

Dear Reader,

The mission of the Millikin University Archives and Special Collections is to collect, arrange, describe, and preserve items that document the history of Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, and to serve as a source of discovery and learning about that history. Materials are accessible to the public for research purposes through a combination of online and physical collections.

Included in the collections are many records of Millikin University offices, departments, student groups, faculty, and alumni, as well as student publications such as the full run of the *Decaturian* (student newspaper) and the *Millidek* (yearbook). An extensive photograph and negative collection is also a part of the Archives' collection.

The print and digital collections of the Millikin University Archives include historical materials, which may contain language, images, or other materials that the modern reader may find offensive. In fact, some of the contents of these historical documents reflect racist, sexist, or otherwise insensitive or even bigoted perspectives that are unacceptable and cannot be softened by attempting to place them in the cultural context of their times. The Archives presents these documents as part of the historical record and as part its mission to educate about all aspects of Millikin's history, and does not endorse the attitudes expressed therein. Millikin University's core values reflect deep commitment to

- The discovery of knowledge
- Civil debate
- Passion and enthusiasm
- Dignity and respect for individuals
- A diverse and inclusive community
- Integrity and responsibility
- Advancement of the greater good

Materials drawn from the history of the university that do not reflect these values represent perspectives we deeply hope are relegated to the past and in no way speak to our current commitments and orientation as an institution of higher education. Millikin University is devoted to fulfilling the promise of education, and as our mission statement makes clear, preparing a diverse student body for professional success, democratic citizenship in a global environment, and lives of meaning and value.

Sincerely,

President Patrick E. White, Ph.D.

Provost Jeffery P. Aper, Ph.D.