The Importance of Branding:
Telling the Blackburn Story
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Dear Friends,

Let me start by thanking you for your support of the Annual Fund this year. As we close the fiscal year, we will again exceed our Annual Fund goal. Annual Fund is very important because it pays the day-to-day bills. Blackburn is still the most affordable four year residential college in Illinois. We are able to continue to make Blackburn affordable because you are so generous. If you did not take the time to make a gift to this successful effort, please plan to do so now and help us continue to serve hard working young people of modest means... just like you.

This is a very exciting time in the life of the College. As you probably know we finished celebrating 100 Years of Basketball and in February at the Founder’s Day Convocation we celebrated the beginning of a year-long celebration of our 175th birthday as a college (David Sollish directed a delightful review of Blackburn’s history and Rev. Gideon Blackburn was present to share his memories ably portrayed by Roy Graham who is celebrating his 49th year as Professor of English.). I digress. Over those 175 years, there has developed a sense of who we are which includes the importance of a liberal arts education; the value of hard work and shared governance; and the value of living in and working together for the good of the community. You, the alumni, tell us that the experience here changed your lives and prepared you personally and professionally for citizenship, leadership and service. In recent years we pondered how we could represent those values to the current generation of prospective students and their parents. Last spring we approved a new “brand” which for us is a new language to convey those long-held values: the Learn. Work. Earn. logo and “Blackburn offers a four year head start,” tag line. We are very excited about the fact that this language is resonating with prospective students and their parents and with many alumni and friends. At Homecoming some of you expressed the concern that this language represents a move away from the liberal arts. It is not that. All we do has its foundation in the liberal arts tradition.

There is a great deal more to tell you, but I will leave that to my colleagues in the pages to follow.

Please come see us soon.

"You, the alumni, tell us that the experience here changed your lives and prepared you personally and professionally for citizenship, leadership and service."
It has been truly an honor and a privilege to be chosen to lead the development efforts and become a member of the leadership team here at Blackburn College. I feel very fortunate to be part of the “Blackburn Family”, have my family come to Carlinville, and receive all that this community has to offer.

When I arrived here on April 1, 2011, I didn’t fully know what to expect—but one thing I knew was that Blackburn College was a special place. During the first three months, I lived in Graham Hall and spent a great amount of time on campus, in my office and out meeting with key Blackburn constituents. With my family yet to arrive in Carlinville, I had a great amount of time to “soak up” the culture of this extraordinary institution and learn a great deal of who’s who on campus, in town, and within our alumni body. Living in the residence hall also allowed me to get to know many of our students.

I listened and learned from many Blackburn graduates, young and old, about the experience that they had as students here at the college. I learned quickly that when Blackburn grads meet for the first time, their first question is not “When did you graduate?” or “What was your major?” but rather “Where did you work?” or “What was your job?” I learned that alumni cherish the time they spent here on campus and that they fondly look back on their undergraduate days at Blackburn. I have yet to meet a Blackburn graduate who has told me that they didn’t have a good experience here.

I have come to realize that Blackburn College alumni are extremely loyal to their school. Beyond talking positively about their experience, they give generously to the College. Alumni and friends of the College are very interested in what is happening now and what the future holds for Blackburn. They are willing to help provide current students the type of enrichment and growth that they received here.

At first, I thought that Blackburn kids were pretty ordinary kids placed in an extraordinary environment, ripe with opportunity. I have since changed my tune. The typical Blackburn student is special in many ways. Our students are truly a cut-above. I marvel at how they are able to get everything done. With their rigorous academic requirements, their work assignments, and their many extracurricular activities, they continue to amaze me. Their interpersonal skills exceed what I’ve experienced on other campuses.

After working at a large state university, a small state university, and a variety of non-profit organizations, I find Blackburn College an excellent place to work. Being small allows college personnel to be efficient in their work-related endeavors, faculty and staff are happy to be here, and everyone knows everyone here by first name. Blackburn demonstrates that it is a place of civility and respect.

I believe that the greatest piece of Blackburn is something that has endured, been retooled, and improved over nearly 100 years and that is the Work Program. The student-managed Work Program is a large and integral part of Blackburn’s Mission. Our “Work-Learn” mantra is something that permeates the entire environment. As I have told many people over the last year, “The Blackburn story is one of the best stories in the history of American Higher Education.”

My wife, as the new Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning, sells that story daily to prospective students and their parents. The institutional advancement staff and I share and sell that story regularly with people that are part of the story—you, the alumni of Blackburn College.

How lucky are all of us to be a part of that story?
What is home? A refuge? A place of origin? A structure to shelter and protect us? There was a time when houses were commonly passed from generation to generation. They carried with them the history of a family, and the memories contained within those walls made a home a sacred place, a place to be cared for and protected; cherished as a place of origin and sanctuary, a foundation from which forays to confront the challenges of the larger world could be undertaken.

Though we live in a culture that is constantly on the move, where attachment to place is often seen as stagnation, where virtual places have become as important as physical places, there is still a profoundly deep connection we feel to those special places that we call home, that are our places of origin, that reflect and embody our core values. We take pains to preserve and interpret the history and significance of a variety of special places—the homes of former presidents, sites of natural wonder and beauty, battlefields, settlements, churches, and the like. At a more modest and personal level, adults [like me] may feel an odd sense of discontent over a once empty lot where they played baseball in childhood that now holds an apartment complex. Human experience is filled with recognition of certain places as important and meaningful.

Today’s reading from Ezra (Ezra 1:1-3; 3:1, 10-13) recounts the return of Israelite exiles to Jerusalem, a city revered for millennia as a sacred place to adherents of three of the world’s great faith traditions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The passage in Ezra is notable because of the power of emotions it describes about a homecoming. The people returned to a home, a sacred place imbued with deep emotion, attachment, and meaning. The chronicler of these events states “…many …who had seen the former temple, [who knew this sacred place] wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise.” That’s a powerful statement, and I’d guess that anyone who has experienced a long sojourn away from home, the sense of loss when disconnected from places sacred to them, places that embody and reflect their identity, that rise as green hills of meaning in a world of wide reaches of profane, empty space, can understand those words fully.

As writer and environmentalist Tom Bender has observed, “the places we make act as mirrors to our lives.” The power of sacred places, he noted, “lies within their role in marshalling our inner resources and binding us to our beliefs.” Sacred places are recognized, valued and protected for the history they hold, the stories they sustain that help us make meaning of our existence.

As an example to bring this idea closer to home, at Blackburn we have nine buildings constructed entirely or partly by students, and every building here bears the memory of students building, cleaning, repairing, or maintaining it. This is a profound story of devotion to an ideal of community and shared
purpose that helps make this place sacred. Again quoting Tom Bender, “The most mundane building can be transformed through the spirit with which it is used… What counts is that someone has done the best, not the least, they could. And that comes not from necessity, but only from love.” As a student here over the course of four years I ran water lines, laid brick, replastered walls, tuck pointed buildings, dug ditches for footings for new walks or driveways, and helped remodel buildings still in use. Thousands of alums could tell a similar story. “As a student here over the course of four years I ran water lines, laid brick, replastered walls, tuck pointed buildings, dug ditches for footings for new walks or driveways, and helped remodel buildings still in use. Thousands of alums could tell a similar story.”

use. Thousands of alums could tell a similar story. I don't know if I loved all of those tasks, though in retrospect I think maybe I did. I do know that all of this was supervised by a man who loved this college and the students in his charge. The meaning in that resonates in everyone who has grown up at this institution.

For so many of us, Blackburn's campus is such a sacred place—a place where we found ourselves, found our life partners, our vocations… a foundation, a firm center from which to step forward into the challenges and disorder of the larger world. It is hard to fathom that online learning could ever shape lives in the same deep ways. In fact, I was recently talking with a fundraising professional who told me that he had an opportunity to talk with a successful alum who had completed an online degree program at the institution he represented. The alum told him that he had no interest in his electronic alma mater because he felt no connection to it whatsoever. I suggest that we lose our connections to real places at peril to our sense of connection not only to each other, but to our sense of what God calls us to be as members of the human community.

This, Blackburn College, is a sacred place. Every building, every playing field, every open space reminds us of who we are and what our commitments are. Let's carry with us every day the greatness of spirit that has animated so many professors, work supervisors, fellow students, and others who have shown us the way to go forward into that greater world. Blackburn is our alma mater—the nurturing mother—that has prepared us and shaped our values. Let's work to preserve and protect this place that anchors us in a world of uncertainty and challenge; a place we'll pass on from generation to generation; a place of origin and sanctuary; a foundation.

Blackburn forges and strengthens bonds between us and others, between us and our greater calling to do something real and meaningful. When we return to this home, we are reminded of where we began, where our journey has taken us, and that we can trust in the One who has ordained that we will live this life. Let Homecoming here always be that time when “No one [can] distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping,” because of the depth and goodness of the memories and the joy of returning home.

Excerpted from the Homecoming Chapel Message, October 2, 2011. The full text of the message can be viewed at www.blackburn.edu/cominghome
Rebranding Blackburn
A new look to a familiar story. >>
You've probably noticed something different about Blackburn. You may have noticed it on a letter. Or, maybe you saw something during a campus visit. It may have been readily noticeable, or you may have caught it on a second pass. It's no secret. In fact, everyone needs to know—there's a new addition to the familiar Blackburn College logo.

It's exciting. Not a significant change, but the revision to the Blackburn College logo is very important and the rebranding of the College represents a new chapter in the institution’s long history. Understand that the process of branding a college is not always neat, tidy and clean. It can be both wonderful and excruciatingly stressful at the same time. The thought of changing a brand that has served the institution so well in the past is not an easy decision.

So, what is a brand? A brand is a simple, consistent way to communicate value. The Blackburn brand tells everyone who we are, what we are all about. But, a brand is not tangible—it exists solely in the mind of the customer, our current and prospective students.

I once heard it put this way:

If I come up to you and say, “Blackburn College is great!”

That’s marketing.

If your friend comes up to you and says, “Trust me, Blackburn College is really great!”

That’s Public Relations.

If I come up to you and say, “Blackburn College is great! Blackburn College is great! Blackburn College is great!”

That’s advertising.

But, if you come up to me and say, “I understand Blackburn College is really great!”

That’s branding.

It is only successful when it exists in the mind of our intended audiences—students, alumni, faculty, staff and the community.

Several months ago the need to identify the Blackburn brand was apparent. There was debate centered around what different people considered to be the value of Blackburn and how we should be framing that value in our communication on the Blackburn campus and outward toward prospective students, our alumni and the wider public.

The task of creating a brand or rebranding can be the project of a lifetime. Enter Laurna Godwin. Not a stranger to Blackburn, the past Chair of the Board of Trustees is a principal with Vector Communications and agreed to take on the project. The St. Louis public relations agency began an intensive process by surveying a representative sampling of students, staff and faculty of the College. Their interest was clear. What was the value Blackburn brings to students as a private, liberal arts institution?

Where there was once a perceived difference of opinion, the survey findings surprisingly showed a consensus of important value statements among the three groups. These key points of value were:

- Quality liberal arts education
- The Work Program
- Affordability
- Small class sizes
- Nurturing environment
These were the bedrock ideas that needed to be incorporated in a new brand for Blackburn College, creating a clear message of what the College offers. But while the survey had identified a common thread, the awareness of the rebranding project for Blackburn had also set a new direction for the campus community, creating considerable mystery, excitement and new thoughts. The possibility of modifying the Blackburn brand caused quite a stir for some people. What would the new brand be?

You have already seen the result. It’s on the College website, on Blackburn literature and displayed proudly on shirts across campus. The new visual mark of Blackburn combines the use of the familiar Blackburn logo along with the addition of three very important words… Learn. Work. Earn.

Each of these words signifies important aspects of the Blackburn experience and represent the value students discover during their college experience on campus.

Learn:
• Small class size
• Quality faculty – full professors
• Personalized attention
• Multiple majors

Work:
• Affordable tuition
• Real work experience
• Professional skill development

Earn:
• Job opportunities
• Quality education
• Career advancement

These three simple words combine as powerful prompters to tell the Blackburn story. They don’t represent

One of the most important methods of communication is word of mouth. All of us are more receptive to a message that comes from a trusted source, a close friend. That is where you can help us spread the Blackburn story as an alumnus or friend of Blackburn. The use of our brand is what makes it work and the consistent, accurate, and common voice of the wider Blackburn community can contribute to our success in achieving our institutional goals.

As you begin to inject “Learn. Work. Earn.” in conversations and correspondence, consider using these memorable value statements:

• Blackburn provides an exceptional liberal arts education at an affordable price.
• The statement “Learn. Work. Earn.” is a simple presentation of Blackburn’s uniqueness among other liberal arts colleges.
• Blackburn’s Work Program is nationally recognized and the only one in the country that is student-managed. This allows students to: develop their professional skills; build a strong resume; and obtain management experience, thus giving them a four-year head start on their career, while earning a college degree.
• Blackburn’s Work Program dramatically increases the chances of finding a job after graduation. Eighty-six percent (86%) of Blackburn’s graduating seniors obtain jobs – even during these challenging economic times.
• Blackburn’s Work Program allows the College to keep tuition affordable so most students can graduate from college with less long-term debt.
• Small class sizes and small campus allow for: individualized student attention; close student-faculty interaction; and a nurturing, caring, learning environment.
• US News ranks Blackburn as the #2 Best Value School in the Midwest for 2012 and Barron’s Magazine, America’s premier financial magazine, recognizes Blackburn as a “best buy” in college education. Blackburn is the least expensive private four-year residential institution in Illinois.
• Blackburn offers more than 30 majors, so there is a program for every student’s career goal.
• The overwhelming majority of faculty members have earned a doctorate or terminal degree in their respective fields providing students with professors who are dedicated to academic excellence.
anything new to people familiar with the exceptional educational opportunity Blackburn provides. Rather, they simply and clearly state Blackburn’s value. These three simple words that help tell a story and provide two crucial branding requirements: easy to use and easy to remember.

The new branding has been readily accepted. Blackburn constituencies quickly recognize what we are communicating and our students, faculty and staff can use these three words as prompters to easily tell the Blackburn story.

The new branding is fully in use by staff in Admissions, Development and Alumni Relations offices, and the response has been very favorable. New students and parents alike are responding strongly to the notion that Blackburn College is a place where “students can get a four year head start on their professional careers by receiving a quality liberal arts education while participating in the nationally recognized Work Program.”

Here’s our branding challenge going forward—the value, history, strength, and traditions of Blackburn are all part of the Blackburn brand. Now we are taking the familiar, the recognized Blackburn graphic image, and adding three simple, yet important words that quickly communicate the value Blackburn brings to our students.

You are a key player in how we communicate our brand and we hope you use the suggestions provided here. Become comfortable incorporating these points in your normal conversations with people and help strengthen the Blackburn brand across all of our constituencies.

It’s all about Blackburn and it’s all about our mindset as we communicate with others to share the Blackburn experience—as we continue to Learn. Work. and Earn.

Written by Peter Oswald,
Director of Marketing and Public Relations
He can be reached at peter.oswald@blackburn.edu or (217) 854-3231, x4336.

Sponsored by Blackburn College

BEST OF ITALY
featuring Rome, Tuscany & 4 Nights in Florence • November 6-14

Day 1: Overnight Flight to Europe/Italy
Board your overnight flight to Europe.

Day 2: Arrive in Rome
Meet your tour director and transfer to your hotel, as well as enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Rome-Assisi-Florence
Travel to the beautiful hilltop town of Assisi and visit the great Basilica of St Francis. Later journey into Tuscany to view the breathtaking landscapes. Then it’s off to Florence to check-in for a four-night stay.

Day 4: Lucca-Pisa
Travel to Lucca to explore the Old town with quaint shops and Gothic palaces. Later visit Pisa, to see the Duomo, the historic Baptistry, and famous Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Day 5: Florence
In the morning, enjoy a Florence City Tour, which includes the Academy Gallery to see the Statue of David, then view the Cathedral to see Giotto’s Belltower and the Gates of Paradise. The tour also includes the open air museum of Piazza Della Signoria and Santa Croce, which houses the tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo. Shop along the famous Ponte Vecchio Bridge for gold jewelry and leather items as well as enjoy one of the many outdoor cafes.

Day 6: Florence at Leisure - Venice Optional
Enjoy a day of leisure in Florence. Choose your own path by exploring city streets, shops, and museums. You may also journey to Venice, which will feature Doge’s Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, St Mark’s Square, and a boat ride.

Day 7: Florence - Siena - Rome
Travel to Siena, the heart of Tuscany. Enjoy the Siena city tour as you stroll through medieval streets to Campo, the scene of the annual Palio horse race. Later travel to Rome & check in for a two night stay.

Day 8: Rome - Vatican Museum
Enjoy a full day Rome City Tour, as well as visit the Treasures of the Vatican Museum, which includes the Sistine Chapel. Later visit St. Peter’s Basilica as well as the Colosseum, The Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus, Piazza Venezia & The Roman Forum. The evening will also feature a Roman Farewell Dinner.

Day 9: Flight Home
Journey home with wonderful memories of Italy.

Call Nate Rush at x4297 for price and registration info!
Blackburn introduced a redesigned website in the fall of 2011. Most people quickly recognized the change with the new, brightly colored home page on the site. The previous website had become cumbersome and outdated, providing an excellent opportunity to create a bold, new look for the College. Coinciding with the launch of the Blackburn branding, the site offers easier navigation, new features and the potential for more useful content.

A key improvement to the website was the addition of a content management system. Using this tool, student workers can update the web content to make sure it is current and accurate. Entire pages can now be created with in-house talent and links to other pages or content established as needed.

Easier, more intuitive website navigation was a prerequisite with the redesigned site and now users select their entry point by their status as a prospective student, current student, faculty, staff, alumni or parent. These categories are intended for people to locate content in a more logical and efficient manner.

Another improvement is the news and events “feed” features located at the bottom of the home page. These provide quick access to the most recent news about Blackburn and the upcoming events on campus.

Tied with an increased Blackburn presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, you may find yourself arriving at the College website more frequently and for new reasons.

The website is an ongoing project, with our intent being to continue creating the most useful and dynamic site for the Blackburn community. Keep checking back often for content updates and send any website suggestions to Peter Oswald, Director of Marketing & Public Relations, peter.oswald@blackburn.edu.
The 2011-12 academic year saw many new faces on campus. Meet our newest members of faculty and staff.

Jason Baribeau, Head Men’s Basketball and Golf Coach, received his M.S. in Sports Management from the California University of PA. Prior to coming to Blackburn he was the Head Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach at Nebraska Wesleyan University. He has also been Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach at Hanover College, Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach at Cayuga Community College, and Associate Head Men’s Basketball Coach at Keuka College. He resides in Carlinville with his wife and son.

Natasha Casey, Professor of English & Communications, is completing her Ph.D. in Communications from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Prior to teaching at Blackburn she taught at Webster University, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, University of Texas–Arlington, and McGill University. She and her husband, Thad Duhigg, reside in Worden, IL.

Karen Dillon, Professor of English & Communications, received her Ph.D. in English from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. She previously taught at Indiana University and University of Miami, OH. She was awarded the Culbertson Award for Outstanding Teaching from the English Department at Indiana University and is the author of two publications: “The Heft of Both Countries in Your Fists: Lucy Fitch Perkins’ Foreign Twins as Goodwill Cultural Ambassadors,” and “La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre: Cuba’s Virgin of Charity; Goddesses in World Culture.” She and her husband, Brian Hermann, recently moved to Carlinville.

Staci L. Ellinger, Accounts Receivable Supervisor, received her Associate Degree in Accounting from Lincoln Land Community College. She previously worked as a part-time bank teller at the Bank and Trust Company Money Center in Litchfield; Co-Owner and Office Manager of Ellinger Sanitation Service, Inc., Litchfield; and, most recently as a para-accountant at Fleming, Tawfall and Company, P.C., Litchfield. She lives in Litchfield with her two children.

Susan Hansen, Director of Athletic Programs and Recreation, received her M.S. Ed. in Athletic Administration Emphasis at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. Sue has a very diverse background, which includes serving as Director of Members Services at the Sarpy Community YMCA in Papillion, NE; Director of Operations of Creative Visual Productions in Omaha, NE; Director of Athletics/Head Basketball Coach at Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI; Associate Athletic Director/Head Basketball Coach, Carroll University, Waukesha, WI; and Assistant Basketball Coach at Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University and University of Nebraska. Sue comes from Omaha, NE and now lives in Carlinville.

Kyle Harrington ’10, Marketing and Public Relations Assistant, received her B.A. in Communications at Blackburn College. While a student at Blackburn, Kyle served on the Student Senate, was Editor of VORTEX, and worked as Public Relations Assistant in the Public Relations Department. She most recently worked as an Interactive Media Support Coordinator and Magazine Group Staff Writer at the News-Gazette, Inc in Champaign, IL. Kyle’s hometown is Urbana, IL. She currently resides in Carlinville.
Scott Hawley, Professor of Business, received his Ph.D. in Education with a specialty in Adult Education from Capella University in Minneapolis, MN. Scott has worked in a number of capacities at Blackburn College since 1993 including Carpentry Supervisor, COMPASS Program Representative, Director of the COMPASS Program, and Construction Coordinator. He has written and assisted with numerous successful grants during his tenure with Blackburn College. He and his wife, Mary Kay, reside in Staunton, IL.

Joe Hughes, Development Officer, received his D.Min. in Homiletics at the Association of Chicago Theological Schools and his B.A. with Distinction at Concordia College and Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. Joe has served as Pastor of Lutheran Churches in Glenview, Rockford, St. Joseph, IL and Kenner, LA. He most recently served as Director of Gift Development at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He currently resides in Carlinville.

Glen Krupica, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, received his M.A. in Sports Administration at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and his B.S. in Marketing from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. Glen has served as the Executive Director of the Huskie Club at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb; the Director of Development of the Kansas Special Olympics, Mission, KS; Assistant Athletic Director/Executive Director, Northwestern Athletic Association, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA; Executive Director, Independence Bowl Foundation, Shreveport, LA; Deputy Director of Athletics-External Affairs/Senior Associate Director of Athletics-External Affairs/Associate Director of Athletics-External Affairs, NIU, DeKalb, IL; and most recently as Special Assistant to the Vice President of University Relations, NIU, DeKalb, IL. Glen and his wife, Suzanne, are the parents of two daughters. After recently moving from Sycamore, IL they currently reside in Carlinville.

Suzanne Krupica, Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning, received her Master of Arts in Student Personnel Services (CACREP Accredited Program) at the Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, LA. Suzanne has served as an Adjunct Instructor, Orientation Instructor and Interview Coordinator at Northwestern State University of Louisiana; Career Counselor/Program Coordinator, LSUS/Lucent Technologies, Shreveport, Louisiana; Career Services Specialist, Career Services, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL; and most recently Academic Advisor, College of Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Suzanne and her husband Glen are the parents of two daughters. They currently reside in Carlinville.

Rebecca Millburg, Accounts Payable Supervisor, received her certificate in Accounting from Penn Foster in Scranton, PA. Rebecca has worked in Accounts Payable at the Holiday Inn South, Springfield; Kwik-Wall, Springfield; Illinois Chapter, NECA, Springfield; Springfield Healthcare Facility; and as a Payroll Specialist at Memorial Hospital, Springfield Coal Company and most recently at Auburn Nursing and Rehab Center in Auburn, IL where she performed accounts payable, payroll and personnel duties. Rebecca resides in Auburn.

Errol Moultrie, Professor of Psychology, received his D.Phil. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin. Errol has served as Associate Professor of Psychology at Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, FL and Bethune Cookman University, Daytona Beach; Program Chair and Associate Professor of Psychology, University of LaVerne, La Verne, CA and Assistant Professor of Psychology at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC. Errol comes from Palm Coast, FL and resides in Carlinville, IL.
Nicholas Muller, Professor of Economics, received his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Oregon. He has taught at Northwest Christian University, University of Oregon, Lane Community College, and Oregon State University in topics including Economics, Mathematical Statistics, Microeconomics, Econometrics, Labor Economics, Advanced Econometrics, and Macroeconomics. Nick comes to Blackburn from Eugene, Oregon and currently resides in Carlinville.

Peter Oswald, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, received his BSS in Art and Theater at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA. Peter’s marketing career began as Director of Marketing and Training Coordinator at Carlinville National Bank. From there, he became Co-Owner of Ad Image Communications, Inc.; Director of Marketing at BAI/Bankers Training & Certification Center, St. Louis, MO; Director of Marketing, Success Group International, St. Louis, MO; and Director of Marketing, Perma-Bound Books, Jacksonville, IL. Peter and his wife, Maureen, reside in Carlinville.

Tim Reents, Director of Campus Safety, worked for 28 years with the Illinois State Police. He recently retired as district commander of the Illinois State Police, District 18, Litchfield. He has received many awards including the Director’s Award for Outstanding Contributions in Law Enforcement, MSI Task Force, presented by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno; the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI Special Commendation, presented by FBI Director Louis Freeh; the Illinois State Police Meritorious Service Award, MSI Task Force; the Illinois Medal of Integrity; the Illinois State Police Meritorious Service Award; District 16 Police Officer of the Year Award; and Policing for Results Award. He is very active in the community and is currently president of the Litchfield Board of Education and serves on the St. Francis Hospital Board of Directors. He and his wife, Cindy, reside with their family in Litchfield, IL.

Tom Turpin, Development Officer, received his M.S. Ed from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He was involved with the University of Illinois extension service and with the administration for the Boy Scouts of America for seventeen years prior to working at Blackburn. He lives on his farm in Chesterfield with his wife and family.

Jen Windmiller, Head Women’s Basketball Coach, received her B.A. in Pre-Medicine at Augustana College in Rock Island. Jen most recently served as Interim Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach at Blackburn College. Before coming to Blackburn she worked part-time as an assistant coach at the NCAA Division III level with Augustana College in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). Jen resides in Carlinville.

Zach Wilhelmi ’11, Traveling Admissions Counselor, received his B.A. in Business Management and Marketing from Blackburn College in May 2011. As a student at Blackburn he was a General Manager of the Work Program. He resides in Carlinville.

Written by Taryn Chester ’12 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.
A Word from the Alumni Board

"Your Alumni Board is filled with Directors who work hard on keeping you connected with the College and your former college class."

At the 2011 Homecoming, you elected me to be the president of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors for the next two years. Thank you for the honor, and I am looking forward to a productive two years of the Board's continued growth. Your Alumni Board is filled with Directors who work hard on keeping you connected with the College and your former college class. I want to continue this connection and make some changes to make the connection more informative and stronger.

First, so that we are on the same page, upon your completion of two semesters of Blackburn, you become a member of the Alumni Association. The Association hosts events and activities and, as a member, you should remain informed of these activities and have an opportunity to participate in some of them. Second, here are some of the Association's events and activities:

In August, the Association is part of Blackburn's Move-In Day by setting up a booth and greeting students with a friendly smile and refreshments.

It goes without saying that Homecoming is an Association event where your attendance is not only requested but vital to the event's success.

In January, the Association hosts a Senior Banquet for seniors and their parents. Also, this year the Association will conduct exit interviews of several seniors.

For final exam times each semester, the Association provides snacks to the students and personally attaches well wishes to the snacks from the Association.

These are just some of the Association's activities that you are invited to attend. The dates of these events are brought to you by the College's U.S. mailings, the electronic mailing of the Highlights from the Alumni Office, Blackburn's Facebook page, and Blackburn's website.

In particular during my administration, I would like to keep the Alumni webpage on Blackburn's website more informative of Association activities. Through the website, you will have an immediate source to know what is happening in the Association and you can determine if you can participate.

Last, but certainly not least, did you know that the Association may have various Chapters? Well, it can. At Homecoming, I always hear about groups of alumni getting together socially at other times during the year. These groups may be a Chapter of the Association. If you belong to such a group, the Association would love to know about it and designate the group as a Chapter.

In summation, let's stay active as an Alumni Association! The Alumni Board is always interested in hearing from you, so do not be afraid to contact us through Nate Rush in the Alumni Office at (800) 233-3550, x4297, or by email to nrush@blackburn.edu.

Lucretia Pitts '97
Update: Walt Harrington

1930s

Mary Edna (Moore) Powell ’35 is 95 years old, retired, lives alone and still drives!

Helen (Howe) Millhouse ’38 tutored all ages in reading for 30 years until 2000. She taught grades one, two, five, six and remedial reading. She graduated from Ball State in 1946.

Elmer Hoffmann ’39 retired from LeRoy State Bank in 1984. He is still trying to “navigate at 92 years of age.”

Margerta (Bryant) Fisher ’39 tries to stay busy as a volunteer at a nursing home—taking ladies shopping, to doctors, etc. She has children all over the country and travels as much as she can. She still has siblings in Maine and visited them twice in several months. Margerta took trips to both coasts this past summer and just had her 40th great grandchild. She hopes to make it to the next class reunion in 2014 and would love to hear from classmates. Box 932, Pahrump, NV, 89041.

1940s

Alice (Sipple) Ewing ’42 writes: “At the age of 88 I am doing pretty well even though I don’t walk, hear very well, and see with only one eye. But still have fond memories of good friends and times at Blackburn!”

Martha (Rogers) Neugebauer ’42 lives in busy Albuquerque, NM, where she loves the weather and the people. “I’m a lucky person,” she writes.

Betty (Gates) Clegg ’42 vividly remembers standing on the sidewalk in front of the main building when it was announced that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. She was a sophomore at Blackburn. That was 70 years ago!

Dorothea (Moorshead) Jones ’43 celebrated her 90th birthday on January 8 with a big party! She is still busy with the fitness center, dancing, delivering “Meals on Wheels,” and travels to New Zealand to visit her daughter whenever she can.

Marguerite (Harris) Mies ’43 is still singing in church choir, living in her own home and enjoying great grandchildren.

Peggy (McShane) Cochrane ’43 has had a wonderful 88 years and many fond memories of Blackburn.

Doris (Garner) Romans ’43 enjoyed the Blackburn reunion in Tucson, AZ. She volunteers at the library reading to kids and sings in the Unitarian Universalist Church choir.

Phyllis (Harper) Carson ’44 writes: “I remember BU so FONDLY.” She is now a retired hospital dietician, married 62 years—with three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marilyn (Gent) Kunkel ’45 writes: “Where are you class of 1945? I’m now 85—not the best of health, but alive and enjoying life and my family.”

Betty (Gasaway) McVary ’45 has retired from Illinois to Atlanta, GA. She has a daughter in Illinois and enjoys her children. She is living in an active seniors’ complex and likes it very much.
Beryl Kuhn ’45 is well and happy at 85 years old and living in her old home town, Trenton, IL. She would be happy to hear from old classmates from 1945. 654 W. 3rd St., Trenton, IL, 62293.

Barbara (Carroll) Hertzog ’51 still does a lot of traveling, mostly taking tours, domestic and overseas. This year she will travel to Chili, Argentina, Brazil, and then take a cruise of Norway, the British Isles and France.

Ethelyn (Johnson) Wesley ’53 is living in Groveland, CA, 20 miles from Yosemite National Park. She is retired from 20 years at Buck Meadows Lodge/Yosemite Westgate Motel. “Come visit, the light’s always on,” she writes.

Alexander Eichholz ’54 is retired and living in Sarasota, FL, where he is a docent at Mote Marine Labs and enjoys digital photography and the arts.

Marion Phelps ’54 is currently retired and working part-time at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church.

I visited Brussels to host a luncheon for the Belgians who rescued me—maps, photos, anecdotes, etc. Also in the revised version (Epilogue—50 years later) are my comments on events since 2003 when the first effort was published. The book details 35 years of gathering intelligence for the United States, a career that spanned seven countries on three continents under thirteen CIA directors, in the critical pursuit of information to protect the nation’s security. The book was reviewed in the "Wall Street Journal."

Mario Bartoletti ’58 writes: "The photo of Lili (Lavallee) ’58 and me was taken during our visit to the Grand Canyon in September. It was a marvelous experience. We continue to enjoy good health and recently celebrated the 57th anniversary of our meeting at Blackburn as freshmen in October 1954. (We celebrate that event each year. It is just as meaningful to us as our wedding anniversary.) We are always pleased to hear from former Blackburn classmates: mbartoletti@bellsouth.net."

Jo Lee (Celley) Herschelman ’58 was joined by her daughter (Ellen Herschelman Farias) and her son (Andre) for a week-long cruise to Alaska, fulfilling a long-time wish.

Barbara Petersen ’58 is enjoying her sister Caroline’s three children, seven grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and sister Joan’s two children, three grandchildren and one great-grandson.
David Schultz ’59 retired from radiology in 2007. He is enjoying family and friends in Southern California.

Marjorie (Stone) Stout ’59 writes: “My husband and I were married for 50 years and seven months when he died January 21, 2010. I continue to teach piano and do custom sewing. I accompany our local school choruses and play for two churches each Sunday. I have been very active in the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, and served for a number of years on the Board of Directors for Cunningham Children’s Home in Urbana (President for two years). My children are grown, seven grandchildren—the youngest is 14 and one great-grandchild is due in October.”

1960s

Gerald Sprouse ’61 celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with wife Betty (Brethauer) ’60. They met at Blackburn and were married in a small country church near Yorkville, IL on June 24, 1961. They have two children: Kelly Sprouse of Santa Margarita, CA and Martin Sprouse of Oakland, CA.

David Miller ’61 retired in 2008 as Director of Human Resources at North American Lighting Inc. after 16 years. He is currently engaged in financial and retirement planning. He has three adult children living in the Madison, WI area, one in Elizabethtown, KY and one in College Station, TX and he travels frequently.

Naomi Ritchell Bradshaw ’62 is unable to attend the 50th reunion in 2012, but wishes well to those who do get there, and the rest who don’t manage to make it.

Dale Dickinson ’62 moved to be close to two grandkids, three and four, and writes, “Our new house is super.”

Richard Treptow ’62 joined the campaign to communicate the causes and consequences of global warming to the public. He gives a presentation entitled “Our Earth Calls to Us.”

Barbara (Knudson) Newlin ’63 retired in 2008 after 32 years of human resources and training work for the state of Virginia. She has returned to her art roots with painting and pottery endeavors.

Gary ’61 & Mary ’63 (Clark) Marrs have two children and seven grandchildren all living in Chicago’s western suburbs.

Harry Strong ’64 writes: “I am ‘flunking’ retirement and was called to serve the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgway, CO effective November 21, 2011.”

James Reese ’65 writes: “As of January 1, 2011, I am no longer a partner, but of counsel to Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson attorneys, allowing more time for travel with my wife of three years, Rhonda.”

Patricia (Mehner) Kaisner ’65 is retired and living in Bloomington, IL. She has three children and five grandchildren.

Matthew & Linda (Schalk) Morganthau ’65 write: “Linda is a five-year cancer survivor. We still continue our full-time Watkins business. Matthew is an elected community representative on the councils of our grammar and high schools plus is active in other community organizations. Saw Jeff & Jackie (Osterman) Seeman ’64 at our 50th H.S. reunion in the spring.”

Jim ’64 & Marjorie ’66 (Meyer) Eisenbarth are really enjoying retirement and staying busy with their 12 grandchildren and community involvement. They travel when they have time and would love to hear from BU alumni. 623 S. Pine St., Nokomis, IL, 62075.

Cheryl (McCabe) Etherton ’66 writes, “After several years in Connecticut, we have moved and are now settled just east of Louisville, KY. David works part-time, and I am the day care giver for my grandson, almost two, and granddaughter, born in November. It is great to be such a big part of their lives.”

Ronald Haase ’66 is retired, does occasional free-lance articles, works part-time at the local library, and periodically travels in the U.S. and Europe.
James Cheshire ’67 received his MBA from Indiana University in 1976 and retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Col. after 20 years of service. He worked for three years for the Bureau of Census and 20 years at the Houston County Assoc. for Exceptional Citizens where he is currently the Associate Director. P.O. Box 8091, Warner Robins, GA, 31095. jcheshire@hcaec.com.

Cheryl (Lechman) Emery ’67 hopes to retire in 2011. She worked as a medical technologist, microbiology, for more than 40 years. She has seven grandchildren to keep her busy.

Wayne Joplin ’69: In February 2011 the City of Virden, IL, and the Prairieland Ambulance Service, dedicated Virden’s ambulance building in honor of Wayne shortly before his death in March 2011. The ambulance service was a major focus of Wayne’s interests.

1970s

Mike Smiley ’71 writes: “We attended the wedding of Tom ’70 and Michelle (Metivier) ’72 Heinz’ son in Antigua, Guatemala in November 2011. Several other alumni attended. (See Photo)

During 2008 he served as a Democratic Committee Person in Springfield, IL and as deputy registrar for registering new voters. His wife of 23 years, Donna, died in December 2007. He has been enjoying opportunities for travel. Address: 2004 Croydon Dr., Springfield, IL, 62703.

Charles Brown ’73 was appointed/promoted to Senior Vice President for Student Affairs at Florida Atlantic University.

Nate & Sue (Thomas) Rush ’73 write: “Our boys are 30 and 21, with the youngest getting ready to graduate from Illinois College this spring. He will attend the University of Illinois veterinary school in the fall and has had exciting opportunities for work with exotic animals—a semester study abroad in fall 2010 in Tanzania and Kenya, and a summer internship at the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI. Nate works as Sr. Development Officer at Blackburn and still plays guitar/sings; Sue is the administrative assistant at the Federated Church.”

Federico Smith ’71 is enjoying retirement and 15 grandchildren after a successful professional career because of his Blackburn education.

Dan Robuck ’72 retired from the Office of the Secretary of State of Illinois in January 2007 following nearly 28 years of service. He has been enjoying opportunities for travel. Address: 2004 Croydon Dr., Springfield, IL, 62703.

Robert Smith ’74 welcomed her first grandchild, Tabitha Rae Leatherman, on April 28, 2011.

Janet (Frank) Flatt ’74 is having a busy year with both sons getting married—one in May and one in October. Her younger son is even marrying a Blackburn grad—Katie Dodd ’04!

Lee Anne Rouse-Grens ’76 has been living in Orland Park, IL for 10 years. She is an interior designer and sales manager for a custom window treatment company. She has five grandchildren.

Jean (Giacomelli) Pierce ’77 writes: “After numerous moves and extensive travel, Rich and I have moved into our new home in Essex, CT, a lovely part of the world. We plan to enjoy retirement!”

Ronald Deabenderfer ’68 retired in 2007 after 39 years at Hillsboro High (IL). He is currently an adjunct teacher (composition) for Lincoln Land Community College at the Litchfield campus, a columnist for the “Hillsboro Journal-News” and a member of the Montgomery County Board.

Vicki (Anderson) Bamman ’77 retired six years ago due to health issues. She lives year-round at a campground outside Atlanta, IL. Her son David lives about 15 miles away with his wife Stacy and her beautiful two-year-old granddaughter Skylee. Prior to retiring she worked for twenty years as a proofreader for the State of Illinois Supreme Court Reporter of Decisions.

Debra (Gillmore) Dvorak ’77 retired six years ago due to health issues. She lives year-round at a campground outside Atlanta, IL. Her son David lives about 15 miles away with his wife Stacy and her beautiful two-year-old granddaughter Skylee. Prior to retiring she worked for twenty years as a proofreader for the State of Illinois Supreme Court Reporter of Decisions.

Vicki (Anderson) Bamman ’77 writes: “I blog for virtual vacations, which is great for people who are unable to travel. Feel free to post. Caution: This is an exercise for imagination!” vickibammansblog.com

Mike ’77 & Nancy ’78 (Musil) Hall are living in Dauphin, PA. Mike works for the federal government and Nancy is employed at the local school district. Their daughter, Anna,
graduated from Agnes Scott College in GA this past spring and is working in Baltimore. Their son, Tim, graduated from the University of Washington (Seattle) in the field of Asian studies and is teaching English in Japan. They would be happy to hear from "old" friends!

1620 Hemlock Ln., Dauphin, PA, 17018. hallsvt@yahoo.com.

Madonna (Reed) Tideman ’78 was named president of the 500-member volunteer Auxiliary of NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) at Evanston and Glenbrook Hospitals. A member since 1996, Madonna, has also served as treasurer and as Gala co-chair in 2006 and 2010. She has two children and is a partner in a commercial real estate company with her husband. Madonna has served on Blackburn’s Macoupin Scholarship Auction Committee for several years. Madonna was recently elected to Blackburn’s Board of Trustees.

1980s

Paul Kocis ’80 visited Blackburn for Homecoming 2011 and attends almost every year, starting with the golf outing on Friday. “Always have a GREAT time through Saturday. Come back, Class of ’80,” he writes.

Linda (Holubek) Brooks ’80 teaches English (pre-AP and on-level) at Union Eighth Grade Center, Tulsa, OK (15th year). ”I have a student book club.” She served as the Tulsa Branch President for the American Association of University Women (2007-2010). Her wonderful husband, Charles, is a librarian at the University of Tulsa and they have a fantastic 13-year-old daughter, Maggie, who was named student of the year in the month of September. She is a Harry Potter fan.

Linda (Pruitt) Carlisle ’80 was promoted to Acting Associate Dean, Library & Information Services, SIU-E. She authored a new book to be released in November 2012 entitled "Elizabeth Packard: A Noble Fight.”

Edward Newman ’81 will soon be a grandparent for the first time. He is in the top five at Prudential as a financial professional.

Ross Lee Johnson ’81 returned to school during the recession. He received his A.A. in psychology, was on the honor roll at Kirkwood Community College (Cedar Rapids, IA), and then on the honor roll at University of Iowa.

John Lutz ’81 is enjoying his practice as a clinical psychologist in West Boylston, MA. He and his wife Anne have two boys, ages 12 and nine.

Mary (Walders) Moore ’81 writes: “I have been serving as the manager at the Salvation Army’s service center on Amelia Island, FL for 18 months and continue

Update: Dr. Elisabeth Gantt

Dr. Elisabeth (Rohatsch) Gantt ’58 visited Blackburn College during one of the four 2011 New Student Orientation weekends. Dr. Gantt earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1963. Currently she is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics at the University of Maryland in College Park. In 2009, Dr. Gantt was inducted into the College of Chemical and Life Sciences Circle of Discovery—a group honoring members of the University of Maryland community for their visionary leadership and outstanding research in the biosciences and chemistry. She was honored for her ground-breaking work in understanding quantum efficiency and excitation migration paths in photosynthesis in bacteria and algae. In 1996, Dr. Gantt became one of four Blackburn alums inducted into the National Academics of Science.
to marvel at how the Lord is touching the lives of people desperate for hope. Sometimes all people need is to know that someone actually sees them and truly cares. My prayer is that you would ‘see’ someone today and bless them with knowing they matter—to you and to the Lord.”

Ellen Brotzman-DeSart ’84 is now the Health Education Coordinator for the Side-By-Side Wellness Center at the Simmons Cancer Institute in Springfield, IL. She develops free programs for anyone affected by cancer. The wellness center is part of SIU School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Behavioral and Psycho-Social Oncology.

Laurie (Parlette) Larsen ’84 released her newest book “Inner Diva” in July—an exciting, heart-warming love story featuring a hot, sexy Mexican named Carlos and a prim, proper theater lover named Monica. Check out her website: www.authorlaurielarsen.com/

Elizabeth (McNutt) Branham ’86 lives in Panama City Beach, FL with her husband Troy and 11-year-old daughter Cassie. She has worked as an oceanographer for the Navy for over 20 years. Friends can contact her at oceanographer@knology.net.

Maria Massey ’87 was awarded the “Poet Award” in St. Louis and the 2007 Warrier Award. She writes for the NCITY News.

Cheryl Styskal ’89 is still teaching 4th grade—13 years—and living in Austin, TX with her partner and two dogs.

1990s

Rae Ann (Prather) Littrell ’91 writes: “My husband, Brian, and I welcomed a baby boy, Cole Alexander to our family on January 8, 2011. He is our little bundle of joy!”

Sean Caveny ’92 was conferred as an acolyte by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki in the Diocese of Springfield, IL in May 2011. He will be installed as a permanent deacon in 2012. This appointment allows Sean to serve as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and in the absence of a priest, is authorized to serve as a minister of exposition and reposition of the Blessed Sacrament without benediction. His appointment follows extensive training.

Edward Danzer, Jr. ’93 is thankful for his Blackburn College experience. He has been married to wife Dawn for 18 years. They have two kids: Britt and Bryce and is still in touch with many friends made at Blackburn College.

Brian Clevenger ’96 writes: “My wife Julie (Barnstable) ’94 and I had twin girls, Elizabeth and Emma, born March 28, 2011. They join a 5-year-old sister, Adriana. Everyone’s doing great!”


2000s

Mark & Stacey (Munster) ’04 Mueller ’00 announced the birth of Calvin Anton born 6/11/11. His middle name honors his great grandpa William Anton Mueller, Jr. Calvin’s Cub’s hat was a hit in the nursery at the St. Louis hospital!

Lacy (Pinkston) Taylor ’01 was married on June 11 to Chris Taylor in a sunset ceremony on the beach in Lake Tahoe. They were joined by family, friends and Blackburn alumni.

Dylan Schaefer ’03 works as a field specialist for State Farm Insurance in Greenville, SC.

Gloria Mullons ’04 started a new job as a site coordinator for Family Focus, Inc. (non-profit).

Angela (Patterson) Noud ’04 writes: “Reid ’07 and I recently had a house built. We moved in April and have spent the last few months making it home. Reid works for AT&T and I am currently working as a Residential Care Manager for Every Child’s Hope in St. Louis. We spend any free time that we have with our family and friends.”

Eleanor (Senna) Lukasiewicz ’05 was married to John Lukasiewicz on July 23, 2011 in Macomb, IL. Her current address is 1038 N Honore Street, Chicago, IL 60622.

Mary (Chantos) Cahill ’05 announced the birth of Gabriel Charles born 3/14/2012.

Miranda (Weaver) Fujinaka ’05 was married in October 2007 to Michael, and had their first baby, a boy, in August 2010!

Stefanie (Lowe) Rennecker ’05 was named Counselor of the Year by the NE Missouri School Counselors Association in 2011.

Kelly (Brown) Stotlar ’05 announced the birth of her second baby, Kolbie Ann, on Nov. 26, 2010.

Nathanael ’07 & Melissa ’05(Benyr ) Reuck write: “I’m at the Enterprise Rent-A-Car headquarters in St Louis, MO and am a Network Engineer. Part of my job description is to plan, architect, and implement network designs and maintain security. My main focus is to ensure that there is no hit in network performance by the applications that run across it and to troubleshoot any network problems. I’ve been with Enterprise since July, 2005. Melissa Benyr ’07 and I were married on October 24, 2009, and we have a wonderful daughter Rylee Mae born August 3, 2010. Melissa is working at Covidien in St. Louis, MO as a Microbiology Lab Analyst III. She does quality control testing for narcotics and imaging products.”

Kalee (Mourer) Ackerman ’06 welcomed their first child, Cole, on Nov. 20, 2010.
Kiaundra Smith ’06 received a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO.

Daniel Jones ’06 was married to Rebecca Boston on Feb. 5, 2011. Rebecca is a graduate of Lincoln Land Community College and University of Illinois, Springfield. Daniel is employed as an IT analyst with Americorp in St. Louis.

Aziza (Masseke) Morrison ’06 was married to Michael Morrison in March 2011.

Tammy (Kulosa) Franklin ’06: Tammy and Christopher Franklin ’03 were married March 27, 2010 at the Bethlehem Evangelical Church in Chicago. Tammy is employed with Stephen Ministries in St. Louis, MO and Chris is employed with the River City Rascals Professional Baseball Team in O’Fallon, MO.

Andrea Schaeffer-Sisson ’06 teaches at the Child Development Center at Scott Air Force Base.

Sarah Fleck ’07 is a 2nd grade teacher at Aquin Catholic Grade School in Freeport, IL.

Mobashera (Kapasi) Hallam ’07 was married during summer 2010. She and her husband live in Michigan.

Sarah Hamilton ’08 writes: “I started a new job at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove as the Coordinator of Public Affairs and Marketing—a really great opportunity for me to move up and grow professionally. Joe Scroggins ’09 and I were married May 19, 2012 in Alsip, IL, a suburb near my house. We are very excited and very busy but can’t wait and are looking forward to our honeymoon to the Dominican Republic.” (see photo)

Sarah Jorn ’09 now works at Prairie Farms (Carlinville, IL) as a lab tech.

Holly Moore ’09 works as a food science lab tech for Nestlé Research & Development.

2010s

Sarah (Hunt) Hagen ’10 starred in a clothing ad campaign for Maurice’s after being named one of 12 winners of a nationwide Maurice’s Main Street Model search. She was one of more than 500 initial entrants who posted an online profile and video, which were voted on by visitors to the Maurice’s website. Sarah is a preschool teacher at Sunshine Kids Daycare and Learning Center at the Jerseyville First United Methodist Church.

Meghan Schultze ’10 teaches 3rd grade at Monroe Grade School in Bartonville, IL and also serves as the 7th grade coach and assistant 8th grade basketball coach. Her 7th grade team won the Illinois Elementary School Association State Tournament in December 2010, finishing that season with a record of 23-1.

Mariel Hildenbrand ’10 is working at the Milwaukee Rep Theatre with her boyfriend, Alex. “We moved to Wisconsin to pursue our dreams together! Who knows where we will go to next,” she writes.

Emily (Glenn) Wilson ’10 was accepted to Arcadia University in Delaware in the Physician’s Assistant program. She was married to Alex Wilson on July 24, 2010.

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 Nate Rush, Senior Development Officer, 700 College Ave., Carlinville IL 62626; or, nrush@blackburn.edu.

We reserve the right to appropriately edit and print submissions as space allows.
Charles “Chuck” Beetz was awarded the Gideon Blackburn Award at Blackburn’s Annual Founder’s Day Convocation on Monday, February 20, 2012. A 1962 graduate of the College and a current Board of Trustees member, Mr. Beetz graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology and currently teaches Microbiology at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. Currently, Mr. Beetz serves as the Chair of the Parkland College Institutional Effectiveness Committee, Treasurer for Parkland Academic Employees and is also on the Parkland College Art Gallery Board, as well as the Board of Directors for the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Illinois. He is also a member of the Illinois Articulation Initiative Steering Committee, Parkland College Strategic and Operational Planning Committees, and the North Central Association Accreditation Report Steering Committee.

The Gideon Blackburn Award is given annually to an alumnus/alumna or a non-alumnus/alumna who has rendered valuable service to the College in terms of money, time, service, and influence. The award helps keep alive the memory of Dr. Gideon Blackburn, founder of the College. The Alumni Board presents the award in the form of a plaque given to the recipient.

Last year’s recipient was Ms. Ann Allen, the Executive Assistant to the President. While performing these duties, Ann has provided many valuable services including, Assistant to the Provost, Secretary to the Faculty Assembly, HLC Team Visit member, HR Support, CAMS Manager, Student Mentor and Advisor, Administrative Support for Study Abroad, and organizing much of the planning and execution that keeps a host of events and the President and the Provost on schedule.

The Anderson Building: Past, Present, and Future

Between Ludlum and Graham Hall sits the C.H.C. Anderson building, empty for most of the academic year. In the past the Anderson building, as it is known to students, has served as a student center that was known as The Den, and it is used every year to house the Phon-a-thon. Future plans for Anderson are slowly coming together to convert the facility into the Alumni and Visitor’s Center. Included in these plans are Alumni Development and Public Relations offices, reception and meeting spaces and a conference room. A new roof was recently installed, totaling an approximate $250,000 in conversion expenses. For more information on the future of the C.H.C. Anderson building, contact Glen Krupica in the Alumni Development office at 217-854-3231, x4200.

Written by Larra Brogdon ’14 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.

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

1930
Wendell Keepper 6/22/2011

1931
Emmet Fry 2/12/2010

1932
Edward H. Gum 12/13/2010
Eleanor A. (Glasgow) Boedeker 10/27/2011
Eva (Newport) Rice 4/29/2011

1933
F. Nadine (Huffman) Lounsberry 12/19/2009
Ruth E. (Fry) Faler 3/25/2011

1934
William E. Greenstreet 6/8/2011

1935
Harvey R. Gamble 10/26/2011

1936
Doris (Shewmake) Deterding 2004
Gerald L. Foulon 9/21/2010
John E. Morse 3/28/2011
Mary Ellen (Wilhite) Heinz 1/7/2011

1937
Joseph Elmer Grazee 9/11/2011
Marion Geraldine Sheriff 6/10/2011
Walter E. Weffenstette 3/11/2011

1938
James Wallace Dickes 2/16/1011
Marian (Miles) Wagers 8/26/2010
Roy Alberswerth 12/9/2010

1939
Betty (O’Desky) Radecki 10/7/2011
Helen Jeanne (Wear) Rossi 2/16/2011
Robert T. Wilcox 4/20/2011

1940
Charles Towey 12/21/2010
Howard Oscar Roman 6/25/2010
Jean (Canterbury) Shutt 2/15/2009
Margaret (Bonadurer) Strang 2/18/2011
Marjorie (Ross) Roman 5/2/2011
Marvin H. Mahan 10/30/2011
Thomas J. Moran 1/30/2011

1941
Gordon L. Hershman 8/27/2007
Harold Lasky 12/11/2010
John Wilson 6/17/2011
Louise (Dunn) Bergen 12/30/2010
Stanley D. Musgrave 10/28/2011

1942
Caryl (Crilly) Holmes 8/18/2011
Elizabeth “Betty” (Wade) Washburn 2/19/2011
Robert Altman 11/22/2010

1943
Annette H. (Janssen) Brady June 2011
Betty Farley Bone 6/11/2011
Earl Evans Asbury 1/3/2011

1944
Eunice A. (Richard) Schmitt 12/9/2010
Jean Aderton Stewart 2/3/2011

1945
Betty (Hatzel) Horne 6/28/2010
Charlotte (Strieder) Moody 6/1/2011
Ruby (Young) Gebhart 9/9/2011

1946
Elaine (Carr, Wilson) Mims 8/17/2009
Jack Kilver 12/25/2010
Jane Anne (Kruse) Hodapp 4/17/2011
Rosemary Alma (Firtman) Maurer 8/4/2011

1947
Barbara (Woodward) Garrard 4/19/2011
Elynor (Stapp) Flitz 9/2/2011
George S. Bayer 2/26/2011

1949
Beverly (Batman) Ann Cosner 9/17/2011
Claire L. (Schmidt) Jaenke 11/11/2011
Kathleen (Sarture) Krugel 1/16/2011
Marvin Lee Dull 10/22/2011

1951
Larry I. Graves 3/22/2011

1952
Ralph Hutton 10/19/2011

1953
Vera (Brown) Grimes 11/28/2011
Donna (May) Weaver 1/15/2012
Doris M. (Duringer) Straub 12/20/2007

1954
Earl Gates 9/30/2011
Virginia J. (Wolfram) Williams 3/29/1011

1955
Lee Brown 4/2/2011

1958
Bonnie Gladden 2/21/2011
Sherry (McLaughlin) Marion 9/7/2011

1959
Patricia (Parsells) Dodd 6/28/2011

1960
Dazzie Jones 3/17/2009
James C Moese 12/16/2010

1961
Spencer John Maxcy 11/22/2010

1964
Walter McElligot 1/2010

24
Marvin Mahan, whose vision was to plant thousands of walnut trees to provide future income for Blackburn College, passed away on May 5, 2011 at the age of 91.

Mahan was a nearly penniless teenager when Blackburn College President William Hudson took a chance on him and gave him a job and an education.

Mahan became a successful chemical engineer who contributed to many innovations during his career, including the development of synthetic rubber during World War II. He donated $1 million toward the Marvin and Ingrid Mahan Laboratory Wing, completed Fall 2008.

He was also a firm believer in proper money management and how things grow in value over time. Mahan convinced Blackburn to plant walnut trees on timbered acres of land it owns outside of Carlinville. Walnut trees are valued for their hard wood, particularly for veneer furniture making. About a dozen students helped plant 3,000 trees and the project continues to expand today.
When Kevin Hinkle, Associate Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Alumni Recruitment Programs, attended a seminar back in 2005, it caused him to ask a question. Why not have alumni help recruit new students to the college? After coming to Blackburn in January 2010, Hinkle brought the idea to John Malin, now Director of Transfer Admissions who was then Director of Admissions, about implementing this idea at Blackburn. The idea was something Hinkle was very interested in, and he helped develop it from the ground up, with it eventually becoming the Area Alumni Recruiting for Enrollment (AREA) program.

Currently there are seven alumni involved with Area Alumni Recruiting for Enrollment: Rich and Barb (Niemann) Samonte ’62, Kathy (Cordera) Conwill ’75, Cathy Prange ’75, Mike Lewis ’82, Tana (Samante) Williams ’88 and Mark McNeil ’93. The group sets up tables at college fairs to answer questions that high school students have about the College. The alumni act as support to the current college Admissions Reps and are valuable assets due to their knowledge and experiences at Blackburn College.

“One of the places where we have a solid core of reps is in the Chicagoland area. We started development there, and I would say our area alumni cover about 95% of fairs in that area,” said Hinkle.

The process works like this: alumni are provided with the materials they need for their table at recruiting fairs, including a booklet guide created by Hinkle. The booklet has answers to questions that prospective students may ask such as: “What is the size of the college?” or “What is the student to faculty ratio?” If they’re unsure of a question they can always refer the prospect to the Office of Admissions. This process also gives parents of prospective students the opportunity to discuss the College and an alumni’s personal experiences.

“They do what any of us from admissions would do at a college fair. It’s helped the College save in costs, and it’s a great way for alumni to reconnect with the College. It’s a different way to give back in addition to monetary gifts,” said Hinkle.

The seven alumni currently involved responded to an announcement sent in the alumni electronic newsletter. The alumni attended a meeting, and if they were interested, signed up. It took three different meetings around Chicago to recruit the current AREA reps.

Any interested alumni are asked to fill out an application so the Admissions team has a summary of their Blackburn knowledge. Prospective AREA reps are asked to answer questions about life while at Blackburn and what their experiences at the College were like.

AREA is in its second year of existence and is generating a lot of interest. “I think it’s going very well, and has really made a difference. We’re hoping for it to grow, and to expand to additional areas,” said Hinkle.

Hinkle says that the passion shown by the Chicago-land reps is amazing and hopes it grows in subsequent years, including St. Louis and other areas.

“I think our goal is making it bigger, and getting the word out to alumni. If we have someone that wants to get something started, we can begin to put a plan in place. My goal this year is to have St. Louis covered, too,” said Hinkle.

The Office of Admissions has plans to expand the Alumni Recruiting program to Indianapolis, IN; Milwaukee, WI; St. Louis, MO; Cleveland, OH; and Cincinnati, OH. Anyone who is interested in being a part of Area Alumni Recruiting for Enrollment can contact Kevin Hinkle, Associate Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Alumni Recruitment Programs, kevin.hinkle@blackburn.edu, (217) 854-3231, x4293; Nate Rush, Sr. Development Officer/Alumni Relations, nrush@blackburn.edu, (217) 854-3231, x4297.
All over the Blackburn campus, students and facilities have been “going greener” to help the campus and the community be a more environmentally conscious place to live. In 2008, President Mim Pride called for the creation of the Sustainability Planning Committee to review all aspects of the College’s operations with a concentration on environmental responsibility. In 2009, the Board of Trustees was presented with a five year Sustainability Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is organized into five sections for improvement: energy conservation, water and paper use, food service waste management, campus recycling, and environmental sustainability in the curriculum. The effects of these sustainability efforts are now clearly seen on campus.
**RECYCLING**

**Leave it to Beaver**

In 2009, Leave it to Beaver began as a way to help students reuse and repurpose items at no charge. Located in Olin Hall, this free “store” is a place where students are able to find new uses for donated items other students no longer need. The store also helps reduce the number of items that are thrown away and subsequently put into a landfill.

“The concept of the store is entirely environmentally friendly,” said Marcella Polera ’13, Leave it to Beaver Manager and Assistant Manager to Volunteer Services. “Instead of throwing away binders or notebooks, or clothes or electronics, they are available for people who might need them. It’s a fantastic resource to have so close because we have limited room in our dorms for things we don’t need, and lack money for some of the things we may want.” Donations that are not claimed are taken to the local Catholic Charities, so nothing goes to waste.

**Re-Cycles**

The Re-Cycles bicycle project is also an effort to reuse old materials, while encouraging bicycles as a way of local transportation. The program allows students to rent bicycles, lowering transportation costs and fuel emissions around town. The program receives donated and abandoned bicycles which students help repair and refurbish. Students can rent a bicycle for only $20 and if it is returned at the end of the semester in usable condition, the students receive a $10 refund.

**Recycling Program**

The recycling program at Blackburn makes it easy for faculty, staff and students to lend an environmentally friendly hand. Led by Dr. Arthur Darken, Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Planning, and staffed by student workers, recycling bins placed in every building allow for cardboard, paper, catalogs, magazines, newspapers, bottles, bottle caps, and aluminum cans to be recycled. An annual contest encourages recycling in the six residential halls. Every hall has recycling bins for each item and the bins get dumped and weighed daily. A poster in the Demuzio Campus Center tracks which dorm is in the lead at the end of each month. In 2010, Jones-Allison Hall won the contest and used the prize money to buy motion sensing lights for their parlor. These lights turn on when someone enters the parlor and turn off when everyone leaves, helping reduce the amount of electricity used. In 2011, a total of 37,783 pounds was recycled. Since then, the school has seen a 40% increase in recycling around campus.

**ACADEMIC CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

**Biodiesel**

In June 2011, Blackburn College purchased a B-60 biodiesel processor from Florida Biodiesel, Inc. The B-60 is used to convert fats and oils, from the dining hall and local restaurants, into biodiesel fuel. Spearheading this project is Jim Pickett ’68, Professor of Chemistry. “The biodiesel processor can be used to introduce students to good, yet simple chemistry,” said Pickett.

This is not only an educational opportunity for Blackburn students—the processor will also create fuel for college vehicles and machinery.

Biodiesel is a synthetically created fuel made by mixing fats or oils and alcohol with a catalyst which speeds up a chemical reaction. The biodiesel is then used to create a stable fuel which can be used in diesel-powered engines, and unlike gasoline, is derived from a renewable source.

**Composting**

Dr. James Bray, Blackburn College biology professor, was granted $15,000.00 from the USDA to jumpstart a composting program.
In industry terms, this program will help reduce the amount of cellulose and lignin waste and aid the separation of fungal strains of interest in biofuel production.

The grant will allow waste paper to be turned into compost, which will potentially produce biofuel. The biofuel aspect of the project has the capacity to be a major income generator if the development of usable isolates is successful. The production of biofuel will decrease emissions linked with fossil fuel production and could potentially lead to a renewable, lower emission fuel source.

**Energy Saving**

The College is in the process of replacing light fixtures in all campus buildings to reduce the number of watts used. During breaks, only buildings in use are heated and cooled. The campus also uses a computer-controlled Energy Management System which automatically turns heating and cooling on and off. Extra insulation was added to the attic or roofs of multiple buildings like Mahan, Demuzio Campus Center, Visual Arts, Hudson and Lumpkin Library, to make them more energy efficient.

**Other Efforts**

Blackburn is also involved in various other conservation efforts. Dining Services stopped using meal trays, reducing the amount of heated water used in dish-washing, and has been serving more locally grown food, conserving gasoline in transport. The snack bar gives discounted prices to students who fill up their own mugs with coffee and soda and the dining area has begun using napkins made from 100% recycled paper.

In residence hall bathrooms, posters have been placed urging students to conserve water when they wash their hands, shave, or brush their teeth. In all campus classrooms, small signs are posted under each light reminding students and faculty to flip the light switch off as they leave. Copy machines around campus are now printing two-sided—reducing the amount of paper by half.

For more information on the College’s sustainability efforts, contact Dr. Arthur Darken, Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Planning, at arthur.darken@blackburn.edu or call (217) 854-3231, x4292.

Written by Emily Fisher '15 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.
This year we said goodbye to two special and well-loved members of the Blackburn family. Randy Ober and Rich Bowman '70 both left the ranks of Blackburn's finest to continue their lives outside of our campus.

After working 28 years, and under three Blackburn College presidents, Rich Bowman, Director of Physical Plant, retired in December 2011. During that time, Rich was involved with many major campus projects, including the construction of Rahme Learning Resource Center, Visual Arts Center, Demuzio Campus Center, and the renovation of several campus buildings. “Rich Bowman has provided leadership for this complex operation for almost three decades. His wisdom, patience, and expertise have been invaluable to Blackburn. He leaves very large shoes to fill but, with typical foresight and exemplary good grace, he has prepared others well for the transition. We are grateful for all of this and more,” said Mim Pride.

The Campus Community and Safety Department said goodbye to Director Randy Ober in July 2011. Randy was well-loved throughout the department. He is described by his student workers as “caring for all of his workers and each person of the campus community like they were his own children.” It is clear that Ober will be greatly missed by the many young people he touched during his time at Blackburn. Former student manager of Campus Community and Safety Services, senior art major Ruthie Kahl described Ober as “a wonderful asset to the Blackburn Community.”

The entire Blackburn College community wishes Rich and Randy the very best and thanks them for their years of service and commitment to the faculty, staff, and students of Blackburn College.

Written by Larra Brogdon '14 as part of the Blackburn College Work Program.
English & Communications Merge

Each year, many of Blackburn’s academic majors see changes in small ways—course additions and deletions, new faculty, occasionally a new major or minor. But during the 2011-12 academic year, two departments saw significant change as the Communications and English Departments merged, forming the Department of English & Communications.

Chaired by Dr. Ren Draya, the Department of English & Communications had been in the planning stages for two years before its implementation last year. The Department now boasts five full-time faculty and two adjunct professors. This leads to what Dr. Draya calls a “more cohesive department and more people who have a full-time commitment to the College.”

Before the merger, seven academic tracks were divided between the two majors. Now, the refined department offers five academic tracks with a plethora of new courses and two new majors, Creative and Professional Writing. British and American Literature, Communications and Secondary English Education still remain as majors. There are five minor tracks: Communications, Creative Writing, Literature, Professional Writing, and Marketing/Communications (co-listed with the Business Department).

“In merging we have been able to fill a faculty position with a communications expert,” Dr. Draya said, speaking of new faculty member, Natasha Casey. The Department has made strides to provide students a stronger communications education, adding courses in Media Ethics, Media and Diversity, and Media Theory. A number of new writing courses have been developed, including Technical and Corporate Writing, Writing for New Media, Writing for Non-Profits and Advocacy: Grants and Policy, Advanced Journalism: Feature and Magazine Writing, and Playwriting.

“We were also able to add a fifth member to the Department, Dr. Karen Dillon,” Dr. Draya said. Dr. Dillon specializes in Contemporary American Literature and in teaching Freshman Composition. As nationwide literacy and writing skills decline, the College finds it increasingly important for students to receive a solid writing base when they enter college. Blackburn’s freshman program, Freshman Inquiry, is directed by Dr. Naomi Crummy; with Dr. Dillon as acting director during Dr. Crummy’s fall 2012 sabbatical semester.

The Department also houses the Academic Resource Center’s Writer’s Block, a tutoring and supplemental instruction service staffed by student workers.

Outside of the classroom, majors are encouraged to get involved with one of the many student groups and publications, including WBVR radio club, The 'Burnian student newspaper, VORTEX magazine, and the annual creative writing contest, made possible by benefactor and Advisory Trustee, Louise Allen.

Dr. Draya hopes to see the Department continue to develop in coming years, and predicts that new courses will attract students with a wide range of interests. “It’s a wonderful program and improving every year,” she said. “It’s been a big adjustment—everything is new—but we are very happy, enthusiastic and learning all the time. We’re currently in the process of updating the British and American Literature track.”

The Department of English & Communications faculty includes Dr. Ren Draya, chair; Natasha Casey (ABD); Dr. Naomi Crummy; Dr. Karen Dillon; Roy Graham; and adjunct professors Barbara Clark and Dr. Peggy Lee.
Local Businesses Partner with Blackburn College for 175th Anniversary Celebrations

Frontier Communications has partnered with Blackburn College to celebrate the College’s 175th anniversary Homecoming Celebration. A $2,500 check was presented on April 20 to President Mim Pride by Frontier representatives: Steve Saylor, General Manager, Jason Medford, Technical Manager, and Bob Ford ’09, Small Business Account Executive. Blackburn College’s week-long 175th Homecoming Celebration begins on September 23 and ends September 30.

Blackburn College has partnered with several local businesses as corporate sponsors of key anniversary events. These businesses include Carlinville National Bank, Cynmar Corporation, Frontier Communications, Karmak and Prairie Farms.

With Blackburn making major strides to improve sustainability campus-wide, it is only fitting that a major dedicated to that cause be created. On March 30, Blackburn announced that an Environmental Studies major will be available in the fall 2012 semester.

The Environmental Studies major will prepare students for a wide range of post graduate and career possibilities, including resource planning and management, natural resource conservation, environmental education, waste management and recycling, or environmental law and policy.

“Environmental Studies majors will build effective communication skills, specialized knowledge, and analytical skills to allow students to understand and act on the complex environmental issues that face humanity,” said Dr. Jeffery Aper, Provost.

Coursework will focus on the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. A variety of new classes have been designed specifically for the Environmental Studies major, including Introduction to Environmental Studies, Religion and the Environment, and Environmental Ethics. The major also requires an extensive internship in a field setting related directly to the student’s goals and interests, and a senior seminar project that will pull together the knowledge and skills developed throughout their coursework.

“The Environmental Studies major truly draws on the full range of experience, expertise, and opportunity Blackburn has to offer,” said Aper. “Students will take classes with experienced and highly qualified professors in Biology, Chemistry, Philosophy and Religion, Political Science, Economics, English, and Communications, along with the core coursework in Environmental Studies.”

For more information on Blackburn’s Environmental Studies Major, contact Dr. Gregory Meyer, Philosophy and Religion professor at 854-3231, x4307, or Dr. Jeffery Aper, Provost at 854-3231, x4338.
For the second year, Blackburn’s Education Department held an educational, day-camp program for grades K-5. A growing program, Kids’ Academy combines fun and learning through interactive activities, enriching basic concepts in reading, language arts, math, science and social studies.

Designed by Education Department faculty and led by education majors, Kids’ Academy offered three sessions this summer, each with two educational themes.

Session 1, ran June 4th through June 15th, featured the themes “Rainforest Mysteries” during which kids explored the rainforest, and “Cruisin’ the USA” where kids saw the sights of the United States.

Session 2, which ran June 18th through June 29th, featured the themes “Rocketing the Solar System” where kids went on an outer space mission with Barney the Beaver, and “Mad Scientist” where kids were the lab partners of a mad scientist who performed all kinds of fun and exciting experiments.

Session 3, ran July 9th through July 20th, and featured the themes “Awesome Animal” where kids discovered interesting and amazing animals, and “Blackburn’s Summer Olympics” where kids practiced physical fitness while celebrating the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Some of last year’s themes included: “Under the Sea”, “What’s Playing at the Theatre?”, “Incredible, Edible Math”, and “Where in the World is Barney Beaver?”
Commencement 2012

Led by College Marshal, Mr. Roy Graham, on Saturday, May 12, 2012, 111 students donned caps and gowns, and earned their diplomas while faculty and staff, family and friends, looked on.

Commencement speaker, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, bid the students farewell, noting a number of accomplished alumni. Outstanding Graduate Awards were given to Student Marshal, Amanda Orzechowski and Tiffany Waugh. The Outstanding Teacher and Campus Leader award was given to Dr. David Reid, Professor of Biology and Chemistry, for his contributions in the profession of teaching, campus leadership, and instructional support.
Katie Palsen '12 and Kenneth James '13 perform during Blackburn's Got Talent.

Erika (Rathling) Frelander '57 and Dick Darling '55 peruse a yearbook.

Dolores Baird '57, Lynn (Hollerbach) Smiley '72, and Mike Smiley '71 chat at McKinley House.

Students Rachael Lancey '15, Haley Cohen '15, and Emily Rabida '15 smile for the camera.

Mike Smiley '71 passes the gavel to new Alumni Board president Lucretia Pitts '97.

Katie Palsen '12 and Kenneth James '13 perform during Blackburn's Got Talent.
During the weekend of September 30 to October 2, 2011, alumni, family and friends of the college gathered on campus to celebrate Homecoming. Weekend festivities included the annual Athletics Department Golf Tournament, the Blackburn’s Got Talent Variety Show, Beaverthon 5K, and much more!
Homecoming
September 28th–30th
For more information, visit blackburn.edu.

FRIDAY, Sept. 28th

10:00  Athletics Department Golf Tournament Registration
       Carlinville Country Club
11:00  Tournament Tee-Off
1:30-1 Alumni Association Meeting and Luncheon
       Mahan Atrium RSVP
12-4:00 Street Fair
12:00  Volleyball Tri-Match
       Fontbonne vs. Westminster
       Dawes Gymnasium
12:00  12th Annual Blackburn Baseball Golf Outing
       Shotgun Start
       Terry Park, Palmyra, IL
12:30-4:15 Reunion Pictures
       Bothwell Lobby
       12:30pm – Class of 1932
       12:45pm – Class of 1937
       1:00pm – Class of 1942
       1:15pm – Class of 1947
       1:30pm – Class of 1952
       1:45pm – Class of 1957
       2:00pm – Class of 1962
       2:15pm – Class of 1967
       2:30pm – Class of 1972
       2:45pm – Class of 1977
       3:00pm – Class of 1982
       3:15pm – Class of 1987
       3:30pm – Class of 1992
       3:45pm – Class of 1997
       4:00pm – Class of 2002
       4:15pm – Class of 2007
       "Meet Me in the Tent" (grassy area east of tennis courts, north of Jewel Hall)
       ALUMNI ONLY, Wine and beer will be served
2:00  Volleyball Tri-Match
       Blackburn vs. Westminster
       Dawes
2:30  Alumni College, “Bells and Whistles of Teaching” presented by Dr. Kelly Chaney
       Hudson 102
3:00  Men’s Soccer vs. Fontbonne
       Athletic Stadium
3:30  Alumni College “Vietnam Veterans Discussion” presented by Dr. Jan
       Zimmerman, Program Department Chair
       (Hudson 106)
3:30-6 Gathering In Mahan Atrium
8:00  After Hours Gathering
      Magnuson Grand Hotel-Crow’s Nest

6:45-6:45 Flyer gathered in Mahan Atrium

SATURDAY, Sept. 29th

8:00  Beaverton Registration
      In front of Ludlum Hall
8:30  Beaverton 5K Run/Walk
8:30  Class of ’72 Breakfast
      McKinley House
      Invitation Only & RSVP
9-2:30 Open Registration
      Demuzio Campus Center Commons
9-4:30 Beaver Bus
      Stops located throughout campus
10:00 Alumni Choir Rehearsal
      Bothwell 132
10:00 Volleyball Tri-Match
      Blackburn vs. Fontbonne
      Dawes Gymnasium
10:00 Alumni College “Careers” presented by Suzanne Krupica
      Hudson 109
10:00 Alumni College “Blackburn Work Program Today” presented by Roger Fenton
      Hudson 106
11:00 Alumni Soccer
      Athletic Stadium
1:50 Alumni Baseball vs. Varsity Baseball Field

1:30 Alumni College “The Last Mission of Hog Wild” presented by Dr. Terry Rainey
      Hudson 106
1:30 Alumni College “The New Environmental Studies Major” presented by Dr. Jeff Aper, Provost
      (Hudson 109)

1:00 Alumni College Rehearsal
      Clegg Chapel
10:30 Ecumenical Worship Service
      Clegg Chapel
12:00 Class of ’62 and ’67 Luncheon Auxiliary Dining Room
      Demuzio Campus Center RSVP

SUNDAY, Sept. 30th

9-10:00 Heritage Society Breakfast
      McKinley House
      Invitation Only & RSVP
9:30 Alumni Choir Rehearsal
      Clegg Chapel
10:30 Ecumenical Worship Service
      Clegg Chapel
12:00 Class of ’62 and ’67 Luncheon Auxiliary Dining Room
      Demuzio Campus Center RSVP
1:00 Alumni Baseball vs. Varsity Baseball Field

Stop by “The Den” and visit
Blackburn College: 175 Years of History
Friday, Sept. 28th
3-5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 29
1-5 p.m.
The Blackburn campus is simply stunning in the Summer. The flowers have bloomed, and we celebrate the end of another successful year. In May we watched as 111 students walked across the stage and received their degrees from Blackburn College. What an exciting time for them!

With Commencement also comes the end of our fiscal year and because of your past support, today’s students are receiving the same outstanding education that we received. I hope you will join us in helping Blackburn continue to provide its exceptional education to future students by making your gift today. Gifts are important in meeting our goals as we approach June 30, but also welcomed all year long!

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

Thank you in advance for your support!
"Annie" June 22-24, and June 29-July 1
Summer Repertory Theater at Blackburn College
The Summer Rep has been a Blackburn fixture since its founding in 1994, providing a creative outlet for Blackburn students, faculty, staff and, primarily, community and area actors and production workers. Take in a performance and experience the rich tradition of theater at Blackburn.

Blackburn Day at the Macoupin County Fair July 17
Sponsored by Prairie Farms
Come join our special Blackburn celebration at the fair, held during the week of July 16-21.

Gideon Blackburn’s 240th Birthday, August 23
Sponsored by CNB Bank & Trust
A gala celebration of Gideon Blackburn’s 240th birthday featuring a giant birthday cake and Gideon himself.

2012 Blackburn Homecoming September 23-30
Sponsored by Frontier Communications
A week-long, homecoming celebration begins with an open house for the Blackburn and Carlinville communities on Sunday, September 23, with the opening of the "Blackburn College: 175 Years of History" display in C.H.C. Anderson Hall. Activities on campus will continue for the week, culminating with the Homecoming events on Friday-Sunday, September 28, 29, and 30.

Science Wall of Honor November 2
Sponsored by Cynmar Corporation
Blackburn will celebrate its excellence in science with a “Wall of Honor” induction ceremony for the inaugural class of distinguished science alumni and outstanding faculty to be honored with this new, special recognition.

175th Anniversary Commemorative Book
A special book is currently being prepared 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 Founders Day, 2013. Advance orders can be made by contacting the Development Office, 217-854-3231, x4356. Reserve your personal copy of this keepsake edition today!

For more information on Blackburn College’s 175th Anniversary, visit www.blackburn.edu or contact the Development Office, 217-854-3231, x4356. Watch for upcoming events in 2013 as we celebrate 100 Years of the Work Program!
On April 27, the newly endowed fund for the Dr. William E. and Grace M. Werner Lecture Series in the Natural Sciences, hosted its first speaker, Dr. John Jellies ’79, in Olin Lecture Hall. Created in 2011 and made possible by a gift from Dr. Herman ’56, and Marlene (Castiglia) Brockman ’57, of Congerville, Illinois, the Dr. William E. and Grace M. Werner Lecture Series provides an opportunity to invite guest speakers each year to lecture on a topic in the natural sciences and meet with students and faculty in the natural sciences. Dr. Werner taught biology at the College for over 35 years and both he and his wife Grace have continued to be fixtures on campus since his retirement in 1989.

Dr. Jellies’ presentation, “Thoughts on Minds and Brains: How Neural Circuits Do What They Do,” was attended by students in the natural sciences during two daytime lectures, and an evening lecture was open to the community.

Dr. Jellies is currently a Professor of Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. After leaving Blackburn, Dr. Jellies went on to a career as a biology professor and neurobiologist whose classes are largely based on evolution, and human and animal physiology. Through his research he has studied the function and development of behaviors and their substrates, neurons and synapses to learn how circuits and synapses function, how they change with age and experience, and how they arise during development.

Jellies has over 105 publications and has received over $3.8 million in research funding from the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.
PARENTS: If this issue of the UPDATE is addressed to a student who no longer maintains a permanent address at this residence, please notify the Alumni Office of their new address.

Blackburn College Alumni News
Spring 2012

Beaver Backers Golf Tournament
a tournament to benefit the Blackburn College Athletics Department

Homecoming Weekend
September 28, 2012
Carlinville Country Club
Route 4, Carlinville, IL

4-Person Scramble
Enter Individually or as a Team!

Entry Fee Includes:
Lunch and Dinner
Green Fees
Free Range Balls
Team Prizes and Pin Prizes

Individual: $70/$85 with cart rental
Team: $280/$340 with cart rental
Dinner Ticket Only (payable at door) $15

For more info, please contact Jason Baribeau, Interim Assistant Athletic Director of Operations, at: (800) 233-3550, x4242
jason.baribeau@blackburn.edu.