

# BLACKBURN

Today

## BLACKBURN **RISES** TO THE TOP

—  
*Washington Monthly* names Blackburn  
the #1 bachelor's college in Illinois and  
#20 in the nation.

**#1**  
Bachelor's  
College  
in Illinois

**+**  
THE  
MOMENTUM  
ISSUE





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# THE MOMENTUM ISSUE

## A Letter From the President Larry K. Lee



**N**ot long ago, I met with a Blackburn alumna who told me something that stayed with me. Each month, when she receives the President's Perspective email newsletter from Blackburn, she prints it, places it on her coffee table, and revisits it throughout the month, because it helps her feel connected to a place that still feels like home.

That connection, across time, distance, and generations, is at the heart of who we are.

It has been more than five years since this magazine last reached your mailbox. So much has changed since then—on our campus, in the world, and in the life of our College. Through it all, one thing remains constant: the spirit of Blackburn.

That spirit, built on generations of students, faculty, and alumni, is alive today in ways that feel electric. We've just welcomed one of the largest incoming classes in recent history, marking our second consecutive year of double-digit enrollment growth. This momentum is not just seen in numbers—it's felt in every classroom, residence hall, and corner of campus.

This fall, Blackburn was recognized as the top bachelor's college in Illinois and ranked 20th nationally by Washington Monthly. These distinctions reflect the powerful outcomes of our mission: a college where students lead, work, and learn together to create a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

It is this sense of momentum that makes now the perfect time to relaunch our alumni magazine under a new name: Blackburn Today. This is not just a publication; it's an invitation to reconnect. To see how the Work Program continues to teach responsibility and leadership while evolving to meet the needs of a new generation. To learn how our academic programs are opening doors while preserving the close faculty-student connections that have defined Blackburn for decades. To celebrate our community spirit, which remains at the heart of everything we do. And, of course, to provide alumni news.

When you turn these pages, I hope you'll see how our history lives in every student, faculty, and staff member, and in every alum who carries it forward. Blackburn Today is a bridge between generations, a way to share our progress, and a celebration of the remarkable community we continue to build together.

**Momentum is building. Together, we are carrying it forward.**

**Larry K. Lee**  
President, Blackburn College

# LEADING WITH PURPOSE

## Introducing the 20th President of Blackburn College, Larry K. Lee



The weekend Larry and Cathy Lee arrived in Carlinville, their moving truck pulled into McKinley House just as the summer heat was setting in. Before they could even begin unloading, Blackburn’s Director of Athletics, Kim Camara-Harvey, and a handful of student-athletes appeared, ready to carry boxes and furniture. It was President Lee’s first in-person glimpse of what makes Blackburn so remarkable: a community that shows up—students and staff alike—working together to make things happen.

When Lee accepted the offer to become Blackburn College’s 20th president in May 2024, he stepped into

a role that felt both deeply personal and full of possibility.

“From my first encounter with Blackburn, I was captivated by its history, its people, and its mission,” President Lee said. “As a first-generation, Pell-eligible student who worked on commercial fishing boats for eight summers in Alaska to help pay for college, I understand the grit and determination it takes to reach your goals. Blackburn’s Work Program resonates with me because it teaches that hard work, collaboration, and community care are at the heart of a meaningful education.”

“

**From my first encounter with Blackburn, I was captivated by its history, its people, and its mission.”**

Originally from Dupou, Illinois, Lee has held senior leadership roles at St. Cloud State University, Coe College, Carnegie Mellon University, Allegheny College, and the University of Denver. Along the way, he built a reputation for innovative thinking, steady financial stewardship, and a deep commitment to students. Before embarking on his professional journey in higher education, he had a decorated career as a coach and administrator. He was a member of the coaching staff for the U.S. National Judo Team, led the 1995 World Judo Team, and coached at the Paralympic Games in both 1992 (Barcelona) and 1996 (Atlanta), as well as the 1998 World Men's and Women's Paralympic Teams. In 2017, he was inducted into the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes Hall of Fame.

Board of Trustees Chair Paul Tepikian '77, who led the presidential search committee, reflected on the first year of Lee's presidency: "From day one, Larry has brought energy, vision, and an ability to connect with people. He understands Blackburn's mission at its core and has built on the foundation laid by generations, setting us on a clear path forward. The progress we've seen in just 18 months is remarkable."

## A Family Rooted in Excellence

Lee's wife, Cathy, grew up in Bordeaux, France, and is an accomplished judoka who earned a silver medal at the Pan American Games in 1991 and served as an Olympic Team Alternate in 1992. Their twin adult children, Gabrielle and Spencer, share their parents' drive and focus.

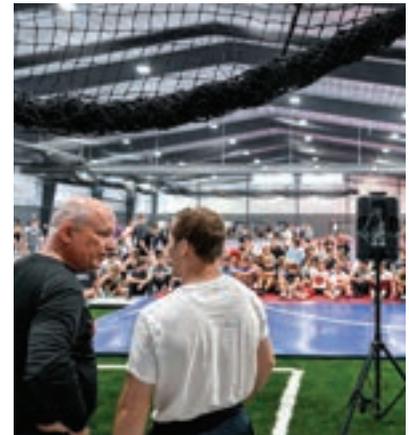
Gabrielle recently completed her master's degree in Nonprofit and Public Administration (MPNA) from Metro State University. A service-minded professional with an even bigger heart, she works as a social worker in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where, on the coldest nights, she drives through the city to ensure that any open beds in shelters are filled by members of the unhoused community. Outside of work, Gabrielle is also a talented performer and can often be heard singing the national anthem before games and matches at the University of Iowa athletic events.

Spencer followed his parents' athletic pathway. A multi-time freestyle wrestling World Champion and three-time NCAA Champion, he represented Team USA at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, where he earned a silver medal. The Lees were featured in an NBC Sports special about their family's connection to both Olympic performance and France, with President Lee proudly sporting a Blackburn College hat.

Spencer has already set his sights on Los Angeles 2028, but he's also made a meaningful impact at Blackburn. He traveled to campus to lead a wrestling clinic in the new athletic center, drawing nearly 300 attendees from across the country—including some who traveled from as far away as Florida. He generously donated all proceeds to the College to help fund the construction of a new wrestling space in the Woodward Athletic Center, launching both the men's and women's wrestling programs on solid footing.

### + A COACH AT HEART

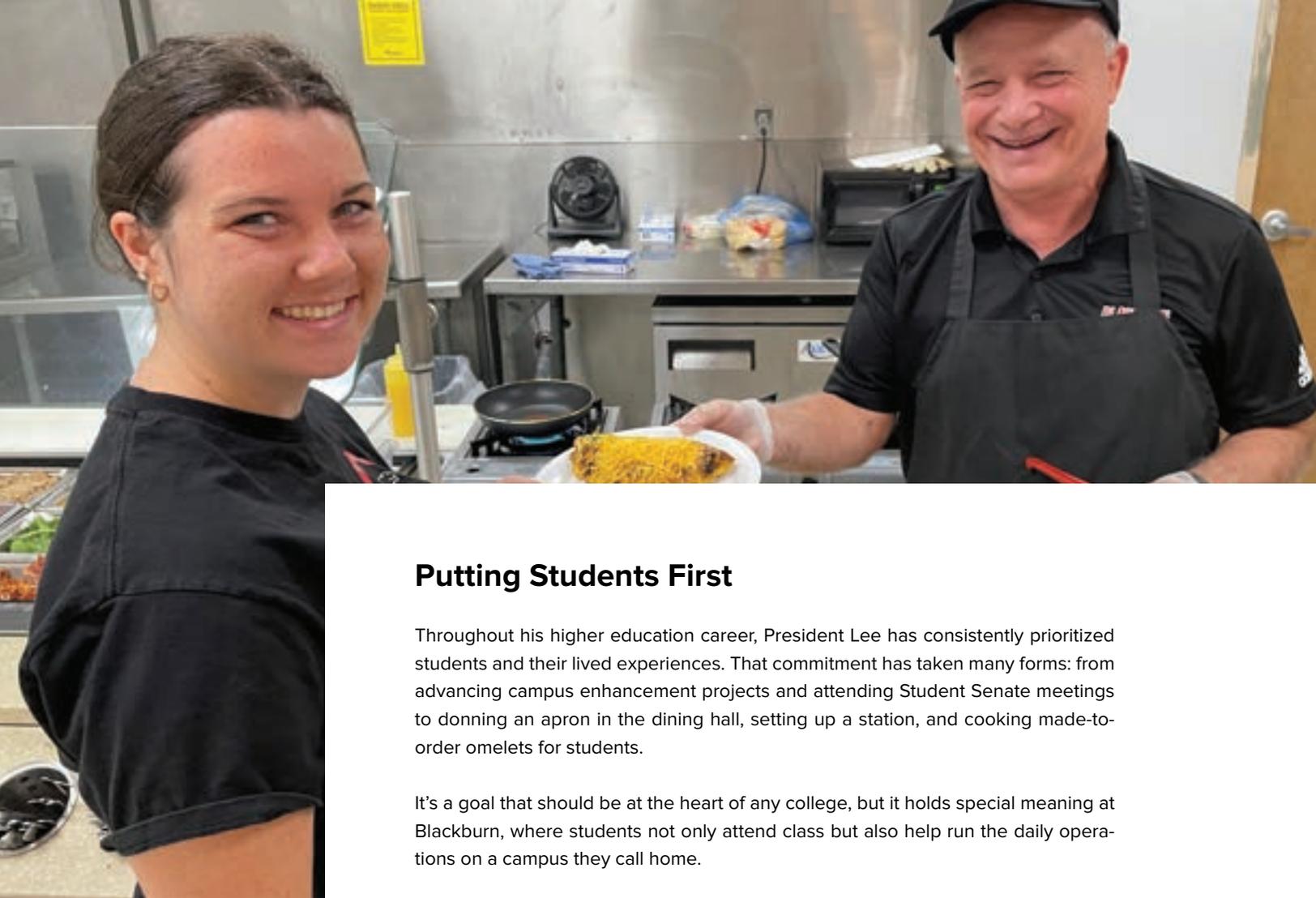
President Lee and son Spencer speak before the wrestling clinic held in the new Blackburn Athletic Center.



### + A POWERFUL MOMENT

Gabrielle Lee sings the national anthem at a University of Iowa NCAA sports event.





### + SERVING SMILES

Lee serves up omelettes for students in the campus dining hall.

“

Here, you gain more than knowledge. You learn how to learn.”

## Putting Students First

Throughout his higher education career, President Lee has consistently prioritized students and their lived experiences. That commitment has taken many forms: from advancing campus enhancement projects and attending Student Senate meetings to donning an apron in the dining hall, setting up a station, and cooking made-to-order omelets for students.

It's a goal that should be at the heart of any college, but it holds special meaning at Blackburn, where students not only attend class but also help run the daily operations on a campus they call home.

“We are the only student-led, student-managed Work Program in the nation. Be proud of that,” he often reminds students. “You are part of a small, caring community that believes in you. We will walk with you when you stumble. We will cheer for you when you succeed. The belief that matters most—the one that will carry you forward—is the belief you build in yourself.”

That philosophy guides his approach to leadership. For Lee, the Blackburn experience isn't just about earning a degree—it's about becoming adaptable, capable, and ready for whatever comes next.

“Here, you gain more than knowledge,” he said. “You learn how to learn. You grow into leaders who can solve problems, communicate clearly, and thrive in a world that is constantly changing. Those skills become your tools—not just for a career, but for life.”

## Connecting Beyond Campus

Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic—when travel and face-to-face connections were limited—President Lee has made it his mission to reconnect Blackburn to every corner of its extended community.

“

**We are not just preserving a legacy—we are helping define the future of higher education.”**



**LEARNING ROOTED  
IN SERVICE  
AND INTEGRITY  
TRANSFORMS LIVES**

“From this small college have come U.S. Representatives and Senators, state legislators, business leaders, published authors, judges, attorneys, CEOs, teachers, school superintendents, actors, fashion designers, Grammy nominees, professors, college and university leaders, and even the very first female faculty member at the United States Air Force Academy,” Lee said. “We count among our alumni a U.S. Air Force General, members of the National Science Hall of Fame, pioneering researchers in cancer, autism, and molecular biology, award-winning journalists, and yes—even a professional poker player who made his mark on the world’s stage.”

In his first 18 months, Lee has traveled widely to meet Blackburn alumni and friends—distinguished scientists, engineers, educators, and artists who continue to carry Blackburn’s values into the world. He’s also met with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C., advocating for Blackburn and the nation’s Work Colleges, helping secure essential federal protections for programs that change students’ lives.

“I believe a president’s role is not just to lead on campus, but to tell the Blackburn story everywhere it needs to be heard,” he said. “Our alumni are some of our most powerful ambassadors. Every conversation is a chance to share the extraordinary work happening here.”

## **Momentum for the Future**

Today, Blackburn is experiencing a season of renewal. New and renovated facilities, steady enrollment growth, and expanding academic and co-curricular opportunities are creating an energy on campus that feels both fresh and deeply rooted in the College’s proud history.

“When someone told me to take a look at Blackburn and the opening for President, they said, ‘This place is different—and it fits your values,’” Lee recalled. “They were right. Blackburn is what higher education should be. It’s a place where hard work meets purpose, where community is lived—not just spoken about—and where students build confidence by contributing to something larger than themselves.”

As Blackburn rises, President Lee’s vision is clear: “We are not just preserving a legacy—we are helping define the future of higher education. It’s about living our mission every day. We’re proving that access and excellence belong together, that what happens in the classroom and what happens in the workplace strengthen one another. We’re showing that when learning is rooted in service and integrity, it transforms lives. And from this small town of Carlinville, Illinois, we continue to send extraordinary people into the world—people who make remarkable contributions, just as generations of Blackburn graduates always have.”

When asked why he came to Blackburn, Lee’s answer is simple: “Because it’s the perfect mission fit. Cathy and I love this college—its people, its purpose, and its promise. Every day here feels like a privilege, and we are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve.” ■



**“Cathy and I love this college—  
its people, its purpose, and its  
promise.”**



Blackburn

**RISES**

TO THE

**TOP**



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**Life's roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors. To all who have anchored Blackburn through these storms—thank you.”**

## Momentum and Mission Drive Blackburn Forward

When Blackburn College last published an alumni magazine, the world looked very different. Even before COVID-19, the landscape for small, private, rural colleges was already challenging. The pandemic magnified every existing pressure—financial constraints, shifting demographics, and rising operational costs. Federal stimulus funds provided temporary relief, but once they disappeared, many institutions were left on uncertain ground. Across the Midwest and beyond, closures and mergers re-shaped higher education.

Blackburn certainly felt those headwinds. Over the past 13 years, the College has experienced seven different Presidents and Provosts and six different Financial Officers—an extraordinary era of transition. Yet through it all, the dedication of our faculty, staff, and trustees, along with the steadfast support of alumni and friends, kept Blackburn moving forward.

They say that in times of challenge, authentic leadership emerges. The resilience and love for Blackburn shown during those years of change are proof of that leadership.

“So many individuals showed resilience and rose to the occasion. Special gratitude goes to Dr. Greg Meyer, who came out of retirement three times to help Blackburn in moments of need,” Lee said. “None of these individuals answered the call to serve Blackburn because it was easy; they served because it mattered. Thanks also to everyone who continues to serve—through time, talent, or treasure. Just as students once depended on each other to run the campus, we still rely on one another today. That is genuinely the Blackburn Way.”

He continued, “As you may know, I put myself through college working on commercial fishing boats in Alaska. I’ve always appreciated seafaring wisdom, and one line has stuck with me: Life’s roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors. To all who have anchored Blackburn through these storms—thank you.”

## + INVESTING IN STODDARD

Student rooms were fully remodeled (top), and the basement was transformed into a student engagement space (bottom).



## A Campus on the Rise

Today, a different story is unfolding in Carlinville. It's a story of renewal, confidence, and shared momentum. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and community members are rallying around a common purpose: to strengthen our mission, expand opportunities, and secure Blackburn's future.

Enrollment is climbing. Alumni support is growing. New facilities are opening. Excitement is building across campus—and this time, it feels different. The work is not finished, but the progress is unmistakable and the energy is real.

Blackburn's upward trajectory has earned national recognition. *Washing-*

*ton Monthly* named Blackburn the #1 bachelor's college in Illinois and #20 in the nation—honoring alumni earnings, Ph.D. preparation, and leadership in access for low-income students. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Blackburn among the Best Regional Colleges (Midwest) and as a Top-10 Performer for Social Mobility.

These distinctions reflect what visitors now see and feel across campus.

Stoddard Hall—the heart of Blackburn—celebrated its 100th anniversary with a multi-million-dollar renovation. Every floor was renewed with modernized systems, improved bathrooms, and air conditioning in all student rooms. The basement now features a vibrant student engagement space, complete with a kitchen and a flexible meal plan option that promotes independence and community life.

Across campus, residence halls are being refreshed: Butler Hall received a new electrical system; Graham Hall received a new roof; Jewell, Graham, and Challacombe Halls received new showers; Jones-Allison Hall received a fresh paint job. Each of these projects were in response to student feedback. Butler will follow this winter with all-new showers, thanks to a generous gift from alumni and our Board of Trustees.

Outside Stoddard, the Class of 2022 gifted a fire pit, which is already a favorite gathering spot for students. The fire pit was built by our Admissions staff, all of whom are Blackburn alumni, fully epitomizing the resourcefulness and spirit of Blackburn.

The Demuzio Campus Center continues to evolve as the campus hub. New décor, historical images, and



## + ROOTED IN RESILIENCE

From a fallen tree emerges a hand-carved beaver, reflecting the endurance and creativity at the heart of the Blackburn community.

branding elements have created a warm, lively atmosphere. Students helped select new flooring and furniture, allowing the dining area to add 50 additional seats, and “Ding” is now full most days. The snack bar, proudly serving Starbucks coffee, was redesigned with student input, even incorporating branded partitions inspired by a student manager’s idea.

The dining hall’s full Phase I remodel (funded by generous gifts) was completed in August 2025, with Phase II planned for summer 2026. When complete, the project will deliver a best-in-class dining experience for our students and guests alike.

And beyond the bricks and mortar, momentum is also digital. Blackburn has launched a major website redevelopment project, beginning with a bold new site for the Biology Department. This marks the first step in a campus-wide digital transformation, modernizing how Blackburn tells its story and engages the world.

## Spaces for Learning, Work, and Wellbeing

In Lumpkin Library, a new Counseling Center, supported by the Endeavor Foundation, expands student wellness services. Blackburn joins nine other liberal arts colleges piloting initiatives that connect belonging, well-being, and purpose to the learning experience. This partnership has already inspired “Art Rx,” a creative art therapy program that uses both physical and digital media to promote mental health.

Another new initiative, Lumpkin @ Night, extends library hours and connects students with tutors and professional staff during critical evening hours. The College also established a CARE Team—an early-alert network that proactively supports students facing challenges, helping them stay on track and persist.

The Work Program is the heart of Blackburn’s identity, and it continues to evolve. A new initiative, Beaver Boost, helps first- and second-year students develop leadership skills early through sessions led by alum-



*New booths, tables, seating, and branding brought fresh energy to the dining hall and snack bar during this summer’s renovations.*

## + LEARNING IN ACTION

From the stage to the science lab, Blackburn students grow through creativity, exploration, and active learning.



ni and faculty, creating a pipeline for future campus managers and reinforcing the professional value of their work. Blackburn also increased the Work Program tuition credit from \$5,000 to \$8,000, a significant step that both honors student contributions and makes college more affordable.

And Blackburn is leaning fully into its distinction as the nation's only student-managed Work Program—a message that now drives our admissions story. It's not just what we do. It's who we are.

## Momentum in Academics and the Arts

Academic innovation is expanding Blackburn's reach and relevance. Two online teacher education programs are helping address Illinois' teacher shortage: one for professionals seeking licensure, and another for early childhood educators completing their degrees while continuing work as paraprofessionals.

Meanwhile, gifts from alumni are equipping biology and education students with new tools for success. Rock's Patch, a generous land donation, provides an outdoor laboratory for ecological research. Other alumni-led funds are removing financial barriers for graduate and medical school pathways, supporting scholarships, and revitalizing learning spaces.

Momentum is also flourishing in the arts. Under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Joe Welch, the College Choir is thriving and has recently performed at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Welch has united the Blackburn choir with the Carlinville community choir, embodying the spirit of partnership that defines our "town and gown" relationship. A strong Carlinville strengthens Blackburn—and a strong Blackburn uplifts Carlinville. Dr. Welch's creativity and collaboration are shining examples of leadership in action.

Our Marketing and Communications efforts have captured that same spirit of renewal—amplifying Blackburn's voice across institutional and alumni social media channels, sharing stories, celebrating accomplishments, and connecting alumni and friends to the College's daily energy. The increase in posts, photos, and updates you're seeing is just the beginning.



## + RISE AND SHINE

A group of friends catching up and sharing a laugh during a busy day on campus.



## A Stronger Campus, A Stronger Community

New facilities are strengthening the bond between campus and community. The Gugger Family Racquet & Hoops Center—with tennis, basketball, and pickleball courts—has become a hub for recreation and outreach. The Marion Carlson (M.C.) Court in Dawes Gym honors a pioneer in women’s athletics, while the Boente Family Plaza welcomes visitors with new landscaping, accessible walkways, and inviting spaces to gather.

The crown jewel is the new \$8 million Blackburn Athletic Center—an indoor practice and recreation facility featuring turf fields, batting cages, a golf performance suite, and event space for community gatherings. It’s also the home of women’s flag football and clay target programs, both set to debut next fall.

“The campaign for athletics and enrollment was called Winning Together—and that’s exactly what we are doing: winning together,” President Lee said. “Thank you to all who supported the campaign to help build a critical new chapter of Blackburn’s legacy.”

### + WINNING TOGETHER

Significant investments by Blackburn are elevating athletics, recreation, and campus life.

See many of these updates on  
Blackburn’s new drone tour of campus.  
Visit [blackburn.edu/dronetour](https://blackburn.edu/dronetour)



“

**As Blackburn approaches its 200th anniversary, the College stands at a pivotal moment: stronger, more confident, and filled with momentum.”**

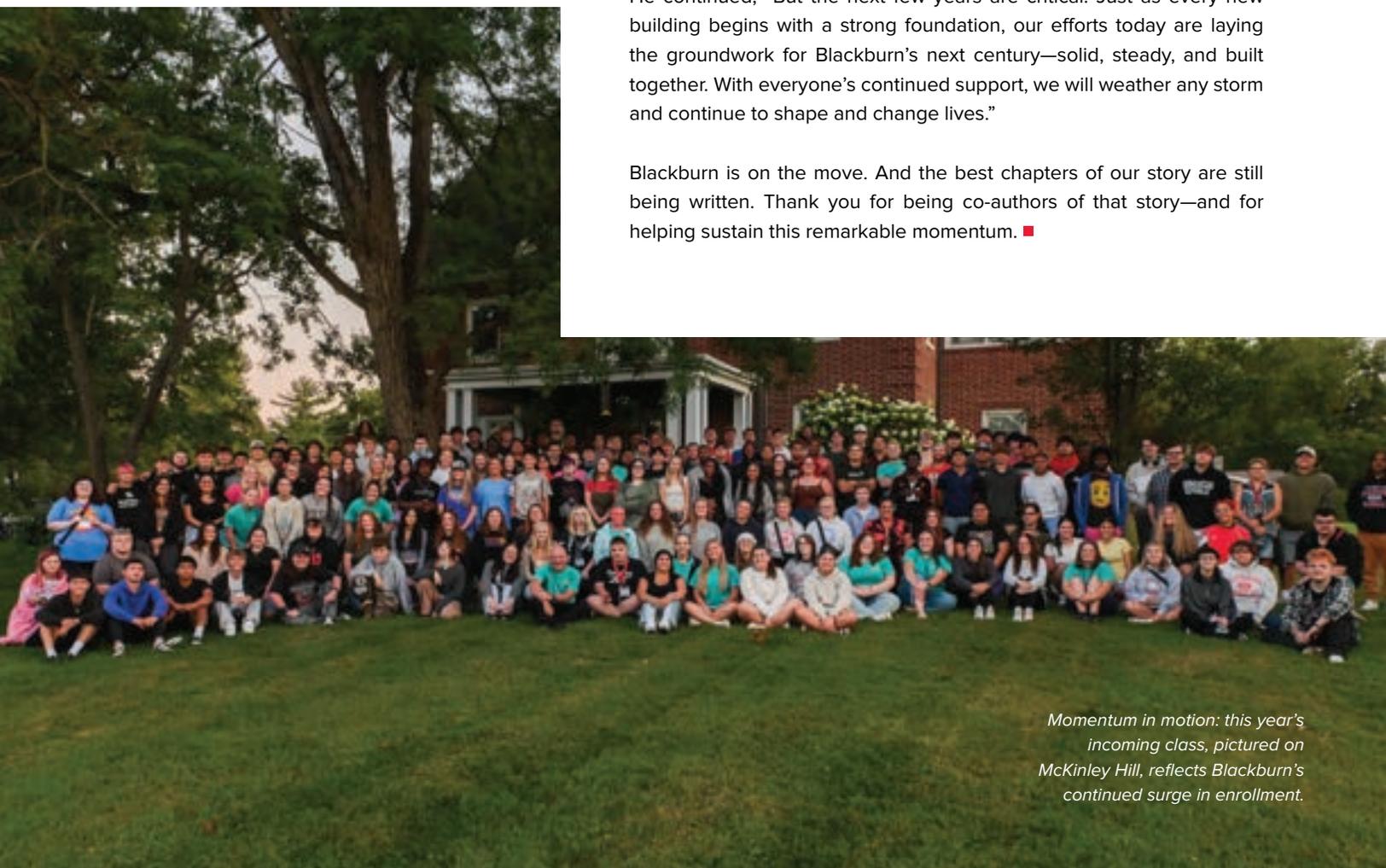
## The Work Continues

Challenges remain—federal funding shifts, demographic changes, and rising costs affect every college. But Blackburn’s foundation is being rebuilt for lasting strength and sustainability.

President Lee believes working at Blackburn is a perfect fit for his values. “I genuinely love it here. Our calling is to meet students where they are, deliver academic excellence, strengthen our Work Program, and secure a sustainable financial future by ensuring balanced budgets and a growing endowment. As Blackburn approaches its 200th anniversary, the College stands at a pivotal moment: stronger, more confident, and filled with momentum. You can see it in the renovated halls, the new programs, the thriving choir, the redesigned website, and in the daily rhythm of a campus on the rise.”

He continued, “But the next few years are critical. Just as every new building begins with a strong foundation, our efforts today are laying the groundwork for Blackburn’s next century—solid, steady, and built together. With everyone’s continued support, we will weather any storm and continue to shape and change lives.”

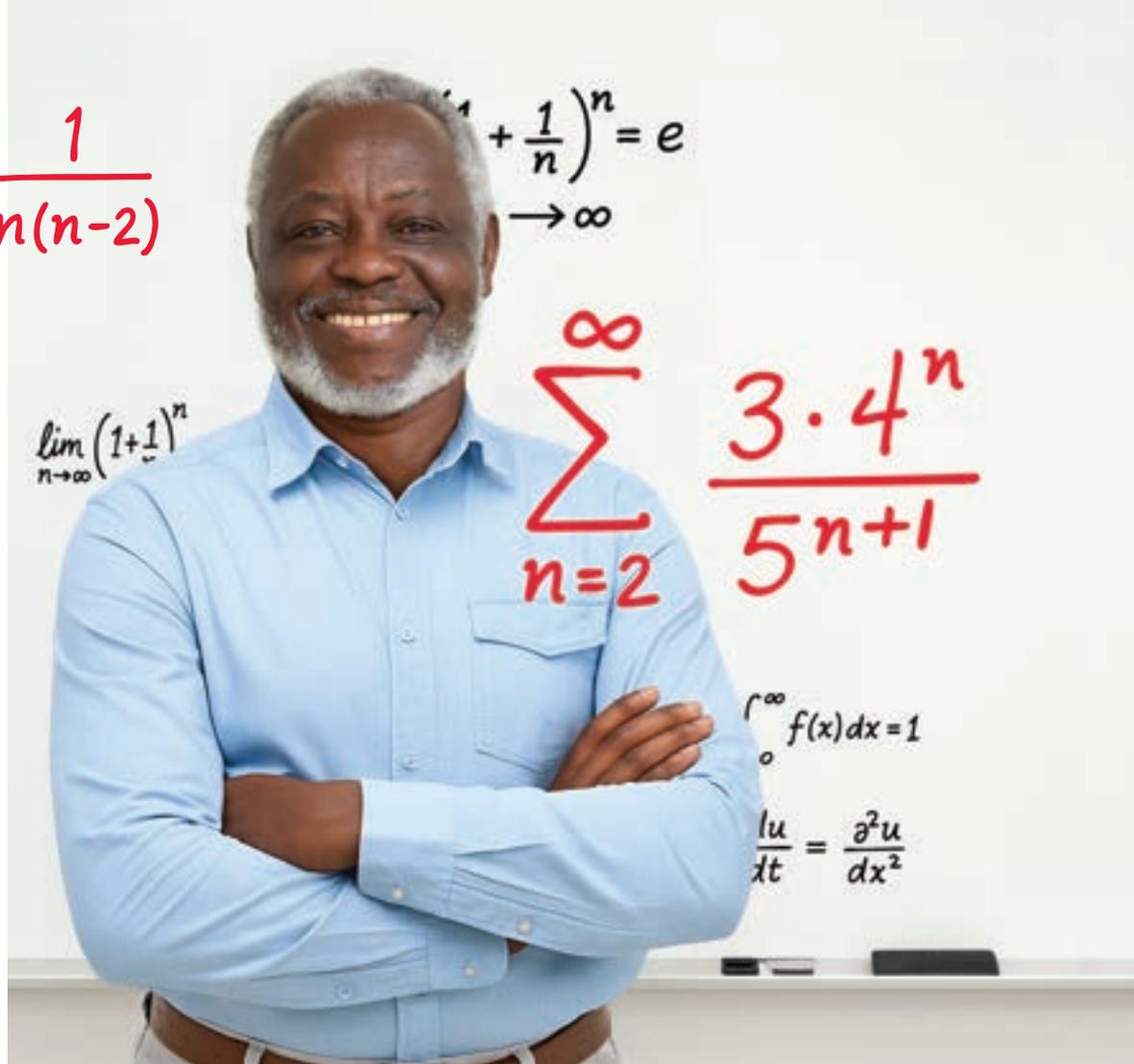
Blackburn is on the move. And the best chapters of our story are still being written. Thank you for being co-authors of that story—and for helping sustain this remarkable momentum. ■



*Momentum in motion: this year's incoming class, pictured on McKinley Hill, reflects Blackburn's continued surge in enrollment.*

# A PASSION FOR NUMBERS & PEOPLE

$$\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n-2)}$$



## Dr. Edward Boamah Marks 20 Years at Blackburn

When Dr. Edward Boamah arrived at Blackburn College in 2005, he was struck by the warmth of the community. Colleagues greeted him with genuine friendliness, and one in particular, longtime professor Dr. Chris Morin, made him feel instantly at home.

Two decades later, Boamah has become a cornerstone of the Mathematics Department, inspiring generations of students with his approachable teaching style, calm presence, and belief that everyone can learn to appreciate the beauty of mathematics.

## Finding Home in Carlinville

Born and raised in a small town, Boamah was drawn to Blackburn's size and spirit. His first impression remains vivid: the historic buildings, many built by students; the canopy of old trees and newly planted ones; and the quiet sense of purpose that filled the campus. "It felt peaceful," he recalls. "A place where you could focus and grow."

“

**One moment I’m helping a student with an equation, and the next that same student is helping or teaching me in their work role. That’s a beautiful thing.”**



#### **+ LIFE IN GHANA**

While on sabbatical, Dr. Boamah enjoyed daily moments like seeing his children off to school.

That balance between tradition and renewal has continued to guide his career. While he has seen students and technology evolve, one thing has stayed constant—Blackburn’s commitment to helping students succeed. “Blackburn admits people because they are qualified to be here,” he says. “It’s our job as professors to help them while they are here.”

### **The Power of the Work Program**

Among Blackburn’s many distinctions, Boamah finds the Work Program especially meaningful. The program, where students hold campus jobs that support operations and reduce costs, creates an uncommon dynamic between students and faculty.

“One moment I’m helping a student with an equation,” he says, “and the next that same student is helping or teaching me in their work role. That’s a beautiful thing.”

He believes this exchange shapes students into professionals who are not only better prepared for the world beyond college, but also more confident within it.

### **A Sabbatical for Renewal**

After nearly two decades of teaching, Boamah took his first sabbatical last year, a long-anticipated return to Ghana. Originally planned for 2020 but delayed by the pandemic, his trip finally took shape in the summer of 2024.

For six months, he visited family and friends and returned to his alma mater, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), where he focused on writing a textbook for Liberal Arts Mathematics. Years of teaching had given him a deep archive of examples and applied problems to draw from, and shaping them into a book felt both challenging and rewarding. “It was hard work, but enjoyable,” he reflects. “I was able to put my own experiences into the pages.”

KNUST has nearly 90,000 students and class sizes of more than 100. The experience gave him a renewed appreciation for more personalized teaching at Blackburn. “The smaller class size makes it easier to hold students’ interest and help them directly,” he says.





*A moment in Dr. Boamah's classroom in Hudson Hall.*



## Growth, Change, and Lasting Impact

Campus has changed considerably since Boamah's arrival. He points to the transformation of the old pool into a fitness center, the creation of the new athletics complex, and additions like the Jaenke Alumni Center and solar array as examples of progress that blend well with Blackburn's enduring character.

His proudest professional accomplishments include authoring his mathematics textbook and publishing two papers on biomedical mathematics. But he's quick to say that his greatest satisfaction comes from the lives he's touched. He still hears from former students—some now teaching beside him, others inviting him to weddings—and values those ongoing connections deeply.

## Lessons, Laughter, and Looking Ahead

Boamah credits mentors such as Dr. Morin, who he cites as his main reason for feeling welcomed at Blackburn, and longtime colleague Professor Emerita Marsha Meredith from Mathematics and Computer Science for shaping his professional path.

He also carries fond memories from the classroom, including one from a student who used to quip, whenever someone sneezed, "Good luck—if it's a sneeze." The joke still makes him laugh years later.

To new faculty members, Boamah offers practical advice: embrace the pace of Carlinville. "Live in town," he suggests. "Enjoy the peace and fresh air. The city is just a drive away when you need it."

As for Blackburn's future, he believes the best parts are already in place. "The Work Program gives our students a bright future," he says. "It prepares them for the real world, and that's what makes Blackburn special." ■

### + CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Boamah and the Dean of Science at KNUST during a celebration following the post-graduate ceremony.

“

**The Work Program gives our students a bright future. It prepares them for the real world, and that's what makes Blackburn unique.”**

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



**“It is amazing to work with the community and give back to those who support us.”**



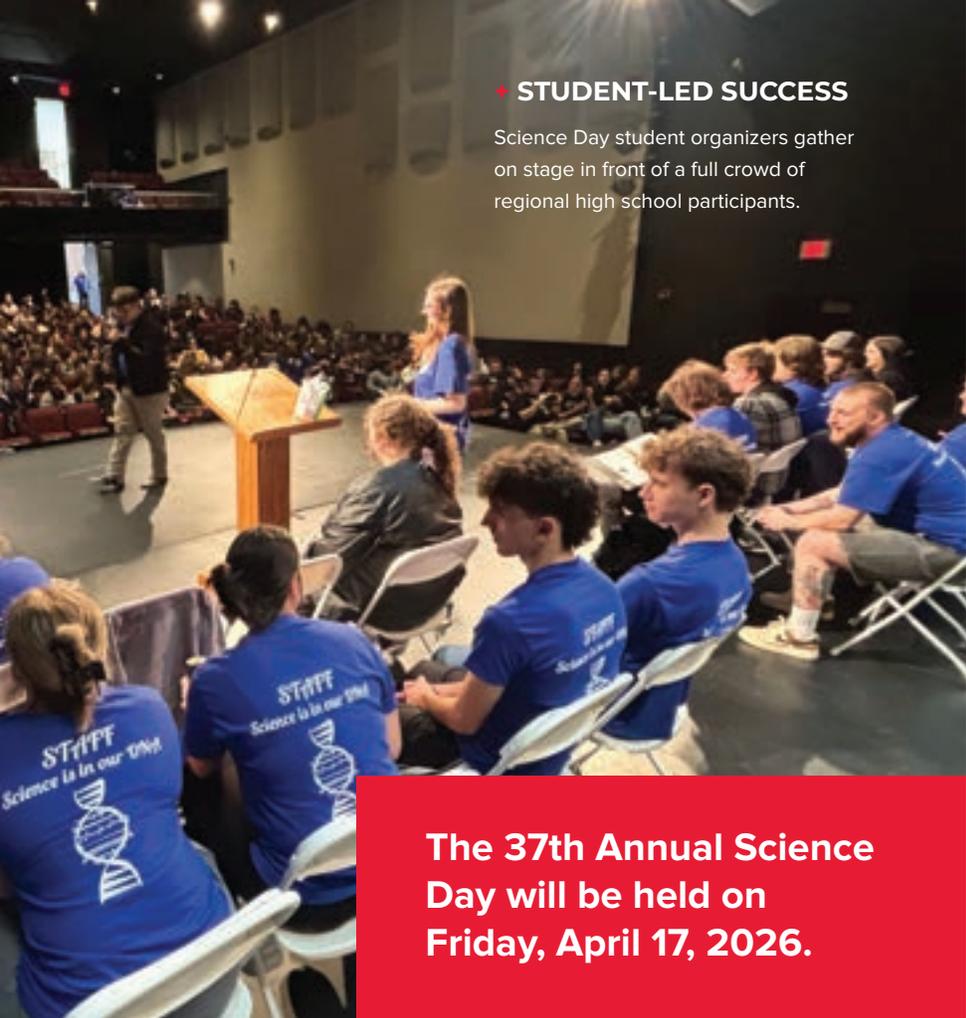
**Jessica Muckensturm '25**  
Science Day  
Co-Coordinator

## Blackburn Hosts Its 36th Annual Science Day

Science Day has long been one of Blackburn College's proudest traditions and one of its clearest examples of student leadership in action. Last spring marked the 36th anniversary of the event, which brings high school students and teachers from across the region to the Carlinville campus for a full day of hands-on learning, friendly competition, and exploration.

While the spotlight often shines on the visiting schools and the science itself, the true heart of Science Day is the student leadership behind it. Jessica Muckensturm '25, who served as one of three student Science Day coordinators for the 2025 event, explained, "It is amazing to work with the community and give back to those who support us. I also feel like it is important to show the community what we do here and involve them to enjoy the same things that we get to experience every day."

Through Blackburn's distinctive Work Program, students take full responsibility for organizing and executing the event each year. They prepare labs and classrooms, design and run demonstrations, communicate with visiting schools, proctor and grade scholarship exams, host the award ceremony, and manage every detail in between to ensure a welcoming and well-run experience.



## + STUDENT-LED SUCCESS

Science Day student organizers gather on stage in front of a full crowd of regional high school participants.

**The 37th Annual Science Day will be held on Friday, April 17, 2026.**

“

**I love getting the opportunity to coordinate Science Day because we meet regional high school teachers and students throughout the process.”**



**Alexia Mosby '25**  
Science Day  
Co-Coordinator

“I love getting the opportunity to coordinate Science Day because we meet regional high school teachers and students throughout the process, strengthening Blackburn’s connection with the community,” Spring 2025 Science Day Coordinator Alexia Mosby ‘25 shared. “I also love that many of our Blackburn students participating in Science Day, including myself, are from local areas and get the opportunity to reconnect with their former high school science teachers through the event. When speaking with my high school teachers at Science Day, they are surprised to see how much I have grown and everything I have accomplished since being a shy high school student in their classroom.”

In the months leading up to Science Day, student workers apply their academic knowledge and develop real-world skills as they tackle logistics, solve challenges, and plan for hundreds of guests. When the big day arrives, they are ready to welcome, guide, and represent the College as hosts, mentors, and science communicators.

For 2025, 14 regional schools brought 26 educators and about 250 high school students to campus, with more than 50 Blackburn student workers helping bring the event to life.

For visiting students, Science Day is a chance to experience college-level challenges in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, and computer science. For Blackburn’s students, it’s a meaningful opportunity to share their love of learning and their pride in the community they help shape.

Dr. Carissa Hammann, a Professor of Chemistry and a 2010 Blackburn graduate, experienced Science Day from both the student and faculty perspectives. She stated, “Science Day is such a valuable opportunity—not just for our students to showcase their skills, talents, and love of science, but to connect with the communities around us. It’s a chance to show how student-led programs and amazing opportunities drive the spirit of Blackburn through class, work, and other programs.”

Science Day has always been about more than experiments and competition. It is a bridge between Blackburn and the broader region, and a testament to what happens when students are given real responsibility. Thanks to their leadership, students continue to make Science Day a proud tradition that leaves a lasting impression, inspiring future scientists, strengthening community ties, and showcasing the spirit of Blackburn and its Work Program. ■

# A RECORD-BREAKING HOMECOMING



*Alumni crouch behind a teammate, watching as he lines up a putt during the B-Club's alumni golf outing.*

**B**lackburn College's 2025 Homecoming and Family Weekend was literally one for the record books. With just under 500 alumni, families, and friends returning to campus, this year marked the largest Homecoming turnout in Blackburn history.

The weekend buzzed with energy as familiar faces filled campus, eager to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the community that makes Blackburn so special. From the Friday night Harvest Hop Beer Crawl and Cocktails & Karaoke to Saturday's Beaver Nation Fan Zone with its lineup of food trucks and live music, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Even Pigger returned with a fresh twist, delighting crowds and sparking nostalgia among alumni of all ages.

A highlight for many was the debut of Barney's Hide & Squeak Scavenger Hunt, a new tradition that brought together students, alumni, and community members in a spirited search around Carlinville. From downtown

businesses to hidden campus corners, Barney's popped up everywhere—each one bringing smiles and a bit of friendly competition.

Throughout the weekend, campus was alive with Homecoming pride. The physical plant crew transformed Blackburn with fresh fall blooms and banners, while athletic events and alumni games showcased the enduring Beaver spirit.

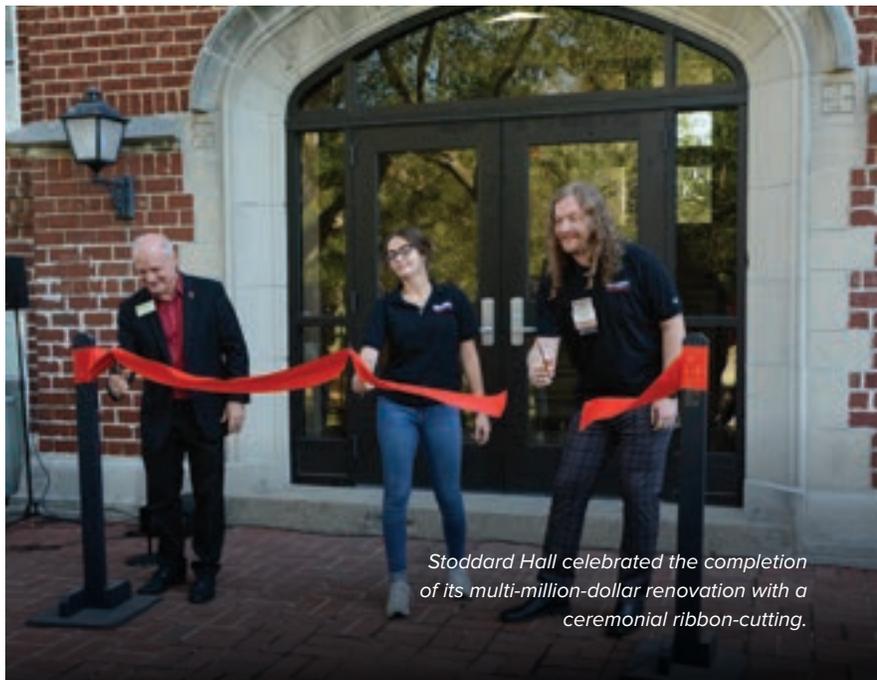
President Larry K. Lee shared, "Homecoming is such a meaningful time for our community. Seeing this kind of turnout—nearly 500 people back on campus—shows just how deeply connected our alumni and families remain to Blackburn."

As laughter, memories, and music filled the crisp fall air, one thing was clear: Blackburn's sense of family is stronger than ever. ■

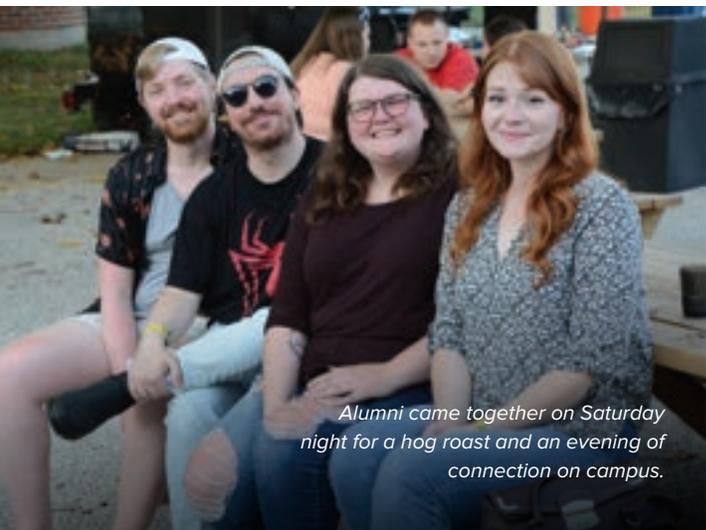


*Generations of "New Con" alums gathered to reflect on the projects and camaraderie that shaped their Blackburn and Work Program experience.*

# A HARVEST HOMECOMING



*Stoddard Hall celebrated the completion of its multi-million-dollar renovation with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting.*



*Alumni came together on Saturday night for a hog roast and an evening of connection on campus.*





*A student prepares to throw while playing flag football in the Blackburn Athletic Center.*

“**These additions reflect our vision to expand meaningful opportunities for students to connect, compete, and belong.**”

**Kim Camara-Harvey**  
Blackburn Director of Athletics

## Blackburn Expands Athletic Opportunities

Over the past year, Blackburn College has launched an exciting lineup of new NCAA and club sports, marking a major step forward in enhancing student life and leveraging the College’s state-of-the-art Blackburn Athletic Center.

“These additions reflect our vision to expand meaningful opportunities for students to connect, compete, and belong,” said Director of Athletics Kim Camara-Harvey. “We’re continually working to enrich the student experience—giving students more ways to discover their passions, develop leadership skills, and feel a sense of purpose and pride in being part of the Blackburn community.”

Blackburn’s women’s flag football program begins recruiting this fall for its 2026 debut. Coach Stephanie Aragon, an active professional flag and tackle football player, will bring playing and coaching experience to one of the nation’s fastest-growing sports, with especially strong growth among Illinois high schools.

Cheer is returning to Blackburn. Guided by Coach Molly Suttles, the program will begin by energizing campus life before expanding into a competitive club sport. A former collegiate cheerleader with national competition experience at both NCA and UCA College Nationals, Suttles brings valuable insight and coaching experience to building the program.

The clay target team will begin competition in 2026 under Coach Lauren Dunn. Dunn, a 17-time All-American and two-time national championship coach, has led Lindenwood University’s team to back-to-back national titles. Inducted into the Illinois State Trapshooters Association Hall of Fame in 2024, she brings unmatched expertise to a sport that’s rapidly growing across the region.

Women’s wrestling has also been launched, led by head coach Marcus Cobbs. Before arriving at Blackburn, Cobbs coached multiple NAIA National Qualifiers and two All-Americans. With a strong vision for competitive excellence

*Coach Lauren Dunn won two national championships as a coach at Lindenwood before coming to Blackburn.*



and student development, he is poised to build a lasting foundation for the program's success.

These new opportunities are designed to make a significant impact with thoughtful use of existing resources. For example, Blackburn already had the indoor and outdoor facilities needed for women's flag football, as well as much of the equipment from the College's intramural offerings. More importantly, these additions create dynamic, high-quality experiences that empower students to pursue their athletic passions while earning a Blackburn education.

"Every student-athlete at Blackburn is, first and foremost, a student who's fully engaged in the Blackburn academic experience," Camara-Harvey said. "They're not just athletes—they're students committed to their academics and workers contributing to the College through the Work Program. More than half of our Work Program managers are student-athletes, which speaks to their leadership and dedication. Athletics is an extension of the College's hands-on approach, the kind of experience that prepares Blackburn graduates to thrive after they leave campus.

"After investing in a first-class facility, we wanted to maximize its potential," President Larry K. Lee said. "These programs let us do that while continuing to offer students the chance to learn, lead, and take ownership of their college experience. Student-athletes are current and future leaders who will contribute to every part of campus life." ■

“

**After investing in a first-class facility, we wanted to maximize its potential.”**

**Larry K. Lee**  
Blackburn President



#### **+ FUTURE IN FOCUS**

With new facilities and expanding opportunities, Blackburn continues to invest in the overall student experience.

# A LEADER AMONG PEERS

**Darius Duff Named  
2025-26 Student Marshal**





### + EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

From driving to the hoop to addressing the full campus community, Student Marshal Darius Duff embodies Blackburn's commitment to leadership and performance.

**“Being selected as Student Marshal represents not only my own effort, but also the encouragement and guidance I’ve received from faculty, staff, students, and my family.”**

**Darius Duff '26**  
Student Marshal

When senior Darius Duff first stepped onto the Blackburn College campus, he didn't imagine that just a few years later, he would be chosen for the highest honor a student can receive. This year, the Waukegan, Illinois, native was named Student Marshal for 2025-26, a distinction reserved for one graduating senior who exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, and exceptional service in the College's nationally recognized Work Program.

“I was honestly humbled when I found out,” Duff shared. “Being selected as Student Marshal represents not only my own effort, but also the encouragement and guidance I’ve received from faculty, staff, students, and my family. I wouldn’t be here without them.”

A Business major with an Accounting emphasis, Duff says he was drawn to the field because of its mix of structure and challenge. “I’ve always liked working with numbers and solving problems,” he said. “It felt like a perfect fit because it combines critical thinking and real-world impact. Plus, the accounting field is so versatile, which gives me the chance to pursue opportunities in different industries.”

After transferring to Blackburn as a sophomore, Duff quickly embraced the College's distinctive model that integrates academics, work, and community. “I started in an ‘entry-level student job’ at Blackburn and worked my way up to reach the leadership team,” he recalled. “The experience gave me so much confidence. I’ve learned how to contribute in a professional environment, and it’s really prepared me for life after graduation.”

This year, Duff is managing the Academic Services student work department—one of the largest on campus. In this role, he supervises student employees across multiple divisions, oversees hiring and performance improvement plans, and coordinates payroll and timecards for peers in roles ranging from tutors and research assistants to concert coordinators and art gallery assistants.

“

**[Darius] is a role model in every sense of the word ... his kindness and humility are what truly set him apart.”**

**Dr. Carley Swalley**  
Professor of Business and Marketing &  
Department Chair



“Blackburn’s Work Program has been one of the best parts of my college experience,” Duff said. “It gives students ownership and responsibility, and that’s something you don’t get everywhere. You really learn how to lead and collaborate.”

His leadership and character have not gone unnoticed. Dr. Carley Swalley, Professor of Business and Marketing and Department Chair, said Duff “is a role model in every sense of the word.”

“Darius is a hardworking teaching assistant, a dedicated student worker manager, and a leader on and off the basketball court,” Swalley said. “No matter the setting—classroom, workplace, or the court—he brings energy, responsibility, and a positive attitude that inspires those around him. His kindness and humility are what truly set him apart.”

Beyond his academic and work commitments, Duff has also made his mark as a member of the Blackburn basketball team. Named to the SLIAC All-Tournament Team as a sophomore, he led both his team and the conference in assist-to-turnover ratio last season. He ranked third in assists overall and earned All-Academic honors along the way.

Leslie Johnson, Blackburn’s Dean of Work, said Duff embodies the best of what the College hopes to cultivate through its distinctive model. “His GPA reflects a true dedication to learning and personal growth, while his meaningful contributions as a student-athlete show his ability to manage rigorous commitments with discipline and integrity,” she said. “He’s deeply deserving of the honor of Student Marshal.”

After graduating in May 2026, Duff plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Accounting or Public Administration and begin preparing for the CPA exam. But before then, he’s focused on finishing strong—and paying it forward.

When asked what advice he’d offer to new Blackburn students, Duff offered, “Try new things and step outside your comfort zone. Blackburn is a place to find who you are as a person. You may not have everything figured out when you first arrive on campus, and that’s the beauty of it. The community, professors, and staff, the Work Program, and your fellow students will help you grow and find your path.” ■



#### **+ RISING IN LEADERSHIP**

Duff is photographed at the All-College Convocation with President Lee and with Alexia Mosby '25 at the Manager Pinning Ceremony.



**GET THE SCHEDULES  
AND WATCH LIVE  
STREAM EVENTS**



# **BEA VERS**



# ALUMNI NEWS

## CLASS UPDATES



### 1950s

#### **Anne Meldrum Phillis '55**

Hi, mates from '55 (AA '53)! I saw several of you at our 60th and I'm afraid we're no longer able to get there for Homecoming, but I treasure the memories of that reunion and our days on campus! What a change from our days! Taylor's Chili, Pop Jewel, classmates building Olin Hall, green milk on St. Patrick's Day, oh my! I'd love to hear from you and invite you to send notes to this new publication.

### 1970s

#### **Gene Tenner '70**

Friends for nearly 60 years, alumni from the class of 1970 meet for a Chicago Cubs game. Fifteen Blackburn alums—enjoying each other's company since 1966—brought along spouses and friends to attend a rooftop viewing of a Chicago Cubs game on August 16. Fun was had by all at this afternoon game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Cubs won 3-1.

*(From L to R) Kim Tomlinson, Don Ferrari, Jon Randolph, Michele Metivier Heinz, Tom Locascio, Sandy Sarniak Stark, John Ziemba, Kim Crumpler, Gene Tenner, Ann Alexeyuk Boer, Tom Heinz, and Don Stark. Not pictured are Ann Heinrichs, Sean Tenner, and Matthew Hyman.*



### 2010s

#### **Noah Daum '18 and Jessica (Cramer) Daum '18**

Noah and Jessica Daum both made the transition back to Blackburn in 2024, this time as employees of the College. Noah accepted the position of Head Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track & Field Coach in June 2024, and Jessica joined Blackburn's Office of Institutional Advancement Office as the Blackburn Fund Manager in November 2024. Jessica also serves as the chair of the Blackburn Fine Arts Boosters (BFAB), while Noah is a member of the Alumni Board.



#### **Dr. Brandon Darnell '19 and Kaitlyn (Scott) Darnell '19**

Kaitlyn (Scott) '19 and Dr. Brandon Darnell '19 celebrated their marriage in October 2025. Congratulations to the happy Blackburn couple!

Send us your updates for our next issue.

Visit us at [blackburn.edu/alumni](http://blackburn.edu/alumni)



## Remembering Lives that Shaped our Blackburn Community

This year, our community mourns the loss of three remarkable colleagues whose lives and work left an enduring mark on our institution. Each brought unique talents, wisdom, and warmth to those around them—enriching classrooms, mentoring generations of students, and contributing to the spirit of collaboration that defines our Blackburn family.

In the following tributes, we remember: Dr. George Malo '66, whose lifetime dedication to scholarship and education made him an inspirational and beloved Trustee; Professor Geraldine Albins, a steadfast leader with quiet words of wisdom and a heart of gold; and Dr. Shelly Peffer, a spirited and encouraging professor who mentored students long after they graduated from college; three colleagues whose kindness and creativity touched all who had the privilege to know them.

Though they are no longer with us, their legacies live on through the students they taught, the colleagues they inspired, and the Blackburn community they helped build.

### Dr. George E. Malo '66: A Life of Learning, Leadership, and Love for Blackburn



The Blackburn College community mourns the passing of Dr. George Edward Malo '66, who died peacefully on July 2, 2025, at age 82. A devoted alumnus, trustee, and educator, George leaves behind a legacy shaped by service, scholarship, and an abiding love for Blackburn.

Born in LaPorte, Indiana, he cultivated an early passion for learning that carried him through degrees from Blackburn, Indiana University, and the University of Illinois. His five-decade career in mathematics education included

roles in Illinois and Tennessee schools and faculty positions at the University of Illinois, the University of Tennessee, Tennessee State University, and Vanderbilt. He later served in statewide leadership with the Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee Board of Regents, where his work influenced teacher evaluation, assessment, and equity initiatives.

George's dedication to Blackburn remained central throughout his life. He served on the Alumni Association Board from 2011-2020, including two years as president. In 2012, he joined Blackburn's Board of Trustees as the Alumni Board representative and, in 2017, was elected a full member. His guidance was instrumental in shaping shared governance, and he lent his insight to academic affairs, advancement, presidential searches, and strategic planning. His service earned both the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Cynthia Williams Lamar Service Award.

Remembered for his warmth, humor, and generous spirit, George built community wherever he went—whether sharing fried chicken with fellow trustees, welcoming young alumni in Nashville, or sparking lively bidding wars at the Macoupin County Scholarship Auction with his annual Tennessee-whiskey donation. A committed Christian and engaged community volunteer, he lived with humility, kindness, and purpose. Blackburn honors a man whose life embodied the transformative power of education and the enduring bonds of community.

## **Professor Geraldine “Gerry” Albins: Honoring a Life of Quiet Strength, High Standards, and Lasting Impact**



For nearly four decades, Professor Geraldine “Gerry” Albins was a defining presence at Blackburn College. From 1985 until her retirement in 2022, she shaped the campus through her work in physical education and sports management, earning a reputation for being dedicated, demanding, funny, and fiercely loyal. Though she never sought attention, her steady, principled influence was felt everywhere.

Provost Laura Wiedlocher described her as “a pillar of the institution,” a reflection of both her long service and the countless students she guided. Gerry held numerous roles—Department, Division, and Assembly Chairs; volleyball and softball coach; and tireless committee member. She also served as a mentor whose expectations were high but always paired with genuine support. Former student and colleague Dr. Angie Morenz recalled Albins' ability to challenge others while making it clear she wanted them to succeed.

Students remember her sharp encouragement, well-timed humor, and uncanny sense of when to push and when to ease tension. Despite her private nature, she was known for her quick wit and quiet acts of kindness, often stopping by offices to share a joke or a kind word.

Outside work, Gerry embraced simple joys—swimming, softball, fishing, exploring auctions, creating art, and especially caring for animals, with a deep affection for cats and support for the Macoupin County Animal Shelter.

Born in Auburn, New York, on January 15, 1946, she built her life in Illinois after earning her master’s in Physical Education. Professor Albins leaves a legacy of excellence and compassion that will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her.

## **Dr. Shelly L. Peffer: Honoring a Beloved Professor Whose Spirit and Laughter Continue to Inspire**



The Blackburn College community is mourning the passing of Dr. Shelly L. Peffer, who died on July 10, 2025 at age 58, while also celebrating the profound impact she made during her years on campus. A beloved professor of Leadership, Law, and Public Service, Shelly was known for her intellect, humor, and deeply human approach to teaching. Students were drawn to her lively, unconventional classroom style and her ability to transform complex policy issues into accessible, spirited conversations. Her enthusiasm extended beyond the

classroom to committee work, campus events, and even her memorable role as a “celebrity bartender” during Homecoming.

Shelly’s life reflected a sustained commitment to service and learning. Born in Salem, Ohio, she earned degrees from Kent State and Cleveland State, including a PhD in Public Administration and a Juris Doctorate. Her early experience in the Peace Corps in Niger profoundly shaped her worldview and reinforced her dedication to global citizenship and community engagement.

More than an educator, Shelly was a mentor and friend whose honesty, encouragement, and belief in others helped guide students long after graduation. She embraced life fully—cheering for the Cleveland Guardians and Ohio State Buckeyes, creating art, traveling, and savoring time with friends—while also appreciating quiet moments of rest and reflection.

Stories shared at her campus memorial highlighted her warmth, quick wit, and ability to uplift those around her. Though deeply missed, Dr. Peffer’s legacy endures in the lives she touched and the joy, curiosity, and compassion she inspired.

IN MEMORY

ALUMNI  
NEWS

### In Memoriam 2025

#### 1943

**Jean H. (Lewis) Delap**  
04/19/25

#### 1946

**Frances A. (Rice) Johnson**  
08/10/25

#### 1947

**Bonnalee (Pell) Asbury**  
08/08/25  
**Janet R. (Underwood) Moore**  
08/23/25

#### 1948

**Florence L. (Walker) Colvin**  
03/16/25

#### 1949

**Patricia A. (Bast) Birlingmair**  
10/28/25  
**Eunice C. (Homm) Martin**  
02/01/25

#### 1950

**Joseph R. Bird**  
08/04/25  
**Mary A. (Eccles) Reis**  
02/26/25  
**Carl H. Schupmann**  
08/13/25  
**C. Patricia (C.P.) (Rasmussen)  
Snyder**  
07/09/25

#### 1952

**Ronald L. Cox**  
04/19/25  
**Charlotte L. (Pfaff) Griffith**  
01/14/25  
**John Trojcek**  
10/29/25

#### 1953

**Phyllis R. (Kern) Fredriksen**  
11/29/25  
**Patricia A. (Johnson) Gillespie**  
07/19/25  
**Helen M. (Voigt) Harris**  
06/29/25  
**Edward R. Smith**  
07/15/25

#### 1956

**Dr. Herman E. Brockman**  
04/08/25  
**Helen L. Forster**  
04/18/25

#### 1957

**Thomas K. Jager**  
01/10/25  
**Thomas J. Vandezande**  
09/04/25

#### 1958

**Karl T. Deterding**  
08/08/25  
**Jan O. Ericson**  
03/17/25  
**Jerald A. Barton**  
04/15/25

#### 1961

**Edward P. Alepra**  
10/13/25  
**Judith C. Anderson**  
04/2025

#### 1962

**Davies C. Burton**  
02/05/25  
**Richard Frank**  
03/15/25  
**Lana L. (Lugtigheid) McBride**  
09/29/25

## OBITUARIES

**1963**

**Ronald E. Ferguson**

07/02/25

**Charles A. Poust**

09/19/25

**1964**

**Dr. Carole M. Fee Ivanoff**

02/06/25

**1965**

**Rev. Denise C. (Rickard) Frank**

03/23/25

**1966**

**Dr. George E. Malo**

07/02/25

**Phyllis A. (Zinser) Rosenblum**

05/02/25

**1968**

**Robert A. Crafton**

10/20/25

**Margie A. Deffenbaugh**

09/14/25

**Dennis E. Hatt**

03/12/25

**1969**

**David A. Fansler**

08/25/25

**1970**

**Sherry E. (Larson) Piros**

02/19/25

**Pamela G. (Gabel) Nokkentved**

03/13/25

**1972**

**Richard G. Borgo**

04/20/25

**1974**

**Stanley L. Dunnington**

11/02/25

**Thomas D. Klingner**

09/20/25

**1977**

**Karen S. (Freytag) Mayberry**

11/30/25

**1978**

**Elizabeth Schilling**

06/25/25

**1982**

**Marcella I. Wilson**

03/18/25

**1983**

**Kathy J. (Tanner) Howell**

02/19/25

**1984**

**Charles K. Keltner**

04/17/25

**1987**

**Andrew Hullinger**

07/04/25

**1989**

**Anton R. Kamnick**

05/13/25

**Donald H. Yowell**

10/10/25

**1994**

**Brian K. Harms**

10/23/25

## Blackburn Faculty

**Professor Geraldine Albins (1985-2022)**

05/15/25

**Dr. Shelly Pepper (2014-2025)**

07/10/25

## Blackburn Trustees

**Dr. George E. Malo (2017-2025)**

07/02/25

**John Schmidt (1985-1988)**

02/17/25

## Blackburn Staff

**Nikki Birdsell (2010-2014)**

11/19/25

**Michael Slightom (2007-2017)**

07/27/25

**Rebecca Thompson (1957-2002)**

08/22/25

# INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

## Taxes and Charitable Giving – Did You Know?

### Gifts of stock can save you \$\$

If you've enjoyed attractive investment returns in recent years, gifting appreciated stock to your preferred charities is a tax-efficient way to have a greater impact with your donation.

#### Here's how it works:

1. Donors receive a tax deduction for the full market value of their stock donation.
2. Donors avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation in the value of their stock.

#### Example:

- + Ms. Jones bought stock X several years ago at a cost of \$100,000.
- + Stock X is now worth \$500,000.
- + Assuming a long-term capital gains tax rate of 20%, Ms. Jones would owe \$80,000 in capital gains.
- + Instead, she gives the stock to her favorite charity.
- + Ms. Jones is in the 35% tax bracket. She is able to save \$175,000 in taxes and avoid the \$80,000 gain.
- + Ms. Jones made a \$500,000 gift to charity but saved \$255,000 in taxes. Thus, the net cost to her was only \$245,000.

### Tax law changes impacting charitable giving

If you are in a higher tax bracket, you may want to consider accelerating philanthropic gifts to maximize deductions before new caps go into effect, while non-itemizers may benefit from making "year-end" charitable gifts in January.

#### Beginning in the 2026 tax year:

- + Gifts below 0.5% of adjusted gross income won't qualify for a deduction.
- + For taxpayers in the highest tax bracket, total deductions will be capped at 35% of their income (down from the current 37%).
- + For non-itemizers, you will be able to deduct up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (joint) in cash gifts to charitable organizations!

*\* Important note – Please consult your attorney or a tax professional before making any charitable giving decisions. Do not rely solely on this example.*



## Don't Miss These Digital Exclusives

Blackburn's momentum can't be contained in a single issue. Discover three bonus digital exclusive stories for our community.



### Capturing Beautiful Moments of Humanity Within Chaos

#### Alum Chris Horn '84 Stands on the Front Lines as a Photojournalist

Chris Horn is an award-winning independent photojournalist in Medellín, Colombia.



### A Century of Stoddard Hall

#### Photos and Memories from 100 Years as a Cornerstone of Campus

For generations, students have passed through Stoddard Hall's doors, leaving behind stories, traditions, and memories that continue to shape the heart of campus life.

### Facilitating the True Story

#### A Documentary on Indigenous Land Loss and the Power of Storytelling

Blackburn College counselor Daniel Lanctot shares a documentary about the land theft of a Cambodian village.



# BEYOND THE PAGE

Read the above stories and more at  
[blackburn.edu/blackburntoday](https://blackburn.edu/blackburntoday)

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Participants from 2025  
Blackburn College  
Beautification Day

## Letter from the Alumni Board President

As an alum of Blackburn College, I have never been more proud of the College, its students, staff, faculty, and alumni! Recognized as the only student-managed work program school in the U.S., Blackburn is celebrating an expansive new athletic facility; renovations to historic Dawes gymnasium, the dining hall and residence halls; the addition of new athletic programs; and the inaugural launch of the Blackburn magazine!

The Blackburn College Alumni Association plays a key role in the success of the college. Our mission is to build relationships with current students, alumni, and Blackburn College community. Our programs are designed to bring that mission to life.

We look forward to the coming year and ongoing opportunities to support Blackburn College.

Blackburn College Beautification Day is an annual event held in late April that was conceived and coordinated by the BC Alumni Association. Its impact on the campus over the years is profound and continues to grow.

Throughout the year, Alumni Board members greet students at Move-In Days and support student-initiated programs. We recognize Outstanding Graduates at Commencement and Alumni Accomplishments at Homecoming. Our holiday ornament collection, including our newest in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Stoddard Hall, is sure to help you bring the spirit of Blackburn to your holiday celebrations and gift-giving.



**Pat Prosser '81**  
**Blackburn College Alumni**  
**Association Board President**



**BC**  
**BLACKBURN**  
 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Looking for a great way to show your Blackburn pride?**

The Blackburn College Alumni Association Shop is stocked with exclusive alumni merchandise you won't find anywhere else.

**FEATURED ITEM:**

Limited-Edition 100th Anniversary Stoddard Hall Ornament

**PLUS FAN FAVORITES:**

- + Barney Brittle
- + Padfolios
- + Pins & Stickers

... and more Blackburn spirit gear to gift or enjoy yourself!



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