



DECATUR, IL—Millikin University’s newly formed publishing company, Bronze Man Books, is announcing the release of *Ants in the Band Room*, a children’s book written and illustrated by Millikin alum Laura Podeschi. The book marks the first release from the fledgling publisher, which was founded last Spring in order to give students the opportunity to work hands-on in the publishing industry.

Laura Podeschi said that she conceived of *Ants in the Band Room* as “a way to blend her passions for art, writing, and music.” She developed these artistic and writing interests while attending Millikin University, earning a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts in Graphic Design, as well as a minor in English. She earned numerous academic distinctions, being named a James Millikin Scholar and serving a term as Vice-President of the American Institute of the Graphic Arts. After graduating in 2006, Laura went to work as the Developmental Editor for Sports Publishing, LLC, in Champaign, IL. Her first love is creation, though, and she plans to continue creating positive stories for children and young adults.

*Ants in the Band Room* is the story of a troop of ants who explore various musical instruments in search of a suitable home. Both parents and music educators alike have found *Ants in the Band Room* educational and inspirational for youngsters, motivating them to ask questions about music and musical instruments, while showing that everyone can find a place where they belong.