timeless appeal" (*Variety*), *Freaky Friday* features a new book by Bridget Carpenter (*Parenthood*) and an original pop/rock score by Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winners Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey (*Next to Normal*).



Tickets: \$12 + service fee | On Sale 10.1.25

All seats are reserved | milligan.tix.com



Buffalo Tales

December 9 | 6:30 p.m.

McGlothlin-Street Theatre, Gregory Center

This storytelling showcase will feature Milligan students performing a variety of stories, including folk tales, biblical retellings, and personal stories. The poignant and powerful stories will encourage, inspire, and bring a smile to your face.



A Doll's House

by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Frank McGuinness
Directed by Frances Saxton

February 19-21 | 7 p.m.

February 22 | 2 p.m.

McGlothlin-Street Theatre, Gregory Center

This production contains mature themes.

Nora Helmer is a vibrant young housewife who nonetheless suffers from a crippling dependency on her husband of eight years. He, Torvald, has always done the thinking for the both of them. In order to save Torvald from a debt, and to spare his masculine pride, Nora arranges a loan without his knowledge, and does so by forging a signature. The inevitable revelation of the crime results in an unexpected reaction from Torvald. Rather than being grateful to Nora, he is incapable of accepting the pride and self-sufficiency she demonstrated in taking care of him, and he accuses her of damaging his good name. The illusions behind their marriage are exposed, and Nora wakes to feelings of self awareness for the first time in her life. Torvald is not the man she thought she knew. They are husband and wife, yes, but they are strangers as well.

"New, raw, gut-twisting and gripping. Easily the hottest drama this season." –*USA Today*

"Bold, brilliant and alive." –*Wall Street Journal*

"A thunderclap of an evening that takes your breath away." –*Time Magazine*



Tickets: \$12 + service fee | On Sale 10.1.25

All seats are reserved | milligan.tix.com



"Screen to Stage Cabaret"

March 27 | 7:30 p.m.

McGlothlin-Street Theatre, Gregory Center

Lights, Camera, Action! Milligan Musical Theatre is thrilled to present a "Screen to Stage Cabaret" bringing your favorite songs from movies to the stage. From golden-age Hollywood classics to modern-day blockbusters, the performance brings the screen to life with unforgettable melodies and showstopping vocals. Whether you're a film buff or a musical lover, this cabaret promises a night of nostalgia, glamour, and pure entertainment.



An Evening of Celebration: A Showcase of Film, Musical Theatre, and Theatre Arts

April 24 | 6 p.m.

McGlothlin-Street Theatre, Gregory Center

Enjoy a night of entertainment, celebration, and awards! The evening begins with the Famous for 15 Minutes Short Film Festival to showcase work by students in Milligan's film production courses. Then talented musical theatre and theatre arts students will take to the Gregory stage to act, sing, and dance. The evening concludes with award presentations for the year's outstanding student works. Come enjoy a night of fun, food, and celebration of students' artistic achievements! Refreshments will be served.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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"Junk: Objects, Feelings, and Circumstances"

Ashlyn Lightfoot Smith

October 25

Milligan Art Gallery, Derthick Hall

Homecoming Reception: 11 a.m.-noon

Lightfoot Smith is a 2020 graduate of Milligan University, and is excited to display her collection of work in-person and on campus after her senior gallery exhibition was moved online during the events of the 2020 pandemic. "Junk: Objects, Feelings, and Circumstances" explores the way humans ascribe meaning to objects in their lives. Using photographs, found objects, and other assemblage works, Lightfoot Smith questions how things shape people's view of themselves and of others, and how people determine what to let go.



Tara Stewart

Graphic Design Senior Showcase

December 2 | 7 p.m.

Milligan Virtual Art Gallery





“Two Cats + A Herd of Buffalo”

February 6–March 2

Opening Reception: February 6 | 6–8 p.m.

Dos Gatos Coffee Bar

238 East Main Street, Johnson City

Milligan’s art and design students return to downtown Johnson City to fill the walls of Dos Gatos Coffee Bar with their latest creative works. Enjoy a cup of coffee and support our region’s arts community during Johnson City’s First Friday.



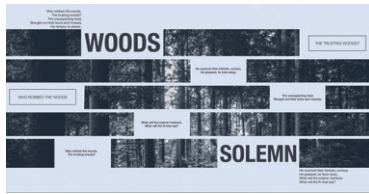
Kendall Arnold

Artist-in-Residence Exhibition

February 15–March 6

Opening Reception: February 15 | 2–4 p.m.

Milligan Art Gallery, Derthick Hall



Adam Bengtson, Spencer Hall, Emy Rose Leggett, and Joselin Martinez

Graphic Design Senior Showcase

March 22–27

Opening Reception: March 22 | 2–4 p.m.

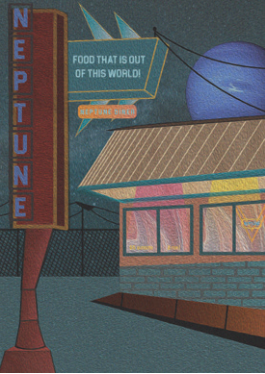
Milligan Art Gallery, Derthick Hall





Eloria Pelton Senior Art Exhibition

March 29–April 9
Opening Reception: March 29 | 2–4 p.m.
Milligan Art Gallery, Derthick Hall



Mary Grace Bitting, Ariana Floyd, Nathan McKissick, and Marnie Tallon Graphic Design Senior Showcase

April 12–17
Opening Reception: April 12 | 2–4 p.m.
Milligan Art Gallery, Derthick Hall



Juried Art Exhibition

April 19–24
Opening Reception: April 19 | 2–4 p.m.
Milligan Art Gallery, Derthick Hall

Milligan's 30th Juried Art Exhibition showcases juror-selected art and design works created by our art, photography, graphic design, and interactive media design students during the 2025–26 academic year. Awards of excellence and merit will be given for standout works, and the winners will be announced at the opening reception. The juror will be illustrator, comic book artist, and graphic designer, Matthew Childers of Gray, Tennessee.

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Dr. Colleen Weems

Assistant Professor of Education and Counseling
*Section 504: Legal and Collaborative Considerations
for Mental Health and School Professionals*

September 2 | 5:15 p.m.
McGlothlin-Street Theatre, Gregory Center



Dr. Ryan Lis

Assistant Professor of Sport and Exercise Science
*Soreness and Perceptual Differences Between Two
Training Methods*

October 2 | 6 p.m.
Lecture Hall 202, Derthick Hall



Dr. Whitney Hanor

Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies
*The Secret Sauce for Both Students and
Professionals to Avoid and Cure Burnout*

November 3 | 6 p.m.
Lecture Hall 202, Derthick Hall



Dr. Ashleigh Lingerfelt

Area Chair and Program Director;
Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy
*Exploring the Role of Occupational Therapy
in Motherhood*

February 9 | 6 p.m.
Lecture Hall 202, Derthick Hall



Dr. Michael Blouin

Professor of English and Humanities
The Political Poe

April 16 | 6 p.m.
Lecture Hall 202, Derthick Hall

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Westwood Lectureships: Robert O. Fife Lecture in Christian Reformation

“Christian Education, the Hope of the World: Higher Education and the Stone-Campbell Movement in Times of Uncertainty”

Dr. Stephen Waers

October 25 | 2 p.m.

McGlothlin-Street Theatre, Gregory Center

Join us in celebrating Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan’s 60th anniversary during Homecoming. Milligan University’s president, Dr. Stephen Waers, will discuss the important role Christian higher education plays in our world today. Reception to follow.



Associated Ladies for Milligan Eleanore L. Campbell Ladies Lunch

April 11 | 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

McCormick Dining Center, Sutton Hall

Discover the empowering voice of Allie Worthington, bestselling author, business coach, and podcast host known for helping women step into their God-given purpose with confidence and clarity. With her signature blend of wit, wisdom, and practical insight, Allie inspires women to ditch overwhelm, embrace bold decisions, and live with unstoppable faith.



Tickets: milligan.edu/ALM



RISE Above and Blue Ridge Undergraduate Research Conference

April 16 | Noon-7 p.m.

Derthick Hall

The 13th annual RISE Above Research Conference features scholarly mentored research projects from all undergraduate disciplines and majors, as well as graduate research. This year’s theme is “Attention and Distraction,” and will feature Milligan associate professor of English and humanities, Dr. Michael Blouin, as the keynote speaker. For more information, visit milligan.edu/blue-ridge.

ARTS AT MILLIGAN

The performing, visual, and communicative arts play a vital role in a liberal arts education, and Milligan offers a variety of opportunities for students to use their creative talents to entertain, educate, perform, inspire, and minister. These include programs in the Visual Arts (art, photography, and film), the Performing Arts (theatre, musical theatre, music performance, and music education), and in the Communicative Arts.

Our students study with experienced faculty and work with internationally renowned artists, designers, musicians, actors, dancers, and writers. Milligan's numerous choral and instrumental groups have performed for audiences throughout the United States and abroad and have presented both American and world premieres of compositions.

The university's students have earned regional and national acclaim in the American Advertising Awards and have been featured on stage at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and Carnegie Hall.

For more information about the creative and communicative arts as well as available scholarships, call 800.262.8337 or visit milligan.edu.

MILLIGAN.EDU/EVENTS
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