

Every road leads  
back to Blackburn...



SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

Welcome Home, Blackburn Alumni!



The Blackburn College 2026 Homecoming & Family Weekend is a time to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate all that makes Blackburn so special. This year's theme, "Blackburn Road Trip" with its full slate of activities, is designed to remind us why "Every Road Leads Back to Blackburn."

Consider what makes road trips so special – exploring history, experiencing small town charms, and the opportunity to enjoy the freedom of the open road with vistas and destinations yet to discover. Add a cooler full of snacks, your favorite soda or pop, favorite tunes on the radio or streaming app, a sense of adventure, and you are on your way.

Your "road trip" back to Blackburn may be by car, plane, train, or bus. You might also get to campus simply by jogging through Carlinville, cutting across the grass, and past the new tennis & racquetball courts.

Historic Route 66, coined The Mother Road, is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. Centennial celebrations are being held from Illinois to California. With our beautiful campus resting adjacent to Route 66, we cannot help but blush with a knowing smile that Blackburn College has five major buildings built around this time, including Stoddard Hall (1925), McKinley House (1926), Butler Hall (1928), Hudson Hall (1932), and even Dawes Gymnasium (1938). Each evokes the charm and character of the time it was built, complete with historic red brick and iconic trim, yet each delivers the amenities demanded by today's collegiate audience including air conditioning, updated dorm experiences, recreation areas, and even a glistening new basketball court with digital scoreboards and major athletic complex with the latest equipment.

Homecoming activities this year will offer the opportunity to connect with fellow alums in-town at the Friday evening Scenic Route Bar Crawl, and a daytime Barney's Hide & Squeak Scavenger Hunt. On-campus experiences will include perennial favorites Cocktails and Karaoke, Blackburn 5K, Alumni Awards Luncheon, and various intramural and collegiate sports events. A "Roadside Sale" will feature the artistic talents of alums set in a classic open road format. The Sunday Mass in Clegg Chapel with contemporary artist sing-along is not to be missed!

There will be something for everyone, complete with road trip treats to enjoy. We trust the weekend will bring back fun and laughter with lifelong friends, the nostalgia for this incredible college and local community, and the deep sense of pride that we all hold for Blackburn College.

*Patricia Prosser*

Pat (Brunicardi) Prosser '81  
Blackburn College Alumni Association President



Gideon Blackburn



The Beaver Beat



blackburn.alumni



Gideon Blackburn

USE OUR HASHTAG

#HOMECOMINGISWHERE THE BEAVERS ARE



# Schedule of Events

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 9 AM Welcome Center Opens in Edwin and Claire Jaenke Alumni Center
- 9 AM B-Club Golf Tournament at Carlinville Country Club
- 11 AM Rest Stop Rally on the Edwin and Claire Jaenke Alumni Center Patio
- 12 PM Golden Beavers Society Luncheon in ADRs of Demuzio Campus Center
- 1 PM Residence Halls Open House throughout campus
- 4 PM The Patricia Wier Mynka Memorial Art Exhibition in the Sharon K. Sandfort Gallery of Art
- 5 PM Mile 100: The McKinley Celebration Dinner (*reservation required*)
- 7 PM "The Amazing American Road Trip" in Bothwell Auditorium
- 7 PM The Scenic Route Bar Crawl departs from Edwin and Claire Jaenke Alumni Center
- 7 PM Cocktails and Karaoke at Edwin and Claire Jaenke Alumni Center and Patio



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 8 AM Welcome Center Opens in Edwin and Claire Jaenke Alumni Center
- 8 AM Blackburn 5K (*registration required*)
- 9 AM Women's Volleyball Alumni Game in Dawes Gymnasium
- 10 AM Flag Football Game at the Football Field
- 10 AM Roadside Finds along Blackburn Drive
- 10 AM Spirit Stop: Cheer, Dance & Poms Reunions at the Football Field
- 10 AM Men's and Women's Alumni Soccer Game in the Blackburn Athletic Center
- 11 AM Blackburn Women's Volleyball vs Lyon College in Dawes Gymnasium
- 12 PM Alumni Association Awards Luncheon and Annual Meeting in Woodson Hall (*reservations required*)
- 12 PM Beaver Nation Fan Zone between Soccer Pitch and Baseball Field
- 1 PM Blackburn Men's Soccer vs. Greenville University
- 1 PM Residence Halls Open House throughout campus
- 1 PM Baseball Alumni Game at baseball diamond
- 2 PM Butler Hall Reunion in Butler Hall
- 2 PM Work Committee Reunion at Work Office
- 3 PM Blackburn Women's Volleyball vs Westminster College in Dawes Gymnasium
- 3 PM Softball Alumni Game at softball diamond
- 3:30 PM Blackburn Women's Soccer vs. Greenville University
- 5 PM Full Tank Finale at the Demuzio Campus Center Courtyard

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 10 AM The Beatles Mass in Clegg Chapel



# Weekend Highlights

## WELCOME CENTER: YOUR FIRST STOP

Kick off your Homecoming experience at the Welcome Center (Jaenke Alumni Center aka The Den)—your official first stop on the Blackburn Road Trip! Check in, pick up your name tag, event tickets, and weekend schedule, and don't forget to grab a few ribbons to show off your Blackburn connections.

## B CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Blackburn College Athletic Boosters will host their annual Homecoming Golf Tournament at Carlinville Country Club's 9-hole course. Tournament fees include cart and greens fees, boxed lunch, and unlimited drinks. Compete in women's and men's challenges with prizes. Four players to a team. **\$400.00/team or \$100.00/pp. *Limited spots available.***

## REST STOP RALLY

Take a break, grab a bite, and refuel at the Rest Stop Rally—a laid-back outdoor cookout bringing together faculty, staff, students, alumni and families. Enjoy classic road trip favorites like hot dogs and hamburgers while connecting with the people who make Blackburn feel like home. It's the perfect place to relax, recharge, and enjoy good food and great company along the way.

## MILE 100: THE MCKINLEY CELEBRATION DINNER

Join President Lee for a special evening honoring 100 years of McKinley House, a place that has welcomed generations of the Blackburn community. Guests will enjoy a memorable dinner, the opportunity to walk through the historic home, and live music from a string quartet, creating a warm and elegant atmosphere. Gather with fellow alumni and friends as we celebrate a century of tradition, reflect on shared memories, and toast to the journey ahead. **\$40.00/pp.** Includes one drink ticket. Cash bar available. ***Registration required by September 14.***

## "THE AMAZING AMERICAN ROAD TRIP"

The Amazing American Road Trip was a children's theatre production that followed a family journey across the country—exploring not only the fun and adventure of travel, but also the importance of discussing differences, including politics, with respect and understanding. With support from the Blackburn Fine Arts Boosters, this production reflects the creativity and heart of Blackburn's Theatre program, using storytelling to spark conversation, connection, and learning across generations.

## THE SCENIC ROUTE BAR CRAWL

Raise a glass and your Beaver pride—it's time to hit the road for the Scenic Route Bar Crawl, Blackburn's official Homecoming bar crawl! Sponsored by the Alumni Association Board, this lively evening is your chance to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate with fellow alumni and friends while experiencing the best of the Carlinville bar scene. We'll cruise through town, making stops at some of Carlinville's favorite local spots—each one a "stop along the way" filled with great drinks, good company, and plenty of Homecoming spirit. **\$25.00/pp (includes tee) *Registration required by September 1.***

## BLACKBURN 5K

Lace up your shoes and hit the road with the Blackburn 5K, hosted by Blackburn Cross Country! Runners and walkers alike will make their way through the streets of the Carlinville community, enjoying a scenic route as part of Homecoming & Family Weekend. Whether you're racing to the finish or taking it at your own pace, all participants have the chance to win a one-of-a-kind prize—your very own street sign! It's a fun and active way to be part of the journey. **\$30.00/pp**  
***Registration required by September 14.***

# Weekend Highlights

## FLAG FOOTBALL GAME

Get in on the action with Blackburn's Homecoming Flag Football Game, hosted by our brand-new women's flag football team! Open to alumni, students, families, faculty, staff, and community members, this fun, friendly game is all about teamwork, laughs, and Beaver pride. No matter your skill level, grab a flag, hit the field, and be part of the excitement as we kick off Homecoming weekend together! *Registration encouraged by September 14.*

## ROADSIDE FINDS

Campus will transform into a road trip-inspired marketplace featuring the incredible creativity, entrepreneurship, and talents of the Blackburn community. This event is open to alumni, faculty, staff, and students who would like to showcase and sell their goods or promote their business or organization. Whether you're a maker, artist, author, baker, small business owner, nonprofit representative, or creative entrepreneur, we'd love to feature you as one of our "stops along the journey." *Pre-registration for booth encouraged by September 14.*

## SPIRIT STOP: CHEER, DANCE & POMS REUNION

Join fellow Blackburn spirit alumni on the football field for a special reunion celebrating our Cheerleaders, Dance Team "The Red Hots," and Poms! Relive the energy, excitement, and tradition of cheering on the Beavers while reconnecting with teammates and friends. Share stories, show off your moves, and celebrate the spirit that makes Blackburn unforgettable.

## BEAVER NATION FAN ZONE

The Beaver Nation Fan Zone is a dynamic and engaging space dedicated to enhancing the game-day experience for all Blackburn Athletics supporters. Located between the soccer pitch and centerfield, this lively hub is packed with interactive activities and plenty of school spirit. Fans can enjoy delicious eats from local favorites Sweet P's Shakeups and Potrillo's food trucks while soaking in the energy of game day. With something for everyone, the Fan Zone offers a fun, festive atmosphere perfect for all ages.

## WORK COMMITTEE REUNION

Reconnect with fellow leaders at the Work Committee Reunion, celebrating the dedication and impact of those who have helped guide one of Blackburn's most distinctive traditions. Gather with past and present committee members to share stories, reflect on experiences, and celebrate the hands-on work that continues to shape the Blackburn journey.

## BUTLER HALL REUNION

Return to one of Blackburn's most memorable stops and reconnect at the Butler Hall Reunion! Join fellow residents to reminisce about late nights, shared laughs, and the friendships that made Butler feel like home. Whether you lived there for a semester or all four years, come swap stories, snap photos, and celebrate the memories that still bring us back together.

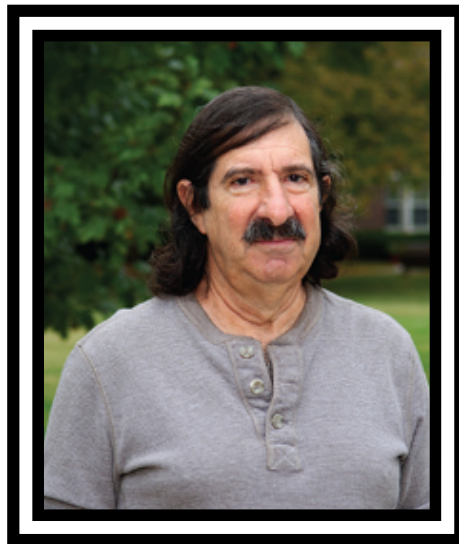
## FULL TANK FINALE

End the weekend on a high note at the Full Tank Finale—the ultimate Homecoming celebration! Dance the night away to live music from local favorite Miles Station, enjoy great food, and capture the fun at The Photo Bus STL photo booth. With a cash bar, plenty of energy, and a packed dance floor, it's the perfect final stop on your Blackburn Road Trip. Don't miss this unforgettable night of music, memories, and celebration!

# Alumni Association Award Recipients



**Michael Means '82**  
*Distinguished Alumni Award*



**Paul Tepikian '77**  
*Gideon Blackburn Award*



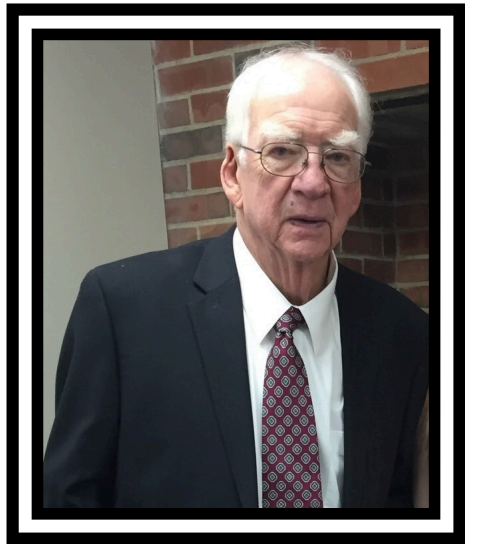
**Jeanna (Caselli) Supple '81**  
*Cynthia Williams Lamar '73 Service Award*



**Thomas Jager '57  
(posthumously)**  
*Service to Humanity Award*



**Laurie (Parlette) Larsen '84**  
*Harold and Elizabeth Ziegler Service Award*



**Dr. John Hughes '61  
(posthumously)**  
*Alumni Achievement Award*



**Noelia Martinez-Voigt '20**  
*Alumni Early Achievement Award*

# Alumni Award Descriptions

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Distinguished Alumni Award is given only once to any one individual who has demonstrated significant contributions to society or a profession (such as receipt of national and/or international honors and/or demonstrated leadership).

## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Alumni Achievement Award is given for demonstrating significant achievement in an individual's personal or public career.

## THE HAROLD AND ELIZABETH ZIEGLER SERVICE AWARD

The Harold and Elizabeth Ziegler Service Award is given to an individual who has rendered loyal volunteer service to Blackburn College during the past year.

## GIDEON BLACKBURN AWARD

The Gideon Blackburn Award is given to an alumnus/alumna or non-alumnus/alumna who has rendered valuable service to the College in terms of time, money, influence, service, etc. The recipient keeps alive the memory of Dr. Blackburn and the period from 1837 to the time of Dr. Hudson's coming to the College in 1912.

## SERVICE TO HUMANITY AWARD

The Service to Humanity Award is intended to recognize those individuals who are giving, or have given of themselves in significant ways for the betterment of humanity, without thought of recognition or compensation. Their efforts have helped to provide support or resources to people who would otherwise go without.

## CYNTHIA WILLIAMS LAMAR '73 SERVICE AWARD

The Cynthia Williams Lamar '73 Service Award honors the outstanding work on behalf of the Blackburn College Alumni Association by Cynthia Williams LaMar '73, former Alumni Board member and a past Alumni Board President (1995-1997). The recipient has demonstrated unrelenting efforts, leadership, dedication, and outstanding contributions to the success of the Blackburn College Alumni Association.

## ALUMNI EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Alumni Early Achievement Award honors alumni who have demonstrated significant achievements before the age of 40. The individual(s) must have retained a strong association in some capacity with the College including philanthropic support, volunteer service, and/or an advocacy role. This individual has demonstrated leadership ability or attained prominence in their business, profession, or endeavors. The individual should be involved in community service or civic engagement in some level in his/her local or global community.



As you plan your Blackburn Road Trip, we've gathered a variety of lodging options to help make your stay comfortable and convenient. From local hotels to nearby accommodations, these "rest stops along the way" will help you recharge before another full day of celebrating where all roads lead back—to Blackburn.

*Carlinsville Motel*

18891 STATE RTE 4  
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626  
THECARLINVILLAMOTEL.COM  
217.854.3201

*Beaver Dam*

14548 BEAVER DAM LANE  
PLAINVIEW, IL 62685  
RECREATION.EXPLOREMOREIL.COM  
217.854.8020

*Hampton Inn by Hilton -  
Litchfield*

11 THUNDERBIRD CIRCLE  
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056  
HILTON.COM  
217.324.4441

*Holiday Inn Express & Suites  
Litchfield West by IHG*

4 THUNDERBIRD CIRCLE  
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056  
IHG.COM/HOLIDAYINNEXPRESS  
217.903.0276

*Quality Inn Litchfield Route 66*

1010 EAST COLUMBIAN N BLVD  
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056  
CHOICEHOTELS.COM/ILLINOIS/LITCHFIELD  
217.250.2073

*Baymont by Wyndham Litchfield*

1405 W HUDSON DR  
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056  
WYNDHAMHOTELS.COM/BAYMONT  
217.718.5526

*Americas Best Value Inn  
Litchfield*

224 OHREN LN.  
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056  
SONESTA.COM/AMERICAS-BEST-VALUE-INN  
217.324.2181

*Motel 6 Litchfield*

211 OHREN LN  
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056  
MOTEL6.COM  
217.217.6864

*Country Bend Campground*

3279 HONEY BEND AVE  
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056  
COUNTRYBENDCAMPGROUND.COM  
217.324.2363

# Barney's HIDE & SQUEAK



Back by popular demand for its second year, Barney's Hide & Squeak is hitting the road again! This fan-favorite adventure takes you beyond campus and out into the Carlinville community, where you'll follow clues, make stops, and search high and low to find where Barney is hiding.

Start your journey by picking up your game board at the **Welcome Center in Jaenke**, then cruise through town with a fun road trip twist and a few Route 66-inspired detours along the way. Once you've completed your search, turn in your game board at the Full Tank Finale on Saturday evening to see if you've won the grand prize!

Grab your crew, enjoy the ride, and see if you can track down Barney—because every great road trip needs a little adventure!



**Roadside Finds**  
Blackburn Marketplace  
Vendors Wanted



As part of Blackburn College's Homecoming & Family Weekend 2026, we're looking for alumni, students, faculty, staff, and local vendors to join us for **Roadside Finds: The Blackburn Marketplace on Saturday, September 26** beginning at 10:00 a.m. along Blackburn Drive!

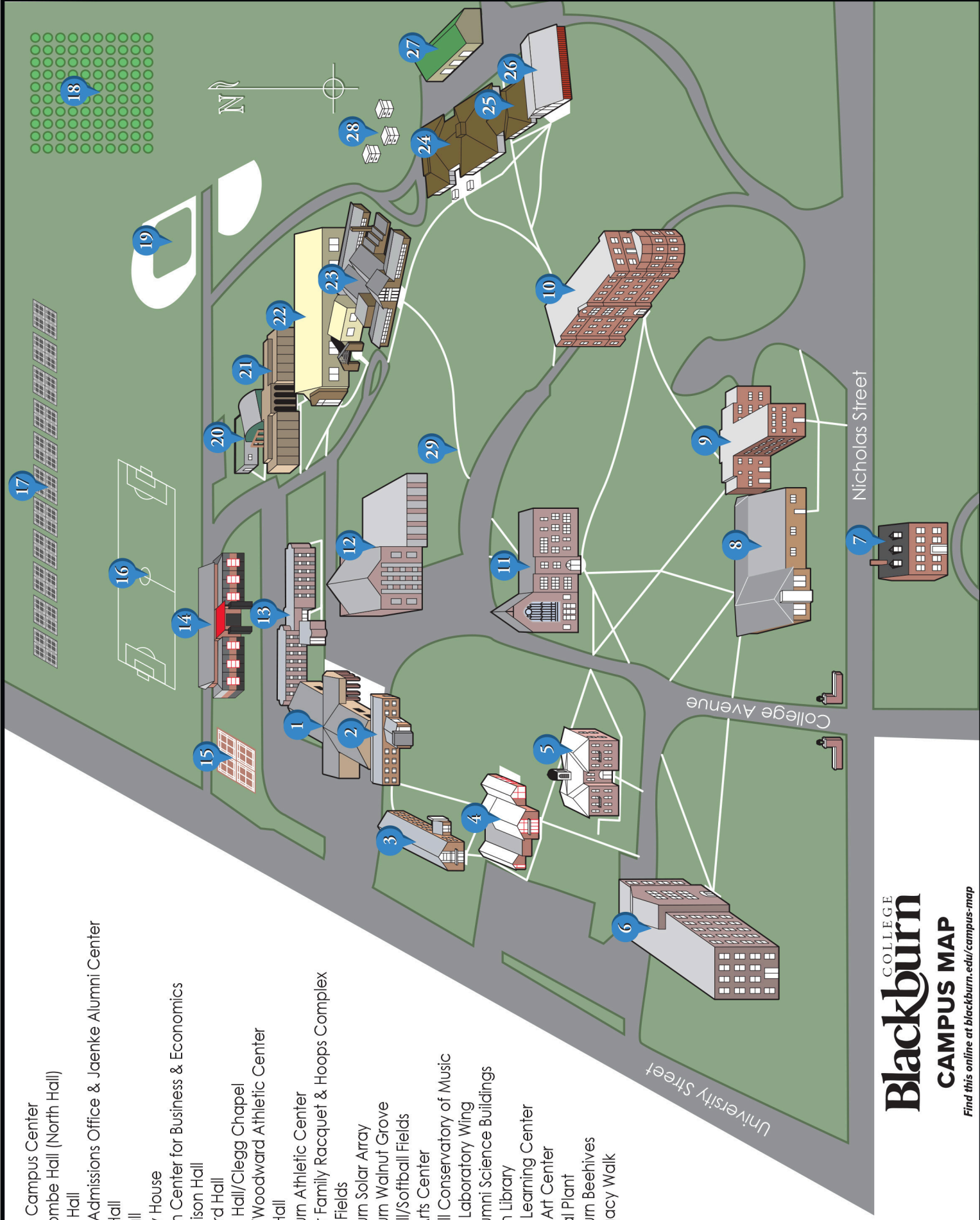
#### Do you sell:

Handmade goods, Vintage finds, Artwork, Boutique items, Baked treats, Collectibles, Crafts, or unique creations

Then we want YOU to be part of this Route 66-inspired roadside shopping experience! This fun outdoor marketplace will bring Homecoming guests and the Carlinville community together for a day of shopping. Bring your products, your creativity, and your roadside charm.

Email [alisha.kapp@blackburn.edu](mailto:alisha.kapp@blackburn.edu) to reserve your spot!

1. Demuzio Campus Center
2. Challacombe Hall (North Hall)
3. Graham Hall
4. Godwin Admissions Office & Jaenke Alumni Center
5. Ludlum Hall
6. Butler Hall
7. McKinley House
8. Woodson Center for Business & Economics
9. Jones-Allison Hall
10. Stoddard Hall
11. Hudson Hall/Clegg Chapel
12. Dawes/Woodward Athletic Center
13. Jewell Hall
14. Blackburn Athletic Center
15. Guggler Family Racquet & Hoops Complex
16. Soccer Fields
17. Blackburn Solar Array
18. Blackburn Walnut Grove
19. Baseball/Softball Fields
20. Visual Arts Center
21. Bothwell Conservatory of Music
22. Mahan Laboratory Wing
23. Olin/Alumni Science Buildings
24. Lumpkin Library
25. Rahme Learning Center
26. Renner Art Center
27. Physical Plant
28. Blackburn Beehives
29. The Legacy Walk



COLLEGE  
**Blackburn**

**CAMPUS MAP**

Find this online at [blackburn.edu/campus-map](http://blackburn.edu/campus-map)

# 2026 Homecoming Shirt

Don't miss out on showing your school spirit with a 2026 Blackburn College Homecoming tee! This t-shirt is the perfect way to keep school spirit going strong. **\$22.00/per shirt**



TOTAL OF SHIRT(S) ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE OF SHIRT(S)

## Register for Homecoming and Family Weekend 2026

return this form or register online at [www.blackburn.edu/homecoming](http://www.blackburn.edu/homecoming)

### ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how many will be attending the events below. Registration by mail must be received by September 1, 2026.

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

**B Club Golf Outing** # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$400/team or \$100/pp with cart

**Golden Beavers Society Luncheon** # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$25/pp

**The McKinley Celebration Dinner** # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$40/pp \*includes drink ticket

**The Scenic Route Bar Crawl** # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$25/pp  
include SIZE OF SHIRT in box

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

**Blackburn 5K** # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$30/pp

**Alumni Association Awards Luncheon** # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$25/pp

**2026 HOMECOMING BOX** # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$70/box \*includes shipping costs  
include SIZE OF SHIRT in box

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

( ) Pay by Check - Make checks payable to Blackburn College

( ) Pay by Credit Card - I authorize my credit card to be charged TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Visa ( ) Mastercard ( ) Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form or register at [www.blackburn.edu/homecoming](http://www.blackburn.edu/homecoming)



## Homecoming in a Box

The seventh edition of Blackburn's Homecoming in a Box returns for the 2026 Homecoming festivities. Whether you are unable to make it to campus or are traveling in for the weekend celebration, you will want all the customized essentials that go along with this year's theme. Boxes will be mailed prior to Homecoming weekend or you can elect to pick up your order at the Welcome Desk. Only 70 boxes will be sold, and when they're gone, they're gone! Don't miss out on grabbing yours. \$70.00/box. Orders must be placed by September 1.

# Blackburn COLLEGE

Office of Institutional Advancement

700 College Avenue

Carlinville, Illinois 62626

(800) 233-3550

[www.blackburn.edu](http://www.blackburn.edu)

