Welcome and Welcome Back!

The Education Exchange is a departmental newsletter designed to inform students who are majoring in Teacher Education and the campus community about the events taking place in the Education Department during the academic year. This edition will provide an update on Education faculty/staff, Spring ‘16 graduating seniors, and several improvements that took place over the summer months.

Fall ‘16 Education Faculty and Staff

The new school year is a great opportunity to introduce the full-time faculty and the staff who work with Education majors in and outside the classroom.

Dr. Cindy Rice is the Interim Chair of the Education Department, and teaches ED 100-Introduction to Teacher Education, ED 110B-Introduction to Field Experience, ED 290-Introduction to Clinical Experience, ED 391-Application and Analysis of Clinical Practice and LE 105-Skills for Academic Success this fall semester.

Dr. Rice has an Ed.D.in Educational Administration, and has been a teacher and administrator in Public Education in Illinois and Texas for over 35 years. She loves to teach and she enjoys working with prospective teachers at Blackburn College.

Dr. Laura Zucca-Scott will be on sabbatical this fall semester, but she has recently been on campus in August to see new and returning students. A sabbatical is a full semester away from a professor’s typical teaching duties. Dr. Zucca plans to complete research on schoolchildren’s socialization and academic achievement and will conduct her research in her native country of Italy. Dr. Zucca will return to the U.S. in late November and will be back to teaching a variety of Education courses in Spring 2017.

Dr. Nicole Lofton is new to Blackburn College this fall, but not to the field of Education. She has taught in public and private elementary schools as well as at the college level for several years before joining Blackburn’s faculty. She has a Ph.D. in Education, and two Masters degrees in Educational fields. This fall, Dr. Lofton is teaching ED 240-Educational Psychology, ED 350-Reading Methods, ED 355-Elementary Education Methods in Mathematics I, and ED 400-Professionalsim in Education. She will also supervise the Kids’ Academy that will be held on campus this fall. Dr. Lofton is from Chicago, and moved to Carlinville in early August.

Mrs. Terri Reid is starting her tenth year in Blackburn’s Education Department. She is the Director of Teacher Education and Licensure Officer. She holds a Masters in Business Administration and an Elementary Education degree. Mrs. Reid is the state testing liaison, arranges field experience placements, advises students, and helps teacher candidates navigate their way through their programs to insure they will earn their teaching licenses upon completion.
The Education Department frequently relies upon adjunct (part-time) faculty to offer the many classes that are necessary for various Teacher Education Programs as well as the Human Resource Development courses. This fall, we are fortunate to enlist the skills of the following excellent educators:

**Mrs. Della Montgomery** has been a part-time instructor at Blackburn since 2013. She has taught several Elementary Education methods courses for the Education Department; this fall she is teaching ED 353—Elementary School Methods in Science on Thursday evenings. Mrs. Montgomery has been a teacher in K-12 schools for over 30 years, and holds a Masters Degree in Art Education, as well as being a National Board Certified Teacher. She is the Elementary, Junior, and Senior High Art teacher in the Morrisonville School District.

**Mrs. Claudia Pitchford** has also been an adjunct at Blackburn since 2013. She is teaching ED 250, 260, 270—Art, Music, and Health Integration Courses in Elementary Education this fall. She has also taught several Elementary methods courses since joining Blackburn’s faculty. Mrs. Pitchford holds a Masters Degree in Education and has taught in public schools for over 15 years. She is a Reading Specialist in the Jacksonville School District and is currently working on another Master’s Degree in Differentiated Instruction.

**Mr. Les Stevens** is new to Blackburn College this fall. He is teaching ED 422—Reading and Writing in the Academic Disciplines and HD 225—Communication in a Global Workplace this semester. Mr. Stevens holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and Administration and has done post graduate work in Educational Leadership. He is a retired public school principal and superintendent, and has taught English in secondary schools prior to becoming a school administrator.

**Mrs. Andrea Lee** teaches ED 304—Middle School Methods at Blackburn this fall. Mrs. Lee has rejoined the adjunct teaching staff at Blackburn this fall after taking several years off from part-time teaching to concentrate on being a principal in the Litchfield School District, her family, and earning an Ed.D. in School Administration. Mrs. Lee hopes to complete her advanced degree this academic year.

**Ms. Jill Wright** is also a returning adjunct to Blackburn this fall. She has taught Special Education coursework at Blackburn for many years, and is currently a full-time special education teacher at Litchfield High School. Ms. Wright hold a Masters in Special Education as well as an Educational Leadership degree. She is teaching ED 441—Methods of Education and Development of Personnel and ED 443—Developing Learning Programs at Blackburn this semester.

**Mrs. Kathy Bray** is an adjunct instructor who supervises new Education students who are involved in the HEART (Helping Everyone Achieve Reading Triumphs), which is the field experience for ED 110-A Introduction to Field Experience. Mrs. Bray taught in Elementary Schools for over 25 years before she retired from full-time teaching. She has also supervised many student teachers who have completed their programs at Blackburn. Mrs. Bray is an alumna of Blackburn college.

*Vanessa Reed contributed to this article of the Education Exchange.*
Spring 2016 Student Teachers Complete Action Research

At the end of last semester, the student teachers who completed their clinical experiences in area classrooms culminated their final semester at the Education Department’s Action Research Fair. On May 2nd, Student Teachers, Blackburn Faculty and Administration, Cooperating Teachers, and College Supervisors met for dinner in Lumpkin Learning Commons before Student Teachers presented action research projects conducted in their classrooms during the spring semester.

Christopher Bruha’s project was titled “How Does the Use of Graphic Organizers Support Students’ Ability to Compare and Contrast?” It was conducted while Chris student taught in Mrs. Danley Killam’s fifth grade class classroom at Carlinville Intermediate School.

Anneliese Griese’s research question was “Does Incorporating Quotes from Non-fiction Texts Improve Students’ Ability to Draw Inferences When Analyzing Texts?” She worked with fifth graders in Mrs. Jennifer Parker’s classroom at Ben-Gil Elementary School in Gillespie.

Elizabeth Meehan’s project was “How Can Incorporating Readers’ Theater into Literacy Instruction Improve Students’ Fluency and Comprehension in Reading?” She completed her research in Mrs. Bridgette Rezba’s third grade classroom at North-Mac Intermediate School.

Debbie Rule asked “How Is Student Conceptual Understanding in High School Mathematics Impacted by Student Discourse and Discussion While Solving a Variety of Mathematical Problems?” She completed her research while student teaching in Mr. Bill Jones’ Mathematics classes at Litchfield High School.

Austin Sherfy’s research question was “Are Classroom Debates Helpful to Improve Students’ Argumentative Writing Abilities?” He completed his project while student teaching in Mrs. Shannon Diveley’s sixth grade language arts classroom at Litchfield Middle School.
Since 2011, Blackburn’s Education Department has sponsored Kids’ Academy for six weeks during the summer months. Kids’ Academy was designed to reinforce basic concepts in reading, language arts, math, science, and social studies through a variety of educational experiences, including the integration of the fine arts.

In order to involve a larger number of elementary students in the Carlinville School District, Kids’ Academy will be offered during the Fall 2016 semester as an after school program. Blackburn Teacher Candidates enrolled in ED 353-Elementary School Science Methods and ED 355-Elementary School Mathematics Methods will prepare and present small group lessons designed to supplement the students’ classroom instruction in Math and Science.

Kids’ Academy will meet in the lower level of Rahme twice a week this fall. Students from Carlinville Primary School will be bussed to Blackburn’s campus for “Math Monday” and “Wednesday Super Scientists.” Drs. Nicole Lofton and Cindy Rice will supervise Blackburn teacher candidates who work with the students, while Ms. Erin Bates of Carlinville Primary School will coordinate the school children’s classroom content with Kids’ Academy activities.

Kids’ Academy will now serve more students in the community and involve more Blackburn teacher candidates in improving their instructional skills. The new and improved Kids’ Academy will surely be a “win-win” for everyone involved!

Where Are They Now?

Blackburn’s Education Department is pleased to report the following recent Education graduates’ new jobs as educators in various Illinois communities:

**Katelyn Alderman** ‘15—Fifth Grade Science & Math-Ida J. Russell Elementary, Litchfield, IL

**Christopher Bruha** ‘16—Seventh Grade Language Arts-Northeast Junior High, Silvis, IL

**Lala Fornaszewski** ‘16—Middle School Instructor-Riverview Gardens, St. Louis ACE Program

**Anneliese Gries** ‘16—Teaching Assistant-Diamond Lake School District, Mundelein, IL

**Randi Hartman** ‘15—Second Grade-Spring Lake School District, Manito, IL

**Elizabeth Meehan** ‘16—Fifth Grade-Serena Hills School-Flossmoor School District

**Debbie Rule** ‘16—Mathematics Teacher, Litchfield High School

**Austin Sherfy** ‘16—Fifth Grade Science & Math-Ida J. Russell Elementary, Litchfield, IL
Scholastic Books

Remember ordering and receiving Scholastic books back in grade school? You can relive this experience right here at Blackburn! Each month during the school year, all students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to order excellent fiction, nonfiction, and best sellers through Scholastic Book Clubs at very reasonable prices! Pick up order forms from the Education Office in Rahme 106 and the Curriculum Lounge—there are brochures available for First Grade through High School. By centralizing book orders, the Education Department earns bonus points to obtain new books and additional learning materials for the Resource Room in the lower level of Rahme. Happy Book Ordering!

New Supplemental Materials Available

The lower level of Rahme houses all Education classes, but is also full of learning materials that Teacher Candidates may use to enhance lesson preparation. Most of the supplemental materials are housed in the Curriculum Lounge or the Reading Classroom. Education students are encouraged to visit the Lounge during open hours on Monday evenings at 6:30, Tuesday afternoons at 4:00, and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 to borrow art supplies or other manipulatives to supplement a lesson plan. If the Curriculum Lounge is closed when needed, visit the Education Office in Rahme 106 to gain access.

Don’t forget that the Lumpkin Library subscribes to over 30 Educational periodicals that can also be found in the Curriculum Lounge in Rahme. The periodicals may be borrowed and articles can be scanned and sent to candidates’ email addresses. There are scholarly research periodicals as well as many pedagogical magazines in all of the content areas teacher candidates at Blackburn may study. Visit the Curriculum Lounge to peruse the large periodical collection that is available to help with lesson planning ideas or to supplement many written assignments.