The Board of Trustees is entrusted with the final responsibility for the quality and integrity of the institution's education.

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Jennifer Shelby, B.A. (2010)
Don Taylor, M.B.A. (2024)
Paul Tepikian '77, B.A. (2015)

DAN ANDERSON

Economist

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Mathematics, Economics, 1974*
Arizona State University, *MS in Economics, 1976*
Harvard University, *Certificate in Management Systems, 1979*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Dan was director of institutional analysis for the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) for 16 years where he provided support for new and ongoing research, particularly in the data-intensive area of academic and student affairs, until April 13, 2018. In conjunction with Arizona's public universities, he coordinated data development for the board as well as for federal and state governments. Principal tasks included strategic planning, reports on workforce development, economic updates, impact analysis, and internal management information systems as well as other initiatives that required comprehensive data. He has served the state of Arizona at ABOR and at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). Dan served as an economist, research administrator, director, and supervisor for more than 43 years. At DES he and his staff produced and analyzed economic and demographic data for 27 years. Monthly and annual estimates as well as projections of the population, jobs, unemployment, earnings, and industry trends were their area of expertise.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award for Research ▪ Who's Who in the West ▪ Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges ▪ Omicron Delta Epsilon,Honor Society in Economics ▪ Member, Arizona Finance Advisory Committee ▪ Member, Arizona Economic Roundtable ▪ Technical Advisor, Citizens Fiscal Review Commission ▪ Member, National Association of Business Economists

PERSONAL LIFE

Dan attended Blackburn College from 1970-1974 where he met his wife, Jane Stricklin. Following graduation they got married and moved to Arizona.

Initially, I chose Blackburn for its small size and its low price. But once there, it was through the Work Program and the liberal arts curriculum that I gained self-confidence, a stronger work ethic, and a better view of my future. Blackburn taught me to be a leader as well as a member of a team—skills that benefit me everyday

LISA BLACK-GOMEZ, Board Vice Chair

Educational Consultant

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Speech Communication, Spanish, 1981*
Northern Illinois University, *MSEd in Secondary Education and Spanish, 1987 and EdD in Curriculum, Instruction, and Education Leadership, 2002*
National Lewis University, *Post doctoral work in bilingual/ESL education, 2008*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

After graduating from Blackburn, Lisa joined the Peace Corps and served for two years in Paraguay, South America. It was there that she met and married her husband, Paraguayan national Cesar Gomez, and where she started her career in education. In Paraguay Lisa was a rural educator, focusing on children and women's health, education, and nutrition, and adult literacy.

Lisa has served as a high school teacher, dean, assistant principal, principal, central office director of programming, and assistant superintendent. She has taught both undergrad and graduate level courses as an adjunct professor at the University of San Juan (Argentina), Elmhurst College (Illinois), and National Louis University (Illinois). Her work and research has focused primarily on second language acquisition, and she has presented at state, national, and international conferences.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

In 1991, Lisa was named Illinois Young Foreign Language Teacher of the Year ▪ In 1992, she received a Fulbright Scholarship to Argentina, where she taught at the University of San Juan.

PERSONAL LIFE

After thirty-eight years in education, Lisa retired in 2019. She continues to consult with school districts and enjoys spending more time with her husband, two adult children, and three beautiful granddaughters. Lisa and Cesar reside in Winfield, a western suburb of Chicago.

I came to Blackburn because of its size and affordability. I stayed because of the many opportunities to get involved while receiving an excellent education that prepared me for multiple graduate degrees and a very successful career. I have now returned to help support Blackburn because I believe wholeheartedly in its vision

SALINA N. BROWN, Alumni Board Representative

Specialist in Cytotechnology, SCT (ASCP)cm

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BBA in Biology with a Leadership Minor, 2003*
Jewish Hospital College of Nursing and Allied Health, *Certificate in Cytotechnology, 2004*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

After graduating from Blackburn, Salina completed her certificate in Cytotechnology in May of 2004 before moving to Rockford, IL, to work at SwedishAmerican Hospital. She worked as a fulltime Cytotechnologist for 12 years at SwedishAmerican. While employed there, she obtained her Specialist in Cytotechnology certification in March 2012. Salina then moved to Springfield, IL, where she worked at Memorial Medical Center for 4 years before becoming a Travel Cytotechnologist. Salina and her husband traveled for 2 ½ years before she accepted a full-time position at OSF St. Francis Medical Center of Peoria, IL, in December 2022. She looks forward to working many more years beyond the 20 she has already completed in her field.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

In 2004, Salina received the Jewish Hospital College Clinical Excellence in Cytotechnology Award ▪ The same year, she was The ASCP National Student Honor Award recipient

PERSONAL LIFE

In August 2017 Salina met her husband, Aaron, in Springfield, IL. They were married in August 2020 during Covid restrictions and plan on having a full second wedding party in a few years. Currently they reside in Metamora, IL, in the house that they purchased in March 2023. Both Salina and Aaron enjoy spending time with their two adopted cats and watching the wildlife outside their back door. They also keep busy visiting family all over the state of Illinois, including a total of 10 nieces and nephews. Salina and Aaron look forward to attending more music events and to making friends in a new location while settling into their new home.

As the first in my family to attend a four-year college, I was excited to receive a scholarship to Blackburn covering half my tuition each year. The opportunities I had at Blackburn far exceeded my expectations. I entered the school as an individual, but left as part of a lifelong family that I am excited now to come back to and to serve

KENNETH R. DEIHL, Board Secretary

Presiding Resident Circuit Judge of Macoupin County

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Political Science, 1978*
Southern Illinois University School of Law, *Juris Doctorate, 1982*
National Judicial College, *Civil Mediation & Decision-Making Certificates*
Northwestern University, *Family Mediation Certificate*
Illinois Judicial Education Conference, *Criminal, Civil, Probate, and Family Certificates*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Judge Deihl has served as a trial judge for nearly two decades and served as Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit. He also serves as a New Judge Mentor, Peer Judge Mentor, and Judicial Performance Evaluation Facilitator throughout Illinois. He has lectured and written publications on a variety of topics including American jurisprudence, business law, wills, trusts, probate, real estate, long-term care, and advanced estate planning techniques. Judge Deihl joined the Blackburn College Board of Trustees in 2004 and currently serves as Board Secretary and as a member of the Executive Committee. He has taught Business Law I & II, Business Ethics, and Conflict Resolution in Blackburn's business and social science departments. Teaching is one of Judge Deihl's greatest joys, and he has been mentoring Blackburn students through college-sanctioned internships for several decades. Judge Deihl is also a founding member of Blackburn's Macoupin County Scholarship Committee. His motto is: "Do things right, and sleep well tonight."

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Ziegler Service Award from the Blackburn College Alumni Association ▪ Shonkwiler Distinguished Service Award "for his service as a member of the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges; and for his contributions toward the continued improvement of the Illinois judiciary and overall administration of justice

PERSONAL LIFE

Judge Deihl resides in Carlinville with his wife Janice.

I am a first-generation college graduate. I am forever grateful to Blackburn's faculty who taught me the requisite liberal arts education, and critical thinking and writing skills to succeed in law school and beyond

DAVID V. DORRIS

Attorney

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in History, 1969*
University of Illinois, *Juris Doctorate, 1973*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

David has been a trial lawyer for over 50 years and continues to practice law as a litigator of major civil cases. He has served as a Trustee of the University of Illinois as well of Blackburn College and has also served as a member of the board of the McLean Historical Association.

His many positions served within the Illinois Bar Association have included Editor of the Illinois Bar Journal, Chair of Section Councils of Civil Practice, Tort Law. Judicial Review, and Continuing Legal Education. David has also served as President of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and has presented at dozens of seminars to teach lawyers for the State Bar Association and the ICLE.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Recognized by the Illinois State Senate as a distinguished professional ▪ Twice recognized nationally for the largest verdict of the year ▪ Selected as Alumnus of the Year by Blackburn College, his proudest award

PERSONAL LIFE

David is married to Leigh Anne Lynch Dorris and has four children: David N. Dorris (deceased), Amelia Buragas, Daniel V. Dorris, and Stephanie Dorris. David and his daughter Amelia are the only father/child duo to serve as editors of the Illinois Bar Journal.

Born deep in Illinois' Little Egypt, I attended a rural school with no modern conveniences. My eventual success in life could never have been predicted, but I owe it all to Blackburn College. Now I need to give back to the school so it can thrive and continue to provide its deserving students with the benefits I was so fortunate to receive

JIM FAUST

Retired Cable Television Industry Executive

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, , *BA in Economics, 1964*
University of Illinois, Champaign, *MA in Labor Economics, 1966*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Jim began a successful career in the cable television industry in 1977 when he founded and served as president of Zenith Cable Products. He continued in several executive positions within the General Instrument Corporation and Arris Corporation. Beginning in 1999, he became involved with VC-backed companies in cable television technology. He was CEO of Evolve products which developed smart TV remote controls for cable. He also served as CEO of Clearband which delivered television content to broadband connected PC's. Finally, Jim was CEO of Optinel, which was a manufacturer of optical devices for cable television. He continues to provide consulting services to the cable industry.

For five years throughout his career, Jim commuted to California. Jim has served on three public company boards. He has served as village of Golf trustee and condo board president, a job he suggests no one ever agree to.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Inducted into Cable TV Pioneers in 2018

PERSONAL LIFE

Jim has been married to his wife Helen since 1969. They have three children: Kristen, Erika, and Stephen.

Blackburn put me on a path that allowed me and my family to give back to Blackburn by endowing a Professorship in Education in my sister Sonja's name. Sonja also graduated from Blackburn and was a dedicated teacher

JENNIFER HAMILTON

Retired Educator

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Elementary Education, 1970*
SIU, Edwardsville, *MS in Education, 1977*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

In the fall of 1970 Jennifer was employed as a second grade teacher for Carlinville Unit School District #1 and retired in 2003. During that time she taught kindergarten through fourth grade. After retiring from elementary teaching, she worked at Blackburn as an adjunct professor, supervising student teachers and teaching Children's Literature. As of 2012 she is fully retired. As a Blackburn alum, she served on the alumni board from 2003 – 2012 and as their representative to the Board of Trustees from 2004-2012. She was a member of the 175th Anniversary Committee and assisted Ann Reichmann with the 175th Anniversary book. Jennifer served two terms on the Carlinville Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors, the last two years as president. She now serves on the Board of Trustees for that Foundation. Professionally she is a lifetime member of the National Education Association, Illinois Education Association, and the Carlinville Retired Teachers Association.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

The Blackburn College Distinguished Teacher Award in 1983 ▪ The Teacher of the Year Award from the Carlinville School District in 1993

PERSONAL LIFE

Jennifer met and married Don (class of 1969) while at Blackburn. Their family includes two daughters and sons-in-law and five grandchildren. Spending time with family is a top priority. Having fun with her grandchildren, reading, traveling, playing golf and bridge, and participating in Summer Repertory Theater activities are some of the ways she enjoys her retirement. She is a member of the Carlinville Methodist Church.

I came here because it was a small liberal arts college with a Work Program, and it exceeded all expectations. I graduated with minimal debt and interpersonal skills that prepared me for life after college. Blackburn provided strong academic programs in a safe community with opportunities to participate in sports, clubs, and organizations, and to form long-lasting friendships

THOMAS HEINZ

Retired Visual Journalist/Graphic Designer for The Chicago Tribune

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Art Education, 1970*
American Academy of Art, *AA in Illustration, Advertising, 1974*
University of Illinois/Chicago, *MFA in Graphic Design, 2011*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

During his senior year at Blackburn, Tom served on the Work Commitee as Dining Hall Head. After graduating with high honors he taught middle school art in Wheaton, IL, for one semester before being drafted into the Army. After serving his two years, he moved to Chicago to attend the American Academy of Art where he studied commercial art. Three days after completing those studies Tom was hired by the Chicago Tribune to help bring a more creative and modern look to the stodgy newspaper. During a 34-year career at the Tribune, Tom became a key member on the staff of graphic journalists that helped make the Tribune one of the best designed newspapers in America. He managed the design staff for a period of time and always served as a mentor for new hires. He retired from the Tribune in 2008 but returned to school to obtain an MFA degree in Graphic Design. Today he has his own design company, Thomas P Heinz Design.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

During his years at the Chicago Tribune, Tom received multiple awards from the Society of News Design for his Illustration and design work ▪ Tom was twice the recipient of the Tribune's Award for Outstanding Professional Performance

PERSONAL LIFE

Tom grew up in Carlinville. He met his wife Michele at Blackburn (Class of 1972), and they celebrated their 50th aniversary in 2022. They live in Hinsdale, IL. They have two adult children and four granddaughters. Tom volunteers at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County at the Mayslake Peabody Estate as a docent. He also sings with The Sounds Good Choir, a national group of over-55 singers that performs 3 concerts a year in the Chicago area. Tom also enjoys gardening, reading, and traveling with his wife and their friends

After a semester at a too-large school, I returned home to attend Blackburn until I decided where to go next. And I never left. Its size allowed me to truly feel part of campus, the Work Program taught me how to work alongside my peers, and the student/ faculty ratio made it possible to really know my professors—and vice versa

RAYMOND R. KENNELLY

Higher Education Executive

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Psychology, 1982*
Miami University, *MS in College Student Personnel Services, 1988*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Raymond Kennelly has dedicated over four decades to higher education administration, strategic planning, and enrollment management. He currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at Lewis University, where he leads strategic initiatives, financial sustainability efforts, and institutional growth, including their recent merger with St. Augustine College. Previously, he held leadership positions at Dominican University, DePaul University, Xavier University, and Wittenberg University, overseeing admissions, marketing, financial aid, and student success programs. Under his leadership at Lewis, student enrollment increased significantly, retention and graduation rates improved, and multiple new academic programs were launched.

Raymond's expertise in enrollment strategy, institutional branding, and student success has shaped the trajectory of multiple institutions, making him a recognized leader in higher education. He also has a deep history with Blackburn College, where he began his career as an admissions counselor, an experience that cemented his belief in the transformative power of education.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Ruffalo Noel Levitz Enrollment Management Advisory Board ▪ Member, De LaSalle Institute Strategic Planning Committee ▪ Charter Member of The Education Advisory Board Enrollment Management Forum ▪ Sheil Award for Service from Lewis University

PERSONAL LIFE

Ray and Carlene are the proud parents of Kayla (16) and Connor (15) and live in Oswego, Illinois along with their dogs Milo and Wrigley.

"Blackburn College changed my life. It gave me the foundation to pursue a meaningful career in education and help students succeed. I am deeply committed to ensuring future generations have the same opportunity.

MICHAEL KOKAL

Trial attorney/Partner at Heyl Royster, Springfield, IL

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame, *B.S.E.E. in Electrical Engineering, 1987*
Washington University of St. Louis, *M.L.A in Intellectual History, 1989*
University of Missouri School of Law, *Juris Doctorate, Order of the Coif, 1992*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Mike has wide ranging experience in commercial litigation, intellectual property, and products liability. He is licensed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US), Mike is Chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Practice.

Before entering private practice, Mike served as a judicial clerk to Federal District Judge Richard Mills in Springfield, Illinois and prior to law school, worked at Ralston Purina as an Electrical Engineer. He was also a Captain in the Air Force Reserve.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Mike has presented for the Illinois CPA Society, the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, and Illinois State on blockchains, e-discovery, social media, cybersecurity, and smart contracts ▪ He has also authored various articles published in the Missouri Law Review (where he was Managing Editor), Springfield Business Journal, and InterBusiness Issues ▪ Mike has been recognized by his peers and selected as a Leading Lawyer in Illinois

PERSONAL LIFE

Mike has two adult children, Mackenzie (who lives in Chicago), and Madison (Davenport, Iowa). He has more hobbies and interests than would fit into this space, is the host of the @ EndoftheRoadPodcast, and is involved in a number of community and civic organization including positions as president of the Midtown Rotary Club and the Notre Dame Alumni Club, Commissioner with the Springfield International Visitors Commission, and Volunteer/Mentor with "The Outlet" program.

"This unique institution provides and preserves a heartfelt community educational experience for its students in a sea of learning that is otherwise remote (in more ways than one), impersonal, and unconnected

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS LAMAR

Retired President of Cynmar Corporation

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Sociology, 1973*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Shortly after receiving her degree, Cynthia and her husband, Ed Lamar, established a microscope repair company called E & L Instruments. In 1984, the company's name was changed to Cynmar Corporation as it evolved into a scientific equipment company supplying educational institutions, wine and brewery manufacturers, and the craft beer market. In 2015, the Corporation was sold to Science First, with Cynthia having served as President and Co-Owner for 32 years. She has also served as a past president of the Blackburn Alumni Board.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Cynthia was the first recipient of a Blackburn Alumni Board Service Award which has since been named The Cynthia Williams Lamar Service Award in her honor.

PERSONAL LIFE

Cynthia currently resides in Carlinville, IL, with her husband Ed. They have one daughter, Dr. Cassandra Fritz, and two grandchildren, Nico and Maxwell. Cynthia is a member of Carlinville United Methodist Church. She has served on the Church Council, is presently serving on the Pastor/Parish Committee, and sings in the church choir. Cynthia is a 30-year member of Illinois Chapter AB, PEO and has been the treasurer of the chapter for many years. This organization assists young women with obtaining advanced degrees.

"As a young woman coming from Florida in 1969, I wanted to change the trajectory of my life. Blackburn gave me the opportunity for an education, for personal growth, and for the chance to help any future family I would have. Blackburn has been, and still is, a blessing in my life. This is why I continue to serve Blackburn

GEORGE PRECKWINKLE

Retailer, Community Volunteer, Retired Attorney

EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University, *BBA in Business Administration, 1978 and Juris Doctorate, 1981*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

George was admitted to the Illinois State Bar in 1981. George is President of Bishop Hardware and Supply, Inc. which owns and operates thirteen Ace Hardware stores in Central Illinois. A new store or two are planned for the near future.

George serves on the Sangamon County Board (Representing District 25), he chairs the Sangamon County Finance Committee, and he serves as Treasurer for the Sangamon County Board of Health.

George has previously served as a United Way Campaign Chair, a President of the YMCA, a former Chair of the Memorial Medical Center Foundation, and a former President of the Abraham Lincoln Boy Scouts of America where he continues to serve on their board. He has also been a President of the Illinois Retail Hardware Association, and he was a founding member and former President of Local First Springfield.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

George is the recipient of two awards from Boy Scouts of America:
The Trailblazer Award (for outstanding community leadership and service) ▪ The Silver Beaver Award ▪ He also earned an Outstanding Eagle Scout Award from The National Eagle Scout Association ▪ George has also been blessed to receive several community and industry awards, yet he always thinks of his scouting accomplishments first.

PERSONAL LIFE

Scouting (in particular Boy Scouts of America) is near and dear to George. He has been involved with scouts for more than 60 years, and is proud to be an Eagle Scout. George resides in Springfield with his wife Lynda and enjoys spending time with his two god-daughters, Ashley and Ally. In his spare time he enjoys sailing, traveling, and gardening. He is also an aspiring oenophile.

A good education is foundational to a successful life. Though not an alumnus, I have witnessed that Blackburn excels at providing this opportunity, affordably, with proven favorable outcomes. That is why I support Blackburn and its students

SARAH ROBISON

Content Strategist, MoneyGuard® Solutions, Lincoln Financial Group

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Psychology, 1984*
American University, *Certificate in Public Education, 1984*
Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis, *Graduate Work in Philanthropic Studies, 2002*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Sarah is a home-based Consultant and Content Strategist in the Marketing Department for Lincoln Financial Group, based in Radnor, PA. Prior to this, Sarah served as a Marketing Specialist for Watchfire Signs in Danville, IL, and served in various leadership positions including Director of Advancement for the University of Illinois, College of Medicine at Champaign/Urbana, Executive Director for the Danville Area Community College Foundation, Development Specialist with United Samaritans Medical Center Foundation, and the Executive Director of Springfield Air Rendezvous. Sarah's past volunteer work has included the Vermillion County 4H and Cooperative Extension Foundation Board of Directors, Blackburn College Alumni Board of Directors, and CASA of Vermillion County.Sarah has also worked as a consultant to various school districts and nonprofits in the areas of board development, strategic planning and fundraising campaigns. She has written freelance web content for travel, pet, manufacturing, business, and entertainment websites.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Communicator Awards, Copy Writing, Dealer Resource Guide 2015 ▪ Communicator Awards, Copy Writing, Sign Buyer's Guide 2015 ▪ Bronze Paragon Award, National Council of Marketing & Public Relations, Annual Report, National Competition 2005 ▪ Silver Paragon Award, National Council of Marketing & Public Relations, Annual Report, National Competition 2002.

PERSONAL LIFE

Sarah resides in State Line, IN, with her husband Gregory. They have three children: Gregory Jr., Nicole Robison Birdsey (Blackburn class of '95 and former work manager), and Franklin. They also have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"Blackburn is an ideal place for young people to learn, to grow, and to understand what they value. I can say with certainty—Blackburn made me the person I am today, and I will always be grateful for that

J.D. SANDFORT

Managing Director, Private Advisor, Rockefeller Global Family Office

EDUCATION

University of Illinois, *BS in Accountancy, 1987*
Northwestern University's J. L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, *MBA in Finance, Economics, 1992*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

J.D. began his career in public accounting practice with Price Waterhouse. Sandfort now leads RSA Family Wealth at The Rockefeller Global Family Office. RSA Family Wealth is a team of nine professionals providing boutique wealth management services to high and ultra-high net worth families throughout the U.S. His team is based in Dallas, TX.

Sandfort is a Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA) Charterholder, which is perhaps the most respected credential in the field of finance. According to The Economist: "The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation has become the gold standard of professional credentials within the global investment community." J. D. is also a Certified Financial Planner® (CFP®).

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors in 2023

PERSONAL LIFE

Sandfort lives primarily in Dallas, TX, and Colorado Springs, CO. He also has a home in Carlinville, IL, where he grew up. He has two adult children. His son, Weston, lives in Boulder, CO; his daughter, Katie, lives in Seattle, WA. Sandfort is also a "Big Brother" to a fifteen-year-old boy in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. J. D. enjoys running and has run over fifty marathons or half-marathons. He is often joined on his runs by his dogs, Lacy and Jimmy. J.D. was a member of the Board of Trustees from 2004-2008, and he rejoined the Board in 2014.

While not an alum, I grew up in Carlinville and have come to love the school, its mission, and its students. Blackburn College has the opportunity to educate youngsters, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, and to give them the tools they need to change the direction of their lives

JENNIFER SHELBY

Shatterglass Films, LLC/Partner & Producer

EDUCATION

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, *BA in Psychology, 1987*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Jennifer retired from the auto industry in 2021 after 28+ years in the business. She worked in sales, moved into the position of finance director, and eventually bought her first dealership in 2008. She sold Shelby Motors in 2013 and went on to buy two dealerships in Hoopeston, IL. The last of those businesses she sold in 2021. In 2015 Jennifer and two partners launched Shatterglass Films in Champaign, IL. Shatterglass specializes in producing independent narrative film and documentaries. In addition to Shatterglass Films, she also owns Solomon Ventures, LLC, which focuses on investment real estate.

She has served as the chairperson for the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation, a nonprofit designed to enhance the quality of education through community support of the public schools. She served on that Board from 2007-2012. She is a member and a past president of the Champaign Urbana Sunrise Rotary Club, where she now serves on the board of directors and the fundraising committee. She has served as a consultant to the Crisis Nursery Capital Campaign and is a previous board member there.

She is the former president and current treasurer of The Courtsiders, the booster club for the U of I Womens Basketball team, a member of the Champaign County Forest Preserve Efficiency Committee, and is a past Chair of the Fur Ball for the Champaign County Humane Society.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION

Jennifer is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International ▪ She was honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

PERSONAL LIFE

Her hobbies include reading, traveling, and collecting art.

In 2009 I heard Mim Pride speak about Blackburn and was blown away by the Work College model and the school's mission. When asked to join the board, I jumped at the chance. No other college gives you the same unique perspective and work experience along with a solid liberal arts education. My goal: a waiting list to get in!

PAUL TEPIKIAN, Board Chair

Global Retail Support Manager, ExxonMobil Corp

EDUCATION

Blackburn College, *BA in Sociology, 1977*
Washington University in St. Louis, *MBA in Finance/Production Operations, 1987*

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

During his senior year at Blackburn, Paul was Student Manager of New Construction as work on the Dawes addition (Woodward) was starting. Following graduation Paul joined the Blackburn Staff as New Construction Coordinator and held several different positions there in the following eight years ultimately teamed with Pete Slavish as Staff Advisor to the Work Program. After receiving his MBA he was hired by Exxon Company USA in their Controllers Organization headquartered in Houston, TX. He worked there from 1987 until his retirement in 2012 holding various positions in accounting and auditing, financial team leadership, and supervisory positions before moving into field operations as the Manager of the Houston Company Operated Retail Chain in 2001. Progressing through the company to become manager of the US Retail Operations Support Organization, he was then asked to lead a team tasked with consolidating support operations for the company operated retail chain in the Americas into a newly developed support center in Guatemala. Following this, Paul was appointed Global Retail Operations Support Manager responsible for operations of ExxonMobil's three Retail Support Centers (Guatemala, Bangkok, Budapest) with more than 400 employees providing support and operations oversight to the EM Company Operated Retail Chain spread across almost 30 countries. Up until recently, Paul had worked with Blackburn Alum Glenn Boornazian, president of Integrated Conservation Contracting /Integrated Conservation Resources, a historic conservation/restoration company based in New York.

PERSONAL LIFE

Paul is a native New Yorker born and raised in Yonkers. Today Paul and his wife of 30+ years, Elizabeth, live in Houston. They have two daughters, Emily and Chantrea, and three grandchildren. Paul's hobbies include scuba diving, travel, woodworking, stained glass, cooking, and yoga Charitable activities include work with the MS Society of Texas, Houston Public Radio, The Houston Food Bank, and support to the United Way of Greater Houston.

It was an amazing learning environment! It allowed me to develop critical thinking skills in a real-world environment enhanced by practical life lessons garnered from the Work Program. It was a life changing opportunity.As a trustee I'm dedicated to ensuring that opportunity exists for those who choose Blackburn in the future

Blackburn COLLEGE

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS / BLACKBURN.EDU