THE MIM PRIDE LEGACY: FINDING THE CENTER
Blackburn College Administration

Miriam R. Pride, President, x4212
email: mprid@blackburn.edu

Jeffery P. Aper ’78, Provost, x4338
email: japer@blackburn.edu

Heather Bigard, Vice President for Administration and Finance, x4299
email: heather.bigard@blackburn.edu

Glen Krupica, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, x4200
email: gken.krupica@blackburn.edu

Jodi Rowe ’04, Director of Annual Fund, x4356
email: jodi.rowe@blackburn.edu

Laura Hopping, Alumni Relations Coordinator, x4368
cemail: laura.hopping@blackburn.edu

To contact any department at Blackburn, please call (800)233-3550.

UPDATE

The UPDATE is produced twice per year by Blackburn students and professional staff in the Public Relations Department in cooperation with the Alumni/Development Office. Address all inquiries to: UPDATE, Public Relations Department, Blackburn College, 700 College Avenue, Carlinville, IL 62626. We welcome your suggestions, comments and concerns.

Blackburn College

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Laura Brogdon ’14, Alison Corey ’13,
Jake Elmore ’13, Emily Fisher ’13,
Aurora Grimmelt ’16, Amanda Johnston ’13

Designer
Amanda Johnston ’13
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Dear Friends,

At the recent Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, Blackburn College was named Institution of the Year and I was named Person of the Year. The audience included a large contingent of members of the Board of Trustees who were in town for the regular Board meeting. The recognitions celebrate a partnership between the College and Carlinville that has been essential to the success of both entities since the middle of the 1830s and my own partnership with Blackburn and the Carlinville community for 24 years. We talk a lot about partnerships because our partnerships with the Carlinville Public Schools, the Presbyterian Church, and the Work College Consortium are a reflection of our mission.

The Blackburn mission statement is frequently criticized as too long, and perhaps it is in a world where 30 seconds is considered sufficient time to deliver the most important information. The mission statement clearly states what we are about and what we have been doing for 175 years. In fact, it is my belief that we have never implemented that mission better than we are now, and never has our mission spoken as directly to the needs of society.

With the help of a remarkable group of faculty, staff, alumni and students we have addressed those issues AND moved the educational program forward by ensuring the quality of the programs and services and by integrating the learning and work experiences. In fact we should aspire to be a national model for preparing young people for leadership in a complex world.

If you have followed the criticisms of American higher education and if you have been on campus to see our education in action, I think you will agree with me that we are meeting that criticism on every count. We are serving under-served and poorly-served students. We are providing a high quality education for a reasonable cost. We have worked hard to control the amount of student debt AND we are preparing liberal arts graduates who understand the world of work and are prepared to be responsible and ethical leaders for their communities.

When I became president our financial insecurity and resulting lack of consistency in recruitment, donor relations, and administration eclipsed our mission. We had lost the trust and confidence of our friends and family. The time has come for a leader who can inspire a level of excitement about Blackburn that will be felt far beyond our traditional sphere of influence.

I am choosing to retire at this time because Blackburn is in a position of strength, but requires a leader with a style and skill set that is quite different from mine. There will be a change in feel and that is a good thing. Please be patient. These changes are necessary to move our mission forward, and that is necessary to the survival of this institution that we all love.

“The time has come for a leader who can inspire a level of excitement about Blackburn that will be felt far beyond our traditional sphere of influence.”

Min
Prior to the June meeting of the Board of Trustees, I made the assertion within my written report to the Board that we have gone a year without losing someone on our Institutional Advancement Staff and that we have reached a new level of stability through this. Well, shortly after this meeting, I learned that Major Gifts Officer Joe Hughes would be leaving Blackburn to go back into the ministry.

Joe Hughes was a true road warrior. He traveled across the country meeting Blackburnians, listening to their stories, and developing relationships. In this role, he represented Blackburn very well. At age 59, Joe believed he had one more chance to lead a congregation. This opportunity materialized when Joe was offered the interim pastorship at a large Lutheran church in Kansas.

Before Joe left, I conferred with President Mim Pride about what our next step was in terms of personnel. It was determined that we need to find a new major gifts officer as soon as possible—so the job description was revised, an advertisement was written and both were released and the search was started for an experienced development officer. Shortly after the job was posted, Senior Development Officer and Director of Alumni Relations, Nate Rush, indicated an interest first to Mim and then to me about representing Blackburn in this national fund raising role. It was clearly a no brainer.

Nate Rush has served in many different external roles at Blackburn as both a staff member and as a volunteer. He is actively involved and visible within the community. Nate is at that time in his career and his life that this is the perfect job for him. He is a connector—he is a hard-working relationship builder with the most pure fund raising experience than anyone we have on the development staff. Nate will take over a blended portfolio with the majority of Joe's donors and prospects combined with those that have been in his own portfolio for years.

In his new role, Nate's work on the national level will compliment Tom Turpin's efforts within the state of Illinois. Nate is anxious to get on the road and do a great job for Blackburn in a position that matches his talents well.

That brought us to our next personnel challenge: finding the right individual to fill the new role of Coordinator of Alumni Relations. With Nate moving to his new position and duties, separating the alumni relations duties into a separate, focused position made the most sense. The Blackburn Alumni Association Board, which has been passed along from one alumni liaison to another over the last seven years deserved it. Our 6,500-strong alumni body needs a singular point person to serve our alums, and the rest of our staff will also benefit.

This was an exhaustive search, as this position was very popular with over 50 applicants. The consensus of the search committee was to hire Carlinville native Laura Hopping as Coordinator of Alumni Relations. Laura has already joined our team from her previous position with the American Cancer Society based in Bloomington, IL. She has major event management, fundraising, public relations, and social media experience. These outstanding attributes are overshadowed by the fact that Laura has great people and communication skills.

Over the last twenty months, I have often mentioned to my colleagues and our staff that in order to achieve maximum effectiveness, we must play to each individual's strengths. These two personnel moves exemplify this line of thinking and in the end will make Institutional Advancement better. More importantly, it sets our operation up to better serve you, the alumni of Blackburn College.

When you have a chance, please congratulate Nate on his new position and welcome Laura to the Blackburn family.
Blackburn College is all about practical problem-solving. Though total enrollment numbers have been lower than expected in recent years, much has been done to address core issues that affect student success and persistence at the College. One area where these efforts appear to be paying off in measurable ways is freshman retention.

For decades, Blackburn’s freshman retention rate (freshmen who enter in the fall who return in the following fall) has hovered around 60%. In 2002 we set a goal of improving that number, but the improvements were short-lived when we had consecutive years with 65% of freshmen returning for their second year in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. It was frustrating to see that figure return to the 60% range again the following year and stay in that neighborhood for the next few years. But we continued to work hard to implement all of the elements of a comprehensive plan for improvement. The following list reflects the key actions we’ve taken in recent years to improve freshman retention:

- A work-centered program was piloted in fall 2011 in cooperation with Food Service. It was the start of a program to help freshmen in the Work Program develop basic skills in team building, conflict management, and communication. It will continue in the fall of 2012 as Leadership (LD) 110.
- The Student Support Program (SSP) was piloted in the fall of 2011 as a comprehensive program to help students improve academic skills in direct conjunction with a class taken as part of their regular schedule. It has been expanded for 2012-2013 to include additional classes, and assessment data collected so far suggests that the program has been effective in aiding student academic success.
- Writing (WR) 111 and 112 (formerly Communications (CO) 111 and 112) is a sequence that was redeveloped from earlier versions of Freshman Composition. This sequence has been continually strengthened based on what we’ve learned from assessment data, information from professional associations, and a commitment to staff the courses with trained composition and rhetoric instructors who are full time employees of the College.
- CO 105 is a course on academic skills and time management created to help students who are struggling academically. It has served scores of students and is continually rethought in light of experience and assessment data.
- Advising workshops, guides, and assessment have continued to expand over the past ten years. In 2010, Registrar Dianna Ruyle took on additional duties as Coordinator of Advising Services and has improved coordination of efforts to strengthen advising. While we will work to continue to improve advising effectiveness, particularly in the freshman year, assessment data suggest overall student satisfaction with advising.
- The Academic Resource Center (ARC) was created and staffed with a full-time person for the first time in 2011. We now have two full-time faculty members who devote substantial time to the work of the ARC as well as a full-time staff member who coordinates these programs. The Writer’s Block, tutor training and evaluation, and other services in support of student academic success are coordinated through this center.
- The Early Alert Support Team (EAST) was created in 2004 to oversee and help coordinate efforts to assist students showing evidence of academic,
social or work-related difficulties. Composed of faculty and staff members, EAST continues to be very active in identifying and helping students who are struggling.

- Living-Learning Communities began with a Freshman Living-Learning Community in Jewell Hall in 2008. The first iteration showed various problems, but persistence has paid off as the data for this initiative show promise of very good outcomes in terms of grades, persistence and satisfaction. In fall 2012 Blackburn residence halls housed a Freshman Living-Learning Community, an Education Living Learning Community, a Healthy Choices Living-Learning Community and a Spanish Living-Learning Community.

- Career Services/Experiential Learning is an area that assessment identified as crucial to student satisfaction and success, and adding a full-time director in 2011 has been a major step forward in service to students.

- Assessment and evaluation have consistently informed our efforts to better serve students. Since 2004 we have run regular academic program reviews that have been valuable in continuing to improve our programs. A similar review was conducted for Student Life in 2009, and recommendations were similarly studied and implemented. Assessment is a regular part of the work of all academic programs, student life programs, work programs, and athletic programs, and we review the data to try to improve our effectiveness in working with students. Routine course evaluation is part of every course taught at Blackburn and we pay close attention to the data as part of the ongoing effort to continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of experience in classrooms, labs, and other instructional settings.

- Planning and seeking external funding for a summer “Bridge” Program to help prepare prospective students who may be academically underprepared for success as Blackburn students.

All in all, this comprehensive approach to retention has helped us make very significant strides in the direction of what we envisioned. The result is that freshman retention from fall 2011 to fall 2012 is 73%, a higher figure than any on record.

"All in all, this comprehensive approach to retention has helped us make very significant strides in the directions of what we envisioned."

Jeffery P. Aper Ph.D. ’78 is the Blackburn College Provost. To reach Dr. Aper, email japer@blackburn.edu

Blackburn residence halls housed a Freshman Living-Learning Community, an Education Living Learning Community, a Healthy Choices Living-Learning Community and a Spanish Living-Learning Community.

- Initiatives that are underway but incomplete include:
  - Improved access to counseling services through development of a well-trained cadre of student Peer Counselors;
  - All residence halls now have state of the art fire detection and suppression systems to help assure student safety. Stoddard Hall received improvements in 2008 that were very positively received by students. Major improvements in Jewell Hall will be completed over the next year or so.

By continuing the existing programs and evaluating our delivery of services or assistance, we can meet the substantial challenges that face us as an institution and continue to improve across the board. This improvement in retention is the result of planning and hard work to better serve students.
The Mim Pride Legacy: Finding the Center

By Kyle Harrington ’10
Now, 23 years later, President Pride—or Mim, as she is known to thousands of Blackburn students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends—will step down from her presidential role, closing a long chapter in Blackburn’s history.

No stranger to the work-learning model, Pride grew up on the Berea College campus, a Work College in Berea, Kentucky. Joining that college’s Labor Program as a teenager, her dedication to the benefits of affordable education and the importance of work was formed at an early age. “I grew up with the idea that the combination of a strong liberal arts program and work is a very powerful educational model,” said Pride. “I would even go so far as to say that, if you define work as being the contribution that any individual makes to the community in which they live, that human beings who don’t work die, whether they die physically or spiritually.”

After completing a Bachelor’s Degree from College of Wooster (Wooster, OH), Pride returned to Berea as Director of Campus Activities and later the manager of the college’s Boone Tavern Hotel. She then returned to school, earning an M.B.A. from the University of Kentucky.

“I knew about Blackburn because my boss and mentor, Bill Ramsey, was the man who actually wrote the language that became the law that created the Work College Consortium and the federal definition of a Work College.” As Pride was being groomed as an assistant to Ramsey, a former Berea student, Hal Haynes, was working at Blackburn as Director of Student Activities.

“Hal used to call me on a fairly regular basis to talk to me about what was going on at Blackburn, and it was dreadful,” said Pride. Overspending had led to serious fiscal woes at Blackburn.
With the College in dire financial straits, the Blackburn Board of Trustees hired David Brown as president. Brown had done a careful analysis of the College, and agreed to take the position with the understanding that he would be able to make two hires—one in Student Life and one in Advancement.

“He thought they needed to be women because there were no women at that level here at the time,” Pride said. “They needed to be single because the College was in so much trouble, that he didn’t want to be responsible for moving families. He went to Berea for a meeting, and people there said, ‘Mim Pride is the person you want,’ and he made up his mind at that point, on that basis, that he was going to hire me.”

Without ever meeting Pride, or seeing a resume, Brown began courting her to join Blackburn’s staff. He began sending her information, calling her, and telling her that he wanted her to join Blackburn’s staff. He even went so far as to check into the Boone Tavern Hotel, telling Pride, “I’m going to stay until you decide to do this.”

“He final argument was ‘You can’t let another Work College die,’” Pride remembered.

She agreed to two years and joined the Blackburn College staff in summer 1990 as Assistant to the President for Campus Life.

Pride’s first months at Blackburn were heavily concentrated on Student Life and the Work Program. At the end of the first year she was named Vice President of Administration, and entrusted with guaranteeing that College operations ran smoothly on a day to day basis, due to Brown’s time spent fundraising on the road. But at the close of her first year, David Brown gave his 30-day notice, recommending to the Board that Pride be made Interim President.

It was during the Board of Trustees meeting in October 1991, with so many pressing problems, few resources to complete a presidential search, and a need to display stability, that Pride was made President of Blackburn College.

“I think they had lost their sense of direction in terms of the mission,” she said of the years leading up to her presidency. “There was a sense that the idea of college students cleaning toilets and such was unreasonable. There was not an appreciation for the culture of work, helping people learn how to work, and the fact that all work has meaning or can have meaning. They had lost their way in being able to make the case for the work-learning model.”

During these years, tuition had seen increases, yet the campus aesthetic didn’t match these ramped up tuition rates, leading to over-spending on campus improvements. By the time Pride arrived, the budgets weren’t balanced, and the College endowment had been invaded to pay for these expenditures.

According to Pride, it was time for Blackburn to regain the pride in its mission: to provide excellent education at a modest cost for young people who are willing to work as part of that experience.

Her first step was to rebuild the Advancement staff. “There is a 10-year period where we didn’t have a full Advancement staff. We had a good fundraiser in [Glenn] McConagha and a good team for a number of years. And because big gifts are often delayed, we went through a period of time when you didn’t see the impact of the loss of Advancement staff because you were still reaping the benefits of the people who had preceded. Then we fell into a rapid decline on the financial side because you had ten years where we weren’t really paying attention to people in the way
People then stepped up and very publicly declared their support for Blackburn and signaled that it was safe to invest again. Then with the help of Alan Adams [Vice President for Development and Public Relations], we did a capital campaign in the late '90s which got people's attention and began a new era of donor support.

In 22 years as president, Pride has had to make many difficult decisions, not all of which were popular, but her dedication to the College, its mission and the students, alumni and friends to whom Blackburn is so important, cannot be contested. “I have a passion for this,” she said. “I came with a passion for this, and I came determined that another Work College wasn’t going to die. I have been stubbornly passionate about the liberal arts and work-learning, about holding young people responsible, about the potential for young people to make a really important contribution, and I have been adamant about the fact that all work can have meaning, and that young people need to understand that all the roles are important.”

Throughout her tenure, Pride has seen the College grow from the brink of financial ruin, to the stable institution it is today. Although new and improved facilities dot the campus, and academic programs have grown and flourished, what she will best remember are the improvements, with the help of so many dedicated faculty, staff, alumni and friends, brought a rebirth of confidence in the institution, leading to large financial contributions from private donors, and state and federal funding. This funding, garnered with the help of late Illinois Senator Vince Demuzio, led to the building of the Demuzio Campus Center and the Visual Arts Center. The creation of the Macoupin Scholarship Fund, under the leadership of Hon. John Russell and Norma Dunn, further restored faith in the College.

To help balance the budget, huge financial cuts were made across the board, including cutting 20% of the faculty, 25% of the staff and academic programs. “A number of people who were fairly close to retirement took early retirement so that younger people could keep their jobs,” Pride said. Many members of the faculty and staff served in multiple roles across campus. “For example, there were several years when Sam Meredith was teaching full time, but also working as Chief Academic Officer. People made huge sacrifices.”

It was imperative to Pride that students understand the importance of work, that all work holds meaning, and that this core ideal of Blackburn’s mission be restored. “If you don’t understand the role played by the people who fix the plumbing, clean the floors and cook the food, I don’t think you can make an organization work,” she said.

Pride credits the faculty and staff for helping restore Blackburn’s work-learning culture. The work of Dr. Sam Meredith, Dr. Greg Meyer (then Chaplain), Associate Dean of Work, Roger Fenton, Provost Dr. Jeff Aper, and many others helped rebuild the connection between academics and work. “We are doing a much better job of talking to young people about what students in Food Service and Campus Services can learn in those environments,” she said. “There are some exciting opportunities for students in graphic design to work in PR, and students in business to work in the business office or the bookstore. We’re doing a better job of tying that together.”

These improvements, with the help of so many dedicated faculty, staff, alumni and friends, brought a rebirth of confidence in the institution, leading to large financial contributions from private donors, and state and federal funding. This funding, garnered with the help of late Illinois Senator Vince Demuzio, led to the building of the Demuzio Campus Center and the Visual Arts Center. The creation of the Macoupin Scholarship Fund, under the leadership of Hon. John Russell and Norma Dunn, further restored faith in the College.
relationships she has made. “For me it's always been about people—about students and how they've grown over the years, and getting to know Blackburn alums and uncovering their stories, because they are incredible stories.”

College. While Blackburn transitions to a new president who will bring new ideas and new life, Pride will move back to her hometown of Berea, KY. As a woman constantly on the go, she won't slow down much. After taking time to recharge and get personal matters in order, Pride wants to see the United States from outside the walls of airport terminals and hotel rooms. She also has plans to visit her niece and nephew in South Korea. She hopes to get involved with Habitat for Humanity and help with their building projects.

She will continue to support education, including Work Colleges, and will likely do consulting work.

When asked about her legacy, President Pride told a story: “I was talking to Greg Meyer, and we were talking about what I had done and I said, ‘You know, Greg, I’m really very uncomfortable with that because all I can think about is all the people who made all these good things possible.’ And he said, ‘Yes, but you held the center.’ I think that’s something I can claim. I worked hard to

Edward Young, a ten-year veteran of the Blackburn Board of Trustees and current Chair said of Pride: “She has provided exceptional leadership for Blackburn College and helped steer the College through difficult years. Her commitment, knowledge and love of the liberal arts and higher education have had a tremendous effect on thousands of students, alumni, faculty, and staff who had the pleasure to work and learn alongside her.”

On June 30, 2013, Pride's time at Blackburn will officially end, beginning the next chapter for both her and the institution. She held the center. A stalwart champion of Blackburn's unique mission, Pride helped keep Blackburn afloat when it was drowning, helped repair the disconnect that had grown between work and learning, helped lead Blackburn into the new millennium, saw the institution celebrate 175 years—while never forgetting the people, the students, the support that helped her lead the charge. And that, in so few simple words, is the beauty of Miriam R. Pride's legacy. She held the center.
Update Magazine // Fall 2012

Thanks for the Mim-ories!

Here's how you can celebrate Mim's 22 years of service.

Acknowledging Mim's contributions to the College by sending your personal wishes, fond memories, personal stories, and photographs. All of the items collected will be placed in a book to present to Mim at her retirement event in April, 2013. We hope you are able to participate in helping create a memorable collection!

All items for the memory book should be sent to Ann Allen, Executive Assistant to the President, Blackburn College, 700 College Ave, Carlinville, IL 62626. Please submit any items by March 15, 2013.

Upcoming Opportunities Celebrating Mim's Tenure as President

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<td>T.G.I.W. with Blackburn Faculty at McKinley</td>
<td>5-8 pm</td>
<td>March 13</td>
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<td>T.G.I.F. with Blackburn Staff at McKinley</td>
<td>5-8 pm</td>
<td>March 15</td>
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<td>Art Show and Reception—Open to Community</td>
<td>VAC 1-4 pm</td>
<td>March 17</td>
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<td>College and Community Luncheon (RSVP)</td>
<td>ADRs 12 noon</td>
<td>April 9</td>
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<td>Baccalaureate—Margie Pride, Speaker</td>
<td>Bothwell 8 pm</td>
<td>May 17</td>
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<td>144th Annual Commencement—Mim Pride, Speaker</td>
<td>Quad 10:30 am</td>
<td>May 18</td>
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Richard Wharry and Richard ’68 and Terry Russell attend an Alumni College presentation.

Joan Hedgecock ’57 and her mother, Opal Dearduff ’29 smile during Reunion Photos.

Mim Pride receives an Honorary Alumna Certificate presented by Lucretia (Pitts) Barrett ’97.

Cynthia Lamar ’73 checks in with Alison Corey ’13 at Homecoming.

Cynthia Lamar ’73 checks in with Alison Corey ’13 at Homecoming.

Alumni view a City of Carlinville Monopoly board.

Terri Reid takes off during Beaverthon 5k.

Ashley Nicoloff ’14 and Shaun Thrasher ’14 at the Anderson exhibit.

Mim Pride receives an Honorary Alumna Certificate presented by Lucretia (Pitts) Barrett ’97.

Richard Wharry and Richard ’68 and Terry Russell attend an Alumni College presentation.
During the weekend of September 29 to October 1, 2012, alumni, family, and friends of the College gathered on campus to celebrate Homecoming. Weekend festivities included the annual Athletics Department Golf Tournament, Blackburn’s Got Talent Variety Show, Beaverthon 5k and much more!
From “Cabaret” to “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”, theatrical performances by the Blackburn College Department of Performing Arts keep expanding each year and add a variety of talent to every performance.

During the first week of November, the department performed Oscar Wilde’s 1895 comedy, “The Importance of Being Earnest”, which essentially takes place in “the present”. That’s exactly what Blackburn did, performing with 21st Century costumes and props. The cast featured new faces, which included Ashley Spears ’16, Brendan Lersch ’16, Sawyer Burton ’15, Jeanette Kelly ’14, Jack Homan ’15, Ronald Smith ’15, and community member, June McDonald. Behind the scenes, the set was designed by Owen Meredith ’13, costumes by Ashley Egelhoff ’14, and sound and lights by Nathan Gorman ’13.

On September 28, the department hosted Blackburn’s Got Talent, the annual Homecoming Weekend talent show. Based on the hit show “America’s Got Talent”, Blackburn’s Got Talent featured a variety of acts, ranging from singing, to comedy, to instrumental music. Winners were Katie Ward ’14, stand-up comedy, Sawyer Burton ’15, singing, and DeArryka Williams ’15, singing. Many community members and alumni attended, and faculty and staff volunteered to help. The judges included Angie (Watson) Morenz ’97, Physical Education Professor, Rob Weis, College Counselor, and student Andre Hoskins ’15.

In the spring semester, open auditions for the spring musical “Urinetown” will take place. A three time Tony winner, “Urinetown” is a tale of love and greed, which takes place in a town that has suffered from drought for 20 years. In order for the citizens of the town to maintain their most basic needs, they must pay outrageous fees. In these conditions, a hero arises and leads the citizens in a revolution.

Two student performances will be produced and directed this spring by seniors Reggie Guyton ’13 and Kenny James ’13. Reggie will be directing a self-written “mini-musical” that will feature dancing and a script, but no singing. The script is based off of a blend of events that many students have experienced or seen happen. “I’m really excited and I look forward to challenging myself by directing and choreographing a show at the same time,” said Guyton.

Written by Emily Fisher ’15 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.

For more information on Department of Performing Arts events, visit www.blackburn.edu or email performingarts@blackburn.edu.
Choir & Band Dates

College Band Spring Concert
Monday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.
Bothwell Auditorium

A Night at the Movies
Blackburn College Choir & Blackburn Voices
Pops Concert of Music from the Big Screen
Saturday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.
Bothwell Auditorium

Urinetown, The Musical
Thurs.-Sat. April 11-13, 7:30 p.m.
Sun. April 14, 2:00 p.m.
Thurs.-Sat. April 18-20, 7:30 p.m.
Sun. April 21, 2:00 p.m.
Bothwell Auditorium

Spring Fling
Joint Concert of the Blackburn College Choir & Band
Monday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.
Bothwell Auditorium
Winter Sports Schedules

### Women’s Basketball

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>Greenville College*</td>
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<td>MacMurray College*</td>
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<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Spalding University</td>
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<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>Fontbonne University*</td>
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<td>Westminster College*</td>
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<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Eureka College*</td>
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<td>Greenville College*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MacMurray College*</td>
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<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Webster University*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>SLIAC Championship</td>
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### Men’s Basketball

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<thead>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Webster University*</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 22*</td>
<td>SLIAC Tournament</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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**Bold** = Home Contest  
**Italicize** = SLIAC Contest  
* = SLIAC Conference Tnmt

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**NEW ATHLETICS BEAVER**

There's a new big man on campus, and he's not afraid to build some dams.

Designed by Amanda Johnston '13, student worker in the Public Relations Office, and unveiled in September, the New Beaver has been seen on athletic apparel and admissions pieces to prospective students.

The New Beaver project was spearheaded by Head Men’s Basketball...
Coach and Interim Director of Athletic Operations, Jason Baribeau, with help from the College Bookstore and the Department of Admissions.

“The idea of having an additional mark for Blackburn College Athletics was developed, very fittingly, by an enthusiastic student. Once there was an idea, we passionately pursued this to become a reality,” said Baribeau. “The mark represents everything we strive for as a department such as determination, pride, and perseverance. All catch words that we look to identify with.”

“This was an important endeavor as we look to move Blackburn College Athletics forward within the competitive spirit of our conference and it has been a point of great enthusiasm for the students and student-athletes across campus,” he said.

For those who hold mascot Barney the Beaver (and his beanie) close to their heart, don’t worry—the New Beaver isn’t Barney on steroids, it’s only his more athletic, more competitive cousin, and both will represent the College together.

New Beaver apparel is available for sale at the Blackburn College Bookstore, located in the Demuzio Campus Center.

STATE OF THE SCIENCES

There is always exciting learning going on in the biology and chemistry departments at Blackburn College. Students conducting experiments, professors instructing labs and lectures, and animals buzzing, creeping, and leaping in their homes are just a few of the daily goings-on in Mahan and the Olin Science Building.

In the biology department, students are working on a variety of exciting projects including senior Michael Heitzig ’13, who is currently conducting a project for which he received grant money to remove a local invasive plant species, as well as a group of students who co-wrote a grant to do tree identification in conjunction with Jubilee Farms in Springfield, IL. Students in the sciences are also spearheading a new club this year, dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment.

The number of students studying to go into the health professions continues to grow at Blackburn. Due in part to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (commonly known as ObamaCare) the prospects for employment in health fields are looking up. In the last six years, Blackburn graduates have entered 11 different health professions from chiropractic to veterinary practice. The Pre-Health Professions club also continues to be active on campus.

In chemistry a new Inorganic Chemistry course has been added as a requirement for both chemistry and biochemistry majors, and Dr. Karl Luth, Chemistry Department Chair and Professor of Chemistry and Physics, will be working with students during this school year to develop effective labs for the course in order to improve the learning experience for students who will take it in the future.

Members of the Blackburn community participated in tree planting volunteer days for the department’s Walnut Forestry Project, as part of the Marvin Mahan walnut tree legacy, on November 17 and December 1. Approximately five thousand new trees were planted. Additionally, Dr. James Bray, Professor of Biology, has received a grant from the Work College Consortium with which he will begin a project in the spring 2013 semester to add native plant landscaping to the Blackburn scenery.

Written by Larra Brogdon ’14 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.
Cake art design, heart health, musical reviews and the Arab Spring may not be common topics in the classroom, but during Blackburn’s monthly College and Community Luncheons, the educational topics range far and wide.

Held once a month in the Auxiliary Dining Rooms, College and Community Luncheons feature a presentation by a faculty, staff or community member with expert knowledge in their field. During the fall 2012 semester, presentations included “Texts, Tweets and Facebook: How Media Literacy Will Save Civilization” by Natasha Casey, Professor of Communication; “Cake Pops” by Pam Cole, manager of Sodexo food service, and Kristin Gregory, Sodexo Executive Chef; and “Beginner’s Guide to Deception and Lie Detecting” by Dr. David Camp, Professor of Criminal Justice.

Presentations for the spring 2012 semester will focus on heart health and wellness, Mueller Scholarship experiences, and a farewell by President Pride.

The luncheons are open to the Blackburn and greater Carlinville communities at a cost of $7.00. Alumni in the area are encouraged to attend. For more information on the College and Community Luncheons, contact Emily Fisher, Public Relations Student Worker, at 217-854-3231 x4296, or emily.fisher@blackburn.edu.
The historical display celebrating Blackburn’s 175th anniversary helped uncover some lesser known history of the College. Dick Leighninger ’68 was pleased to see the College Mace on display at the anniversary event, but wanted a closer examination—and for good reason.

Rewind the clock to 1967. Dr. Glen McConagha had been named Blackburn’s 11th president and the campus was preparing to hold an inauguration for the new president. Dr. John Forbes, College Marshal, was in charge of planning the event and noted that Blackburn lacked presidential regalia.

At Forbes’ beckoning, Mitch Clark, then professor and head of the Blackburn art department, was tapped to begin work on the necessary items for a grand inauguration.

Before they were done, Clark and his students had created the President’s mace, collar and medallion, ring, and even the lectern used for the ceremony. Dick Leighninger was one of the students tapped to help work on the pieces.

Leighninger and Clark met on November 2, following the anniversary display viewing over Homecoming weekend. Leighninger was actually worried that the mace needed some possible repair and as they visited, the story of the regalia creation came forth.

Then a Blackburn student, Leighninger had been enlisted to design the head and tail piece for the mace. An experienced draftsman from his high school days, he created the technical drawings used by Clark to create the actual model used to cast the top and bottom pieces of the mace in bronze. The art department, located at the time in the basement of Stoddard, also had a small foundry outside in a metal shed. It was there that Clark and the students cast the metal pieces.

Additional work by Clark and the students produced the gold ring and presidential collar with medallion still used in ceremonies today. Leighninger also created the drawings used in the design of the lectern for the occasion. Leighninger’s drawings of the mace design were on display with the mace at the anniversary event.

And what about the suspected repair needs for the mace? What had been noticed in the display was actually a small imperfection in the hand crafted mace—something both men recalled during their discussion of the project some 45 years before.
Dear Alumni & Friends,

This is an exciting time for Blackburn!

This fall we welcomed an extraordinary freshman class and saw an increase in transfer students, too. This 14% increase in new students has provided a spark in the Office of Admissions and throughout the Blackburn campus. Coupled with a retention rate of over 70% for this year’s sophomore class, we are making great strides in returning Blackburn to the greater enrollment of years past.

The campus itself retains its unique charm. The familiar buildings still buzz with the enthusiasm of students pursuing their academic interests, while they balance the responsibilities of their work assignments. Some things haven’t changed! Today’s Blackburn students can take advantage of two newer majors in Organizational Leadership and Environmental Studies, both interdisciplinary academic programs that will prepare those graduates for successful careers.

Blackburn enrollment is moving in the right direction and you can help us carry it forward.

You are a great asset to Blackburn College. As alumni and friends of the College, your stories are what we tell to current and prospective students. Those stories and memories are what bring our unique educational community to life! Your learning, work experience and success are meaningful examples of the life-changing effect Blackburn continues to have on students. You are the proof that great things happen at Blackburn.

That’s why we’re asking for your help!

The center piece of this issue of the Update is a pull-out brochure, provided to introduce prospective students to Blackburn College. We encourage you to give this information to a prospective student you may know and invite them to contact the Office of Admissions. Tell them your story and how Blackburn affected your own life and career. Let them know we are excited about their future and the chance to show them a college they won’t find anywhere else.

Is this important? YES! Sending a student our way is one of the most important things you can do for Blackburn—and for that student’s future.

Sincerely,

Alisha Kapp
Director of Admissions

Remove brochure and give to a prospective student!
AN INVITATION TO YOU

Learn.

Blackburn students are given a rigorous and distinctive liberal arts education designed to instill a love for learning... a love that is intended to last a lifetime. Whether the student’s next step is graduate school or entering the workforce, Blackburn graduates have always been well-prepared to continue their “education”.

At Blackburn, our culture has created a community that allows students to enjoy close relationships with their professors. With these close relationships come opportunities for learning that don’t exist on other campuses. As lab assistants, teaching assistants and tutors, our students work alongside their professors and are given opportunities to participate in significant research and take on roles and responsibilities that most colleges typically assign to graduate students.

Our culture provides students with intellectual stimuli in every aspect of their campus experience with highly credentialed faculty and staff ready to mentor them every step of the way.

Work.

Over the years, students have built Blackburn—literally brick by brick, including ten of the buildings on campus. And, of course, the job tasks taken on by students as part of the Work Program are endless and cover every department, office or area of the College.

There is an interdependency that exists at Blackburn that fosters life long friendships and a very strong sense of community. Our students learn to be adaptable, and to understand the true meaning of community and service to others so that when they graduate from our world, we send them into the larger world fully prepared to be responsible and productive citizens.

Earn.

Blackburn is also a place where students earn. Academic achievement does not come without effort, a college education is not inexpensive, acceptance to graduate school is competitive, and success in a career is not guaranteed. It all must be earned.

Blackburn College provides a learning environment where students have a record of proven accomplishments. It is a place where students earn the opportunity to be at the front of the line and the right to say “I’ve done it, I am successful, and I’m going on to even greater professional achievement.”

Your chance to make a difference in the life of a young person and in the future of Blackburn!

This is a little different.

Yes, this is a little different than what we’ve done in the past. All we are asking is for you to think of a high school student that would be a good fit for Blackburn. Perhaps you know a student through church or a civic organization. Maybe you know of a family with a high school student. Take the time to pass this information along and if you have the opportunity, tell your Blackburn story!

Why are we doing this?

That’s simple—more contacts and good applicants! Some of our best connections with prospective students come from alumni contacts. You have experienced Blackburn and likely have a good idea of young people who might benefit from the same experience. Your contact with students can help us increase our contacts exponentially and that’s good for Blackburn!

We want you to affect the lives of students.

That same college experience that helped you in your life can be just as important with young people today. Point a student in the right direction. They’ll thank you for it later.

Your role in the future of Blackburn.

Blackburn is truly one-of-a-kind. The combination of a quality liberal arts education and the student managed Work Program does not exist anywhere else. You can help us by explaining what the Blackburn experience can mean to a young adult. It is a simple task and can also be fun! Share your story!
On Friday, November 2, five exceptional Blackburn graduates and a former science professor were honored at the first Science Wall of Honor induction ceremony. The final event for the Blackburn College 175th Anniversary Celebration, the Science Wall of Honor Award is given to Blackburn graduates who have excelled in their professional scientific field. The event was sponsored by the Cynmar Corporation.

The ceremony included a welcome by retired Blackburn professor, Patricia Kowal, dinner catered by Sodexo food service, a presentation by Blackburn biology professor Dr. James Bray and biology students Masey Blasa ‘14 and Rob Hausmann ’13, and medallions presented to the inductees by President Miriam Pride.

Each of the inductees, along with receiving a medallion, will have their name placed on the Wall of Honor plaque located in the Marvin and Ingrid Mahan Laboratory Wing. Each year new inductees will be honored.

The inductees were:

**Dr. Richard Alexander ’48AA** has received numerous accolades, including membership and a gold medal in the National Academy of Sciences, a medal from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Honorary Doctorates from Blackburn College and Illinois State Normal University. After graduation he joined the University of Michigan as Professor, Museum Curator, and Director before retiring in 2001. He has taught and studied biology, ecology, animal and human behavior and evolution. In his retirement he has authored several books, the subjects include: Blackburn College, horse social life, children’s stories, poetry, and the life stories of his parents.

**Dr. Elisabeth Gantt ’58** earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University before attending Dartmouth Medical School as a post-doctoral fellow. Dr. Gantt joined the Smithsonian Institution to pursue research on photosynthesis in cyanobacteria and red algae. She has also served in other various capacities in scientific organizations, including serving as the first female president of the American Society of Plant Biology. She also was elected into the National Academy of Sciences for her studies explaining the structure of energy migration within light harvesting systems.

**Dr. Louis Lanzerotti’s ’60** principal interests have included space plasmas, geophysics, and engineering problems related to the impacts of atmospheric and space processes. He has also served as principal investigator or co-investigator on several United States NASA interplanetary and planetary missions including Voyager 1 and 2, Ulysses, and Galileo Orbiter and Entry Probe. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council of the National Academies. He also served on the Vice President’s Space Policy Advisory Board from 1990-1992.

**Dr. C. Barber Mueller ’36** completed his doctorate at Washington University in St. Louis before spending three years with the 4th Marine Division.
in the Pacific, earning a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. Before returning to St. Louis, Dr. Mueller spent a year as a Rockefeller Scholar in biochemistry at Harvard Medical School. After completing his surgical residency training, he remained on the Washington University Faculty with research interests in acute renal failure. Dr. Mueller spent six years at Washington University, followed by 12 years at State University of New York (SUNY), Syracuse as Department Chair of Surgery. He then moved to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, as Chair of Surgery at McMaster University where he is now Professor Emeritus. Dr. Mueller recently published “Excalibur: The Sword of Science that Reshaped the World.” Charles Beetz ’62, a member of the Blackburn Board of Trustees, accepted Dr. Mueller’s award on his behalf.

Dr. George Tilton ’43 began college at Blackburn, but had to postpone his education to serve in the 26th Infantry Division where he received a Purple Heart after being wounded in Alsace, France. Following the war, Dr. Tilton resumed his studies of chemistry at the University of Illinois and the University of Chicago. His graduate work in Chicago with colleague Clair Patterson led to the method used to determine the age of rocks and the calculation of the age of earth and the solar system. Dr. Tilton has also been honored with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the Federal Institute of Technology in Switzerland, received two Humboldt Foundation Awards for studies at Max Planck Institute in Germany, and was elected into the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Tilton died on October 12, 2012. His son, John, accepted this award on his behalf.

Dr. William Werner, Professor Emeritus, received his Ph.D. from Cornell University before beginning a career-long tenure at Blackburn College as a field biology and ecology professor. Dr. Werner has been recognized for his teaching ability, receiving several awards, including a national teaching award sponsored by the American Association for Higher Education. As well as being nominated twice for the CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) award. He has also received the Gideon Blackburn Appreciation Award for his contribution in education, the Sears Roebuck Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership, and the Hudson Award for 35 years of distinguished service to Blackburn.

2012-2013 Student Marshal

On August 22 at the annual All College Convocation, the auditorium sat silently as the 2011-12 Student Marshal, Amanda Orzechowski ’12 walked slowly among the crowd in search of the new Marshal. Tapped was Tim Erton, a senior Pre-Med Bio-Chemistry major from Flat Rock, IL, as the 2012-13 Student Marshal.

“It was the most excited I’ve been in a long time,” Erton said of the honor. “I’m very honored and privileged.” Student Marshal is the highest honor bestowed on a graduating senior by the faculty.

Elected by the faculty, recipients are recognized as being outstanding in all areas of campus life. Eligible seniors must have made a positive contribution to campus through participation in at least three significant activities, display exemplary participation in the Work Program, and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 or be in the top 20% of their class.

Erton is involved in a wide array of campus life activities. One of two Work Program General Managers, he is also the President of the Pre-Health Professions Club, Graham House Council President, and the Investment Club Treasurer. He sits on numerous committees, including Work Committee, Safety Committee, Public Relations Advisory Council and Student Senate. Erton is also a member of the Cross Country team.

After graduation, Erton hopes to attend medical school and is considering joining the United States Air Force.
Jennifer Hamilton and Mary Beasley prepare for Gideon’s birthday party on the Carlinville square.

On Sunday, October 28, 12 students were inducted into the Illinois Beta Chapter of Alpha Chi, a national honor scholarship society. Alpha Chi recognizes students who excel academically—residing in the top 10% of their junior or senior class—and are elected by Blackburn faculty on the basis of academic achievements and clear character.

Held in Clegg Chapel, the induction ceremony featured a welcome by Dr. James Bray, Professor of Biology and Alpha Chi sponsor, an invocation by Alpha Chi member Daniel Long ’13, and a keynote address by Natasha Casey, Professor of Communications.

Fall 2012 Alpha Chi inductees included:

- Megan Adamski ’14, Elizabeth Bann ’14,
- Masey Blasa ’14, David Bone ’13, Travis Buchanan ’14, Jacob DeRousse ’14,
- Aaron Donoho ’14, Timothy Erton ’13,
- Megan Isringhausen ’14, Jenny Langley ’14, Chelsea Niquette ’13, Cynthia Roberg ’14, Douglas Rudd ’13, Amy Walton ’15, and Marissa Watson ’14


The induction ceremony was followed by a reception hosted by President Pride in the Lobby of Mahan Science Center.

Parents of Blackburn students can now sleep more soundly, knowing that their child is sleeping, studying, and playing in dormitories newly equipped with the most premier fire suppression features.

Propelled into action by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn’s Illinois Fire Sprinkler Dormitory Act on August 6, 2012, the act mandates that all college resident halls have fire suppression and alarm systems by January 1 of 2014.

Blackburn Physical Plant student workers and staff completed the system installations long before the deadline. All six dormitories, and some academic buildings, including Demuzio Campus Center, Hudson Hall, Visual Arts Center, Bothwell Conservatory, and Mahan Laboratory Wing have improved fire safety systems.

The Illinois Fire Sprinkler Dormitory Act allows students more time to evacuate buildings. The alarms that are installed detect problems with high temperature or smoke and activate a horn and lights in the hallways and rooms. A sprinkler system is then activated, suppressing the fire and giving students more time to escape buildings. Many colleges throughout the state have not installed this new system, forcing the state to extend the deadline one year from the original date of January 1, 2012.

“Not only did Blackburn students install the new systems, but they also helped install the systems under the deadline and under the budget,” said Mike Slightom, New Construction Supervisor and supervisor for four of six dormitory system installations.

Written by Emily Fisher ’15 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.

2012 Alpha Chi Inductions

Students wait to be inducted into the Alpha Chi honor society.

LEED is a system which rates the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. A three-step weighting process estimates a building’s environmental impact, judges the importance of those impacts in a variety of categories, and reflects data regarding actual environmental and human health impacts. This data is rated on a points system, ranking from certified to platinum.

Mahan is home to the school’s seven state-of-the-art teaching laboratories for biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and water analysis. It also contains faculty offices, a conference room, a specimen display room, and a large lobby and common area where science students can work and study.

Blackburn College Provost Jeff Aper said of the Mahan science building, “When we were first thinking about this new building we envisioned it as a highly energy efficient and environmentally responsible facility … we thought it was the responsible thing to do and we wanted the building to be a model for such construction and operation.”

Written by Larra Brogdon '14 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.
Meet our new members of faculty and staff

**Dr. Pamela (Pam) Danker**, Professor of Psychology earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Michigan State University before receiving a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Texas Tech University. Pam has served as an adjunct faculty member at Rose State College, Oklahoma City Community College and Oklahoma City University School of Law. She has also had her own private practice in Oklahoma City. Pam resides in Carlinville.

**Mr. Paul Gross**, Professor of Computer Science, received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology before earning a Master of Science at Tufts University. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in Computer Science at Washington University, St. Louis. Paul has served as an undergraduate mentor as well as serving as an instructor at Wash. U. and Tufts. He has also served as professional development workshop coordinator and presenter for the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Wash. U. Paul currently resides in Carlinville.

**Ms. Laura Hopping**, Coordinator of Alumni Relations, earned a bachelor’s degree from the Department of Communications at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her career has consisted of acting as office assistant for Illinois Medical Associates, Prairie Farms Dairy, U of I School of Chemical Sciences; Social Marketing Specialist for the Illini Union in Urbana; and most recently as Income Development Representative for the American Cancer Society. She now makes her home in Carlinville.

**Ms. Dawn Kiper**, Controller, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Before coming to Blackburn College, Dawn was employed as an accountant for Dupage County Probation Department, Memorial Health Services and most recently at Fleming, Tawfall and Co., P.C. She has also been employed as an independent proofreader at Kelley Tomazolli. Dawn resides in Hillsboro, IL.

**Dr. Lori Lammert**, Professor of Spanish received her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with an emphasis on Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. She earned Master of Science degrees in Portuguese and Spanish from Vanderbilt University and Indiana University at Bloomington, before completing a Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. Lori has served as an Associate Professor at Chattanooga State Community College, Middle Tennessee State and Vanderbilt University. She has also served as a Spanish instructor at University of Memphis and as Portuguese instructor at Governor’s School for International Studies. Lori resides in Carlinville.

**Ms. Kacey Morrison**, Assistant Athletic Trainer, earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and Psychology from Illinois College before completing a Master of Science in Athletic Training from St. Louis University. Kacey has held various athletic training and assistant coaching positions with Alton High School, Washington University, Fusion Fastpitch Softball, St. Louis University and Illinois College. She lives in Alton, IL.
Ms. Brandie Mullink ’07, Head Volleyball Coach, earned a Bachelor of Arts from Blackburn College in K-12, Physical Education and an Endorsement in Middle School Language Arts from Milliken University. She currently serves as a physical education and driver’s education teacher in the Virden and North Mac school districts. She served as the Assistant Softball Coach for Blackburn in 2006.

Mr. David Roark, Adjunct English and Communications Professor, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. David then earned a Master of Arts in English and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. David has served as a literature and composition instructor and teaching assistant at the University of Illinois and most recently as a literature and composition instructor at the University of Houston-Downtown. In 2007 he received the Department Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Graduate Student. He and his wife, Kate, now reside in Carlinville.

Dr. Kathleena (Kate) Roark, Professor of Theatre, received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. She then earned both a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Theatre History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Kate has served as an Assistant Professor of Drama at the University of Houston-Downtown, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at Illinois Wesleyan University and as an instructor and teaching assistant at the University of Illinois. Kate has also directed numerous plays, most recently “A Raisin in the Sun” at Parkland Community College. She and her husband, David, are making their new home in Carlinville.

Ms. Rita Rudd, Adjunct Education Professor, earned a Bachelor of Science in Special Education with State Eligibility Criteria for Educable Mentally Handicapped (EMH) and Trainable Mentally Handicapped (TMH) from MacMurray College, before completing a Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning from the University of St. Francis. She has been employed as a teacher and instructor in a number of capacities with Sangamon Area Special Education (SASED) in Springfield since 1986.

Mr. Jorge Stewart ’02, Supervisor of Carpentry, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a Secondary Middle School Certification from Blackburn College. Jorge has served as a student teacher at Northwestern High School and as a general contractor at Stewart Construction. He resides in Palmyra, IL.

Ms. Adrienne Stockley ’10, Adjunct Music Professor, received a Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts–Music from Blackburn College. She then completed a Master of Music in Choral Conducting at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Adrienne was previously employed as a graduate teaching assistant at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, School of Music. While at Blackburn College she was the recipient of the Transfer Honor Scholarship, Mueller Humanities Fellowship and Blackburn Choir Prize. Adrienne lives in Alton, IL.
It has been my pleasure for the past year to serve as your President of the Blackburn Alumni Association. I look forward to continuing to work for you for the next year.

This coming year, the Association is looking forward to continuing to progress on several major projects in addition to its annual activities of campus events and alumni awards that I outlined in the previous Update. The Board will continue to raise funding to renovate the Den (Anderson Center). In addition to the Board’s raffle to raise money for the renovation of the Den, the Class of 1962 raised money and presented their gift at the 2012 Annual Meeting at Homecoming. Thank you so much, Class of 1962, your gift is a great help to the renovation project. The renovation budget has not been met yet, so keep an eye out for other fundraisers in the future. If any class would like to collect a gift for the project, it will go to a great cause and help the Board to complete this project.

The Board will be re-launching the Blackburn credit card with a new major credit card company. The Blackburn credit card is an easy way for anyone to provide support to Blackburn’s Alumni Association—just by purchasing items with the Blackburn credit card. The Association will receive a percentage of the customer’s purchase from the credit card company. The previous program was discontinued by the credit card company and the Board has been seeking a new card company to re-launch the Blackburn credit card.

We will also continue to work with the Alumni Office to continue great traditions during Homecoming and make improvements to Homecoming as suggested by you, the Alumni. Some of our changes in 2012 seemed very well received, such as the elimination of the formal Saturday night dinner so that Alumni can meet with their classes without conflict, a meeting tent with food and alcohol out near the soccer field, events with faculty and staff on campus issues, and scheduled tours of the campus that included the dorms.

Personally, I would like to particularly thank the members of the Alumni Board of Directors. The members of your Alumni Board are awesome! The members, composed of Alumni and current students, volunteer their time and expense to travel to Blackburn four times a year for the quarterly meetings and the annual Alumni Board Meeting at Homecoming. Some members travel a great distance and bear the cost of flights, hotels and rental cars. Those members who live in Central Illinois come to campus in addition to the meetings in order to prepare for events or attend College functions to provide Alumni presence. All members’ dedication demonstrates the love and pride that Alumni have for Blackburn years and decades after graduation. I certainly appreciate and commend the Board for their hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

Lucretia Pitts Barrett
Class of 1997

* The Association does not receive funds from the College, unless a donation is specifically gifted to the Association. The credit card program will be revenue for the Association.
1930s
Erma (Holdsworth) Sterling ’34 graduated from Blackburn then went on to teach in a one-room, rural school for four years. She and her husband raised a family, and after his death, she graduated from Western Illinois University in Macomb in 1969. She taught second grade and special education in Galesburg, IL for 20 years. She has traveled extensively with her son who sails his own yacht around the world. She also visits children and extended family in Illinois, Florida, California, Canada, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Perth, Australia. She lives independently, is active in church and her community, and enjoys playing bridge. She has fond memories of serving breakfast to the Blackburn faculty; making pie crusts for the special dessert days; and walking to town for a five cent ice cream cone.

Charles Gianasi ’38 writes “I’m 94 and widowed.” He is retired and lives at Montvale Estates in Springfield, IL.

Jean (Jones) Norwood ’40 is enjoying retirement, good health, water aerobics and walking. She would love to hear from any ’41-’43 graduates.

1940s
Edith (Fruin) Whitney ’41 wishes she could see some of her old classmates. She is doing quite well, and lives in a beautiful retirement home in Wisconsin. She taught elementary school for 25 years and owned and operated an exclusive dress shop for ten years. She “loved it all.”

Dorothy W. (Gale) Hays ’43 writes “Going back in history, Howard Hays and I, Dorothy Gale, graduated from Blackburn May 10, 1943. At that time Blackburn was a two-year school. Howard went directly to the Navy for WWII and I returned to Blackburn at Dr. Hudson’s request to reorganize the Work Plan into an almost all girl work force. The farm was cared for by a local farmer. I had been Girl’s

Renowned historian, Tom Emery ’93, recently published a new work commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1987 fire which destroyed Carlinville High School, “The High School Fire in Carlinville”. The 75-page book details the historic blaze, eye-witness accounts, and the wonderful stories of a community coming together in a time of local need.

Emery, an award winning historian, has penned 15 other works, including “100 Years of Basketball”, celebrating Blackburn’s basketball anniversary, “Richard Rowett: Thoroughbreds, Beagles, & the Civil War”, and “19th-Century Echoes: The Carlinville City Cemetery”. He also authored a 220-page coffee table book on the history of the Illinois State Library.

In 2012, he was awarded the IHSA Award of Superior Achievement for his bi-weekly newspaper column on Illinois in the Civil War and a four time recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society Certificate of Excellence.

“The High School Fire in Carlinville” is available for purchase at Michelle’s Pharmacy on the Carlinville square.
Work Manager my sophomore year. I had learned from three older sisters how to boss! I completed my degree in 1946 at Iowa State at Ames. I worked in a private home for my room and board. Howard returned from the U.S. Navy soon after my graduation. He was Bacteriologist at Gerber’s Baby Food for many years. He taught high school science for several more. Howard graduated from the University of Illinois in 1948. Our five children have degrees from five different schools and support their families. Howard died at St. James Veteran’s Home in 2008.”

Mary (Hoover) Earls ’47 has four great grandkids under the age of seven (three girls and one boy) and they are a big part of her life as the go-to person. She writes “I love it, but wow, it’s tiring.”

James ’47 and Bonnalee (Pell) ’47 Asbury had their first great grandson, William James Asbury, on November 28, 2011.

John ’49 and Doris (Watson) ’50 Eastman celebrated their 60th anniversary with family and had a great week at the beach.

Don Gloor ’50 holds multiple positions in the Des Plaines, IL Arts Council, including Vice President for the last 20 years.

Pat (Sanford) Murphy ’50 lives only 15 miles away from her former roommate Claire (Miller) Wooley ’48 in eastern Connecticut.

Arnold Tschirgi ’52AA left Blackburn and obtained a BA at the University of Wyoming. While at Wyoming, he was active in the drama program and lettered on the rifle and track teams. He then spent two years in the US Army Field Artillery Fire Direction Control in Panama. He returned to the University of Wyoming and obtained a law degree. He practiced law for 50 years in Lander, WY, specializing in litigation in Wyoming and surrounding states. He married Loretta Isenberg, a graduate of the University of Tennessee. They have one son, LCDR Charter Tschirgi, a graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy, now serving Hawaii. Currently, they live on a ranch near Ranchester, WY, where they raise Angus beef.

Dr. Daniel Garcia ’53, 80, is still in Sacramento, CA teaching one course in Humanities at Sacramento City College.

Margaret Hall ’57 AA spends some time involved with her}

Welcome: Laura Hopping

It’s been two years since Blackburn has had a full-time Coordinator of Alumni Relations. On November 12, Laura Hopping, new Coordinator of Alumni Relations, joined the Blackburn Alumni Relations team.

As Coordinator of Alumni Relations, her duties will include planning and executing on and off campus alumni events and programs, including the activities of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and its committees and regional chapters. Hopping will also oversee the planning of Homecoming and serve as the primary contact for alumni.

A graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in communications, Hopping previously worked as a social marketing specialist for the Illini Union (Urbana IL), where she worked on social media marketing plans. Later she became an Income Development Representative for the American Cancer Society. During this time, she also worked as a committee member and the event manager for the Relay for Life organization, with an emphasis on community management, fundraising, and event planning.

Hopping chose to come to Blackburn because, “I have always loved environments which hold a strong sense of community. During my time away from Carlinville, that was always something that I missed. After spending one day here for my interview, I could see what a tight knit group of people this is and was immediately drawn to that. I also believe strongly in education and love that Blackburn makes college affordable and available to those who are seeking higher education.”

Being the new coordinator, Hopping hopes to bring some new ideas, new events, and some new outreaches to the students, alumni, and the rest of the Blackburn Community. “I hope to increase Blackburn’s visibility within our local community and make people aware of the unique education that Blackburn has to offer right here in central Illinois,” states Hopping.
local church and the retired teachers of McHenry County.

Dorothy (Moese) Barthold ’57 is in good health, works as a docent (volunteer) at The Hermitage, a historic house in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ and is active in the League of Women Voters (LWV) and African-American Involvement in the Vietnam War (AAVW). Her two grown daughters live in Manhattan and San Francisco.

George Monto ’57 is now retired in Newberg, OR after teaching at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and the University of Kansas. He enjoys traveling.

Patricia (Norton) Joslin ’58 has owned a condo in Florida for 12 years and divides her time between there and home.

Grace (Horner) Ewen ’58 and her husband left their Emerald Isle, NC beach home and moved inland to a retirement community, where she has discovered “Many new friends and adventures!”

Irma (Fromowitz) Lester ’59 writes “I was deeply saddened in June this year by the death of my Blackburn roommate Patricia (Parsells) Dodd ’59. We remained close friends since our graduation. She will be missed by her friends and family.”

Matthew Whong ’59 is still active in mission work, and recently (since August 2011) made trips to Ecuador, Korea, and China. He had the

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**Update: Opal Dearduff**

“If I live to be 100,” people sometimes say in preface to things they aspire to achieve. However, few actually see that grand Centennial. Mrs. Opal Dearduff, Blackburn College class of 1929, has done one—or two—better; she celebrated her 103rd birthday this past October. Mrs. Dearduff’s daughter, Joan Hedgcock ’57 spoke about their time at Blackburn and what they have been doing since.

According to her daughter, Mrs. Dearduff came to attend Blackburn after Dr. Hudson, then President of Blackburn College, gave her high school graduation address and asked her father—a farmer and father of eight—if he would allow her to attend Blackburn. His answer, at first, was no, but he conceded after Dr. Hudson agreed to allow her father to pay Mrs. Dearduff’s tuition as he sold his hogs.

Hedgcock and Dearduff both graduated from Blackburn with Associate of Arts degrees in Blackburn’s days as a two-year school; Hedgcock was interested in music and sang in the choir and played the organ in the dining room while she was at Blackburn. As a student, Dearduff, spent her Work Program hours ironing in the laundry. Both women lived in Stoddard Hall, and Ms. Hedgcock moved to Jones Hall her second year at Blackburn.

After graduating from Blackburn in 1929, Mrs. Dearduff taught in four one-room school houses before being married at her parents’ home by Dr. Hudson. She then helped her husband open a roller rink and restaurant in Litchfield, IL that burned down in the 1970s. After her husband’s passing, Mrs. Dearduff returned to school to earn her education degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and graduated at 57. She eventually retired from full-time teaching at 65 and continued substitute teaching until she was 93. Mrs. Dearduff still lives independently in Litchfield and is described by her daughter as a “very spunky” woman who mows her own grass and goes dancing every Sunday night.

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**What’s the news in your world?**

Let us know about your career, achievements, awards, activities or family news you want to share with Blackburn alumni.

Please send your submissions and current contact information to Laura Hopping, Alumni Relations Coordinator, 700 College Ave., Carlinville IL 62626; or, laura.hopping@blackburn.edu.

We reserve the right to appropriately edit and print submissions as space allows.
Dana Shanholtzer ’90 was named the New & Emerging Business Person of the Year by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

This award recognizes the achievements of the owner of a new business who has demonstrated outstanding performance through innovation, growth, staying power & contributions to the community, and whose company has been established for more than one year, and less than four years. Shanholtzer is the President of MidWest DNA & Drug Testing, Inc. and was a 1990 graduate of Blackburn (Psychology & Business Administration). She then obtained an MBA from Murray State University (KY) in 1992.

She founded MidWest DNA & Drug Testing in 2009. The company provides DNA, drug, alcohol, steroid testing services and wipe & spray drug detection services to employers & individuals, creates & implements drug free workplace programs for organizations & also provides fingerprinting services & background checks.

The company is located in Springfield, IL but operates nationally to service clients anywhere in the US.
In Memoriam

1935
Robert Hopson 2/15/2012
Wilbur Kahl 8/28/2012
Marvin E. Smith 3/11/2012

1936
Shirill “Jack” Isaacson 6/27/2012
Richard C. Warfield 9/2/2012

1937
Margaret (Scott) Callahan 3/9/2011

1938
T. Stephen Balance 8/13/2011
Verna (Alm) Anderson 9/25/2012

1939
Loretta (Mack) Hanks 1/21/2011
Mildred (Ward) Herren 1/22/2012
Edith (Mazanek) Johnson 1/8/2012

1940
Elizabeth A. (Hahn) Banker 3/4/2012
Eugene Edward Skaggs 5/5/2012
Helen (Arnett) Sonnemann 1/22/2012
Elizabeth (Glidden) Wetherell 1/14/2012

1941
Jeannette (Cornue) Latham 7/30/2012

1942
Arthur Bridgeland 8/17/2012
Flossie (Skinner) Ellsworth 6/21/2012
Wendell Kessler 4/15/2012

1943
Donna (Hayden) Hendrickson 4/20/2012

1944
William Cleland 5/11/2012
Frederick Cline 9/28/2012
Kenneth Downing 9/19/2012

1945
Mary Elizabeth (Richards) Hatfield 10/28/2011
Margaret (Myers) Watkins 8/10/2012

1947
Eula M. (Miller) Harris 8/9/2011

1949
Patricia (Baker) Ourth 9/18/2004

1950
Glenn Leach 1/6/2012
Harold Richie 9/5/2011

1951
Betty (Nester) Ryan 1/19/2012

1952
Marcus McCoy 9/15/2011

1955
Jan (Dryden) Stalter 4/14/2012

1956
Marjorie (Felix) Blagg 5/13/2005

1957
Charles C. Shoup 12/18/2012

1958
Leslie (Wykoff) Hunt 1/12/2012

1960
James Percival 4/12/2012

1961

1967
Elizabeth (Carhart) Hall 11/17/2009
Kathleen (Johnson) Maddox 2/26/2012

1968

1969
Pamela (Edgecombe) Poepl 4/24/2012
Charles Rathbun 4/12/2012

1970
Robert Q. Solita 3/10/2012

1972
Kathleen Eberle 2011

1975
Jeanette Aska 7/3/2012

1979
Robert W. Evans 12/10/2011

1982
Deborah J. (Collier) Runte 6/28/2011

1987
Laura Curtis 1/3/2009
James Henderson 2/4/2012

1988
Joel K. Parent 1/21/2012

1993
Roy R. Riggle 2/9/2009

Faculty, Staff & Friends of the College
Scott Hawley 12/17/2012
Avis Ericson 12/15/2012
Ruth Parmer Homburg 2012
Grace M. Werner 12/7/2012

In the previous issue of Update, Susan (Veach) Russell ’68 was erroneously listed as deceased.
We apologize for the error.
Ms. Russell currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona.
175 Year Celebration

2012 was an exciting time in Blackburn's history as the College celebrated 175 years. On July 17, the Macoupin County Fair hosted "Blackburn Day". Blackburn students, faculty and staff volunteers helped in a variety of capacities, and President Pride and Rev. Gideon Blackburn spoke.

A number of anniversary events celebrated the College and its founder and namesake, Rev. Gideon Blackburn.

Blackburn faculty, staff, students, friends and community members celebrated Gideon Blackburn's 240th birthday on August 23 on the Carlinville square. The party kicked off with a parade, lead by President Pride, Gideon Blackburn, and the Carlinville High School marching band. Birthday festivities included speeches by President Pride and Gideon Blackburn and birthday cake was served. Carlinville mayor, Bob Schwab, also read a proclamation naming August 23 as Gideon Blackburn Day.

During Homecoming Weekend (September 29-Oct 1), 175th anniversary events included an in-depth historical display in C.H.C. Anderson Hall (The Den). "Blackburn College: 175 Years of History" featured numerous artifacts including the original land deed, the College mace, the presidential regalia, and Gideon Blackburn's personal Bible. Photographs, apparel, and yearbooks were also on display.

On November 2, the anniversary celebration culminated with a new event, the Science Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony. The Science Wall of Honor honored distinguished science alumni and outstanding faculty. For more information on the Science Wall of Honor and the inaugural class see page 22.

Special thanks to the 175th Anniversary Planning Committee and our Anniversary partners: CNB Bank & Trust, Cynmar Corporation, Frontier Communications, Karmak, Inc., and Prairie Farms.
Jennifer Hamilton ’70 and Mary Beasley ’71 prepare for Gideon’s birthday party on the Carlinville square.

Blackburn students wait for the Halloween parade to begin.

Carlinville Area Hospital’s Blackburn themed float.

Dr. Richard Alexander ’48, Dr. Louis Lanzerotti ’66, and Dr. David Reid at the Science Wall of Honor ceremony.

President Mim Pride and Roy Graham as Rev. Gideon Blackburn smile at Blackburn Day at the Macoupin County Fair.
Students pose in front of Blackburn’s float in Carlinville’s Halloween Parade.

Barney Beaver and Student Marshal Tim Erton ’13 celebrate Rev. Blackburn’s birthday.

Jodi Rowe ’04, Jennifer Hamilton ’70, and President Mim Pride at the opening of the historical exhibit.

Brett Rench ’13, Katlyn Halstead ’13 and Ashley Miller ’13 smile at Gideon Blackburn’s Birthday.
Professors Sam Meredith and Victor (Jake) Miller perform with Nate Rush and the College Choir.

Amber Byrley ’14 looks at yearbooks at the historical exhibit.

Zach Wilhelmi ’11 passes out fans at the Macoupin County Fair.
February 18, 2013
Founder’s Day Convocation
Join us for the opening celebration event with Dr. George Kuh, Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at Indiana University Bloomington and Adjunct Professor of Education Policy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as he speaks to the value of work. Continue the celebration with an art gallery reception filled with photographs detailing the history of our very special Work Program.

February 26, 2013
Dr. Hudson’s Birthday
Celebrate Blackburn College Work Program founder, Dr. William Hudson’s 141st birthday with cake during the lunch hour in the Demuzio Campus Center Commons.

April 10, 2013
Student/Employer Panel Discussion
In conjunction with the Office of Career Services, join us in this panel discussion as part of a speaker series on the value of work and leadership.

April 23, 2013
Student Worker Appreciation Day
Help us give the students a day off by volunteering around campus. After, enjoy lunch and department vs. department games.

April 24, 2013
Beaver Paws for a Cause
Continue the Blackburn spirit of work and show your Beaver Pride by volunteering in your community! Don’t forget to wear your Blackburn apparel!

September 2013
Community Luncheon
Now entering his 34th year on the Blackburn faculty, Dr. Sam Meredith, Professor of Political Science, will speak on the impact of work at Blackburn College and the new leadership program. Check the College calendar for the date of this Community Luncheon.

September 27-29, 2013
Homecoming
Our culminating celebration events will take place during the Homecoming 2013 weekend with a moderated discussion on alumni experiences in the Work Program. Don’t miss it! Also, former work committees will be invited back for their very own reunion!

Visit www.blackburn.edu for more information about upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Work Program events.
‘Burnian Revival

It’s been over 130 years since Blackburn’s student newspaper the Blackburnian (now called ‘Burnian) rolled its first issue off the press, and recently, thanks to the guidance of Professor of Communications, Natasha Casey, the ‘Burnian has had a complete overhaul.

Professor Casey took on the responsibility as the ‘Burnian’s advisor when she joined the faculty in 2010. Many positive strides have been taken to grow the paper’s reputation across campus and throughout the Carlinville community.

In past years, the ‘Burnian was only published two to three times each semester, but under Casey’s watchful eye, the student staff is working hard to publish the newspaper six times a semester.

“We’re publishing it more frequently now because it makes it closer to the industry standard to help prepare those who want to continue this after graduation,” said Casey.

Published by the Edwardsville Intelligencer the ‘Burnian is a now a full color newspaper. There is also an educational component to this relationship, connecting Blackburn to other student newspaper groups published by the Intelligencer through conferences, meetings and other activities. ‘Burnian staff members have also been given tours of the Intelligencer’s publishing facilities.

For ‘Burnian staff members, journalism education continues in the classroom. A new course offered to students is Introduction to Journalism: Reprinting for Print and Electronic Media. Taught by Casey, this course provides students tips to become better writers and opportunities to be published in the ‘Burnian.

Written by Emily Fisher ’15 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.

Blackburn has instituted a new scholarship for the 2012-2013 school year.

The Legacy Scholarship provides up to $2,000 for a new student who has/had a parent(s) who attended Blackburn College. Call Alisha Kapp, Director of Admissions, for more information at (217) 854-3231, x4278.
As the final days of the fall term ended, Blackburn students, faculty and staff worked to wrap up final exams and projects before the flurry of festivities of the holiday season.

Advancement continues working hard to achieve this year’s annual fund goal. Fall Phon-a-thon was a great success, with $36,484.99 pledged by 262 alumni and friends of the College. These gifts help fund the day to day needs of the College, from purchasing toilet paper to paying the electric bill.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of the College. We still have a long way to go until the end of our fiscal year, and hope you will join us in helping Blackburn provide its exceptional education to future students by making your gift today! You can make your gift by calling (217) 854-3231 x4356, or by visiting www.blackburn.edu and clicking Support Blackburn!

Join us in supporting the Annual Fund. Your donation helps to provide financial aid, technology upgrades, faculty support and much more for each student.

Thank you in advance for your support!

$252,079 this fiscal year toward our $800,000 goal.

Funds represented reflect unrestricted donations made to the Annual Fund as of November 16, 2012. It does not include gifts made to restricted, departmental, endowment funds, estate gifts or capital gifts.
The Minton Observatory was razed in 1942 to make room for College expansion.

The other side of the tale...

Building the occasional telescope was not the only interest of Leverett W. Loomis. In February 1894 Loomis was granted a patent for a new kind of drive chain for use on various kinds of machinery, but more especially for use on bicycles and tricycles. The drive chain, composed of a series of links and pivotally connected together reduced friction and wear on the pulleys and the chain.

Located where Graham Hall now stands, the site of the Minton Observatory was first described in the 1884-85 Blackburn College catalogue. The observatory was built in 1885 with money donated by Professor Robert B. Minton, the principal of the preparatory department and professor of mathematics at the College.

The Minton Observatory, referred to as the “Pill Box” by students and Carlinville residents, housed a brass telescope, designed and crafted by Leverett W. Loomis. Blackburn administrators offered Loomis, a resident of Carrollton, IL, a payment and a promise to name the observatory after Loomis if he would allow his original telescope to be placed at Blackburn. That telescope was used by him to observe and report on a partial eclipse of the sun for the U.S. government, which required the use of a very accurate telescope.

Loomis would not sell the original telescope, but he offered to build another for which he was paid $250 for materials. The value of the completed telescope was estimated at $3,000. He declined to have the observatory named after him.
175th Anniversary Commemorative Book

A special book is currently being readied for publication, presenting the history of Blackburn College, along with interesting photos, anecdotes, and alumni vignettes or brief biographies. The finished book will be available at the 2013 Founders Day Convocation. Advance orders can be made by contacting the Institutional Advancement Office, 217-854-3231, x4356.

Reserve your personal copy of this keepsake edition today!

Dr. John Comerford Named Blackburn’s 16th President

On November 30, Dr. John Comerford, current Vice President of Advancement for Westminster College in Fulton, MO, was introduced as the new president of Blackburn, effective July 1, 2013. Dr. Comerford, his wife and three children are excited to be joining the Blackburn community.

A video of Dr. Comerford’s announcement and public remarks is available on the Blackburn website. Watch the Spring Update for more information on Dr. Comerford!