



**Alumni Association Meeting  
October 1, 2016  
Minutes**

**Welcome:**

Alumni Board President, George Malo, opened up the luncheon at the Snyder Atrium in the Mahan Center by welcoming the Blackburn College Alumni. Among those introduced were Blackburn College President, Dr. John Comerford and his wife, Rachael, Board Trustees in attendance, the Alumni Board, faculty and past faculty, new Alumni Coordinator Steve Yearson, our student ambassadors, and donor Ed Jaenke and his family, who were here for the dedication of the Jaenke Alumni Center.

Alumni Board member, Dave Conour, gave the invocation, which was followed by the luncheon.

**Meeting Call to Order:**

Following the luncheon, George Malo called the alumni meeting to order. There was a vote and approval of new Alumni Board officers for a two-year term beginning in 2016-2017 year: Katilyn Porter, Secretary; and Jeff Fleishman, Treasurer. There was also an acknowledgment of people leaving the Board: Sue Glinborg, Donna Golomb, Cathy Narup, and Aubrey Cunningham.

There then was a vote and approval of new Alumni Board members: Karen Prange, '87; Harold Strangeman, '63; and Zach Wilhelm, 2011. George Malo reminded us that nomination forms can be downloaded from the alumni web-site and submitted to the Board.

**Presentation of Awards**

The Achievement Award was given to Charles Kenneth Bayne '66 for significant achievement in his personal and public career. Dr. Bayne was a senior research staff member in the Computer Science and Mathematics Division of the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He has been widely published and has been named a fellow with the American Statistical Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry from Blackburn, a master's in applied mathematics from Washington University and a doctorate in statistics from North Carolina State University.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was given to Jack Nawrot, class of 1972 for significant contributions to society and his profession, such as receipt of national and international honors, and demonstrated leadership. Jack is a Senior Scientist Emeritus at the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory and Mined Land Restoration Program at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Jack has served as President of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Chairman of the Illinois Surface Mining Advisory Council, and Chairman of Illinois Department

of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Task Force. To recognize the achievements of the Wildlife Lab's founder and provide graduate research opportunities, Jack helped establish the W. D. Klimstra Reclamation Fellowship at SIUC.

The Gideon Blackburn Award was presented to Trustee Jennifer Shelby for rendering valuable service to the College in terms of time, money, influence, and service. Jennifer has provided exceptional contributions to Blackburn College as a non-alumna. She is a Blackburn College Board of Trustees member who has contributed significantly to the College in both time and fiscal resources. Her gift amounts included the donation of a Steinway Model O grand piano which is housed in Blackburn's historic Clegg Chapel. The donation of the Model O Steinway allowed Blackburn to claim the distinction of being an All-Steinway School, joining an elite rank of institutions dedicated to excellence in music. Her many other gifts have helped fund a number of capital improvements campus-wide. She is currently the Capital Campaign Co-chair.



*President Comerford, Charles Bayne, Jack Nawrot, Jennifer Shelby, George Malo*

George then complimented Sodexo, the College's food service vendor, and students workers for the luncheon and great service.

The business meeting was then adjourned.

## **College Update**

George called on Dr. Comerford to give an update of the College: He said enrollment is at 596; new freshman number 170; and transfers of 220-230. Many freshmen are first generation college students and recipients of the College's AAA grant, which serves students who couldn't afford college otherwise.



Blackburn has initiated programs to enable students with a freshman advisement program that meets every two weeks. Blackburn has added new majors; provides a close working and learning environment; and the work program is a career development program. Within six months of graduation, 98% of students have full time employment or are in graduate school.

Blackburn is in the midst of a \$25 million campaign and it is expected to raise more than the goal. Already we can see the impact of new capital improvements with the new Jaenke Alumni Center; the transformation of the library into an active learning center; new endowment chairs in science; new student scholarships; and the pool is being converted to a complete and full fitness and wellness center for all.

Dr. Comerford then invited us to have dessert at the Jaenke Alumni Center with the official dedication at 1:30.