



One Hundred Fifty Fifth

COMMENCEMENT

The Eleventh Day of May
Two Thousand and Twenty Four
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

Salina Brown '03

Kenneth R. Deihl '78

David Dorris '69

James Faust '64

Fran Goodman '93

Jennifer Hamilton '70

Thomas Heinz '70

Michael Kokal

Cynthia LaMar '73

Cress Maddox

George E. Malo '66

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

Stanley M. Pillman

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

Hector Delgado '24, B.A., Student Marshal

SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS/CONDUCTOR

Al Sturgeon, B.A., J.D., Keynote Speaker

Laura Wiedlocher, Ph.D., Interim Provost

Noah Daum '18, B.A., Alumni Board President

Logan Elliott '19, B.A., Interim Dean of Students

Dr. Michelle Stacy, Professor of Education

Dr. Tim Morenz, Director of Student Services and Counseling Services

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



Al Sturgeon serves as Associate Dean of Student Life & Spiritual Development at the Pepperdine Caruso School of Law as well as Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor in its Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Dean Sturgeon earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1992 and then worked as a coach, teacher, and pastor in Arkansas and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for sixteen years prior to moving to Pepperdine where he earned a Juris Doctorate and a Certificate in Dispute Resolution in 2011.

After admission to the State Bar of California in 2011, he began work in higher education and has held various positions in student affairs since then, including serving as the chief student affairs officer at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Vice President for Diverse & Equitable Student Life and Dean of Students at Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois. He lives in Malibu, California, with his wife, Jody.

The 155th 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

Dr. Tim Morenz

***HYMN**

The Blackburn College Hymn
(words on back page)

Lowe-Forbes

WELCOME

Dr. Gregory J. Meyer

STUDENT MARSHAL ADDRESS

Mr. Hector Delgado

THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Mr. Al Sturgeon

TEACHER LICENSURE RECOGNITION

Dr. Michelle Stacy

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PRESENTATIONS

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Academic Departmental Awards

Senators Vince and Deanna Demuzio Education and Leadership Awards

Hudson Prize for Scholarly or Creative Accomplishment

Hudson Prize for Contributions to College Community

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Acknowledgment of the Senior Representatives to the Alumni Board

Outstanding Graduate Award

SENIOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

COLLEGE CHOIR

“Seeking Light”
Blackburn College Choir

PRAYER FOR THE GRADUATES

CONFERRING OF BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES

MOVING OF TASSELS AND CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2024

*RETIRING PROCESSION

Pomp and Circumstance
The Metropolitan Brass Quintet

PRESENTER

Dr. Laura Wiedlocher

Mr. Noah Daum '18
Alumni Board President

Mr. Logan Elliott '19

Brandon Williams

Dr. Tim Morenz

Dr. Gregory J. Meyer
Dr. Laura Wiedlocher

Dr. Gregory J. Meyer

arr. Sir Edward Elgar

CLASS OF 2024

TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAM

The Teacher Licensure Program had 41 students complete the curriculum in May 2024.

The following nine completers are recognized in person today.

Rosalva Andrzejewski
Kourtney Davies
Siri Engstrom
Kay Ann Fairless

Anessa Hart
Jenny Lake
Tamencia Maddox
Mariah Martin

Tiara Rainey
Rania Zeithar

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Libby Renee Adams

Psychology

Luis Omar Alvarado Canizalez

Sport Management

Chelsea Paige Ashlock

Elementary Education

Luke Thomas Atkinson

Justice Administration

Tatiana Bagley

Business Management

Kate Lynn Shae Baskin •

Biology - General Track

Kristen Bates

Early Childhood Education

Megan Nicole Beccue

Early Childhood Education

Sierra Beckwith

Early Childhood Education

Mallory Beechler

Elementary Education

Erika Lynn Bennett

History

Alexander Bergin

Justice Administration

Kalie Bertels

Elementary Education

Steven Boyle

Interdisciplinary Studies

Delcy E. Brannan

Secondary English Education

Brianna L. Bruemmer

Psychology

Kaylee Barbara Carr

Early Childhood Education

Laila Faison Coleman

Early Childhood Education

Maci Jordyne MaryRuth Cox

Psychology

Samantha Cox

Theatre

Vanessa Cunningham

Psychology

Hector Delgado

Justice Administration/Spanish

Isabella Irene Ely-Erickson

Justice Administration

Saje Marie Ewin

Biology - Molecular Track

Jami Gwillim Fessler

Early Childhood Education

Hayden Jerome Fox

Sport Management

Taylor Elizabeth Girth

Business Administration

Isaac Hunter Gleaves

Biology - General Track

Brandy Audra Gray •

Organizational Leadership

Shane Joseph Greathouse

*Business w/ Management Emphasis
and Marketing Emphasis*

Grant Steven Halley

Business Management

Abigail Lavada Hammonds

Early Childhood Education

Jaylon T. Handley

*Computer Science - Game Design
and Development Track/Creative
Writing*

Ryne Nicolas Hanslow

*Physical Education w/ K-12
Certification*

Kylee Hardt

English

Aryanna Harris • +

Sport Management

Jason Theodore Hedges

Biology - Environmental Track

Holly Heurman

Sport Management

Heather Jean Holder

Justice Administration

Evan Wesley Hopper *

*Physical Education w/ K-12
Certification*

Simon Hunter *

Biology - General Track

Jordan Huxtable

Creative Writing

William Kaminski

*Computer Science - Game Design
and Development Track*

Natalie Jane Keith •

Elementary Education

CLASS OF 2024

William Hardin Killion

Biology - General Track

Nicole Kineke

Early Childhood Education

Sophia King

Business Administration

Morgyn Alizabeth Kircher

Early Childhood Education

Dawson James Klunk

Sport Management

Dylan Jeffrey Klunk

Sport Management

Molly Elizabeth Koskey

Biology - General Track

Payton Jay Krager

*Physical Education w/ K-12
Certification*

Michelle D. Lambert

Early Childhood Education

Jada Maria Monique Lurry *

Sport Management

Alexis N. Lusk

Business w/ Marketing Emphasis

Madalynn Jean Lutke

Biology - General Track

Kyleigh Marty

Secondary Mathematics Education

Kathleen Kaylee McMasters

Early Childhood Education

Holly Frances Metzger

Biology - Environmental Track

Kaleb Mitchum

Secondary English Education

Brooke Lynn Mize

Justice Administration

Andrew Morris

*Psychology/Music - Voice
Performance*

Elizabeth Nichole Morris

Elementary Education

Peyton Jacob Myers

Theatre

Cadie Leigh Neely

Biology - General Track

Cody Allen Newcomb *

Biology - General Track

Dana Leanne Newell

Early Childhood Education

Katilyn Elizabeth Nix * *

Secondary Mathematics Education

Jade S. Novak

Biology - General Track

Jessica Diane Parrish

Early Childhood Education

Morgan Skye Parsons

Creative Writing

Jaime Jose Pineda

Justice Administration

Carle Jo Pittman *

*Secondary Social Science
Education: History*

Logan B. Presley

Mathematics - General Track

Jessica Marie Prumm

Biology - Environmental Track

Tyler Quarton

Biology - Environmental Track

Jarrett Larsen Reed

*Secondary Social Science
Education: History*

Hayden Christopher Reese *

Sport Management

Mark Anthony Richardson

*Computer Science - Game Design
and Development Track*

Jaclyn L. Robbins

Early Childhood Education

Gracey Lanae Roberts

Communications

Hunter J. Robinson

Special Education

Lily Gabrielle Russell

*Secondary Social Science
Education: History*

Alexis Shaw

Biology - General Track

Emalee Marie Sorbie

Elementary Education

Claire Victoria Stein * *

Psychology

Autumn Harvest Switzer

Theatre

Izayah Talmadge

Accounting

Mitchell Adam Townsend

Biology - Molecular Track

Logan Michael Ullrich

Biology - Environmental Track

Nicole Ophelia Valverde *

Creative Writing

Nicholas E. Vaughn

*Business - Accounting Emphasis
and Marketing Emphasis*

Macy A. Walker

Elementary Education

Anastasia N. Wigger

Graphic Design

Loise E. Wines

Graphic Design

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

• Manager in the Work Program
+ Lincoln Academy of Illinois -- Student Laureate

* Members of Alpha Chi National Honor Scholarship Society

BLACKBURN COLLEGE
CLASS OF 2024
LATIN HONORS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Katilyn Elizabeth Nix - Valedictorian
Evan Wesley Hopper - Salutatorian

Kristen Bates
Megan Nicole Beccue
Sierra Beckwith
Mallory Beechler
Alexander Bergin
Kalie Bertels

Delcy E. Brannan
Jami Gwillim Fessler
Nicole Kineke
Dylan Jeffrey Klunk
Kathleen Kaylee McMasters
Elizabeth Nichole Morris

Tyler Quarton
Jarrett Larsen Reed
Jaclyn L. Robbins
Lily Gabrielle Russell
Emalee Marie Sorbie
Logan Michael Ullrich

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Luis Omar Alvarado Canizalez
Erika Lynn Bennett
Vanessa Cunningham
Shane Joseph Greathouse
Kylee Hardt

Morgyn Alizabeth Kircher
Michelle D. Lambert
Kyleigh Marty
Kaleb Mitchum
Cody Allen Newcomb

Mark Anthony Richardson
Claire Victoria Stein
Nicole Ophelia Valverde

CUM LAUDE

Chelsea Paige Ashlock
Isabella Irene Ely-Erickson
Saje Marie Ewin
Ryne Nicolas Hanslow

Jason Theodore Hedges
Jessica Diane Parrish
Morgan Skye Parsons
Hunter J. Robinson

Anastasia N. Wigger
Loise E. Wines

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

Luis Omar Alvarado Canizalez
Chelsea Paige Ashlock
Kristen Bates
Sierra Beckwith
Mallory Beechler
Vanessa Cunningham
Isabella Irene Ely-Erickson
Kylee Hardt
Evan Wesley Hopper

Simon Hunter
Jordan Huxtable
Natalie Jane Keith
Nicole Kineke
Morgan Alizabeth Kircher
Dylan Jeffrey Klunk
Michelle D. Lambert
Kathleen Kaylee McMasters
Elizabeth Nichole Morris

Katilyn Elizabeth Nix
Jarrett Larsen Reed
Lily Gabrielle Russell
Emalee Marie Sorbie
Logan Michael Ullrich
Nicole Ophelia Valverde
Anastasia N. Wigger
Loise E. Wines

COLLEGE
Blackburn

WHERE LEADERS RISE

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