



One Hundred Fifty Fourth

COMMENCEMENT

The Thirteenth Day of May
Two Thousand and Twenty Three
at Half Past Ten O'Clock in the Morning

Blackburn College Campus

WHERE LEADERS RISE

BLACKBURN COLLEGE

TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Dan Anderson '74

Lisa Black-Gomez '81

Kenneth R. Deihl '78

David Dorris '69

James Faust '64

Fran Goodman '93

Jennifer Hamilton '70

Rochelle Henderson '92

Thomas Heinz '70

Cynthia LaMar '73

Cress Maddox

George E. Malo '66

Stanley M. Pillman

George Preckwinkle

Sarah Robison '84

James D. Sandfort

Jennifer Shelby

Paul Tepikian '77

Madonna Reed Tideman '78

EMERITI TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Charles J. Beetz '62

Lois Byerly '51

Lois DeFleur '58

Paul DeLano '92

William Jewell '57

Lonnie Lee

Robert Marovich

Bryan Meyers

David Olsen '77

John F. Schmidt

Richard Wier '61

Steven V. Wilkinson

Edward Young '62

PRESIDENT

Gregory J. Meyer, D. Min

MARSHALS

James Bray, B.A., Ph.D., College Marshal

Montreal Thomas '23, B.A., Student Marshal

SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS/CONDUCTOR

Nikki Budzinski, B.A., Keynote Speaker

Karla McCain, B.A., Ph.D., Provost

Lisa Black-Gomez '81, B.A., Ph.D., Alumni Board President

Al Sturgeon, B.A., J.D., Dean of Students

Jody Sturgeon, B.S., Dean of Work

Joseph Welch, B.A., Ph.D., Professor of Music

BEGINNINGS

Blackburn College was founded in 1837 by the Reverend Gideon Blackburn, D.D. (1772-1838), a Presbyterian minister. Chartered in 1857 as Blackburn Theological Seminary, the institution was incorporated in 1869 as The Blackburn University. Blackburn College enjoys covenant relationships with the Presbytery of Great Rivers, the Synod of Lincoln Trails of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the Carlinville Federated Church. The first commencement was held in June 1870 for a class of one woman and six men.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

ORDER OF PROCESSION

The Mace
The Colors
The Banner
The Student Marshal
The Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts
The Choir
The Faculty
Administrative Officers and Dignitaries
The Trustees
The President

THE STANDARDS

The chief device of the Banner is the College Seal, hand embroidered. The seven squares that pierce the strap band of the fanon recall the Liberal Arts of university education in the Middle Ages—The Trivium: Grammar, Rhetoric, and Dialectic, and the more advanced Quadrivium: Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy, and Music—broad studies that are the piers for much of what is taught in universities and colleges today. The three bands that complete the Banner stand for the fundamental virtues: Faith, Hope, and Charity.

THE MACE

In keeping with the general custom, the authority of the President of Blackburn College, the service of former Presidents, Acting Presidents, and Principals, and the allegiance of the College to the cause of liberty in scholarship and learning are represented by a Mace. Here the Emblem is a shaft of black walnut wood fitted with bronze cast in the College Foundry. The head of the Mace carries engraved on its facets the Seal, and the names and the tenures of those who have governed the College since 1859, the first year of instruction. The foot bears the names and familiar badge of the College, The Beaver, *Castor canadensis*. The Mace is borne by the College Marshal at the head of College processions.

ABOUT OUR SPECIAL GUEST



Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski is a lifelong champion for working families, a Springfield resident and the proud Representative for Illinois' 13th Congressional District.

A native of Illinois, Nikki knows that our communities thrive when the middle class is strong. But for too long, working hard and playing by the rules hasn't been paying off like it should. She believes that families deserve better, and she's spent her entire career fighting to help restore the American Dream for people like her grandpa, a union painter, and her grandma, a public school teacher.

That's why she joined the labor movement, and fought to get firefighters, grocery workers and meatpackers better training, wages and workplace safety protections. It's why she led negotiations to raise Illinois' minimum wage to \$15 an hour and chaired the Broadband Advisory Board to expand internet access to rural communities. And it's why she helped the Biden-Harris Administration implement the American Rescue Plan and establish the Made in America Office to create jobs and strengthen our economy.

Nikki came to Congress to build on that work. As she brings the voices of people in Central and Southern Illinois to Washington, she's focused on putting their needs over petty politics, reaching for compromise and delivering results for the communities she serves.

The 154th Commencement of Blackburn College
ORDER OF COMMENCEMENT

Dr. Gregory J. Meyer
President of the College
Presiding

Dr. James Bray
College Marshal

***PROCESSIONAL MARCH**

Trumpet Voluntary
The Metropolitan Brass Quintet

Jeremiah Clark

***NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Star Spangled Banner
Blackburn College Choir
(audience participation)

Francis Scott Key

INVOCATION

Mr. Al Surgeon

***HYMN**

The Blackburn College Hymn
(words on back page)

Lowe-Forbes

WELCOME

Dr. Gregory J. Meyer

THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rep. Nikki Budzinski

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTER

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Academic Departmental Awards

Dr. Karla McCain

Senators Vince and Deanna Demuzio Education and Leadership Awards

Hudson Prize for Scholarly or Creative Accomplishment

Hudson Prize for Contributions to College Community

SENIOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

Ms. Jody Sturgeon

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Dr. Lisa Black-Gomez '81
Alumni Board President

Acknowledgment of the Senior Representatives to the Alumni Board

Outstanding Graduate Award

CONFERRING OF BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES

Dr. Gregory J. Meyer
Dr. Karla McCain

MOVING OF TASSELS AND CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2023

Dr. Gregory J. Meyer

BENEDICTION

Mr. Al Sturgeon

COLLEGE CHOIR

Fly Away Home
Blackburn College Choir

Pinkzebra

*RETIRING PROCESSION

Pomp and Circumstance
The Metropolitan Brass Quintet

arr. Sir Edward Elgar

* Members of the audience standing

CLASS OF 2023

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Elizabeth Jane Bowyer - Valedictorian

Lexi Kelly Snow - Salutatorian

Alyssa Dothager
Aaron Eugene Lederbrand

Josephine Lucia Manar
Samuel Edward Sumrow

Montreal Demonte Thomas

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

MacKenzie Ruth Adams
Lexie Janel Black
Dade Hughston Bradley
Alexander Harrison Jasper
Megan Paige Jones

Sabrina Rose Kelsey
Molly Elizabeth McEuen
Skyler Lemoyne McManus
Tess Michele Saathoff
Emilee Lynn Simmons

Quentin Joseph Dale Smith
Jessica Tomson
Miriam Kamilla Sia Wali-Uddin
Autumn Wilson
Kenneth James Lee Wolf

CUM LAUDE

Savannah J. Branham
Mercy Daniels

Paige Ann Davidson
Cameron Shinall

Elizabeth Mae Wells

BACHELOR OF ARTS

MacKenzie Ruth Adams
*Physical Education With K-12
Certification*

Chanz Aldridge
Business Management

Sydney Rae Bates
Medical Laboratory Science

Mitchell William Binder
Justice Administration

Lexie Janel Black >
Elementary Education

Elizabeth Jane Bowyer* >
*Justice Administration /
Political Science - General Track*

Dade Hughston Bradley*
Biology - Environmental Track

Savannah J. Branham
Justice Administration

Raven Lashonda Brooks
Music - Vocal Performance

Amaris Helena Charland
Art

River Emery Cummings
Graphic Design

Mercy Daniels
Creative Writing

Paige Ann Davidson
*Physical Education With K-12
Certification*

Alyssa Dothager >
Early Childhood Education

Madison Gayle Duncan
Elementary Education

Megan Rae Eckelberry*
Art

Sakura Anita Fagan*
Creative Writing

Kelsey Kay Farris
*Educational Studies -
Education Paraprofessional
Track*

Kolby Reed Fernandes
Sport Management

Vanessa Marie Gabl
*Computer Science -
Cybersecurity Track /
Mathematics - General Track*

Jonathan Brian Gardner
Justice Administration

Gage Andrew Hemmann
*Business With Management
Emphasis*

Lexi Marie Hoffman*
*Business With Marketing
Emphasis*

CLASS OF 2023

Adam Ray Holm

Sport Management

Tyler James Jackson

Justice Administration

Alexander Harrison Jasper >

*Secondary Social Science Education:
History*

Megan Paige Jones

Business With Accounting Emphasis

Sabrina Rose Kelsey*

Business With Management

Emphasis and Human

Resources Management Emphasis

Zachary Paul Kelsey

Business Administration

Kirsten Alanna Marie Kerley

Interdisciplinary Studies

Aaron Eugene Lederbrand* >

*Educational Studies - Education
Paraprofessional Track*

Josephine Lucia Manar* >

Elementary Education

Molly Elizabeth McEuen >

Elementary Education

Ashly Nichole McFadden

Graphic Arts

Skyler Lemoyne McManus >

Justice Administration

Wesley Allen McMillen*

Creative Writing

Maggie Ann Hope McMillin

Justice Administration

Myra'Nesha McNeil

Creative Writing

Stefan William Miller

Biology - General Track

Samuel W. Mount

Business With Management

Emphasis

Gabrielle Oglesby

Biology - General Track

Jeremy Joseph Parker

Biology - Pre-Medical & Other

Health Professions Track

Braden Joseph Plunkett

Biology - General Track

Mary Raymond

Elementary Education

Courtnee Capri Riley

Sport Management

Michael Alexander Rodriguez

Sport Management

Jaquelyn R. Rose*

Business With General Emphasis

Tess Michele Saathoff

Biology - General Track

Riley L. Sandretto

Secondary Social Science Education:

History

Jayden Rhen Sansone

Business Management

Jayden Joseph Serafini

Business With Management

Emphasis

Cameron Shinall

Graphic Design

Emilee Lynn Simmons

Early Childhood Education

Quentin Joseph Dale Smith*

Secondary Social Science Education:

History

Lexi Kelly Snow* >

Psychology / History

Mystikal T. Suggs

Business Management

Samuel Edward Sumrow** >

Graphic Design

Peter Andrew Terenzio

Justice Administration

Chelsea Lynn Terranova

Justice Administration

Montreal Demonte Thomas* >

Mathematics - General Track /

Political Science - Law Track

Levi Ryne Thompson

*Computer Science - Game Design
and Development Track*

Mildred Evaline Thompson

Biology - General Track

Jessica Tomson>

Elementary Education

Miriam Kamilla Sia Wali-Uddin* >

Justice Administration

Elizabeth Mae Wells >

Elementary Education

Antonio Dewayne White Jr.

Business With Human Resources

Management Emphasis

Autumn R. Wilson >

Justice Administration

Kenneth James Lee Wolf

Elementary Education

*Inclusion of name in this program does not constitute evidence of graduation.
Degree conferral and honors are verified by an official transcript.*

* Members of Alpha Chi National Honor Scholarship Society
• Manager in the Work Program

> Department Honors—Awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.8 or above on a 4.0 scale in their major field of study and 3.5 in all courses.

THE BLACKBURN COLLEGE HYMN

Lowe-Forbes

Blackburn, Blackburn, Alma Mater

Unify these years of youth:

Fix on us thy three-fold blessing –

Friendship, work, and will to Truth.

Blackburn, now thy sons and daughters,

Pledging heart and hand and mind,

Join themselves to thy first calling,

One For Christ and all Mankind.

ACADEMIC DRESS

Academic dress is the formal dress of the brotherhood of learning, a community begun a thousand years ago. The attire makes known a degree held by the wearer, the field of that degree, and the institution which granted the degree. These particulars are simply stated by the shape of the sleeve of the gown and by the colors of the hood.

The Bachelor sleeve is pointed. The Master sleeve is oblong. The Doctor sleeve, sometimes gathered at the wrist, is bell-shaped, and is barred. Another badge of the Doctorate is the cap with the tassel of gold.

The field of the degree is stated by the color of the neck cloth of the hood. In every land the neck cloth that is scarlet signifies Theology, the premier study, but the color signs of other fields vary from one academic jurisdiction to another.

Throughout the United States a degree in Agriculture is always represented by a neck cloth of the color maize, Architecture or Fine Arts by the color brown, Business or Commerce or Accountancy drab, Dentistry lilac, Economics copper, Education light blue, Engineering orange, Forestry russet, Home Economics maroon, Journalism crimson, Law purple, Liberal Arts white, Music pink, Pharmacy olive green, Philosophy and any field it embraces blue, Physical Education sage green, Public Administration or Foreign Service peacock blue, Public Health salmon pink, Science golden yellow, Social Work citron, Speech or Oratory silver gray, Veterinary Science gray.

In America the most frequently awarded honorary doctorates are Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) – Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.) – Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) – Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) – Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.) – Doctor of Music (D.Mus.) – and Doctor of Science (D.Sc.).

The degree of Master of Arts (M.A.), commonly an earned one, is given as an honor occasionally.

The institution which granted the degree, earned or *honoris causa*, is made known by the hue or hues of the lining of the hood; and in academic processions it is this heraldry which is the major brightness against the medieval black still used for the gown by most institutions in this country.

Abroad, much of the academic dress abides by earlier, more diverse and vivid forms.

PRESIDENTIAL GARB

The responsibility of the President is represented by a collar of office. The collar links are silver discs in silver oblongs and the pendant is an image of the College seal. The gown of scarlet is worn by the President on ceremonial occasions. The color, emblematic of theology, reminds us that the College had its beginning as a Theological Seminary.

COLLEGE
Blackburn

WHERE LEADERS RISE