The new and improved auditorium in Bothwell

New Year, New Rules
By Jordyn Smith and Deja Bell

Along with the new school year comes new or amended rules and policies. The B-book explains all the rules you need to know in full detail, but here are the big four that seem to have students talking:

1. Scentsy products and candle warmers are no longer allowed in the dorm rooms. According to Director of Residence Life Abbey Hardin, the new rule is “the result of an advisement from our insurance provider that not only can these be a fire hazard, they can also create quite a mess in the halls when they’re knocked over leaving a trail of wax on the walls/floors.” Some students seem to agree. “I respect the Scentsy rule because people made a lot of mess with the wax,” says junior Biology major Kayla Liebman.

2. The Controlled Substance Policy has been amended. Campus Community and Safety or Residence Hall Staff has the right to document any suspensions of students being in possession or under the influence of controlled substances. They also have the right to perform searches and canine searches. If a student is found with illegal possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances, he or she will receive at minimum a $150 fine, a year of social probation, the requirement to submit to and pay for a drug test and notification to parents or guardians. Local law enforcement may also be notified.

Also, sexual harassment is now under the Sexual Conduct Policy. The new Sexual Conduct Policy exists because of a “lack of understanding of consent,” according to Hardin. Several instances have occurred in the past where poor communication results in improper punishment. In the past, unwanted touching could have received the same punishment as a sexual assault (suspension). The new policy breaks behavior and punishment down into different tiers so that a more proper disciplinary system can be employed on a case-by-case basis.

Finally, there seems to be some misunderstanding among students about Blackburn’s Visitation Policy in the residence halls. As always, off-campus overnight guests may stay with a resident for three days and two nights twice a month. This policy does not include students from other dorms. Residence Life would, however, suggest for anyone staying in a different dorm to get a guest pass for each stay. This is for safety reasons. If a fire, tornado, or other disaster were to occur, Residence Hall Staff would be able to take the proper measures to ensure the safety of all students in the dorms.

While some students disagree with some of the changes taking place on campus, others are appreciative of the fact that our safety is a big concern for Residence Hall Staff. “I can understand why some of these rules are needed,” explains senior Accounting major Ben Beckwith. “Crazy things happen, and as long as you’re prepared then it should work out.”

Summer Renovation Is No Vacation
By Jordyn Smith

The complete renovation of the theater in Bothwell is a project that has been ongoing for over two years and is 98 percent completed according to supervisor of New Construction Mike Slightom. The Independent Colleges Capital Program (ICCAP) provided a grant to Blackburn College that included the replacement of seating, a sound system and theatrical lighting in the theater, the addition of Wi-Fi in the building and a large projection screen and system in the theater. The grant also covered the purchase of new risers and chairs for the choir room and the renovation of handicap-accessible restrooms in Bothwell in addition to an automatic, handicap-accessible door in the front entrance to the building. Overall, $1.45 million was spent on Bothwell Auditorium. Ten contractors and Blackburn’s New Construction crew put their work in to completing the renovations. The Physical Plant was also able to recycle or repurpose many materials (copper wire, door hardware, etc.) from Bothwell. In fact, about $2,000 worth of precious metals was recycled.

Jewell Hall, otherwise known as the “Freshman Dorm,” also underwent some major changes over the past two years thanks to a $600,000 budget and the supervision of Jack Betts and his New Construction crew. Upgrades include complete rewiring, the repainting of the interior, ceramic tile in the parlor, and the removal of the old heating system. Fifty-six windows were replaced in the residence hall as well. The recycled copper from the heating system also generated $2,500 which was very beneficial toward the renovation.

Lumpkin Library underwent physical changes as well as a change of name. The library is now known as Lumpkin Learning Commons or “Commons” for short. Phase one of construction, which began June 21, includes the renovation of the lobby and five office spaces as well as the replacement of furniture and technology. The first phase is about 90 percent complete at this point. Phase two will include remodeling of bathrooms and classrooms and will take place in October under the supervision of Slightom.

Phase three is scheduled to begin the summer of 2015 and includes the renovation of the reading room.

Also slated to start this month is the complete remodeling of the Anderson building which is located between Graham and Ludlum. According to Director of Physical Plant Sam Harding, the area will turn into an alumni development office and will house the offices of several staff members currently housed in Ludlum. Overall, students and faculty seem to enjoy Blackburn’s facelift. “I think the renovations look good,” commented junior Elementary Education major Austin Sherfy. “It’s definitely much improved.”
A Crisis Next Door: The Situation in Ferguson, MO

By Ben Nichols

We at the ‘Burnian understand the complexity and controversy of the situation in Ferguson. This article is here to present to students the details and facts so far known.

On Saturday August 9th, 18 year old college bound Michael Brown and his friend Dorian Johnson were walking down a street in Ferguson when they were approached by Officer Darren Wilson of the Ferguson Police Department. According to Johnson and the police department, Brown and Johnson were told to get off the street. After the initial stop, the accounts of the following events differ. According to the police department, when Wilson confronted Brown, he physically assaulted the officer when he tried to exit his vehicle. Brown allegedly reached for Wilson’s weapon and a shot was fired during the scuffle in the vehicle. Johnson then exited the car and was shot about 35 feet away from the vehicle. Brown’s friend Dorian Johnson says that Wilson had tried to pull Brown into the vehicle, and during the scuffle as Brown tried to escape, a shot inside the vehicle was fired. Brown was able to free himself and the two tried to flee on foot. Johnson claims that in the process Brown was shot in the back, turned around with his hands up and was gunned down by Wilson. The autopsy report revealed that Brown had been shot six times in the front with four shots in the right arm and two shots in the head. The fatal shot in the skull was at an angle indicating that Brown’s head was lowered, though it is unclear if Brown was in a submissive or aggressive position. The pattern of the shots plus the lack of gunshot residue found indicate the shots were fired from a distance of about 30 feet away.

The situation has been a source of racial tension from the beginning. Brown was African American and Wilson is white. Brown’s death prompted rioting after peaceful protests in response to the situation. People around the nation have been critical of the police’s use of armored vehicles, heavily armed individuals and the use of rubber bullets being used on bystanders. The situation has escalated so much that Governor Nixon of Missouri called in the Missouri Highway Patrol and the Missouri National Guard to take over the situation from Ferguson police and try to establish peace once more in the suburb.

At Blackburn, reactions to the situation have been mixed. Blackburn student DeArryka Williams, who grew up in East St. Louis, is angered by the incident. “There was excessive force used, and something does need to be done about it.” She adds, “Growing up in the area, this makes me really sad. There has always been a problem with the police using excessive force. With this tragedy, it has finally come to light. I want justice because Michael Brown could have easily been my brother or one of my cousins.”

In an interview on August 21st, the Attorney General of Illinois Lisa Madigan told The ‘Burnian, “There is a lot that needs to be done to do a thorough investigation, get to the bottom of what happened, and restore peace to the community.” Due to the close proximity of Ferguson, Madigan explained that law enforcement and elected officials around East St. Louis are concerned about and aware of the situation, and understand the great level of frustration being expressed. Madigan also had these words of advice for Blackburn students watching the day by day events. “I think what everybody has to do at this point is to wait for a fair and thorough investigation to be done, for investigators to determine what transpired and why, and then at that point we should try to pursue justice of this very tough and unfortunate situation.”

The results of what transpired are still yet to be seen. All the public can hope for is that an intense and non biased investigation shows what truly happened, and that justice is served.

What Would We Do Without Sol’s Margaritas?

By Michelle Lee and Katrina Jahn

Weeks before Blackburn students returned to campus, the local Mexican restaurant Sol de México closed its doors, trying to figure out how to keep the restaurant operating. According to Quiroz, after the restaurant closed, “You can’t run a restaurant without staff, so we’ve been scratching our heads, overall students remain satisfied.

Citizens of Ferguson with signs fighting for justice against the police force

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH NEZAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS COLE

Tuition Raise Raises Some Eyebrows

By Chris Cole

The cost of receiving an education at Blackburn is getting more expensive. According to the Blackburn website, tuition for the 2014-15 school year is $26,310 compared to the previous amount of $18,506. This is before anything is taken off for participating in the work program. The administration seems to think the increase was necessary. Vice President for Administration and Finance Heather Bigard stated, “We always take into account the needs of our students when deciding to raise the cost of tuition. It was needed because of changes in prices with suppliers and the new renovations.”

Indeed, anyone who has taken a walk through Bothwell or the Commons can see that some major facelifts have been done over the summer. Though the changes look very nice, some students are asking questions, especially students who live in dorms without air conditioning. When asked his thoughts on the increase, Biochemistry major Ian Thomas stated, “I’m torn. They need money and it has to come from somewhere, but the money goes to general buildings like the library while the residence halls remain neglected.” This change may have been an unwelcome surprise for students but how does the cost of tuition really stack up against other schools in the area? At $26,310 the school comes as the 7th most expensive school in the area. However, with the credit added from the work program, the cost comes to $23,670 which puts it at number 6 with Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville coming in at the cheapest at $18,519. However, as far as private colleges go Blackburn is still the cheapest. When asked if Blackburn was still the best value for the money Bigard said, “Absolutely. Our work program teaches kids life skills that these other schools don’t.” We are still the least expensive private college in Illinois and we plan to keep it that way.”

When asked the same question Thomas said “Yeah because while some of those schools are cheaper they also have a lot more people. You’re just a number there where Blackburn is small knit and the work program builds a resume that the other schools can’t.” So while the spike in tuition might have left some students scratching their heads, overall people remain satisfied.

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Talk Nerdy to Me: Silly Women, Superheroes Are for Men!

By Lindsey Becker

Every summer we’re hit with a slew of action-packed superhero flicks that are meant to be fun for the whole family. These films—such as “The Amazing Spider-Man 2”, “X-Men Days of Future Past”, and “Guardians of the Galaxy”—while full of bad-guy-punching excitement and heroic triumph, are missing one thing: the presence of numerous leading ladies.

Although these films do contain a few female characters, they’re often sprinkled in to fill a quota—the men always far outnumber them. The Avengers have got Black Widow, the Guardians of the Galaxy have Gamora, and most superhero movies in general have got a serious case of “Smurftette Syndrome,” (a term that comes from the only female Smurf—Smurfette). There are numerous other supporting women present in the Marvel Cinematic Universe such as Maria Hill, Jane Foster, and Pepper Potts—but the bottom line is that the numbers don’t add up and women are almost always the minority.

While there are a few female faces present in these films, they’re always missing from the movie titles. Out of the six members of the Avengers, Black Widow and Hawkeye are the only two without their own standalone movies, and the other four all have multiple films and sequels. Nicole Perlman, cowriter of the summer blockbuster “Guardians of the Galaxy,” has disclosed to the Huffington Post that a script is in the works for a Black Widow film, though Marvel has no plans to produce it any time soon. “I think the Black Widow movie will definitely happen,” Perlman said. “It’s definitely something that has been on their radar, but it is a question of them setting up all these different phases.” Marvel has planned their films through 2019, though a Black Widow film is not on the list.

Not only are female characters few and far between in the movies themselves, Gamora, who is one of the two lead females in “Guardians of the Galaxy,” seems to be suspiciously missing from much of the merchandise for the film. Even in merchandise featuring the rest of the team, Gamora doesn’t seem to be present. A search for “Gamora” on the online Disney store yields only 3 items, while searches for other characters prove to be much more successful.

Also missing from an upcoming film in the Marvel franchise is Janet Van Dyne, also known as Wasp, who was one of the founding members of the Avengers. Fans were disappointed to learn that Wasp will already be deceased during the events of Ant-Man, which will be released in July 2015. Angry bloggers took to twitter, dubbing the decision a #janetvancrime.

Although Marvel seems to have a hard time plugging their female characters as much as their male ones, they’re making a few strides in the right direction. At this summer’s San Diego Comic Con, Marvel announced a new television series about Captain America’s Peggy Carter, aptly titled “Agent Carter,” set to debut on ABC during the hiatus of “Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.”

In addition, Marvel president Kevin Feige has hinted at the possibility of a Captain Marvel standalone film. In a recent press junket, he confirmed that while there were no plans for a Black Widow film, there might be room for another female hero. Feige said, “I like the idea if we’re going to do a [female lead], do a new one. Do a wholly new character, do an origin story… We’ve talked a lot about [Captain Marvel]. I think that would be very cool.”

Although there is some hope for a female-fronted movie, those seeking more representation will have to remain jilted for now. Marvel is notorious for carefully calculating their cinematic universe, and hopefully female superheroes will be added to the equation sooner than later.
By Ben Nichols

The lab is now in the process of reestablishing the coral colony, the lab is now

Dr. Crowell is the source of this information.

By Deja Bell

For years, the lab has been working to reestablish the coral colony, the lab is now

By Jordyn Smith

Keep your door open when you go out and let people borrow things.

On the contrary, make sure to knock your door when you go in and stay in your dorm and in your hall.

The Body Shop

Walking into his office, the first thing you would notice is the giant painting of Elvis that hangs proudly on his wall, which he got as a birthday present from his boss a few years ago.

He asked his intern to help with the training aspect of his job and he is now a full-time employee for the lab.

By Tim Morenz

The two main sources of stress for students are time management and grades, according to Tim Morenz, College Counselor.

Everyone should be careful with their stress levels and avoid pressure as much as possible.

By Kendra James

What We Can Learn from the Death of Robin Williams

Robin Williams was a comedian, actor, idol. His death on August 11, 2014, was a shock to all of us.

The following are some tips that can help you cope with the death of Robin Williams:

1. Give yourself permission to feel sadness.
2. Talk about your feelings with someone you trust.
3. Take time for yourself.去做你喜欢的事情。
4. Seek support from friends, family, or a professional counselor.
5. Avoid substance abuse. Finding a healthy outlet for your emotions is important.
6. Be mindful of your thoughts and try to refocus your attention on positive things.
7. Consider making a memorial for Robin Williams. This can help you feel connected to him and the community.
8. If you are feeling overwhelmed, consider seeking professional help from a therapist or counselor.
9. Reframe your mindset. Instead of thinking about how Robin Williams’ life was cut short, focus on the positive impact he had on the world.
10. Remember that it’s okay to cry and it’s okay to seek support when you need it.

By Bill Williams

Consultant, actor, author.

A week before school started, everyone heard about the tragic death of Robin Williams. Whether people felt sadness or anger, everyone was talking about it.

The same could be said for any suicide. When it happens, there are plenty of people wishing that that person would have asked for help.

What to do if you see someone who might be suicidal:

1. Stay calm and act quickly.
2. Ask if they are okay.
3. Listen and be non-judgmental.
4. Encourage them to seek help.
5. Keep them safe and get help for them.

By Jordan Smith

You can email your inquiries to Jordan Smith at jordan.smith@blackburn.edu.

By Tim Morenz

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By Kendra James

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What it’s Like to Meet Your Favorite Band

By Lindsey Becker

This summer I had the chance to meet my favorite band of 10 years, Fall Out Boy. I first heard Fall Out Boy when I was 10 years old. I bought their double platinum album “From Under the Cork Tree” and I fell in love. The crazy fan girl Courtney that everyone knows and loves started here. They mean so much to me that I got their names inked tattooed on my arm last year.

So how did I get the chance to meet Fall Out Boy? One of my really good friends Seth and I went out one night when we found out about the tour last December. Seth had assured me that he would buy the cheapest tickets available which were lawn seats way where you cannot see anything. I was not expecting tickets for the pit right in front of the stage, let alone meet and greet passes. Seth surprised me with meet and greet tickets because he knew how much it would mean to me if I got to meet them. I cried for three hours last year.

My turn came up and I was shaking uncontrollably. Patrick, the lead singer, excitedly shook my hand and signed my postcard as I excitedly shook my hand. He explained that we would go through the line. We went through the line and signed for you as you went through the line. Even if meeting them had the opportunity to be that close. Even if meeting them was that.

The concert itself was absolutely unreal. Since we were in the venue for our meet and greet before everyone else we got to go into the pit area where you have to have tickets and passes. Security and other staff are there to facilitate and passes. Security and other staff are there to facilitate the emergence of various celebrities, including Jay-Z and Kanye West. Artists leading in nominations included Beyoncé and Iggy Azalea with eight nominations each and Eminem with seven nominations. Starting off the night was Ariana Grande’s collaboration with producer Zedd, “Break Free,” followed by Nicki Minaj with her new single “Anaconda.” The two then came together with Jesse J to perform their pop hit “Bang Bang.” Minaj suffered an obvious wardrobe malfunction as she struggled to change outfits during the performance. Despite her troubles, she emerged from the stage and pushed through her verse while clutching her dress together.

Other performances included Taylor Swift’s infectious new jam “Shake It Off,” Sam Smith’s emotional “Stay With Me,” Usher and Nicki Minaj’s “She Came to Give it to You.” 5 Seconds of Summer’s “Amnesia,” Iggy Azalea and Rita Ora’s “Black Widow” and Maroon 5’s “Maps.”

Although the night was full of fun performances and entertainment, the ceremony did include some more serious moments. Before presenting the award for best hip hop video, rapper Common led the audience in a moment of silence for the protesters in Ferguson, Missouri. “Hip-hop has always been about truth and it’s been a powerful tool of social change. I want us all to take a moment of silence for Mike Brown and for peace in this country and the world,” he said.

Also making waves in new ways was pop star Miley Cyrus, who used her win for video of the year to send an important message. The singer took Jesse Helt, a 22-year-old former homeless man, as her date for the evening. Instead of accepting the award herself, she sent Helt up to the stage in her place, where he delivered a speech addressing the homelessness problem facing the nation. He dedicated the award to all the youth in Los Angeles who are “starving, lost, and scared.” Cyrus has partnered with the organization My Friend’s Place, which is committed to fighting homelessness in the L.A. area.

Closing out the evening was a powerful sixteen-minute performance from Beyoncé. She performed a medley of hits from her recent self-titled album and afterwards accepted the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award. “I’m so full,” she said teary-eyed as she accepted her award and was joined by husband Jay-Z and daughter Blue Ivy on stage.

American Horror Story Gets Its Freak On

By Michelle Lee

Jessica Lange, aliens, Nazis, ghosts, racism, Angela Bassett, witches and voodoo. To the lead planner of Season 2, it sounds like the perfect recipe for an Emmy-winning TV show.

“American Horror Story” is a miniseries that tells a different narrative each season. Season 1’s “Murder House” told the story of a family sharing a house with the ghosts of the previous tenants. “Asylum” in Season 2 mixed ghosts of the previous tenants with ever-changing narratives. The largest problem with the show is that it was actually happening. I cried for three hours last year.

Meet and greets are a little different than casualty meeting because the greets are organized meetings where you have to have tickets and passes. Security and other staff are there to facilitate and actually greet them and speak with them, the second time for a photo. When Fall Out Boy came across the table to each member. Everyone was given a greeting card that the band would sign for you as you went through the line.

My turn came up and I was shaking uncontrollably. Patrick, the lead singer, excitedly shook my hand and signed my postcard as I thanked him profusely for just the opportunity to meet him and the rest of the band. I then continued down the table to the other members. They all signed my postcard and said hello. In reality, the entire meeting only lasted about one minute. I admit that I have extremely disappointing. So I went through the line a second time to get my photo with them and this time I had more time to speak with them due to one of the members commenting on one of my tattoos. I got a picture with them, and that was that.

The concert itself was absolutely unreal. Since we were in the venue for our meet and greet before everyone else we got to go into the pit area where you have to have tickets and passes. Security and other staff are there to facilitate the emergence of various celebrities, including Jay-Z and Kanye West. Artists leading in nominations included Beyoncé and Iggy Azalea with eight nominations each and Eminem with seven nominations. Starting off the night was Ariana Grande’s collaboration with producer Zedd, “Break Free,” followed by Nicki Minaj with her new single “Anaconda.” The two then came together with Jesse J to perform their pop hit “Bang Bang.” Minaj suffered an obvious wardrobe malfunction as she struggled to change outfits during the performance. Despite her troubles, she emerged from the stage and pushed through her verse while clutching her dress together.

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Facebook Challenges

By Deja Bell

Over the last few years Facebook challenges have become the new, trendy thing to do. Some of the challenges were simple, like the Saltine Cracker Challenge where you try to eat 6 saltine crackers without anything to drink. Other challenges are more dangerous, like the Fire Challenge in which you pour flammable liquid on your skin, set yourself on fire and then put it out as fast as you can. There is also the Space Monkey Challenge where you purposely try to make yourself pass out.

While people have actually died from attempting these dangerous challenges, that hasn’t stopped many from continuing to do them. As long as people continue to submit to their boredom and actively look for their next adrenaline rush, these challenges will most likely never stop. “There are various reasons for the different challenges. People will stop coming up with these challenges when social media becomes irrelevant,” said sophomore biology major Jonathan Ezana. People are more worried about being famous on social media than about their own lives and welfare, so they are willing to do anything for their 15 seconds even if that means dying.

However, not all challenges are hazardous to people’s lives, health or well-being. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has a great purpose, which is to raise awareness for ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). Basically, you have to dump a bucket of ice water on yourself, donate money and challenge some of your friends to do the same. A lot of celebrities and people here at Blackburn have done this challenge (see front page) and have donated to the cause. Freshman communications major Denzel Smith said, “Challenges like the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge are good for raising awareness but people should bring attention to other diseases and disabilities as well.”

There aren’t many, if any, other challenges out there that have gained awareness for something on this large of a scale. Despite this, people continue to take something and twist it into something it was never meant to be, trying to turn it into a joke because they have nothing better to do. In some cases, people are so ready to jump on the bandwagon for clearly imbecilic challenges, but when a good cause comes around all they can do is make fun of it by dropping small blocks of ice on their head or using other things like fake blood, Coca-Cola and rice.

Raising awareness for a legitimate cause should be respected. The problem is people would rather pass out, set themselves on fire or jump in the snow naked than contribute to raising awareness for a good cause. While ALS is not the only disease that needs awareness or money, it shows that when put to the test a lot of people do what they can to contribute. This in turn could lead to raising awareness for other illnesses, charities and research to find cures.

The Dirty F-Word

By Lindsey Becker

It’s no secret that I consider myself a feminist, and that I have for most of my life. In the thick of third wave feminism, I’ve noticed a trend that I’m beginning to become concerned about: an alarming amount of women I know and women in the media have proudly proclaimed that they’re not feminists.

A lot of people are scared of the F-word. There are a lot of reasons I hear people give for not considering themselves feminists, and I think most of the time these reasons stem from not understanding what feminism really is.

“I’m not a feminist because I like men!” I like men, too! There are a lot of men in my life that I love and care about deeply. Feminism doesn’t mean that you have to hate men. Feminism is about deconstructing gender roles and reevaluating the power balance between men and women.

Another reason I commonly hear is that a woman likes to dress traditionally feminine. Being a feminist does not mean you have to burn your bra and not shave your armpits. Feminists come in all shapes and sizes, and as a feminist I make it my goal to ensure that women and people of all genders can express their gender identity in whatever way they feel most comfortable. If you want to do your hair and wear dresses, that’s great! If you don’t want to shave or wear makeup, that’s great too! There is no set way that feminists, or even women in general, are supposed to look.

Some women think they can’t be feminists if they want to be wives or stay-at-home moms. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to get married and raise children, or to even forego a career to do so. Being a feminist is about making sure that all opportunities are open for all women, whether that means pursuing a career or raising children. Being a wife or a mother doesn’t mean that you can’t be a feminist.

I hear a lot of men rejecting feminism too, even though feminism actually seeks to resolve some of the issues men face. “If I cry/show emotion people will call me weak!” This stems from the assumption that all women are emotional—emotionalism is considered ‘feminine’ and thus inappropriate for men. By breaking through these stereotypes about women and taking the feminine label off of emotionalism, it becomes socially acceptable for men to cry.

Starting to see what I mean here? Feminism isn’t about destroying all men and letting women reign supreme. It’s about taking apart gender stereotypes and giving women the same opportunities as men. It’s about letting people express their gender in whatever way they want without social backlash. Most of the
Morenz Named SLIAC Commissioner

Angie Watson Morenz recently received the position of SLIAC commissioner. This will not be Morenz’s first run with SLIAC. For her Doctoral degree (through the United States Sports Academy), Morenz worked under SLIAC commissioner Will Wolper, who she replaced.

Morenz is a 1997 graduate of Blackburn where she majored in physical education management. She received her master’s degree from Indiana State University in athletic training and her Ed. D. in Sports Management-Leadership at United States Sports Academy. Morenz is well known throughout the campus of Blackburn College not only for being the first woman to be awarded 12 athletic letters, but also because of her tremendous contribution to Blackburn and building relationships that brought students here. That isn’t my success necessarily, but a success for the department as a whole.

Morenz has been a part of the Blackburn staff since 2006 when she worked in Alumni Relations in the Development Office. In 2008, she became a faculty member and taught sports management and physical education. Morenz was then awarded the job of Athletics Director in 2013. However, she is not ready to leave Blackburn just yet. Morenz is trying to move the conference office to Carlinville, even though the Blackburn campus if possible. The headquarters are currently located in Missouri. She is waiting to hear about the office lease.

Morenz said her goals for the new Commissioner position are to transition as smoothly as possible. Morenz also states, “stepping into the position as the fall season starts means I had a number of projects waiting for me as I started. I would like for the last of Angie Morenz. Her contributions to Blackburn and the Carlinville community will not stop here.”

Have a passion for sports? An opinion about athletics? We want to hear about it! Cover a game or give the campus some commentary and submit your piece to burnian@blackburn.edu.

The Lowdown on This Year’s Fantasy Football

By Jon Griffel

Finally, the NFL season has started. Many fans look forward to opening day with eagerness, wings and last minute fantasy football roster tweaks. While fans and fantasy players are chomping at the bit, business owners and managers cringe at the thought. Fantasy football will cost U.S. employers roughly $13 billion dollars this year. Forbes studies show that roughly half of the working male population will spend 2 or more hours per week at work tinkering with their fantasy roster.

Also, 5.8 million women are estimated to be players in fantasy football this year, which makes up 20% of all participants. I will provide all of you with potential sleepers and overall fantasy advice for the upcoming season.

Quarterback- Jake Locker, Tennessee Titans- Locker got off to a very fast start last season even without a top receiving threat. He can score with his arm or his legs so he provides starter value as either a late round pick or waiver pickup. Also, Ken Whisenhunt is the new coach of the Titans and quarterbacks have consistently seen their numbers flourish under him.

Running Back- Toby Gerhart, Jacksonville Jaguars- Gerhart has labored away behind Adrian Peterson for long enough: free the tank. Gerhart was a very productive player at Stanford, and he has proven the ability to grind for tough yards. Gus Bradley, coach of the Jaguars, has shown a heavy reliance on the running game, and some of the pressure should be taken off Gerhart with a much-improved offense.

Wide Receiver- Brandin Cooks, New Orleans Saints- Cooks could be a very productive player in coach Gary Payton’s offense. Darren Sproles is gone, and Cooks could be a better receiving replacement. He is the perfect flex position player for any roster. Look for Cooks in the 5th round and later.

Tight End-Eric Ebron, Detroit Lions-Ebron is an athletic specimen. He looks like a heavier version of teammate Calvin Johnson. He is an immediate red zone threat due to his size and leaping ability. He can operate in the middle of the field as well as outside the numbers, giving him versatility. He has the potential to be a top 5 fantasy tight end.

Kicker- Alex Henery, Philadelphia Eagles- Henery’s fantasy value is directly linked to Chip Kelly’s offense. The Eagles should once again have one of the highest scoring offenses in the NFL this season and Henery should be there to reap the benefits.

Defense/ Special Teams-Tampa Bay Buccaneers- Remember when the Bears had a good defense? Well Lovie Smith was the man who crafted that defense and now he is running a Bucs squad that is deep defensively. The defense has multiple high round picks that have shown flashes of being great and the offense should be capable of keeping the defense out of a rough starting field position.

There are student athletes doing amazing things on and off the court and the general public may not know what amazing things happen at the NCAA D-III level.

Angie Morenz

Angie Morenz, former head of Athletics at Blackburn

PHOTO BY LEANDRO QUEIROZ

A quick Instagram selfie of the Men’s Soccer team on their way to an away game.